



Around Our World

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES, INC.

Volume 13, Issue 2

JUNE 2009

“Corridor of Dreams,” Dr. R. F. Roth, RVSC president

Bracketed by gray days of rain, bright sunshine on the morning of Saturday, May 30th, was a sign we were heading into a day of brilliance and fulfillment. At RVSC’s annual meeting March 28,th I promised that by the end of April we would dedicate eight display cabinets at the Roanoke Special Events Center in honor of David Kenneth Lisk, Executive Director, Emeritus. Unavoidable delays postponed our dedication ceremonies.



David Lisk
(1928 - 2009)

Executive Director, Emeritus

After a full year of fading health and strength, Dave held on, hoping to see the day his dream would be realized. Sadly, his physical presence ended on May 25th. Despite Dave’s physical absence, the sunlight that we saw at the far end of the Special Events Center hallway was a symbolic reminder that in troubled times persistence can lead to fulfillment. Dave never gave up. I could sense his spirit was present in his family members, friends and among the host of distinguished guests, and so he celebrated with us. On Page 2, Dave’s capable successor, Jack Tompkins, records Dave’s decades-long search.

At the ceremony, Mayor David A. Bowers, a dedicated supporter of RVSC, spoke with warm feelings of friendship. He revealed that in 1975 after the accidental death of Mayor Roy L. Webber, Dave yielded ascension to the mayoralty in favor of the Rev. Dr. Noel C. Taylor in the interest of racial harmony in our city. It was a selfless, wise decision. Mayor Taylor’s administration of 17 years accomplished much harmony.

Since Jan. 1, 2000, when she took office, City Manager Darlene L. Burcham has been a faithful member of all seven Roanoke sister cities. In her remarks, she recalled the luncheon conversation with Dave in which she suggested the SEC as an ideal site for the display cabinets he coveted. She also suggested Tommy Lovern as the carpenter. Aware of the history, now fulfilled, she led all of us with the same thought exuberantly: “Finally! Finally!”

In representing the Lisk family, Dave’s middle son, Thomas, reaffirmed how much Dave and his three sons and their families loved Roanoke and how much they all appreciated the day and recognition of their dad. “He did everything to improve life in Roanoke.”

The artistic high point of the dedication was the performance of soprano Dr. Judith Cline and her husband, Dr. William Krause, classical guitarist. Their wonderful rendition of the “Sister Cities Song” by John Denver brought forth some tears of joy! The song has recently been added to the RVSC Web page: www.rvsci.us. Listen to it, special! The couple performed it and other songs in Washington, D.C., at the opening of the 50th anniversary of Sister Cities International, 2006, followed by a standing ovation!

A sacred moment followed. The Bicentennial Litany used by Mayor Taylor at the dedication of the 10- panel mural in the Performance Arts Center on July 4th, 1976, was modified by Dot Roth to include all seven sister cities. It is printed on Pages 8-9. Read it aloud to feel its power. I added the entire original benediction, which I read aloud from a newspaper version in an RVSC archives scrapbook that Dot found.

The dedication ceremony ended with a ribbon cutting (Page 5) that opened the SEC’s 220 ft. long access corridor full of colors galore in flags, banners, and cabinets, as well as bright sunlight at the end of the hallway.

RFR

“Cabinet Planning History & David Lisk,” Jack Tompkins, Exec. Dir.

Our good friend, David K. Lisk, would have been enveloped in smiles to see the fruits of his labor here today. His passing five days ago does not negate, nor prevent his spirit's awareness of the wonderful display cabinets and beautiful Sister Cities memorabilia being dedicated in his memory. It has been a long and frustratingly twisted trail to this main access corridor of the Roanoke Special Events Center [SEC]. David Lisk was the initiator and driving force who made it possible.

If you ever visited David's home office, you know he was an avid collector and archivist all his life. Some of his greatest treasures were gained through his inspired work as Executive Director of Roanoke Valley Sister Cities -- officially since 1992, but in reality David devotedly performed that role mostly at his own personal expense since the 1970s.

Starting in 1977, David found display space in the main lobby of the City of Roanoke's Municipal Building. Two large 360 degree glass cabinets were filled with items from Wonju, South Korea and Kisumu, Kenya -- our first two Sister Cities.

