



Around Our World

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES, INC.

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March 2010

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Roanoke and Saint-Lô: 12 years of Twinning

By Mary Jo Fassié, chair

We may be Roanoke's youngest sister city but our sister city gets its *raison d'être* from our historical relationship with St-Lô. Two of our founders, Bob Slaughter & Chuck Neighbors, were part of the 29th Infantry Division who fought in the battle of St-Lô in July of 1944.

You would think that a city 95% destroyed by the American troops, would not be the best basis for a sister city relationship. But think again. The liberation of St-Lô by our troops is a vivid memory that St-Lô wants to keep alive, along with our friendship. Bob and Chuck had this in mind as well. Their vision was grounded in the past but looked toward the future and to create a people to people exchange.

For the past 12 years, both Roanoke and St-Lô have each sent six delegations abroad, including students and adults. Special memories might include the huge reception we received in 1999 when St-Lo rolled out the red carpet for our group of over 40 people, including Mayor Bowers, as we celebrated our twinning along the Vire river with St-Lô's other sister cities and the dedication of Le Pont de Roanoke. And in 2001, our student delegation got involved in the Fete de la Musique as my daughter, Nathalie, choreographed a dance performance and musical show in the main theatre in St-Lo. We even had students playing guitar and saxophone in the streets of St-Lô (with their instrument cases open for tips!) like the other French musicians!

Our people to people exchanges have also included interns from St-Lô who have worked with Mill Mountain Theatre, Jefferson Center, YMCA, Cantos Booksellers, the Bead Store, Carilion, Steve Stinson, Roanoke Times/ Roanoke.com, Roanoke Public Library. Roanoke College has also got on board and their wonderful choir has performed many times in St-Lô.

Several years ago, Ann Hackworth and I started a newsletter, Le Pont, which we send out twice a year, keeping everyone up to date on news about our sister city.

In April, we will be hosting 47 people from St-Lô, including 34 students (hosted by families from 5 Roanoke High Schools) and the director of the Franco-American Memorial Hospital who will meet with the director of Carilion to try and establish a medical exchange.

Come join us in 2011 as we visit Normandy and you will get a real taste of Camembert and Calvados and the wonderful hospitality of our Sister City!



Camembert Cheese



Calvados



Mary Jo à la normande



View of St-Lô in 1944, 95% destroyed.



Postcard from St-Lô today.

“Wonju Students Land in Snowy Roanoke!” Sandy Lyle, Chairperson

W Twelve Wonju students, accompanied by **Ms. Park Kye-Sun**, their very capable teacher/chaperone, arrived in Roanoke on January 13 to begin the sixth exchange between our two Sister Cities. The students came from several **Wonju City middle schools** and stayed with welcoming resourceful Roanoke Valley host families. With RWSCC’s gratitude, **James Madison Middle School** and **Principal Debra D. Deitrich**, were once again the hosts.

O Of course, *this* January’s winter weather in Roanoke started what would prove to be the most severe in several decades. Lack of nature’s cooperation caused numerous shuffled changes in our itinerary. The repeated snows, freezing temps made for a blizzard of emails, phone calls to make last minute creative adjustments. Big “Thank You” to our host families: **Agee, Brothers, Caplan, Donihe, Edwards** (chaperone hosts), **Elmore, Henshaw, Kennedy, Leivy, Mason, Roller** and **Shafer** and to Committee members who were remarkably flexible.

N Most days began with the traditional hour class --- speaking and reading English, and having students write in their journals and make notes about the day’s planned activities. Several Committee members **Dr. Jennifer Mulligan, Dr. Charles Downs, Peagram Johnson, Maggie Moen, Linda Harrison** and **Sandy Lyle** took turns at the head of the classes. A *special session* on U.S. government and history took place just prior to their three-day visit to Washington, D.C.

J The students, five boys and seven girls, visited with **Roanoke City Council** and **Mayor Bowers**, observed classes at **Roanoke Catholic School**, sang children’s songs and did calligraphy for the kindergartners at **North Cross School**. They were pleased, despite the fridge temp, to see the Sister Cities sculptures in **Century Square** and later to receive a warm welcome at the **Kiwanis** Wednesday luncheon. Guest speaker for the day was Meteorologist **Robin Reed** from **WDBJ Channel 7**, a place the students had visited earlier. They made visits to the **Taubman Museum of Art**, the **O.Winston Link Museum**, the **City Market**, and, of course, had a bit of time for shopping! On a visit to the **Green Ridge Recreation Center** they had a chance to go indoor-warm-water swimming and to play basketball.

U **Dr. Jennifer Mulligan**, our student exchange coordinator, provided opportunities for them to make pottery including souvenir ceramics, do calligraphy, and to meet and work with local artist **Ann Glover** at her studio.

