

ATLANTA SISTER CITIES COMMISSION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

Date of Inauguration: 1974
Web site: <http://www.atlantaga.gov/index.aspx?page=642>

Officers
Chair: Teri Simmons
Vice Chair: David Smith

Appointed Members
Cedric Suzman, DBA
Samuel Bacote



Atlanta Sister Cities

Ancient Olympia – Greece
Brussels – Belgium
Bucharest – Romania
Cotonou – Benin
Daegu – Korea
Fukuoka – Japan
Lagos – Nigeria
Montego Bay – Jamaica
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne – Great Britain
Nürnberg – Germany
Port-of-Spain – Trinidad
Rio de Janeiro – Brazil
Ra'anana – Israel
Salcedo – Dominican Republic
Salzburg – Austria
Taipei – Taiwan
Tbilisi – Republic of Georgia
Toulouse – France

About The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission



The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) is an organization whose objective is to form friendship links between the Atlanta community and similar jurisdictions in other countries so that citizens can express their goodwill and common desire for friendship and the development of understanding through a variety of mutually beneficial programs.

The ASCC encourages the participation of a cross-section of citizens in the development of international relationships.

ASCC manages the process of developing Atlanta's sister city affiliations, and establishes and supports a sister city committee for each recognized link. ASCC has a vigorous program of exchange activities with its sister cities, including educational programs, cultural exchanges, philanthropy, economic development and social development.

ASCC members' programs have been recognized by Sister Cities International and awarded for their community outreach, economic and educational development.

The Mayor's Office of International Affairs

Claire Angelle serves as the Director of the Mayor's Office of International Affairs for the city of Atlanta. In her role, she plans, develops and implements international activities on behalf of the city and counsels Mayor Reed on global issues. In addition, her duties include facilitating trade, economic development, tourism and cultural initiatives with local, national and international agencies.

Bettina Gardner serves as the Deputy Director of the Office of International Affairs. In her role, she consults Atlanta based

companies on import and global expansion opportunities. She also works to promote the city of Atlanta as a hub of choice for foreign companies interested in the U.S. or North American market by supporting the city's foreign direct investment opportunities.

Vanessa Ibarra is the Chief of Protocol in the Office of International Affairs. She coordinates inbound delegations and oversees all protocol matters for the city of Atlanta and organizes protocol training for city employees and other

constituents. Vanessa also serves as the liaison to Atlanta area universities and colleges and supports their international efforts.

Taylor Woodruff serves as the International Affairs Coordinator for the Office of International Affairs. He supports the office in planning inbound and outbound exchanges, creates diplomatic briefings, and manages the office's communication and marketing efforts. He also serves as the city's liaison to the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission.

Atlanta Sister Cities Commission activities

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 appointed by the Mayor of Atlanta and ratified by a majority of the Atlanta City Council.

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.

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.

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.

Programs

Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Student Exchange

The objective of the program is 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.

Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Economic Development Conference

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission's focus on economic development is aimed at facilitating the exchange of economic development practices and increasing awareness of economic conditions among Atlanta's sister cities. The format of the conference is based around a best practice sharing and case study methodology that invites political and professional participants to share best practices around key themes and tracks.

The program has demonstrated that its best practice sharing methodology complements and extends the role of city promotional agencies by sharing knowledge of sustainable practices among global cities. A number of practice areas have been explored at these conferences including Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Greener Cities: Public Transit and Green Space Policies, Fostering a Productive Business Climate by Public- Private Partnerships, Identifying City Development Challenges, Leveraging Educational Institutions for Economic Development, Creating Greater Quality of Life and Increasing Economic Vitality of Underserved Areas via Sustainable Urban Regeneration, City Planning for Success, Tourism and Cultural Institutions as Economic Development Tools, Promoting Health & Safer Living in Urban Areas, and Leveraging Airports for Economic Growth.

Highlights and accomplishments

ASCC's most recent exchange of students from Atlanta's sister cities took the theme "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.

