



# 2008

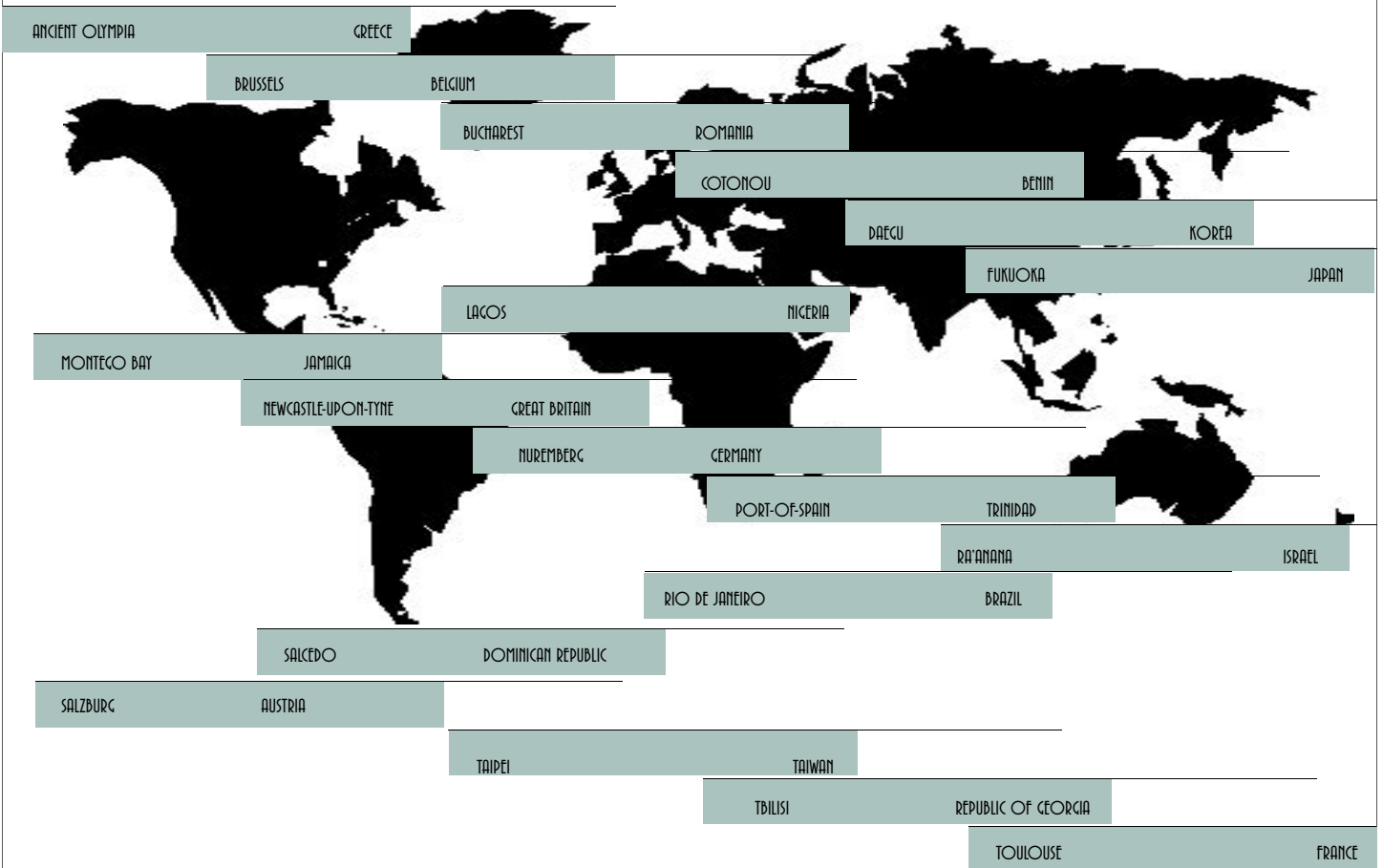
ANNUAL REPORT



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

# 2008

## ANNUAL REPORT



# 2008

## ANNUAL REPORT

TO

The Honorable Shirley Franklin  
Mayor, City of Atlanta

The Honorable Lisa Borders  
President, Atlanta City Council

FROM

Teri Simmons  
Chair  
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

INTRODUCTION 2

COMMISSION REPORTS 3

COMMITTEE REPORTS 4



*I am pleased to submit to you the 2008 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 2008 and look forward to the continued growth and expansion of the Sister Cities program under your administration.*

20  
08

PAGE 1

# INTRODUCTION 2008

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 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 2008.

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 2008 were Cedric Suzman, Ph.D, 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 the staff of the International Affairs Division of the Mayor's Office. The staff participates in monthly and special meetings, helps shape the Commission's policy and acts as liaison with the Mayor. In 2008, Claire McLeveighn, director of External Affairs and International Relations, and David Constant, International Affairs Manager, played a vital role as coordinators for the Mayor's Office. Following Claire's reappointment to Marketing and Business Development at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Greg Pridgeon, Chief of Staff, Atlanta City Hall, has supported the Commission.

ASCC maintains a web site with press releases, annual reports and information on each of the sister cities.

[www.atlantaga.gov/International/SisterCities.aspx](http://www.atlantaga.gov/International/SisterCities.aspx)

### Atlanta's Sister City Committees

Name of City	Date of Affiliation	Chair/Representative
Ancient Olympia - Greece	1994	Margo Alexander, Ph.D.
Brussels - Belgium	1983	Open
Bucharest - Romania	1994	Mr. Nick Modares
Cotonou - Benin	1995	Charleise Young, Ph.D.
Daegu - Korea	1981	Mr. John Lee
Fukuoka	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 Atkins
Port-of-Spain - Trinidad	1987	Ms. Norma Kendall - Hamlet
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil	1972	Mrs. Wilma Kruger
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, Ph.D.
Nominating Committee	Vin Martin, Atty
Economic Development	David Smith
Education	Charleise Young, Ph.D.
Public Relations	David Smith
New Cities	Augustine O. Esogbue, Ph.D.

2008

PAGE 2

# 2008 COMMISSION REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT



### Economic Development Sub-Committee

❖ The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Economic Development Sub-Committee spent all of 2007 in planning for its second Economic Development Partnership Forum held on March 12 through 14, 2008. Titled 'Greener Cities: Public Transit and Green Space Policies' the event was aimed at facilitating the exchange of economic development practices and increasing awareness of economic conditions among Atlanta's sister cities.



❖ The forum, co-hosted by the City of Atlanta, and CIFAL Atlanta was designed to broaden participants' knowledge of the benefits of environmental improvements in land use and transportation policies and to enable delegates to return to their respective countries with a method for managing the opportunities and challenges presented by the sustainable planning of cities.

