



Around Our World

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES, INC.

Volume 12, Issue 1

MARCH 2008

“Following a Family Legacy!” Pearl Lung Fu, Chair.

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In 1995, hoping to add to the successful **Roanoke Valley Sister Cities** family, then with five sisters, I visited diverse areas in my home province Yunnan in search of the *perfect* Chinese city. After much consideration Lijiang, which means “**Beautiful River,**” was chosen in Yunnan Province. Two major minority groups reside there: the “**Yi,**” which happens to be my tribe and the “**Naxi.**” Lijiang is an very old town filled with artists and musicians. It is noted throughout China for breathtaking scenery, abundance of floral and herbal delights, sincere, open people with emphasis on their heritage culture --- all these native and natural beauties, convinced me that this was the perfect as the 6th sister city for Roanoke. Shortly afterwards, **The National Geographic** named Lijiang area, “**Shangri La,**” replacing Tibet. It is now the prime tourist attraction in China! Now recognized worldwide, this status has both pluses and negatives as reported by our #3 daughter, **Colette,** who is now in Yunnan pursuing her dream project.

It truly is a small world. It has been years later that I learnt some very interesting family information. My Grandfather **Lung Yuen,** (Dragon Cloud) once the **Governor of Yunnan,** and my Father **Lung Shing Tzu,** a general and grandfathers’ right-hand man sought top soldiers for their famous “**Military Division.**” They traveled to Lijiang to choose men known for being brave, tough, committed, loyal and strong. To this day high in the mountains of Lijiang, a pagoda is named after Grandfather. It seems our Lung family and Lijiang were meant to be intertwined.

Grandfather’s philosophy-of-life plays an important role in my life and that of our children’s as well. Though privileged, Grandfather led a very simple, disciplined meaningful life. He taught us that wealth is not important. We must be kind, compassionate, hardworking, educated, loving, self reliant not selfish or conniving. He led a life according to the **Golden Rule.** And taught, “*Listen to your conscience. Stand up for justice, help the underdog even if it endangers your life. Life is a forever learning journey. Be proud of who you are. And of your heritage.*”

Grandfather demonstrated his teachings by his actions. What we call “walk-the-talk” in America. He stood up at different historical periods, openly advised and criticized both China’s leaders **Chiang Kai Shek** and **Chairman Mao Tze Tung.** That was unheard of. Both times life was in jeopardy. The late ‘50’s, he risked his life in being politically incorrect by arguing, “*China should befriend America*”. Because of this, he was summarily *disgraced*; his position as a national Vice-president was stripped away. But times and perceptions change. Presently in China, my Grandfather’s valiant effort of 50 years ago is remembered: he is now honored posthumously as a national hero, buried in the historic **Revolutionary Martyrs** cemetery. Today, he is both respected and loved by the Chinese.

I feel I am following his footsteps whenever I initiate projects and understanding between China and America through **RVSC.** Eighteen years ago by creating “**LOCAL COLORS,**” --- Roanoke’s premiere year-long multicultural program now consisting of more than 80 cultures --- Roanokers can embrace people of all origins regardless of race, religion, gender, creed, socioeconomic level and age through education, advocacy, promoting mutual respect, understanding, peace. I know Grandfather is smiling, watching out for us!

More miraculous happenings! **Colette,** (Fusansan in Chinese), had no clue of our family legacy. I wanted her to make it on her own ability and not rely on the family name. That she is doing. In May, 1998, when she graduated from UVA, I took her to Yunnan to help her search of her roots, to improve her Chinese and teach English at **Minority University.**

In Colette’s own words: *Before coming to Yunnan with my Mother, I had no real knowledge of the minority peoples who compromise only 7% of China’s population. I soon learned that my great grandfather was not only a founding father of the university where I taught, but was a member of the powerful black Yi tribe, and governor and general of Yunnan during the transitional years of WWII. With this newfound knowledge, I was determined to learn more about the Yi and move back to America to work and to study photography so that I could return and document the evolving lives of the Yi and their neighboring tribes.*

