



2011

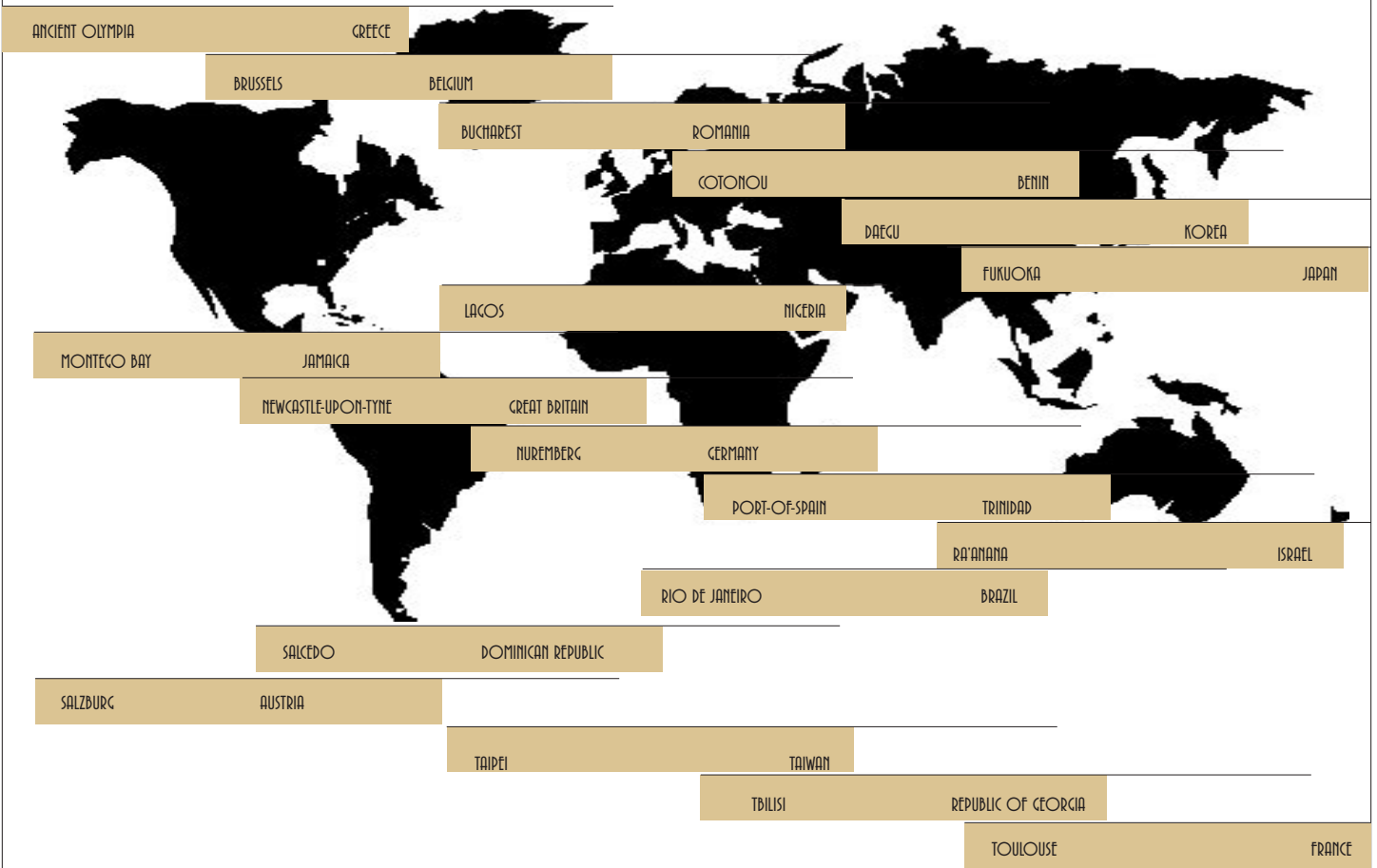
ANNUAL REPORT



A T L A N T A • S I S T E R • C I T I E S C O M M I S S I O N

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To

The Honorable Kasim Reed
Mayor, City of Atlanta

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The Honorable Ceasar Mitchell
President, Atlanta City Council

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FROM

Teri Simmons
Chair
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

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I am pleased to submit to you the 2011 Annual Report of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC). In addition to the activities of the various committees, ASCC has met monthly to carry out its role and function in relation to Atlanta's Sister Cities program.

We were pleased to serve the City of Atlanta and its international community during 2011 and look forward to the continued growth and expansion of the Sister Cities program under your administration.

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2011 INTRODUCTION

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The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) was chartered by the City of Atlanta and codified in Atlanta City Ordinance No. 1979-71. The organization is managed by a Chair, elected by the ASCC membership. The appointee must be ratified by a majority of the Atlanta City Council. Teri Simmons was elected as Chair, and Wilma Kruger as Vice Chair, in 2011.

The full 'board' of the Commission comprises the Chair, three additional Mayoral appointees and two members appointed by the City Council. In addition, the chairpersons of each Sister City Committee, or their designee, serve on the Commission.

The Mayor's appointed members in 2011 were Cedric Suzman, DBA and Samuel Bacote.

Elections are held annually to select a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each elected officer serves a one-year term. Elected officials of the Commission are restricted to two consecutive terms in office.

Officers include:

Secretary
Treasurer

Charleise Young, Ph.D
Victor Ramirez

Other standing committees of the Commission are listed opposite.

Staff

The Commission is supported by members of the Mayor's Office staff who participate in monthly and special meetings, help shape the Commission's policy and act as liaison with the Mayor. In 2011, Noah Downer supported the Commission.

ASCC maintains a web site with annual reports, information on each of the sister cities and details of the process of becoming a sister city. Please visit <http://ow.ly/azO2u> or full URL below:

<http://www.atlantaga.gov/index.aspx?page=642>

Atlanta's Sister City Committees

Name of City	Date of Affiliation	Chair/Representative
Ancient Olympia – Greece	1994	Margo Alexander, Ph.D.
Brussels – Belgium	1983	Mr. Vince Pedicino
Bucharest – Romania	1994	Mr. Nick Modares
Cotonou – Benin	1995	Charleise Young, Ph.D.
Daegu – Korea	1981	Mr. John Lee
Fukuoka – Japan	2005	Ms. Sumiko Renfroe
Lagos – Nigeria	1974	Augustine O. Esogbue, Ph.D.
Montego Bay – Jamaica	1972	Mr. Vin Martin, Atty
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne – Great Britain	1977	Mr. David Smith
Nuremberg – Germany	1998	Mr. Shean L. Atkins
Port-of-Spain – Trinidad	1987	Ms. Norma Kendall - Hamlet
Rio de Janeiro – Brazil	1972	Mrs. Gisela LaPorta
Ra'anana – Israel	2000	Arnold Heller, Ph.D.
Salcedo – Dominican Republic	1996	Mr. Victor Ramirez
Salzburg – Austria	1967	Open
Taipei – Taiwan	1974	Mr. Charles Liu/Mr. David Yu
Tbilisi – Republic of Georgia	1988	Mr. John Hall
Toulouse – France	1974	Mrs. Betty Davis

Atlanta Sister Cities Commission - Standing Committees

Committee	Chair
Executive Committee	Ms. Teri Simmons
Fund Raising Committee	Cedric Suzman, DBA
Nominating Committee	Vin Martin, Atty
Economic Development	Mr. David Smith
Education	Charleise Young, Ph.D.
Public Relations	Mr. David Smith
New Cities	Augustine O. Esogbue, Ph.D.

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ASCC International Student Super Exchange

❖ In October, ASCC hosted an exchange of students from Atlanta's sister cities. The theme of the exchange project was "Training the Next Generation of Sister City Program Leaders". Over 30 participants came from Atlanta's sister cities of Montego Bay, Jamaica; Newcastle, United Kingdom; Nurnberg, Germany; Salcedo, Dominican Republic, Taipei, Taiwan; and Toulouse, France.

❖ Delegations included high school students accompanied by a teacher – chaperone or a representative of the municipality or the sister city committee. Atlanta area secondary schools, North Atlanta High School and Pace Academy, provided home stays with local families and served as daily meeting places.

❖ The objective of the program was to foster exchange of knowledge in practical aspects of globalization; encourage people to people connections, partnerships and joint projects; and to expose students and teachers to opportunities to work with international organizations.



