

Mission and Purpose: The Albuquerque Council for International Visitors (ACIV), through the International Visitor Leadership Program, assists visitors to the U.S. by arranging for professional appointments, escorts, and host families, who serve as "citizen diplomats". Our mission is to strengthen the bonds of friendship with peoples of all nations and their emerging leaders. We believe in the power of the individual to change the course of history, working hand-in-hand with peoples from all countries.

Notes from the President

This winter was an active one for ACIV. The NCIV's 50th anniversary celebration in Washington DC in February was a tremendous success with several members attending. ACIV was recognized when Bill Yarnall received the Pillar Award for his service to the ACIV. Only a few of the 90 CIV cities were recognized and Albuquerque was one. Thanks to all the current and past members for their dedication which made this possible.

We hosted a fund raising dinner in honor of St Patrick's Day on March 20. Thanks to Nadine Pachanian and Susan Severt for all their hard work to make it a success.

Karen Schafer briefed the Friendship Force on ACIV and continues to plan for the Citizen Diplomacy Summit in October (details in the body of this newsletter).

Susan Severt and the programmers are doing a great job of hosting visitors and in applying for additional visitors.

Hold June 26 for the next ACIV social event, a picnic in the afternoon at which the President of NCIV, Dr. Sherry Mueller will be present.

Sincerely,
Carol Yarnall, President

St. Patrick's Day – Revisited

It has been said that "everybody is a little bit Irish." The St. Patrick's Day Lucky Replay fundraiser held on March 20th at the ACIV office clubhouse upheld this premise. 53 ersatz "sons of Erin" gathered to replay St. Patrick's Day. ACIV members and their guests enjoyed a program of traditional Irish dancing performed by students from the Tir Connell School of Dance.

After roaring applause the dancers departed and dinner commenced. The three course meal, prepared by Susan Severt and Nadine Pachanian, started with a green salad, then came the main course, a corned beef and cabbage platter, and finally a trio of desserts. Norma Hibbs and Susie Furry headed the

Leprechaun staff and served the courses and kept the beverages fresh.

After the dinner our president "speechified" and more importantly, supervised the drawings for the *Luck of the Irish* grand prize and the *wee bit o' luck* prizes. The grand prize, 2 complete dinners donated by O'Hare's Grill and Pub in Rio Rancho, was drawn first to give everyone a chance. Dick Lingman, a guest of Nadine, was thrilled to be the winner. Twelve other prizes were awarded ranging from a bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream to a bar of Irish Spring soap.

Conversation, Comaraderie, Conviviality. St. Patrick received his tribute from the ACIV and we

were able to raise \$245.00! Many, many thanks to the other Leprechauns, Jim Giachino, Karen McEuen and Lucy Nalbandian, who helped make this event possible. Also, a very special thank you to Dick and Kathleen Lingman, who helped break down tables and load the trucks.

by Nadine Pachanian



Calendar of Events:

Board Meeting - second Tuesday of every month from 11am to 1:00 pm at the office. May 10, June 14, July 12 — all members welcome

Community Summit on Citizen Diplomacy - Oct 4th evening reception at Hard Rock Hotel, Isleta Pueblo and meetings, Oct 5, 2011 at UNM

ACIV office Open Mon, Wed & Fri,
9:30AM- 1:00PM
2403 San Mateo NE Suite S-3
505-888-1867; FAX; 505-884-6766
PO Box 30485 Alb., NM 87190-0485
E-mail: aciv@juno.com
Website: www.abqaciv.org

Executive Board:

President: Carol Yarnall
First VP: Berta Wagstaff
Second VP: Norma Hibbs
Secretary: Karen McEuen
Treasurer: Josh Furry

MY FIRST - Jim Giachino, ACIV

My first attendance to the annual National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) was February 16-18 in Washington, D.C. This year's meeting celebrated the 50th year of NCIV's Excellence in Citizen Diplomacy. The three-day celebration was an eye opener for me. I was exposed to members from all walks of life, different backgrounds, world leaders (political, non-political, and NCIV members), and from different areas of the USA and the world. NCIV is truly a world organization, which serves the world's citizens.

