

# Latitudes



## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

By Glenn Peterson

As president, I bring you greetings from Duluth Sister Cities International. I hope that you had time to relax and enjoy some of the sunny, beautiful days of summer. In the spring issue of our Sister City newsletter, we announced that we would be moving to a new office space in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. However, a different space became available after that announcement, and we are happy to tell you that **our new office is located downtown in the Board of Trade Building.** Our exact location is **301 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St., Suite 308.** Several people spent many days in early summer painting and installing a new hardwood floor in the office. I would like to thank Mike Sawinski, Bruce Hansen, Dan Green & Melissa Kadlec for graciously giving of their time.

Now we are back into the fall season and for most of us the usual routine of scheduled activities. An activity that I hope you will put on

your calendar is the **Duluth Sister Cities Open House.** This event will be on **Thursday, November 20 from 3 – 7 PM.** We welcome you to stop in after work or after dinner to see the bright new office space and visit with Duluth Sister City staff and board members. Of course, there will also be treats for you to enjoy.

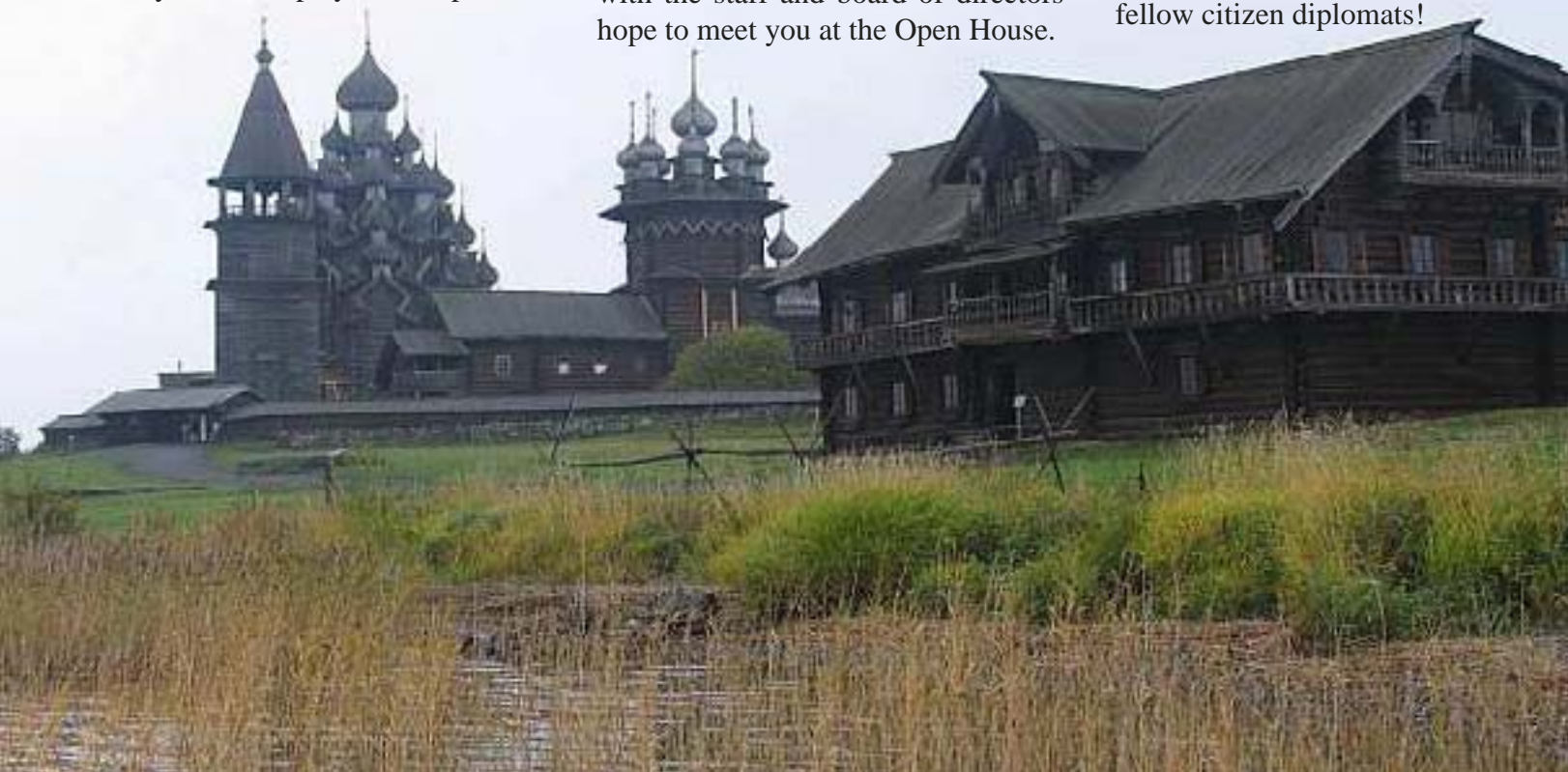
Since Duluth Sister Cities was reorganized from a city commission to an independent non-profit organization in the summer of 2007, we have not conducted the usual, annual membership drive. Now we are ready to ask you to renew your membership and to encourage friends and neighbors to also become part of our growing civic organization. You will soon receive membership materials. **November is officially Duluth Sister City Membership Month.** Watch for the TV spots promoting Duluth Sister City membership.

