

Committee Updates

Reggio Emilia, Italy

Come enjoy music, wine and great conversation at the March meeting. We are excited about the exchanges for 2006. Youth in performing arts and academics will be well-represented during spring break as 84 delegates representing the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra, TCU Leadership, Kids Who Care, and youth ambassadors meet monthly in preparation for this special exchange.

Trier, Germany

Join us at Palermo's to talk about our upcoming exchanges and events. We have many interesting and fun activities on the calendar so bring a friend and learn all about it! Our friends from Trier will be returning for the Main Street Arts Festival again this year with six artists and state officials from the department of economic development. Sign up now to host an artist or help out with the welcome/farewell events.

Nagaoka, Japan

The Nagaoka group will discuss some exciting plans for summer at their March meeting. See calendar for details.

Bandung, Indonesia

Many thanks to Pier 1 for hosting the Bandung committee last month. Join us for our March meeting and hear plans for our September trip to Bandung. Please see calendar for details.

Budapest, Hungary

Many thanks to Lake Country Christian School for being such excellent ambassador hosts to the students from Budapest. Join the committee for their March meeting. We will have an historical presentation about the 1848 Hungarian War of Independence. Committee member and history buff, Lou Ott, will share his expertise on the subject.

Toluca, Mexico

See what all the excitement is about! This month we are working on our Toluca trip plans and other exchanges for 2006. Spanish classes are going well and we have a few vacancies so come join in the fun. We have 35 students coming from Toluca for ILA. Don't miss your chance to host one of these students in your home for a few days.

Mbabane, Swaziland

Please join the Mbabane group for their March meeting as they discuss some educational and humanitarian project opportunities.

Fort Worth Youth International

Youth Ambassadors returning from Budapest and Reggio Emilia will share their experiences and photos at the March meeting. Mark your calendar for April 1 for our "Swing into Spring" dance where we will share the dance floor with high school students from Trier who are being hosted by Arlington Heights. Get involved with ILA in July by home hosting a teenager from Italy, Germany, Mexico, Swaziland, Japan or Budapest.

GAP (Global Alumni Program)

GAP Reunion Chair, Siobhan Flowers, is planning the 2006 summer reunion in July. We are expecting more than 15 international alumnae coming to serve as ILA facilitators. Stay tuned for upcoming meetings to help plan this event. Members have many opportunities to remain involved with internships in the sister cities office or as facilitators for ILA. Of course we always need host families during ILA as well!



Calling All Volunteers!

The Main Street Fort Worth Arts Festival is one of Fort Worth's most exciting festivals and hosts thousands of people annually during the four-day visual arts, entertainment and cultural event.

Six visitors from Trier, Germany will be displaying their art at the Main Street Arts Festival this year.

In addition to international participation in the Main Street Art Festival, Fort Worth Sister Cities will host a beverage booth at the festival all day Friday, April 21. If you would like to volunteer to serve beverages and answer questions about Fort Worth Sister Cities International, please contact Lisa Gail Barnes via phone: 817-392-6052, or via email: lisa@fwsistercities.org. The shifts are: 10:30-1:00, 1:00-3:30, 3:30-6:00, 6:00-8:30 and 8:30-11:30. Participants must be 18 years of age to serve alcoholic beverages per state law.

A Celebration of Youth as Global Citizens

Congratulations to the following students and leaders who were chosen to represent Fort Worth, Texas during Spring Break.

Budapest, Hungary: A special thank you goes to Lake Country Christian School, parents, faculty and students for hosting the first reciprocal school exchange with Budapest. The Budapest Szabo Lorinc High School will host our youth ambassadors led by Elysa Drillette & GAP Associate delegation leader, Haley Hidalgo. The youth ambassadors are: Mary Boschini, Landry Brogdan, Katherine Davis, Casey Drillette, Kendall Hodgkins, Rachel Lamb, Nydia Perez, Alexandra Sinatra, and Caleb Yee.

Reggio Emilia, Italy: Grazie mille to the delegation leaders and teachers for preparing our youth for this memorable exchange led by Molly Risewick, Jenninifer Miller and GAP Tess Truc Ta. The youth ambassadors are: Christy Beck, Ben Brantley, Savannah Breen, Tatjana Cिकic, Courtney Enlow, Jennifer Felts, Elizabeth Ging, Adelaide Hallum, Gabriel Lawson, Isabel Luengas, Omar Martinez, English McBride, Vivian Munoz, Breon'nica Provo, Shea Roll, Rebecca Romano, Veronica Suarez, Staci Warren, and Jessica Yang.

