



## Program News

### Multimedia Presentation on Southeast Asia

This August, local artist and master photographer, Arrow Ross, shared his personal journey of five weeks traveling through parts of Southeast Asia in 2007. Ross took over 2,000 images during this extended trip to remove himself from the stresses of daily living and take some time for thoughtful reflection. He later chose 200 images to produce a DVD which he narrated and dropped in musical pieces as a backdrop to some of the magnificent spiritual imagery found in Thai temples and sanctuaries.

Dr. Yixin Chen, associate professor of history at UNCW, spoke at the October dinner meeting on life in China today. He authored the book, "Paths to Modern Nations" and published numerous articles on economic history in China. His next book will be finished in 2009 and focuses on the agriculture sector and China's rural provinces. Dr. Chen provided a view into several key national events that impacted China as it prepared for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

### St. Mary Pen Pal Program

The exchange between the St. Mary School in Wilmington and Doncaster began its third year this fall. There are currently two second grade classes and one fourth grade class participating. Here is an excerpt from a communication received from Anne Walsh, second grade teacher in Doncaster – "How delighted we all were to receive your letters. I know how time consuming they are but I'm sure you'll agree – so very worthwhile. Even four or five contacts per year, no matter how brief, enrich our children. Quality triumphs over quantity. This programme has opened up a whole new vista of experiences for my children, some of whom are socially deprived, living a parochial life, contained within the area of Doncaster. To have contact with children of another continent/culture, has been a boon. They now appreciate an America beyond Disney and McDonalds. I hope your children have had a taste of how ordinary, working class children live in an England that is a world away from rose covered thatched cottages in picture box villages. When I came into class with your post in my hand, they all cheered! We have been beavering away, composing replies to be emailed to you."

### Street Sweeper Donation to Aid San Pedro

In October, Orlando Flores arrived in town to receive three days of training from the City's Public Works Department on how to operate and maintain the street sweeper that was donated by the City of Wilmington after going out of service in late spring. The local NBC news affiliate WECT covered the visit on the weekend news.

The final phase in the donation of the street sweeper will be transporting it by ground to Miami where it will be loaded onto a ship for its final journey to Belize.

### 2008 No Boundaries International Art Colony

SCAW awarded a \$100 grant to No Boundaries to cover a stipend for sister city artist, Terry Chipp, to deliver a lecture to students in the art department at UNCW. Terry was selected as a participant for the 2008 No Boundaries International Art Colony. Terry arrived in Wilmington on October 29 and spent the next day having lunch with Sister City members and visiting the second grade class at St. Mary's School before heading off to Bald Head Island. He brought a package for the children participating in the pen pal exchange from St. Mary's in Doncaster and answered questions the children had about the tradition of afternoon tea and holiday celebrations in England starting with Halloween of course. Here is a brief excerpt from Terry's response to their questions...

Why do the English wear King's Paper Crowns on Christmas Day?



The idea of wearing a paper crown may have originated from the Twelfth Night celebrations, where a King or Queen was appointed to look over the proceedings. Today British families wear paper hats on special occasions like Christmas Day and birthday parties.

The tradition of wearing hats at parties goes back to the Roman Saturnalia celebrations (celebrated around 25 December) when the participants also wore hats. The paper crowns worn today on Christmas are found inside what is known as "Christmas Crackers." A cracker consists of a cardboard tube wrapped in a brightly decorated twist of paper, making it resemble an oversized sweet-wrapper. The cracker is pulled by two people and each one contains a small toy, a joke or motto, and a tissue-paper crown hat.

During Terry's second week participating in the No Boundaries International Artists Colony he left the island to speak to a class at the UNCW Cultural Arts Building and afterwards spent an hour with a group of high school students participating in the Dreams Arts Program in downtown Wilmington. The public exhibition of the art work and closing celebration of the 2008 international art colony was held at Acme Art Studios on November 15. Mayor Bill Saffo was present to meet with Terry personally and to offer a gift from the KidsMaking It Program for him to bring back to the Mayor of Doncaster.

There will be another opportunity to see some selected works from NBI participating artists at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington in 2009. More information will be coming soon about the location and dates.

**SCAW WEB SITE TO GO LIVE JANUARY 2009**—[www.scawilmington.org](http://www.scawilmington.org)



Terry Chipp with Mayor Bill Saffo at NBI Reception



Doncaster Mayor Coddington



Wilmington Seal overlay on Doncaster Mansion House

Photographs courtesy of Terry Chipp & Arrow Ross

**2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Just a friendly reminder that January is time to renew your membership in Sister Cities Association of Wilmington. If you joined in the second half of 2008, your membership is valid until January 2010 based on the revised membership policies adopted in October 2007.

We are a membership driven organization and use the receipts from annual dues to support sister city programs. Current members will receive a reminder letter in the coming weeks via the USPS. A future goal is to work toward becoming a “green organization” to reduce the amount of paper mailings. Effective next year new and existing members will be able to download the membership forms from the SCAW website and send it in with their annual support.



**Peace and Joy to all our members and to our sister cities during the upcoming holiday season.**

**TENTATIVE PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2009**



**JANUARY – Fourth Monday Dinner Meeting.** Local artist and teacher, Pam Toll, will be our special guest on January 26. Pam, an NBI board member, was responsible for the vision to incorporate the “Paint-A-Future” initiative during the recent bi-annual international art colony to assist needy children in developing regions of the world.

**FEBRUARY – International Festival at UNCW.** Volunteers are needed to help on Saturday, February 14 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Volunteer shifts are generally two hours in length, though we can be flexible if you only have an hour to donate. Contact Marilyn at 343-5226 or by email if you can help.

**JUNE—Dragon Boat Festival** on the Cape Fear River June 9

**AUGUST – The Grainger Junior Cup Tournament** reception will be sponsored by the Sister Cities Commission on August 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

**NOVEMBER -** Each year on the third Thursday of November, wine lovers world-wide wait with anticipation for the latest vintage of Beaujolais Nouveau. SCAW is planning to host its first **Beaujolais Nouveau Celebration** in November 2009, inviting members and guests to participate in this highly anticipated wine ritual. Remember to mark your calendar and join us in tasting vintages from different wineries and indulging in French charcuteries, pates, cheeses, bread and other surprises.