



Anacortes Sister Cities Association

NEWSLETTER

December 17, 2004

From the President

By Duane Clark

Just Time to Catch Our Breath

It is hard to believe that another year is about to come to an end. I am beginning to believe in a certain conspiracy theory. There are several months of 2004 that I just can't recall, and I'm not convinced that they actually happened. I could be wrong, but I don't think so.

In any event 2004 will end soon, and 2005 will begin. This, then, is the perfect time to sit back, reflect on recent months and think about plans for coming months. I have to say that there isn't too much time for this "Catch Your Breath" process, but let's savor it while it is here.

While 2004 had it ups and downs and challenges for each of our Sister Cities, I have to say that the City Committee Chairs (assisted by a very supportive and highly motivated Board), and their committee members did an outstanding job, and made tremendous progress. Our success is dependent on so many factors, both at home and abroad, that at times we wonder if we can effectively and positively marshal all of those factors. I will say it again, we have made tremendous progress, and of course, we still have work to do.

I have no doubt that 2005 will build on the successes of 2004, as we continue our pursuit of a better understanding of other cultures and appreciation of new found friendships around the world.

The entire notion that drives Sister Cities International in general and ASCA in particular is noble and worth all of our efforts.

So, reflect back, relax now, and get ready to go back to work tomorrow. *Duane Clark*

2005 ASCA Officers

Duane Clark, President
John Lovric, Vice-President
Jo Fuqua, Secretary
Mark Lijek, Treasurer

From the Vice President

By Don Lapworth

This is the last time I'll be writing this column. As of the December 10th Installation Dinner a new Vice President, John Lovric, was installed and will serve from January 1, 2005 through 2006. It's been a great experience to have served in various capacities since 1992, but my age finally caught up with me and at 80+ years it's time to step down and give the younger, brighter people a chance to serve you and help direct the affairs of the organization.

Over the years Joyce and I have met many good friends in ASCA and had the chance to travel with many of them twice to Russia, once to Japan, many times to Sidney, and twice to Vela Luka. I've had a chance to recommend the expansion of our sister cities network to include Sidney and Vela Luka and have worked hard to cause those cities to become related to Anacortes through Sister Cities International as partners, and brought the World Championship of Town Criers to Anacortes.

I've had the chance to lead groups to Lomonosov in 2001 and Vela Luka in 2004. I hope those people were as impressed as Joyce and I were in 1992 when Jack Greenwald led the first Anacortes Sister City group to our first sister city, Lomonosov, Russia. When you meet the people of a foreign country, live in their homes, and eat at their tables, you have to get a new sense of the need for world order and peace on earth. How can you shoot at your friends? I think we have made a small dent in the problem and with your continued support and effort can do even more.

I want to also report on our most recent joint project of six lighted flag poles which have been added to the "Welcome to Anacortes" sign at the east entrance on highway 20. These are to carry the American flag, -the national flags of our four sister city nations, and the Washington State flag. The dedication was on Saturday, December 18, Quite an impressive sight and reminder that Anacortes has a very active and successful program in World fellowship through ASCA. It's been a great ride. Thanks for all the help and friendship! *Don Lapworth*

January Membership Meeting
Thursday, January 6
7 p.m., Anacortes Library

Vela Luka

By Nikki Lovric

Dear Anacortes Sister City Members:

Merry Christmas and Sretan Bozic! Or if you are Hawaiian like me, Mele Kaliki Maka!

I cannot tell you how happy we are to have accomplished so many projects in the first year we have been a Sister City. We successfully had three students travel from Vela Luka to Anacortes, we had a wonderful adult trip to Vela Luka, participated in CroatiaFest, and had many successful fund-raising parties. Without all of you who support the Vela Luka committee, we couldn't have done it. Thank you for being a wonderful, happy, energetic, fun group to work with! Down to business-just kidding! I wanted to thank Don Lapworth and Ivan Mirosevic for being the major roles in the adult trip to Croatia. Don, you are a driving force that leads to Vela Luka's success! Our trip was beautiful. Johnny and I went to Vela Luka a week before the tourists and officials from Anacortes arrived. We stayed with Ante's parents and sister. What a lovely family. We are so lucky to have had students who came from wonderful families.

Here are some quotes from the other tourists:

"I thought Chester, England, was the most beautiful place in the world. But now Croatia is right there with you. It's a have-to-see place."

