



## Sister Cities News Bulletins

### Doncaster Remembers the Fab Four on Dec 8 Anniversary of Lennon's death



The iconic group from Liverpool, the Beatles, performed 5 times in Doncaster between 1962 and 1963.: the Co-op Ballroom – August 8, 1962, the Gamout Theater on February 5, March 22 and December 10, 1963, and St. James' Baths on February 20, 1963. The Regent Hotel, which still operates in a charming square surrounded by 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture near Doncaster's town centre, is a living repository of Beatles' memorabilia.

The hotel has an Abbey Road Studio and Bar on the lower level with photographs, ticket stubs, and much more. According to an interview conducted by the Doncaster Free Press of one of the Longworth family members, Mick Longworth (The Regent is a privately held hotel incorporated in 1961),... 'pride of place goes to the hotel's guest book, which contains the signatures and original Liverpool addresses - as well as a taster of that cheeky wit - from the men who changed music forever.' Closer inspection reveals George was the first to sign in with the other three scribbling their names at the top of the adjoining page. But Ringo, who used his real surname Starkey seemed confused about the date - signing in on February 6 rather than the actual date, the 5th. John Lennon was next, putting his address as 251 Menlove Avenue, the famed address where he lived with his

beloved Aunt Mimi and showing that rebellious streak of later years by jotting "White Man" under nationality. Paul McCartney was last and echoed Lennon's humor, scrawling "Green" under his bandmate's "White Man" joke.

Added Mick: "It really is a piece of rock history. How many hotel guest books in the world contain the signatures of The Beatles? Doncaster is a very important place in the history of the greatest group ever and we should all remember that. "The Beatles changed the world forever and I am glad that I was a very small part of it."



Photo credit: Doncaster Free Press

### Tropic Air receives ISSA Certification

Tony Tyler, CEO, International Air Transport Association (IATA), recognized Tropic Air, one of two regional air carriers in Belize, at an industry forum held last month in Puerto Rico. The certification was created to serve smaller airlines with aircraft less than 5,700 kilograms of weight.

Tropic Air underwent a rigorous review of its safety practices as part of the beta-testing of the standard. The acronym ISSA stands for International Standard Safety Assessment. Tropic Air has been operating since 1979 and is the leading carrier serving Belize and Central America. International travelers to San Pedro can arrive by sea or air from Belize City, and most opt for the 15 minute flight.

## BCC Grows its Music Program

Barbados Community College initiated a music program



in 1998 as part of its arts curriculum. According to Roger Gittens, who heads up the Visual and Performing Arts department, the music program has grown significantly over the years and he is working towards developing more of

a business model in order to add an international component. The program offerings include: steel pan ensembles, vocal ensembles, and a gospel music choir. Gittens would like to see students from Africa and the US partner with BCC in this program as part of its growth trajectory.

The clip above was one of several photographs attached to an article in the Barbados Nation News as part of a series of columns during Black History Month submitted by BCC student writers. This particular article was submitted by a visual and performing arts student. 'Tuk' music is a form of folk music believed to be indigenous to Barbados. For a period of time in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century spiritual practices brought from Africa with the slave trade were banned. Worship included drums and other instruments. The British believed drumming was one of the ways Africans communicated in code across plantations. Fearful that the culture would be lost they hid their tuk drums and used instruments common to the British. Over time the music morphed into a style that represents African rhythms and British regimental band sounds.

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## Other News

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### Call for Nominations

Letters of interest and or nominations for SCAW board positions are due by 1/30/2016. People who are interested themselves or know someone they would to recommend should send a resume or bio to [membership@scawilmington.org](mailto:membership@scawilmington.org). Write NOMINATIONS in the subject line. Expectations include: attending board meetings (quarterly & the annual meeting); be a SCAW member in good standing (annual dues current); and support program activities throughout the year as your schedule permits. There are openings on the Sister City Commission at the present time for community representatives. Applications for

commission members can be obtained from the City website – [www.wilmingtonnc.gov](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov).