P Our traditional farewell dinner at the **Korean Baptist Church** had to be cancelled because of another snowstorm, but thanks to the host families, we were able to have a potluck dinner at **Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church**. The students gave short speeches in English of what they had learned while in Roanoke --- inevitably accompanied by tears, hugs and laughter.

A A predawn flight from Roanoke took them home, but not before many more pictures were made, promises to email, and more tears shed. In spite of the glitches and schedule switching, another successful visit had ended. Our Roanoke students are looking forward to visiting Wonju and their new friends this summer --- it can be sure they will return full of excitement about their adventures!

G *[Editor’s note: just a few hours after their plane departed, Roanoke had **another** 10” snow fall!]*

E



Roanoke Kiwanis souvenir photo: Mayor Bowers, Kiwanis officers, RWSCC members, Wonju students: (boys) Yoo, Jeong-Ho; Lee, Hyun-Jong; Bae, Gyu-Ha; Yun, Jae-Seok; Choi, Huyn-To; (girls) Han, Hei-Ji; Byun, So-Jeong; Lee, Ji-Su; Kim, Se-Jin; Lee, Han-Byeol; Lee, Se-Young; Choi, Seul-Gi; (chaperone) Park, Kye-Sun



Our Wonju Students were introduced by Sandy Lyle to the North Cross School kindergarten students.



Wonju guest students greeted the kindergartners themselves, in English.



Building blocks are fun for small and big kids!



Inscribing and teaching the kindergartners' their names in Hangul. Korean language uses both alphagraphical (Hangul) and calligraphical (Chinese characters) lettering; both also use brush and ink. Chinese characters are to Korean language what Latin is to English.



Ann Trinkle, converted "reluctant traveler."



All in the family - Dr. & Mrs. Kim, Hoen-Kook, hosts.



Guryeong-Sa lavishly painted.



Roanoke Street in Wonju, stone marker/monument, Dave & Ann.



Classic Mask Dancer, Andong.



Yew tree and marker honoring the service of David K. Lisk; Ann and Dave.



Wonju Fine Arts Center



Office of Mayor Kim, Gi-Yeol, consummate host and administrator, Dave, Ann and city officials.

“An Artist’s Eye-view of Wonju, Korea” Ann Trinkle

I must admit the thought, that on our trip to Korea the huge **Pacific Ocean** would separate me from my children, pretty much terrified me. I am, at best, a reluctant traveler. Yet our Roanoke delegation in October, 2009, managed to be lucky enough to see a lot of beautiful places. **Wonju City** and environs certainly ranks at the top of the beautiful places list.

Two years ago, in Jan.-Feb. 2008, we hosted a Korean middle school student **Hae-In Lee**, a lovely, lovely girl, for three weeks. **Ella**, our daughter, the following summer stayed with **Hae-In’s family** and had the time of her life. It was life changing for all of us, but most of all for the girls. Ella returned from Korea, and had barely said “hello” before she stated, “I want to go back!” So when **Dave** and I had the chance to visit Korea, Ella was, needless to say, disappointed that she wouldn’t be coming with us. She told me from the get-go, that I would be crazy to pass up the opportunity – and how right she was.

After traveling for more than twenty-four hours, Dave and I arrived in Wonju at two in the morning their time - a storm in Tokyo had delayed our arrival by several hours. So when we pulled up to our hotel in Wonju, we were not expecting anyone to say “boo” to us, but Hae-In and her entire family were there to greet us and welcome us! To say we were surprised and overwhelmed at their graciousness doesn’t adequately convey how we were feeling, and of course I just cried.

As the only artist in the delegation, I was so excited about our first evening at the **Chiak Art Center** where we witnessed an amazing 30 year-old piano virtuoso, **Dong-Min Lim**, play **Chopin**. We were completely blown away by his talent – I was also equally impressed by the majority in the audience who were high school students among whom the girls were screaming at him like he was a rock star! Well, yes, he was quite handsome and charismatic. I’m keeping my fingers crossed that we can arrange one day, in the near future, to see him on stage at **The Jefferson Center**. Maybe even a master class!

The following day we went to **Andong City**, 80 miles southeast of Wonju, and had a tour of **Hahoe Folk Village** – which is a historic preserved village, like **Williamsburg**, but people actually live in the gorgeous rustic some century-old homes. That afternoon in Andong, we watched a **Korean Mask Dance** at their outdoor theatre --- beautiful, funny and wildly entertaining – particularly when certain members of our delegation were picked to be audience participants!

The next day we drove up into the mountains east of Wonju to **Guryeong-Sa (“Nine Dragon”- Buddhist Temple)** on the north side of **Chiaksan** – the largest nearby mountain [1,288 m = 4,226 ft.] a national park just outside Wonju City. Oh, my gosh – it was beautiful. The log framed buildings were open, elegant, with rich paintings and intricate carvings on just about every square inch. Such a serene, peaceful gorgeous place – it couldn’t help but feel like a holy place.

