



Duluth Sister Cities
International

Latitudes

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

By Glenn Peterson

I bring you greetings from Duluth Sister Cities International. Personally it was good to greet and meet many of you in November at our Sister City Open House. Our office in the Board of Trade Building was full of people that day, and there was a buzz in the air as people conversed and checked-out the colorful new space.

Thank you to those of you who have responded to the 2009 Membership Drive, which officially began in November. If you have not done so, would you kindly consider a level of giving as described in the colorful new DSCI brochure? Remember that DSCI is a 501c(3) non-profit organization, and membership and gifts are tax deductible.

2009 is a year filled with opportunities for *Building Bridges to Global Understanding* (DSCI motto.) We are most excited that three Central H. S. students will be traveling to Belfast, Ireland in July to attend the four day Sister Cities International Youth Conference.

There really are many ways to interact with citizens from each of our Sister Cities during this year. See each of the Sister City reports in this issue of Latitudes to check for details about participating in a delegation visit or being a host to a delegation visiting Duluth. Be involved and experience the joy of these global opportunities.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

By Melissa Kadlec

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the DSCI Board of Directors and volunteers for their commitment to our organization. With the busy lives we all lead, I thank you for giving of your time to help move our mission and organization forward in our community. You set a wonderful example and demonstrate the power of individuals to effect remarkable change. I am grateful for the energy, enthusiasm and dedication you bring to Duluth Sister Cities International. Our spirit of volunteerism is something we as Americans should be very proud of.



Mayor Bo Frank, proud leader of Greenest City in Europe



Växjö, Sweden – Bioenergy Plant

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2009

Thank you to everyone who has shown their support for our membership drive. To date, we have heard from 82 individuals and families and have raised \$7,530. Please contact the office for membership information.

We appreciate your support!

Youth Conference, Belfast, Ireland

Congratulations to students Kelsey Anderson, Stephanie Davich, Katie Sieger and chaperone Jean Anderson who will be attending the Conference on behalf of DSCI July 28 – August 2, 2009!

OPEN HOUSE

Thank you to everyone who attended the Open House! We had a wonderful turnout with over a hundred community members stopping by to see our new space and wish us well. We had our official ribbon cutting with the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce (see photo). A special thank you to the committee members who prepared the delicious appetizers and desserts that were served.



Calendar of Events

April 26	Duluth/Växjö Soccer Exchange Spaghetti Buffet & Silent Auction
May (TBD)	Medical Exchange – Doctors from Petrozavodsk (Two weeks)
May 8	Sister Cities GALA Event – Northland Country Club
May 13	LYRA Concert – 7:30 PM - First Lutheran Church
June 22-28	Duluth Delegation to Petrozavodsk
June 23-24	Thunder Bay Delegation to Duluth
July 9-16	Ohara-Isumi City Adult Delegation to Duluth
July 28 – Aug. 2	Youth Conference, Belfast Ireland
Aug. 1 – 30	Alison Aune – Exhibit to Växjö
Aug. 5 – 12	Duluth Adult Delegation to Växjö
Aug. 6 – 16	Duluth Students to Ohara-Isumi City
October 1 – 8	Växjö Technical Visit
October (TBD)	Adult Delegation to Thunder Bay
Nov. 12 – 22	Open World Delegation

2009 Board of Directors

Glenn Peterson – President
Cherie Sawinski – Vice President
Bruce Hansen – Treasurer
Michelle Wiklund – Secretary

Sean Dean
Hanna Erpestad
Brian Graff
Irina Haller
Susan Stenerson
Liz Taylor

RUSSIAN TEA Dolls Welcome

On January 10, guests ages 5 and up treated themselves and their favorite doll to a Russian tea party hosted by Cherie Sawinski and Joan Hinds. Young partygoers examined a display of dolls wearing costumes from around the world, made a miniature Russian rag doll to take home, listened to a Russian story-teller, and practiced saying important phrases in Russian, such as "I love my doll." After learning how tea is made in Russia, guests were served an elegant sit-down tea featuring homemade Russian delicacies. Handmade Russian doll costumes were also available for sale. What a wonderful opportunity for doll-lovers of any age to learn more about the culture of our Russian sister city! Watch for future "doll teas" featuring traditions of Japan and Sweden!