“Colette Fu: Photojournalist ---‘Portrait of a Chinese Nazi Artist’”

[e-report home]

Mom: Going to the minority village theme park tomorrow with **Uncle Frank’s** classmate, the people who took me to the buffet the other day. I think I’m going to **Dali** after all, probably Saturday. I ran into **Mu Yuming** (1/2 **Naxi** from a famous family last name **Mu**) on the street today, by chance. He is the guy who was running **Lijiang Studio**. He married my Norwegian friend. You met him when we came with the Roanoke delegation (he met with **Mimi Babe Harris**). He has a place for me to stay in Lijiang and has lots of art connections. He split away from Lijiang Studio and is starting another one still in planning phase. www.Mu-art.com

[The following ‘word portrait’ is by **Defne Ayas**, Shanghai, 2007]

Mu Yuming is nestled deep in the rolling mountains of the northwest **Yunnan** plateau. The town is called **Lijiang**, an open city with virtually no gates built by the **Naxi** (dominant ethnic group in Lijiang) headman, whose family name was, by no coincidence, **Mu**—an ancestor of the artist. We meet at the town center and start the climb up to his studio in the northern end of old Lijiang. Along the walk we see a bird’s-eye view of the hills, roofs of the traditional Naxi houses and their lush courtyards—and water is a constant companion, flowing either in a stream at my side or in tunnels beneath our feet. The stunning landscape is a good omen.

A graduate of the **Central Academy of Fine Arts** in Beijing, **Mu Yuming** lived in **Norway** for ten years. Following his two-year residency at the **Rijksakademie** in **Amsterdam**, he recently moved back to his homeland of snow-clad mountains, pure and sacred, to make art, but also ready to receive incoming guests from afar. And sends those who are outgoing

Soon, we arrive at his studio and meet his friends-cum-colleagues, who are all busy planning projects for the international artist residency half an hour outside town, which **Mu** jump-started a number of years ago with his American colleague **Jay Brown**. The studio is in the attic. His color-drenched canvases adorn the walls, some propped up against each other. A pair of red underwear (for auspicious times) is stabbed with a knife on one of the beams of the studio. Sunflower shells cover the floors. **Mu Yuming** is in fact addicted to sunflower seeds and eats them surreptitiously, all day long, leaving the shells on the ground among his works on paper.

Mu Yuming, like his studio, is full of energy. He started painting when he was four or five-years old and living in a courtyard house in the old town of Lijiang. His first artworks were chalk drawing of the chickens, his parents’ dog, and the jasmine-scented flowers he would watch in his family’s house. In typical **Mu fashion**, he says, that he may not be any better now than he was then. However, painting came to his rescue at a few points in his life, especially during his darkest hours when he felt as if he had lost his *jingshen* (vitality/life spirit). He began to paint as a form of meditation, using this language to discover the separation between his mind and body. His hope was to bring them back together. In fact, be it in the form of text, video, daily drawings, spontaneous ink paintings, or guerilla performance pieces, he is constantly creating scenarios in his work that continue this personal journey, both inside and outside.

Mu Yuming’s earlier works were more offhanded, disorderly and random. He chose to apply his paint following intuition and passion, albeit with a sloppy authority. Combining traditional Chinese ink and **Dongba** hieroglyphics, he smeared quantities of color onto **Dongba** prayer-flag-like textile pieces to depict scenes he associates with his inner life. And, unlike many of his Chinese contemporaries, he had struck a balance between seemingly contradictory forces: control and spontaneity, the mundane and the utopian, primitivism and contemporary imagery. His tone was festive and exuberant.

More recently, his works have grown slicker, but also more introspective. Now his canvases are populated by figures wearing stretched hoods and with mask-like faces, painted against abstract fields jammed with chairs, guns, ruined monuments, and words. While retaining the artist’s contemplation on life and his intuitive vitality, these works do not always offer full narratives; they aren’t pure abstractions either. They feel unstable, the figures searching for something, not necessarily taking a stand, but seemingly engaged in some kind of struggle. The overt subject is an artist on the move, sandwiched between cultures, homelands, and languages. His themes explore the range of tensions between people of different cultures, countries and backgrounds, rendered against a landscape of total solitude. The works are filled with his thoughts of his past, spent in China, and of his present, where he finds himself trotting the globe.