Sister Cities International has previously presented its Youth Leadership Development Award to ASCC member 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.

Sister Cities International also honored ASCC for an outstanding sister city economic development program. Top honors recognize programs throughout the U.S. doing work around the globe.

"These awards showcase the best work for cultural understanding in our network," said Patrick Madden, President and CEO of Sister Cities International. "These are the communities with Sister Cities that are blazing trails."



Photo: At the Sister Cities International Annual Conference, Teri Simmons accepts the award for Innovation: Sustainable Development on behalf of the ASCC. Left to right: Patrick Madden, President & CEO, Sister Cities International; Margaret Jankowsky, Professional Training & Coaching Consultant, Nuremberg, Germany (Atlanta's sister city); Teri Simmons, Chair, Atlanta Sister Cities Commission; Mike Hyatt, Chair, Sister Cities International Board of Directors. (Photograph by Harrison photography).



ASCC is an affiliate of Sister Cities International (SCI), the association of sister city, county and state programs in the U.S.

SCI has twice recognized and awarded ASCC for serving as a model to other Sister City programs, demonstrating excellence and innovation on sustainable development issues and fostering international cooperation and understanding through its volunteer organization.

Meeting our Consuls General

In 2015, the Commission began a new program aimed at fostering a closer relationship with the diplomatic community in Atlanta. Consuls representing the countries in which Atlanta has sister city relationships are invited to join a commission meeting and talk about their outreach in the local community, regional and national developments in their home country and the role of sister cities.

In May, we welcomed German Consul General Christoph Sander and British Consul General Jeremy Pilmore Bedford (see Newcastle report).

At the December meeting we welcomed Japan Consul General Kazuo Sunaga.



Members of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission meet with Japan Consul General Kazuo Sunaga (above) and with British Consul General Jeremy Pilmore Bedford (below).



Below: British Consul General Jeremy Pilmore Bedford and German Consul General Christoph Sanger address the Commission.



For the second year, ASCC took part in the Winter Wonderland: Celebrations & Traditions Around the World at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta with a beautifully decorated tree showcasing celebrations in Atlanta's Sister Cities.

Taking place between November 20, 2015 through January 10, 2016, the sixth annual Winter Wonderland featured two floors of festive trees and displays decorated by cultural partners to reflect traditions and holidays celebrated around the world. Twinkling with lights, glimmering with color and shining with a variety of cultural objects, more than 30 trees and other displays recognize cultural traditions in North America, South America, Africa, Europe and Asia.



Ancient City of Olympia

GREECE

Atlanta - Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1994
Chair: Dr. Margo Alexander ; Co-Chair: Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp



Map: Greka.com

- In close proximity to Ancient Olympia is the modern city, which bears the same name and has about 11,000 population.
- The municipality Archaia Olympia ("Ancient Olympia") was formed at the 2011 local government reform by the merger of four former municipalities.
- The Olympic flame is lit at the ancient site and carried by runners to the city where the games are held.
- Olympia Greece hosted the ancient Greece Olympics every four years ("olympiad" is the Greek word meaning a period of four years) beginning in 776 B.C. and lasting for more than 900 years.

Ancient City of Olympia Profile

Olympia is one of the most popular and visited destinations in the Peloponnese, as this was where the ancient Olympic Games were held. It was a festivity, important not only to this region, but the rest of Greece, and the entire world.

Olympia is situated in an area surrounded by hills and mountains in such a way that they provide a very peculiar and interesting background to this ancient spot.

The modern history of Olympia began with the rediscovery of the ancient city in 1766. But it was not until 1829 that the first scientific excavations were begun in the vast field of majestic ruins that dot the landscape where the ancient city of Olympia Greece once thrived.

Today, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Archaeologists from Germany became responsible for excavation and preservation in the 1970s, and it

is still the German Archaeological Institute at Athens that oversees the site.

The city of Olympia is famous for its impressive statue of Zeus, a statue of great size made of gold and ivory, within a temple built in honor of the deity.

