



Sister Cities News Bulletins

Belize Celebrates 30th Anniversary of its Independence

Letter to Mayor Paz

Dear Mayor Paz,

On behalf of the people of Wilmington, we wish all the citizens of Belize a happy Independence Day and express our commitment to continuing the bonds of friendship between our cities.

We congratulate you on having achieved 30 years as a stable democracy, and acknowledge your cordial and close relations with the US and nations around the globe.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Cantarella

President SCAW

Dr. Ed Paul, General Consulate for Belize and local resident, hosted an anniversary celebration of Belizean Independence at Wilmington's City Hall on September 16. The guest of honor for the reception was his Excellency Nestor Mendez, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belize to the United States of America. The Ambassador was accompanied by his wife and expressed his gratitude on behalf of Belize for the special relationship the City of Wilmington has forged with his country through joint activities and support for San Pedro.

Mayor Saffo was joined by Council members, Kevin O'Grady, Kristi Campos, and Ronald Sparks in officially welcoming Ambassador Mendez and his wife to our City to celebrate this special occasion. While enjoying fine wine and food, guests were able to bid during a silent auction to help raise money for support of the creation of special services to assist Belizean children with physical and mental disabilities.

THE STATE OF THE ARTS IN DONCASTER

– Terry Chipp, Doncaster, UK

The first week in September heralded the St Leger Festival - a recent annual showcase of arts events to coincide with the classic horse race which has run in Doncaster since 1776. Strolling jazz bands, open air rock stage and opera in the park brought the festival to the people. The town's pubs hosted many live music sessions, while the two theatres put on a full and varied programme. There were two racing related exhibitions and a camp of Roman soldiers down by the Minster. The St Leger Festival also launches Doncaster HotHouse, a programme of events and performances running through the autumn and winter months. Most of these featured events are well attended but, at other times of the year, audiences can be sparse.

A long standing grumble has been that events are poorly advertised and now this is being actively addressed by the town's Arts Service through their 'Say Yes to Arts' campaign. SytA aims to form a bridge between arts providers, participants and audiences by building an extensive mailing list, currently reaching around 2500, and a comprehensive 'What's On' monthly newsletter. Much remains to be done to reach the right people with the right information but a significant start has been made and the council's involvement should be applauded.

There is a great deal happening in the arts all year round. It sometimes appears that Doncaster has more people active in the arts than people available to make an audience.

Dance in all its forms thrives in Doncaster with many dance schools and community workshops catering for all ages from toddlers to senior citizens. Local recording studios are supporting and promoting musicians in the early stages of their careers with some excellent results while the more established Choral Society and Youth Jazz Association fly the flag for Doncaster at home and abroad. The two theatre companies present a wide

range of touring performers and home-grown talent but lack the space to host the larger shows.

October sees the annual Open Exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery with its eclectic mix of amateur and professional work that often generates a good measure of comment and controversy from all concerned. Perhaps reflecting the difficult economic times, the BrevonArt gallery is currently our only commercial art gallery. Hopefully the 12a Gallery will soon reopen after a change of ownership.

Despite the recession and funding cuts, the arts in Doncaster are strong at the grass-roots level with good facilities to encourage and develop local talent. What is needed now is a showcase for that talent and a link to the regional and national arts circuit. A new project may provide exactly that. Work has just started on constructing a New Performance Venue (NPV) in the newly developing Civic and Cultural Quarter of the town. The NPV will have multiple uses open during the day and into the evening. It will include a 600-seat main auditorium, a 200-seat/400-standing performing space, drama studio, dance studio, education spaces, foyer, bar, box office, dressing rooms and a café. When it opens in spring 2013 it should bring a new focus and a wider audience to the arts in Doncaster.

2011 Marks the 90th Anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC)



Pictured above: A huge symbol of the Chinese Communist Party, illuminated in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on the eve of July 1 – (Photo Credits: ChinaFotoPress/Getty Images)

US Senate Ratifies Appointment of Gary Locke as Ambassador to China – (Source: AP 28 July 2011)

Locke was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in late July. During the White House announcement in March, Locke said: "As Commerce Secretary, I've

helped open up foreign markets for American businesses so they can create more jobs right here in America...I'm eager to continue that work in China and to help you, Mr. President, manage one of America's most critical and complex diplomatic, economic, and strategic relationships."