ASCC members welcome students and hosts at the Commission reception

❖ Taking place October 21 -30, the itinerary provided varied educational experiences and recreational opportunities assuring a great time for all participants. Programs included a tour of Martin Luther King Historic Site, accompanied by Atlanta Councilor Kwanza Hall, and a lecture at Clarke Atlanta University about the role of the Historic Black Universities in Atlanta, led by Dr Charleise Young, chair of the Benin Cotonou Sister City Committee and secretary, Atlanta Sister Cities Commission.

❖ At the Metro Atlanta Chamber, the focus was on Atlanta as a center for global business. At Georgia Tech, Vince Pedicino, Assistant Director, Graduate Academic Advising and Enrollment Services, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, and Chair Atlanta-Brussels Sister City Committee presented international students' perspectives on college life.



Above: Teri Simmons and Sean Atkins of ASCC meet students and chaperone Petra Rensch from Nurnberg



Left: Exchange director, Dr. Arnold Heller, welcomes visitors

Right: Teri Simmons with exchange coordinators at North Atlanta High School. Dr. John Denine, IB Coordinator, and Mrs. Kelley Day, Assitant



Students enjoy a game of dodgeball at North Atlanta High School

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ASCC International Student Super Exchange

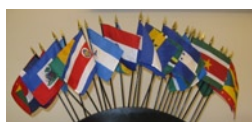


Victor Ramirez meets with visitors from the Dominican Republic

- ❖ At Pace Academy Carolyn Bishop, President, Consortium for Global Education, spoke on the importance of studying abroad. At Riverwood High School, guests interacted with Culinary School students to create a shared American brunch, hosted by Gayle Anderson, Director, Career and Technical Education.
- ❖ A tour of Atlanta City Hall Tour was provided by Doug Young, Executive Director, Urban Design Commission and was followed by a keynote address on Leadership and Public Service by Honorable Kasim Reed, Mayor, City of Atlanta.



Teri Simmons meets with Atlanta hosts



- ❖ Students also had an opportunity to visit Atlanta sites including Centennial Olympic Park, The World of Coca-Cola, The Atlanta History Center, The Georgia Aquarium. Social events included receptions at North Atlanta High School and Pace Academy, and an Atlanta Sister Cities Commission reception hosted by Commission Chair, Teri Simmons, at the offices of Arnall, Golden Gregory.

- ❖ The City of Atlanta, Sister Cities Commission members, schools and colleges, and Atlanta companies and organizations all contributed greatly to ensure a successful program. The Student Exchange was directed by Dr Arnold Heller, Chair Atlanta-Ra'anana Sister City Committee (see Ra'anana report page xx). In 1997, the Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Development Award was presented in San Diego to Dr Arnold Heller recognizing the creation of student exchanges with secondary schools through a joint global business education program aimed at creating long term friendships that would help build new bridges and expand international trade.

Vin Martin meets with the group from Montego Bay Jamaica



Minerva Hui-Min Liu (Taipei student), Johanna Hoh (Nuremberg student), Tiffany Yi-Syuan Jhu (Taipei student), and Fiona Fang-Yi Hsu (chaperone from Taipei).

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Atlanta - Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee

Chairman: Dr. Margo Alexander

Co-Chairman: Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp

❖ In January, Chairman Dr. Alexander, Co-chairman Mrs. Sharp attended the Atlanta Council on International Relations meeting where the Consul of Greece, Mr. Vasillas Goulousis was a participant in a panel discussion on "The Mighty Euro Revisited". It was held at the Capital City Club in Atlanta and was a very educational and productive event.



Chair Margo Alexander and Nick Naderi at the March 25 Celebration

❖ On March 25, the Committee, along with The Consulate of Greece, the Georgia Federation of Hellenic-American Organizations and The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, hosted a reception commemorating

Greek Independence Day. All Hellenes and Friends of Hellenism were invited. A program featured a historical perspective of Greek Independence Day, a dance performance by Lykion Ton Ellinidon and a taste of Greece.

❖ The FSA International Heritage Festival was held at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park in April of this year. The Ancient Olympia Greece committee was a proud sponsor for the Greece booth which featured artifacts from the region as well as a few authentic costumes. The committee also sponsored the Lykion Ton Ellinidon dance students of Atlanta who perform to showcase the Hellenic Folk Dances from Greece.



Greek costume display

❖ In May, a formal meeting took place between the Commission and the Consul of Greece Mr. Vasillas Goulousis. The main theme and discussion for the meeting was for an exchange program for young students and the continuation of Hellenic Traditions here in the Atlanta area. Also discussed was sponsoring a student to be a part of the ASCC, Sister Cities Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Student Exchange, "Training the Next Generation of Sister City Leaders" that will be held here in Atlanta in October, 2011.

❖ Also in May, the Chair was honored to attend the 2011 Europe Day Celebration. This event was sponsored by the European Union Center of Excellence at Georgia Tech.

❖ In July, Co-chairman, Mrs. Sharp went to Greece to meet with the Director of Lykion Ton Ellinidon in Athens to discuss the Greek Folk Dance exchange program for young students from abroad during the Summer of 2012. The meeting was very productive and the formal plan for the student exchange will be distributed in the near future.

❖ On October 29, the Committee had the pleasure along with the Georgia Federation of Hellenic-American Organizations to sponsor the celebration for the "OXI" day (28th October 1940). The guest speaker was the Honorable Consul Goulousis as well as a special presentation by Mr. James Peters. It was a very informative evening that concluded with a reception of traditional refreshments.

❖ In November, the Committee along with the Office of the Consul of Greece, sponsored a talk and discussion on the "Economic Crisis, Debt Crisis and Challenges for Greece, Europe and Greeks Abroad". The talk was given by the Consul of Greece, Vassilios Gouloussis at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.

At the Heritage Festival (L-R) - Barbara Kiriazis, Chair Margo Alexander, Co-Chair Maria Sharp, and Becky Kanelos



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Atlanta - Brussels Sister City Committee

- ❖ The Atlanta-Brussels Committee has been focusing on establishing stronger ties to the governments representing Brussels. After meetings with the mayor's office in the Commune of Brussels (one of 19 making up the region of Brussels-Capital), the committee is going to focus on establishing ties with the region itself. Now that the political situation in Belgium has settled, it is becoming easier to working to reestablish and strengthen the ties between the two cities politically.
- ❖ The Committee also helped with a student visit as part of the Georgia Tech European Union Study Abroad program. 15 students (mainly from Georgia) spent a month living with families in Brussels and learning about the different political institutions housed in the city.
- ❖ Always one of the most enjoyable and educational parts of the program, students once again raved about their time with Belgians and enjoyed getting to experience their rich culture.



Group from Georgia Tech meeting with a representative of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Atlanta - Newcastle Sister City Committee

- ❖ The Atlanta-Newcastle Sister City Committee was delighted to welcome four students and chaperone to the International Student Exchange, organized by the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission in October.
- ❖ Students, aged 17-18, and chaperone came from Sacred Heart High School Newcastle. Their trip was coordinated by Newcastle City Council.
- ❖ The group comprised Natalie Campbell, Tabitha Robyn Green, Rubi Jane Lawson, Patricia Mawar Puspitasari, and chaperone Lynsey Dover, seen in the photographs below, joined by David Smith and Brian Hailes of the Atlanta-Newcastle Sister City Committee.



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Atlanta - Daegu Sister City Committee

- ❖ 2011 marks the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Atlanta and Daegu, Korea. Initiated by Young Kang, who became the first chair of the Atlanta-Daegu Sister City Committee, the relationship was established in November 1981 and signed by Mayor of Atlanta, Hon. Maynard Jackson.
- ❖ During the thirty years, a wide range of initiatives have taken place including mayoral visits, citizen and school exchanges, sports and cultural activities, professional training, trade, technical and economic development programs.
- ❖ During the first decade of the exchange, Daegu Mayors Jeong Chaejin and Lee Sanghee visited Atlanta, while Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young visited Daegu. Business activities were also conducted in conjunction with the Gift Show in Atlanta and several citizen and professional exchanges took place.
- ❖ During the nineties, a school exchange took place between Pace Academy and Wonhwa Girl's School in Daegu. Mayor Lee Haebong of Daegu visited Atlanta in 1991 and several delegations visited in relation to Apparel Mart shows. Daegu also initiated several visits for professional training and business development, including a Korean products show held in Atlanta in September 1997.
- ❖ In 2000, Daegu was among Atlanta's Sister Cities that provided a booth in the Atrium of Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport featuring miniatures of Korean cultural assets and local products. Official delegations featured strongly between the cities with both exchanging vice-mayors in 2001, and culminating in 2005 when 14 delegates, headed by Mayor Cho Haenyong, visited Atlanta and were met by Mayor Shirley Franklin who presented Mayor Cho with a Phoenix Award.