Olympia is one of the most popular destinations for tourists in Greece. Cruise ships dock at the nearby port of Katakolo and bus visitors the site. The village of Olympia itself is a collection of tourist shops, cafes, restaurants

and a historical museum of the Olympic Games.

In 2004 Olympia completed development of roadwork, museum renovations and sports facilities for Athens' hosting of the Olympic Games. The men's and women's shot put competition were held at the restored stadium in Olympia.

Source text and photo: Greece.com



The Atlanta—Olympia link

The Atlanta-Ancient Olympia Greece relationship has its origins in a vision by Mayor Maynard Jackson and Mr. Louis Zakas in 1992 after the City of Atlanta was awarded the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. The cities of Atlanta and Ancient Olympia formed their sister city

relationship by 1994. The purpose was to promote good relations between the two countries during the Centennial Games. The Atlanta Ancient Olympia Sister City Committee maintains connections with the city and organizations in each location.

In November 1992, an "Olympic" olive tree was presented by the Citizens of Olympia, Greece in honor of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. It resides in the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.

Atlanta-Olympia themes and objectives:

The Committee's ultimate plan is to promote:

- Cultural Activities
- Economic Development
- Trade Opportunities
- Youth Programs/ Education

The committee's general program mainly focuses on activities that center around Greek traditions.

These include meetings and conferences on the future of Hellenism, film documentary, music, youth education and supporting the Consul General stationed here in Atlanta.



The committee hosted a "Vasilopita Celebration" for all its committee members in January. This celebration for the beginning of the New Year signifies best wishes to all throughout the 2015 year. "Kai tou xronou". Our new Consul General of Greece, the Honorable Mr. Giorgios Panaviotidis, and Mr. Spyros Vourtsis, Vice Consul attended our reception. Also this month, Poly Potter, Honorary Consul of Cyprus, gave a presentation, "Poetry and Politics." at our meeting.



Photos above and opposite: Vasolipta Reception 2015

With our interests to preserve our traditions and culture, and to show unity that we all commemorate this very important historical day together, Greek Independence Day, our commission committee had the pleasure along with other Greek organizations in Atlanta, to sponsor the Greek School Independence Day Celebration. It was a wonderful program presented by the Greek School students. This March 25th Celebration event was enjoyed by all who attended.

The first of May, the celebration of our Hellenic traditions of PROTOMAYIA, the Ancient Olympia committee was one of the proud sponsors of a Greek Community wide PROTOMAYIA PICNIC. It was held on the grounds of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral with good food, fun and fellowship. It was a beautiful day, with kites flying, dancers dancing and music all around. It was classified "A perfect Greek day" for all who attended.

As Fall approached and the summer holiday was ending, it was time to get back to business. A formal meeting took place between Chair, Margo Alexander with Co-Chair Maria Sharp and a few Commission members with the Honorable Mr. Giorgios Panaviotidis, the new Consul General of Greece and Mr. Spyros Vourtsis, Vice Consul. 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.

In November, the Best of the NYC Greek Film Festival in Atlanta was held. This is a rare opportunity for our Community at large to enjoy the best of contemporary Greek film without traveling to Greece. The film festival was held at the prestigious Goodrich C. White Hall at Emory University. At the end of the weekend, "It's a Wrap" Closing Reception was held at The Living Room where everyone could meet Stelana Kliris, the writer/director of the film "Committed" that was shown. We were very happy to help bring these films to Atlanta. It was a very exciting weekend for all that attended.



Cotonou

BENIN

Atlanta - Cotonou Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1995
Chair: Dr. Charleise Young
Contact: cyoung9@bellsouth.net



Map: Wikipedia

- Cotonou's official population count was 761,137 inhabitants in 2006; however, some estimates indicate its population to be as high as 1.2 million.
- Besides French, the official language of Benin, the main languages spoken in Cotonou include Fon, Mina, Aja and Yoruba.
- The Autonomous Port of Cotonou is one of the largest ports in West Africa.
- Cotonou is a textile market of African Print mainly handled by Indian wholesalers and retailers

Cotonou Profile

Cotonou is the largest city and economic center of Benin. The city lies in the southeast of the country, between the Atlantic Ocean and Lake Nokoué.

