

## City Updates

### Reggio Emilia, Italy

Buono Anno! We will celebrate the new year at our meeting this month. Join us as we plan for upcoming exchanges. There are leadership positions open in the group so please join us if you are interested. Grazie to Vickie Powell for her great leadership.

### Trier, Germany

Welcome to our new committee chair Dave Frick. Thank you to outbound chair, Kathryn Bryan and her vice-chair, Karen Hunn for all of your hard work and commitment. Bring a friend and learn about the programs that are in the works for 2007. Several leadership and volunteer opportunities are available.

### Nagaoka, Japan

Join the Nagaoka group for Oshogatsu, which is the Japanese New Year celebration. This is the year of the Pig and you don't want to miss out on the celebration where there will be BBQ, sushi, dancing and a raffle for wonderful door prizes. See calendar for details.

### Bandung, Indonesia

The Bandung group had such a great experience with the high school students in November that we are inviting them to be our guests at our January meeting. Join the Bandung group as they learn more about Indonesia from our new friends.

### Budapest, Hungary

Welcome to our new chair, Brad Mahon. Thank you to our wonderful outbound chair, Karen Kroh and her vice-chair, Renee Walter for your hard work and commitment. Bring a friend and learn about the programs that are in the works for 2007. Several leadership and volunteer opportunities are available.

### Toluca, Mexico

This month we will be discussing plans for the 2007 exchanges. There are several leadership opportunities available as well as volunteer opportunities for hosting meetings and events. Now is the perfect time to bring a friend and get involved in the planning stages of a program. Don't miss the Best of Mexico Rodeo event at the Colliseum January 14, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available by calling 817-877-2420 or on the website at [www.fwstockshowrodeo.com](http://www.fwstockshowrodeo.com)

### Mbabane, Swaziland

The Mbabane group will convene this month at the Four Star Coffee Bar to discuss their plans as they continue to pursue the ILA student scholarships and plans for other programs. See calendar for details.

### Fort Worth Youth International

Thanks to Sundance Square Management for the Sundance Santa program, which raised more than \$8500 for youth scholarships. This would not be possible without the 155 youth, parents and teachers who volunteered. Congratulations to our Youth Ambassadors who are preparing for spring and summer exchanges. Join us January 21 to learn about the International Leadership Academy and Junior ILA summer programs. Hosting applications will be available mid-January on our website.

### GAP (Global Alumni Program)

GAP members volunteered Christmas Eve weekend for Sundance Santa. Partial funds from this will help send the new Gap chair, Carlo Capua, to Swaziland this June to develop special projects for our alumni program. Kudos to Lindsay Wilson for her outstanding leadership. Stay tuned for our 5th anniversary plans.



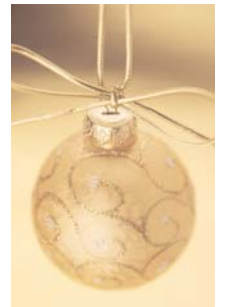
## Celebrate the Year of the Pig Oshogatsu 2007

Oshogatsu, otherwise known as the Japanese New Year is the most beloved and elaborate holiday celebrated in Japan. As opposed to the American New Year celebration which spans only the eve and actual day, Oshogatsu celebrations begin around December 28 and continue through January 6. Oshogatsu is a time to visit shrines to pray for happiness in the upcoming year. It is a time for spiritual rejuvenation and the chance for better fortune for the year ahead. We, at Fort Worth Sister Cities, will be renewing our spirits at our very own Oshogatsu celebration hosted by the Nagaoka group January 23, as we celebrate the Year of the Pig. See calendar for details.

## Annual Meeting Recap

For those of you who have never attended, the annual meeting and holiday party is Fort Worth Sister Cities' version of the Academy Awards. Any attendee would have felt like a leading man or seasoned starlette after seeing the decadent spread of gourmet food showcased in the lush lobby of Alcon Labs', Schollmaier Auditorium. **American Airlines** was awarded the *Eisenhower Award for International Corporate Involvement* for the company's strong support of the organization through donated airfare, service and human resources.

