



Around Our World

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES, INC.

Volume 16, Issue 1

JANUARY – APRIL 2012

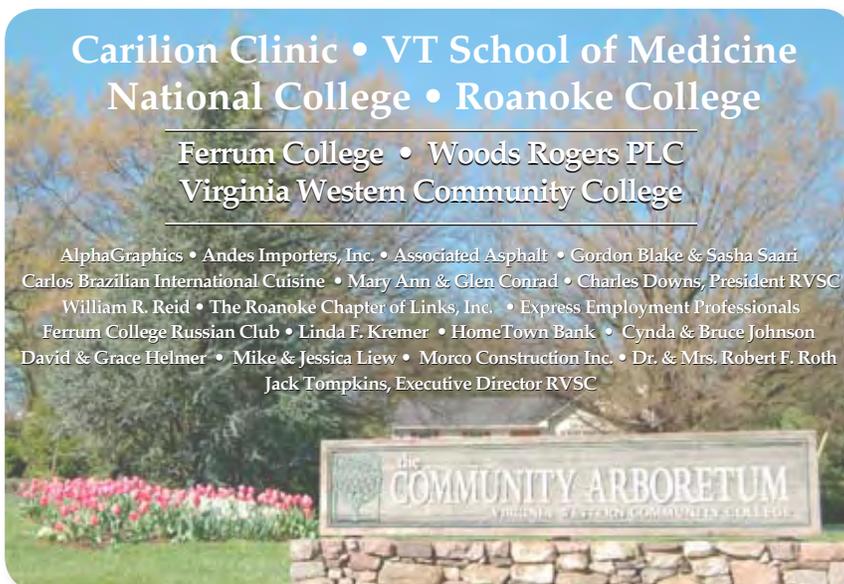
“An International Evening in the Garden”

If you missed it, you really missed a grand event! Those who attended RVSC’s fund raiser May 7th in “The Garden” were surrounded by fragrant, colorful natural facets of carefully selected plantings, now mature, thanks to three decades of master gardening by VWCC Horticulture Prof. Lee Hipp, assisted early on by Landscape Prof. Dr. Lee, then an exchange faculty member from Wonju’s Sangji College.

It was a remarkably ideal site for our first “garden fund raiser.” The Dr. Charles L. Downs Natural Science Center was dedicated 12 years ago in honor of fmr. VWCC President Dr. Downs (1980-2000), who is now the Corporate President of RVSC (2010-). On a crest of the East Campus, the Center overlooks all garden grounds. The decision to use the garden came from our experienced civic leader Mary Ann Conrad, a Sister Cities’ Corporate Bd. member, and also, with Judge Glen E. Conrad, neighbors of the campus. Mary Ann has worked with RVSC since 1993. She is currently active on the Kisumu, Kenya Sister City Committee. Over ten weeks of preparation, she skillfully brought almost every Liaison Committee and Board member into a chosen role play.

One hundred supporters came for the evening. The weather cooperated admirably with low 70s, light breeze and some blue sky. Buffet and Beverage tables were positioned throughout the central grassed gently sloping garden plain. At the garden entrance, Olga Vlasova artistically plucked an Ukrainian harp --- 65 strings, some of its music centuries old. Set in the garden’s western gazebo, Mr. Berg Martins, mixed on keyboard Basso Profundo with popular other music. The ambience of the evening was a totally natural elixir rightly designed to alleviate stresses which somebody may have lugged that day at 5 p.m. from the office, practice, plant/shop, wherever!

Here’s some evidence of what you missed:



The Roanoke Valley Sister Cities

Cordially invite you to

An International Evening In the Garden

(to stroll through the gardens,
International hors d’oeuvres and wine tasting)

May 7, 2012

5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Charles L. Downs Natural Science Center
Virginia Western Community College Arboretum
RSVP by Monday, April 30, 2012 | Reply Card

Questions: Jack32t@cox.net | 540-343-9779

Proceeds support the Roanoke Valley Sister Cities Program
in its Mission for International Friendship and World Peace

An International Evening In the Garden



Musicians

Olga Vlasova - 65 stringed Ukrainian Harp
Mr. Berg Martins - Keyboard

Caterer

Plantation Creations Catering and Events

Asian Food Station (Korea & China)