In addition to being Benin's largest city, it is also the seat of government. It is home to most of the country's government buildings and diplomatic services.

The city is a major port, and is also home to an airport and a railway that links to Parakou.

Other features of Cotonou include Cotonou Friendship Stadium, Cotonou Cathedral, Cotonou Central Mosque, the Ancien Pont Bridge and the 20-hectare Dantokpa Market.

Because of its status as a transport hub, Cotonou has become a crossroads of West African commerce. The city is a so-called "market town," enabling trade with the countries of the African interior, such as

Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. In addition to the port, there is a free trade zone in the interior of the city for use by the landlocked Saharan states. It can be considered the economic capital as it houses two-thirds of Benin's

industries and is the headquarters of the nation's major enterprises and banks.

Important manufactured goods include palm oil and cake, brewing, textiles, and cement. Motor vehicles and bicycles are assembled, and there are also sawmills in

the city. Petroleum products, bauxite, and iron are major exports. There are also offshore platforms drilling for oil.

The city is also a center for the automotive trade, with European brands being sold from vast open-air parking lots. In the past, Citroën assembled cars (for instance, the Citroën 2CV and Ami 8) locally.

Source: Wikipedia.
Photo The Cotonou Littoral Monument. Source AfroTourism.com



The Atlanta—Cotonou link

The Atlanta-Cotonou linkage began on Monday, July 17, 1995 when then Mayor Bill Campbell signed the Sister Cities Agreement with Cotonou. It was the first city in West Africa to form this alliance with Atlanta, GA, according to the proclamation that Mayor Campbell signed.

Marvin Arrington was City Council president.

The first democratically elected president of Benin, Nicephore Soglo, was the guest of President Bill Clinton at a White House luncheon. President Soglo developed programs to

encourage foreign investment in oil company, business and economic efforts. This same Nicephore Soglo later became the mayor of Cotonou.

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Atlanta-Cotonou themes and objectives:

To encourage the facilitation of economic, social, cultural and civic exchange between the cities of Atlanta and Cotonou.

Our current objectives are

- Repair the Martin Luther King Jr. plaque on the bridge in Cotonou.
- Start the process to bring one person (committee member, educator) to Atlanta.
- Seek funding sources and locations for medical transportation and supplies as requested.
- Encourage active participation by the Cotonou Committee in conferences and meetings.

The Atlanta-Cotonou link (continued)

In 2004, Atlanta Committee members, Dr. Earle Clowney and Dr. Charleise Young visited Cotonou and presented a plaque from then Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin to the new mayor acknowledging the linkage. Over the years, the Atlanta Committee members have sent requested books, bicycles, carried materials on visits, celebrated Independence Day in August. We visited Cotonou (and environs) to learn about alternative medicine (voodoo), since the origin of the practice is in that area. We met with a physician who was visiting from Cotonou, and maintains a clinic there. We learned of his need of an ambulance and other supplies.

With the election of a new mayor this year, we offer congratulations and hope for successful leadership as soon as we receive word of the name. We hope that the mayors will exchange visits.

2015 Activities

In 2015, we met our new team in Cotonou, pictured here with two of our Atlanta members, Jean and Bernadette Folly.



Cotonou committee. Standing from Left to Right: Nestor Hodonou, Rahimi Joachim Gnansounou, Nazaire Sabadagbo. Seating from Left to Right: Saloua Hodonou, Lidwine Adjaho, Marie Suzanne Sajous, Lisette Dagnon, Bernadette Folly (Atlanta).

Members not shown in photograph: Aurax Fernando, Saharah Sabadagbo, Odile Agboton.



Above: Meeting with the team in Cotonou.