A plaque of appreciation is presented to Mayor Shirley Franklin by Daegu Mayor Bum-il Kim.



2005 Daegu delegation, visits Atlanta

- ❖ In 2002 North Atlanta High School teachers and students exchanged with Gyeongbuk High School and visited Daegu City Hall. Later, in 2006, Yeungjin College and Atlanta Technical College signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Daegu Central Library and Atlanta Fulton Public Library signed a cooperation agreement in 2004 and subsequently a Daegu Central Library delegation visited its partner in Atlanta.
- ❖ Also in 2006, Dr. Lee Sangyong of Daegu-Gyeongbuk Development Institute made a presentation on "Revitalization and Globalization Strategy of Daegu Metropolitan City" in the Economic Development Global Partnership Conference organized by Atlanta Sister City Commission and CIFAL Atlanta. (Photo - right)
- ❖ In April 2007, 12 delegates headed by Mayor Shirley Franklin visited Daegu where they met Mayor Kim Bumil who presented Mayor Franklin with a plaque of appreciation. The delegation visited Yeungjin College, TaeguTec and SL Autoparts Institute.
- ❖ In August 2007, the director general of the Daegu High-tech Bureau and president of BioMedical City visited Atlanta City Hall, Emory University and Hospital and Georgia Institute of Technology.
- ❖ In 2007, a college student of Atlanta participated in Daegu Int'l Youth Festival with the opportunity to learn Korean culture, language, traditional dance, Taekwondo and participate in Korean family life.
- ❖ Most recently, in 2011, the director general of the Economic Bureau of Daegu visited Atlanta and met John Lee, chair of Atlanta-Daegu Sister City Committee.



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Atlanta - Fukuoka Sister City Committee

❖ Fukuoka became the 18th Sister City of Atlanta in February 2005, after enjoying the special relationship with Atlanta as a Partnership City.

❖ January: Twenty three members enjoyed the wonderful Japanese food at the Leedy's home in Acworth during our annual New Year Kick-off Luncheon. Mrs. Leedy spent several days for preparation for our committee event. Among our favorites were Ozoni (typical Japanese New Years' soup dish with rice cakes), Chikuzen-ni (chicken and various vegetables, a special dish of Fukuoka), Asian Cole slaw, and Roast Pork with Apricot sauce. We enjoyed all the good food and had a wonderful time. We wish to thank the Leedys for their repeated gracious hospitality.

❖ February: Sue Renfroe met with the Education Committee of Japan America Society of Georgia (JASG) to conduct two step selection process of the Atlanta/ Georgia representatives for Asian Pacific Children's Conference (APCC). More than 30 applications were sent in with essays and artistic drawings. Two boys and two girls were selected as Junior Ambassadors. This special all-expense-paid invitation is extended to us due to the Atlanta-Fukuoka sister cities relationship. From Asian and Pacific nations, more than three hundred youths, 10 & 11 year-olds participate in the two-week cultural exchange program in July: one week in a camping program and another week with host families. Atlanta/Georgia group has participated since 2004.

❖ After several orientation sessions provided by JASG, the four Junior Ambassadors: Clayton Eshleman, Ansley McCoy, Modeline Romelus, and Ismail Sanchez traveled to Fukuoka in July, accompanied by Stephanie Tan, Peace Ambassador (former Junior Ambassador) and Julia Kuipers, the Chaperone.

❖ The APCC has been held annually since 1989 with the objectives of: 1) generating appreciation for the culture of other nations and regions; 2) promoting mutual understanding and friendship; 3) nurturing international awareness in the region through young people. The theme of the conference is "We are the BRIDGE: We connect dreams around the world." For more information on this year's conference or if you know of any elementary students who would be interested in applying in future years, please contact the JASG at 404-842-1400 or jasg@mindspring.com. For more information about the APCC, please visit www.apcc.gr.jp.

❖ March: From 20th to 28th, seven students from six Fukuoka high schools visited North Atlanta High school. Maria Nagae, Rina Matsui, Tomohiro Yoshihira, Yuka Okuyama, Eren Fukuda, Mari Takamiya, and Nana Fuchiga enjoyed the interaction with American counterparts by attending the school sessions and after school activities with their host students and families. Guided by volunteers of Fukuoka Committee, they enjoyed the visit to the City Hall, MLK Center, CNN, Coca Cola and Atlanta History Center. Our heart-felt "Big Thank you!" to Kazumi and Forrest Leedy, Brandon Hobson, Ai Ikeda, Sue Lin Lange and Daniel Wolfgang for being the volunteer guides!

❖ Two Fukuoka City officials-Ms. Mariko Shichijo and Mr. Kosuke Suzuki traveled with the students and made a visit to North Atlanta High School, Mayor's office, Japanese Consulate and Japan America Society of Georgia. Our Fukuoka Committee here held a welcome dinner at Umezono Restaurant for the visiting students, their host families and Fukuoka officials. A big crowd of 36 attendees enjoyed the good Japanese foods and exchange of friendship.



Fukuoka students visit CNN and Atlanta City Hall

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Atlanta - Fukuoka Sister City Committee (continued)



❖ May 27-June 10: Maddie Bouldin from North Atlanta High School visited Fukuoka for two weeks. Before departure, Maddie and Mr. Bouldin visited Japanese Consul General Hanatani who took time out of his busy schedule to share some Japanese history and culture lesson. Maddie enjoyed two weeks of home stay and Japanese school life. She gave the Fukuoka students rare experience of meeting an American student and native English speaker.



Above: Maddie visits Consul General Hanatani before her visit to Fukuoka. Photo with her father and Sue Renfro, Fukuoka Chair.

Left: Maddie dressed in a traditional Japanese kimono

❖ September: We participated in the annual JapanFest at Gwinnett Center by setting up a booth to sell unique Fukuoka goods donated by the Sister City Committee in Fukuoka. The proceeds go to further our student exchange program here in Atlanta. Thanks to many volunteers, we were able to share information about Fukuoka with many festival attendees.

❖ November: Consul General Hanatani graciously invited Sue Renfro and Sachi Koto of the Atlanta Fukuoka Sister Cities Committee to his residence to share the sister cities information with Atlanta Mayor Reed and his Staff, Japan America Society member businesses and Japanese Chamber of Commerce representatives to promote their understanding and support. Atlanta Sister Cities Commission President Teri Simmons also attended the event.

- ❖ The Atlanta-Fukuoka Sister City Committee comprises

Chair	Sumiko Renfro,
Vice Chair	Sachi Koto
Treasurer	Kazumi Leedy
Secretary	Keiko Scott



Consul General Hanatani invites Mayor Reed and Sue Renfro for Atlanta Fukuoka Sister Cities presentation

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Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee (the "Committee") has been in existence since 1972. The following committees are active in the pursuit of the goals and objectives of the Committee:

- ❖ Cultural Affairs
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Fundraising
- ❖ Health and Human Services

❖ The Committee has 55 active members but through its many programs is able to draw upon wide community support in an ad hoc manner to execute its mission and to fund the many activities undertaken each year. Meetings are scheduled monthly, but are often held more frequently, based upon specific needs.

2011 Activities

❖ **Cultural Affairs** - The Committee played an active role with other Atlanta based Jamaican organizations in planning the celebration of Jamaica's 49th independence anniversary. The Committee also held its annual gospel brunch at Atlanta City Hall featuring aspects of Jamaican Gospel music

❖ **Education:** The Committee was instrumental in providing educational assistance to several primary school students. Additionally, the Committee provided books and school supplies to these children. Further, three children from Montego Bay High School participated in the student exchange hosted by the Commission.