❖ Participating delegates included representatives from sister cities Nürnberg, Germany; Montego Bay, Jamaica; Ra'anana, Israel; Salcedo, Dominican Republic; and Taipei, Taiwan and representatives from Ningbo, China; Porto Alegre, Brazil; Ahmedabad, India; and Kingston, Jamaica.

❖ The conference was coordinated in cooperation with CIFAL Atlanta, the only North American affiliate of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and with the support of the Atlanta City Council's Advisory Committee on International Relations (ACIR), the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, with support from the Atlanta Beltline, Inc. and the BeltLine Partnership; and the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority.



❖ The forum highlighted the benefits of public transit and green space programs worldwide and helped communicate the City of Atlanta's environmental initiatives, such as Sustainable Atlanta and the Beltline project, which the delegates had the option of touring.

❖ A Welcome Dinner in the Atrium of Atlanta City Hall enabled delegates and their Atlanta hosts to meet in a festive environment. Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin welcomed all the guests and recognized sister city anniversaries and individual leaders for their contribution to the sister city program.

❖ With a year in planning and a target of \$50,000 in sponsorship, the Atlanta Economic Development Partnership Forum shows how the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission is supporting the economic development goals of Atlanta as well as its partner cities. Participants had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other partner cities during the conference, and to meet with host sister city committee members and hold other social and business-related meetings before and after the event.



Opposite - the Ningbo, China delegation.

20  
08

PAGE 3



# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee

Chairman: Dr. Margo Alexander

Co-Chairman: Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp

- ❖ This year the Ancient Olympia Committee has been involved in many activities.
- ❖ In February, Dr. Platon Mavromoustakos, Professor of Theater Studies, University of Athens gave a lecture about Ancient Greek Comedy on the Modern Greek Stage at the Michael C. Carlos Museum Reception Hall. After, the committee met with Dr. Mavromoustakos to discuss relations between the University of Athens and the Universities here in Atlanta.
- ❖ All throughout March, the committee was proud to be one of the sponsors of the Greek film festival program Passport To Greek Film at the High Museum Of Art Atlanta. While in Greece last summer, Co-Chairman, Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp, met with Greek Officials and she was able to secure this Greek Film Festival to be presented at the High Museum of Arts here in Atlanta.
- ❖ March 25<sup>th</sup>, Greek Independence Day was celebrated at the Carlos Community Center with the Greek Community here in Atlanta, GA with the Consul of Greece, Mr. Lambros Kakissis.
- ❖ In June, the committee was honored to host, Ms. Anna Diamantopoulou. She is a Member of the Greek Parliament and former member of the EU Commission. She also had a meeting with Mayor Franklin during her visit here. Also, in June, the committee along with Consul Kakissis, had the opportunity to have a meeting with Ambassador Angelos Pangratis, Deputy Head of the EU Commission in Washington. It was a very informative and productive meeting.

Dr. Dimitrios Pandermalis, President of the New Acropolis Museum and Margo Alexander, Chair.



Mayor Franklin with Anna Diamantopoulou

- ❖ Also in June, the High Museum of Art and the Consulate of Greece in Atlanta sponsored a lecture "Building the New Acropolis Museum" by Dr. Dimitrios Pandermalis, President of the New Acropolis Museum in Athens Greece. The Committee had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Pandermalis as well during his visit here in Atlanta.
- ❖ While in Greece, in July, Chairman Margo Alexander and Co-Chairman, Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp, met with Greek Officials about an exchange program for students in the area of Higher Education as well as Greek Folk Dance and Customs. Also, Chairman, Margo Alexander was a guest of Dr. Dimitrios Pandermalis, President of the New Acropolis Museum in Athens Greece for a special viewing of the new Museum. Before returning home, Chairman Margo Alexander was also able to visit Ancient Olympia.
- ❖ In September, the Committee hosted a reception in honor of Consul Lambros Kakissis. Consul Kakissis ended his term here in Atlanta and returned to Greece.
- ❖ In November, the Ancient Olympic Committee members met the new consul, Vassilis Goulousis to welcome him to Atlanta and to let him know of our relations between the city of Atlanta and Ancient Olympia and all of Greece.

PAGE 4

2008

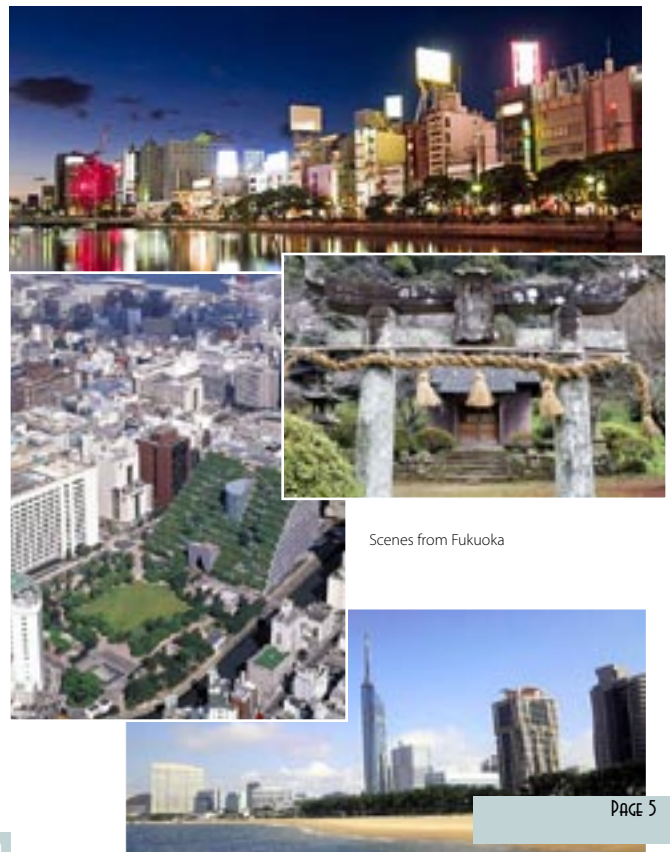
# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Fukuoka Sister City Committee