Kalbi- Korean Marinated short Ribs in a brown sugar soy glaze
Namul - stir-fried vegetables seasoned with sesame oil, salt, vinegar, minced garlic,
chopped green onions, dried chili peppers, and soy sauce
Secular Chicken Satay with Hoison Glaze
Chinese Noodles
*[Table with Red Cloth and Cherry Blossom Overlay
mini Chinese take-out boxes & chop sticks]*

European Tour Station (France, Russia, & Poland)

Round table - French Cheeses, some soft, some hard and some very intense,
as well as baked Camembert perfect for dipping crusty bread.
Baguette Bread and Crostinis
Cheeses displayed with Vegetable Crudities with unique dips,
Assorted Russian Cookies & Polish Kolackys
[Linens in Green with lace topper, Copper and wooden serving pieces]

Celebration Station - (Brazil & Kenya)

Rustic Stew Feijoada of Beans, Salt pork, sausages Served with Basmati rice
Kachumbari Salad, a popular East African Dish- tomato, onion, carrots,
cucumber, chilis, coriander, lemon & salt
Tropical Fruits Palm Tree - with skewered tropical fruits and dips
[Colorful linens themed of the tropics of Brazil and Africa]

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*Education Presidents shared camaraderie & cuisine -
Dr. Robert H. Sandel, Dr. Charles L. Downs, Dr. Michael C. Maxey.*



*Mary Jo Fassié, Siobhan Scro, Mary Williams,
Cammie Williams*



*Paul Oh (photo supplier!), Dianne Peters, Norma
Jean Peters*



*National College delegation sponsors-
Ron Smith, Phil Sparks, Jamil Srou, Lew Bishop*



*Locking arms, Althea Polk, Donna Lee, Connie Steele,
'Ms. Brazil' Joslaine Austin and Marylen Harmon*

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Top contributors: Linda appreciates Mary Ann's 'May 7th' work --- Mary Ann...Linda's services.



With Ukrainian harp and voice, Olga Vlasova welcomed guests and Dr. Downs.



Rice bowls in hand, Kris Slowikowski and Mayor Bowers enjoy the Asian table.



Bernard Marie enjoyed the evening & cuisine with friends.



Sister City guests congregated at the Korean- Chinese cuisine Table



Pskov, Russia



Roanoke, Virginia



ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES



Kisumu, Kenya



Lijiang, China



Wonju, Korea



Opole, Poland



Saint-Lô, France



Florianópolis, Brazil

alphagraphics®

increase your reach

“Friends & Places in Kisumu, Kenya” - Dr. Marylen Harmon, Chair.
Dr. Julius Nyawando Onyango

Dr. Julius Nyawando Onyango has worked as Senior Radiotherapy Oncologist in Kisumu, Kenya since 1975. Extensive training and experience at Karolinka Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden and at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, England prepared him for this service role. In 1998, Dr. Onyango established the “Kisumu Hospice & Palliative Care Center.” The center is staffed by dedicated volunteers who daily assist in therapy of many patients.



A major interest of Dr. Onyango is “Management of Burkitt’s Lymphoma in Children.” He is well known for balancing both radiotherapy and chemotherapy to treat the disease. Presently he is developing pain control for children with Burkitt’s Lymphoma at the Nyanza Hospital/ New Provincial Hospital in Kisumu.

He also serves as Dean of Kisumu’s new Maseno School of Medicine. Dr. Onyango is well respected for both knowledge and compassion.

New Life Home Trust

A few years ago Dr. Marylen Harmon, Dr. Diane D’Orazio and son, Cory D’Orazio, had a ‘first’ wonderful opportunity to visit with children and staff at “New Life Home Trust.” They took a tour and did the first assessment of the needs of the home. It was apparent that New Life Home in Kisumu is a well-run facility for orphan children. A special feature is their ability to house, teach and love children with disabilities. As a member of the Roanoke Chapter of the Links, Inc., Marylen presented a generous donation to support their care.



Over the years, the staff clearly understands how to care for young children. They are open to new strategies, and conduct workshops in training children with special needs. Helping children with handicaps is not an easy job! But they do it well. Our Roanoke-Kisumu Committee has provided additional funds to meet assessed needs. Updates and financial reports are available.

“Rhoda”

Rhoda Maua is a special needs child who entered “New Life” unable to speak. Using specifically special tailored sign language and therapies they have helped her be able to communicate. She has shown progress in putting words and even some sentences together. Dr. Ruby Sokwala keeps our Roanoke-Kisumu Committee informed on home progress through newsletters and e-mails.



