

Committee Updates

**please see calendar for more information*

Reggio Emilia, Italy

Come and enjoy the Olive Festival planned by Pat Cappelletti at the home of Julie Johncox. We will have all kinds of entertainment and appetizers to accompany the exceptional company of the Reggio group. The planning for our new year is just beginning, so this is a great time to get involved. This month Sarah Gallinari, who has been volunteering in the Sister Cities office as an intern for the last two months, is returning to Reggio Emilia. Please take a moment to thank her for her hard work and wish her a safe trip home.

Trier, Germany

Thanks to all of you for helping with the group from Trier. They had a wonderful time in Fort Worth and were able to make many professional connections. This month, we are trying out a new location for our meetings so join us at the Parthenon to talk about all of the exciting events for 2005/2006. Now is a great time to get involved in planning an event or exchange. We will be going to the Kiefer exhibit at the Modern Art Museum the first week of January, so mark your calendars!

Nagaoka, Japan

The Nagaoka group will have a special treat at this month's meeting – a presentation on the art of Bonsai. Join us for what should be a fascinating evening of Japanese culture and fun.

Bandung, Indonesia

The Bandung group will have their meeting November 9. Please join them as they continue planning the 2006 cultural outbound exchange.

Budapest, Hungary

The Budapest group is having their monthly gathering November 8. If you missed the photo sharing party last month from the Hungarian Rhapsody tour, this will be a great meeting to attend. We hope to see you there.

Toluca, Mexico

Celebrate the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) at Arts Fifth Avenue with the Toluca group and our returning representatives from TOLMUN! This is a very special time for honoring the dead in Mexico and it is always a lively and colorful event. Our new fiscal year is just beginning so this is the perfect time to get involved. Special thanks to the young performers from Ballet Folklórico of Fort Worth Inc. for representing the Toluca committee at the Fort Worth Library gala in October.

Mbabane, Swaziland

The Mbabane group will be taking the month of November off but stay tuned for a very exciting Swaziland event December 1, where our featured guest will be Dr. Roslyn Walker from the Dallas Museum of Art. She will share her expertise about the visual arts of Southern Africa and Swaziland.

Global Alumni Program

GAP Chair Linday Wilson will be in town from our national Sister Cities office in D. C. to plan an exciting program for our alumni. November 11 is the application deadline for Associate Delegation Leaders to travel to Italy, Hungary, Japan or Germany! Call for an application or download from our website. We are also accepting applications for spring & summer internships in the office or for ILA.

FYI (Fort Worth Youth International)

Join us November 13 to learn about international careers. Mary Weaver, Director of International Development from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce will be our guest speaker and snacks will be provided. Our care package drive for Texas troops in Iraq continues. Bring one or more of these items: dvd movies, cds, playing cards or stationary. Please visit our website for a full list. We will also write special holiday cards to send so bring your friends!

Celebrate Día de los Muertos



Día de los Muertos is an ancient festivity that has transformed through the years. In prehispanic Mexico, it started as a celebration of children and the dead, a time when Mexican families remembered their dead as well as the continuity of life. It is a holiday with a complex history and therefore its observance varies quite a bit by region and by degree of urbanization. It is also not a morbid occasion at all. In fact it is a very festive time much as Halloween is a festive occasion in America.

Originally it can be traced to Mesoamerican native traditions like festivities held during the Aztec month of Miccailhuitontli, ritually presided by the "Lady of the Dead". On the Aztec calendar, this ritual was held at the end of July or the beginning of August. In the postconquest era it was moved by Spanish priests so that it coincided with the Christian holiday of All Hallow's Eve or Día de Todos Santos, an effort to transform the observance from a secular holiday to a Christian celebration. Mexicans now celebrate the Day of the Dead during the first two days of November rather than in summer and the modern festivity is characterized by a blend of ancient aboriginal and introduced Christian features.

Urban Mexican families usually observe the Day of the Dead with a special family supper featuring the bread of the dead. In southern Mexico, for example in the city of Puebla, it is good luck to be the one who bites into the plastic toy skeleton hidden by the baker in each rounded loaf. Friends and family members give one another gifts consisting of sugar skeletons or other items with a death motif and the gift is more prized if the skull or skeleton is embossed with one's own name. Come experience an authentic Día de los Muertos celebration with the Toluca group Thursday, November 10 at Arts Fifth Avenue and experience this festive and meaningful tradition.