- ❖ In January, a group of 30 members including children gathered at the Leedy's beautiful home in Acworth for the New Year's kick off. All enjoyed the delicious Japanese food Mrs. Leedy prepared. We also enjoyed visiting the Japanese Room Mr. Leedy built for his wife, complete with sliding paper screen doors (Shoji), tatami mat floor and traditional Japanese alcove decorated with a floral arrangement and Koto musical instrument.
- ❖ In February, we partnered with Japan America Society of Georgia to assist in selecting six junior ambassadors (10 & 11 year-olds) from Atlanta area to participate in the Asian Pacific Children's Conference (APCC), 2-week event to be held annually in July in Fukuoka.
- ❖ In March, we welcomed two Fukuoka high school students who were winners of the speech contest sponsored by the City of Fukuoka. Their trip was funded by Japan Airlines and Coca Cola Japan/Southwest. The students enjoyed attending North Atlanta High School and their home stay with one of its faculty members. The Fukuoka group members served as their guides and drivers to visit Atlanta sights such as Coca Cola Museum, CNN and Stone Mountain. We enjoyed a welcome dinner reception with the visiting students and their host family at Hashiguchi Jr. restaurant in Buckhead.
- ❖ In June, while visiting their families in Fukuoka, Keiko Scott and Sue Renfroe called on the Fukuoka City officials to discuss our future activities. We assured them our cooperation to support the student exchange program.
- ❖ In September, twenty members of our group met at Hashiguchi restaurant on Windy Hill Rd., for a dinner meeting to socialize and discuss our participation in JapanFest.
- ❖ On the last weekend of September, we participated in JapanFest at Gwinnett Center for two days. JapanFest had fewer attendees this year due to the shortage/higher price of gasoline and economy situation. The Fukuoka Sister City group sent us many unique Fukuoka products to sell at affordable price to festival attendees. We use the proceeds of these sale to help fund our activities. Many people were happy to obtain famous Hakata weave products and Hakata clay dolls. We also offered pamphlets to introduce Fukuoka. Several past Junior Ambassadors to Fukuoka (APCC) also volunteered to showcase their Fukuoka experience using their displays and talking to the people interested in this all-expense-paid invitational program. JapanFest was an opportune time to advertise the Atlanta-Fukuoka Sister Cities relationship not only to local residents but also to Japanese nationals residing in Georgia.

- ❖ In December, the Fukuoka Group met for dinner at Umezono restaurant to review the activities and plan for 2009. We discussed the possibility of becoming a sub-committee of Japan America Society of Georgia for strategic planning and expansion of our activities.
- ❖ We had applied for and received the education fund from ACIR. Fukuoka City has sent students to Atlanta each year, but Atlanta hasn't sent any students for three and half years due to lack of funds and program sponsors/coordinators. Our application was chosen for this fund and we won a check of \$3,420. We immediately made plans using that fund to select two students to visit Fukuoka in early part of 2009. Dr. Douglas Frutiger of North Atlanta High School International Studies would assist in selecting qualified students to represent Atlanta for the Atlanta-Fukuoka exchange program.



20  
08

PAGE 5

# 2008 COMMISSION REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta-Lagos Sister City Committee

❖ 2008 continued to be a project driven year centered around key developmental axes enunciated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and contained in Nigerian President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua 7 Point Development agenda. The Committee tackled several projects within the education, health and water resources sectors:

❖ In the field of education, the Committee under the leadership of its Chair, Professor Augustine O. Esogbue, teamed with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), a U.S. based technological organization to hold an international leadership summit (ILS) in Nigeria. The summit's operational base was Lagos, Nigeria. The delegation met with the Rector (President) of Yaba College of Technology (YabaTech) Nigeria's oldest engineering school, for permission to set up a chapter of NSBE on his campus as a vehicle for educating a new breed of well educated engineers who are socially relevant and who positively impact their communities. It would also enable NSBE to share rare technological resources with their chapters in Nigeria including YabaTech. The team also took the occasion to pay a courtesy visit to the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria and discuss ways to facilitate the issuance of U.S. visas to Nigerians including members of the Lagos Atlanta Sister City Committee to visit the U.S. to participate in our many Sister Cities programs. The committee resurrected its Book for Lagos Drive. Discussions of ways of aiding the actualization of the project continued with former Senator and now Lagos State Commissioner, Tokunbo Afikuyomi and Federal House Member from Lagos, Honorable Taylor. Several of our members were active in the educational area. Various members of our Committee were active in promoting education in and around Lagos. Member Dr. Eugenia Olusola George, President of the Nigerian Women Association of Georgia, continued her work in helping her mother set up a school in Lagos Island while another member, Chief Alani Ogunlade continued his work to set up a school in his hometown outside Lagos State.

Senator Afikuyomi and Professor Esogbue with Lagos Atlanta Committee members at a meeting in Lagos discussing the SCI SDWI PUR project



❖ In the area of scientific, technological and manpower development which especially targets the involvement of Nigeria's Diaspora in national development, a number of members of the Committee took part in various conferences and meetings in Nigeria throughout the year. During the annual Diaspora Day in Nigeria celebration, Professor Esogbue was an invited panelist and key note presenter on the Role of the Nigeria's Diaspora in attaining the goals of President Yar'Adua's 7 Point Developmental Agenda in a Science and Technology conference held in Tinapa, Calabar in July, 2008.

❖ The hallmark of the year's project activities is the Committee's successful proposal with the Sister Cities International (SCI) Safe Drinking Water Initiative (SDWI) to fund a project geared towards providing safe drinking water for its member cities mostly in developing countries. Lagos is one of the 3 cities in Africa that won funding for this project. This is the first such award recorded by ASCC. Several visits were paid by the Committee Chair to Lagos and Abuja to initiate discussions with our local counterpart and discuss strategies to make the project successful. An official contract has been signed between the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission on behalf of the Lagos Committee and Sister Cities International for distribution of PUR (Purifier of Water) sachets produced by Procter and Gamble and distributed in Nigeria by the Society for Health (SFH). When the pilot project is completed in 2009, it is expected that over 950 families in Lagos Island would have been served with rare and scarce safe drinking water which promotes good health and minimizes exposure of the citizens to various water borne diseases which are prevalent in Africa.

Professor Esogbue and his US delegates at a meeting with the Rector of Yaba Tech and his student officers to set up NSBE Chapter and technology transfer initiatives



PAGE 6



# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee (the “Committee”) has been in existence since 1972. The following committees have been designed to maximize the effectiveness of the relationship and to play upon the strengths of each city. The most active sub-committees are as follows:

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

### 2008 Activities

❖ **Cultural Affairs:** The Committee played an active role with other Atlanta based Jamaican organizations in planning the celebration of Jamaica’s 46th independence anniversary. The Committee also held its annual gospel brunch at Atlanta City Hall featuring aspects of Jamaican Gospel music.

❖ **Education:** In keeping with our mission to assist in educating students in Montego Bay, the Committee provided financial support to a student attending Montego Bay High School. In our annual mission to Montego Bay, we delivered books and school supplies to several Basic School students as part of our committee’s effort to assist in the growth and development of young students.



Physicians, nurses and patients participating in the Montego Bay fifteenth annual health mission.

❖ **Fund Raising:** The Committee held its eighth annual fund raising golf charity tournament at the Bobby Jones Golf Course in Atlanta. Additionally, our annual fund raising ball was held in September. The proceeds from these events were used in conducting our Health Mission and assisted in providing needed medicines to the underserved patients seen in Montego Bay.

❖ **Health and Human Services:** The fifteenth annual medical mission to Montego Bay was undertaken in October, 2008. Our team comprising 34 physicians, nurses and other medical professionals provided needed medical care to over 1,800 patients during the 3 ½ days of the mission. The team also donated a significant quantity of medicine and medical supplies to these patients. As is our custom, a group of our physicians attended to the HIV/AIDS patients organized by the Montego Bay Chapter of the Jamaica Aids Support.