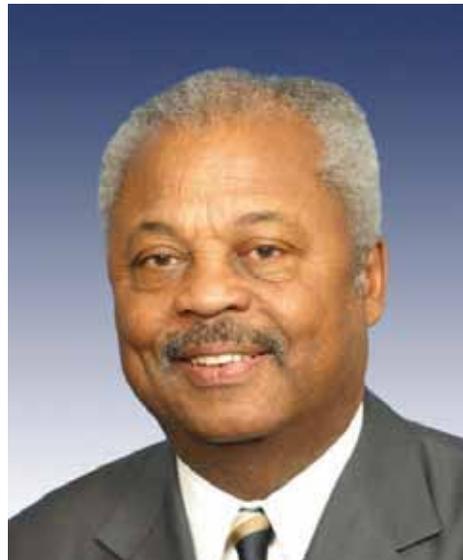
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In Memory of U.S. Representative Donald Payne

Donald M. Payne was the U.S. Representative for New Jersey's 10th Congressional district from 1989 until his death.

He was a member of the Democratic Party and the first African American to represent New Jersey in Congress. Payne's voting record was consistently progressive among New Jersey Congressmen at the time of his death. In international issues, Payne was active on issues relating to Africa. He was active in U.S. House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee re. International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight. Rep. Payne was one of five congressmen to accompany former Pres. Bill Clinton & former First Lady Hillary R. Clinton on their historic six-nation tour of Africa.



On April 13, 2009, Payne's plane was departing from Mogadishu, Somalia, when Somali fighters fired mortars at the airport. Fortunately, Rep. Payne was unhurt --- the plane was taking off and already in the air! The attack came just one day after Captain Richard Phillips was rescued from Somali pirates after their failed hijacking the M V Maersk Alabama. Payne began treatment for colon cancer on Feb. 10, 2012, but soon died at age 77.

Congressman Payne was a long-time friend of Sister Cities International. In 2008, he was awarded SCI's Guido Award for Advocacy. He is sorely missed. Marylen.

"Miracle of Missions Rummage Sale – 2012" - Dr. Diane D'Orazio

Blessings for All to All!

Ten years ago, an idea was born. How could we get medical supplies to our friends in Kisumu, Kenya without the challenges of shipping and customs? Dr. Ruby Sokwala, our new friend in Kisumu in 2002, suggested we raise the money and purchase what was needed there in Kenya, thus, avoiding the headaches (and costs) of shipping while benefiting the local economy at the same time. The first "Miracle of Missions" Rummage Sale was held at South Roanoke United Methodist Church that year (2002) to benefit the Kisumu Medical Fund which was administered in country by Dr. Sokwala, a family physician. Since then, we've had numerous sales with the latest held April 21st in the SRUMC fellowship hall. Two days before the sale, we realized a Roanoke City marathon race was going to take place the same day as the sale. Roads leading to the sale would be blocked! Panic initially set in, until I was reminded that this wasn't OUR sale. God was in control and He brought something beautiful from it, a miracle! Despite the threat, we surpassed our goal of \$2000. Final count \$2,265.00! We donated remaining items to the Salvation Army, the Roanoke Rescue Mission, and gave useful household items to a family who had lost everything in a fire. Best of all, many more folks now know about our friendships in Kisumu, Kenya. Thanks go to everyone who has made our sales successful this and over the years. You have changed *and* saved lives. Thank you! Diane

“INTO AFRICA 2012” Dr. Diane D’Orazio, Sec.

Our bags are packed and the excitement is building! In less than a week, my son Cory and I will be back in Kenya reuniting with old friends and making new connections. After a few days spent in Nairobi, we will travel on to Kisumu to spend the next three weeks meeting with organizations our RKSCC supports and making new contacts for future projects with our “sister” committee, the Kisumu-Roanoke Sister City Committee (KRSCC).

While in Kisumu, we’ll be exploring opportunities for medical students from Roanoke’s new medical school, the Virginia Tech-Carilion School of Medicine (VTCSOM), to gain experience in global medicine by spending 2-4 weeks in Kisumu. Fortunately there’ll be no language barrier since virtually all educated Kenyans use English with aplomb.