❖ **Fund Raising:** The Committee held its eleventh annual fund raising golf charity tournament at the Durham Lakes Country Club. Additionally, our annual fund raising ball was held in September. Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States was the guest speaker and in her speech she strongly endorsed the activities of the Committee. As is customary, the majority of the proceeds from these events were used in conducting our Health Mission and assisted in providing needed medicines to the patients seen in Montego Bay.



Left: At the Montego Bay Health Mission

Right: Montego Bay Mayor, Charles Cinclair; Committee Chair-Montego Bay, Metty Scarlett-Jones; City Manager-Montego Bay; Vin Martin

❖ **Health Services:** The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee Health Program's mission is to expand the base of support for health programs directed to the under-served residents of Montego Bay by assembling the most qualified team of health professionals and delivering the most competent level of health service to the under-privileged residents of Montego Bay.

❖ Our health mission is held in conjunction with Montego Bay Chapter of the association and is conducted under the auspices of the Mayor of Montego Bay and the St. James Parish Council.

❖ Each year for the past eighteen years, we have organized a major health mission in Montego Bay. In 2011 our team comprised 31 physicians, nurses and other medical professionals. The duration of our stay was consistent with the prior year and was well received by our patients. Physicians from six different disciplines were included in our mission and provided free quality services to all who attended. The team also donated a significant quantity of medicine and medical supplies to these patients. Executives from our team visited with local hospital officials to discuss our plans for the use of the operating theatre by specialists on our team..

❖ **Other Events:** As has been done over the past several years the Committee joined with our local chapter in organizing Christmas luncheons for four needy nonprofit organizations in Montego Bay. While on our mission in October, a group of our members provided meals for members of the Montego Bay Refuge of Hope, a night shelter which was created after a visit by Montego Bay government officials to Atlanta several years ago.

❖ During the year, the Committee also hosted several dignitaries from Montego Bay and organized visits with various Atlanta social groups. Further, in order to expand the reach of the organization, we continued to participate with several other local organizations in conducting health screenings and book drives to assist in improvement of the reading skills of local students.



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Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee

❖ On February 23, 2011, Shean Atkins, Chair of the Atlanta-Nürnberg Sister City Committee and Director of Community Partnerships for the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA), was invited by Prof. Dr. Andreas Falke, Executive Director of the German-American Institute in Nürnberg, to participate in a panel discussion on Social Housing. Joined by Dr. Falke and Hans-Joachim Schlössl, Director of the Nürnberg Office of Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Atkins discussed AHA's public housing history and the transformation of the Atlanta real estate market. He spoke of AHA's strategy for de-concentrated poverty and its investment in human development for the agency's participants. He shared success stories of participants who once lived in distressed public housing projects and are now benefiting from living in better environments – healthy, mixed-income, mainstream communities. Mr. Atkins also stressed the importance of viable connections to support services and resources as well as workforce and economic development to a family's progression to sustainable self-sufficiency. To date, there has been approximately \$3 billion of economic investment from the private sector as a result of AHA's revitalization efforts



Margaret Jankowsky, Chair of ANKO; Shean Atkins, Atlanta Housing Authority; Prof. Dr. Andreas Falke, Director of the German-American Institute; and Mr. Hans-Joachim Schlössl speak to attendees during the panel discussion on Social Housing Solutions

❖ The successful and ongoing music exchange between the cities of Atlanta and Nürnberg continues. During the month of April 2011, the Dunwoody High School Band traveled to Nürnberg through an exchange organized by Friendship Force International. For 11 days, the students, band director, and other chaperones lived with host families while they experienced German life in the Bavarian city. Through the homestays, the students learned a lot about German culture, politics, and history.

❖ While in Nürnberg, the students performed twice – once for the Mayor of Nürnberg in the Main Market Square, and then in a joint concert with the band from their host high school – Eckental Gymnasium. Also during their stay, the group visited the Nürnberg Document Center, a museum containing details of the Nürnberg Trials and chronicling the Nazi's rise to power in the 1920s and 30s. They also traveled to the old Roman City of Regensburg, and the medieval City of Bamberg.



Dunwoody High School Band plays in the Nürnberg Main Market Square



❖ Additionally, on April 14th, the musical exchange between the cities of Atlanta and Nürnberg featured a free concert hosted by Wolfgang Krüger, Executive Director of the Goethe Zentrum / German Cultural Center Atlanta. This well-attended concert featured Nürnberg Guitarist Stefan Grasse who played pieces from his latest CD project Brisas de Mar (which is Spanish for Sea Breezes). The CD contains creatively arranged music that represents music from both sides of the Atlantic - Europe and Latin America.



Grasse is a trained jazz and classical guitarist and his performance attracted many German enthusiasts, cultural center patrons, and lovers of great music and art. This spectacular evening was topped off with a special performance with Grasse and Atlanta artist and tap dancer Jay White.

Nürnberg guitarist Stefan Grasse

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Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee (continued)

❖ From May 30 – June 10, several teens from The Villages at Carver Family YMCA in Atlanta, participated in a two-week workshop that used photography and sound to reflect on the subject of contemporary exile. The workshop was part of Nürnberg's VS Mittelfranken's Hermann Kesten Prize. Since 1994, the VS Mittelfranken has honored Kesten by awarding the Hermann Kesten Prize to persons or projects that are aligned with Kesten's dedication to German language, literature, and culture. Kesten, a Jew who came to Nürnberg as a child in 1904, went into exile in 1940 during the increase of power of the Deutsche Wehrmacht. While in exile, he lived in Holland, France, and eventually the U.S. A prolific novelist, playwright, publisher, essayist and humanitarian, Kesten was a critical contributor to the advancement of German language, literary production and exchange throughout the world. Although he spent the majority of his adult life in exile in the United States, Kesten always stayed critically and passionately involved with German language, literature and its writers as a life focus.

❖ The 2011 Hermann Kesten Prize was dedicated to extending the impact of German literature and language to Atlanta youth. Through the "Exile Project," ten youth from Atlanta's Carver YMCA explored Kesten's life of exile. The teens examined the meaning and ramifications of exile – both in political terms and in their everyday lives. They were also exposed to the cultural similarities and differences between Atlanta and Nürnberg.

❖ The group captured their thoughts through writings, photography, and recorded messages and sound. VS member and Nürnberg artist-in-residence, Tanja Hemm, assisted the teens in this project. Ms. Hemm has an expansive breadth of knowledge and experience on American and German language and literature. As a guide to the Atlanta youth, Ms. Hemm utilized her expertise to assist in transforming their essays, poems, pictures and sound recordings into an exhibition that premiered on November 08th at the 'Internationales Haus' in Nürnberg. Atlanta - Nürnberg Committee chair, Shean Atkins, attended the event to provide remarks and to accept the monetary prize on behalf of the teens and the Carver YMCA.



Carver YMCA teens explore photography in downtown Atlanta as part of the "Exile Project"



Nürnberg Artist-in-Residence Tanja Hemm and Atlanta-Nürnberg Committee Chair Shean Atkins pose with teens from The Villages at Carver Family YMCA



Shean Atkins accepting the Hermann-Kesten prize on behalf of the teens at The Villages at Carver Family YMCA

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Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee (continued)

❖ The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission organized and hosted its first ever biennial Student Exchange Program. The mission of this 10-day student exchange was to “engage the next generation of leaders.” High school students from each of the commission’s 18 sister cities were invited to participate in the exchange. Nürnberg sent a delegation of three to include two students and one teacher from the Hans-Sachs Gymnasium. The students enjoyed homestays with families from North Atlanta High School and Pace Academy while participating in everyday student life. While in Atlanta, delegates met with some of Atlanta’s most influential political leaders. The students also broadened their understanding of American culture and history, with visits to several key sites around Atlanta, including The King Center, The Carter Center and Presidential Library, CNN, local colleges and universities, and The World of Coca-Cola, to name a few. The Nürnberg students’ air travel was made possible through a generous grant from the German-American Cultural Foundation. Teri Simmons, Chair of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission is a member of the foundation’s board of directors and also serves as the board’s secretary. (See full report page 3-4.)