The training sessions, the speakers, exhibits, and special visits to national and international sites and offices were very interesting and gave a national and an international perspective and involvement of the NCIV. The three days and evenings were jam packed with many options for one to learn, be involved, meet old friends, and to make new friends. Most lunches and dinners, and one breakfast were accompanied with national and international speakers. The breakfast on the "Hill" at the Hart Senate Office Building, included state political leaders and/or representatives in Washington, DC. After the breakfast, Betty Davis and I walked to the Rayburn Building to visit with Rep. Steve Pearce's office assistance to discuss the NCIV talking points. The discussion was very interesting and productive. Thereafter, Betty and I did a walking tour to the Capitol for a short tour of the Capitol Rotunda.

The major events of the Celebration were as follows: Opening Plenary, speakers: Sherry Mueller, President of NCIV and the Honorable Ann Stock, Assistant Secretary of State; NCIV 50th Anniversary Gala and the Gala After-Party; NCIV Luncheon with The Ambassadors; U.S. Department of State Reception in the Harry S. Truman Building, the Honorable Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State visited the attendees and made a short welcome speech; NCIV Breakfast on the Hill; IVLP Luncheon with

speakers; Embassy Receptions (I attended the Romania Reception); NCIV Citizen Diplomacy Luncheon in the National Press Club Ballroom with speakers; and a Federalism Tour of Washington, DC (a bus tour of the different sites in the Capitol area). Between the above events and activities were many work shops on diverse and interesting local, national, and international subjects. Believe it or not, I found several hours to visit the Museum of American History. One evening Carol Yarnall chauffeured some of the ACIV attendees on a night tour of the different monuments and viewed the lights of Washington, DC.



Pictured above: Jim Giachino, Assistant Secretary of State Ann Stock, Susan Severt and Carol Yarnall

The Celebration was more than I had expected. It was a very interesting, educational, visiting, and social event. I am glad I attended and recommend that everyone, if possible, should attend at least one of the NCIV's annual national meetings. There were nine members from the ACIV who attended this year's 50th Year Celebration of NCIV. We, from the ACIV, had a great experience.

ACIV Summit and Revamped Website

Planning for the Community Summit on Citizen Diplomacy to be presented by the Albuquerque Council for International Visitors (ACIV), Oct. 4-5 continues to move forward.

As part of preparing for the Summit, a revamped website for ACIV, incorporating the new logo of the organization, among other items, is in the works. The new website will promote all activities of ACIV, and as such it will be

continually updated about citizen diplomacy and international activities of the organization.

Contact information for the organization, and information on the officers will be included. Membership information will be promptly displayed on the website, and online membership and payment details will be included.

The dynamic website should help ACIV members and prospective members keep up to date on the

organization and international activities in the Albuquerque area.

One section of the website will promote the upcoming Summit. After the Summit, the section will be used to promote other upcoming ACIV events and activities.

Of course, registration and payment for the Summit will be on the website.

Programming Notes

On **March 30** we had a program on Engaging Underserved Youth with 11 visitors from Latin America. Carmen Martin was the programmer on this project and it was a very successful project, thanks to Carmen. The home hospitality for the group was held at the Yarnalls' with a fine turn out.

April 17 – 20 was a program on Emergency Room Preparedness with 2 visitors from Kosovo with Dr. Lou Shapiro programming. Lou and Pearle also provided home hospitality for the group, along with colleagues from the medical field.

With this newsletter we have 3 programs scheduled.

May 4 - 8 Political Process for Youth with 6 visitors from Africa and Susan Severt programming.

May 5 - 8 Economic Growth and the Environment with 5 visitors from Columbia and Carmen Martin programming.

May 11 – 15 Youth Participation in Politics with 4 visitors from Japan.

Programming is open if you would like to participate.

If you would like to host visitors for home hospitality, please contact Nadine Pachanian.

Who better than long time member Gertrude Ferriman to remind us of some of our past visitors? The following stories are some of her memories.

For all my years of programming, I enjoyed each visitor and traveled the world through them. I am 88 now and the memories are still vivid in my mind. Become a programmer and enjoy the close contact you have with people from different countries. Many will keep in touch with you and you will always be welcome in their homes. These are some of my stories;

In 1993 South Africa was having an election, running for Presidency was De Clerke and Mandela. The people in the villages would not recognize them if they walked into their village. They held their campaign speeches in Capetown, Pretoria, etc.