In the early eighties, David also found office space on the 3rd floor of Roanoke's Main Library. RVSC history, pictures, brochures, paintings, flags, maps, gifts, banners were all crammed into this repository.

In November, 1999, just after the death of his good friend, former Mayor Noel C. Taylor, David was member of the committee chosen to find a memorial site to honor Mayor Taylor. That committee decided to replace the RVSC display at City Hall with a quiet corner of respect overlooked by a distinguished standing portrait of Mayor Taylor by Anne Bell. David approved, but refused to give up his dream of finding a suitable home for abundant and valuable RVSC artifacts. He wanted them to be teaching tools. He wanted Roanoke Valley citizens and visitors to know about RVSC and have mutual respect for citizens in 7 countries on 4 continents who work toward world peace with understanding - the original hope of President Eisenhower.

His search once led to the atrium of the Performing Arts Center. Multi-year discussions initially granted permission, but ultimately led to installation of a fast food refreshment center. Hopes for display space included: Roanoke Valley Visitors Center, Transportation Museum, O. Winston Link Museum. Despite Dave's persistent efforts, other choices were made. During 10 plus years of looking, Sister Cities programs grew and prospered under David's guidance. So did the cultural treasures gathered by each of our 7 Sister Cities.

Last year, when I visited him in the hospital, David emphasized just how important this final cabinet display project was to him. During a luncheon meeting with Mayor Kim of Wonju City last June, Roanoke Manager Darlene Burcham suggested the new SEC as a permanent home. Enlivened, Dave jumped on the prospect. An ad hoc RVSC committee joined him hoping to complete the cabinets while he was still alive, his dream fulfilled. City Engineer Charles Anderson, Linda Kremer of Alphagraphics, talented cabinet maker Tommy Lovern, Sandy Lyle, Dr. Roth & Dot, Michael Lieu and I also constituted the committee.

Today, we are assembled in the lobby of the Special Events Center. David Lisk's dream of a home for the seven RVSC collections and one for Roanoke City has been realized. After a ribbon cutting, we will all be able to take a walking tour and visit friends "Around Our World" through the display cabinets along this corridor. We are all pleased to dedicate them in honor and memory of David K. Lisk and his dream.

J.T.

“The Star City of the South” [Excerpted]

The City of Roanoke celebrates cultural diversity cooperatively with **Sister Cities International** and its local member, **Roanoke Valley Sister Cities, Inc.** The mission of Sister Cities is to *“promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation, one community at a time.”* In 1956, **President Dwight D. Eisenhower** initiated a proactive international people-to-people peace movement in the wake of **World War II** and the **Korean War**.

During his training in General Surgery with **Dr. Hugh H. Trout, Jr.** at Roanoke’s **Jefferson Hospital** (1956-58), **Dr. Young U. Kim**, a dynamic young Korean physician, felt so welcomed and loved, he vowed never to forget Roanoke. Dr. Kim returned to Korea in 1959, joined the staff of **Wonju Union Christian Hospital** as Chief of Surgery and became its CEO 4 years later. At a civic meeting in Wonju with the U.S. Army **“Camp Long”** staff (1964), the colonel in charge of public affairs asked Wonju leaders if Wonju would welcome an American sister city. Dr. Kim enthusiastically responded, “I know just the place!” With unanimous approval, Dr. Kim wrote to Dr. Trout, who took the letter to City Council. A new Roanoke Mayor, **Murray A. Stoller**, and council formally approved twinning with Wonju in May 1964.

In turn, City Council asked **Roanoke Jaycees** to develop the sister city program. Jaycees President **William B. Poff**, a visionary young lawyer, and his wife, **“Mag,”** an award winning reporter for The Roanoke Times, took the lead. Because of a family emergency in New York (Oct.- Dec., 1964), **Dr. Robert F. Roth**, on leave from WUCH where he was a missionary surgeon, visited in Roanoke at invitation of the Poffs. Dr. Roth left bearing a Key-to-the-City, a gift for the Mayor of Wonju. Mid-January, 1965, a formal dedication ceremony was held at the **Wonju Christian Youth Center** near WUCH. Wonju City Council adopted a resolution making Wonju, Korea, Roanoke’s *first* sister city.