Noah Downer of Mayor Kasim Reed’s Office of International Affairs poses with Nürnberg students from the Hans-Sachs Gymnasium

Opposite: The Nürnberg world famous Christmas Market on the city’s Main Market Square



❖ 2011 marked the fourth year that Atlanta native, Rod Brown, operated the “Atlanta Booth” in the international section of Nürnberg’s world-famous Christkindlesmarkt. With about two million visitors a year the Nürnberger Christkindlesmarkt is one of the largest Christmas markets in Germany and one of the most famous in the world. Every year the Christmas market begins on the Friday preceding the first Sunday in Advent and ends on December 24th. Rod remains diligent in his efforts to select a broad array of American crafts and goods to display. From items depicting the southern charm of Georgia to the undeniable red, white, and blue of the American flag,



Rod provided wares that not only represented the culture of Atlanta but the entire United States of America. In addition, attendees enjoyed the delectable flavors of a vast array of U.S. snacks and treats.

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Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee

❖ The purpose of the Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee is to provide a structure to allow people to express their common desire for friendship and understanding by initiating, developing, promoting and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships. The activities pursued by APSCC are educational, cultural, civic and business development in nature. The committee was established in 1987 and has 15 members.

2011 Highlights

❖ In January 2011, the Committee agreed to partner with JLC Productions to launch Caribbean American Fashion Exchange. The program, a fashion marketing platform for Caribbean and Caribbean American fashion and accessory designers, seeks to bridge the gap between the fashion industries of the Caribbean and the United States by providing sales and promotion opportunities in the U.S. for Caribbean and Caribbean American designers. The Caribbean American Fashion Exchange opened in May 2011 and continued with the Atlanta Apparel Trade Show and Tales in Weaves That Bind in October 2011.



The Caribbean American Fashion Exchange

❖ Gayelle Television in Port of Spain, Trinidad, interviewed the Chair of APSCC on February 20. Ms. Kendall-Hamlet gave a brief overview of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, its composition, purpose and goals. She also gave a background of APSCC and the proposed activities and initiatives for the year 2011 and continuing.

❖ Carnival was celebrated in Trinidad and Tobago on March 07 and 08, 2011. Many of our members and friends visited Port of Spain to celebrate and participate in the revelry. They were greeted by the Chairs, of both the Atlanta and Port of Spain Sister City Committees, enjoyed trips to the various calypso tents and pan yards, and were captivated by music and costumes of Carnival.

❖ Also in March, discussions were held with Dr. Anil Ramnanan, Consul General for Trinidad and Tobago, with regard to the proposed activities of the organization for 2011 and continuing. Our outlined goals were to foster economic development; public safety exchange involving our Fire Officers; development of youth programs and a request for his assistance to ensure participation of students from Port of Spain schools for the International Students exchange to be held in Atlanta, in October.

❖ Committee members were actively involved in the Global Health and Humanitarian Summit held at Emory University on April 02 and 03. The goal of the Summit is to inspire individuals (including children) and organizations to become active in humanitarian volunteerism. The organizers hope to catalyze an international movement,



Global Health and Humanitarian Summit

the sessions.

❖ Caribbean residents in Georgia and international visitors to Atlanta, celebrated Peach Carnival on May 28, 2011, and members of the Committee participated in the festivity of music and dance on the street by revelers in lavish costumes.

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Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee (continued)

- ❖ The Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee was one of the sponsors for the opening ceremony of Caribbean American Heritage Month, at the Atlanta City Hall Atrium on June 05. Attendees enjoyed a cultural evening of dance, steel band music, art and food from the various ethnic groups of the community.
- ❖ In keeping with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Fire Services of Atlanta, Georgia and Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, twelve (12) fire officers from Trinidad and Tobago were hosted and trained by the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department during the period June 13-24. The areas covered were:
 - a) High-rise Structural Training, Operations and Rescue
 - b) Tranche Rescue
 - c) Special Operations, Tools and Equipment
 - d) Hazardous Material Awareness and Operations



Fire officers from Trinidad and Tobago visit Atlanta for training.

- ❖ The Mango Festival which celebrates the mango season in Trinidad and Tobago was held on the Campus of the University of the West Indies on July 03. The event was hosted by the President of the Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister City Network and supported by the Chair, of APSCC. Attendees enjoyed the ambience of an event that proved to be both educational and entertaining. Vendors displayed and sold products derived from mangoes, which included cosmetics, preserves, candles, jewelry and soaps. The tourism ministry was involved and they certainly added flavor to the proceedings. There is much potential for developing the tourism side of these kinds of festivals.



Mango products on display at the Mango Festival

- ❖ On July 23, APSCC partnered with the Flint Fleming Jr. Arts Foundation, Inc. d.b.a. "My Son Matters," to launch our Literacy & Sports Campaign and to celebrate the one year anniversary of Caribbean Melange Radio. Community organizations and local businesses in the Metro-Atlanta area were asked to help in engage the youth in Cultural Arts and Sports Programs. The event took place at Advanced Auto Parts in Lithonia, Ga. Sponsors of the event were Chick-fil-A – Turner Hill, LiL Dippers and GYSSA. Our Motto: "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child is growth strong in our local communities"



Community Outreach Program for My Son Matters

- ❖ Another goal of the Committee is the continual mentoring of "Youth in Need of Direction". As a result, on July 30, we collaborated with YMCA Trinidad and Tobago in their program "Shoot to Live" through photography. It seeks to address the issue of gender violence amongst young men, and offers a unique opportunity to build self-esteem, reflect creative qualities and create works of art that are underpinned by sensitivity to gender and its effects on society.

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Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee (continued)

❖ On August 13, Flint P. Fleming Jr. Arts Foundation, Inc. in collaboration with Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee hosted a Literacy Campaign to promote cultural diversity in reading. The event took place in the Atrium of City Hall, Atlanta. We have found that our nation's youth are suffering lack of respect for one another, and it is our intention to promote understanding and respect to our diversified population in Atlanta, Georgia and Globally. The theme for the evening was: "Self Confidence"

"You are the Sculptor, You are the Artist, create your FUTURE and become your blessing!"



Launch of the Literacy Program Atrium of Atlanta

❖ The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) hosted a student exchange Oct. 21 – 30, 2011. Unfortunately, there was no participation from schools in Port of Spain, due to a "State of Emergency" declared by the Government. Nonetheless, Committee Members supported the event and attended the planned sessions.



❖ Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran was invited to visit Trinidad during the period November 27 – December 03, as the Guest speaker at the 10th Anniversary of Fire Chief of the Caribbean. He provided the keynote address for the general session entitled, "Leading to Inspire." The core message encourages leaders of today to be deliberate in engaging in behaviors and traits that build resonance in individuals and organizations. Additionally, Chief Cochran shared emergency management strategies with the CAFC from lessons learned through his experiences as Fire Chief in Shreveport, Louisiana with hurricane Katrina; and as United States Fire Administrator under President Barack Obama. The title of the presentation was, "America's Response to Hurricane Katrina." This information helped to bolster a Caribbean-wide effort toward enhanced preparedness and response strategies for all islands. He stated looks forward to building on our relationship to enhance the homeland security of our nations.

❖ He was also invited by Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister City President Mrs. Gia Gaspard-Taylor to pay a courtesy call on Mayor Lee Sing - Mayor of Port of Spain. Discussions centered on the Fire Chief being invited to return to the city of Port of Spain, to further assist in emergency activities.



President Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister City Network Ms. Gia Gaspard Taylor, Fire Chief Cochran and Mrs. Cochran.

Opposite - at the Fire Chief Anniversary, L-R: Fire Chief James Collins - Bahamas: Chairman; Fire Chief Carl Williams - Host Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services; Brig. John Sandy - Minister of National Security, Trinidad and Tobago; Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran - Atlanta Fire Department

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Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee



Dr. Arnold Heller, Chair, and Mrs. Myrna Cohen, Vice Chair.

❖ The Atlanta – Ra’anana (Israel) Sister City Committee (ARSCC) was established ten and a half years ago. The ARSCC’s goal is to be a model committee that is part of the fabric of the City of Atlanta and the Jewish Community. Progress towards achievement of this goal has been made because of the tireless volunteer efforts by committee members Mrs. Myrna Cohen (Vice Chair), Mrs. Rena Kahn (Secretary), Dr. Cedric Suzman, Mr. Nadav Sivon and new member Mrs. Patty Morrison. Dr. Arnold Heller, Chair since the committee’s inception in 1999, honors the ARSCC members support for the sister city partnership and State of Israel.

