



Sister Cities News Bulletins

International Team Unearth Important Discovery in Xuantunich



This summer a team of international archaeologists found a burial tomb that appears to be from the Snake dynasty while digging behind a staircase in Xunentunich, a Mayan ceremonial center in the Cayo District. According to media reports the temple may have been constructed to enclose one of the largest royal Mayan tombs to be discovered in Belize.

Among the human remains were the bones of a jaguar and a deer, jade beads, 13 obsidian blades (made from naturally occurring volcanic glass) and 36 ceramic vessels. The body itself appeared to be a young male probably less than 30 years of age. There were two offerings that contained 9 more obsidian blades and 28 figurines, suggesting the man was someone of importance.

The tomb itself measured 14.7' x 7.9', making it the largest burial tomb to have been discovered in Belize since excavations began in the late 19th century. Hieroglyphics found inside the tomb are associated with the Snake dynasty, a family that ruled the Maya empire 1300 years ago. The panels may reveal more

about the tensions between the Snake heads and the Lords of Narango, both dynasties reigned in the 7th century A.D.

You can visit the ruins by taking a short 45 minute flight on Tropic Air from San Pedro, our sister city, to the Maya flats airstrip taking in the breathtaking scenery of Belize flying over both water and mountains.

Congratulations Barbados on 50th Anniversary!

Barbados kicked off its 50th anniversary celebration the beginning of 2016 and despite a rain delay for the official festivities on Independence Day everyone had a great time. Yes, it rained on November 30. Among the many activities was a grand parade starting at Kensington Oval and weaving through Bridgetown past St. Mary along Broad Street to the Parliament Building where Prime Minister Freundel Stuart saluted from the grand stand. There was also the unveiling ceremony for the 50th Anniversary of independence Monument at the Garrison Savannah which includes a time capsule and the flag will be flown 24 hours a day.

There was a cocktail reception at Ilaro Court, the Prime Minister's residence showcasing Barbados's rich cultural heritage and a black tie gala, a Mass of Thanksgiving featuring a musical prelude, and a Golden Anniversary Mega Concert. Of course, there were scores of events all through the year capturing all the pride and industry of Barbados and its people. A unique event was the One People, One Barbados Human Chain Link which even the Prime Minister joined.

EU Referendum and Northern England

Exit polls following the EU Referendum revealed a sense of being left behind by many working class voters. Districts in the north brought the leave votes over the top. This was especially true in Doncaster where the voter turnout was 69.5%. Doncaster voters

avored leaving the EU 2:1 with 104,260 votes cast to leave and 46,922 votes to stay. Doncaster's neighboring districts had similar results though Sheffield voters were more evenly divided on the issue.

In an interview with the Doncaster Free Press, former Doncaster mayor, Peter Davies said, "You can't put 28 nations together with different cultures and languages and pretend it's going to work..." For other who voted to leave the issue was more directly tied to the loss of mining jobs and the automation of many other jobs creating uncertainty.

Following the election there was a marked increase in hate crimes reported in London and a stunned European community over the results of the referendum and its implications. There was a clear division between southern and northern England. Indie filmmaker Sheena Sumaria (Guerra Films) traveled to



Stainforth, a small town and civil parish in the metropolitan Borough of Doncaster to capture the views

and reasons behind the strong Leave Campaign in the region. The 11 minute documentary can be viewed on Vimeo – "Why we voted to leave: voices from Northern England." This short film provides some insights into the cultural and economic divide that led to England leaving the EU.

In March Wilmington will host a live video conference with speakers from Doncaster and Wilmington to talk about Brexit and what led to it. More information on the date and time will be available early in 2017.

Other News

Call for Nominations

Letters of interest and or nominations for SCAW board positions are due by 1/25/2017. People who are interested themselves or know someone they would like to recommend should send a resume or bio to membership@scawilmington.org. Write **NOMINATIONS** in the subject line. Expectations include: attending board meetings (quarterly & the

annual meeting); be a SCAW member in good standing (annual dues current); and support program activities throughout the year as your schedule permits. There are openings on the Sister City Commission at the present time for community representatives. Applications for commission members can be obtained from the City website – www.wilmingtonnc.gov.

