



Wilmington to Host International Symposium



Wilmington's first Sister Cities Symposium, "Connecting People & Ideas," promises a dynamic agenda of keynote speakers, panel discussions, presentations of in-depth

papers and social events, April 15-18, 2012. International visitors, as well as others from outside our area, will see what Wilmington offers as a business, cultural, educational, and tourism center.

Hosted by the Wilmington Sister Cities Commission and the Sister Cities Association of Wilmington, the symposium is designed for policy makers, business and community leaders, researchers and educators. Invitations to present papers and to attend have gone to sister city communities in Belize, Barbados, China, England, France, Germany, Poland, Japan, Mexico, El Salvador, Canada, and the United States.

The Hilton Wilmington Riverside is the headquarters hotel for the symposium, which will open with an outdoor evening reception Sunday, April 15, on the hotel's riverfront terrace. Other events will be held in Wilmington's Convention Center, including breakfasts, luncheons and dinners as well as two-days of speakers and panel discussions.

Symposium attendees will choose between programs in two general tracks running simultaneously: education and economic development. Among numerous topics are professional development for teachers to help ensure that their students are prepared to work and thrive in a global economy; development of modern technologies to provide cross cultural learning; international trade and partnering opportunities; and evolving new technologies for sustainable industrial development.

For complete program information, as well as hotel and symposium registration forms, please visit the Sister Cities Association of Wilmington's website www.scawilmington.org. Updated information will be available online in January.

Sister Cities News Bulletins



Congratulations Barbados on 45 Years of Independence -

Marilyn Cantarella, SCAW President

"November 30, 1966 Barbados officially gains its independence," I imagine the headlines of nearly a half-century ago might have included similar words along with the name Errol Barrow. It did not, however, sever ties with Britain entirely and the island country today is part of the Commonwealth of Nations. Like most countries the annual celebrations across the island dominate the month of November culminating with a grand parade and ceremony at the Garrison Savannah in Bridgetown, which also happens to be our sister city. I had the honor of attending several community events in recognition of this special day while visiting Barbados 2 years ago. It was filled with a wide array of activities all dedicated to the theme of independence. For anyone considering a future trip it is a great time to plan a visit to this Caribbean island.

Partnering: How Barbados is Surviving the Recession – *Peter Laurie, Barbados*

How does a tiny resource-poor island like Barbados, highly vulnerable to external pressures, manage not to implode in the current global crisis? The answer is our Social Partnership: a tripartite association of government, business, and the trade union movement. The partnership grew out of the near catastrophic experience we had of the 1991-93 recession, when Barbados faced its worst crisis since becoming independent in 1966.

Only after taking a series of painful measures, including an 8% cut in public sector wages, did the

government manage to stabilize the economy and prevent devaluation. But in the darkness of those times there was a glimmer of light. The trade union movement and the business community persuaded a reluctant government to engage with them in continuous consultation to redress the deteriorating economic situation. Bridges of trust were built, creating a favourable environment for cooperation between the three parties. This led in 1993 to the creation of the Social Partnership.

Since then the Social Partnership has concluded 6 tripartite agreements (designated as Protocols) that have governed such matters as prices and incomes policies, increasing national productivity, ensuring a stable industrial relations climate, and promoting wider employee share ownership. Without the Social Partnership we would be in dire straits today.

When the storm clouds of the current crisis appeared in 2008, it was the Social Partnership that crafted an action plan to address the crisis. The largest trade union, the Barbados Workers' Union, recognized that it would be counterproductive in a recession to increase the direct costs to business. So it agreed to a moratorium on wage increases in return for businesses not laying off staff except as a last resort.

Businesses, instead of laying off workers, put staff on a shorter work week. In some cases management took a temporary pay cut. The government ensured that, amid the necessary cutbacks, it protected the most vulnerable. The Social Partnership is indicative of the real saving grace of Barbados: a high level of social trust. We are blessed with a stable two-party political system, in which both parties subscribe to the same political philosophy that sees the private sector as the engine of growth, but government as the guarantor of social justice and equity.