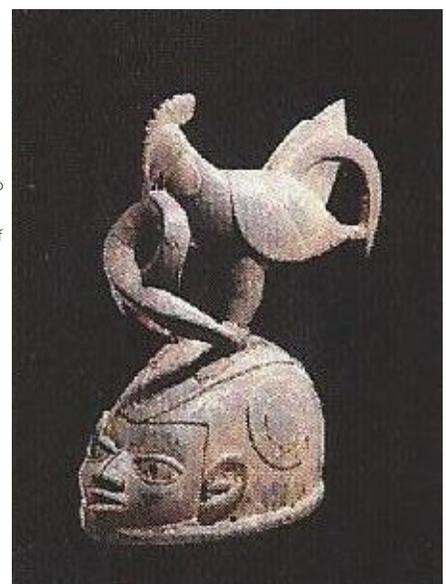
Below: Atlanta Cotonou Sister City Committee. L-R: Bernadette Folly, Carol Luther, Dr. Charleise Young, Dr. Earle Clowney, Jean Folly.



Below: A Gèlèdè mask. These masks are found in the South East of the Republic of Benin and in Nigeria, in what is usually called Yorubaland, a reference to the Yoruba people and ancient kingdom.

The Gelede spectacle of the Yoruba is a public display by colorful masks that combines art and ritual dance to amuse, educate and inspire worship. Gelede celebrates "Mothers" (awon iya wa), a group that includes female ancestors and deities as well as the elderly women of the community, and the power and spiritual capacity these women have in society.

However, this power may also be destructive and take the form of witchcraft; therefore, Gelede serves the function of appeasing this power, as well. (Wikipedia).



Daegu

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Atlanta - Daegu Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1981
Chair: John J. Lee
Contact: JRLee-2000@msn.com



Map: Wikipedia

- Daegu is located in south-eastern Korea, 282km south of Seoul and 121km north of Busan. The city covers 886 square kilometers.
- Daegu is the third largest city, population 2.5 million. As a city of education, it has produced figures in politics, economy, administration and arts: the first Korean female president Park Geun-hye and founder and former chairman Kim Woo-jung of the Daewoo Group.
- The service sector occupies 71.4%, manufacturing – 22.9% and construction – 5.35%. Manufacturing consists of machinery and metal, textiles, auto parts and electronic industries.

Daegu Profile

Daegu is the birthplace of SAMSUNG. In 1938 Lee Byung-chul started a small trading company called Samsung Sanghoe in Daegu, which grew into Samsung Group of today. It clearly shows that Daegu has played a leading role in developing the Korean economy.

Also, Daegu is a city where Warren Buffett sees a business opportunity by investing in TaeguTec, a cutting tool manufacturing company, "Daegu is an attractive city equipped with a solid investment infrastructure, and I will seriously consider investing more in this city in the future".

Politically, Daegu is famous for producing several Korean presidents including Park Chung-hee, Chun Doo-hwan, Roh Tae-woo and the incumbent president Park Geun-hye. They were born and educated in and around the city. It is because Daegu has been the center of education and we possess excellent human resources.



Daegu has rich experience in major international events from sporting to water and energy issues: We hosted four matches of the 2002 Korea/Japan FIFA World Cup, the 2013 Summer Universiade Game, the

2011 IAAF World Championships in Athletics, the 2013 World Energy Congress and have prepared the 2015 World Water Forum.

As for core industrial projects, we have been developing Daegu National Industrial Park where next-generation electronics and

communication, high-tech machinery, future automobiles and renewable energy industries are invited; Daegu Technopolis as an R & D hub has been established. Its target sectors are renewable energy, future automobiles, IT convergence, new materials and mechatronics. Daegu-Gyeongbuk Medical Cluster is an R & D center for the medical industry and Daegu Water Cluster as core growth engine of the city.

The Atlanta—Daegu link

The Atlanta-Daegu Sister City Committee has a continuous history of promoting friendship throughout each Mayoralty from Ambassador Andrew Young and Honorable Maynard Jackson through to Mayors Shirley Franklin and Kasim Reed.