Our last day in Wonju, we went back to the **Chiak Art Center** where we saw an impressive wonderful art exhibit of local artists. All types were on display: traditional to video art – really accomplished and interesting work. And the gracious people who worked at the gallery gave us each a beautiful catalogue of all the work.

Equally as beautiful as the art and performances that we saw, were the completely delicious foods and the gorgeous landscapes. But most beautiful, was the generosity and kindness of the Korean people, I am so grateful that this **reluctant traveler** listened to her wise-old daughter. **One** regret: Ella couldn’t be with us on this unforgettable trip.

[Editor: As promised: AOW, Vol. 13, issue 4, p.3 - Ann would share her impressions of Wonju, Korea, part of the medical team.]

* “**Dong-Min Lim** was born in 1980. His younger brother, **Dong-Hyek Lim**, is also a classical pianist. He and his brother won third prize at the **2005 International Frederick Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw.**” – bio info from **Eun-suk Jeong**

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Dr. Ruby Sokwala

Dr. Marylen Harmon, Chair., R-KSCC



Dr. Ruby Sokwala

Dr. Ruby Sokwala was born into a Zoroastrian family in India in 1949, and knew from her earliest memories that she wanted to become a medical doctor. Sadly, while she was in school, her Dad died, but an academic scholarship helped her finish and subsequently qualify as a doctor in 1971.

Around the same time she met and married her husband, Salim who brought her to his homeland in Kenya. They were blessed with two children. She started working in 1975 at the Kisumu Provincial Hospital; and after five years, she joined the staff at the Aga Khan Hospital, where she worked for nine years.

In 1987, she started a private practice as a family physician in Kisumu town, where she is still active. In 1990, she became a Christian and ever since remains strong in the Lord. In 2003, she earned a postgraduate diploma in Palliative Care to enhance care and teaching at the local Kisumu Hospice Hospital.

As a general practitioner, her motto is: "Provide the best possible care, at the least cost, to the widest range of people." Another of her strong beliefs: "Do your best in life, and trust God to do the rest."

Her joy in life is to serve the Lord through local Christian organizations providing medical care to children and adults who are in difficult circumstances.

However, irrespective of race, ethnicity, social status or religion, "Dr. Ruby" Sokwala is especially skilled in diagnosing and managing HIV/AIDS patients. She makes daily visits to local hospitals and orphanages, and is recognized as a servant of the people.

"Dr. Ruby" serves as Treasurer of the Kisumu-Roanoke Sister City Committee. For a decade, she has been an essential link between our Roanoke and Kisumu committees. Her dedication and transformed spirit has helped us all, "Keep Hope Alive."

The Roanoke Chapter of The Links, Inc.

"The Roanoke Links Chapter" is part of a national/international organization of accomplished, dedicated women who actively participate in activities/ programs to improve quality of life for others on local, national and global scales. Its membership is predominately African-American women who have volunteered their services and funds since 1946.

The Roanoke Links Chapter has been active as a partner with the Roanoke-Kisumu Sister City Committee since its establishment in 1976. The "International Trends Committee" of The Roanoke Chapter has made generous financial contributions, mentored foreign students, donated educational materials, provided food/ clothing for refugees and international students, and has donated medical supplies for Kisumu hospitals, clinics, and orphanages. The people of Kisumu are grateful for these contributions which have improved their educational and health condition.



Dr. Marylen Harmon and Dr. Ruby Sokwala prepare medical gift bags of supplies donated by The Roanoke Chapter of The Links, Inc.

Local Link members: Gwendolyn Lawrence and Mary Steptoe (both deceased) and Dr. Marylen Harmon have traveled with Roanoke delegations to Kisumu since 1984.

In Kisumu today, top priority among several Kisumu needs, is improvement of water supplies and sanitation. Currently funding is desperately needed to drill water wells and provide medical funding for hospitals, clinics and orphanages.

This year The Links "International Trends Committee" will focus on fundraising to support some of the special patient needs in "Dr. Ruby's" clinic. Donations: to New Life Center, sheets to the Pediatric Ward, Nyanza Provincial Hospital, mattresses to Agape Orphanage, and funds for Frederick Ochieng's father so that he could travel with him post cardiac surgery for doctor's appointments in Nairobi.



New Life Baby Center



Nyanza Provincial Hospital



Agape Orphanage



Frederick Ochieng

“Brazilian Consulate Visit to Roanoke”

Joslaine Austin, Chair.

On March 20th this year, we were thrilled to host the 3rd visit of the mobile service of the **Consulate General of Brazil in Washington, D. C.** We were honored to have **Vice-Consul Cyro Cardoso** and **Julia Glehn**, and her husband **Klaus**, among some of the Brazilian Consulate employees who came to assist the community. The mobile service goal is to reach out to people who reside within its jurisdiction but far from its headquarters.