A second “sister”, **Kisumu**, Kenya (1976) joined Roanoke on recommendation of Mr. Bill Robertson, a former Roanoke school principal who became Assistant Sec. of State for African Affairs. In the ‘90s, with outstanding support of Mayor David A. Bowers, five more “sisters” were adopted: **Pskov**, Russia (1992); **Florianopolis**, Brazil (1995); **Opole**, Poland (1995); **Lijiang**, China (1996); and **St.-Lo**, France (1998). These relationships have thrived because committed citizens are eager to know and respect similarities and differences.

Roanoke’s history is as distinctive as that of its Sisters. From beginnings as a crossroads for Native American hunters and early pioneer Scotch-Irish settlers, the city has grown to become the commercial and cultural center of Southwest Virginia. Covering 43 square miles, with 94,000 citizens (290,000 in the Valley), Roanoke is one of the top 10 cities in Virginia. Its geographic location along I-81 places it within 500 miles of approximately 2/3rd of the U.S. population, including the nation’s Capital. Roanoke is threaded on the **Blue Ridge Parkway** and the **Appalachian Trail**. Roanoke **Woodrum Airport** serves all of Southwest Virginia, with connections to many major metropolitan hubs.

Transportation put Roanoke on Virginia’s map, when prototypes of **Norfolk & Western (now the Norfolk-Southern) Railroad** chose the town as its headquarters in 1882. “Roanoke” is Native American for “shell-money,” name of its river. A central high point (1,693 ft.), **Mill Mountain**, is crowned with a 100 ft. star and provides a panoramic view of **“The Star City of the South.”**

As you tour Roanoke look around the National Register **Historic District**, with a bustling Farmers Market, retail shops and restaurants, many offering outdoor dining. Downtown also holds popular museums: the **History Museum** of Western Virginia, **Science Museum** of Western Virginia, **O. Winston Link (R.R.) Museum**, **Virginia Museum of Transportation**, and the most recent addition – the dramatic new **Taubman Museum of Art**. Spring to fall, downtown comes alive with festivals, holiday parades, art shows, and the ever popular **Local Colors** Festival, celebrating 82 international communities.

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Also be sure to look for RVSC projects: Roanoke City **Civic Center Auditorium**, 40ft.- 10 panel Korean mural (1976); display cabinets in this **Special Events Center** (2009), **Friendship Fountain** in the Market (1987), **Central Market/Century Square’s** RVSC eight sculptured columns (2004), and drive along **“Wonju Street.”**



WONJU

Kangwon-do

Rep. of Korea



Roanoke and Wonju share many differences, but also share many similarities, highlighting their sister city relationship. In a nation with 5,000+ years of recorded history, Wonju City records its first beginnings in 469 A.D., acquiring its name in 940 A.D. from **King T'aejo**. Now a dynamic modern city located 75 miles S.E. of Seoul on two main crossing expressways, Wonju is a centrally located industrial city proud of its pollution free environment in picturesque, mountainous Kangwon Province. It has an airport and is an important railroad center along South Korea's "**Central Line.**" It offers wide express bus services as well.

Wonju has a population of 350,000+. Devastation following the Korean War remains only in the memory of its senior citizens. Tremendous restoration took place after the war and is on-going: Wonju is studded with 15-20 story hi-rise apartment buildings, a tourist hotel, four industrial parks, two major TV studios, a large civic art gallery, a 10,000-seat **Olympic gymnasium** and an outdoor stadium seating 20,000. It is the **gateway city** to Korea's coal, tungsten and cement resources. **Industry includes** auto parts, transformers, battery manufacture, cutlery, copper wire, electronics, sporting goods, office equipment, plastics, ceramics, **bio-med** research & products, insulation and floor tiles, cosmetics,

processed/ canned foods, and musical instruments, i.e. violins, violas, cellos, basses. Annual cultural celebrations including the **Chiak, International Walking and Tattoo Festivals** (military bands) are all gala events. Resorts: four golf courses, three ski, swimming, a "Dream Land Amusement Park."