MY: “I use the world as my studio, traveling continuously as a reaction to my Chinese identity. In Buddhist tradition,

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monks roam around the country on their spiritual journeys. Red Dust refers to the image that they leave in their trail, yet as an atheist and aesthetic Chinese, I never had the chance to experience this myself. Growing up in a country with harsh travel restrictions and where creativity was condemned made me want the world even more. Therefore I left as a reaction against this and ironically as a means of understanding my home from a distance.”

Growing up in Lijiang, being half **Han** and half **Naxi**, Mu says that he always felt like the outsider. This struggle has been the primary engine that has driven his paintings.

MY: “The Naxi culture is completely different than the Han majority with its own language, customs and traditions, yet I never felt truly comfortable with this dual identity. The art community offered me refuge. There I felt comfortable in my own skin. Feeling like a foreigner in my own country, I had to leave to understand it from outside, which in a sense is where I had always been.”

While his recent return from Amsterdam has inspired some notable shifts in the content of his works, such as to a keen focus on local people in his paintings, Mu has deliberately distanced himself from the Chinese political and historical themes that have marked many of his contemporaries’ works. Though he admits:

MY: “On return to Lijiang I sensed more than ever the massive change in the soul and mind of the Chinese. More than ever so many Chinese people are focused on objects, making money, buying things. So many people in China now have so much money and they’re all fighting to get more. Everyone seems to have lost interest in the soul and who we are as humans. That’s the great sadness in China today. Perhaps in the whole world—but it just feels so intensified in China.”

[Part II in June '08 issue of AOW] [Below Colette’s photographic artistry]



Colette as "Evel Knievel" on a solo high cable river crossing.



Culinary mosaic of Yunnan cuisine.



Au naturel bathing in Lijiang. Can't turn the water off!



Colette and a senior citizen posing for her camera.

“OUR AFRICAN SISTER CITY IN TURMOIL”

Dr. Diane D’Orazio, Chair.

Each morning, I turn on my computer anxiously waiting to see e-mails from our friends in **Kisumu, Kenya**. I’ve become totally dependent on this e-lifeline to keep me connected with folks who are very dear to us in our African sister city. Lately, opening these cherished e-mails has brought heartache and profound sadness because of the explosive turmoil which grew out of a presidential election gone bad. After the December 27th election results were announced, incumbent **President Mwai Kibaki** was *quickly* inaugurated *again* into office despite protests of widespread fraud. Century old repressed multi-tribal discord, like a volcano, erupted into 6+ weeks of death and destruction in which Kisumu was the epicenter. Our friends in Kisumu have experienced unprecedented loss of loved ones, housing and possessions. Thousands have sought refuge in abysmal camps, short on shelter, water, food, sanitation and security. All this devastation struck Kenya after it was hailed as the “stable keystone of East Africa” and recognized by the **United Nations** two years ago as a “**reform and development model nation**” and Kisumu as a “**Millennium City!**” *A City on a Hill!* In a desperate effort to halt the rampage, to convene negotiations with acceptable resolution, former **UN Secretary Kofi Annan** and other international peacemakers, i.e. **Bishop Tutu**, flew to **Nairobi**. As I sit and write this, thankfully, **Annan** has announced that a formal agreement will be reached in the next few days. But physical and emotional wound healing will take much longer, perhaps decades. Trust and tolerance can go away in an instant, but are earned back over time.