As a member of this consulate’s **Citizens Council**, I can testify to the amazing and outstanding service that they provide to the public under the direct supervision of our **Excellency Ambassador Almir Barbuda** and his **Secretary Bernardo Brasil**.

They are planning to come again next semester. We want to thank **Pastor Samuel Belisle** who has been opening the doors of his church to our community.

Referred by the consulate, the artist **Patricia Secco** has confirmed her interest in representing Brazil in the **Artview Contemporary International Art Exhibition**. Patricia is the daughter of **Luiz Fernando Secco**. He is a “Catarinense”. “Catarinense” is the name given to a person who is born in the State of Santa Catarina. **Florianópolis** is the **Capital of Santa Catarina**.

Patricia is a renowned artist with an art gallery in Washington. She will be opening the “**Art Gallery of the Brazilian Consulate**” there in May. Patricia will also be participating the 3rd time in the **Art Biennial**, this time representing our country in New York City in September.



Consulate employees assisting citizens with a smile.



The children had a lot of fun and enjoyed the good Brazilian goodies.

***Welcome: visit our booth at LOCAL COLORS, May 15.th
Lots of fundraising Brazilian goodies.***

“Cultural Preservation Through Art,” Pearl Fu & AOW Editor

In the West it was Valentine’s Day, but in China, February 14th was Chinese “Tiger” New Year! Brian Counihan, MAF Director, thought it would be “Cool” to have Colette Fu, our daughter, be part of the festival in the an ideal venue, The Taubman Museum of Art atrium. David Mickenberg, Executive Director of the Taubman, was delighted to have the New Year celebration. It brought in a diverse citizenry of art lovers from many cultures, ages, and both genders! We, RVSC, look forward to partnering with his amiable staff in future projects. *Inclusiveness is strength!* In the Taubman’s main lecture hall that day, Colette’s *“We are Tiger People”* lecture on Chinese Minority Cultures and a *workshop* on *“Pop-Up Art”* were packed to capacity. Afterwards, she was warmly embraced by all: local artists and local people.

During Colette’s visit, Senator John Edwards and Mayor David Bowers welcomed her back to Roanoke. As a teenager, she was a young, very shy student at Governor School and Patrick Henry H. S. Now, with sharpened multi-talents as world traveler, Fulbright Scholar to China, photojournalist, French major, a repertoire of solo art shows in Philadelphia and New York behind her, she illumined the Taubman podium confidently with a prime lecture --- photographically power-point re-enforced --- about Chinese Minorities and Pop-Up-Art. Keenly focused throughout, the 100+ noon-time audience abundantly welcomed Q. & A. that Colette answered well, seasoned with some dry humor. No question, she was an accomplished and respected artist. *[www.fusansan.com] Please excuse my exuberance! But that’s just how it was.

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” ...Eleanor Roosevelt

Yi Costume Festival, Colette Fu, photojournalist & Pop-Up-Artist

I was there when nearly 2000 Yi gathered on a hillside in Yongren County, Yunnan Prov. for their annual costume festival. Their embroidery contains important symbols of Yi myths and legends:

“Long ago, there was a young Yi couple in love. They met in the forest, and the Devil, in pursuit of the girl, killed the boy. As the girl fled to the edge of the village, she suddenly heard the loud crow of a cock. An old man taught her to make a cock crow to call out the sun and drive the Devil away. Thereby the girl saved her boyfriend, and the villagers decided to show gratitude for the cock that saved the life. Yi people began to make cockscombs hats, and now believe that it can bring luckiness, brightness, safety and happiness to the world. It is said that the silver bobbles on the hat stand for stars and moon, and symbolizes eternal light and happiness.”



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[Editor: click on Colette’s blog & webpage: *[<http://fusansan.blogspot.com/2009/08/finally.html>] and *[www.fusansan.com] --- a lush display of Pop-Up-Art --- in tri-dimensional color forms of minority cultural life. Eventually her “paper-engineered” art, a mix of photographic and abstract forms, will be Colette’s intended historical preservation of diverse minorities in a China racing into the 21st Century.



“Major News for AOW’s Archives” Dr. Roth

[Editorial “Short Takes”]

Pearl Fu, Chair. of Lijiang Sister City Committee, wrote:

“One day at the office I was taken aback by a phone call from reporter **Lisa Goff**. She said, “The **Library of VA** is holding an exhibit recognizing ten immigrant citizens over the last 400 years in Virginia who have had great influence on diversity, integration, progress and service to all citizens of Virginia. *Only two of the 10 are living!* The ceremony will honor eight posthumously and two *in person*. It will take place at the **Library of Virginia** in Richmond, 5:30 p.m., January 28th. General Assembly members will also be guests for the event.”