Gary Locke was a two term governor of Washington State and the first Chinese American to serve as a US governor before his appointment as Commerce Secretary in the Obama administration. Jon Huntsman resigned his role as US Ambassador to China shortly before announcing his run in the GOP presidential primary.

Barbados Signs \$15.7 Million Deal with China – (Source: Nation News 7 Sept 2011 edition)

According to media reports, Barbados is entering agreements valued at \$15.7 million with the People's Republic of China for economic and technical projects in several areas of cooperation between the two countries.

The signing of the agreements took place in Barbados earlier this month. Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Chris Sinckler confirmed the money would support four agreements, three of which were discussed by Prime Minister Freundel Stuart with his Chinese counterpart Premier Wen Jiabao while on an official visit to China.

These included a letter of exchange to facilitate the installation of a new scoreboard at the Garfield Sobers Complex, and a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China to send a Chinese language teacher to Barbados.

In Other News

SCAW Hosts a Breakfast for Local Schools to Plan Global Education Initiatives

Doncaster residents Patrick Carroll and his wife Sarah planned their summer



holiday based on his passion for connecting schools interested in teaching their students about the world outside their classrooms. After several official visits in Wilmington, they spent a week relaxing in New Bern.

On arrival in Wilmington, Carroll met with Michael Cobb, Principal of Forest Hills Global Elementary School, to discuss ways in which New Hanover County schools can connect with other global classrooms. Also present was Joyce Price, Principal of St. Mary School, to learn more about eTwinning and how to promote it with teachers at her school. Dr. Elizabeth Crawford, who teaches at the Watson School of Education and is an advocate for global education, said after the meeting, “[Crawford] we will be able to introduce these concepts with pre-service teachers.”

Cape Fear Community College’s Center for Child Development has agreed to begin an exchange between its Pre-K class and Sarah’s class in Doncaster this year, which is a first for an exchange at this age level between our sister cities. The Pre-K classes will exchange culture boxes and collaborate on a sustainability project in the spring by planting a garden on campus grounds.

Carroll also represented Doncaster International Partnership Association (DIPA) by attending a steering committee meeting working on the planning of a proposed international symposium to be held in Wilmington in 2012. *Pictured from left in above photo: Patrick Carroll, Elsie Rocks, Avril Pinder*

SCAW Seeks Board Nominees The Sister Cities Association of Wilmington (SCAW) is a private, not-for-profit volunteer driven organization that provides community involvement in the City of Wilmington sister city relationships. The core mission of SCAW is to promote peace through respect, understanding and cooperation - one individual, one community at a time. In addition to supporting exchanges in art, education, and business between Wilmington and our sister cities, we offer local programming to citizens young and old in the greater Cape Fear region that include a diverse offering of cultural events and international topics.

SCAW is just beginning the nominations process for 2012. There are three board positions to fill. The board meets four times a year plus the Annual Meeting in March. Meetings are held in the evening

so as to not interfere with the workday. Anyone interested in serving or may want to recommend a friend or colleague but needs further information, please contact the SCAW president, Marilyn Cantarella by phone or email - marilyn@scawilmington.org and phone: 910-343-5226.

Commission Updates The Commission and SCAW are working together on planning an international symposium to be held in 2012. Keith Parker, SCC member, and Dale Smith, SCAW trustee are co-chairing the steering committee.

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.

Dennis Kubasko
Front St. Brewery
Terry Chipp

Bill Mc Carthy
Patrick Carroll

Upcoming Events

Sept. 20 – SCAW will host a welcome reception for the 2012 international students enrolled at the University of North Carolina – Wilmington. Location: City Hall 5:00 – 7:30 PM. This is a “members only” event.

Oct. 24 – “World Cinema Humanism & the Representation of Everyday Experiences” Dinner Program. Location: Jengo Playhouse, 815 Princess St. Lecture begins at 6:00 PM & dinner afterwards at Caffe Phoenix on N. Front St. Dr. Carlos Kase will speak about globalization and the film industry. Reservations required by 10/23 by email – membership@scawilmington.org or by phone 910-343-5226.

Nov. 10 – SCAW will host a luncheon for visiting film makers following the Cucalorus International Film Festival Global Perspectives program for high school students. The lunch will be held in the Beam Room at Front St. Brewery from noon to 1:00 PM and is a “members only” event. There will be a “Dinner and a Movie” event during the festival as part of our sponsorship of an international film. Tickets for this event will be available for both members and non-members to purchase in October.