❖ 2011 was a challenging year for the ARSCC. The committee’s major accomplishment was the May visit by Vice Chair Myrna Cohen to the most livable city in Israel. The three goals of Mrs. Cohen’s mission were to establish new programs and projects, generate enthusiasm for the partnership, and strengthen the bond of friendship between Ra’anana and Atlanta. Mrs. Cohen will return to Ra’anana in July 2012 to again strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two cities.

❖ The committee’s major challenge was Ra’anana Mayoral Spokesperson Ronit Shoham’s resigning the International Affairs Coordinator position at the end of October to enter private business. The committee’s major difficulty was the Municipality’s inability to participate in Super – Exchange 6.

Former International Affairs
Coordinator for Ra'anana - Ronit
Shoham



❖ Mayor Nahum Hofree has since appointed Michal Gefen to succeed Ronit who did an outstanding job serving the sister city partnership.

❖ Ra’anana was founded on April 2, 1922 by New York born Zionists who dreamed of living in a Jewish state. The group developed a settlement in the Sharon District about fifteen miles north of Tel Aviv. This year is the 90th anniversary of that settlement, now a city of 80,000, and the municipality will honor this milestone and growth with a list of activities and events. In April there will be a big party and a spirited marathon to be followed in May with an Adloyada Purim Parade and Kad Va’homer Ceramics Fair.



Recently appointed International Affairs Coordinator for Ra'anana - Michal Gefen.

2011 COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee (continued)

❖ The ARSCC supports many Israel-related activities and events taking place in the community. During 2011, the ARSCC participated in:

❖ Israel's Sixty-Second Independence Day Celebration which usually takes place at The Temple on April 20.

❖ Atlanta Sister City Commission Holiday Party, Dec. 14, 2011 at Arnall, Golden, Gregory. The ARSCC annually provides a feast of Israeli / Middle Eastern delicacies for the pleasure of the other committees.



Vice Chair Myrna Cohen presenting Hanukkah and Israeli food items for ASCC Holiday Party.

❖ The major success of the past two years has been laying the groundwork for the next decade of joint programs and projects. The ARSCC wishes to acknowledge those who were critical to the partnership's founding and development the past ten years:

❖ Former Ra'anana Mayor Zeev Bielski and current Knesset Member who visited Atlanta July 22, 2001 to complete the twinning process.

❖ Former Mayoral Spokesperson Lydia Weitzman who tirelessly helped establish the sister city relationship from its 2001 inception until 2006.

❖ Former Ostrovsky H. S. Principal and current Mayor Nahum Hofree who hosted the Nov. 1998 student exchange and has strongly supported the program's development for over thirteen years. ❖ Mrs. Ronit Shoham, who succeeded Lydia Weitzman, and served as International Affairs Coordinator from 2006 until 2011.

❖ The ARSCC encourages all people planning to visit Israel to include a visit to Ra'anana in their itinerary. It is a hope of the Municipality for Ra'anana to become a gateway for Israel-bound missions and tourism. Michal Gefen, Mayoral Spokesperson and International Affairs Coordinator, will gladly assist individuals and groups interested in visiting Ra'anana and Israel. The ARSCC looks forward to working with Israel Consul General Ofir Aviran in forging a closer working relationship with the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta (JFGA).



ARSCC Chair Dr. Arnold Heller with new member Mrs. Patty Morrison.

❖ Although Ra'anana was not able to send a high school delegation to the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Super – Exchange 6 held Oct. 21 – 30 with the theme and aim of "Training the Next Generation of Sister Cities Leaders", the Atlanta Ra'anana Sister City Committee was highly involved in both organizing and hosting the student exchange. Dr. Heller wishes to thank Dr. John Denine and Mrs. Kelley Day of North Atlanta High School and Mrs. Tricia Anderson of Pace Academy for organizing the home stays for our guests and providing the Welcoming and Farewell Parties. The Chair also thanks Mrs. Sheri Smith of Riverwood High School for the Culinary Arts Program and reception for the 31 student visitors and 7 teacher – chaperones. ASCC Chair Teri Simmons and Arnall Golden Gregory should be recognized for the Oct. 25 evening reception and generous provision of resources that helped make the Super – Exchange a great success.

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Atlanta - Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee

❖ 2011 was quite a different and tumultuous year with far-reaching transformations and it brought several major changes to our Atlanta-Rio Committee.

Relief Efforts

❖ On January 12, 2011, everything changed in our Sister City. Rio wept their dead – it was the greatest tragedy of the past 200 years. The mountains fell apart and towns were washed away by waters. Nobody really knows how many people lost their lives. Official figures were about 1,000, but the numbers could have well have risen beyond that.



❖ Our chairman Wilma Kruger paid a visit there after the catastrophe. She visited several communities in the mountainous region of Rio de Janeiro. She joined groups of volunteers not only to get supplies but also to bring comfort to survivors. They sent messages to Atlanta for help. Supply trucks arrived from all parts of Brazil and the world. Our chairman was on call to give professional advice to various municipalities in several states in Brazil, so she spent more time there in Brazil than in Atlanta.



❖ The global solidarity was both present and comforting. We want to pause here to extend our gratitude to all those who in one way or other participated in this race for the survival of human life. Rio de Janeiro cried...

Global Conferences

❖ In September we were represented by our Chair in a major event about smart and sustainable cities. This conference took place in Curitiba, Brazil, where Wilma led a presentation on Atlanta as a candidate to the IBM Smart Cities contest.

❖ October 9-12, 2011, Mrs. Kruger and Ms. Lilia Postolachi (also a member of our committee) attended together with a delegation of Georgia the World Trade Center (WTC) General Assembly in the city of São Paulo. In the words of the WTC report: This was a unique opportunity to engage business in one of the world's fastest growing economies. The Atlanta delegation had the leadership of our Committee assisting them and their companies in visiting and identifying opportunities before, during, and after that event.



Atlanta Delegation in Sao Paulo



Lilia Postolachi and Wilma Kruger

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Atlanta - Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee (continued)

A New Chairman of ARJSCC

❖ It was with great joy that on the 18th of August, 2011 we elected Gisela LaPorta as the new Chair. She is Brazilian, speaking fluent Portuguese, and was raised in Venezuela, so speaks fluent Spanish as well. An exciting meeting full of heartfelt acknowledgments!

❖ Wilma Kruger, our illustrious and energetic architect/leader, who laughed and introduced herself as the Chair of the Committee for the next 30 minutes! Who was acknowledged by Franklin McGruder as : "This Committee is where it is today because of Wilma!" Who affirmed that she would still be an active member of the Committee and available to help as needed, and who would be making four trips back to the U.S. in 2012.

❖ Franklin McGruder, steadfast Chair of the ARSCC Foundation, who had been involved with ARSCC even before Wilma came on board, who led the Foundation to become not only a 501-C (not easy in these times), but also the only Sister Cities Committee who is an officially government-recognized entity in the country of the sister city!

❖ The two of them together, who in their 12 years, have brought the Committee from one that had been inactive for 16 years, to the Sister Cities Committee acknowledged as the best/most active Committee, not only in Atlanta, but also in the U.S.!

❖ The newly elected Chair of the ARSCC, Gisela LaPorta, a Brazilian, interior architect, who feels the honor and expresses the determination to keep ARSCC #1; who has considerable influence in the community with many connections as well to groups, especially in engineering and construction who wish to do business with Brazil and look to be promising potential investors/donors to the ARSCC cause. She acknowledged Wilma for her unique vibrant style, but was confident she herself could bring effectiveness and success in her own style.

❖ Corina Brito, President of the Brazilian Music Society, a very able and bright candidate for the Chair position, who felt upon listening to Gisela, that she herself would vote for Gisela, but would be there for Gisela and the Committee herself as well, in whatever ways she could be of service.

❖ Rosana Lima, Brazilian business woman, entrepreneur and owner of the Minas Emporium, in Marietta, also hand-selected by Wilma as a candidate. Franklin presented her and although we were disappointed she could not be there with us, we are confident she also will be a valuable contributor to the Committee in the coming year.

❖ V.P./Finances Jim Yates and Gary Voss (I.T./Security and PH.D. candidate), outstanding businessmen and crucial officers of the Foundation and active in Rio, both in attendance.