“The honorees: **Pocohontas**, Captain **John Smith** (England), **David Ross** (Scotland), **Sarah Lucy Bagby** (African- American), **Anthony Rosenstock** (Germany), **Josef Estefan** (Hungary), **Antonio Sanson** (Sicily), **Nick & Vasilicki** (Greek), **Pablo Cuevas** (Cuban), *alive*, and the other one is *you*, **Pearl Fu!** (China).”

Never in my wildest dream had I expected this to happen. I kept uttering, “*Are you sure you have the right person?*” After being assured, over again, that I was/am the right person, I told Ms. Goff how honored I felt. It was a sacred moment --- especially wonderful that I am *alive* and can enjoy the festivities! It wouldn’t have been the same if I had totally succumbed to December’s dismal depressive thoughts. When one door closes --- another one opens! Wonders never cease!

[Editor: Pearl went to Richmond, VA, Jan. 28th, and was guided to and through the event by our dependable member, Dr. Samuel Lee Hancock, a great supporter of RVSC since its origin 4 decades ago. Sam specially drove to Richmond from his office in Wash., D.C., to be there for Pearl. A graphic of Pearl’s CV, a principle feature of the event, will be on display at the Library of Virginia for several months.]

Headline - April 10, 2010 – “President of Poland Killed in Plane Crash in Russia”

On their way to Smolensk in western Russia, arriving by plane, Polish President **Lech Kaczynski**, his wife **Maria**, and many high-ranking government officials, church, economic, social and cultural intellectual elite --- a total of 95 people--- died in a crash in dense fog. Approximately a mile from the airport, the plane struck treetops in the Katyn forest, broke apart and was totally consumed in flames. No survivors.

President **Kaczynski** and delegation were arriving for a ceremony remembering the mass murder of more than 20,000 Polish officers in the **Katyn forest** by the Soviet Red Army during its invasion of Poland in 1939. The scheduled solemn memorial event planned for in Smolensk was an attempt by Poles and Russians to express genuine mutual remorse and bring closure.

The ’39 **Katyn massacre** has been a residual point of tension between the two countries. Russian Prime Minister **Vladimir V. Putin** addressed the need to improve relations by becoming the first Russian leader to join Polish officials in commemoration of the “Katyn” anniversary. Four days after the crash, **Mr. Putin** was joined by **Donald Tusk**, Poland’s prime minister, in a memorial ceremony --- an ironic funeral --- for the *acute* and the *long* term Katyn forest tragedies.

[Editor: RVSC joins with our Opole Committee in profound sadness over Poland’s losses, while on its search for reconciliation between Poland and Russia.]

On April 14th, only four days after the above tragedy, the Icelandic volcano “**Eyjafjallajökull**” erupted spewing a horrendous ash cloud, immediately threatening the capital city, Reykjavik. Shifting winds drove the ash on high, eastward, filling all levels of atmosphere such that for two weeks most western and central Europe, including Poland, and Trans-Atlantic airways were closed.

This natural disaster added to the frustration, disappointment and dismay of the Opole Committee. To no one’s surprise, **Dr. Kris Slowikowski** was forced to postpone the April concert tour of three students and chaperone from Opole’s **Frederick Chopin School of Music**. Kris will try to reschedule the tour for the fall ’10. [See page 12]

Headline: SEOUL, April 23 ’10 (Yonhap) – “South Korea Will Host Korean War Veterans”

South Korea will host Korean War veterans from the **United States, Turkey, Colombia** and **Ethiopia** next week when they visit the country they helped save from North Korea's invasion six decades ago. About 170 veterans and their family members from the four nations will arrive Monday for a six-day trip that includes visits to war memorials, a national cemetery and a war museum, the **Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs** said in a statement.

South Korea has been inviting **Korean War veterans** since 1975, with a total of 26,000 former soldiers and their families visiting the country through last year. About 2,400 veterans and families from 21 nations will visit this year to mark the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the **Korean War** 1950-53.

Tank-led troops from North Korea made a predawn invasion on **June 25, 1950**, to start the three-year conflict. Sixteen countries dispatched troops, and five others sent medical units under the U.N. flag to help South Korea repel the communist North backed by Chinese troops. The war ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, leaving the peninsula still technically at war. jschang@yna.co.kr

[Editor: Despite the history of short shrift of Korea by the U.S. five decades before the Korean War, and because of unstinting support by America and allied United Nations contingents fighting for South Korea’s freedom, the Korean people are eternally grateful. When thankful, their generosity is without limit.]

