



Sister Cities News Bulletins



Dr. Ed Paul Tours Maya Site



Sister Cities Association has been following the work of archeologists studying the 2,000 year old Maya settlement on the southern end of Ambergris

Caye. There are reportedly 18 Maya sites on the island, none of which had been preserved until ex-pat Jan Brown championed the effort to create a visitors site and education center at the site where excavations took place and were recorded in 1984 by Drs. Pendergrast and Graham. A community organization was created to raise money and oversee the development of a visitors' site and education center [Marco Gonzalez Site Ltd.]. The site surrounded by marshland and mini lagoons was declared a national park in April 2011.

Last December the SCAW board approved a mini-grant to help the group organized to begin the multi-year effort to preserve the site and establish an education center. The monies were used to help pay for the signs marking the entrance to the site near the footbridge built for a group of 23 students from UNCW and the University of London in 2010 arriving for a field studies trip.

Last month Dr. Ed Paul, Wilmington resident and Honorary Consulate for Belize in the southeastern region, was given a guided tour of the site by Peter Nolan, the current president of the NGO accompanied by Scott Simmons, archeologist and UNCW professor who was on the island doing research at the time of this visit (above photo – pictured from left Paul, Nolan & Scott standing by the new sign marking the entrance to the site).

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Incumbent Peter Davies Congratulates Doncaster's First Woman Mayor

It was a long day for Davies and Jones as they waited for the results in a race to the finish. Jones representing the Labour Party won by 639 votes and yes, there was a recount. According to the Thorne Gazette article that came out the following day [3 May], she said the main planks of her mayoralty for the next four years would be boosting employment and taking a zero tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour. But she added: "My main drive is moving the town forward. I know we have cuts imposed on us by central Government but we have to look at every avenue and ensure we protect our most vulnerable people."

Mayor Jones is a chartered accountant by profession and has served as the representative for the greater Askern district on the Doncaster Council for the past seven years. The district is in the northern region of the Metropolitan Borough and has a population of 11,414. Since the coal industry shut down in the 1990's the area is mainly farmland but well known in South Yorkshire and beyond for its greyhound racing stadium.

Bridgetown Soprano Accepted at the Manhattan School of Music

Barbados Community College student, Shantal Martin, will continue her music training in New York this coming September. Shantal's passion for music began at the tender age of 8. She has performed at the Colours of Combermere concert and the Rotary Club's Carols by Candlelight shows. Both performances introduced the then 12 year old to the Barbados public.

Shantal later participated in National Independence Festival of Creative Arts receiving a Silver Medal in the acclaimed festival. She performed for Rihanna on her return to Barbados in 2008, for charity events organized by several community organizations, as well as the "Don't Panic" Concert held for the Late Honourable David Thompson.

During the summer of 2012 Shantal was selected to perform at the Manhattan School of Music Summer Voice Festival in New York. It was there Shantal met her future teacher and the American tenor and Metropolitan Opera singer, Neil Rosenshein, whom she will have the pleasure of training under for the next 4 years. At the festival Shantal demonstrated her musical theatre and acting skills in the Mozart Opera "The Magic Flute," in Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods" and as a chorus member in the Czech Operette Countess Maritza.

With such an impressive list of public performances and varied accomplishments for this talented young lady, one can only imagine where her musical career will take her. The association plans to formally invite Shantal to perform in Wilmington for the third Peace through Music Concert planned for the fall of 2014.

Residents & Tourists Travel to Celebrate Qingming Festival Around the PRC

Around the 15th day after the spring equinox the Chinese celebrate the transition from winter to spring with a three day holiday – Qingming Festival which loosely translated means

"clean and bright." Qingming Festival is also referred to as tomb sweeping day similar to Day of the Dead in Mexico. Families go to the graves of their ancestors



Photo: Xinhau

and clean away debris and leave offerings of flowers or food. The Japanese have a similar Buddhist tradition in August called the "Bon Festival," and European countries rooted in Roman Catholic traditions honor the dead during All Saint's Day in November.

