



Sister Cities News Bulletins

Barbados Soprano will have her Solo Debut in Wilmington on October 19



The upcoming Sister Cities Association of Wilmington sponsored concert will feature soprano Shantal Martin, performing "Where the Music Comes From" by the great American composer Lee Hoiby and "The Prayer," which was originally composed for the '98 movie soundtrack "Quest for Camelot" and sung by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli. The concert is being held as part of the Daniel Pearl World Music Days and is the third concert sponsored by SCAW.

Martin who is an opera student at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music, studies under the watchful eye of famed American tenor Neil Rosenshein.

The concert will also bring many local artists and musical groups together to celebrate Pearl's life and the goal of world peace through music. Other performers on the program include: the **Forward Motion Dance Company, the Suzuki Talent Education of Wilmington, the Frog Project, Wilmington Celebration Choir, Linda Estep and Christina Brier (violin & harp duet), and the GLOW Hand Mimes Ministry.**

U.N. Day, October 24, 1971
Pablo Casals, Spanish Catalan cellist and conductor receives the United Nations Peace Medal. "I am a very simple man. I am a man first, an artist second. My first obligation is to the welfare of my fellow man. I will endeavor to meet this obligation through music, since it transcends language, politics and national boundaries." - Casals

The Peace through Music concert will take place on Sunday, October 19, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM, at the Basilica Shrine of Saint Mary, Wilmington.



Photo: Xinhua

Shendon Line Slated to Open in 2015

Hollysys Automation Technologies, Ltd, a multi-national company based in China, was awarded the contract to provide the ground based signaling systems and related equipment necessary to operate the high speed rail system planned to connect Dandong to Shenyang, or the Shendon Line as it will be known.

When completed in 2015 the Shendon Line will consist of 8 stations covering 207 kilometers. It will also connect with the Hada High Speed Railway and the Dandong Dalian Line (Danda Line) which services the mid-south rail network of Liaoning Province. Not only will the rail system reduce travel time for passengers but will allow for better travel conditions within the Liaoning Coastal Economic Zone.

The photo above was taken for the opening of the Harbin Dalian Line (Hada High Speed Railway) which is reportedly the first high speed train in the world to travel through extreme temperatures. Harbin is the capital of Heilongjiang Province (see map) and the low temperatures there can be minus

40 degrees Celsius during the winter. There were several engineering challenges to overcome and the training of personnel is probably equal to that of an airline pilot. The Harbin Dalian Line which has 30 stations linking Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning provinces was launched in December 2012 after five years of construction due to both the latitude and weather delays. The length of the line is over 900 kilometers and can take as little as 3 hours in the summer to reach Dalian or 5.5 hours in the winter when the speeds are adjusted for the conditions.

Over the four weeks of Spring Festival last year, literally a month after the line was in full operation, the number of daily travelers on the rail system exceeded 168,000. By next year the system connecting the three provinces will be complete. The expansion of high speed rail service will open up commerce flowing from these linked cities throughout the northeast region of China to the world. It will also create barrier free tourism. Planning has been underway to create the formation of an ecological tourism zone which will include the Greater Khinjan Range, the Zhalong Nature Reserve, and Changbai Mountains.



Photo: Xing'an Larch Forest Heilongjiang Province

San Pedro Emergency Medical Services Get a Much Needed Boost

Belize's Minister of Health, Pablo Marin, sat down with San Pedro Mayor, Daniel Guerrero, in August to discuss the need for 24-hour emergency medical services on the island. A commitment was made during the visit for the Ministry of Health to provide \$500,000 to cover personnel costs and another \$200,000 in upgrades to the current medical facility on the island. An additional 20+ employees will be hired at Dr. Otto Rodriguez's Poly Clinic II, including drivers, security personnel, mid-wives, doctors and nurses. Currently the facility operates from 8 AM to 8 PM Monday through Friday and 6 hours on Saturdays. Only limited medical care can be provided on site during hours of operation and after hours getting seriously ill patients transported to Belize City is risky at best. The expanded services will be phased in as personnel are hired and facilities are upgraded.

