



Sister Cities News

Where are They Now Series

The spring and summer edition of the newsletter will catch up with friends from our sister cities who have been to Wilmington over the years. Some of whom will send us their news, and some we will track on social media or other public sources.

My Journey since No Boundaries International 2008

NBI came at just the right time in my life. My father had died earlier that year and I was recovering from a cancer operation. It was exactly what I needed to lift my head and see new horizons. Thanks to Dick, Pam and Gayle for using the Sister Cities network to invite me. On the strength of this new found confidence I took on my first proper studio above the BrevonArt Gallery in Doncaster.



In 2011 I received an e-mail from Sergej Andreevski, who I had met at NBI, inviting me to the De Niro International Artists' colony in Bitola, Macedonia to be followed by a few days in Sergej's home village of Sloestica in the mountains. The drawings, paintings and photographs made on this trip made a long term impact. One of the paintings that I made for Sergej was later used as a poster and invitation card for the Sloestica village festival.

In 2012 another contact from BHI, Manolo Messia, e-mailed to invite me to an international artists' symposium in Noja on the north coast of Spain. Many

more new friends and contacts from around the world were made.

In 2016 I was invited back to the De Niro colony and asked to bring an artist colleague along. I chose a young Polish artist from Doncaster, Katrina Sadrak, who made a great impression through her paintings and her language skills which brought the colony closer. In preparation for the visit I made a small booklet of drawings, paintings and photos telling my story of the 2011 trip which was very well received and publicized.

From contacts made in Bitola, Katrina and I were invited to the 20th anniversary of the Buljarica international artists' colony in Montenegro in September of 2016 to work with a number of regional artists. In 2017 it was back to Macedonia for an unprecedented third visit to the De Niro colony.

Since then we have been working to bring some international art to Doncaster. Katrina is travelling and making contacts while I have taken a new studio space which is large enough to accommodate a small gallery. I have hosted 2 exhibitions by Polish artists through Katrina's contacts with a third later in the year. In April I have a solo show in Warsaw, Poland and there are plans for a joint exhibition with a colleague in Germany for September. Meanwhile, Katrina is on an extended visit to China as part of her PhD studies and she has taken some of my Macedonian paintings to make a display there.

I am working with the powers that be in Doncaster to prepare the way for our own international artists' colony sometime in the next few years. Watch this space....Terry Chipp

Note: A documentary film featuring Terry's recent interest in painting people was produced by emerging artist, Jake McNeil. Much to Terry's surprise the film was selected to be screened in the 2016 Nightpiece Film Festival as part of the Edinburgh Fringe. In conversation, Terry said, "Painting people posing in a

black box fascinated him because the image has no context..” Click the link below to get a glimpse into Terry’s later works.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2RfyjUEmr8>

Harmony from Barbados to the World



Photo credit: Opera News

Janacek’s *Adventures of Vixen’s Sharp Ears* was aptly renamed “the Cunning Little Vixen” for the Manhattan School of Music’s senior project (class of 2017). It was in part due to the remarkable performance by Shantal Martin (pictured above). Shantal was the Vixen. The production and Shantal, in particular, received rave reviews by Opera News: “Adorable, feisty, sensitive and curious with gentle unforced acting Martin traversed the character’s life cycle with femininity that was simultaneously, soft and strong.”

Shantal is now working on her Master’s degree and no doubt is headed for a remarkable career. She continues to enjoy being a “fashionista” in addition to her singing. You can follow her @hairaconda on Instagram and see some of her other talents in make-up, wig making and design. Shantal performed at the Sister Cities Peace through Music Concert in 2016 and received a standing ovation from the audience. At the time she was a third year student and it was her first solo performance. Shantal and her mother were the guests of former Mayor Harper Peterson and his wife Plunkett. Joy Murrell, a Wilmington Symphony board member and accomplished local soprano, took them to see all the local sights and members of the concert planning team hosted them for brunch and dinner. We hope to have her back one day to perform at a future Sister Cities Concert.