As former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan observed, "Barbados punches way above its weight internationally." Having said all that, the average citizen today is feeling the pinch and there is still much concern about the state of the economy. What worries most people in the private sector is the level of government debt. Another concern is that while most businesses are managing to survive, there's very little new investment. Barbados' recovery from the recession will be largely due to the spirit of cooperation and compromise that the Social Partnership inspired.

Peter Laurie is a former ambassador to the US and contributing writer to the Business Barbados Newsletter.

Holiday Greetings photo from Business Barbados Team



Saving the Planet – Ken Burley, Doncaster, UK

As a Planner, I am constantly asked to balance environmental, economic and social issues. At the moment, economic problems are in everyone's mind, as we try to wrestle with the international financial economic crisis, particularly in Europe. Meanwhile, in South Africa there has been a World Summit Meeting trying to get to grips with climate change. Let's hope we can make progress on both economic and environmental fronts.

A Climate Change Conference in September in Herten (Doncaster's Twin Town in Germany) offered an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences on the climate change front. The emphasis though was on what local communities themselves can do to minimize climate change and not just leave it to national governments all the time. Political heavyweights and technical experts from the European Union (27 European countries are currently in membership) set the scene for the Conference. Representatives from Herten's four Twin Towns then listened to what Herten Council is trying to do to reduce its emissions of carbon dioxide by 2020 and combat climate change.

But one speaker asked the vital question, "Are we really committed to a low carbon / low carbon dioxide lifestyle?" In other words, are we willing to go for renewable energies such as wind farms etc; smaller cars; walk and cycle more; eat local food when in season; waste less and recycle more – and so on? All five local authorities involved in the Conference could point to lots of things being done to combat climate change but are they enough and how can we ensure everyone is signed up to addressing climate change?

However, we have something in Doncaster which none of the other participants had – a pilot project for a 900 megawatt clean-burn coal-fired power station with carbon capture as well. Most of our German hosts were keen to have one also. In fact, in August, I had shown visitors from Herten around the site of the proposed power station in Doncaster. Needless to say, our Herten friends were very interested in this clean-burn coal project – they too



have lots of coal in the ground still, as we do in Doncaster, and the project will generate jobs and income for local people. I also took the opportunity to show the Herteners round Woodlands Model Village, an early 20th century mining village in the Garden Suburb style. Our walk included the Brodsworth Community Park formed out of the old Brodsworth Colliery tip, from where there is a magnificent view of Brodsworth Hall (of Charles Dickens' 'Bleak House' fame!)

But back to the Conference; young people from Herten's twin towns had been invited to take part in the Conference too. They were well informed about the issues, keen to see action, and were willing to get involved themselves.

Later on, visits to climate change projects in Herten gave us the opportunity to sample new or emerging technologies. We could choose from a hydrogen fuelled bus or bikes to travel from project to project. We could even use a 'Segway' (a form of low energy personal transport – look it up on Google!). My preference was for an 'e-bike', an ordinary bike with a small electric motor to assist pedalling – excellent! At the Blauer Turm or Blue Tower we could see hydrogen produced from bio mass, the hydrogen then being used to generate electricity for 12,000 households.

All too soon the Conference was over but we look forward to similar Conferences as we all move towards a more sustainable life-style in order to "Save the Planet" for our children and grandchildren.

San Pedro AIDS Commission Wins First Place

The San Pedro AIDS Commission was the overall winner in the 6th Annual San Pedro Holiday Water Parade. Competing among 12 other boats in the flotilla the AIDS Commission took home the top prize of \$1,500. Isla Bonita Primary School's marching band provided music for the festivities while Island Academy sang Christmas carols. The San Pedro Lions Club won the Mayor's Choice Award. The parade was held on Saturday, December 3. More information with photographs can be found on

www.Ambergristoday.com/content/stories/2011/december/05/boat-parade-kicks-christmas. This November marked one year since Ambergris Today went from a weekly news print service to a daily online service. If you go the home page you can click on Mayor Paz's Christmas greeting. Happy Holidays to all our friends in San Pedro!