❖ **Other Events:** The Committee participated in the Public Transit and Green Space Policies Forum hosted by the Sister Cities Commission in March. Montego Bay’s Mayor His Worship Charles Sinclair led a delegation of four members from Montego Bay to the conference. His visit also included an official call on Mayor Franklin.

❖ In October a delegation of sister cities members visited Atlanta to engage in joint Sister Cities planning for the upcoming year. While here, the delegation met with Councilman Jim Maddox, Ambassador Andrew Young and the Executive Director of the Atlanta Housing Authority, Ms Rene Glover.

❖ Other activities in which our Committee engaged were the annual Mayor’s Christmas treat for the Children of Montego Bay. We contributed toys and financial assistance to that effort. Further, our Committee financed a Christmas luncheon for the Jamaica Aids Support Chapter in Montego Bay. We also funded a luncheon for the patients of the psychiatric ward at the Montego Bay Regional Hospital.



# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee

❖ 2008 marked the 10-year anniversary of twinning between the great cities of Atlanta and Nürnberg. The anniversary celebration, affectionately known as Nürnberg Days, was full of activities centered around social, cultural, and educational exchanges and the impact these exchanges have on the economic development of both cities. Dr. Ulrich Maly, Lord Mayor of Nürnberg, led a delegation of approximately fifty government, business, academic, and cultural leaders to Atlanta for a joint commemoration of ten years of a mutually beneficial partnership.

❖ Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin along with Nürnberg's Lord Mayor Ulrich Maly officially kicked off the 10-year anniversary celebration with a wreath laying ceremony at the crypt of late civil rights leaders Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and Mrs. Coretta Scott King. The wreath, adorned in an array of red and white flowers, beautifully represented the colors of Nürnberg. The ceremony was also attended by King Center President Isaac Farris, nephew of Dr. King; Mrs. Christine King Farris, Dr. King's sister and Mr. Farris's mother; as well as German Consul General Dr. Lutz Gørgens.



Mayor Maly and Mayor Franklin at the King Memorial

❖ Following the wreath laying ceremony, the Atlanta-Nürnberg Sister City Committee hosted a gala dinner in the City Hall Atrium for over 250 government officials, members of the business community, international enthusiast, and academicians. Event guests dined on a traditional southern supper while experiencing the visual landscape of local mixed-media art by local artist Najee Dorsey, and enjoying the soulful sounds of Kathleen Bertrand. Ms. Bertrand traveled to Nürnberg with her trio five years ago to celebrate our five-year anniversary in 2004. The gala event was made possible through partnerships within the respective cities and the generosity of Arnall Golden Gregory, NürnbergMesse, Kuehne+Nagel, Nürmont, Rödl & Partner, the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Reece and Associates, and Porsche Cars North America.

❖ The anniversary celebration and delegation visit coincided with the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, issued by the United Nations General Assembly of 1948. Both Atlanta and Nürnberg are historic cities in the story of human rights; therefore, Nürnberg Days included a joint ceremony and program at Sisters Chapel on the campus of Spelman College. The mayors of the two cities elaborated on their cities' histories and the steps currently taken to protect human rights and civil liberties in the present and for the future. Just as the world over knows Atlanta as the "City of Civil Rights," Nürnberg is also making great strides to become equally noted as the "City of Human Rights." Nürnberg has created a huge documentation center to capture the atrocities of the Nazi era which will serve as a reminder of the city's sordid past and where its people never want to return. Likewise, the people of Atlanta are currently developing a Center for Civil and Human Rights as a tool for recognizing the progress our country has made in race relations and equality for all.

❖ Dr. Ulrich Maly, Lord Mayor of Nürnberg also utilized his first visit to Atlanta to officially open the North American Offices of NürnbergMesse, one of the world's largest exhibition companies. This inaugural visit was highlighted by a series of high-level meetings, galas, historic tours, and business meetings.



Consul General Dr. Goergens and Lord Mayor Maly at the site of the gift from the Federal Republic of Germany to Atlanta

# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee (continued)

❖ During this year's festivities, Teri Simmons, chair of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, and past chair of the Atlanta-Nürnberg Committee, received the prestigious Federal Republic of Germany Friendship Award. Consul General Dr. Lutz Görgens presented Ms. Simmons the award on behalf of the people of Germany for her decade-long leadership role in the sister city relationship between Atlanta and Nürnberg. A founding member of this twinning, Ms. Simmons has dedicated countless hours to this partnership, through business, culture, and economic exchanges.

❖ Additionally, native Atlantan Rod Brown, with the assistance of NAKO (The Nürnberg-Atlanta Committee), visited Germany to oversee operations of Atlanta's successful participation in the international segment of the 2008 Christkindlmarkt. Brown dedicated several pre-travel hours to source and select US vendors and acquire native crafts and consumables representing Atlanta and the United States as a whole. Among the popular items for German consumers were US Flags; red, white, and blue Christmas ornaments; Obama paraphernalia and all manner of US snacks and treats.

❖ So marks another year in successful partnership between the people of Atlanta and our friends of Nürnberg. The Atlanta-Nürnberg Sister City Committee is already busy at work developing programs and activities to continue and further committee goals. There is mutual excitement and anticipation for things to come on both sides of the pond!



Celebrating ten years of partnership with Nürnberg at the ASCC Economic Development Conference 2008. L-R: Teri Simmons, Chair, ASCC; Shean Atkins, Chair Atlanta-Nürnberg Committee; Frank Jülich, Director, Office of Traffic Planning, Nürnberg; Christina Plewinski, Nürnberg programs officer; Councillor Jim Maddox, ACIR; Mayor Shirley Franklin.



Scenes from the Atlanta-Nürnberg Sister City Committee gala dinner in the City Hall Atrium.

20  
08



# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 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.

#### 2008 Highlights

❖ January – February: The Committee decided to actively pursue the establishment of a 'Not for Profit' (501C (3) organization. Our Secretary, Aisha Aoliver Staley, a lawyer, with a prominent Atlanta Firm, undertook to do this exercise pro bono.

❖ On January 23, 2008, the Celtic Soccer Program, 'You'll Never Walk Alone', a social outreach/educational initiative, was launched under the auspices of His Worship, Mayor Murchison Brown, and the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs – the Honorable Gary Hunt. In attendance were the Chairpersons of both Sister City Committees, Gia Gaspard Taylor and Norma Kendall-Hamlet, representatives of the Celtic Soccer League, Messrs. Peter Miller, Glen Thomas, John Healy and Graeme Mathie, representatives of the Soccer League of Trinidad and Tobago, the San Juan Jablotech Team and their sponsor Mr. Lawrence Duprey, Colonial Life Insurance Company, officers and members of other youth programs.