### Giving Tuesday Kicks off

SCI launched its first campaign on "Giving Tuesday" the week after Thanksgiving. Giving Tuesday is part of a global day dedicated to giving back. To date SCI has raised \$6,860 from 75 donors and still going. The campaign continues until January 7. If you are interested in being part of the movement you can find out more at <http://sistercities.org/GivingTuesday>.

### International Filmmakers Enjoy Lunch with Sister Cities



Filmmakers from 27 countries arrived in Wilmington for Cucalorus 21. Sister Cities hosted a

welcome luncheon at Riverboat Landing providing an intimate space for converging filmmakers to meet and discuss their projects.

Running from November 11-15 the festival featured 269 selections and a wide array of events ideally suited for the cultural traveler. Attendance was up nearly 12% and a new initiative for 2014 connecting businesses and filmmakers was tested. A unique aspect of Cucalorus is its non-competitive environment, given that it does not offer awards. What it does offer through its programming is a way to foster connections between the artists and audiences.



(above) SCAW members Melissa & Charles Blanton

### Wilmington Host City for Global Conference

The 2015 Biomarine Business Conference brought together leaders from 16 countries to discuss sustainable harvesting of marine bio-resources. Keynote speakers included: HSH Prince Albert II of

Monaco, Chris Chung, CEO, Economic Development



Partnership of  
NC, Louise Fortin,  
Director Quebec  
Trade Office,  
Mark Lyons,  
Alltech Inc. Global  
VP and Head of  
Greater China  
Div.



To listen to live  
sessions of CEO  
interviews,  
keynote  
speakers, and

more, you can go to: [www.biomarinetv.com](http://www.biomarinetv.com). The 2016 Biomarine Business Conference will be held in Oslo, Norway.

## UNCW Office of International Programs Fills Leadership Post

Michael Wilhelm has been selected as Associate Vice Chancellor for international programs following a national search. Wilhelm took over his duties on December 14. His experience includes 8 years as director of International Students and Scholars at West Virginia University, a consultant to companies in Japan and Taiwan, and in an advisory role in foreign trade for the state of West Virginia.

## 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.

Fenton Maxwell  
Marilyn Cantarella  
Carol Chappel  
Riverboat Landing

Scott Czechlewski  
Rosemary Toumey  
Marcus Kennedy  
PinPoint Restaurant

be performing in this special festival in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Barbados' independence. Grammy winner Roberta Flack will be performing on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Ticket info available at [www.nanikicaribbeanjazzsafari.com](http://www.nanikicaribbeanjazzsafari.com)

**Jan 29 Magic of Motown Concert** will be at **Doncaster's** performance venue, the Cast. The show is a tribute concert to Motown greats, including the Four Tops whose song "Reach Out I'll be There" was number 1 on both sides of the Atlantic 50 years ago. Songs by the Jackson 5, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Martha Reeves, Lionel Ritchie and others will be on the program. For ticket information go to: <https://castindoncaster.com>

**Jan 30 (Sat) UNCW Inter-cultural Festival** will be held in the **Burney Center** from 10 AM to 2 PM. This is a family friendly event with musical performances, cultural dances and other activities represented by the diverse cultures in the greater Wilmington area. Don't forget to stop at the Sister Cities booth to say hello and learn about Wilmington's sister cities.

**Feb 11 (Thurs) Ring in the Chinese New Year** with Sister Cities at **Szechuan 132** (University Square). The event is presented family style and traditional foods will be served. Advance reservations are required no later than Feb. 8 by phone 343-5226 or email – [membership@scawilmington.org](mailto:membership@scawilmington.org). Cost is \$20 per person and includes 7 courses. Alcohol can be purchased on a separate tab. The event starts promptly at 7 PM.

*Wishing you peace, joy and all the  
season's glad tidings in abundance....*



***Sister Cities Association Board of  
Directors.....Fenton, George,  
Shanhong, Chad, Charles, Harry,  
Marilyn, Rachel, and Tony***

## Upcoming Events

**Jan 13-17 Naniki Music Festival** will be held at various venues in **Barbados**. "Naniki" is Amerindian for "free spirit." Artists from Barbados and around the globe will