

Sister Cities Association of



Wilmington

Providing Community Involvement in the
City of Wilmington's Sister City Relationships

Vol. 4 No. 1

PO BOX 1865, WILMINGTON, NC 28402

www.scawilmington.org

JUNE 2009

SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 19, 2009

LA FETE INTERNATIONALE DU BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU

CHANDLER'S WHARF
TIME: 5:30 – 8:30 PM

Sister Cities Association is proud to sponsor the first official **Beaujolais Nouveau Celebration** in Wilmington. In addition to tasting the young wine produced in the Beaujolais region, there will be a selection of other French wines including one from Bordeaux and, for white wine lovers, a Sauvignon Blanc from the upper Loire valley. Food tastings will feature French specialties from area restaurants.

Beaujolais is a historical wine producing region located north of Lyon and along parts of the Rhone-Alps. Since the 19th century when the first wines of the vintage were sent down the Saone to the bistro in Lyon, signs would be posted "Le Beaujolais Est Arrivé!" marking the beginning of a celebration of that year's harvest. Beaujeu, the historical capital of the Beaujolais region, which gives its name to the wine, is famous for its celebration of the harvest known as the Sarmentelles Festival. The name comes from the French word "sarments" and refers to barrels full of cuttings from the grapevine. The cuttings are ceremonially burned prior to the unveiling of the new wine. Today the festival begins at 5:00 PM the day before the wine is released with tastings and is followed by a torch lit procession and the official release of Beaujolais Nouveau at midnight. In 1985 the Institut National des Appellations d'Origine (INAO) established the third Thursday of November to allow for a uniform release of the wine. According to INAO rules, it can be shipped earlier but the wine must be held in a bonded warehouse until 12:01 AM.

The wines produced in this region and made into Beaujolais come from the Gamay grapes, which has a thin skin and few tannins. Generally this is a light bodied wine with high amounts of acidity and not intended for a long term. The massive celebrations in

the region and around the world are intended to consume the Beaujolais Nouveau while the wine is still young. Local folk lore in the region suggests that the wine should be drunk before Christmas.

Trivia question - What country is the world's largest importer of Beaujolais Nouveau? (Find answer at bottom of pg. 2)

Sister Cities News Bulletins

SAN PEDRO RE-ELECTS MAYOR PAZ

Elsa Paz made history in 2000 by being the first female mayor of San Pedro. In the March 2009 elections, Mayor Paz and the United Democratic Party (UDP) swept the municipal elections. While voter turnout nationally was considered low (52%), San Pedro municipal elections had 61% of the electorate come out to vote. Mayor Paz having won three consecutive elections dedicated this last win to her deceased mother, "My mother, when she was alive, was with me throughout all my campaigns and was part of my strength to go forward..."

Mayor Paz traveled to Wilmington in 2006 along with a delegation from San Pedro to sign a twinning agreement with the City of Wilmington. If you are interested in learning more about local events in San Pedro and the Republic of Belize, there are several sources you can go to, including:
www.amerbgiscaynews.com
<http://channel5belize.com>, <http://7newsbelize.com>.

DONCASTER ELECTS NEW MAYOR

In an extremely close mayoral election in Doncaster, England, June 4, Peter Davies, the English Democratic Party candidate edged out Independent Michael Thomas Maye by a mere 345 votes, with Davis receiving 25,344 votes to Maye's 24,999. Prior to the election, it appeared that Maye was the favored candidate. The third top vote getter was Sandra Holland, the Labour Party Candidate, with 16,546 votes. In all seven candidates vied for the

position of mayor of this city with a population of 67,977 residents.

SCAW ANNUAL MEETING

Four directors as well as four officers were elected during SCAW's annual meeting in March. The new directors, who will serve three-year terms, are: Jonathan Garriss, Charles Goudiss, Gayle Tustin, and Stephanie Walker. Marilyn Cantarella was reelected president of the association; Jonathan Garriss will serve as vice-present; Charles Goudiss was elected treasurer; and Stephanie Walker will act as secretary. All officers' terms are one year. During a brief meeting, President Cantarella said that Nancy Pritchard, who has been SCAW treasurer for several years, had indicated that she would prefer to retire from that position. The association members gave thanks for her dedication and hard work.

Sister City Commission Updates

The Sister City Commission received a request from a city in Malaysia to form a relationship this winter. The Commission formed a task force to review the existing policies and procedures for the selection of cities and to make recommendations for modifications, if appropriate. The task force, headed by Denise Di Puccio, worked on developing a vision and mission statement for establishing new and maintaining existing relationships. In addition, they created an objective tool to assess the appropriateness of a particular twinning using long-term sustainable projects as a major criterion.

The Dragon Boat Race will not be held this year due to the economic downturn and difficulty attracting sponsors to finance such a large scale event.

The street sweeper donated by the City of Wilmington finally arrived in San Pedro and a dedication was held on February 27.

Answer to trivia question pg. 1: Japan is the world's largest importer of Beaujolais Nouveau at 46%. In 2008, Japan reduced its import volume by 18% which equals the amount consumed in all of France.

Upcoming Events

AUGUST 5 - 8 – Grainger Junior Cup Golf Tournament to be held at Landfall Country Club. The commission will be a major sponsor of the closing banquet on August 8.

AUGUST 24 – SCI State Coordinator to speak at SCAW meeting. Lord Compton Room, 1st Floor City Hall. 5:00 – 6:00 PM.

OCTOBER 26 – SCAW dinner program. Topic and speaker to be announced. Caffe Phoenix, S. Front St. 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

NOVEMBER 19 – Beaujolais Nouveau Celebration and Fundraiser. Chandler's Wharf Time: 5:30- 8:30 PM. Advance ticket price \$25.00/at the door \$30.00

ADVENTURES IN TEACHING

The Council on International Education Exchanges (CIEE) provides opportunities for both teachers and non-teachers to spend a semester or longer in a participating country teaching English and culture to young students. In most cases, your role is similar to that of a classroom aide or adjunct staff. The partner countries include: China, S. Korea, Spain, Thailand and Chile. The requirements vary by country but most require an under graduate degree in any discipline. All but Chile pay a modest salary to cover living expenses abroad. In Chile, you receive a monthly stipend and accommodations are provided by host families. The work hours also vary from as little as 12 hours weekly to 35 hours allowing time for you to enjoy the people, culture and physical surroundings. You do not have to be fluent in a second language; however, Spain and Chile do require some basic Spanish. There is a fee payable to CIEE for its services in coordinating the placement. For more information, go to the CIEE website (www.ciee.org).

Reminder – Membership renewals were due in January for 2009. If you have not sent in your check yet, please take a minute to do so today. You can download a membership form from the website: www.scawilmingtton.org with all the information you need to renew. SCAW depends on you to help support sister city programs, grants, stipends and is proud of its low administrative costs due to our outstanding volunteers, in-kind donors and support from the City of Wilmington.