I want to thank **The Roanoke Times** and **WDBJ Channel 7’s** anchor **Joe Dashiell** for helping us keep Kenya in the news. We want Roanokers to understand that the people they see on their evening news are our “friends.” (Rafiki) We are connected, even in a country as far away as Kenya. One of many sad e-mails I’ve received was about our **Medical Fund** account at **Patson’s Chemists** pharmacy in Kisumu. Last week, the pharmacy was looted to the point where *nothing* remains in the building. The building next door was also looted and burned. The owners of Patson’s Chemists are the **Pattanis**, a lovely Indian family, long term residents of Kenya, whom I had the pleasure of meeting last August. With foresight before the looting could occur, they took most of the shop’s medicines and supplies to their home. After becoming aware of the total looting and destruction, they realized they were out of business; so they distributed medical supplies in an amount equivalent to what we had in the Medical Fund account to *each* of the four ministries which the fund benefits. What a blessing this has been to those struggling to keep their ministries going. The Pattanis have decided to go back to India for a few months. Eventually, they will decide whether to return and rebuild. Like almost all business owners in Kisumu, they are uncertain what the future holds for Kenya.

We ask that you continue to pray for our friends in Kenya and for Kisumu. Thanks to e-mail, we feel certain we will be able to keep the 32 year old lifeline-of-friendship secure and strong. Members of the newly formed **Sister City Committee in Kisumu** are dealing with many personal struggles. They are in our special prayers. The **Roanoke-Kisumu Sister City Committee** is receiving requests for assistance from known and respected individuals in Kisumu. We are assessing the overwhelming need and will respond as a friend would, with generous compassion and goodwill.

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Children who benefited from the KSCC Medical Fund.



Kisumu's main street before the election.



Patson's Chemists: Former home of the KSCC Medical Fund.

“WONJU-ROANOKE STUDENT EXCHANGE – 2008” Sandy Lyle, Chair.

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The 4th student exchange since 2005 began with a rough start! After heavy snows in Korea *and* in the U.S., three days delayed, the most recent group of exchange students from our Sister City of Wonju, Korea, arrived January 15th at **Roanoke Regional Airport!** Four boys, seven girls and their teacher/chaperone visited Roanoke for a shortened three weeks home-stay. Though shy, they were very intent on taking in local sites, schools, and key government offices and officials, but also had great anticipation in making new friends and getting to know us and the U.S. Host families from **James Madison Middle School** received them with warm welcome on short notice at the airport. Except for the **Haynes** and **Long** families, they were participating for the first time. They all did it with great enthusiasm, generous support and imaginative individualized weekend activities.

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Wonju **Mayor Kim's** representative, **Eun-Suk Jeong**, made a requested special return visit with the group for just ten days before she had to return to Wonju. She is the coordinator for the entire exchange program in Wonju and a vital assistant to the mayor in international affairs. She made her first visit in September, 2007 when **Wonju's Sister Cities Committee** came to Roanoke (see AOW, Vol.11, issue 4). There are very strong and growing friendships among members of our two committees; the desire to continue the student exchanges is evident in the excitement of planning for the next bilateral visits: Wonju students on winter vacation and Roanoke students on summer vacation. We anticipate Roanoke's host students of this exchange will form a delegation in July, 2008, again with financial support by the **Roanoke City Travel Scholarship Grant**.

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As important as the grant is, even more stunning is support given to the exchange program by **Dr. Rita Bishop**, new **Superintendent** of Roanoke City Schools, **Mr. Cyrus Pace**, Fine Arts Consultant, RCPS, and James Madison Middle School **Principal Debra Deitrich**. They share the dream of RVSC!

As in every exchange since 2005, **Dr. Jennifer Mulligan** worked her usual magic, not only with our itinerary, but by using her artistic skills teaching the students in pottery making and pen and ink drawings. **Linda Harrison** was the **Dedicated Driver** of the Van, transporting the students all around Roanoke and the ski weekend. Jennifer and Linda were also figuratively up to their elbows in tie-dying tee shirts with the students! A ski trip to **Massanutten** was led by Jennifer and Linda and included some of the host families with the Korean students. No broken bones! On the annual trip to Washington, D.C., **Dr. Kye Kim** and his daughter, **Jerry** were ideal bilingual escorts. Jerry and the seven girls shared “girl-talk” *by the hour* in both Korean and English comparing ideas and perceptions of being a girl in Roanoke (and America) and in Wonju (and Korea). They all became close friends in a relatively short time with Jerry being a **big sister** to the girls.