❖ Paul Bush did an exemplary job of conducting the meeting.

❖ In November 2011, ARJSCC and ARJSCF participated at the Fernbank Museum Winter Wonderland Festival along with other countries, and created a Christmas tree inspired in the colors of the Brazilian flag and the "wish band" tradition of Bahia.



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Atlanta - Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee (continued)

The Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro Sister Cities Foundation (ARJSCF), Annual Report March 2010-March 2011

- ❖ The Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro Sister Cities Foundation (ARJSCF) is a 501(C)3 nonprofit entity building global co-operations, enhancing educational opportunities, promoting cultural understanding, and stimulating economic development in the United States and Brazil.
 - ❖ ARJSCF was founded in 2007 in Atlanta, Georgia as the funding partner for The Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro Sister Cities Committee. In 2008 the Brazilian federal government recognized the Foundation as a legal entity, making it the first of Atlanta's 19 Sister City groups approved to operate in a foreign country.
 - ❖ The Atlanta Rio de Janeiro Sister Cities Foundation (ARJSCF) had the following opportunities, this past year.
 - ❖ ARJSCF staff member worked in Brazil building partnerships (August-November 2011)
 - ❖ The foundation officers met with Brazilian, US businesses and organizations, promoting the "Teach the Teacher" project in Brazil, in conjunction with the 2016 Olympic Games
 - ❖ The foundation officers met with the City of Miami Beach Sister Cities group, US (July 2011)
- ARJSCF reached an agreement with the State of Rio de Janeiro educational (SEEDUC) office to partner with the "Teach the Teacher" project in Brazil.
- ❖ ARJSCF reached an agreement with IBEU school in Rio de Janeiro, as a partner with the "Teach the Teacher" project in Brazil.



Franklin McGruder in Miami

ARJSCF Programs

- ❖ Education ESL program with SEEDUC, a state educational office in Rio de Janeiro (In progress)
- ❖ AOTP foundation partnership , Miami, FL (In progress)
- ❖ PMM partnership to increase fundraiser opportunities in Brazilian community(In progress)
- ❖ Programs slated for 2011 include a partnership with the Focus Brazil event in Miami, and create an updated fundraiser platform. Plans for additional programs include a partnership and peace program, sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.
- ❖ ARJSCF Leadership: Franklin T. McGruder (President); Marco Antonio Fonseca da Costa (Vice President); (Secretary); James Yates (Treasurer); (Marketing Chair)
- ❖ ARJSCF President and Chair, Franklin McGruder is responsible for guiding the organization's fundraising and program development. The Vice President/Vice Chair, Marco Fenseca manages ARJSCF's Brazilian office, located in Rio de Janeiro.

ARJSCF Annual Report Prepared by Franklin T. McGruder, President

- ❖ In closing, Wilma's energetic influence and counsel continues as President of the Board of the Committee. She, along with our international director, Dr. Wilson Barossa Bonfin Filho, and in cooperation with the leadership of the Board of our Foundation, including President Franklin McGruder, are charged to revitalize the committee in Rio - Brazil. Our Board for 2011 consisted of Chair Gisela LaPorta, Vice-Chair Paul Bush, International Director Wilson Bonfin, CFO Jim Yates. To our new Chair we wish great success and continuity of our legacy as a "vibrant and innovative committee." The inauguration of the new officers was held with a celebration at the Kruger's home.

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Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee

Dominican Independence Day at the Atlanta City Hall – 2011

- ❖ The Dominican International Association and the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister Cities Committee celebrated the 167th anniversary of independence at the Atlanta City Hall Atrium.
- ❖ On behalf of the citizens of Atlanta and the Atlanta City Council, Noah Downer presented a proclamation congratulating the people of the Dominican nationals residing in the Atlanta Metropolitan area, because they "have significantly contributed to the economic growth and well-being of the city, while enhancing the bonds of friendship between the U.S. and the Dominican Republic". The proclamation is signed by Atlanta Councilmember for District 2, Kwanza Hall, who has focused strongly on community improvement including land use, historical preservation, and sustainable development of in-town neighborhoods.

Courtesy Visit to Ms. Dedé Mirabal in the City of Salcedo

- ❖ In October 2011, Víctor Ramírez, Chair of the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister Cities Committee went to the Dominican Republic and had a courtesy to Ms. Dedé Mirabal, who was recovering from health problems.
- ❖ Ms. Mirabal is the only surviving sister of the three Dominican heroines Patria, Minerva, and María Teresa Mirabal who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country by giving up a privileged life to fight against the brutal Trujillo's dictatorship. Ms. Dedé Mirabal was not assassinated and has lived to tell the story of the death of her sisters. She works to preserve their sisters' memory through the Museo Hermanas Mirabal which is also located in Salcedo. Her involvement in the construction and dedication of Parque Atlanta, at the entrance of the city, was monumental and highly appreciated by the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister Cities Committee.

Dominican Delegation From The City Of Salcedo, Attends The Atlanta Sister Cities International Student Super Exchange



Student delegation from Salcedo shares with ASSCC Members Nadja Kouider (3rd from L to R) and Carlos José Ramírez (4th from R to L) at the Welcoming Reception for all the students attending the 2011 Super Student Exchange.



Participation of the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister Cities Committee – ASSCC – in the 2011 Super Student Exchange organized by the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission – ASSC. A delegation of 6 students, a teacher, and a Salcedo City Councilmember arrived at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport on October 2011.



From L to R: Teri Simmons (ASSC Chair), Noah Downer (City of Atlanta, Office of International Affairs), Nadja Kouider (ASSCC Member), Nouria Lakhdar (Honorary Consul of Dominican Republic in Algeria), and Víctor Ramírez (ASSCC Chair) at the Welcoming Reception for the 2011 Super Student Exchange, held at Arnall Golden Gregory, LLP.



From L to R: Nadja Kouider and Carlos José Ramírez (ASSCC Members), Nouria Lakhdar (Honorary Consul of the Dominican Republic in Algeria), and Víctor Ramírez (ASSCC Chair) at the Welcoming Reception at Arnall Golden Gregory, LLP.

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ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Taipei Sister City Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Taipei Sister Cities Committee welcomed the Taipei Chinese Orchestra (TCO) to Atlanta with a concert of Asian fusion music at Emory University's Emerson Concert Hall in February. On February 13th, the orchestra introduced traditional Chinese and Taiwanese folk music to the Atlanta community, including the ancient sound of the pipa, a traditional four-stringed instrument with nearly two thousand years of history rooted in the Han Dynasty. To highlight the many traditional instruments of Chinese music, Conductor Yiu-Kwong Chung and his orchestra opened the concert with a demonstration of a variety of sounds from various traditional instruments. Using instrumentation, voices, and visual effects, he portrayed numerous artistic scenes such as the pipa concerto: "The Yang's Saga."

❖ Highlighting the economic and cultural ties between Taipei and Atlanta, the attendance included Betty Davis, Chair of the Atlanta-Toulouse Sister Cities Committee, Samuel Bacote, Treasurer of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, Noah W. Downer, the officer of International Affairs at Atlanta Mayor's Office, Thomas Hogan, Councilman of the City of Chamblee, and Anna A. Kao, Consul General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Atlanta. All enjoyed the evening, and participants also enjoyed souvenirs brought by TCO from the Mayor of Taipei, Hau Lung Bin.



The Taipei Chinese Orchestra

❖ Five high school students from Taipei were selected to participate in a student exchange program organized by the Atlanta Sister City Commission, from October 21-30. Upon their arrival, the students moved in with their Atlanta host families, who hosted students in their homes to give them a better glimpse of life in the U.S. The Taiwanese students joined 25 other participants from France, Germany, the UK, Jamaica, and Dominican Republic along with local high school students from North Atlanta High School and Pace Academy for the Atlanta Sister Cities program. During their stay, they attended several keynote speaker sessions from the perspective of education, business, and leadership, in order to foster the global exchange of knowledge. Students also explored cultural highlights of Atlanta, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, Centennial Olympic Park, World of Coca-Cola, and the Georgia Aquarium. The exchange program not only broadened the cultural and academic horizons of the Taiwanese and U.S. participants, but also highlighted the spirit and strength the relationship between the two sister cities. (See full report, page 3).