Higher education is given top priority in Wonju, which hosts **Halla University, Sangji University/ Youngseo College,** and **Wonju-Yonsei University**. The latter two, each with 6000+ students, have affiliations with VWCC and Roanoke College. Health services are provided by **Wonju Christian Hospital & Medical Center [1000 beds], Wonju-Yonsei Medical & Nursing Schools,**

a **Provincial Hospital** and numerous **private clinics**. Wonju is proud of its high medical standards.

The **1st Republic of Korea Army Hdqts.** and neighboring **Camp Long**, home base of U.S. Army & Air Force personnel, are located on the north side of Wonju. Since 1964, this makes Sister City welcome for Roanoke "GIs" who are in Korea.

During our 45 year relationship, there have been many exchange visits, including personal, professional, and official travel in a variety of fields. Roanoke and Wonju share interests and information in cultural, educational (i.e. faculty and student exchanges), medical, commercial products/ artifacts and artistic projects. Life long friendships between our citizens have matured, been sustained and brought us closer than ever across 7050+ miles.





Wall-mount corridor directional guide



Wall-mount David K. Lisk Honor Plaque



Mayor David A. Bowers



City of Roanoke Manager Darlene L. Burcham



"Choose your scissor!"



(l-r) Tom Lisk, Jack Tompkins, Charles Anderson, Mayor Bowers, Ms. Burcham, Dr. Roth

Kisumu Nyanza Province Kenya

Kisumu is a lake-port city in western Kenya at 3,710 ft. (1,131 meters), with a population over 700,000. It is the 3rd largest and the primary city of western Kenya, capital of Nyanza Province and headquarters of Kisumu District.

It's on the Gulf of Nyanza and is the 2nd most important city after Kampala, Uganda, in the greater **Lake Victoria** basin. From **Mombasa** on the coast through **Nairobi**, Kenya's capital city, **Kisumu** is a lake-port terminus for railroad, bus and highway transport. A growing western Kenya tourism industry revolves largely around Kisumu, Lake Victoria and the wildlife that calls the area home.

Among the places to visit include a Landrover trip to the **Maasi Mara** game preserve where you can see lions, elephants, zebras, wildebeest, monkeys, baboons, giraffes and much more wild-life grazing and roaming in natural habitat. Local markets are available with African wood and soapstone carvings, woven baskets, crafts, clothing and jewelry --- all camera-ready! Its elevation at the equator provides mild temps with modern hotels, restaurants, commerce and banks.

English is the official language of Kenya, spoken with British accent and musical lilt. Many people are trilingual. They are also fluent in the national language, Swahili, and a tribal tongue. Luo is 2nd largest. Kisumu people are 90% Luo. Kisumu is pronounced "kee-SU mu." Visitors and friends are greeted with "JAM-bo" (Hello), or national motto,



“Ha-RAM-bee.” (“Let’s pull together.”)

Kisumu has been named the first **Millennium City** in Africa by the **United Nations**. It places the city in the forefront of diplomatic and economic reforms to become a ‘model’ aimed at bettering life in Central and Eastern Africa. Roanoke supports tech. programs, scholarships, orphanage and HIV/AIDS care. Roanoke Sister City Committee has an ongoing relationship with **Agape Children’s Ministry**, **Salem Orphanage**, **New Life Babies Trust**, and **Kisumu Hospice**. There are initiatives to provide water wells in rural areas for better quality of life for those living in Kisumu & surrounding areas. **“Harambee.”**

[Kogelo, a suburb of Kisumu, is home to Pres. Barack H. Obama’s paternal roots.]

Pskov & Pskov Oblast, RUSSIA



Pskov region is located in northwest **Russia** in the zone influenced by the Baltic Sea. It borders on the west with **Latvia**, on the south with **Byelorussia**, on the north with **Leningrad** region, and on the east with **Novgorod** and **Kalinin** regions. It covers more than 55,000 sq. km. with a population over 950,000.

The city of Pskov is one of the oldest of all Russian cities and arose along an elevated, rocky cape at a point which overlooks the turbulent **Pskova River** as it flows into the large, calm **Velikaya River**. The entire Pskov region is known not only for its natural beauty, but for its many cathedrals and churches, museums and historical monuments. The family estate of the Great Russian poet, **Alexander Pushkin, Mikhailovskoye**, is located within 130 kilometers of the city of Pskov.

