



## Sister Cities News Bulletins

### Doncaster Airport Link Catalyst for Regional Economy

Leap year saw the completion of a project ten years in the making to create a link between Robin Hood Airport and M18. The road has been named Great Yorkshire Way. The recently completed £56 mil road project is the result of a public/private partnership that is expected to spur development in the region.

According to local media coverage of the grand opening ceremonies Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, said: "This is a landmark occasion and the culmination of years of hard work to deliver one of the most important projects ever seen in Doncaster. Great Yorkshire Way is not only the gateway to the Sheffield City Region and Yorkshire it is the gateway to unprecedented levels of private sector investment which in turns sees thousands of new jobs and homes created. The local and regional economy is being transformed by this infrastructure scheme as many of the expected outcomes are already coming to fruition with the expansion of our fantastic Doncaster Sheffield Airport, the exciting iPort project really starting to take shape and brand new homes being built in Rossington. It's an exemplary project and great advertisement for collaboration between the public and private sectors...."



Photo credit: Doncaster Free Press

### New Yorkers Honor Barbados with Early Celebration



Super Bowl Sunday found Prime Minister Freundel Stuart toasting a crowd at the Brooklyn based Friends of Barbados annual bash in an early celebration of Barbados

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence.

According to news reports of the occasion, Stuart told the group, "So from 204,000 tons [sugar] in 1967 Barbados is now struggling to produce 10,000 tons. And that should tell you something about the great transformation that has taken place in Barbados at the economic level. We no longer have a monocrop sugar economy. The spectacle of men and women walking barefooted to the plantation, with crocus bags tied around their waists, and to cut canes in the hard times is no longer with us. Those days have receded. It is not another way of saying that there is anything fundamentally wrong with that kind of work, for there is dignity in human labor. But there a great economic transformation has taken place in Barbados, and our economy now is being led by tourism."

Like economies everywhere the reality of innovation changing the way we work has created both challenges and opportunities for Barbados. However he expressed that the goal of moving from a nation state to true independence would remain a top priority for the leadership.

The occasion included many other dignitaries, among them: Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Tony Marshall, Consul General (NY) Dr. Donna Hunte-Cox, former Consul General Lennox Price and Margaret Price, Consul John Blackman, Justice Sylvia Hinds-Radix and Dr Radix, and Mount Vernon's Mayor Richard Thomas.

## China Film Market Tops North America for the First Time

According to State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SAPPRFT) reports from February 6.87 billion yuan (US\$1.05 billion) were reported in movie ticket sales.



Ninety-two million people went to the movies in

February with peak sales between the Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day. The year over year increase for the month was 51.08%. The real estate and entertainment giant, Dalian Wanda Group, recently acquired a controlling stake in the Hollywood studio that has produced films like the blockbuster "Jurassic World;" and previously purchased AMC Theaters. Wanda hopes to introduce more Chinese films in the US market but is aware of the difference in audience tastes. Many speculate that China will become the largest film market in the world as early as next year.

## International Women's Day 2016

### #PLEDGE FOR PARITY



**San Pedro** kicked off International Women's Month with the opening of an exhibit featuring the diverse women living on Ambergis Caye. Local

photographer Karen Brodie captured a cross section of the community with her lens and selected 62 photographs for the exhibit.

The photographs will be on display for a month at the San Pedro House of Culture. The kick-off reception was March 10.

"I marvel at the strength of the women in this community, whether young or old," stated Karen at the opening of the exhibit. "There is a bond between all of us, we all suffered to achieve, we overcome hardships, there are so many inspirational women in the community. It has been a privilege to meet them."

**Barbados Olympic Association Inc. Women and Sports Commission** organized a 5K race for women and a 5K walk to bring all women together for a fun

event to build awareness and highlight the progress women have made within the sporting fraternity.

**President Xi Jinping** of the PRC acknowledged all the female deputies of the NPC and all female members of the CPC Central Committee, and women of all ethnic groups and from all walks of life all over the country during a session of the National People's Congress in Beijing on March 8.