-David Rapella.

"You can see 18 meters through the water and they were catching octopus off the esplanade right in front of our hotel" -Mayor Dean Maxwell.

"Our recent trip was a delightful success. For me the trip to the island for lunch was the high point, followed by the dinner in the country."

-Jack Papritz.

"Vela Luka. It was beautiful, the people wonderful, the food good, and it was a quiet, small place." -Sharon Howard.

"One great and tremendous feature of the trip was the food. Goodness gracious, we ate and ate and ate-Seafood, fish (very expensive, 250-300 Kunas for a seafood dinner, 40-65 for a lamb dinner), squid (Maxwell's favorite), octopus lamb, pork, and beef; beets, cabbage (Love that cabbage, lots of cabbage), cabbage rolls, cabbage salad, beans, marinated peppers (WOW, get me that recipe for the marinated peppers), olives and olive oil-olive oil on everything. Once I saw someone pour olive oil on the olives, a bit over the top! (My dad used to use olive oil as a hair tonic. He never did put lettuce or tomatoes in his hair-, though.)" -Don Wick. *(Continued next column)*

I thought you might enjoy some of those quotes. I know I did!

Because of the interest of Mayor Gugic in

starting a Rotary Club in Vela Luka, and the assistance of Anacortes Rotarians, a brand new Rotary club was formed in Vela Luka in June. While in Vela Luka, Anacortes Rotarians had the opportunity to meet with some of the members of the new club. They are making great plans to serve the Vela Luka community.

Our group is currently working on many projects. Our main one is to bring "Kumpanija," the sword dancers, to Anacortes in October, 2005. Stay tuned.

Nikki Lovric, Vela Luka chair.

Photos from Vela Luka Trip



Lomonosov

By Suzanne Harris

2004 has proved to be a year of renewal with our friends in Lomonosov. The Kalinka remains strong and committed to their continued relationship with their friends in Anacortes.

It was felt important that we personally meet with Marina Ahkromova this year to set goals for our two associations. Thanks to the success of our last minute fund-raiser we were able to raise all but about \$150 of the cost to bring Marina to Anacortes! Thank you!

Marina arrived in October, followed days later by Tatyana Proshkina. Serving as President and Vice-president of the Kalinka, we were able to accomplish much during their too short visit. Many thanks to Maria Papritz and all of you who assisted with hosting our guests.

The Anacortes Sister City has sent three delegations to Lomonosov. Those who have had the privilege to participate in these exchanges know how truly wonderful these opportunities are. The Russians feel strongly that they would like an opportunity to visit us. Following a 10+ year formal relationship, I too agreed that it was time.

Marina and Tatyana feel that our Russian counterparts would be able to raise half of their fares and we are currently looking at bringing ten individuals over in September. Additional Russian Kalinka members, wishing to pay their entire fare, would be included as well. Providing them a venue to sell Russian items while they are visiting would make it possible for them to recoup some of their expense and provide them some spending money.

This would be a huge undertaking albeit nothing our organization would not be able to handle. Throughout the years we have hosted many individuals-larger numbers, etc. I truly believe we can do this.

Many discussions ensued about fund-raising ideas to sustain our continued involvement and to support joint projects we may do together in the future. On the top of the list was an Annual Sister City Calendar and a Sister City Cookbook

I am looking for those who remember the hospitality shown them in the past, those who are loyal to maintaining an important relationship, and as many as possible with lots of energy to devote to this committee in 2005. Your rewards will be heartfelt and long remembered as together we continue to make progress in the relationship between two small cities-Anacortes and Lomonosov. Happy Holidays! Susan Harris

Kisakata

By Cora Amburn-Lijek

Student Exchange

The deadline for chaperone and student applications for the Kisakata Exchange was December 15. Once the applications are reviewed, it will be time to interview the students and select the next group of students. If all goes well, organizational meetings and classes will begin in January.

Spring Adult Trip

One meeting was held to discuss an upcoming adult trip to Kisakata. A second meeting for all those interested in visiting Kisakata this spring will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 13 at Diane and Rick Davidson's home. If you plan to attend" please let them know by calling 293-7573.

An aerial view of Kisakata



2005 Dues are Due

*See Dues Notice on back cover
of this Newsletter*

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