The island has grown to nearly 28,000 permanent and temporary residents and falls short of the WHO's recommended number of doctors per capita, in addition to not having 24 emergency medical

services available for residents or tourists. Last April the government of Dubai, United Emirates, donated health support vehicles, known as tuk-tuks, to Belize. Three have been brought to Ambergris Caye and drivers have been trained to start using them. Tuk-tuks (motorized rickshaws), a common form of intra-urban transportation in Southeast Asia and the Middle East, are better known by Westerners as alternatives to taxis rather than medical transport. The environmental impact from the older diesel and compressed gas model tuk-tuks are not a significant risk factor on Ambergris Caye due the low incidence of motorized vehicles. Boats, golf carts, and bicycles are the primary modes of transportation on Isla Bonita.



Photo credit: San Pedro Sun (medical support tuk-tuks parked at the Poly Clinic II in San Pedro)

Commission Updates

Barbara Greenwood, principal at Forest Hills Global Elementary School, was appointed to fill the vacancy in the New Hanover County School District seat on the Commission. Charles Blanton was also appointed by City Council to fill a community seat on the Commission.

The Commission will be select a chair and vice-chair as part of its annual re-organizational plan at the next meeting.

SCAW Says Farewell to a Dedicated Board Member and Welcomes Three

New Members

SCAW board president, Darrell Irwin, announced his resignation due to increased professional commitments. Darrell initiated the China



Summer Abroad program at UNCW in 2006 and has been traveling there every summer since with the exception of 2008 when Beijing hosted the summer Olympics. He has been very dedicated to the mission of Sister Cities and contributed many hours over the last two years. At his last meeting as president board member, Li Tan, wrote thank you on the paper Darrell is holding in the photo above after turning over the gavel to Fenton Maxwell who was elected to succeed him until the next annual meeting. Darrell's formal service award was not ready at the time of the meeting.

Three new board members were elected to fill the vacancies arising from unforeseen circumstances over the past year. Rachel Satzman received a Masters in Anthropology at the New School for Social Research and currently teaches at CFCC where she is the coordinator of a new Study Abroad Program at the college. George Schell is a professor at UNCW and former associate dean of the Cameron School of Business. George has a strong background in relations with China and co-authored a text in MIS that is widely used in Chinese universities. Tony Ventimiglia received his Master's in Public Administration from UNCW. Tony spent two years in the Peace Corps serving in Nicaragua before returning to Wilmington to accept a position with the NHC Library.

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.

Darrell Irwin	Fenton Maxwell
Marilyn Cantarella	Maria Goudiss
Yixen Chen	Scott Czechlewski
Li Tan Nichols	Gary Nichols
Jack Manock	Randy Shackelford
Commissioner Dawson	City of Wilmington
Slice of Life Pizza	Elijah's Restaurant
The Greeks	UNCW - OIP

Upcoming Events

OCT 19 (Sunday)– *Peace through Music Concert* will be held at the Basilica Shrine of Saint Mary, Fifth Ave. Doors open at 5:00 PM, Program 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Family friendly, free – donations appreciated

NOV 13 (Thursday) – *International Filmmakers Luncheon* will be held from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM at Riverboat Landing Restaurant on S. Water St. Join international visitors to Cucalorus 20 for lunch and hear about their films which are being screened over the 4 day festival. Reservations are required and a “members” lunch pass is \$10; “non-members” \$12 and can be paid with cash or check at the event (no credit cards, please). Deadline for reservations is November 10 via email: membership@scawilmington.org

NOV 16 (Sunday) – *Movie and a Dinner*
Exclusive Sister City dinner packages will be available for a specially selected festival film (TBA) & a post-show dinner for \$40.00. Only 25 dinner packages will be available to see a premier film on the last day of the festival. Check the SCAW web calendar in the end of October for the film selection. The dinner is returning to the Rx Restaurant on Castle St. for Cucalorus 20. The prix fixe dinner includes a salad to start, choice of 3 entrees, and dessert. You have the option of running a separate bar tab, if you wish, or bringing your own bottle of wine and paying a \$10 corkage fee. Anyone interested should reserve their tickets for a Movie & a Dinner package by November 10 by email – membership@scawilmington.org or phone – 910-343-5226.



International students discover downtown Wilmington following reception at City Hall Sept 2