The U.S. Department of State IVLP program brought 22 African leaders to America to view how we voted. When they reached Albuquerque, with the Visitors speaking only their Tribal language; I thought the Navajo voting would be the most interesting for them. We traveled to Window Rock, Az. and met with their Election Board. They explained how the Navajo vote by picture as there are many Navajos' that don't speak or read English. We traveled to Chapter House and saw how the people came to vote. The group took all info, election ballots and the Navajo way back to Africa. As a result, Africa sent a second group to finalize small details. Come election time the Navajo system was used and is still used today in South Africa

I programmed a group of 6 visitors from the Middle East and Agnes Dill escorted with me. Two of the gentlemen got tired and sat down at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. One of the gentlemen said "I have four wives and he has

five". I was aware that they were allowed 4 wives but not 5. He asked how that would work in America and I told him it wouldn't because one woman would not tolerate the other wives; we are not a husband sharing country. He went into detail of how each had their own home and his time was shared equally with them. Agnes and I listened.

After several days here they were ready to depart and this gentleman said to me "I don't have 4 wives and he doesn't have 5." I told him he hadn't heard the last of me. I had read the bios' and his birthday was the next month. I sent a beautiful birthday card and said I don't know which of your wives you will be having your birthday with but have a wonderful day. He never answered back.

We have done a lot of programs for Africa on HIV and everywhere we had meeting The presenters gave our visitors lots of condoms, as they were being introduced to Africa at that time. They were all happy groups and we enjoyed many laughs.

I always met my programs at the airport and went with them to see them off. Before, going through baggage was much easier but the security always opened the carry on bags to check them. Security opened the first bag of my group and he had packed it solid with condoms, of course they went flying all over. The second bag was the same way, so security took the whole group aside to check the rest of the bags. Everyone in the airport check-in was laughing.

One group of African Judges came on a program. One of their appointments was at the

Police Academy where they train officers. They showed a training video of how to protect yourself from an assault. Then the officer asked for a volunteer and we had an overweight lady judge that volunteered. They put a holster and gun on her and showed her how to draw the gun and told her to be fast.

They started the video and before she got the gun out of the holster the man in the video had shot her. She asked the officer if she could try again, this time she had the gun out but didn't shoot fast enough. He said "you are dead again."

She wasn't content so he let her try one more time. This time she drew and fired but the man in the video had knifed her. She didn't wait for the officer to tell her she was dead, she just fell backward and laid sprawled out on the floor.

The Journal was there and this made the Albuquerque paper.

Our groups came in from all over the world. One man from Princepal Africa watched me eat strawberries. He said they had strawberries in Africa but never ate them; they let the snakes eat them. After he saw me eat them and not get sick he started eating strawberries.

I had a program with a lady from Radio Berlin. She visited local schools and each night she

would do her broadcast on her Berlin show from the old Ramada Hotel on Menaul.

One of my visitors from Africa told me this story; In his country they made homemade brew. One night they were having a party and his friend said he had killed a mamba snake and had put it out in the grass hut. One of the partiers said he was going out to see it. After a long period of time my visitor said he went to check on the other man and found him dead on the floor of the hut. The mamba was coiled in the center, my visitor watched the snake and noticed the mamba was dead but the female mamba had followed and wrapped herself around the male and she had killed the man.

The visitor explained that the mamba is so deadly that his people travel through the jungle with a pot of boiling water on their heads as the mamba drops down from the trees to bite them and the boiling water kills the snake.

Our International Visitors enjoy talking and telling us of their country and culture. One night I sat at Village Inn with the Chief of the Yukon tribe until 2:00 am as she just wanted to talk about her tribe and their problem. She was 13 when she became chief.

by Gertrude Ferriman

ACIV Summit Planning Committee Named

As the Summit nears, the volunteer committee will keep busy pulling together the details that are necessary to holding a successful event. Each committee volunteer is pitching in with his or her skills and knowledge to assure a smooth progression. Karen Schafer is serving as chair of the committee, and members are: Jim Giachino, Sharon Gordon, Norma Hibbs, David Hsi, Keith Lanser, Judy Love, Shannon Reieron, Delbert Schafer, Susan Severt, Bill Yarnall, and Carol Yarnall. If you would like to join the Summit Planning Committee, please contact Karen Schafer, karenjean44@gmail.com.

ACIV members—present and former—will soon receive a letter asking for their support for ACIV's Summit on Citizen Diplomacy. Look for it the mail and help us make the Summit a huge success.