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Jack Tompkins and **David Lisk**, faithful members of our committee, deserve big “Thanks!” They arranged time at **Mayor Harris' office**, **City Council**, **Roanoke County Board of Supervisors**, a **Kiwanis** luncheon meeting, and special hospitality at **Roanoke College** and **WDBJ 7**. They also helped arrange several assorted lunches ---*American food* --- during the daytime tours. Pizza! Pizza!

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The farewell Korean dinner on February 2nd at the **Korean Baptist Church**, Starkey Road, had some very touching moments. A video/CD presentation of dozens of scenes, taken during the visit, had been prepared by Mrs. **Meredith Roller**, a host parent... “just something I like to do.” It showed all the students during their official tours and just having fun being teenagers. That was a big hit with everyone! The evening was closed with each Wonju student telling *in English* what he/she had learned about America. Those were the beautiful “Aawww” moments. Tears, giggles, and applause as they spoke of a visit they will always remember --- and so will we.

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Students with Mayor Nelson Harris



Sister City Connection at Century Plaza



Elementary class at Crystal Spring Elementary



Mayor Harris welcomes students at City Council Meeting



Welcome to Center in the Square by Dr. Jim Sears. Standing (L to R) Linda Harrison, Dr. Sears, Jack Tompkins



Birthday party for three Korean girls



Korean students visiting Channel 7

“Building Bridges from Roanoke to St-Lô”

by **Mary Jo Fassié**, chairwoman

As we celebrate our tenth anniversary with our sister city of St-Lô this year, we continue to build bridges between our two cities. This will be a year of renewing old friendships, making new ones, and sharing our news with our sister city in France and the francophone community in the Roanoke Valley. Here are just some of the things on our program for the next several months.

On April 17, chairwoman **Mary Jo Fassié** will give a talk to the **Pi Delta Phi** national French honorary society at **Hollins University**. She will share with the French community at Hollins what our sister city relationship is all about. Her talk will encompass a slide show of St-Lô, personal travel experiences to Normandy, and the ongoing relationship that Roanoke has with Saint-Lô.

A delegation of around 20 people from Saint-Lô will arrive in Roanoke the next day, April 18. The group plans to stay in the Roanoke Valley until April 24. **Jeanine Vérove** is once again organizing this group which will contain more adults than students. During their visit, we will host a potluck supper at St. Elizabeth's church on April 21, and will plan several historical site excursions. Anyone interested in housing an adult, please contact Mary Jo. (jouvent@cox.net or 366-5183).

Monty Johns, a student at **UVA**, will also receive a visit in April by **Audrey Lamy** and her family from St-Lô. Monty traveled with us in 2005 and 2007. He is from **Fredericksburg, VA**.

Spring travels continue in May as the **Roanoke College Choir** goes to Europe and plans a stop in Saint-Lô. They will perform May 9 in our sister city. The group has made our sister city a stop on their concert tour several times since our twinning in 1998.

As summer nears, another group from St-Lô will visit us in June. This group will consist mostly of students and several teachers from **Catholic High School**. **Katie Kenny**, French teacher from **Patrick Henry High School**, is in touch with them and will organize their visit with several other French teachers.

Perhaps the biggest change that 2008 has brought, is the first edition of our new newsletter, *Le Pont* (The Bridge). It made its appearance in February and was a collaborative effort between Mary Jo Fassié who conceived the idea and Ann Hackworth who is the editor and has the *technical savoir-faire*. *Le Pont* contains much of the news above but other happenings in the Roanoke Valley and in St-Lô that concern our sister cities. Our first edition included a letter and photo from a former intern, Pierre Fize and the announcement of the birth of a daughter of our very first intern, Aurélie Genest. Our intention is to put a more personal touch on our relationship with our sister city and at the same time, inform and share with our members here and in France important news. If you would like to receive our newsletter via email, please contact.