And I recently met with VTCSOM Founding Dean, President Dr. Cynda Johnson and current Roanoke City Vice-Mayor Dr. Dave Trinkle, also Associate Dean of Community and Culture at the School of Medicine, to discuss their new Global Medicine Program. With our longstanding 36 year friendships and projects in Kisumu as foundations, we hope to provide overseas opportunities for Roanoke medical students who are interested in pediatrics, hospice/palliative care, OB/GYN, and family practice.

Kisumu has been the venue for many international organizations, including the U. S. Government, in researching HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other infectious and parasitic diseases. By connecting our medical communities, the ripple effect on both cities and their citizens’ health could be quite amazing, and, through research, might also effect world public health. We’re very excited about this project and look forward to sharing our findings when Cory and I return.

Diane



“Virginia Tech-Carilion School of Medicine”

2-Riverside Circle, Roanoke, VA 24016

540-526-2500

[P. O. Box 13727, Roanoke, VA 24036-3727]

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Roanoke & Saint-Lô: Notre Mission

Mary Jo Fassié, Chair



The relationship between our two cities is founded on the commitment to continue the vision of WWII D-Day Veterans like Bob Slaughter and Chuck Neighbor. It is a commitment to not let others forget what happened during this war and to keep the relationship between our two countries vibrant and active as we carry on the mission of our Sister Cities.

This mission includes first and foremost youth exchanges and college internships so that the appreciation of our two cultures and its history is transmitted to the next generation.

The summer of 2012 will include two internships on both sides of the Atlantic, an exchange trip of youth and adults from Roanoke, and the return of our intern last summer.

Jordan Barger, a student at Appalachian State who is studying design and French, will intern in St-Lô, helping with Sister City events, work with the Music Hall and perhaps with artist, Jane Motin. Jordan has hosted French students multiple times and was part of the 2009 trip to Normandy.

Marie Vérove, niece of Jeanine Vérove, director of the St-Lô Sister City, will come to Roanoke during July and August. Marie, a highly motivated art history student with experience in museum curatorship, will intern with the Taubman Museum of Art where she will participate in summer art camps for children at the museum as well as other elements of running a museum.

Cammie Williams, vice-chair, will return to France with a group from June 26-July 8. They will spend a week in our Sister City, visiting the D-Day beaches, Mont Saint Michel and enjoying the Fete de la Vire. She will be joined in Saint-Lô by the Dr. Donna Musgrave family, who hosted our intern last summer. Cammie's group of six students from William Byrd and Cave Spring High Schools and 3 adults from our Sister City Committee will conclude with four days in Paris.

In August, we will be happy to greet our intern from last summer, Inès Yahy, who intends to take advantage of the generous tuition grant offered by National College. Inès, a student in the law department of the University of Caen, France, will study in the Paralegal Program at National. She is excited to return to the Roanoke Valley where she made many friends and had the privilege of shadowing a variety of lawyers from Roanoke.



*La Chapelle de la Madeleine:
Museum dedicated to American Soldiers who
liberated Saint-Lô*

“DIVERSITY” - Ana Silva & Joslaine Austin

Striving towards a greater emphasis on diversity, Roanoke Valley Sister Cities and Sister Cities International have reached out within the community as well as around the globe. Our goal is to increase not only awareness of different cultures abroad, but also provide knowledge of our community to those around the world.

As a young girl, I was enamored with the United States. My life long goal of living in the U.S. was fulfilled through much time and effort. Without the help of supportive family members and friends, however, my dreams would have never taken off. We hope to provide similar opportunities for children abroad, so that they too might be able to fulfill their dreams. The Sister Cities hopes to reach the community at home as well as the foreign community with their latest partner, National College in Salem, Virginia.

The students at National College are given challenging opportunities to expand on their English Language skills while acquiring degrees in a multitude of majors. One of National College's most recent grants was offered to the Sister Cities. This grant will provide tuition/placement of one student in the College per year from each Roanoke Sister City. Another grant offered which fits in with the Sister Cities' goal of diversity is the Cultural Awareness Grant. Accomplishing that which it claims, this grant is designed to bring foreign students so that both American culture and those abroad can mutually benefit.