Student Delegation to Ohara-Isumi City

Congratulations to: Noah Burson, Logan Dwyer, Kemin Fena, Merit Floerke, Cora Knauss, Megan Saarela & Glenda Valdez who will represent Duluth in the student exchange to Ohara- Isumi City, August 6-16, 2009.

OHARA-ISUMI CITY COMMITTEE

Happy "Hina Maturi" or Dolls Festival (March 3). This is a women's festival where families decorate a room with many dolls to wish a girl baby good luck and a happy future, with many good things to eat. In news from the Ohara Committee, a Duluth student delegation will travel to Ohara this summer and Japanese students will visit in the summer of 2010. A Japanese adult delegation will visit this summer. Starting in March, the Ohara Committee will begin "Friends of Ohara" dinners every fourth Thursday at the Zen House – no work, just a casual gathering as people are able to attend.

Technical Visit: Duluth Sister Cities will send a delegation of Duluthians, Oct. 1-8, 2009, to our Sister City Växjö, Sweden, for an educational "technical visit tour" that will benefit both Duluth and Växjö. The DSI delegation will learn about the city's world renowned sustainable practices, how those practices made an impact on economic development for the City of Växjö, and how Växjö earned the title of "Greenest City in Europe". If you know of anyone in the community who would be interested in participating, please contact the office or visit our website for more information. Delegate cost is \$3,000. Space is limited to 15 people.

The DSCI Technical Visit Tour delegation will participate in the following seminars and tours:

Seminars:

- Fossil Fuel Free Växjö, Environmental Program & Policies, the Greenest City in Europe
- EcoBudget
- City Planning
- SAMS and Energy Saving Projects
- Water Management

Study Visits:

- Passive House Construction Site
- District Heating & Power Plant (Biomass)
- Local District Heating Plant
- Biogas Production Plant
- The Modern Wooden City & the Garden City

Networking-Business to Business Discussion:

- Meetings with Swedish companies whose emphasis is sustainability
- Official Dinner hosted by the City of Växjö

VÄXJÖ COMMITTEE

The Växjö Committee enjoyed a festive dinner just before Christmas at the Kitchi Gammi Club to celebrate the season and the close of a great year of interaction with our Swedish Sister City.

It was a pleasure for our committee to host a concert by *Raise the Roof*, a seventeen member youth chamber choir from Växjö, on Monday evening February 9. The conductor is David Newkumet, a native of Duluth. His proud mother, Gail Newkumet, is a member of our Växjö Committee. The Choralaires hosted the Swedish singers during their three-day stay in Duluth.

The committee has been working to make arrangements for Duluth artist Alison Aune's Swedish

inspired paintings to be sent to Växjö for an exhibition. It will open during our delegation's visit there in August. Several grant requests have been written to help finance the project.

DSCI will send a four-member delegation to Växjö, Sweden, August 5 – 12. Duluth City Councilor, Jeff Anderson will lead the group. If you would like to be considered as a member of this delegation, please get an application form from the DSCI web site or call the DSCI office, 727-8375.

THUNDER BAY COMMITTEE

We are excited to have two new co-chairs to the Thunder Bay Committee, Board members Sean Dean & Liz Taylor. The Thunder Bay

relationship is moving forward with great enthusiasm in 2009. We will highlight our Sister City to the North at our May 8th Gala Event and will be receiving a contingency of 10 guests for the event. An official delegation will visit us in June and we will also send a delegation to Thunder Bay in October as the newly renovated City Hall is revealed. We look forward to partnering more with Thunder Bay as the exchange possibilities are endless with our proximity.