The sister city relationship between Daegu and Atlanta was initiated when Mayor Maynard Jackson visited Daegu and signed the agreement in November 1981.

In over 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.

Atlanta-Daegu themes and objectives:

The main focus of the Atlanta-Daegu Sister City Committee is to promote proactive cooperation in a wide range of sectors including exchanges of students, officials, business and culture.

The Committee has been introducing officials and related people of Atlanta to Daegu Sister Cities Day, Daegu International Youth Camp, Daegu International Musical and Opera Festival and various exhibitions in Daegu.

Also, the Committee has made an effort to enhance the awareness of the sisterhood relationship between Daegu and Atlanta among Korean residents in Atlanta and citizens of Atlanta as well.

The 7th World Water Forum was held in Daegu from April 12 to 17, 2015 where over 46,000 participants such as high ranking officials including 7 national presidents, water industry CEOs and experts attended. Water experts from Daegu's sister and friendship cities were likewise invited to the sessions of local governments and other forums. Daegu city established a partnership with the US Water Council, and agreed to cooperate continuously with mutual participation in water events and information and technology sharing in development of the water industry of both sides.



Water Forum opening performance with national presidents

The 10th Daegu International Youth Camp

Daegu city organized the Daegu International Youth Camp 2015 in collaboration with Daegu Catholic University from August 9 through 14 for six days. A total of 90 students from 17 cities of 13 countries including Daegu's sister and friendship cities such as St.Petersburg, Russia, Milan, Italy, Taipei, Taiwan and Chengdu, China, participated in the Camp.

Students from different cultural backgrounds gathered together to learn basic Korean language, Korean culture including K-pop dance, Samulnori, Buddhist temple culture, Taekwondo martial art, natural dyeing, and to visit major facilities and attractions such as Daegu Youth Startup Center, Taegutec company, Daegu Stadium, and had a great time to share friendship during the Camp.



Welcome ceremony & Natural dyeing program



Daegu Chicken & Beer (ChiMac) Festival 2015

As a home of the Korean chicken industry and one of hottest cities in the summer, Daegu city created a festival combining delicious fried chicken and cool beer to enjoy hot summer back in 2013. This time 900,000 people including the US ambassador Luppert attended this festival and enjoyed together with Daegu citizens. It was held from July 22 through 26 for five days.



Above: Opening ceremony of the Daegu Chicken & Beer Festival 2015. Below: US Ambassador Mark Luppert in Korea attended the Daegu Chicken & Beer Festival.



Atlanta—Daegu activities

2015

In collaboration with Daegu Gyeongbuk Tourism Culture Cooperative, Daegu city organized a Great Art Fun exhibition at BNJ gallery, Atlanta to introduce three Daegu artists' unique works to Atlanta citizens from October 13 to 19. The organizer also signed an MoU with Atlanta Radio Korea to cooperate in the field of cultural promotion in both cities.



Business Forum with Former US Ambassador to Korea and Emeritus President of the Emory University Dr. James T. Laney.



Signing a cultural cooperation MoU



KEI (Korean Economic Institute of America) and World Affairs Council of Atlanta hosted a Korean Unification Forum in May. L-R: Chair John Lee, US Ambassador to Korea Sung Kim, Korean Ambassador to US, Young Ho Ahn and Dr. Cedric Suzman.



Korean Fire Dept. Delegation with Atlanta Fire Chief Joel Baker.

Right: The ARC was built in commemoration of completing the 4 major river improvement project in Korea in 2012. It was designed by Hani Rashid, a world renowned architect. Its full name is "Architect/Artistry of River Culture" and shortened as The ARC. As a river museum that has become one of the famous landmarks of Daegu.