❖ On February 4&5, 2008 – Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago -The Chairpersons and Members of APSCC played 'mas' under the banner 'Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee' in a section of Trevor Wallace's Band, UFORIA – we enjoyed ourselves. Stephanie Johnson, Secretary of the PASCN, depicted the character 'PHOENIX - AH CO-MIN' FIERY'. The Phoenix rising from the ashes, is Atlanta's official bird, and depicts the relationship between both Sister Cities. Stephanie

won her category and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Individual of the Year.



'Phoenix' at the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival



Medical supplies and equipment - doctors assigned to health centers (center) with Norma Kendall-Hamlet, Mayor Murchinson Brown, and Gia Gaspard Taylor.

❖ February 07, 2008 was the official handover of the gift of medical supplies and equipment worth approximately \$1.5M TT, from Messrs. MedShare International (Atlanta), to the Tobago Regional Hospital.

❖ The handover ceremony under the patronage of Dr. Orville London, Chief Secretary – Tobago House of Assembly, and Chairmanship of Mr. Ashford Leamont CEO (Ag) Tobago Regional Health Authority was attended by Norma Kendall-Hamlet and Gia Gaspard-Taylor - Chairpersons of the Sister City Committees, Dr. Denise Tsoi-a-fatt -Angus – Chairman Board of Directors TRHA, Dr. Victor Wheeler HMD (Ag), Hon. Oswald Williams, Secretary for Health and Social Services, Michael Steward, Communications Consultant, and Mr. Keens-Dumas, Chief Administrator, THA.

❖ In his remarks, Dr. London, stated that it was the first time that Tobago ever received a gift of this magnitude and with such dignity.

❖ A portion of the receipt was distributed to the Trinidad and Tobago Defense Force, the Port of Spain Regional Health Center, and the Toco, Grande Rivere and Matelot Health centers.

❖ Two Tobago nationals, who contributed to the success of the Sister City Exchanges - Mr. Bindly Benjamin - Business and Tourism in Tobago and Mr. Carlos Dillon – a long serving member for business exchange, were honored.



# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

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

❖ February 09, 2008- A Trade Mission, facilitated by both the Atlanta and Port of Spain Sister City Committees and the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Georgia Inc., visited Port of Spain and met with Mayor Murchinson Brown. The delegation included Commissioner Connie Stokes and comprised Engineering Firms, Jordan, Jones & Goulding, MACTEC, Harbin, Hodges, Tribble & Newberry, Informational Services Incorporated (Information Technology), Tanner & Associates (Public/Government Affairs); DeKalb Office of Economic Development. (Photograph opposite).

❖ The Mission was a success and joint ventures are being established. Jones, Jordan & Goulding is working on the Tamana Industrial Park Project and MACTEC is short listed to review of the Ortoire River Basin.



❖ As a result of APSCC interaction with elected officials in Georgia, sponsorship was received for Senator Gloria Butler to visit Port of Spain, to participate in forums on Women in Politics.

❖ March - The Committee participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sister Cities Economic Global Partnership Forum "Greener Cities - Public Transit and Green Space Policies. The Conference was extremely successful. Participants shared their land use policies and innovations for revitalization and redevelopment of communities, conservation of land for parks, including livable communities.

❖ April - Natural Disasters Youth Summit 2008- took place in Port of Spain, Trinidad, under the patronage of His Worship, Mayor Murchinson Brown. This international conference of youth, the fourth of its kind has been hosted in the past by Japan and Taiwan with the sole purpose of sensitizing the world about the necessity to unite and prepare for unavoidable experiences of natural disasters. Abraham Fergusson, Youth Ambassador and Global Youth Facilitator for natural

disasters, the youngest member of PASCN played a pivotal role in the conference.



Students participating in the Natural Disasters Youth Summit 2008



Celtic soccer program launch

### Supported Activities

❖ May - May 07, - The exhibition game between Liverpool FC Academy's Soccer Tour and Atlanta Silverbacks, at the Remax Greater Atlanta Stadium.

❖ May 26, - Efforts of the Georgia Caribbean Carnival Development Committee to portray the heritage of Caribbean Peoples in Georgia.

❖ June - Sponsoring of the Opening reception of Caribbean Heritage Month on June 01, by the Georgia Caribbean Heritage Coalition Inc., all other activities of the Coalition.

❖ The Committee participated in the celebration of International Week at Divine Faith Ministries International. June 15 - 21 Caribbean Day was celebrated on June 20. Attendees were treated to food, song, and dance, with a Caribbean flavor.

❖ July - Gale Frankie, a member of the youth arm, visited Port of Spain to mentor and conduct workshops with 'Youth in Need of Direction'. The workshops were a success, and participants were encouraged to pursue positive dreams, as 'Dreams can become reality'. The sponsors were: Mr. Tansley Thompson - sports promoter, and Mr. Peter Charles - businessman, of Port of Spain, Trinidad.

❖ Chairpersons, Gia Gaspard Taylor, and Norma Kendall-Hamlet, met with Acting Chief Fire Officer Bowen, in Port of Spain, to discuss the scheduling of a Fire Exchange Program, since the Fifth Summit of the Americas will take place in Port of Spain on April, 17 - 19 2009. Contact was made with Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran, in Atlanta, who welcomed the idea, and awaited further communication from Chief Fire Officer Bowen.

20  
08

# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

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

- ❖ August – On August 31, members of the Committee, and the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Georgia Inc. celebrated the 46th Anniversary of the Independence of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. David Constant a member of APSCC and official of the Mayor's Office of International Affairs received the award for 'Building Bridges'.
- ❖ In Port of Spain - Both Chairpersons and members of PASCN, celebrated the 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence with officers and members of the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services. Attendees were addressed by The President of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Maxwell Richards, Prime Minister – Patrick Manning, and the Minister of National Security – Mr. Martin Joseph. The U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago – Mr. Roy L. Austin, attended the ceremony.



Independence anniversary ceremony

- ❖ September – The United Nations Peace Program began September 21 through September 23. On September 23, members of both the City Committees attended a tree planting ceremony in Port of Spain. This was done in symbolism of protecting the environment.
- ❖ The Committee received correspondence from Ms. Dyan Davis of Florence Foundation Wesleyan Children's Home, located in Chickland Village, Freeport, Trinidad, requesting assistance with school supplies, food, clothes, computers and an air conditioning unit. The ages of the children at the home were between 2 – 17 yrs, and victims of impoverishment, physical, sexual, and mental abuse.



Tree planting

- ❖ The Board and members, agreed to assist, and shipped the requested items. Arit Essien, provided, an air conditioning unit, Deborah Hodge, encyclopedias, and other members, clothes and school supplies.
- ❖ October - The Committee supported the International Association of Caribbean Organization at its annual awareness event. The theme 'A Youthful Perspective – Dream it and achieve it', where youth were given the opportunity to show their talent through, word, song and dance.
- ❖ November - Hosted international students attending metro-Atlanta colleges and universities for Thanksgiving.
- ❖ December - On December 16, Mr. Michael Tyler, Chair of the Cultural Committee represented the Organization at the Latino Leadership Award Ceremony.