Our 2nd annual gala Fundraiser will be held on Friday evening, May 8th at Northland Country Club. Last year was a great success and we raised \$16,000! There will be fabulous cuisine representing the 4 countries of our Sister Cities! Highlights of the gala include:

- * Wines from around the world, donated by Cash Wise Liquor.
- * A Silent Auction with an array of international items-including beautiful Kosta Boda glass donated from Växjö.
- * A comedy act for our evening's entertainment, "Ivanka", generously donated by Thunder Bay. She is the brainchild of Jo-Ann Waytowich, a playwright, singer and performer.
- * Passport Game! Take a chance to win a weekend in Thunder Bay, donated by the Tourism board of Thunder Bay
- * Each ticket will be entered to win a beautiful piece of Amethyst from the amethyst mines of Thunder Bay; donated by the City of Thunder Bay and the Thunder Bay Sister Cities organization
- * For more information on tickets, please call the office: 727-8375. Tickets are \$100 (\$70 is tax deductible)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We are very grateful to all our volunteers! We couldn't do it without you! A special thanks to the following volunteers:

* Fred & Anita Rouse for housing our Christmas trees

* Bob Gilmore for displaying Sister Cities art in an exhibit at Bixby's

* Ann Niedringhaus for writing grants for the Alison Aune exhibit

* Gala Fundraiser Committee: Maureen DeGrio, Laura Doty, Susan Poupore & Anita Rouse

Welcome to new Board Member, Liz Taylor who grew up a Canadian on the Canadian/US border. Liz is retired from UMD and currently a part-time employee at the Benedictine Health Center. She is actively involved in several civic, environmental, and charitable organizations, but her greatest love is learning about other cultures and religions.

Welcome to our intern from UWS, Tonya Honcharova! She has been a great asset to the office. Currently, she is cataloging the many wonderful gifts and items collected over the past 20 years and is putting together a small library for use of Sister Cities members. She is also interested in fundraising and is helping with our gala event.

SPAGHETTI BUFFET & SILENT AUCTION

The Duluth Växjö Soccer Exchange will hold a Spaghetti Buffet and Silent Auction fundraiser at the Holiday Inn Ballroom in downtown Duluth, **Sunday, April 26th 12:30PM - 5:30PM**. Tickets for the event are \$10. For more information please contact Andrea Hansen at 525-7767 or 590-1519.

THANK YOU

\$100 ATTACHE' MEMBERS:

Karen & Larry Bowman
John & Vicki Boynton
Citon – Sean Dean
Deb & Thomas Dwyer
Kim & Wayne Elmer
Brian Graff
Cheryl Graham
Steve Greenfield
Joyce Hidahl & Tom Patten
Jerome & Judy Kadlec
Melissa Kadlec
George & Tatiana Kornstad
Licari, Larsen & Co. –Steve Licari
Lois Maine
Phyllis Miller
Tom & Julie Morgan
Craig & Jeanie Peterson
Glenn & Erna Peterson
Liz Taylor
Karl & Ann Wasson
Thomas Wheeler
Michelle & Tim Wiklund
Randy & Mary Zimmermann

TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS:

\$250 DIPLOMAT MEMBERS:

APEX
Gale & Jeri Kerns

\$500 MINISTER MEMBERS:

Gary & Marcia Doty
Minnesota Power

\$1000 BENEFACTOR FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING:

Richard & Edna Krull

**THANK YOU
TO OUR
GENEROUS SPONSORS:**

**Cash Wise Liquor
City of Thunder Bay
Doty Development
Fond-Du-Luth Casino
GapWest Broadcasting
Lake Superior College
North Shore Bank of Commerce
Pfeifer Hamilton Legacy Fund
Stewart Taylor Printing
ThriveOn Creative**

*For more information about Duluth
Sister Cities International, please
check our website
www.duluthmnsistercities.org
or call the office at
218-727-8375*



Duluth Sister Cities
International

**301 W. 1st ST., SUITE 308
DULUTH, MN 55802**