The land of Pskov is also the birthplace of **St. Olga, Princess of Russia**. The chronicler **Nestor** wrote, "*She shone like the moon in the night...*" Baptized in 955 in Constantinople, she was the first Christian among Russian princes and princesses, and was the grandmother of **Prince Vladimir of Kiev**, under whom Russians were Christianized in 988.

The Roanoke-Pskov/ Pskov Oblast' sister city partnership dates from 1992 and has been involved in numerous humanitarian, educational and medical initiatives. In addition to medical supplies and equipment for hospitals, orphanages and a hospice in Pskov, the Roanoke side of the partnership has furnished these institutions with such items as clothing and shoes, books, school supplies, washing machines, refrigerators and televisions. In 2002, the Roanoke Committee, working with the clergy and parishioners of the **Alexander Nevsky Cathedral** and teachers of school # 5, made arrangements to provide daily hot meals for needy children. To date numerous Russian students from **Pskov Pedagogical University** have received full semester scholarships for study at **Ferrum College**, while Ferrum students have worked, studied and benefited from a variety of internships in Pskov. Professors from both **Ferrum College** and **Roanoke College** have



received **Fulbright** grants to teach in Pskov, and our cities have benefited from exchanges of doctors and nurses. Finally, group tours from Roanoke provide members and friends opportunity to experience first hand the land and the people of wonderful Pskov and visitors from Pskov are always welcomed warmly in the Star City. You are welcome to join with us!



DEDICATION LITANY

**Special Events Center
RVSC Display Cabinets
May 30th, 2009 2 p.m.**

[Portions in *italic* are *excerpted* from a litany composed by Mayor Noel C. Taylor for the July 4, 1976 Dedication of the Sister City ten-panel Mural in the Roanoke Civic Center - Performing Arts Center atrium.]

RVSC Leader:

In recognition of the people-to-people program that exists between Roanoke, Va. and seven cities around the world, we come to this moment of dedication, praying that blessings of overflowing abundance will prevail in the hearts of all who have made this happy occasion possible.

Mayor Bowers:

In tribute to David K.Lisk, RVSC Executive Secretary Emeritus, who with great enthusiasm and abounding energy gave to Roanoke and RVSC his leadership of highest quality.

All: *We dedicate* these eight Sister-City display-cabinets.

City Manager Darlene Burcham:

To the sowing of the good seed of human brotherhood in the hearts of all people in Roanoke.

All: *We dedicate* the Roanoke display cabinet.

Wonju leader: (Jean Broyles)

To honor and enhance our bond of mutual respect and friendship with the people of Wonju, Korea.

All: *We dedicate* the Wonju cabinet.

Kisumu leader: (Dr. Marylen Harmon)

To honor and enhance our bond of mutual respect and friendship with the people of Kisumu, Kenya.

All: *We dedicate* the Kisumu cabinet.

Pskov leader: (Natasha Petersen)

To honor and enhance our bond of mutual respect and friendship with the people of Pskov, Russia.

All: *We dedicate* the Pskov cabinet.

Florianópolis leader: (Joslaine Austin)

To honor and enhance our bond of mutual respect and friendship with the people of Florianópolis, Brazil.

All: *We dedicate* the Florianópolis cabinet.

Opole leader: (Dr. Kris Bulas-Slowikowski)

To honor and enhance our bond of mutual respect and friendship with the people of Opole, Poland.

All: *We dedicate* the Opole cabinet.

Lijiang leader: (Pearl Fu)

To honor and enhance our bond of mutual respect and friendship with the people of Lijiang, China.

All: *We dedicate* the Lijiang cabinet.

St-Lo leader: (Cammie Williams)

To honor and enhance our bond of mutual respect and friendship with the people of St.-Lo, France.

All: *We dedicate* the St-Lo cabinet.