The image below is from the LA Times Gallery for the first week of April 2013. You can see the Sino Korean Friendship Bridge in the background and the foreground shows a traditional rice cake being made during the festival celebration in Dandong. It is said that many poems written during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 - and known as the "golden age" of Chinese literature) were inspired by Qingming and the celebration remains an important part of Chinese culture today.



In Other News

Symposium 13 May Go Virtual – Stay Posted

The Doncaster International Partnership Association's (DIPA) executive committee report from its July meeting indicated that the upcoming sister cities symposium's early registration numbers were so low, perhaps due to the lingering economic woes, that the event as planned would be cancelled to avoid any potential contractual liabilities. All registrations received up to that point were to be refunded. The group is reviewing the possibility of changing the format and holding a virtual symposium during the same time period. As soon as more details are available we will announce the changes.

Barbados Exhibit Coming to Charleston this September

The MOJA Festival 2013 will include a photography exhibit by the American photographer Bob Kiss,

featuring chattel houses shot in Barbados. The photographs use a platinum-palladium printing technique developed in the 1870s. The photographs are catalogued in a book with text written by Dr. Henry Fraser, architectural historian and former dean of Medical Sciences Faculty at the University of the West Indies in Barbados. The book was released in November 2011 and Fraser said, "The text presents part of the significant contribution to the historiography of Barbados, the economics, the social culture as well as the architecture of one of our cultures."

Bob Kiss studied at the Rochester Institute of Technology and his work has been featured in Paris Vogue, Town and Country Magazine, Andy Warhol's Interview Magazine. Kiss has been living in Barbados since 1993 and has become an expert in the field for combining digital technologies with 19th century processes.

The MOJA Festival celebrates the diversity of the Charleston community by showcasing the contributions of African-American and Caribbean artists including literary arts, visual arts, theatre, music and other special events. The exhibition will be at the City Gallery on Prioleau St. (Waterfront Park) from September 26 through October 6. The association is working on bringing the exhibition to Wilmington following its premier in the United States.

SCAW Announces New Treasurer

At the SCAW June board meeting, new trustee Darrell Irwin, was elected to serve as association treasurer.

Other business discussed at the board meeting included a presentation by Jenni Harris, UNCW liaison for community partnerships, on a new initiative that is designed to develop global leadership

skills for students across disciplines. The model is similar to one being used at Duke with some enhancements and will be formally announced in early fall.



Sister Cities Commission Updates

The June meeting focused on the reorganization of the commission which has been an ongoing discussion, and upcoming events. Kim Hufham and Denise Di Puccio will present the proposed changes to City Council following a review by the City Attorney.

The reorganization if approved would integrate the commission into the association as a board committee appointed by Mayor and Council. In addition to working on sister city program activities the committee would be responsible for government relations and making recommendations to Council as it concerns twinning agreements.

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.

Jack Manock	Peter Laurie [Barbados]
Fenton Maxwell	Penny Hynam [Barbados]
Scott Czechlewski	Cape Fear Community College
Shamkoe Pile	Dr. Ed Paul
Marilyn Cantarella	Msgr. Blackett [Barbados]
Dick Airey	Karl Watson [Barbados]
Barbados Community College	

Upcoming Events

August 26 – Ambergris Caye Maya Settlement Join Dr. Scott Simmons, archeologist and assistant professor at UNCW for a fascinating journey as we explore a Maya site located south of San Pedro town on Ambergris Caye. The program will be in the New Hanover Room of the main library beginning at 6:00 PM. Optional dinner with the speaker after the program will be at new tapas restaurant "9" on S. Front St. Advance reservations are required for the dinner only no later than August 25 by email: membership@scawilmington.org or by phone: 343-5226..

September 3 – International Student Reception Join Mayor Saffo, City & County elected officials and Chancellor Miller for a reception at City Hall to formally welcome the 2013-14 international students to the University of North Carolina and Wilmington. The reception will be from 5:30 – 6:30 PM after which you can join the students for the Council meeting in the upstairs Chambers or a walking tour of the Historic District in Downtown.

October 14 – SCAW regular board meeting will be held at the Northeast Regional Library on Military Cut-off Rd. beginning at 5:30 PM. The public is welcome to attend all SCAW board meetings.