Fukuoka

JAPAN

Atlanta - Fukuoka Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 2005
Chair: Co-chaired by Ms. Sue Lin Lange & Ms. Keiko Scott
Contact: ksspnuts@hotmail.com



- Fukuoka city is located at 130° 24' 06" E. longitude and 33° 35' 24" N. latitude.
- The climate is warm, with an average annual temperature of 17.3°C (as of 2009).
- The population continues to grow, reaching an estimated 1.54 million in 2015.
- Industry in Fukuoka is primarily tertiary, with wholesaling, retailing, food and beverages, and service industry. Manufacturing industries carry on traditional craftsmanship including Hakata Ningyō dolls, Hakata-ori textiles, and Hakata Magemono (handmade wooden dishes, bowls and other items).

Fukuoka Profile

Before the Middle Ages, Hakata, where merchants thrived, had been the focal point. During the Edo period the samurai town of Fukuoka was formed under the control of the Kuroda clan. Thus, a city with two towns was born: Hakata, the merchant town, became a place of traditional arts and crafts, while Fukuoka, the castle town, became a place where samurai culture lived.

In 1889, the two towns merged into a city named Fukuoka. However, Hakata has preserved its status as the railway station, traditional arts & crafts, foods, etc.

Today the city of Fukuoka is a combination of antiquity and modernity. It has preserved its two



thousand-year cultural history through local heritage sites (the Korokan guest house, the Gold Seal, etc.) while simultaneously promoting modern development. Not only does Fukuoka possess an open and simple nature as well as colorful festivals

(the Yamakasa, Dontaku, etc.), it is renowned for its arts and vibrant traditional culture. At the same time, it is active in absorbing new ideas and is sensitive to the current trends in music and fashion. Above all, Fukuoka is holding its rich history and culture close to its heart,

while taking great leaps in becoming an international city in Asia.

(Source: Website of Fukuoka City <<http://www.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/english/>>, and Photos: Provided by Fukuoka City)

The Atlanta—Fukuoka link

Fukuoka became the 18th Sister City of Atlanta on February 8, 2005, after enjoying the special relationship with Atlanta as a Partnership City for 12 years from 1993.

In late March every year, high school students from Fukuoka visit Atlanta, where the students enjoy the American school life and home stay. The committee makes arrangements for their stay

in Atlanta, a welcome dinner, a courtesy visit to the Mayor, etc., while a few Atlanta's high school students have visited Fukuoka in the summer.

In July, four 11-year-old children selected by the Japan-America Society of Georgia participate in the fully-funded program, the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka.

Photo: Bullet Train that runs between Fukuoka and Kagoshima (Sister State of Georgia).



Atlanta-Fukuoka themes and objectives:

The main focus of the Atlanta-Fukuoka Sister City Committee has been on the youth exchange programs and participation in the cultural events such as JapanFest, the largest Japanese festival in the Southeastern U.S. However, 2015 marked the 10th anniversary as sister cities. Various events were held in both Atlanta and Fukuoka for its celebration



The 10th anniversary ceremony in Fukuoka; breaking a big Sake barrel's top attended by Mr. Yuriy Fedkiw of US Consulate, 2nd from left; Mayor Takashima, and Ms. Candace Byrd of Atlanta Mayor's office.

In March, 2015, seven high school students along with two Fukuoka city government staff visited Atlanta. The students enjoyed attending North Atlanta High School as well as home stay.

In June, six N. Atlanta High School students visited Fukuoka. There they enjoyed Japanese high school and home life. They were able to experience many hands-on cultural activities.



Six NAHS students' first experience in kimono and the tea ceremony in June: (from left: Nabilah, Samantha, Niki, Paris, Mary & Kala).

In July, Ms. Candace Byrd (Chief of Staff) and Ms. Claire Angelle (Director of International Affairs) of the City of Atlanta visited Fukuoka. Fukuoka organized the 10th anniversary events; such as the city tour, the economic seminar, the dogwood trees planting ceremony, the reception, etc.



The Dogwood trees planting ceremony in Fukuoka in July: Guests from the U.S. (Ms. Byrd and Ms. Angelle from the City of Atlanta, Mr. Johnson & Mr. Kojima from the JASG, Mr. Huntemann of GDEcD, and Ms. Scott of AFSCC) with Mayor Takashima, Mr. Fedkiw of US Consulate, and the local children featured at the Enforce Tac Trade Show.