But awareness abroad is not the only goal of the Sister Cities' Committee. For this purpose, we speak with children in local schools about the importance of diversity. On April 24th, I had the chance to speak with the students at Westside Elementary about understanding Brazilian culture which may seem foreign to us. In order to expand further on the idea of diversity, we continued to speak to teachers in the area. One such location was the Roanoke County “English as a Second Language” teachers' meeting. During the meeting on the 26th of April, we spoke about future PenPal school partnerships with Santa Catarina. Thanks to the English and Virtual High School Coordinator of Roanoke County Public Schools, Joe LeGault, the discussions were instructive to all who attended.

Come join us in our effort to raise culture awareness!

Ana & Joslaine



Westside Elementary School Roanoke, VA on April 24th, 2012



Ron Smith and Joslaine Austin at the 2012 Annual Dinner

Polish Pride - Dr. Kris Slowikowski

O Poland was the *featured* country at the annual Local Colors Festival, May 19th, 2012 in Elmwood Park. Months of preparation culminated in an --- ‘answer-to-prayer’ --- fabulous weather day highlighting: the colorful grand Parade of Nations, decked out with our local Polish community members dressed in native Polish costumes, the annual Kielbasa fundraiser for our Sister City of Opole and the featured guest, the Polish folk dance ensemble – “MICHAS.” The Roanoke Times had a wonderful article highlighting our planned activities for the day. The Michas Dance Ensemble of Virginia Beach entertained the crowd with highly energetic dances from several regions of Poland. One of the most colorful was the “goral dance with ciupagas”. Audience participation was highly encouraged; they had a full crowd on the dance floor by the end of the day.

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O Our mission for the day was to celebrate Poland, educate the public about Sister Cities --- especially about Opole and Roanoke County, showcase the Polish community in Roanoke and to reach out to Poles and Polish Americans in southwest and central Virginia. We accomplished our mission on all points. We were happy to have Butch Church –Roanoke County Supervisor – march along with us in the parade.

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E Our handouts on regional food markets, 10 best Polish foods, Famous Poles, world heritage sites, best Polish vodkas and beers, how to pronounce Polish words and tongue twisters were big hits. We had multigenerational Polish Americans visit from Lynchburg, Danville, Covington, West Virginia as well as those in the Roanoke area that had never attended the festival before– excited to find Polish items and to have a chance to speak Polish and share something about their heritage.

We would like to thank Linda Kremer and staff at Alphagraphics for the great job that they did on beautiful banners, handouts and the extremely popular Polish flag stickers that were given out to those that visited our display booth.

P Roanoke County high school art students did a lovely project for the festival. The students created colorful posters illustrating 10 famous Poles and why they are remembered. The names of Pope John Paul II, Lech Walesa, Frederik Chopin, Casimir Pulaski were some of the names highlighted. The posters surrounded the stage at the festival and were in full view for the public to admire. The Polish embassy also supplied wonderful handouts.

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G This event would not have been successful without the tireless help of the many volunteers that participated. It takes a village to bring a project to successful fruition. We can take pride in the celebrating one of the best Local Colors events ever.

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To all – a big thank you!
Kris



“A Happy Host-Family ‘Voice of Experience’” - Jeannette Hayes

This year, the Hayes family filled the month of January with the typical traditions: making resolutions, getting Christmas bills paid, getting back to school and back into an exercise routine. Atypically for us, and for all of you, we also spent a lot of our January with Korean exchange students. For us it was primarily with one 14-year old girl named Hae-ri (“Hay-Ree”). Thanks to Sandy Lyle, Chairperson, we were hooked up to the Roanoke-Wonju Sister City Student Exchange Program. We became hosts to Hae-ri for three weeks, from January 11th to February 1st. Sandy is the one who can tell you all about the program. Her role is impressive! As for me, I was very nervous. I was adding to an already busy schedule with 3 kids in 3 different schools, each with very active sports schedules, plus a travelling husband. Since the Korean students needed to be at Virginia Western Community College [VWCC] every morning, I realized the key to making this work was that lovely word – “car-pool.” As it happened, Sandy needed 3 more host families, so I sent out emails to my neighbors with teenagers. In the end, we had 5 host-families from Roanoke and 4 from Salem hosting 9 middle school students from Wonju, Korea.