SCI Inaugural Gala

SCI is hosting its Inaugural Gala on Tuesday, January 17 from 7:00 – 11:00 PM at the Organization of American States, 200 17th St. NW, Washington, DC. If you are planning to be in town for the real deal on January 20, you may want to attend the SCI bash. The event is a black tie affair and tickets are \$250.00 with the proceeds benefitting Sister Cities programs. For more information and how to buy tickets visit – www.sister-cities.org and click Inaugural Gala from the home page.

International Filmmakers Enjoy Lunch with Sister Cities Board + More Tidbits

Filmmakers from around the globe arrived in Wilmington for Cucalorus 22. Sister Cities hosted a welcome luncheon at Riverboat Landing providing an intimate space for converging filmmakers to meet and discuss their projects. The artists at the this year's luncheon represented Canada, Great Britain, Spain and Germany.

Running from November 10-13 Cucalorus 22 featured narrative films, documentaries, and shorts plus a wide array of events to satisfy any festival goer. Sister City members and guests enjoyed seeing the Dutch romantic comedy "Moos" on the last day of the festival followed by a great meal at The District Kitchen & Cocktails.



Sister City Commission member and native of Great Britain, Joe Dunton, was the Cucalorus honoree this year. Joe has a long list

of achievements in the industry in the area of

technology and was a recipient of the British Academy of Film & Television Lifetime Achievement Awards in 2010.

2016 Peace Concert Smashing Success

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the fourth Sister Cities peace concert an evening that won't be forgotten anytime soon. The diversity of the program was symbolic of how music unites us no matter which city, country or continent we live in. The words, music and song spoke to the universal desire for a peaceful world where people of different races, religions and beliefs can co-exist. We also thank everyone who attended to pay tribute to the ideals that Daniel Pearl stood for while alive, and of course, his love of music. We especially want to acknowledge each of the performing groups and individuals that shared their talents and love of community on October 30.

Special thanks go to our host the Basilica Shrine of Saint Mary and the steering committee members: Sara Bryant, Marilyn Cantarella, Phil Davis, Suzanne Smith and Lorraine Westermark. Official concert photographer: Owen Wexler. The program included a print memorial of the seventy-one journalists, photographers and broadcasters who died in 2015 while doing their job, without which basic human rights and the benefits of living in a free democracy would not be possible. Only the names of those whose deaths have been investigated and confirmed by the Committee to Protect Journalists were included in the Journalists Memorial. The performing artists, the 2015 Journalists Memorial, the 2016 Daniel Pearl Tribute, and photo gallery are available for viewing on the website.

Citizen to Citizen Diplomacy Honor Roll

SCAW attempts to involve as many people and institutions as possible to achieve its mission in Wilmington and the international community. We want to recognize the individuals and groups that have made a contribution in the past calendar quarter through their active participation or support of a Sister City program activity.

Tony Ventimiglio
Marilyn Cantarella

Scott Czechlewski
Rosemary Toumey

Marcus Kennedy
Riverboat Landing
Rabbi Sidlofsky
Scott Nunn
Sara Bryant
Lorraine Westermark
Melanie Tremaglio
Charles Blanton
Sister Isaac
UNCW OIP

St. Mary's Church
The District Kitchen
Rabbi Kozlow
Pat Marriott
Suzanne Smith
Herman Smith
Juliana Tremaglio
The Verandas
Phil Davis
Michael Wilhelm

Upcoming Events

Jan 17 (Tues) **SCI Inaugural Gala** will be held in the Organization of American States in Washington DC from 7 PM to 11 PM. This is a black tie event. Tickets are \$250. For more information or to buy tickets visit www.sister-cities.org.

Jan 28 (Sat) Wilmington Chinese American Community Association New Year Celebration at UNCW beginning at 6:30 PM is open to the public to join in the festivities. There will be plenty of food, games, and entertainment for all ages.

Feb (TBA) Ring in the **Chinese New Year** with Sister Cities at **Szechuan 132** (University Square). The event is presented family style and traditional foods will be served. Advance reservations are required either by phone 343-5226 or email – membership@scawilmington.org. Cost is \$20 per person and includes 7 courses. Alcohol can be purchased on a separate tab. The event starts promptly at 7 PM.

Wishing you peace, joy and all the season's glad tidings in abundance....



Sister Cities Association Board of Directors....Tony, George, Shanhong, Chad, Charles, Harry, Kerry and Marilyn