Taipei delegation with Mayor Kasim Reed of Atlanta and Consul General Anna A. Kao of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta

❖ The Atlanta-Taipei Sister Cities Committee joined the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Atlanta to host a welcoming dinner party on October 25th, for the Taipei Delegation and their host families. Dr. Arnold Heller, chair of Planning Committee as well as some of the participants of the exchange program were also invited to share this cultural evening.

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Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee

❖ The mission of the Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee's (ATSCC) is to seek out, facilitate and promote social, economic, humanitarian and cultural interaction between Atlanta, Tbilisi, and State of Georgia, in order to enhance the quality of life in both places. The goals for 2011 were:

- ❖ Building economic relationships;
 - ❖ Building diplomatic and governmental relationships;
 - ❖ Supporting ongoing rule of law reforms;
 - ❖ Supporting ongoing health care reforms;
 - ❖ Supporting efforts to improve government transparency;
 - ❖ Supporting charitable and humanitarian efforts;
 - ❖ Promoting cultural exchanges.
- ❖ ATSCC welcomed two delegations from Georgia in 2011. In April, the organization, alongside the Georgia to Georgia Foundation, hosted a delegation of journalists for a program that focused on transparent and independent media. The visit included tours of Atlanta radio and television stations, an in-depth discussion with journalism students at the University of Georgia, and meetings with state and local officials. The purpose of the visit was to illustrate the ways in which journalists and media can play a positive role in society and hold governments accountable.



Delegation of Georgian journalists with Georgia native Zaza Pachulia of the Atlanta Hawks

❖ In September, ATSCC and the Georgia to Georgia Foundation hosted an Open World Leadership Delegation. A group of five Georgia attorneys met with members of the Federal and state judiciary, witnessed court proceedings, and discussed pertinent legal issues with academics, attorneys, and legislators. The trip was designed to teach delegates about the rule of law in an attempt to further ongoing legal reform efforts in the Country of Georgia.



Certificates - Group of Georgian Attorneys visiting from Georgia accepting certificates from Alex Booth, managing partner of HBSS.

❖ February saw ATSCC take part in the first Georgia-U.S. Conference on Georgian health care. The event, entitled 'Georgian Health Care 2020: MEDEA 2011,' was organized by the First Lady of Georgia, the Embassy of Georgia the United States, the Ministry of Labor, Health, and Social Affairs, and the Georgia to Georgia Foundation.

❖ Also in February, Atlanta-based law firm Hall Booth Smith & Slover (HBSS) announced the opening of its office in Tbilisi. HBSS partnered with the Eristavi Law Group and is the first U.S. law firm to operate in the Country of Georgia. HBSS has strong ties to Georgia as a result of its work with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Georgian Supreme and Appellate Courts. ATSCC Chairman and HBSS partner John E. Hall Jr. traveled to Georgia to celebrate the opening festivities.



Georgian attorneys with W. Scott Henwood of HBSS

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Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee (continued)

❖ In March, the Georgia to Georgia Foundation and the Ministry of Internal Affairs donated a large number of books and textbooks to the Library of International Relations Main Division in Tbilisi. The exchange was aimed at deepening cooperation and cultural dialogue between Atlanta and Tbilisi.



Governor Deal with Georgia's Vice Prime Minister, Mr. Baramidze.

❖ In September 2011, Mr. Giorgi Baramidze visited Atlanta, GA, where he was greeted by a team of Mr. John Hall Jr., the Honorary Consul to the Country of Georgia, at Hall Booth Smith & Slover, PC. As the country of Georgia plans to promote and concentrate its further development efforts on the growth of agriculture projects in the country, it was Mr. Baramidze's plan to reach out to our local politicians and leaders for guidance. Mr. Baramidze visited with Secretary of Agriculture Gary Black, Mr. Steve Henson, Georgia Senate Minority Leader (Democratic), Senator Tommie Williams; Georgia Senate President Pro Tempore (Republican) and with Lt. Governor Casey Cagle; Attorney General Sam Olens; and Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia. Mr. Baramidze was joined at lunch by Former Governor Sonny Perdue; Chief Operating Officer, Trey Childress; and Economic Development Commissioner, Heidi Green, and Senator Ronnie Chance, (Chairman of the Senate Economic Development Committee).

❖ In November, ATSCC traveled to Columbia, MO to attend the Kutaisi-Columbia Sister City Committee's annual Georgian Wine Dinner. The event raised funds to support Diabetic Children's Camp in the Country of Georgia.

❖ Two years ago, Mr. Scott Henwood first traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia and offered to teach American Legal History and Legal writing. Since then Mr. Henwood has been teaching at various departments at the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as at the Law school of Ilia State University. During his latest trip to Tbilisi in October of 2011, Ilia State University offered Mr. Henwood the position of professor at the Law School, which will require him to teach at least twice a year. Mr. Henwood accepted the offer with great enthusiasm and is looking forward to his trip in Spring.



At the Taste of Georgia event - Major General Nesbitt and Leitha Nesbitt accept an award from ATSCC

❖ **Fourth Annual Taste Of Georgia** - Keeping with tradition, ATSCC held its Fourth Annual Taste of Georgia on October 16th at the City Hall of Atlanta. Over 150 guests attended the event that benefitted IDPs of Georgia as well as orphanages in Tbilisi and Kutaisi. The guests dined on Georgian traditional dishes, browsed Georgian artwork, and enjoyed traditional Georgian music. The Taste of Georgia

was a great success and once again it brought together natives of the Country of Georgia and their local friends who have been involved with their home country.



Guests at Annual Taste of Georgia event.

2011 COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

Atlanta - Toulouse Sister City Committee

- ❖ The Sister City relationship between Toulouse and Atlanta that started in 1974 has grown and expanded. This year the Atlanta Toulouse Sister City Committee had a very busy year.
- ❖ The highlight of our cultural year was the November visit by the Mayor of Toulouse, the Honourable Pierre Cohen. A public reception for the mayor with dignitaries from Toulouse and Atlanta was held at a local hotel, followed the next evening by a private ATSCC reception in his honor attended by over sixty people. We were happy to entertain the mayor of Toulouse, at the request of the consul general. It is our pleasure to provide guests from Toulouse with exposure to the cultural attractions of Atlanta.
- ❖ The prior month, we also participated in a student exchange program that attracted students to a leadership development program in Atlanta as part of the annual France Atlanta Celebration. ATSCC members hosted members of the Toulouse delegation in their homes, and provided passes to local events for two students from Toulouse and a chaperone. Our group contributed \$300 to entertain the entire group of delegates and hosts for a breakfast meeting. The students' time in Atlanta included educational and enjoyable experiences designed to familiarize them with developmental and cultural resources here. We also exposed them to southern life, with a cooking lesson where they learned to scramble eggs and make pancakes in a relaxed, fun session with Atlanta students.



ATSCC Chair, Betty Davis and Mayor of Toulouse, Hon. Pierre Cohen at the Atlanta reception in November



- ❖ Currently we have 119 members, most of them very active. This year we had eleven events plus four board meetings, and took part in France Atlanta activities.
- ❖ Atlanta-Toulouse Sister City Committee members believe strongly in supporting French artists who perform in Atlanta. Among the adventures in French art that we enjoyed in 2011 are:
 - ❖ Concert by jazz pianist Phillippe LeJeune sponsored by our group,
 - ❖ Concert by flutist Philippe Gaubert Vivant, and
 - ❖ A gallery exhibition and opportunity to meet the artist Jaline Pol, a part time Toulouse resident.
- ❖ Eighteen ATSCC members enjoyed a 10-day cruise to Halifax, Charlottetown and Sydney, Nova Scotia and visit to Quebec City and Montreal, which allowed us to use our French language skills, and enjoy French-based culture in the Americas.
- ❖ The ATSCC also supports events by the other significant French-cultural organizations in Atlanta to strengthen our bonds, and benefit from mutually enjoyable and educational activities. In 2011 our members participated in activities organized by the Alliance Francaise d'Atlanta, as well as a Quatre Saisons dinner sponsored by the French American Chamber of Commerce.



Left: At the student exchange reception, Betty Davis (center) with hosts Benita Baird and Louise Hoff.



Below: At the student Welcome Party, Carol Riggs of Atlanta (center) with Jacky Piltman and Colette Delcros of Toulouse

2011

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