*[Editor: In addition to the above program for Korean War Veterans, **The Republic of Korea** (South Korea) for a couple of decades has been welcoming former **Peace Corps Volunteers** from the 1967-1972 era, when PCV were numerous in Korea. This fall, Wonju City is hosting three former Wonju PVCs who were English teachers in middle schools: **John Cushing** (‘67-’70); **Ross Wiggins** and **Cathy Wiggins** (‘67- ’69). **Mayor Kim, Gi-Yeol** recalled knowing another PVC with whom he had done some service at the rural **Heungup-myeon health clinic** in 1967. He could only recall her nickname “**Dottie**.” On referral by peacecorpsconnect.org to **Richard MacIntyre** (Korea PCV ‘67-’69), I was able to get sufficient bio information to track **Dottie Platt** (Mrs. **Dorothy Platt Shippee**) to Rhode Island. On discovery of her whereabouts, Mayor Kim made an immediate special invitation to “Dottie,” but she had to refuse at this time because her elderly Father is seriously ill and she is not free to travel. Perhaps another year!]*

RFR

Editor’s apologetic mea culpa:

As readers may have noticed, AOW, March issue did not get mailed until early May. A series of obstructions, distractions, natural disasters, news articles “on-hold,” all admixed with a big dose of procrastination = delay! Hopefully the many good reports in quality and quantity are an acceptable recompense!

RFR

“The Volcano Did It!” Dr. Kris Slowikowski

O

It's no mystery: the volcano did it! We all tried very hard to plan a week of beautiful music to celebrate Frederick Chopin's 200th birthday for the Roanoke Valley, but circumstances beyond our control made plans and programs change several times, and they continued to change up until the last minute! On April 14th, when Icelandic volcanic ash began to rain down on the European continent, even as far as Poland, it saturated air space and poured down, suffocating our celebration plans.

P

As you know by now, our two scheduled concerts and the entire visit to the Roanoke Valley by three young artists and a chaperon from the Frederick Chopin School of Music in Opole were cancelled. The group was literally sitting on their suitcases, tickets in-hand on April 19th, hoping to fly to Dulles, but it was not meant to be! We hope to reschedule their visit for the fall. Stay tuned.

O

Then on Friday, April 23rd, we learned that Naomi Kudo, the finalist in the 2010 U.S. National Chopin Competition, who was scheduled to perform at Hollins University on April 30, also became a casualty of volcanic ash. She was unable to travel to Warsaw for the preliminary round of the International Chopin competition due to disrupted air travel. She learned that make-ups were scheduled for April 29 and 30th in Warsaw – thus she had to withdraw on short notice! I am very grateful to William Krause and Judith Cline of the Music Department at Hollins for not throwing up their hands, saying “we give up!” Jadwiga Gewert of the Chopin Foundation saved the day by finding a phenomenal replacement – the 2000 National Chopin Competition winner, Ning An.

L

Ning An played to standing-room-only in Talmadge Recital Hall, April 30th. At 7 pm people were lined up outside of the hall patiently waiting. By 7:30 pm the hall was overflowing, and we had to scramble for extra chairs and standing space. Both Judith and William were dumbfounded at the attendance and exclaimed that this had never been seen before at the hall!

E

What a performance! Ning introduced each segment by interpreting the mood of the music. The music was beautiful filling the hall with nocturnes, rondos, mazurkas, waltzes and show stopping scherzos. The audience responded with a standing ovation at the end. We were treated to an encore. At the reception afterwards, Ning mingled easily with guests and charmed everyone to the core. Chopin himself would not have been more proud to have such an ambassador to showcase his music.

P

Somberly, I must mention Poland's tragedy of April 10th. Tragically, Poland lost 96 individuals – some of its best and brightest leaders in an incomprehensible accident that day --- so resonant and similar to the Katyn Massacre that was to have been commemorated on that trip, so near to the site of that massacre.

A

The Katyn Massacre was carried out by Soviet Secret Police in April-May 1940. Approximately 22,000 individuals, including military officers, doctors, lawyers, landowners, priests, leaders of Polish society were murdered, shot in the back of the head and buried in mass graves. Nazi Germany announced discovery of mass graves in 1943. But the Soviet Union denied responsibility for the massacre until 1990. The April 10th loss of leadership and intelligentsia on the 70th anniversary of this massacre has shaken Poland to its core. We have begun a book of condolences and we invite you to make an entry. This book will be given to the Opole administrative delegation scheduled to visit Roanoke in June.

G

Poland's national anthem begins “jeszcze Polska nie zginela” - “Poland has not yet perished.” Frederick Chopin composed many of his beautiful works as an émigré in France. Poland had been partitioned between three European superpowers, wiped off the political map. Poland, as a country, ceased to exist. Chopin longed to return to Poland but died in France. He asked that his heart be returned to his homeland on his death; it is buried in a Warsaw church.

E

Chopin's music epitomizes the longing of Polish ex-patriots to return to their beloved homeland. He is remembered as one of the first nationalist composers. Chopin's music is technically demanding, inspired by his emotional, sensual experiences. He is the quintessential Romantic composer --- one who created musical poetry.