Special recognition goes to the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra Chamber group led by Dr. Misha Galaganov who will present several concerts with the Instituto Peri Music Conservatory. The students are: Rebekah Carter, Gina Ford, Maya Lewis, Charles Johnston, Thomas Horter, and Fort Worth Youth Orchestra staff – Lindsey Stortz and Samuel Branch. The Kids Who Care Theater group will be led by Deborah Jung and TCU Leadership Center students led by Laura Thomas.



50th Anniversary and Conference

This July, **more than 1,000 people from around the world** will meet in Washington, D.C. to mark the 50th Anniversary of Sister Cities International. This celebration is a **once-in-a-lifetime event** that you won't want to miss!

At this conference, Fort Worth Sister Cities Executive Director, **Mae Ferguson will be installed as the President of Sister Cities International** at a special gala event on July 15. You are invited to come honor her achievement and celebrate 50 years of citizen diplomacy.

Join hundreds of your colleagues and friends in bringing the message of peace to Capitol Hill, honor the notable contributions of sister city volunteers and local government leaders over the last 50 years, attend the Presidential Luncheon where Sister Cities International's Honorary Chairman, **U.S. President George W. Bush**, has been invited to speak and be a special guest at the Embassy Row Cultural Celebrations.

Register now as participation in the 50th Anniversary Conference is limited to 1,000 adult registrants. You may register online at <http://www.sister-cities.org> to get the reduced conference rate of only \$525.00. The **deadline** for that rate is **March 1, 2006**. The Hyatt Regency is offering a conference room rate of \$159.00 plus tax for reservations made prior to June 12, 2006. You may secure your room by calling the hotel toll free at 1.800.233.1234 or online at <http://www.washingtonregency.hyatt.com/groupbooking/sist>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2006

FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL MARCH 2006 CALENDAR

2	Thursday	Mbabane meeting, Sardines Restaurant, 509 University Drive, 76107, 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Beth at 817-392-2657.
5	Sunday	Final travel orientation for Youth Ambassadors, UNTHSC Atrium, 3500 Camp Bowie, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
5	Sunday	Trier host family orientation, UNTHSC Atrium, 3500 Camp Bowie, 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
8	Wednesday	Bandung meeting, Four Star Coffee Bar Reading Room, 3324 West 7th Street, 76107, 6:00 p.m.
11-19	Sat.-Sunday	Youth Ambassador exchanges to Reggio Emilia & Budapest.
14	Tuesday	Budapest meeting, home of Renee and Mike Walter, 6700 Meadow Haven, 76132. 6:00 p.m. RVSP by March 13 to Beth at 817-392-2657.
15	Wednesday	FWSCI board meeting, Intermodal Transportation Center, 1000 Jones Street, 11:45 a.m. RSVP to Erika at 817-392-2650 by Monday, March 13.
16	Thursday	Nagaoka meeting, Fort Worth Japanese Society, 3608 Park Lake Drive, 76133, 6:30 p.m. Call Beth at 817-392-2657 to RSVP and for directions/ details.
16	Thursday	Toluca meeting, La Playa Maya, 1540 N. Main, Stockyards, 6:00 p.m.
21	Tuesday	Trier meeting, Palermo's, 1000 W. Magnolia Ave, 76104, 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Alyson by March 17. 817-392-2653
22	Wednesday	Application deadline for Jr. International Leadership Academy.
23	Thursday	Reggio Emilia meeting, location TBA, 6:00 p.m., RSVP to Alyson by March, 20. 817-392-2653
26	Sunday	FYI executive board meeting. UNTHSC Atrium, 3500 Camp Bowie, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
26	Sunday	FYI meeting, "Mosaic of March Exchanges," UNTHSC Atrium, 3500 Camp Bowie, 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
28	Tuesday	Jr. ILA & parent informational meeting, UNTHSC Atrium, 3500 Camp Bowie, 6:00 p.m.
30	Thursday	Arrival of Trier youth, hosted by Arlington Heights High School
30	Thursday	Showcase of Young Artist exhibit & reception, UNTHSC. Atrium, 3500 Camp Bowie 6:00pm-7:30pm

You are invited to attend any and all city committee meetings that interest you, and friends are always welcome!

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All phones have 24 hour voice mail.

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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