We all met at the airport with big signs and colored balloons to greet our tired new friends. We soon realized their degrees of English fluency were varied from almost none to quite fluent with Hae-ri being some where in the middle. We brought her home, showed her the bedroom, and passed out. The next morning, after a bowl of Cheerios, Hae-ri was picked up by one of my lovely carpool friends. She spent the morning in class and the afternoon shopping and sightseeing. We didn’t see her again until that night at a Welcome Potluck-Dinner. The days following were similar, with her days filled until around 4 with school and scheduled activities. We spent our evenings getting to know her, taking her to school games, eating out, shopping and watching television. We learned a handy tool, called Google Translate, that is quite helpful.

The students really like group activities. The first weekend I hosted a sleepover with 3 Korean girls and 3 American girls plus my own. They had so much fun playing games, eating tacos and smores and Korean noodles, doing hair and nails, and being silly teenage girls. The families also got together for bowling, ice skating, shopping, dinner and just meeting at different houses throughout the visit. Rob took a group to a Virginia Tech basketball game, where they met the Hokie Bird. The students toured Roanoke College and also attended a Lunar New Year event with their families.



On their last weekend, the students go to DC with chaperones and visit museums, monuments and the White House. They stay in a hotel and get to buy souvenirs for their family. We end the visit with another potluck dinner. The students each present a speech in English that they have worked on all day. It was very touching. Hae-ri said her favorite thing was going to Skyler’s basketball game and meeting all her friends. She liked her day at Salem High School with Jordan, saying it was quite different from her school. She said she wants to return for college and plans to keep in touch via Facebook with my girls and their friends.

The house seemed a little empty after Hae-ri left.

We are already talking about hosting again next year! We may never get to Korea, but feel this is the next best thing.
Jeannette

“Reminiscing While Looking Ahead” - Pearl Fu, Chair

The Chinese Lijiang Sister City program has been obviously quite quiet these past few years due to my challenging health. I struggle every day, living with Parkinson’s disease. It makes me slower but I continue to dedicate and commit myself to two of my most important programs, Sister Cities and Local Colors. I do have a dream to return to Lijiang, in the near future. Our #3 daughter, Colette, suggests that I go this year...*you never know what’s in store for me! Perhaps?*

January-February are busy months: each year schools and businesses request more and more programs during the Chinese New Year. In 2012, the “Year of the Dragon” fell on Jan. 23rd with 15 days of celebration. Feb. 4th was the 3rd year for a combined Sister Cities’ and Local Colors’ New Year celebration to be held at beautiful Taubman Museum of Art. The ‘dragon’ ----- “Lung” in Chinese, my maiden name--- is the most revered animal among twelve in the Asian horoscope. Any child born in a dragon year will achieve high accomplishments no matter the career path he or she chooses. (*shshhh, I added my gender too*). Born on Dragon Boat Festival day, It’s a lucky year - I hope!



Dancers from Nepal with their mentor, Diane (left) and Pearl (right).

We were very fortunate to have talents and goodwill of higher education centers and the wider community. This year, we reached to Blacksburg and Radford. The talented performers were Blacksburg Chinese School, David White Shaolin Dragons, Jane Wang’s violin students, Radford University, Roanoke Chinese Association, and VA Tech- Dr. M. Komelski. The day was filled non-stop with dancing, singing, violin and *erhu* music, martial arts, fashion show, puppetry, calligraphy, card making, games, crafts, red lucky-envelopes and more. *Accessible to all, admission is free!* More than 1,000 people attended the event. Already, people are asking if we are planning 2013th.

Throughout the year, I receive requests to give talks on cultural sensitivity, Local Colors and Sister Cities programs. One annual event that I find important is speaking at Roanoke College’s “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” celebration. I overheard someone whisper, “Why is a Chinese woman talking about Dr. MLK?” *She obviously missed what Dr. King stood & fought for --- INCLUSIVENESS! DIVERSITY! JUSTICE!* If you resolve to do, you CAN DO ANYTHING! This was confirmed when the Library of Virginia awarded me in 2011 the “Virginia Women in History Award”, a remembrance along with seven other inspirational, dynamic women. Five deceased, three are alive. I’m happy to still be here!