20  
08

PAGE 12

# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee

❖ For the Atlanta – Ra'anana Sister City Committee (ARSCC), 2008 was a year of maintaining ongoing programs and organizing a variety of joint projects. The major undertaking was Ra'anana's attendance at the ASCC's March 12 – 14 Greenspace and Public Transit Conference. The ARSCC supported the visits of Mrs. Oshra Koren, a City Council member and Chairperson of Ra'anana's International Relations Committee and Ms. Lia Rudnicki, Deputy City Engineer. Mrs. Rudnicki was a conference presenter and described the renovation of Ahuza St., Ra'anana's main thoroughfare into a grand pedestrian boulevard.

❖ Ra'anana, with a population of around 80,000, is located about fifteen miles north of Tel Aviv. With many immigrants from the U.S., Canada, U.K., Australia and South Africa, Ra'anana is often referred to as the center of 'Anglo Israel'. The 'garden city' of Israel is recognized for its high quality of life and commitment to physical, economic and cultural development through global linkages such as the sister city partnership with Atlanta.

Ra'anana was settled in 1922 by American Zionists from New York City - the below picture shows Ahuza Street in 1925.

❖ Mr. Tom Glaser, President, American – Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Division (AICCSE), says that the main reason for Ra'anana's regular inclusion in Chamber missions to Israel is that the city is simply a good place to do business. The AICCSE, during 2008, organized two activities with Ra'anana companies:

❖ Co-sponsored with Ra'anana-based Amdocs a one-day Innovation Exchange in Atlanta on April 29<sup>th</sup> for AT & T that introduced 12 Israeli start ups with cutting edge mobile technologies. Specific areas included Convergence, Mobile Personalization, Web 2.0 and Customer Experience Measurement and Optimization.

❖ December Business Mission delegation held a seminar in Ra'anana at Yad LaBanim municipal center to introduce over 20 local Israeli companies to AICC services. Special track sessions were conducted in Energy, Water and Medical Devices.

❖ During 2007, the ARSCC's electronic pen pal program (Gan Aleph) assisted the Greenfield Hebrew Academy (GHA) in a joint project with Ra'anana's Gan Tziporen kindergarten classes. During 2008, the ARSCC helped expand the program to include GHA's third grade; Judy Nickeson (GHA teacher) is involving her students in exchanging email letters to Bartov School peers in Ra'anana.



PAGE 13

20  
08



# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee (continued)

❖ On Monday, Feb. 18, the Ra'anana Committee joined over 2,000 people who attended "An Evening for Israel" at Trinity Church in Powder Springs. The aim of the program was to build on the commitment of Christian Zionists in the Metro Atlanta area and their support for Israel. The Ra'anana Committee attended to show solidarity and encourage Christian tourism to Ra'anana and Israel. The gathering was addressed by Mr. Reda Mansour, Israel Consul General and Pastor John Hagee.

❖ The twinning between conservative congregations Shearith Israel in Atlanta and Masorti in Ra'anana started in 2005. Synagogue members have visited with each to read Torah and "break bread" with special receptions. 2008 was a year of transition for Masorti as Colin Marks replaced Sam Turecki as Masorti's President.



Participating in the March 2008 Economic Development Conference in Atlanta - Ms. Lia Rudnicki, Deputy City Engineer, and Mrs. Oshra Koren, a City Council member and Chairperson of Ra'anana's International Relations Committee.



Members (L-R): Dr. Cedric Suzman, Mr. Nadav Sivon, Mrs. Rena Kahn, Dr. Arnold Heller – Chair, Mrs. Myrna Cohen – Vice Chair. Other members include Mr. David and Mrs. Judy Nickeson.

Below: Mrs Rudniki's photograph of Ahuza Street renovation as depicted at the Green Space Conference.





# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee

❖ The year of 2008 was a very special one for the Atlanta Rio de Janeiro Sister Cities Committee (ARJSCC). Following its philosophy of integrating Brazil and America, the meetings had a massive presence of guests from both nations as well as many other countries.

❖ The board of the Atlanta Rio de Janeiro Sister Cities Committee also grew with new members filling positions on the board. By the end of 2008, the board was formed as followed:

- ❖ Chair: Wilma Kruger
- ❖ Co-Chair: Franklin T. McGruder
- ❖ National Vice-Chair: James Brock
- ❖ Vice-Chair for International Affairs: Jairo Barreto
- ❖ Director for International Affairs (in Rio de Janeiro): Wilson Bonfim
- ❖ Membership Director: Court Robertson
- ❖ Vice-Chair of Finances & Treasurer: Will Giddens
- ❖ Cultural Attaché: Corina Brito
- ❖ Secretary & Webmaster: Melanie Henry

❖ Under Ms. Kruger's supervision, ARJSCC has developed many projects.

❖ Mr. Franklin T. McGruder was responsible for leading the team that created and currently leads the new Atlanta Rio de Janeiro Sister Cities Foundation, an associated organization intending to raise funds through tax-deductible donation that would support the project of the Committee and the Foundation. Mr. McGruder himself will present a report about the foundation.

❖ Mr. Jairo Barreto approached international affairs in two different fronts. Focusing on improving business relations between the two countries and cultures, Mr. Barreto increased contact with the Brazilian Consulate, more specifically, the Trade Bureau in Atlanta - Sector Commercial (SECOM), represented by Sandra Grohmann and the Brazilian - American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia, through Lúcia Jennings.

❖ The other goal was to identify social and cultural projects in Brazil. To achieve this goal, Mr. Barreto made two trips to Brazil and started contacts with local politicians and foundations.

❖ Focusing on expanding the knowledge about Brazilian culture among the Americans, Ms. Corina Brito has been developing a project for 2009 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of renowned Brazilian composer Villa-Lobos. The festivities will occur on November of 2009 and will present Brazilian classical music to the Atlanta community.

❖ These are some of the projects developed in 2008, and which will continue into 2009.

❖ Also, it is important to mention that, after 12 years of having just a Brazilian government representative, the installation of the official Brazilian Consulate in Atlanta was a great achievement for the Brazilian community in Georgia.