Chen Deyuan (China) and Eric Alexander Wade (Belize) will be featured in the summer edition

San Pedro holds local elections in March

Local elections were held March 7 in Belize. The UDP slate of candidates for mayor and council were the victors in San Pedro. A swearing in ceremony was held on March 13 at City Hall with a public ceremony a few days later. Congratulations to Mayor Daniel Guerrero, Deputy Mayor Ruben Gonzalez and Councilors: Gabriel Nunez, Severo Guerrero, Hector Alamilla, Gary Grief and Flora Ancona.



Photo credit: Ambergris Today

Spring Equinox Celebration at Historic Mayan Site

The Marco Gonzalez holds an annual fundraiser to welcome in the change of seasons. This year the Spring Equinox was a winner indeed bringing in beautiful dry weather and very few mosquitos. The morning welcomed over 100 guests and volunteers and started with Maya Priest/Elder Martin Choc of San Marcos Village.

Exciting things are starting to happen for the Marco Gonzalez organization. The land by the road has been purchased to accommodate a new Visitor/Educational Center to showcase Maya history from the Marco Gonzalez site and to offer a place for the public to study Maya island history. Capital fundraising will soon begin and work with the government will also begin to determine what will be exhibited to the public. In the meantime, the Spring Equinox event raised money for the everyday activities at the site such as equipment and maintenance of the boardwalk.

How you can help - Contact the Marco Gonzalez Maya Site Project Chairman Jan Brown - janbrownbz@hotmail.com. US Tax Exempt 501.c.3 donations may be made through: Maya Research Program c/o Marco Gonzalez Maya Site Project 1910 East SE Loop 323, #296 Tyler, TX 75701

Sister Cities Association Holds Annual Meeting March 26

Sister Cities Association held its annual meeting on March 26 at City Hall. Current board members Chad Fan and Michael Jenkins were nominated and voted in for a three year term. Charles Blanton acknowledged George Schell, current board member and vice-president, for his years of service and many contributions to the mission of SCAW. Recent professional demands on his time resulted in his decision to step aside before his term was up. There are still opportunities for anyone interested in a board position. Inquiries can be made through membership@scawilmington.org Officers will be elected at the June 11 board meeting which will be held at 5:30 in the main library downtown (3rd floor meeting rooms).



Charles introduced Lt. Col. (Ret) Sion Harrington III to speak on the history of the Tar Heel state and World War 1. Si gave an in-depth recollection of the ways in which North Carolina served its country, including many from the city of Wilmington. A special traveling exhibition was made available by the

NC Department of Cultural Resources and was on display in the atrium at City Hall. Anyone interested in the history of NC and the Great War can visit the exhibit during business hours through April 13. This program is one of several initiatives to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI.

Another great opportunity and show of respect for all those who keep our country, city and neighborhoods safe is a special day coming up in May. In recognition

of National Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, The Battleship NORTH CAROLINA Memorial will offer free admission on **Sunday, May 13, 2018**, to all law enforcement officers, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians, 911 call center operators, correctional officers and all first responders and their immediate families. If you are a first responder or know someone who is, check out the details at www.battleshipnc.com.

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.

Charles Blanton	Scott Czechlewski
Marilyn Cantarella	(Ret.) Lt. Col. Sion Harrington
Peggy Rosoff	NC Dept. Cultural Resources
Chad Fan	Szechuan 132
George Schell	Maria Goudiss
Terry Chipp	

Upcoming Events

April 14-15 - Don't forget to make the **Multicultural Stage** a stop during the Azalea Festival Street Fair on Saturday & Sunday

April 17 – Sister Cities will host a farewell reception for the UNCW 2017-18 international students along with City officials at 5:30 PM in City Hall. SCAW members are welcome to join us for this event.

April 22-24, April 30-May 1, May 5-6 – The 2018 **Jewish Film Festival** will screen at Thalian Hall. For more info on the selections, start times and how to buy tickets visit www.wilmingtonjff.org.

Aug 2-4 – **SCI Annual Conference** and Youth Leadership Summit will be held in Aurora, Co. More info & to register visit: www.sistercities.org.

July 25-Aug 8 – **Barbados Crop Over** is a great time to visit the island and experience a unique series of events featuring music, masquerade, history and culture.

Aug 2-5 – **International Costa Maya Festival** in San Pedro will feature music, dance, food & carnival games – a family fun event. For Stash Reward members there is a current promotion for Belize participating hotels to receive double points & a 20% discount on room nights.