Development on Chinese Side Set to Provide Support for the DPRK – (Source: China Daily 28 September 2011 edition)

Beijing and Pyongyang agreed in June to establish two development zones along their border. Both zones are located in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). One is on the Gold Flat and Granville Islands near Dandong, Liaoning province, while the other is near Yanbian, Jilin province. A joint China-DPRK management committee for the development of Gold Flat and Granville Islands has been formalized. An economic zone on the Chinese side of the border has been established to provide support to the zone in the DPRK, and all work is progressing smoothly," said Dai Yulin, Party Secretary of Dandong. The Chinese zone will house industries from trade to logistics and provide supplies for infrastructure, energy, and basic necessities. The opening up of the DPRK has provided a historic opportunity for Dandong, according to Dai. In light of the projects the city government invited a host of experts to establish a think tank to help and promote the city's development.

In Other News

Wilmington Becoming a Premier Cultural Destination

Cucalorus 17 reported attendance at screenings,



parties, and special events topped 10,500, over five days in November. The festival had 297 artists present and 7 different countries were represented from cities around the globe. (Photo: Ruben Salazar, co-director *Daisy Cutter*, Spain) We recently learned that the *Daisy Cutter* was short-listed for an Oscar nomination in the category of best animated short. The main character symbolizes the innocent view of a small girl in Baghdad that transcends the hostile reality she lives in.

In 2006 UNESCO defined “cultural tourism” as travel directed towards an engaged and authentic experience, with participative learning in the arts, heritage or special characters of a place. It provides a connection with those who reside in this place and create this living culture. Wilmington is uniquely positioned to attract both cosmopolitan domestic visitors and foreign visitors that want to consume world/art cinema as a result of several factors including: the film studies programs at UNCW and CFCC, E.U.E. Screen Gems Studios and Cucalorus.

SCAW was a supporter of Cucalorus in a number of different ways. In addition to making a financial contribution, we focused attention on the festival through a pre-event lecture on world cinema held at Jengo’s playhouse. SCAW hosted a luncheon for international filmmakers who arrived for the festival and participated in the Global Perspectives program for high school students. The luncheon was an important part of our mission by facilitating dialogue among different cultures and was followed the next day by a down-home Southern barbecue held at Screen Gems Studios.

Festival goers arriving for barbecue in Studio 3



Film festival tourism is an integral part of cultural or event tourism. Toronto’s International Film Festival is the largest in

North America and often referred to as the best by many film critics. It lasts for 10 days, screens over 300 films, and attendance has grown to over a half million since its inaugural festival in 1976. In 2000 the Canada Tourism Commission estimated its international film festivals were likely to increase by 40% by the year 2020 while forecasting a national Canadian economic growth rate of 27% in the

same period. Cucalorus began in 1994 with 16 locally produced films screened in downtown restaurants. Today it receives over 1,000 submissions from around the globe, screens over 100 films, and is supported by 93 local and national businesses and organizations.

What’s New in the Schools

Mark Campbell, Cape Fear Academy teacher, wins national award, “National History Teacher of the Year” at the University of Maryland. Campbell has been at CFA for 10 years and has been at the forefront of international exchanges. Award recipients are chosen on the basis of development and use of creative teaching methods that interest students in history and help them make exciting new developments about the past. Congratulations Mark on your award!

Donald S. Berger, new headmaster for CFA, was welcomed at a reception on November 17. Berger came from Cary Academy where he was headmaster for 15 years. Cary Academy is recognized for its world exchanges. Upper school students at CFA will begin their exchange with students in Samarra, Iraq, when they return from the holiday break.