So, let us return to our Chopin 200th birthday celebration year. March 1st inaugurated a year-long world-wide celebration with Chopin marathon concerts stretching from Europe to Cairo's pyramids, across Asia, South America and the United States. Chopin is on a new Polish bank note and has a new museum in Warsaw commemorating his life. Earlier this year the “Endeavor” space shuttle carried a CD of Chopin's music and a copy of his Prelude opus 28 no. 7 into space. We, too, are celebrating in Roanoke!

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES CALENDAR - www.rvsci.us

April: 2010

15th - St-Lo -Welcome dinner for St-Lo delegation - 32 students + 15 adults ; Unitarian Ch.
 20th - Florianopolis – General Meeting, 419 Library, 7 p.m.
 30th – Opole -Chopin concert – artist: Ning An, 2000 winner of “Natl. Chopin Competition””
 Hollins University, Talmadge Hall, Friday -7:30 pm

May: 2010

15th - Local Colors - Elmwood Park 11- 5 p.m.
 24th – Wonju – Dr. Lee, Yonsei-Wonju Medical College visits Dr. Cynda Johnson, VT-Car SOM

June: 2010

4th – Opole Municipal delegation arrives.
 4th- Va. Statewide SCI meeting Main Library
 7th - St.Lo- Arrival of a business intern- to work with Arts Council, – need host families 989-0218
 14th – Opole delegation departs
 18 – 30th – Diane & Cory visit Kenya & Kisumu

July: 2010

10th - RVSC General Bd -Annual Picnic, Roth Home SML, 2 pm sports, 4 pm Meeting, 5:30 Dinner
 18th – St.-Lo – Bastille Day Picnic/covered dish, 5 p.m. Shelter # 4.
 29- 31st - SCI Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico- Jack Tompkins, RVSC Rep.

August: 2010

1st – Florianopolis annual picnic. Site and time TBD (Rain date 8-15)
 7th – St. Lo - departure of business intern.

November: 2010

6th– Annual Harvest Moon dinner meeting. Time and place to be announced.

Contact persons: [www.rvsci.us] Try regular reading/looking at it---it’s great!
Editor: Robert F. Roth, M.D., FACS [Ret.] Tel./FAX 540-721-6200 **E-mail: BobDotRoth@aol.com**
 Roanoke Valley Sister Cities 100 November Lane, Wirtz, Va., 24184

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

City	Membership Totals for 2000 – 2010 (as of 5-5-10)										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Wonju	88	82	94	72	82	85	74	65	74	62	16
Kisumu	55	52	64	83	57	65	68	51	50	46	20
Pskov	68	64	66	68	78	70	57	58	63	36	13
Florianópolis	47	44	45	46	41	46	42	32	39	38	21
Opole	30	24	16	16	28	27	30	18	22	20	11
Lijiang	64	64	68	95	44	55	42	34	43	37	7
St.-Lo	69	60	76	63	87	76	71	67	67	62	29
totals	421	390	429	443	417	424	384	325	358	301	117

"Membership year" starts **April 1st each year.** Dues paid after Jan. 1st 2010 continue your active membership to Mar. 31, 2011.



Ning An - a Chopin artist at the piano.



Judith Cline, Kris Slowikowski, Ning An, and William Krause, reception time!

“A Blessing to Ferrum College and to Me” Dr. Sasha Saari, Chair

In March this year, Ferrum College Russian Club officers enjoyed participating in our RVSC annual dinner meeting at Roanoke College. They were well received with applause, especially when they sang a verse of "America the Beautiful" in Russian!

These young people are among the most outstanding dynamic students on campus. Confirmation is contained in some of their activity updates:

- Two have very interesting summer opportunities waiting for them: Miss **Charlotte Moran** has been accepted to work as a camp counselor in the Russian Federation;
- Miss **Trasan Moore** has been chosen as a Smithsonian Institute Cultural Heritage summer Intern.
- Two others, who are graduating in May, will attend graduate schools: Miss **Devyn Bayes** will study at Seaton Hall University;
- Miss **Tiffany Coleman** will attend Charleston Southern.
- Miss **Corey Brooks** won a first place award at Ferrum's Undergraduate Research Conference for her work titled "Lydia Chukovskaya: Uncompromising Dissident and Writer."
- **Trasan** took second place award for her work "Searching for God in Russia: Beyond Idols and Icons."

What a great group--and those who will still be here plan to get involved with Roanoke Valley Sister Cities next semester.

Sasha

BLINI (PANCAKES)

4 cups all purpose flour
2 cups buttermilk
1 egg
1/2 tsp salt
1 tbsp sugar
1 cup warm water

Put flour in a large mixing bowl and slowly mix in the buttermilk. Beat well. Mix in the salt, sugar and egg - stirring until blended. Warm water may be added if the mixture is too thick.