**Jean Hall, International Baccalaureate Coordinator and French teacher at Hoggard High School in Wilmington**, organized a screening of "Sweet Dreams" a documentary film that followed a group of Rwandan women from both sides of the conflict rebuilding their lives following the 1994 genocide.

## Other News

### SCAW Annual Meeting

The nominees for the class of 2019 included two returning board members, Shanhong Luo and Rachel Satzman and one new nomination, Kerry Dewberry Toone. Kerry received a M.Sc in Pharmaceutical Medicine from the University of Surrey in England. She is currently the Vice President for Strategic Partnerships at PPD.; and supports several women's organization in addition to being a soccer mom and a long time sailing enthusiast.

Officers for the upcoming year included: Fenton Maxwell (president), George Schell (vice-president), Shanhong Luo (secretary), and Qian Fan (treasurer).



### SCI Making Plans for 60th Anniversary

SCI is gearing up for its annual conference and anniversary bash at the Mayflower Hotel in DC this July. The kick-off

reception will be held on Wednesday, July 13 at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence, the Diplomatic Gala will be the following evening. Friday will include several sessions on a variety of relevant topics, including - Smart Cities, Resilient Cities and the Innovative Future of Establishing Global Relationships; Sister Cities in Post Conflict Areas; Tourism, Exchanges & Diplomacy: Selling Your City as an International Destination. The Keynote luncheon will focus on the past and future of the Sister Cities movement. Early bird

registration discounts are available until April 15. For more info & to register - [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org).

## Wilmington Convention Center Hotel Breaks Ground

Earlier this month, construction on the long-awaited Convention Center hotel got underway. The city has an agreement with Harmony Hospitality, Inc. to construct a 186-room, full service Embassy Suites Hotel next to the Convention Center.

The privately owned \$36 million hotel will include a full-service restaurant, roof top bar, pool and additional meeting space. The hotel is expected to open in the spring of 2017 and has already generated interest from meeting planners around the state about holding conventions here in Wilmington.

## Sister City Commission

Harriet Smith was recently appointed by Council to fill a community seat on the Commission. Harriet moved to Wilmington 3 years ago after retiring from a career in banking. She was welcomed by the Commission and hit the ground running by offering to help promote the young artists competition. The deadline for submissions is April 15 and the winning selection will go on to Washington to compete internationally.

Miss Li, an employee with Dandong Foreign Affairs, is expected to arrive in Wilmington by early summer for a work assignment with the International Program at UNCW. Miss Li will have the opportunity to use her English language skills and become more familiar with western culture while assisting the university in broadening its relationships with academic institutions in China.

## 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	Scott Czechlewski
Marilyn Cantarella	Chad Fan
Szechuan 132	Joseph Hou
Rachel Satzman	Michael Wilhelm (UNCW)
Harriet Smith	CFCC Anthropology Club

## Upcoming Events

**April 6-7** (Wed & Thur) Public symposium on “**The Nuremberg Trials, 70 years On**” to take place at UNCW. Wednesday evening kick-offs with the film “Nuremberg: A Courtroom Drama” and discussion at 7:30 PM in the Randall Library Auditorium. Thursday will include panel presentations by leading scholars in Holocaust and genocide studies in various locations starting at 10 AM. All events are free and open to the public. <http://uncw.edu/hst/community/newsevents.html>.

**April 9-10** (Sat & Sun) Azalea Festival Multicultural Stage will showcase cultural performances both days in conjunction with the Street Festival downtown (Princess St.)

**April 24** (Sat) **7<sup>th</sup> Annual UN Women Walk** – Check in at noon Hugh McRae Park Shelter #5. Race begins at 1 PM. Pre-register at [www.una-coastalcarolina.org](http://www.una-coastalcarolina.org)

**July 13-17** (Wed-Sat) The **SCI Annual Conference** will be held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. Pre-registration required at [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org)

*THANK YOU TO JOSEPH & STAFF FOR A GREAT NEW YEAR'S PARTY*