Cape Fear Community College’s Child Development Center received “Dr. Emily”, a bear who arrived from Doncaster in October. Dr. Emily will be visiting with a different CDC family in the Pre-K2 class each week and recording her experiences. “A Day in the Life of Dr. Emily” will be sent back to Willow Primary School in England in the spring. Fact or fiction – a glimpse of Dr. Emily at an undisclosed Wilmington location can be viewed on <http://ispyafriend.blogspot.com>.

UNCW International Student Representative Joins SCAW Board

At its October board meeting SCAW directors voted to accept Eric Alexander Wade as its student representative. Eric is a native of Belize and majoring in Marine Biology. He will be assisting SCAW with increasing its presence on social media and developing a tool to evaluate programs. When asked what he hoped to learn from his participation on the board Eric said, “By being on the board, I hope to achieve a better understanding of the background work that is needed to run a successful organization, improve my work ethic and professionalism and also gain some valuable

experience in decision making and time management that will be of benefit to me in the future.”

Last Call for Board Nominees

The nominations process for 2012 will conclude January 30. There are 3 board positions to fill. The board meets four times a year plus the Annual Meeting in March. Meetings are held in the evening so as to not interfere with the workday. Anyone interested in serving or may want to recommend a friend or colleague but needs further information, please contact the SCAW president, Marilyn Cantarella by phone or email - marilyn@scawilmington.org and phone: 910-343-5226.

Membership Drive Kicks-Off

Sister cities organizations around the globe have evolved into a dynamic movement that goes beyond cultural exchanges to include opportunities in education, technology and business. Throughout the year SCAW offers educational and cultural programs to bring awareness of the importance of citizen to citizen diplomacy in creating a culture of peace in our communities. Whether you are an individual who wants to make a difference in the world, a teacher or parent who recognizes the implications of living in a global society, or a business leader working in the international arena, SCAW membership can bring you a world of opportunities. The benefits of being part of a global network of formal city to city agreements are valuable in a variety of ways.

We depend on community support through annual paid memberships to continue our work in fostering cross-cultural dialogues, facilitating cultural, education, and business exchanges; enabling students to have access to global education, and raising the profile of Wilmington as an international city. Current and past members will be receiving your renewal packet in the mail along with a 2012 calendar of events in early January. If you have enjoyed any of our programs as a non-member, you can download a membership application from the web site.

Commission Updates

At its last meeting, the Commission voted to participate in the national organization's Young Artist competition, and to participate in the Azalea Parade in 2012. Information about the art competition will be sent to area high schools in early January. The theme this year is "Youth as the Catalyst for Change." Winners receive a cash prize locally and their art is submitted to SCI in Washington to compete with cities around the globe.

Citizen to Citizen Diplomacy Honor Roll

SCAW attempts to involve as many people and institutions as possible to achieve its mission in Wilmington and the international community. We want to recognize the individuals and groups that have made a contribution in the past calendar quarter through their active participation or support of a Sister City program activity.

Cucalorus 17	J. Carlos Kase
Front St. Brewery	Riverboat Landing
Rosemary Toumey	Ken Burley
Peter Laurie	
Sue Patterson	

Upcoming Events

Jan. 30 – Chinese New Year Celebration will be held at Szechuan 132 located at S. College Rd. beginning at 7:00 PM. Cost: \$18.00 per person. Space is limited and advance reservations will be accepted until January 28.

Feb. 18 – UNCW Intercultural Festival will be held from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on campus in the Burney Center. Be sure to stop by the Sister Cities booth and say hello as you enjoy food, music, dance, and exhibits representing the diverse cultures found at UNCW and the broader community. Free.

March 26 – SCAW Annual Meeting. Location: New Hanover County Main Branch Library, Chestnut St. Time: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Dinner will follow after the meeting at Caffe Phoenix, N. Front St. Advance reservations required no later than March 24.

Happy Holidays and Peace in the New Year