Set the batter aside for 10 minutes.

Pour ¼ cup mixture onto a heated oil greased pan and move the pan around to coat the bottom as evenly as possible. When the edge begins to brown, flip onto the other side using a spatula. When the other side is browned, remove and place on a plate. Repeat until all batter is used.

Serve warm with sour cream, jam, cottage cheese, mushrooms or herring on top.

Serves 6.

RUSSIAN TEA CAKES

1 cup butter softened
1/2 cup powdered sugar
1 tsp vanilla
2 ¼ cup flour
¼ tsp salt
¾ cup finely chopped nuts
Powdered sugar for dusting

Preheat the oven to 400. Mix the butter, powdered sugar and vanilla in a bowl. Add the flour, salt and nuts and blend together until the dough sticks together. Shape into one inch balls and place onto an un-greased cookie sheet.

Bake until set but not browned - about 10 - 12 minutes.

Roll in powdered sugar.

Served with Chai.

A "membership year" starts April 1st each year. However, dues paid after Jan. 1st 2010 continue your active membership to March 31, 2011.

(Form: annual membership in Roanoke Valley Sister Cities- 2010)

Annual membership dues **per** city (*) of interest:

Individual \$10 Family \$25 Donor \$50
 Sponsor \$100 Sustainer \$250 Corporate \$500

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An individual:
 [Example: 1 city \$10.00
 2 cities 20.00
 5 cities 50.00

Special gift donations: (specify: Corporate Acct. &/or city/ cities)
 Consul \$250 Ambassador \$500 President \$1000
 Special friend r \$ _____ For: _____

A family: 1 city 25.00
 3 cities 75.00
 etc.]

Name: _____

Mail to: **Roanoke Valley Sister Cities
 P.O. Box 136**

Address: _____

Roanoke, Va., 24002

[Executive Dir. **Jack Tompkins**]

City: _____ Zip: _____

Date: _____

Tel. (h): _____ (w): _____ FAX: _____ E-mail - _____

Make check out to ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES

* Record name(s) of your chosen Sister City (cities) in cheque "Memo" and check below:

Wonju Kisumu Pskov Florianopolis Opole Lijiang St. Lo

[All gifts/donations are tax deductible to extent provided by law.]

[501 © 3 - Fed. ID # 51-0246592]

Information: Tel/ FAX 540-721-6200; (Jack Tompkins, Exec. Director, tel. 343-9779)



A Reminder of the LOCAL COLORS FESTIVAL from Pearl!

******* 20th Anniversary *******

11am **OPENING CEREMONY:** Local Dignitaries, colorguard, America's national anthem.

PARADE OF NATIONS: Dressed in their native attire and holding their flags, each country's reps march proudly around the park recognized by the emcee (*moi*) with tidbits about their country and why they came to Roanoke.

Non-stop **SINGING, DANCING, MUSIC, MARTIALARTS** from **Philippines, Burundi, Bangladash, China, Korea, Egypt, Tahiti, India, Mexico, Ireland, Syria, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Haiti**, etc. Lots more, lots of foods, lots of visitors!

You are in for an awesome LC day, Saturday, May 15,th 2010, 11- 6 p.m., Elmwood Park! Feel free to say hello to me. I'll be honored to have my picture taken with you. I am committed to stay on stage till the very last entertainment is finished. Hope some of the food will be saved for me! Roanoke Life resumes, the better for it, after "**LOCAL COLORS**" is done!

P.F.

[540-904-2234 or 580-0341; www.localcolors.org PearlFu@aol.com]

All RVSC committees will be there with displays, sales and foods!

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ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES, INC.
P.O. BOX 136
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www.rvsci.us

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ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES



- P. 1- “Roanoke & Saint-Lô: 12 years of Twinning”- Fassie
P. 2 - “Wonju Students Land in Snowy Roanoke!” - Sandy Lyle
P. 3 - Wonju Photo Gallery- Lyle

-
- P. 4-5 – Wonju -Ann Trinkle’s Photo Gallery
“An Artist’s Eye-view of Wonju, Korea” - Ann Trinkle
P. 6-7 “Dr. Ruby Sokwala &
The Roanoke Chapter of The Links, Inc.” - Dr. Harmon

-
- P. 8 - “Brazilian Consulate Visit to Roanoke” - Joslaine Austin
P. 9 - “Cultural Preservation Through Art,” - Pearl Fu

-
- P. 10- “A Blessing to Ferrum College” Dr. Sasha Saari
P. 11 - CHOPIN’S 200th BIRTHDAY Recital – Dr. Kris Slowikowski
P. 12-13 - “Short Takes...” Dr. R. F. Roth
P. 14 – Calendar & Membership Totals
P. 15 - Membership Renewal P. 16 - Cover page and Index