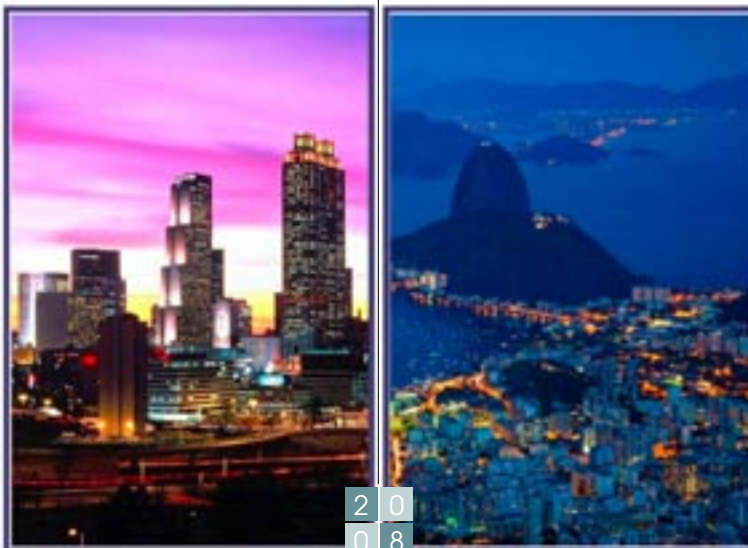
❖ Below, we have the text that was published at Global Atlanta on August 26, 2008

'After months of anticipation and weeks of providing appointment-only services, the Consulate General of Brazil for the Southeast officially opened in Atlanta on Tuesday.

'Government officials and business leaders joined Consul General Adalnio Senna Ganem for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and champagne toast at the consulate's eighth-floor offices in the One Alliance Center building in Buckhead.

"We had a long process opening up the consulate, but we are here, and we are here to stay," Mr. Ganem said.

'Today's opening makes this consulate the first established since the government launched a concerted effort to place diplomatic representation near its large communities abroad.'



2008

# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Rio de Janeiro Sister Cities Foundation

- ❖ The Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro Sister Cities Foundation (ARJSCF) is a 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 arm 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.
- ❖ ARJSCF had the following opportunities, this past year.
  - ❖ ARJSCF became a legal entity in Brazil (December 2008)
  - ❖ The foundation officers met with the Brazil Ambassador, on his visit to Atlanta (November 2008)
  - ❖ The foundation office opened in downtown Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (January 2009)



Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, (Brazilian Ambassador), Flavia Silva Schiffer (ARJSCF Secretary), and Franklin McGruder (ARJSCF President).

- ❖ ARJSCF Programs
  - ❖ Education arts program at Spectacular, a film school in Rio de Janeiro (February 2008)
  - ❖ Mangueira samba school youth music program, Rio de Janeiro (February 2008)
  - ❖ Several university students are working (as volunteers) in the Rio office
  - ❖ Programs slated for 2009 include a partnership with the Atlanta Housing Authority to provide educational scholarships for Atlanta students.
- ❖ ARJSCF leadership
  - ❖ Franklin T. McGruder (President)
  - ❖ Marco Antonio Fonseca da Costa (Vice President)
  - ❖ Richard A. Murphy (Vice Chairman)
  - ❖ Flavia Silva Schiffer (Secretary)
  - ❖ James Yates (Treasurer)
  - ❖ Tara Coyt (Marketing Chair)
- ❖ ARJSCF President and Chair, Franklin McGruder is responsible for guiding the organization's fundraising and program development.

Franklin McGruder (ARJSCF President) and Marco Fonseca (ARJSCF Vice President).



# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee

*The 162<sup>nd</sup> Dominican Independence Day Celebration At Atlanta City Hall. February 2008.*

- ❖ The Dominican International Association and the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister Cities Committee celebrated the 162<sup>nd</sup> Dominican Independence Day at Atlanta City Hall.
- ❖ Kwanza Hall, Atlanta Councilmember and Claire McCleiveghn, Director of External Affairs of the City of Atlanta presented a proclamation to the Dominican community residing in Georgia. Snacks, drinks and a beautifully decorated cake with the Dominican flag were enjoyed by guests from many different nationalities.





# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee (continued)

*Participation At The Second Annual Economic Development Global Partnership Forum. March 2008.*

❖ This forum highlighted the benefits of public transit and green space programs worldwide and helps a city to better communicate these to its residents and stakeholders. We had the participation of Dr. Manuel Guzman-Landolfi, renowned lawyer from the Dominican Republic who met with Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin. Victor Ramirez, Chair of the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister Cities Committee attended the forum with committee members Dr. Juan Sherwood and his wife Kriseyda, Clelia Montes De Oca, Erik Penagos, and Wei Zhang.



20  
08



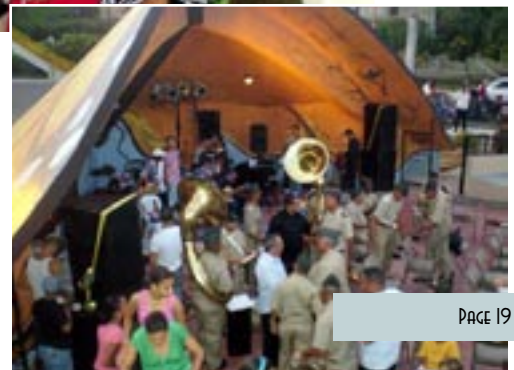
# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee (continued)

#### *Dedication Of Park Atlanta In The Atlanta's Sister City Of Salcedo, Dominican Republic*

- ❖ Parque Atlanta was a project created to honor the three Dominican heroines that were brutally assassinated by the Trujillo dictatorship in the year 1960. The park has a giant butterfly-shaped amphitheater symbolizing the three heroines who fought for freedom, justice, human and women's rights in the Dominican Republic.
- ❖ The park project initiated in 2001 with the collaboration of various community and business leaders, civic and government organizations from both sister cities, Atlanta and Salcedo. It received significant contributions from Williams-Russell and Johnson Engineering Co., Guerra-Stoll Barker Architects, and Atlanta City Hall. In Salcedo, there were significant contributions from Mena-Pantaleon Engineering Co., the Dominican Justice Supreme Court, and the Salcedo City Hall. Since the beginning of the project, there was a strong support from the former Vice-President of the Dominican Republic and current Secretary of State of Environment and Natural Resources, Dr. Jaime David Fernández Mirabal and his mother, Ms. Bélgica -Dedé- Mirabal.
- ❖ Parque Atlanta was dedicated in October, 2008 with music concerts played by the Musical Band of the Arm Forces of the Dominican Republic and the Orchestra of the Dominican Supreme Justice Court, among other artistic performers
- ❖ Parque Atlanta is a place where citizens of the United States of America and the Dominican Republic will be able to develop cultural and artistic programs to promote peace and understanding through people of all ages.



20  
08

PAGE 19

# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee

- ❖ The year 2008 constituted a turning point for the Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee (ATSCC). At the February 2008 meeting, upon the invitation of retired Brigadier General Thomas McCullough, John E. Hall, Jr. Esq. of Hall Booth Smith & Slover (HBSS) accepted the Committee's nomination to serve as the new chairman.
- ❖ Under Mr. Hall's new leadership, ATSCC began to expand and reorganize in order to meet significant challenges:
  - ❖ ATSCC developed its Strategic Plan for 2008-2009 identifying its mission and setting strategic direction for long-term cooperation between Atlanta and Tbilisi;
  - ❖ ATSCC expanded a network of members and friends in both countries;
  - ❖ ATSCC worked with the Mayor's Office in Tbilisi, the U. S. Embassy in Georgia, and several international organizations to establish a counterpart committee in the Country of Georgia;
  - ❖ ATSCC nominated an Advisory Board for the Committee;
  - ❖ ATSCC created a website ([www.at SCC.org](http://www.at SCC.org)) currently in its initial stages of development.