RVSC Leader: (Dr. Roth) *In acknowledgement of the fact that through* Roanoke Valley Sister Cities we have all *moved forward in a spirit of understanding and love, becoming brothers and sisters to citizens* in seven nations around our world, we now dedicate all eight cabinets as symbols of International Friendship. Let us *earnestly petition the Father of us all* to use each cabinet as an instrument of cultural understanding and World Peace.

DHR

[Original prayer & benediction by Mayor Taylor, July 4, 1976; read by Dr. Roth]

God of our fathers, so bless us and all who like us, seek Thy grace this day, that upon the President and all the humblest members of the Commonwealth, Thy benediction may rest until at last to us and all other peoples may come the day of brotherhood and peace.

We ask it in Thy Holy Name. Amen.

Benediction (*in unison*):

The Lord bless us and keep us,

The Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us.

The Lord lift us His countenance upon us and give us peace. Amen.



Readers (r-l, in order): *Dr. Roth, Mayor Bowers, Ms. Burcham, Jean Broyles, Dr. Marylen Harmon, Natasha Petersen, Joslaine Austin, Dr. Kris Slowikowski, Pearl Fu, Cammie Williams*

FLORIANÓPOLIS**Santa Catarina****BRAZIL**

Florianópolis, the capital of the State of Santa Catarina, is located on the Atlantic Coast of southern Brazil. The city is composed of one main island, a small section on the mainland and several small islands. Florianópolis is recognized by some to be one of the most dynamic cities in the world. More than 400,000 people live in the city and 800,000 in the metropolitan area.

The region was originally settled by Azorean Portuguese and later by Italian and German immigrants. The strong influence of Portuguese and Azorean colonizers can be seen in the architecture, culinary arts and in the cultural traditions. Both cosmopolitan and provincial, Florianópolis is a progressive city and offers its citizens fine universities, shopping malls, an international airport, over four hundred hotels, a cultural center and a symphony orchestra. The uncommon beauty of over 40 beaches and the Atlantic Coastal Forest make Florianópolis a major tourist destination.

Through fund-raising efforts of the Roanoke/Florianópolis Sister City Committee, it has been possible to provide support for *Love's Little Nest*, an orphanage/ school for children living with HIV/AIDS and children whose parents have died of the disease.

Since our sister city relationship began in 1995, several reciprocal visits have occurred to strengthen our friendship. Cultural exchanges have included the arts, concert performances, economic development, social services and university linkages. Roanoke is fortunate to have this relationship with the gracious people of Florianópolis.



Opole, Poland

Opole, **capital of the Opole Region**, has a population of 130,000 and covers approximately 60 sq. miles. It straddles the **Odra River** in Poland's Silesian Lowlands. The first traces of Western Slavs' settlements begin the end of the 8th century. Opole town was established in 1211-1217.

As an important railway junction and capital city in Silesia, on international route E-40 and national highways to Warsaw and Poznan, **Opole is a center for industry, trade, banking, culture and education.** The Odra River is also part of West-European waterways for commercial traffic.

Opole's **health services** are: 5 hospitals; 43 out-patient clinics; 3 eldercare homes; **educational services:** 47 nursery, 30 primary, 49 vocational and 6 general secondary schools; two higher education schools and a branch of **Catholic University** in Lublin, where 10,600 students study in 18 different facilities.

The city operates a **central** heating plant, water treatment and sewage facilities. **Popular sports** include: tennis, swimming, and skating. **Hotels** can accommodate 400 guests. Four museums, 3 cinemas and 22 libraries provide special activities.

Many nationwide annual cultural events in Opole:

- The Festival of Polish Songs
- The Annual Theater Review called "Polish Classics"
- Opole Days of Oratorior/ Oratorio Festival
- International Dog Show
- International Investment/Food Fair called "AGROPOL"
- Building Goods Fair called "My House"
- Many other smaller events

A "500 yr. flood" in July 1997 caused major damage to the city, from which it is still recovering. We have assisted the fine **Chopin School of Music** in this endeavor.

Together with Roanoke County, our sister city committee sponsored the Opole column in **Century Square**, central in the heart of Roanoke City.