If we have not met before, I along with the staff and board of directors hope to meet you at the Open House.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

By Melissa Kadlec

As I enter into my second year as Executive Director, I'd like to thank you for your support and guidance in my first year of service to DSCI. It has been a great honor and privilege to give back to an organization that has been an integral part of my life. With our membership drive coming soon, I encourage you to continue your support of our organization that greatly impacts our community's promotion of global understanding and citizen diplomacy. We, as members of DSCI, are certainly citizen diplomats of Duluth and share a common desire, motivated by a responsibility to engage with the rest of the world in a meaningful, mutually beneficial dialogue. For over 20 years, this is the impact we have made in our community and what a difference we have made! Thank you for your continued support, fellow citizen diplomats!



# RECAP of 2008 SUMMER/FALL VISITS

## STUDENT EXCHANGE TO AND FROM OHARA – ISUMI CITY, JAPAN

July 2008 saw 11 students and 3 chaperones travel to Ohara, Japan as the 2008 student delegation. Highlights included: meeting the mayor of Ohara-Isumi City, visiting & ringing the Peace Bell, visiting Tokyo, & meeting the students at 3 Ohara Elementary schools & Ohara Junior High School. The Delegates participated in traditional Japanese activities such as: dance, martial arts, uni-cycling, koto (Japanese harp) lessons, sports, & English classes. The student delegation was welcomed at all the schools with formal ceremonies. They were also treated to Kamagawa Sea World, Tanjyoji Temple, Asakusa Temple, & Tokyo Tower. The farewell party at the BUNKA (Ohara Cultural Center) was a wonderful end to the trip and the delegation left with many tears & fond wishes for future meetings with their Japanese friends.

In August, 11 students & 3 chaperones came from Ohara to stay with the students in Duluth. Their itinerary was filled with events throughout Duluth, along with some travel to Minneapolis.

Some of the activities included: visiting the Great Lakes Aquarium, spending a morning at City Hall and the Mayor's office, visiting Harbor City International School, visiting the Depot, a bowling party, rock climbing, pool party at the Edge, a picnic at Enger Park & visiting the Peace Bell, spending an overnight at Camp Miller, & putting on an All American Picnic dinner in honor of the Japanese guests. Because of their busy itinerary, the students really got to know each other very well. Again, there were many tears shed upon the Japanese students departure from Duluth, which is a sign of the strong relationships that were formed and will continue for years to come.

## MAYOR OTA VISIT TO DULUTH

Mayor Ota, along with Koichi Odaka & Wakako Shoji, visited Duluth, July 14-17. Although the visit was short, it was a wonderful visit & our first opportunity to welcome Mayor Ota to Duluth. Highlights of Mayor Ota's visit included a dinner meeting with Mayor Ness, a gathering of over 80 friends of the Ohara-Isumi City Sister City Committee at the home of Melissa Kadlec & Dan Green, an official Sister Cities meeting, a boat ride on Lake Superior & a Harley Davidson ride! It was an honor to host Mayor Ota & the delegation & strengthen the committee of our Sister City relationship.