Sundance Santa



The time has come again for Sundance Santa! November 25, 2005 will mark four years that the Sundance Square Management Company has donated the proceeds from the Sundance Santa program to our youth program, Fort Worth Youth International. FYI members volunteer to take photos of people posing with Santa Claus and the program receives funding from sales of the photos. Last year FYI received over \$7,000 for scholarships that help build and develop international leadership skills.

As a member of FYI, youth learn about the cultures of Fort Worth's sister cities, work together to host social events, serve as youth ambassadors as they experience new cultures firsthand, and share the experience of youth exchanges in the realms of art, sports, culture and education. The money received from Sundance Santa grants youth the opportunity to participate in these exchanges, when financially they would not be able to otherwise. Help support the youth programs of Fort Worth Sister Cities by taking your family holiday photos with the Sundance Santa every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through December 18. See calendar for more details.

The Mystery of Bonsai

The art of Bonsai has been practiced for centuries in both China and Japan. The art is literally a reproduction of natural tree forms in miniature. Bonsai trees are living miniature trees which increase in beauty and value as they mature over the years. The history of Bonsai trees can be traced back to the tomb of Prince Zhang Huai, who died in 706 during the Tang Dynasty. Two wall paintings discovered in the tomb show servants carrying plants. In one, a servant is seen carrying a miniature landscape and in the other painting a servant is shown carrying a pot containing a bonsai tree.

Contrary to popular belief, bonsai is not the art of stunting a tree's growth. It is merely the art of growing trees in a confined space such as a pot or a tray and simulating certain environmental conditions such as great age, extreme weathering, twisting or contortion. Bonsai are modeled after and inspired by nature. The idea is to recreate some of nature's most stunning and beautiful effects on trees in a reduced scale. Come learn the art of Bonsai with the Nagaoka group at the Lena Pope Chapel November 17. Dan Hammick from the Fort Worth Bonsai Society will be present to teach this beautiful and ancient artform.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2005

FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL NOVEMBER 2005 CALENDAR

4	Friday	Youth Ambassador application deadline for spring & summer exchanges.
8	Tuesday	Budapest meeting, Sardines Restaurant, 509 University Drive, 6:00 p.m.
9	Wednesday	Bandung meeting, Yum Yum's Restaurant 4954 Overton Ridge Blvd. 6:00 p.m.
10	Thursday	Toluca meeting, Arts Fifth Avenue, 1628 5th Ave. (5th & Allen, 76104) 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Erika by November 7.
10-13	Thurs-Sun.	Youth Ambassador interviews, FWSCI, 808 Throckmorton Street. Youth applicants must be accompanied by a parent.
13	Sunday	FYI executive meeting, UNTHSC Atrium, 3500 Camp Bowie, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
13	Sunday	FYI membership event, "The Challenge of Global Careers" UNTHSC Atrium, 3500 Camp Bowie 3:00-4:30 p.m. Bring donated items as listed for U.S. soldiers in Iraq.
15	Tuesday	Trier meeting, Parthenon restaurant, 401 N. Henderson Street, 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Erika by Nov. 14
16	Wednesday	FWSCI Board of Directors meeting, ITC, 1000 Jones Street, 11:45 a.m.
17	Thursday	Reggio Emilia meeting, home of Julie Johncox, 6421 Fershaw Place, at 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Erika by Nov. 14.
17	Thursday	Nagaoka meeting, Lena Pope Chapel basement, 3131 Sanguinet Street, 6:00 p.m.
24-25	Thurs-Fri.	FWSCI offices closed for Thanksgiving
25-27	Fri-Sun.	Sundance Santa photos benefiting the FWSCI youth scholarship fund, corner of 5th & Main Street, 12:00- 6:00 p.m.

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Highlights is a monthly publication about meetings and events of Fort Worth Sister Cities. For More Information, call 817/392-2650 or e-mail info@fwsistercities.org

Visit us on the Web at www.fwsistercities.org



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