LIJIANGYUNNANCHINA

Lijiang, "Beautiful River", lies near Sichuan Province, Tibet, and Burma in a 7,900 ft. high valley of Yunnan Province, a legendary area called "Shangri-la." New airport, hotels, friendly people welcome you to exhilarating beauty:

- Snow-capped JADE DRAGON MOUNTAIN (18,360 ft.) home of medicinal "Snow tea" & herbs.
- Magnificent TIGER LEAPING GORGE (11,700 ft.) -deepest gorge in the world.
- Origin & "first turn" of China's main artery – the YANGTSE RIVER, world famous, wide-flowing.
- Ancient "DAYAN TOWN," laced with crystal clear waterways, the "Venice of the Orient." Its pride: preserving old architecture, cobblestone streets, thriving markets with art, jewelry, textile, wood, stone, ceramic bargains galore.
- 500 year old "CAMELLIA TREE of 10,000 Blossoms," as large as 9", blooming for 100 days!
- Gorgeous LUGU LAKE, home of a rare true matriarchal society --- few remain in the world!
- Scenic expansive mysterious DONGBA MURALS, ancient NAXI MUSIC, YI FESTIVALS combined with a dozen unique ethnic cultures, earn Lijiang an UNESCO listing as a WORLD HERITAGE CITY.

Lijiang and Yunnan Prov. are China's horticulture center--Va.Tech professors' dream. Plant exchanges with VWCC and Va.-Tech now also involve Richmond's "Botanical Gardens." Lijiang Committee provides scholarships for middle school & art students; is encouraging student/cultural exchanges, searching for understanding and peace.

- Famous WWII U.S. "Flying Tigers" were stationed in Kunming and Lijiang; they saved Yunnan Governor Lung Yuen's life. He was Pearl Fu's grandfather.



- Lung Yuen arranged for China's first tobacco plants to be transplanted to Yunnan from Virginia!
- Virginia first learned how to cure ham from Yunnan.

In 1996, Lijiang and the surrounding areas were hit by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that generally destroyed the entire city only a few months after we established Sister City relationships. Help came from all over the world, especially the Red Cross, to rebuild Lijiang. Now it is a prime tourist attraction and along with Zhongdian named "Shangri-La" by the National Geographic Society.

Home of 33 of China's minority groups, Yunnan, with its brimming cultural heritage and diversity, inspired Pearl Fu to create "Local Colors", Roanoke's premier multi-cultural program!



St.-Lô

Normandy

France



St.-Lô, once a part of the grand designs of Charlemagne and Napoleon, has a powerful and direct link to 20th-century America, and especially to Western Virginia. The medieval Norman town, approximately 175 miles west of Paris, was the scene of a violent, decisive battle between American GIs and entrenched German forces shortly after the Allied landings on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The Army's 29th Division, 116th Infantry Regiment, which was composed of many Virginians, liberated St.-Lô on July 19, 1944.

The campaign left 95 percent of the town demolished, including much of the gorgeous Gothic cathedral of Notre Dame. St.-Lô suffered more than any community in Normandy during

WWII, but its people still regard America as their liberator.

Today, St.-Lô is a thriving town of 25,000 in which the past is very much present. The mainly reconstructed city lies on a rocky hill, within and around the remains of the ancient ramparts that Charlemagne began in the ninth century. There, two medieval towers provide a panoramic view of the Vire Valley and its river, which has been vital to St.-Lô's economic history. Crossing the Vire River in downtown St.-Lô is a bridge, the Pont de Roanoke, which was dedicated in 1999. Nearby, France's premier horse farm, Le Haras National, was established by Napoleon in 1806.

La Madeleine, a restored 13th-century chapel, houses a public exhibit about the events of 1944. The town also has a touching monument to Major Thomas Howie commander of the 3rd Battalion of the 116th Infantry Regiment. Major Howie, a Virginian, was killed during the Allies' final assault on the town.

Progressive St.-Lô, the administrative seat of the County of La Manche, has set its sights on becoming a university town. It supports two business colleges, the Ecole de Gestion et de Commerce and the Ecole de Ventes. Normandy's rich soil has ensured St.-Lô's prominence as an agricultural center as well. Dairy farms and apple orchards flourish there. The province's creamy cheeses and fiery apple brandy, Calvados, are celebrated worldwide, and the lush, pastoral countryside attracts tourists from all corners of the globe.