To Dr. King’s words, “I have a dream where little black boys & little black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys & little white girls as sisters and brothers.” May ‘Dragon’ Pearl add



Philippine dancers with Pearl (center).

brown, red and ...? The Local Colors Festival, in which Sister Cities takes an active role, is when you’ll see in action, a dream coming true! We had dancers and singers from Poland, Mexico, Germany, South Korea, Haiti, Syria, Nepal, Burundi, India, China, the Philippines, Egypt, Ireland, Brazil, Spain, and South Sudan. A very exciting and diversified celebration. You can travel around the world without leaving downtown Roanoke. In unity, we can achieve anything/ everything. On May 19th, we celebrated our 22nd year with 30,000+ people. *Together, we become real people!* Pearl

“It Looks to be a Splendid Year ahead.” - Dr. Charles L. Downs

Once again, this year on March 17th, the annual RVSC meeting was a grand event!

Thanks to the planning committee, the food, the program, and the entertainment were top-notch. And much needed business was accomplished. The membership in attendance approved a corporate board recommended revision to RVSC by-laws which changed our fiscal year hence forth to July 1st – June 30th.

Mr. Roy Smith, Director of Admissions of National College (www.national-college.edu), together with Mr. Peter H. Laws, ESL Program Director, and Mr. Phillip F. Sparks, Director of Marketing, announced and presented a generous \$500.00 gift to the May 7th RVSC's “An International Evening in the Garden” fund raising campaign and \$500.00 to each sister city committee, for a contribution totaling \$4,000.00 . National College is also planning a scholarship/grant program to assist *one* visiting student from *each* of our *seven* sister cities in the coming year. All Committee Chairs should be well informed about this generous grant program.

Proforma, the Corporate Board met after the dinner and approved Mr. Adam H. Alexander, Branch Manager/Vice President, SunTrust Bank as the newest board community-member. His membership fills the last seat on the corporate board for 2012- 2013.

The board also approved an *emergency advance* of \$500.00 to the St.Lô Committee to help complete their arrangements for a Roanoke student group's visit to France early this summer.

The next meeting of the Corporate Board will be June 13th, 5:30 p.m. at Virginia Tech/Carilion School of Medicine, 2 Riverside Circle --- the building immediately to the left from the S. Jefferson St. entrance. Good parking and easy access are available.

Agenda items include: Approval of next fiscal year's (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013) corporate budget and discussion of ideas to allocate future corporate resources. The standing resources committee will report on these items. The committee includes the Corporate Treasurer; Mary Ann Conrad; Will Andrews, Liaison Treasurer; Patrick Hughes; Kris Slowikowski; Dr. Roth, Liaison Chair.; and ex officio: Dr. Charles Downs and Jack Tompkins.

An ad hoc nominating committee (Dr. Marylen Harmon, Dr. Sasha Saari, & Pearl Fu) will recommend a slate of corporate officers for the coming year to include President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The overall board work-plan for the coming year will be also be reviewed as well as the responsibilities of the executive director. There will be time for open discussion of any topics of general interest to the board. Of course, any member of RVSC is welcome to attend, comment, or present ideas and issues-of-interest.

If you cannot make the meeting, share such thoughts with your city committee chair or one of the committee members noted above.

Thanks to the ongoing work of all board and city committees --- it looks to be a splendid year ahead for RVSC.

Dr. Downs

Pskov and Ferrum:

- Andrey Volovik, our spring semester Pskov student at Ferrum, has returned to Pskov after an end-of-semester special trip to New York.
- Pskov Pedagogical University has chosen a new student participant, a young woman, for the Ferrum fall semester 2012.
- Ferrum student Heather Bozarth is beginning a summer internship with Norfolk Sister Cities.

Sasha Sarri

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Wonju + Korea:

NEW YORK, May 27 '12 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean student graduated from Harvard University as a "highest ranking undergraduate," the first time a Korean student has won the honor. Economics major Jin, Kwon-Young, 20, and one other graduate were assessed equal best of 1,552 students who graduated from the prestigious university in a ceremony on May 24th. Jin, who moved to the U.S. as a sixth grader, completed the undergraduate course in three years, one year earlier than usual, and his grade point average was 4.0 out of 4.0. He was awarded the John Williams Prize as top graduate in economics. Jin was accepted by both Harvard and Yale law schools. *He chose Yale.*

SPECIAL! "The Wonju Sister City Invitation" for parents with adopted Korean children! Ms. Jeong, Eun-Suk --- *International Cooperation Affairs Adviser* to Mayor Won, Chang-Mug --- helped plan and is now implementing this program. Via e-mail [saranhye@korea.kr], the Mayor and Eun-Suk invite one parent or both & one or two adopted Korean children to tour Wonju, Seoul, national parks and tourist sites from (Thurs.) Oct. 4th to (Wed.) Oct. 10th, 2012 --- 6 nights, 7 days. [All costs in-country are covered.](#) [Travel costs to Korea are not included.](#)

Ms. Jeong's office phone: 011-82-33-737-3899 or 011-82-33-737-2293; Fax: 011-82-33-737-4804 7
Address: Wonju City Hall, 1 Sicheongno, Wonju-Si, Kangwon-Do 220-703; Rep. of Korea.