ATSCC members at the 20th anniversary celebration



### Notable achievements in 2008-2009 included:

- ❖ ATSCC 20th anniversary celebration – On March 12 2008, the Honorable Mayor Shirley Franklin recognized the 20th anniversary of ATSCC during the Economic Development Forum Dinner at the City Hall. The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission organized this Forum
- ❖ Georgian educators visit – From March 15 to 22, 2008 ATSCC hosted a delegation of Georgian educators for a visit sponsored by the Open World Program. The primary purpose of their visit was familiarization with higher education fundraising and endowment principles in the U. S. The team visited the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Georgia State University, Emory University, Kennesaw State University and Morehouse College. They also had the opportunity to meet Governor Sonny Perdue and The Adjutant General of Georgia, Major General Terry Nesbitt.
- ❖ Georgian lawyers visit – April 26 through May 3, 2008 the ATSCC, together with the Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C. hosted a delegation of Georgian lawyers for another visit sponsored by the Open World Program. Georgian attorneys traveled to Atlanta, GA, to attend a jury-trial training program at Emory University. They were able to witness jury trials firsthand at the Fulton and Dekalb County courts. This event was part of an ongoing process to support legal reforms in the Country of Georgia.
- ❖ Humanitarian assistance awareness visit – From May 10 through 17, 2008 Mrs. Letha Nesbitt, spouse of The Adjutant General of Georgia accompanied MG Nesbitt to his annual trip to Tbilisi, Georgia. As the Head of the ATSCC Humanitarian Affairs Sub-Committee, Mrs. Nesbitt visited local and international NGOs; secondary schools; infant homes and orphanages to discuss existing humanitarian relief efforts and possibilities for educational exchange programs.
- ❖ Support rally in Olympic Park Atlanta – On August 12, 2008 ATSCC showed its support to its Georgian friends by participating in the peaceful rally organized in front of the CNN Center in Atlanta in conjunction with the ongoing armed conflict between Russia and Georgia. The ATSCC wrote a petition and collected hundreds of signatures.

# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee (continued)

- ❖ ATSCC humanitarian assistance efforts – On September 17, 2008, as the need for humanitarian aid escalated as a result of war in Georgia, ATSCC coordinated individual and group relief efforts with local residents in Atlanta and the State of Georgia. The Committee engaged with Counterpart International; ACTS Georgia; Atlanta United Methodist Church and other involved agencies to identify items of immediate priority for local IDPs in Georgia. US Public Health Service and Georgia National Guard provided assistance in collecting and shipping the donated items.
- ❖ A Taste of Georgian Culture fundraiser – On September 27, 2008 ATSCC hosted its first annual 'A Taste of Georgian Culture' fundraiser in the atrium of Atlanta City Hall. The event turned to be a huge success, drawing over 200 guests and raising nearly \$16,000 to support the ongoing humanitarian efforts in Georgia. The fundraiser featured several special guests and samples of Georgian cuisine.
- ❖ Georgian lawyers visit – From October 18 through 25, 2008 ATSCC, together with the Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C., hosted yet another delegation of Georgian lawyers for a visit sponsored by the Open World Program. This event is part of an ongoing process to support legal reforms in the Country of Georgia.

- ❖ Meeting Mayor Ugulava – In November of 2008, Mr. Hall traveled to Georgia and met Tbilisi Mayor Mr. Gigi Ugulava. Mr. Hall and Mr. Mayor exchanged gifts of good will and expressed reassurances for strengthening relationships between our two cities. Mr. Hall also met with various NGO representatives to discuss avenues for further cooperation.
- ❖ Economic Business Forum - On December 12, 2008, ATSCC joined Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C. and the U. S. Department of Commerce to host its first, annual Georgia to Georgia Business Forum. Held at the W Hotel, the Forum aimed to raise visibility and awareness for the country of Georgia in the United States as an exciting place to invest and do business.
- ❖ 2009 looks promising in terms of raising number of events for the Committee. Continuing increase in support and expanding network of individuals involved in the Committee is the main guarantor success.





# 2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Atlanta - Toulouse Sister City Committee

- ❖ The Atlanta Toulouse Sister City Committee has had a very busy year. We now have 117 members. Our web page at [www.sprawls.org/ATSCC](http://www.sprawls.org/ATSCC) details our activities.
- ❖ In January we had our annual Fete de Rois, or 12th night party, and as always it was a most enjoyable event. In February we went as a group to see a play at the French Theatre du Reve. The play we saw was later taken to Paris.
- ❖ In March we were given a presentation about Normandy. Our speakers were from Normandy and we enjoyed food from that area.
- ❖ We celebrated Easter at a very festive party at the home of one of our members.



Atlanta group visits Toulouse

- ❖ In April we were welcomed by the French Consul General at his residence for our annual installation of officers.
- ❖ In July, we celebrated Bastille Day and entertained a guest from Toulouse with a party for all of our members. Our August event was watching a Polo Match at a farm belonging to one of our members.
- ❖ We took a bus trip in October to the Persimmon Creek Winery in the North Georgia mountains. In November we were treated to a cooking class by one of our members who is French and an accomplished chef.



Betty Davis (left), current chair ATSCC with past chairs



Toulouse students visit Martin Luther King birthplace

- ❖ Four students from our sister city, Toulouse, spent a week in Atlanta in July. They were the winners of an essay contest entitled "I have a Dream" and their prize was a trip from the Toulouse City Hall to the birthplace of Martin Luther King. While they were here we housed them and entertained them.
- ❖ We have also started a subgroup that dines together periodically in local French restaurants and another subgroup that conducts periodic blind wine tastings in members' homes.

Enjoying French cuisine



# 2008

## ANNUAL REPORT



### Members of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

*From left to right: Jeff Breedlove, GA State Coordinator, Sister Cities International; Victor Ramirez, Salcedo, Dominican Republic; Dr. Margo Alexander, Ancient Olympia Greece; Dr. Augustine Esogbue, Lagos, Nigeria; Teri Simmons, ASCC Chair; Dr. Charleise Young, Cotonou, Benin; Wilma Kruger, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Betty Davis, Toulouse, France; Shean Atkins, Nürnberg, Germany; Samuel Bacote (appointed); Dr. Cedric Suzman, Southern Center for International Studies - (appointed); David Smith, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Great Britain; David Papava, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia; David Constant, Office of the Mayor of Atlanta.*



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20  
08