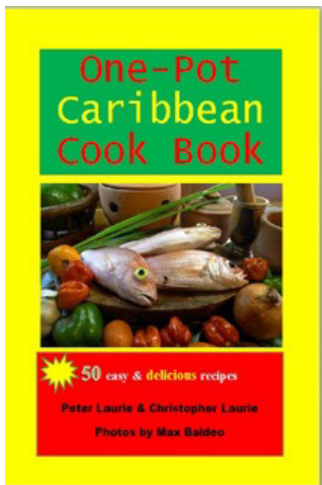




## Sister Cities News Bulletins

### Former Barbados Ambassador Peter Laurie Talks about New Cookbook



MC: As a former career diplomat how did you get started as a writer?

PL: Just before I retired in 1999 a local theatre group sent me a flyer advertising a one-act play competition and asked me to circulate it to Barbadians overseas. It piqued my interest, so I entered the competition and won the first prize. I had never written a play before nor had I been involved in the theatre. But that experience

set me to writing. Since then I have written three illustrated children's books about a cat called Mauby; two more plays; a book on the Barbados rum shop (a popular type of bar), a book on Barbados, a book on Caribbean street food, a book on West Indies cricket, and a collection of my humorous columns over two decades as a columnist in the local newspapers. The last book was the Caribbean One-Pot Cookbook. All these are available from Amazon, two of them as eBooks. I have also written/edited a Caribbean edition of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, which I have made available on the website Issuu for anyone to read or download for free.

MC: What inspired you to write about food when there is a new cookbook published every week of the year lately?

PL: I have been cooking for most of my adult life. I love one-pot dishes because they are fun to prepare. And I wanted to do a book with our son, Chris.

MC: I understand you are somewhat of an expert on how to self-publish. Are there any tips or suggestions you are willing to share with other aspiring writers?

PL: Amazon's Create Space is a wonderful publishing platform. You simply upload your text according to their specs (they even provide a template you can download)

and they will list it on Amazon, both as a paper and an eBook. They then print on demand. As the author you can order copies of the paperback at a discount for onselling if you wish. But a word of caution, you have to do your own design, editing, and proofreading, which can be tiresome. You also have to do your own marketing. And most booksellers will not stock print-on-demand books. So....

MC: You collaborated with your son Chris on the Caribbean One-Pot Cookbook. What was it like working with a family member?

PL: Great fun. We often cook together and enjoy it. He is now a far better cook than I am.

MC: Do you have a personal favorite one-pot dish?

PL: Cowbell soup.

MC: You have been retired from diplomatic service for more than two decades now and have written several books on local culture over the years what differences do you see today from when you began?

PL: The country is changing, but mostly for the good. Bajans still remain very friendly and helpful people.

MC: Are you a self-proclaimed foodie? Would you be interested in writing a food column should any media outlets ask?

PL: Yes and no. I've finished writing.

### Doncaster Selected for Inaugural Exhibition

Doncaster, with a rich history beginning in the middle ages when the Romans built a fort around 71 AD, was the first city outside Scotland to host a public exhibition of the over 104 meter tapestry of the Battle of Prestonpans and the story of Scot emigrants. The project which launched in 2012 began by recruiting 200 volunteers from around Scotland to depict the early part of the Jacobite campaign of 1745 and is part of the Battle of Prestopans Heritage Trust. Scottish ingenuity and pride led to expanding the artwork to include the stories of communities where Scots immigrated over the centuries. It turns out that the manor of Doncaster belonged to the heir to the Scottish throne in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Doncaster was one of three cities in England invited to produce panels to add to the tapestry that would help tell the story of Scottish diaspora over the years. Doncaster was happy to oblige and created four panels. Twenty five countries were invited to participate and the project took two years to complete. Last month the tapestry was on exhibit at the Minster Church of St. George Doncaster and the first stop for the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry outside of Scotland.

Scottish artist and project coordinator, Andrew Crummy, created the outline designs for the linen panels using



Photo credit: Warren Draper

the images chosen by Doncaster, which included: Prince Henry, son and heir of David I of Scotland, Walter Scott and Conisbrough Castle, Edinburgh-born Nigel Gresley's Scottish-themed and Doncaster-built class of

locomotives, and the celebrated Armthorpe NUM

branch secretary Jock Kane. Doncaster found nearly 50 volunteers representing every age demographic to complete the panels. Prestoungrange Arts Festival volunteers have been working with at least 400 embroiderers across the world in support of the project.

At the opening ceremonies of the exhibition, Doncaster Council member Bob Johnson said, "This project showcases the work of talented Doncastrians. It is a wonderful way to celebrate Scotland's culture, and its links to Doncaster. We are proud to be part of the celebration, and of the rich history and diverse background of Doncaster people."

## Basketball without Borders – yes, no, maybe?

Could there be as much excitement about the FIBA World Cup as the FIFA World Cup in our future? According to many sports reporters basketball's popularity is at an all-time high. Back in 2012 there was a surge in the NBA's international viewership with 251 countries watching the games. Social media has helped, especially in China where the NBA is the number one sports league with 52 million fans on the league's official accounts. It is in fact this western sport that has been enjoyed by our sister city Dandong.