## OHARA-ISUMI CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE

If you know a student 13-15 years old who may be interested in being a delegate to Ohara-Isumi City, Japan next summer, please contact the Sister Cities office for more information & to receive an application or go to our website [www.duluthmnsistercities.org](http://www.duluthmnsistercities.org)



### **OFFICIAL DELEGATION VISIT; OHARA-ISUMI CITY 2008**

Delegation: Irina Ensign, Sharla Gardner, Irina Haller, June Kallestad, Melissa Kadlec, Joe & Vicki Thompson, Tod Urban & Yvonne Wakeley.

A Delegation of 9, led by City Councilor Sharla Gardner spent an incredible week in Ohara-Isumi City strengthening the Sister City relationship between the 2 countries. The kindness & graciousness of our hosts left such a great impression on us with memories to last a lifetime. Highlights of the visit include: official meeting with Mayor Ota, a welcome

reception with Ohara Sister City volunteers, day trips to Kamakura & Tokyo, the Hadaka Matsuri Festival, a day & night with a host family... but the greatest highlight for the delegates were the friendships formed & time spent with many amazing people who hosted & escorted us during the week. Mr. Oya, along with the Ohara-Isumi Sister City Association, pledged their support for Duluth's Japanese Peace Bell Garden. We were also able to present them with a few copies of Margi Preus' book, *The Peace Bell*. They were thrilled to receive it! The weather was very exciting & we experienced being "on the edge" of Typhoon # 13!

A special note: At our meeting with Mr. Ota, we presented Mr. Oya with an "Honorary Citizen of Duluth" award proclamation. Mr. Oya has devoted a lifetime of work with the Ohara-Isumi City Sister Cities programs. He was very touched by the honor & his Sister Cities colleagues were very happy for him.



## **WELCOME**

### **DSCI welcomes new board member & independent study student:**

**Sean Dean-** CFO-Citon Computer Corp., the area's leading Enterprise IT provider with 27 employees. Sean is a member of the Board of Directors for the Duluth Visitors & Convention Bureau, & Northland Technology Consortium Boards.

**Mike Malone-**Marketing Major at UMD. Mike will be working with DSCI thru December as an independent study student

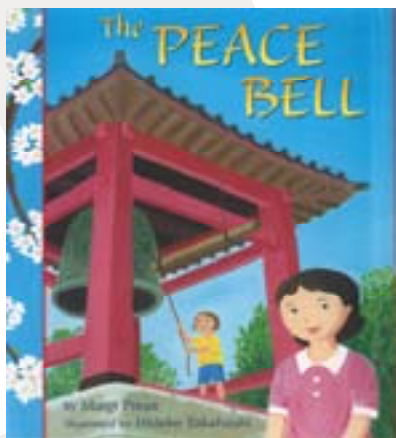
## **THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS:**

### **ATTACHE' MEMBERS:**

Wayne & Kim Elmer  
Walter & Kay Gower  
Pat & Becky Hall  
Vicki & Joe Thompson

### **BENEFACTOR FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING:**

Richard & Edna Krull  
Paula Tsufis



## “THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING”

### Petrozavodsk Citizens Visited Duluth in October.

Between the dates of Oct. 8 & 18, three Petrozavodsk groups visited Duluth. During the course of a busy five-day stay, Petrozavodsk’s three-member official delegation, which this year included Deputy Mayor Irina Anikina, Gennady Fedorov & Vera Meshko, met with area physicians to discuss furthering our cities’ medical exchange, addressed the Duluth City Council, & participated in a series of presentations addressing issues of sustainability & public health.

The Arrowhead Reading Council will be sponsoring several exciting events during our 2008-2009 program. This fall we will be presenting ***Resonance: The Odyssey of the Bell***, on Wed., Nov. 12, 2008 from 7-9 PM at Duluth’s Harbor City International School. Duluth author Margi Preus, ***The Peace Bell***, & the film producer Paul Creager will join in a presentation & book talk about the bell taken from Ohara, Japan during WWII & will explain how our sister city relationship came to be. The event is free & open to the public. Donations are encouraged to further promote the film. This event is sponsored by Northern Lights Books, Arrowhead Reading Council, and Duluth Sister Cities.