Short distances from St.-Lô are several popular tourist sites, including Mont Saint Michel, Monet's garden at Giverny and the American cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. The cemetery overlooks Omaha Beach, which was immortalized in Steven Spielberg's 1998 film, "Saving Private Ryan."





Thomas A. Lisk - gratitude for all to all



Jean Lisk with sons Tim, Tom, Rob & families



Roth, Deb Lawson, Dr. Chas Downs, Marylee Burnstein, Jack



Dr. D'Orazio & Dr. Harmon – attractive Kisumu caryatids



Pearl Fu, Dr. Harmon, Dr. Sasha Saari, Natasha



Dr. Bill Krause & Dr. Judith Cline- precious performance



Pearl (Rebecca Chang, not pictured) two hands setup Lijiang



Chinese Calligraphy- a gift by talented Mr. C.C. Fu

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES CALENDAR - www.rvsci.us

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June: 2009

- 5th - St.Lo – Annual 65th Anniversary of D-Day - luncheon – *by invitation* of Bernard Marie**
- 9th – Kisumu – General Meeting - Roanoke Main Library, Brody Room, 6 30 P.m.**
- 24th – St.Lo - Roanoke delegation, including exchange students, depart for France.**
- 28th- Florianopolis – Annual Picnic- Smith Park 5 p.m.**

July: 2009

- 8th - St.Lo - Roanoke Delegation and exchange students return home**
- 11th RVSC Corp. Bd Meeting -Annual Picnic, Roth Home SML, 2 pm sports, 4 Meeting, 5 Dinner**
- 19th St.Lo - Bastille Day Potluck Picnic, Longwood Park 5-7 PM, Shelter #4.**
- 29th- Wonju - Delegation + students depart for Korea.**

August: 2009

- 12th- Wonju – Delegation returns from Korea.**

September: 2009

- 16th – Lijiang – Stella Xu – China Movie. Pickle Lounge, Roanoke College. 7 – 9 p.m.**

October: 2009

- 3rd - Lijiang - Moon Festival - Tea; time & place TBA**
- 13th - Kisumu - General Meeting (SEE same entry as JUNE 9th)**
- 22nd- Cox - RVSC mini local color, luncheon 12-2 p.m. National costumes preferred.**

November: 2009

- 7th- Wonju - Harvest Moon dinner - Korean Baptist Church - 6 p.m.**

December: 2009

- 8th - Kisumu Annual Christmas party/meeting TBA**

Contact persons:

[www.rvsci.us]

Editor: **Robert F. Roth**, M.D., FACS [Ret.] Tel./FAX 540-721-6200 E-mail: **BobDotRoth@aol.com**

Pres., Roanoke Valley Sister Cities 100 November Lane, Wirtz, Va., 24184

Executive Director: **Jack Tompkins** (H) 343-9779: **Jack32T@cox.net**

Membership Totals for 2000 – 2009 (as of 6- 07-09)

City	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Wonju	88	82	94	72	82	85	74	65	74	37
Kisumu	55	52	64	83	57	65	68	51	50	33
Pskov	68	64	66	68	78	70	57	58	63	25
Florianópolis	47	44	45	46	41	46	42	32	39	31
Opole	30	24	16	16	28	27	30	18	22	17
Lijiang	64	64	68	95	44	55	42	34	43	29
St.-Lo	69	60	76	63	87	76	71	67	67	50
totals	421	390	429	443	417	424	384	325	358	222

"Membership year" starts April 1st each year. Dues paid after Jan. 1st 2009 continue your active membership to Mar. 31, 2010.

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES, INC.
P.O. BOX 136
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA 24002

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- P. 1 - “Corridor of Dreams” - Dr. Robert F. Roth**
2- “Cabinet Planning History & David Lisk”- Jack Tompkins
3- Roanoke Cabinet
-

- P 4- Wonju Cabinet**
P. 5 - Tour & Lisk Plaque – Ribbon Cutting photo-gallery
P. 6- Kisumu Cabinet P.7 - Pskov Cabinet
P 8-9 Dedicatory Litany
-

- P 10 - Florianopolis Cabinet P 11 – Opole Cabinet**
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