Ann.Hackworth@roanoke.com

April 17th St.Lo-Ms.Fassié addresses $\pi \Delta \Phi$, French Honor Society, "Rke/St.-Lô Sister City," 4:30 pm, Hollins



Le Pont

The Bridge



A newsletter for members and friends of the Roanoke/Saint-Lô Sister City

“CARNAVAL IN FLORIANÓPOLIS”

Norma Jean Peters, Co-chair.

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We are very familiar with the celebration of **Mardi Gras** in places like **New Orleans** and other cities of the United States and Europe. Many cities in Brazil have similar festivals which are called **Carnaval***. Although **Rio de Janeiro** is Brazil's best known and perhaps most spectacular celebration, other cities throughout the country have festivals which often reflect their diverse cultures. The length of the celebration varies from one area to another. *It might last for weeks*. Typically, most of the activities are concentrated in the days prior to **Ash Wednesday**. Our sister city, **Florianópolis**, has the *fourth* largest Carnival in Brazil and it is a special time of great celebration!

The central event in the Florianópolis celebration is the elaborate **Samba School** procession in the center of the city. The parade starts in the **Sambodromo** which includes a structure built across a wide street with stands on both sides. The procession passes by three samba schools which are located along this street. Samba schools work year round preparing for Carnival and in the weeks leading up to the Carnival, you can hear bands practicing all over the island. The samba schools compete and one is declared the winner. Everyone has a favorite!

At midnight, there is a **fireworks display** and then the fun begins. The bands march and play. The brightly colored floats pass by the enthusiastic spectators who cheer and throw streamers. People dressed in colorful costumes ride on floats and march along the parade route. The whole experience is a blur of color and excitement.

Throughout the Carnival season, citizens of Florianópolis celebrate with parties, music festivals, costume balls and dancing in the streets. *Nothing exemplifies the spirit of Brazil more than Carnival.*

NJP

[*English sp.= Carnival]

Bolinhos de Arroz (Little rice balls)

1 – egg, lightly beaten
 1 – small onion, finely chopped
 1 – green scallion, finely chopped
 1 – TBSP. fresh parsley, chopped
 3- 4 - TBSP> flour
 ½ - TSP salt
 1 – TBSP. milk
 1 – cup left over rice
 Vegetable oil for frying

Mix together the egg, onion, scallion, parsley, flour, milk and salt.
 Add rice. Fry rounded tablespoons of the batter in hot oil until golden brown.
 Drain on absorbent paper toweling. Makes 12 servings.
 [A great recipe for left over rice!]

[Submitted by Virginia Wiegand]

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“Weeping May Linger for the Night, but Joy Comes in the Morning.” Ps 30: 5

If ever there was a time to weep, it is now over the crisis in Kenya. Agony and loss suffered by hundreds of thousands of innocents is covered in deep dismay by **Dr. Diane D’Orazio**, well defined on the Kisumu Page (4). In response to this on-going tragedy, the Kisumu Committee met Feb. 12th. A motion was made and unanimously affirmed to immediately send \$2,000. to be administered by the trusted hands of **Dr. Ruby Sokwala**. Despite being under intolerable stress of what could be next, she has remained in Kisumu inner city, one of the few professionals left. We pray that she and her clinic will continue to survive unharmed. An active lay person in her church, she is committed to living the Rule “doing unto others...”

As co-supporter of RVSC Kisumu’s programs, **South Roanoke U. Methodist Church** is also raising funds that will be sent through **UMCOR**.

Kenya’s hellish tribal insurrection may be decades before morning comes. In search of hope, it forces me to think over the bottomless pits of violence and natural disasters from which others of our sister cities have risen and come back into sunlight.

- **Pskov**, Russia- endured much suffering during WWII, and Nazi ‘39-’45 and Communist years.
- **St.-Lo**, France- was the prime target of the June 6, ’44 Normandy Landing, reduced to 99% rubble.
- **Wonju**, Korea- the turning point in the Korean War, suffered 98% destruction, 1952.
- **Lijiang**, China- central city destroyed by multiple 7+ Richter Scale peaked earthquakes, Jan. ’96.
- **Opole**, Poland- centrally submerged to 2nd stories by a 500 yr. Odra River flood, July ’97.