Wonju Sister City Chair Sandy Lyle [Tel. 989-8718] lylo44@cox.net will assist interested parents and children with further information and communications with Ms. Jeong who speaks good English and has visited Roanoke many time. This generous blessing arises from Korean Culture, a people who act out of gratitude for acts of kindness to all persons with Korean roots.

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A Major Loss in the RVSC family:

The passing of John Robert (Bob) Slaughter on May 29th, 2012 was recorded in the Roanoke Times Obituary. He was a giant among WWII veterans from Roanoke, especially related to the Normandy D-Day, June 6, 1944 landing and the Bedford D-Day Memorial. Peggy Wells reports, "Many of our French friends have written, and we were able to pass along several good wishes to Margaret, who was much appreciative." [See page 15 for more information]

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AOW Editor's Apologia! He had the best intention to get Vol. 16, issue 1 printed and mailed by May 1st, regretting that the May 7th IEG fund raiser would not be included. Regret vanished when a horrific hale storm at SML, Mar. 24th, stopped all progress. Overlooked hale damage grew exponentially. Other endless obstructions: lightning caused phone and internet loss for 10 days; had to be OOT 5 days; a stone smashed windshield; failed grass cutters; more storms; endless insurance company business re. hale damage delayed printing/posting AOW till mid-June. Another regret!

RFR

ROANOKE VALLEY SISTER CITIES -CALENDAR - www.rvsci.us

May: 2012

7th - "An International Evening in the Garden" VWCC Downs Center/Arboretum 5- 7 pm

June: 2012

13th RVSC Corporate Bd, Va.Tech/Carilion School of Medicine, 2 Riverside Cir., 5:30 p.m.

27th - * St-Lo - delegation leaves for St-Lô/Paris.

July: 2012

8th - * St-Lô/Paris trip - delegation returns

14th- RVSC Corp. Bd. Annual Picnic dinner meeting- location to be determined.

19th -- St-Lô Bastille Day Pique-nique, 5 p.m place TBA

September: 2012

11th – Florianopolis – Meeting. New Roanoke County Library, 7 p.m.

Contact persons: [www.rvsci.us] Regularly check it out ---it's beautiful.

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

(Form: annual membership in Roanoke Valley Sister Cities- 2012-13) new renewal

As of July 1st 2012:

An individual:

Annual membership dues per city (*) of interest:

[Example: 1 city \$15.00

Individual \$15 Family \$30 Donor \$50

2 cities 30.00

Sponsor \$100 Sustainer \$250 Corporate \$500

5 cities 75.00

Special gift donations: (specify: Corporate Acct. &/or city/ cities)

A family: 1 city 30.00

Consul \$250 Ambassador \$500 President \$1000

3 cities 90.00]

Name: _____

Mail to: Roanoke Valley Sister Cities

P.O. Box 136

Address: _____

Roanoke, Va., 24002

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.]

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John Robert Slaughter ended his long march on May 29, 2012.

On June 6, 1944, 19 year old Sergeant Slaughter landed on Omaha Beach as a member of D Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry, 29th Division. He survived the war, came home to Roanoke, VA, got a job, got married, and raised a family. But he never forgot what happened on the beaches of Normandy.

On the 50th anniversary of D-Day, he walked Omaha Beach with President Clinton describing what transpired. Bob thought that the heroes of that fateful day, who had given their all, deserved a memorial for what they accomplished. During the 90's, he worked tirelessly to persuade people and to raise money to build a fitting tribute to his comrades in arms. On June 6, 2001, he introduced President George W. Bush who dedicated the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA. Roanoke is not alone in mourning its local son. Bob was responsible for Roanoke and St. Lo, France becoming Sister Cities in 1998. He is loved and revered in St. Lo just as much as in his hometown.

[Brief Obituary by Dr. Hugh Wells]

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