Following last year’s highly successful birch bark canoe building project in Petrozavodsk, a group of five Russian students, led by the head of the Petrozavodsk city administration’s youth department, visited Duluth & the Fond du Lac reservation to learn about Native American culture, traditions & crafts. Finally, an Open World delegation consisting of five young



professionals from Petrozavodsk & a program facilitator, spent eight days studying the interplay between environmental sustainability, public health issues, & education in the Duluth context. It was a true privilege to host these three vibrant groups. Having their visits overlap allowed for rich & stimulating experiences & ideas to be shared by the delegations & many Duluthians.



# Calendar of Events

- November 8** Swedish Holiday Tea Party 10:30 AM or 2:00 PM
- November 10** Petrozavodsk Committee Meeting 5:30 PM
- November 12** ***Resonance: The Odyssey of the Bell*** 7-9 PM Harbor City International School
- November 17** Växjö Committee Meeting 4:30 PM
- November 20** **Open House - New Sister Cities Office 3-7:00 PM**
- November 21** Ohara Committee Meeting 8:00 AM Chester Creek Café/Sara’s Table
- December 8** Petrozavodsk Committee Meeting 5:30 PM
- December 15** Växjö Committee Meeting 4:30 PM
- December 19** Ohara Committee Meeting 8:00 AM Chester Creek Café/Sara’s Table
- May 8, 2009** Save the Date – **One World Many Flavors – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Event**

# VÄXJÖ

## THE GREENEST CITY IN EUROPE

Our Duluth/Växjö Sister City Committee had the pleasure of hosting a delegation of six citizens from Växjö, July 28 to August 2. The highlights of this visit were two public presentations at which Mayor Bo Frank described what the city of Växjö is doing to be very ecological & how they gained the distinction of being named Europe's Greenest City. These presentations were very well attended & stirred much enthusiasm & discussion regarding what we might do in Duluth to become more earth friendly. An outcome is that Mayor Frank invited Duluth business & civic leaders to come to Växjö in Sept. 2009 to attend workshops &



participate in on-site visits. In such a visit, Duluth citizens would be able to see what Växjö is doing annually to reduce carbon emissions.

Thank you to those who participated in these events & helped to make this an enjoyable visit for our guests.

*“The United States can have no better representatives than its own people, empowered to act on their own behalf - and in the national interest-as citizen diplomats”*

— Michael McCarry, Executive Director, Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange



**THANK YOU** to the families who hosted delegates from our sister cities during their stay in Duluth. This is a very important role in our exchanges. We wouldn't be able to have these exchanges without their hospitality & generosity.

### **Students from Ohara – We wish to thank the families of:**

Royal & Karen Alworth; Brad & Alane Davis; Tom & Deb Dwyer; Wayne & Kim Elmer; Orville & Andrea Hansen; Brian & Anneka Jackman; Dave Skolasinski & Mary Hoffman; Tricia Mattson; Dennis Lamkin & Jon Niemi

**Open World Hosts** – Stephanie & David Carlson; Bob Gilmore; Wendy Grethen & Terry Brown; Linda & Dan Rau; Annette Strom & Tim Everson; Nancy Sudek & Jamie Harvie

**Petrozavodsk Youth Group Hosts** Jerry & Cathy Carlson; Barbara & Stan Hakala; Scott & Jacey Hoecker; & Rick & Dianna Smith

**Växjö Hosts** - Gayle & Bob Gilmore; Jeanie & Craig Peterson; & Glenn & Erna Peterson

## OPEN HOUSE

PLEASE JOIN US  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20  
FROM 3 PM to 7 PM

301 West 1<sup>st</sup> St., Suite 308  
Board of Trade Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

We welcome you to stop in to see the new Sister Cities office space and visit with Duluth Sister City staff and board members. Refreshments served.

## GRANTS RECEIVED

**LLOYD K. JOHNSON** A \$15,000 grant was received for operating support.

**OPEN WORLD** A \$3,000 grant was received for administering the Open World Program with delegates from Petrozavodsk to study environmental & public issues.

**HSBC** A \$2,000 grant was received for the Sister Cities office move.

**PASCHEL FOUNDATION** A \$5,000 grant was received for the construction of the Duluth Japanese Peace Bell Garden.

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check our website  
[www.duluthmnsistercities.org](http://www.duluthmnsistercities.org)  
or call the office at  
**218-727-8375***



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