Over time each of these cities has been restored --- many to unimaginable finess and abundance. I personally have witnessed the resurrection of **Wonju City**, a social, economic, political and spiritual miracle. If a charismatic leader with *right values* gains control of the levers of power in Kenya, i.e. a **Jomo Kenyatta**, we could see a restitution and beginning of dawn in Kenya. Who it is? Can one person again re-pack the nucleus of disparate vengeful tribes? Now only darkness. But hope & faith can do it.

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“In Memoriam”
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In 2007, RVSC suffered the unexpected loss of four outstanding current and preterit members:

- **Charles T. Hubbard**, 64, of Hardy, passed away, Sept.14, ’07. “Charlie” was originally from Boston, MA. He was a lawyer and comptroller with a specialty in Finance and Administration. Served in the Vietnam War as a Lt. Cmdr, USNR. Graduate Harvard Univ. (A.B. ’65), the U. of Washington (M.B.A. ’73) and Case Western Reserve Univ. (J.D. ’97). He is survived by his wife, **Suksin Caecilia Hubbard**, son, **William**, and daughter, **Caecilia “T. G.”** Charlie and Caecilia have been active for 10 years in multiple sister cities, especially **Wonju, Kisumu and Lijiang**.
- **Glenn J. Kremer** passed away on Nov. 20, ’07. He and his wife, **Linda**, own and manage **Alphagraphics**. Both have been honorary RVSC members for 4 years. Their quality service makes AOW possible. The service to RVSC is recognized in AOW, v. 11, issue 4, p.12, Dec. ’07.
- **George E. Franklin**, 74, of Roanoke passed away, Sept. 22, ’07. Va. State Univ.(B.S.) and grad studies Notre Dame Univ., and A.&T Univ., Greensboro. George served in the U.S. Air Force. He had a very innovative career in community development, education, YMCA and his home church. He had enduring service as Director of OIC. His latest joy in life was CEO and co-sponsor of the **West End Men Association**. George was also **co-founder of the Kisumu Sister City Committee** and long term RVSC member. George was always known as an “ideas man!”
- **Chauncey L. Logan, Sr.**, 74, of Roanoke, departed this life Dec.11, ’07. Educated at W. VA. State College (B.S.), Radford Univ. (M.Sci. ’70). Grad studies at UVA, Penn State, Wm. & Mary. He served Roanoke City Schools 36 years as a teacher and administrator. Served in US.Army ‘54-’57. Chauncey received many honors/ awards. **He was a founding member of Wonju & Kisumu SCC.**

These four men are why RVSC has deep roots in Roanoke Valley. It was an honor to be part of their lives. In gratitude, condolences are extended to their families.

“OPOLE NEWS”

Dr. Kris Slowikowski

Many thanks to **Director Henryka Mikosza** for her promised commemorative book from the **60th anniversary** year of the **Frederik Chopin Music School**. The book includes pictures of the students who visited Roanoke in 2006 as well as a short summary of their visit to Roanoke.

Included in the package were official letters of thanks to the **Roanoke County Board of Supervisors** for their proclamation of congratulations as well as to the Opole Sister City Committee. An added bonus was a DVD of some of the musical performances plus a picture album of Opole during the four seasons. **Dziękujemy!!!**

I have obtained a documentary film of **Count Casimir Pulaski** [1748 –1779] – American Revolutionary war hero – from the **Polish Embassy** in Washington, D.C. It would be fun to schedule a viewing of this film with discussion afterwards... a thought also would be to have this film shown during the month of October --- when the traditional **Pulaski Day Parade** is held in New York City. Perhaps even have a **Polish Day** in conjunction with **Local Colors**. Those interested in exploring this idea further please contact me.

