Social media is becoming the latest trend across business sectors. Andrea Breatherton in Doncaster tells us her gallery is on Facebook for the first time this year – check out the summer exhibit that opened June 19 featuring David Venables’ nostalgic reflections on 1950s Doncaster. His work includes several mediums from charcoal to oils. Terry Chipp’s art will be featured in August along with other studio artists. Many of you will remember Terry, a sister city artist, who participated in the international colony organized by No Boundaries International in the fall of 2008.

2010 Festival Draws Record Crowds

Bailey Park was transformed into an international stage during the Azalea Festival with a diverse lineup of performers representing the many ethnic groups that make up our community. The Festival of Cultures was held April 10 & 11.

Cheick Soko opened the program with African drumming and a traditional Bajan dance performance in honor of our sister city in Barbados. The island began a serious effort in the 1980s to preserve its own culture. Part of that effort included the establishment of the Crop Over Festival which celebrates the last sugar cane harvest in July and ends August 1. The festival revived the calypso tradition and became an annual event growing in popularity each year. Soko worked with young people enrolled at the Dreams Center for Arts Education to teach the Bajan style of dance and participate in the stage performance during the Azalea Festival. The Chinese American Cultural Association followed with traditional Chinese Peacock and Tai Chi Fan dances. Several commission members and their families participated in the parade on the Sister City Trolley.

Pictured in the center Judith Gill and Chad Blackman from Barbados at the Chamber of Commerce during a get acquainted meeting with Marilyn Cantarella and Gordon Melson.

Wilmington Rotary Hosts a Delegation from the Caribbean

Rotary members representing Trinidad, Antigua and Barbados spent a week in Wilmington this April. The various clubs hosted their fellow Rotarians and learned about each of the islands while they learned about us. During the visit they were able to tour UNCW, NHRMC, the Verizon Call Center, local banks and even get a private tour of the Cape Fear History Museum. A meeting was arranged for Marilyn Cantarella and Gordon Melson to discuss Wilmington’s relationship with Bridgetown. Cantarella and Gordon gave a brief history and shared the outcome of a recent visit to
Bridgetown to discuss ways in which SCAW might benefit from the twinning. It was felt that there may be some opportunities for Rotary Clubs to assist with future exchange activities between our cities. Judith Gill, an educator and one of the guests from Barbados, expressed an interest in exploring a teacher exchange with a secondary school in Wilmington for 2011.

**Commission Updates**

The Sister City Commission selected Wilmington’s Young Artist for 2010 at its April meeting. First prize was awarded to Adam Hunter from New Hanover High School (NHHS) and second prize went to Zoe Klein, also from NHHS. Third prize was a tie between Adiair Parker, and Haaken Lysne who are both home schooled. Hunter’s submission was forwarded to Sister Cities International to compete for the international award.

Gordon Melson, SCC chairperson since 2008, announced he will be declining a second term as of June 30. Melson also served on the SCAW board of directors for the past 2 years. He excelled in his leadership qualities and will be missed by all.

SCC Chairperson, Gordon Melson (left) with 1st place winner, Adam Hunter, May 18 City Council meeting

**Upcoming Events**

**JUNE 28** – SCAW Dinner Program will start in the Main Branch of the Library (New Hanover Room) at 6:00 PM where we will view the film – “Belize: The Maya Heritage.” Dr. Paul, Honorary Consul to Belize, will introduce this 30 minute documentary, a Belize, Ltd. Production, and lead a Q&A afterwards. Dinner and discussion will follow at the Caffe Phoenix.

**AUGUST 23** – SCAW Dinner Program will start in the Main Branch of the Library (New Hanover Room) at 6:00 PM. We will end the summer season with a presentation on “Barbados Influence on the Economy, Politics and Culture in the Caribbean and the Carolinas.” Bill McCarthy, UNCW faculty member and expert on Caribbean history, will give a historical perspective along with a more contemporary view of one of the highest standards of living and literacy rates in the developing world. Dinner and discussion will follow at Mixto’s Restaurant on S. Water St.

**SEPT 7** – UNCW International Students will be welcomed at City Hall by SCAW members and our elected officials.

**SEPT** – International Film Month will be held in partnership with Cucalorus Film Foundation. SCAW invites you to the screening of international films at Jengo Playhouse. Details will be announced in August.

**OCT 24** – Harmony for Humanity will be held at St. Mary Church. S. Fifth Ave. & Ann St. from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM. Free.

**NOV 18** – 2nd Annual Beaujolais Nouveau Celebration and Fundraiser. Location: TBD. Time: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM.

**COMING THIS FALL**

**SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 24**

**HARMONY FOR HUMANITY**

Featuring: Kavanotes Choir, Suzuki Violinists, Glow Dancers, the Tallis Chamber Orchestra...and more

SCAW is the lead organization in sponsoring a free concert as part of Daniel Pearl World Music Days. The vision for the event is to bring young people, individuals, and families together through music to understand the importance of having peace, not just internationally, but in our immediate community. The mission of the association is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time. SCAW President, Cantarella said, “We purposefully planned the initiative to be a unified action by inviting our sister cities around the globe to join us in raising awareness on conflict prevention and peace building. We will be announcing a literary arts competition on the topic in August aimed at high school and college students as a step toward embedding the culture of peace among our young citizens for they are tomorrow’s leaders.”