Dandong held its City Police Basketball Invitational last month with more than 157 athletes participating over four days of fierce competition. The games were held at the Municipal Public Security Police Physical Training

Hall with 12 teams representing the Bureau, and the PUC, authority counties (cities, districts) from across the province. Perhaps Wilmington's Police Department might be invited next year and we'll get to see Chief Evangelous' fancy footwork on the courts.

## Southwest Airlines Announces Service to Belize Coming in 2015

Southwest Airlines is building its first international terminal at Houston's Hobby Airport. The airlines current international routes are the result of a 2011 acquisition of Air Tran Airways.

The planned five gate concourse will add direct flights to four popular tourist destinations in Mexico and Belize City. Belize service is expected to begin October 2015 pending US DOT approval. This is good news for Belize tourism and North Carolinians since Southwest flies out of Raleigh and Charlotte.

## In Other News

### Chengdu Delegation Visits Wilmington

A delegation from Chengdu touring North Carolina made a stop in Wilmington on October 21. Chengdu ranks among the 10 largest cities in China and is part of Jinjiang District in the southwestern part of the country. The exchange visit was organized by the Global Education Institute (GEI) at NC State University and focused mostly on tourism and economic development. GEI was started in 2004 with a mission to improve and enhance the educational, technological, cultural opportunities between the US and China. It serves as a liaison between the partner universities which include: UNC-Chapel Hill, NC State University, William Peace College, and Duke University; and China's universities, government officials and best-run companies.

At the request of Rep. Paul Stam's office, Tony Mc Ewen, Wilmington legislative affairs staffer, coordinated the day which included visits to City Hall, the State Port, the Chamber offices, UNCW's Marine Biotechnology Facilities and a lunch on the USS North Carolina Battleship.

Chuck Schoninger with USAInvestco spoke to the group about the EB5-Visa program and how it has benefited several economic development projects in Wilmington, and Kim Hufham, CEO of the Tourism Authority, shared information on marketing the region to potential visitors and return visitors. Marilyn Cantarella representing the Sister City Commission officially welcomed the group and shared some history of Wilmington's relations with China at a sub-national level. Contributing sponsors for the delegation visit were: Szechuan 132, USAInvestco, Duplin Winery, and USS North Carolina Battleship.



## Call for Nominations

Letters of interest and/or nominations for SCAW board positions are due by January 30, 2015. People who are interested themselves or know someone they would like to recommend should send a resume or bio to: [membership@scawilmington.org](mailto:membership@scawilmington.org) and 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.

## 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.

Fenton Maxwell	Basilica Shrine of St. Mary
Marilyn Cantarella	Maria Goudiss
Scott Czechlewski	Rabbi Sidlofsky
Pat Marriott	Si Cantwell
Philip Chryst	Lorraine Westermarck
Sara Bryant	Suzanne Smith
Phil Davis	Mayor Saffo
Forward Motion Dance	The Frog Project
Suzuki Talent Education	Christina Brier
Linda Estep	Shantal Martin
Harper Peterson	Joy Murrell
Plunket Peterson	PVUMC GLOW
PJ Bolduc	Linsey McGrath
Wilmington Celebration Choir	
Szechuan 132	Rx Restaurant
Riverboat Landing	Peter Laurie
George Schell	

## Upcoming Events

**FEB 14** – Visit Sister Cities table at the UNCW Intercultural Fair which will be held at the Burney Center on campus from 11 AM - 2 PM. Enjoy the food, incredible performances and a few surprises while learning about global destinations. Appropriate for all ages.

**FEB 23** – Join SCAW members and friends for a family style feast in celebration of Chinese New Year. Our host will be Joseph Hou and the festivities will be at Szechuan 132, S. College Rd, at 6:30 PM. Advance reservations are required no later than February 21 by email: [membership@scawilmington.org](mailto:membership@scawilmington.org). Cost is \$20

**MAR 23** SCAW Annual Meeting will start in the Downtown Library (New Hanover Room) at 6:00 PM, after a brief business meeting there will be a lecture in acknowledgement of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Churchill's death – "Remembering Churchill." Dinner and discussion will follow at Elijah's Restaurant. Advance reservations for dinner only no later than March 22 by email: [membership@scawilmington.org](mailto:membership@scawilmington.org). Lecture free; dinner is standard menu prices.

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



*Sister Cities Association  
Board of Directors*

*Fenton, Li, Chad, Harry,  
Marilyn, George, Rachel,  
and Tony*

*Sister Cities is deeply grateful to everyone who participated in the 2014 Peace through Music Concert for donating their time and talent using the universal language of music, song and dance to promote peace.*



Forward Motion Dance Company

Concert photographs by Linsey McGrath





PVUMC Glow Hand Mimes



Frog Project



Shantal Martin



Christina Brier & Linda Estep Duet



Hannah Sellars Soloist



Wilmington Celebration Choir