Local Colors is around the corner again! We will need your help with kielbasa sales. Save May 17th for another great Opole fund raiser. Call me. [772-0574] **Kris**

“PSKOV AND PSKOV OBLAST NEWS”

Natasha Petersen, Chair.

Our Sister City Committee celebrated **Russian Orthodox Christmas Eve** with a potluck of finger foods. We met in the home of **Liz Stone** on Sunday January 6th. There were 24 members and friends present to enjoy the great variety of foods and companionship.

We are into the second half of the year with support of thirty pupils in need at **School #5** of the City of Pskov. We have been able to continue with our programs thanks to faithful support of our committee members and friends who annually attend the fall fundraiser at Roanoke College.

EGGPLANT CAVIAR

1 medium sized eggplant
Salt
3 tbsp olive oil
3 onions - minced
1 tomato - minced
2 tsp lemon juice
Pepper

Bake the eggplant at 350 degrees for 30 - 45 minutes until tender. Peel and chop. Sprinkle with salt to taste and cool for 1 hour. Heat oil in a pan and add the eggplant, onion and tomato and cook over low heat until tender. Add lemon juice, salt and pepper to taste. Cook for several more minutes.

Place in a serving dish and chill for several hours.

Serve with crackers or raw vegetables as a dip.

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES CALENDAR - www.rvsci.us**February: (2008)**3rd -- **Wonju** - Wonju Exchange students depart for home.12th - **Kisumu** - General Meeting, Main Roanoke City Library, 6:30pm19th - **Florianopolis** meeting, 7 p.m. at Roanoke Country Main library, Rte. 419DTPA - **Lijiang** - Chinese New Year celebration**March: (2008)****8th - Annual RVSC Corp Bd meeting. Roanoke College, Wortmann Ballroom, 6:15 p.m.
Dr. Rita Bishop, Superintendent Roanoke City School, guest speaker.****April: (2008)**8th - **Kisumu** - General Meeting, Main Roanoke City Library, 6:30pm17th **St.Lo**-**Ms.Fassié** addresses $\pi \Delta \Phi$, French Honor Society, "Rke/St.-Lô Sister City," 4:30 pm, Hollins.**18-24th-St.Lo** -Visit of group from St.Lo; **April 21st** - St.-Lo potluck dinner, St. Elizabeth Church, 7 pm**May: (2008)****17th - Local Colors - Elmwood Park, 11am to 5 pm****June: (2008)**10th - **Kisumu** - General Meeting, Main Roanoke City Library, 6:30pm**July: (2008)****12th - RVSC Corp. Bd Meeting - Annual Picnic, Roth Home SML, 2 pm sports, 4 Meeting, 5Dinner**TBA - **Wonju** - Roanoke Students depart for Wonju20th - **St.-Lo** - **Annual Bastille Day Picnic**, Longwood Park, Shelter #4, 5 pm**August: (2008)**10th - **Kisumu** - General Meeting, Main Roanoke City Library, 6:30pm**September: (2008)****October: (2008)****10th - Pskov** - Annual "Evening in the Old Country" dinner meeting, Roanoke College. 6:15 p.m.**November: (2008)****1st - Wonju**- Harvest Moon Dinner Meeting. Time, place TBA**December: (2008)**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: **David K. Lisk**; Cell 540-556-6829; Fax. 540-342-7230; Tel. (H) 540-342-5868**Membership Totals for 2000 – 2007 (as of 12- 19 -'07)**

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

"Membership year" starts April 1st each year. Dues paid after Jan. 1st 2008 continue your active membership to Mar. 31, 2009.

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES



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“Portrait of a Chinese Taxi Artist” Colette Fu: Photojournalist

P. 4-5 Kisumu: “Our African Sister City in Turmoil” Dr. Diane D’Orazio
P. 6-7 Wonju: “Wonju-Roanoke Student Exchange-2008” Sandy Lyle
P. 8 St-Lô: “Building Bridges from Roanoke to St-Lô” Mary Jo Fassié
P. 9 Florianoópolis: “Carnaval in Florianoópolis” Norma Jean Peters
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ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES, INC.

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