**Karen Anisman** was honored with the *Bob Bolen Award for Outstanding Board Leadership* for her 17-year involvement, leadership and ingenuity. This year's *Youth Volunteer of the Year Award* went to **Dianna Alexander Oates**, who has demonstrated her enduring commitment to the mission of Fort Worth Sister Cities by serving on the board of FYI, traveling to Toluca, Mexico for TOLMUN, home hosting international students and participating in the Harashin Scholarship program. The *Volunteer of the Year Award* went to **Rachel Bounds** for volunteering countless hours for all seven sister cities, home hosting teachers from Mbabane and being a great connection to the visual arts community of Fort Worth. Overall, the evening was a smashing success and we owe a giant round of applause and our gratitude to Alcon Labs for being such gracious hosts. We are also grateful for the services of Sundance Santa, who donated his time to be available for photos that evening. The photos taken through the Sundance Santa program provide scholarships for youth to participate in our programs and exchanges, when many of them would financially be unable.



## International Leadership Academy and Junior ILA

Sign up for the International Leadership Academy being held July 14-29th. This two-week international issues forum pairs Fort Worth high school students with students from our sister cities. In celebration of Sister Cities 50th Anniversary, the leadership theme will be "The Art of Peace". Applications and details will be available on the Fort Worth Sister Cities website mid-January and must be returned by February 23. All applicants and parents must attend the evening orientation February 27. Students in current grades 9-12 are invited to apply, but space is limited to only 20 high school students. Opportunities for weekend home-hosting are also available.

Fort Worth Sister Cities is expanding the International Jr. Leadership Academy: July 9-13th for current 6-8th grade students. This program was very successful last summer and will continue to focus on cultural experiences from international alumni to develop leadership skills and appreciation of international cultures. International facilitators will be from Toluca, Trier and Mbabane. Applications will be available early January on the website. Application deadline is February 26. Invited participants for the Jr. ILA must attend the March 26th evening orientation. These two programs help prepare youth to become global leaders by promoting cultural understanding, leadership opportunities and communication. This dynamic program is designed to facilitate dialogue and build international friendships without regard to cultural differences and barriers. Hosting opportunities will also be available.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JANUARY 2007

FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL JANUARY 2007 CALENDAR

1	Monday	Office closed for New Year's Day
9	Tuesday	Budapest gathering, Four Star Coffee Bar, 6:00 p.m. Reply to Alyson by January 8.
10	Wednesday	Board orientation, FWSCI office, 808 Throckmorton, 11:45 a.m. Rsvp for lunch to Stefanie
11	Thursday	Toluca gathering, The Original restaurant, 4713 Camp Bowie Blvd, 76107, 6:00 p.m. Reply to Alyson by Jan. 8
12	Friday	Office closed for staff retreat
14	Sunday	Trier youth summer exchange delegation meeting, Starbucks, 6115 Camp Bowie Blvd # 190, 2:30-4:00 p.m.
15	Monday	Office closed for holiday
16	Tuesday	Trier gathering, Purple Cow Diner, I-30 and Hulen, 6:00 p.m., Reply to Alyson by January 15.
17	Wednesday	Board of directors meeting, Intermodal Transportation Center, 11:45 a.m.
18	Thursday	Mbabane Meeting, Four Star Coffee Bar, 3324 West 7th Street, 76107, 6:00 p.m.
21	Sunday	FYI Executive Board meeting, UNTHSC Atrium, 3500 Camp Bowie, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
21	Sunday	FYI "New Year's Global Celebrations" and ILA & Jr. ILA Highlights, UNTHSC Atrium, 3500 Camp Bowie, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
22	Monday	Spring break youth exchange final payment due for Budapest, Toluca and Reggio Emilia
23	Tuesday	Japanese New Year Celebration, Botanic Gardens meeting center, Rose Room, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd. 76107, RSVP by Jan. 19
24	Wednesday	Bandung meeting, Mitchell Johnson's home, 4025 Tamworth Road, 76116, 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Beth by Jan. 22
25	Thursday	Reggio Emilia meeting, Fizzi's Restaurant, 500 Commerce Street, 76102, 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Beth by Jan. 24

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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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