Seven High School students who visited Atlanta in March greeted Ms. Byrd in the 10th anniversary reception in July (from left: Ai, Masanao, Ms. Byrd, Ren, Yuta, Haruka, Asahi, Wakana).



Also in July, four 11-year old children from the Atlanta area visited Fukuoka on the APCC program as Junior Ambassadors.



Left: Hakata Ningyo dolls displayed in the Fukuoka booth at JapanFest 2015

Below: Hakata-koma (traditional top-spinning) performance at JapanFest: Mr. Juraku Chikuzen (R) & Mr. Koraku Chikuzen (L)

In September, we participated in JapanFest 2015 at Gwinnett Energy Center by setting up a large Fukuoka booth. As a part of the anniversary events, two Hakata-koma top-spinning performers, a Hakata Ningyo doll artist and a Hakata-ori textiles artist visited along with five city government staff members from Fukuoka.

We also sold many goods donated by the Sister City Committee in Fukuoka. The proceeds from these sales are to further our student exchange program here in Atlanta and other sister city activities. Thanks to local volunteers, we were able to share unique culture and information about Fukuoka with many festival attendees.



Hakata Ningyo doll painting workshop at JapanFest: Master Shoji Kajiwara (top L), and Ms. Wolfe (volunteer, top R)

Ms. Miki Miyajima demonstrating a mini-version of Hakata-ori weaving at JapanFest (volunteer, top R)

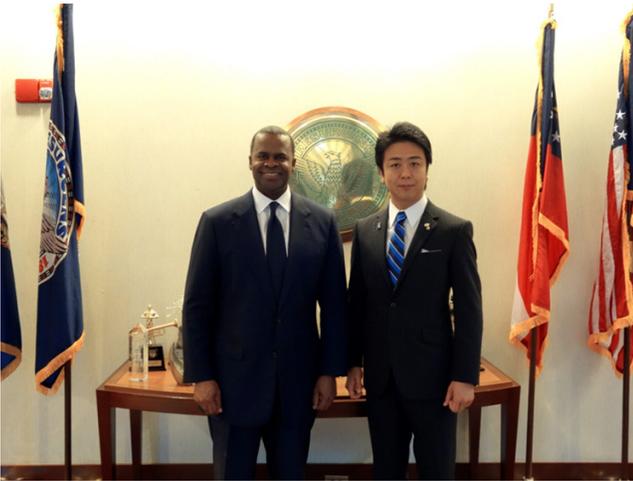


Atlanta—Fukuoka activities

2015

In late October, we set up a booth at the Gibbs Garden's Japanese festival; and participated in the holiday tree decoration at the Fernbank Museum in November.

Also, in November, a delegation of more than 100 guests from Fukuoka visited Atlanta to celebrate the 10th anniversary. Fukuoka Mayor Soichiro Takashima met Atlanta Mayor, Kasim Reed, in Atlanta City Hall, while the Council members from both cities also met. Many members from the private economic sector also participated in the economic seminar held at The CocaCola Company. Japanese Consul General Kazuo Sunaga provided a reception at his official residence.



Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and Fukuoka Mayor Soichiro Takashima at Atlanta City Hall



Fukuoka Business Seminar at The CocaCola Company in November



In the reception at the residence of Consul General of Japan, the Certificate of Appreciation for the sister cities relationship was presented by Mayor Takashima (center) to (from L) Mr. Yamamoto & Ms. Scott (both AFSCC), Mr. Douglas (Principal, NAHS), Ms. Leedy & Ms. Lange (both AFSCC), Mr. Johnson (JASG), and the former chair of AFSCC Ms. Sue Renfroe (not present)



Mayor Takashima (center) with Consul General & Mrs. Kazuo Sunaga at the commemorative reception in Nov.

Lagos

NIGERIA

Atlanta - Lagos Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1974
Chair: (Atlanta—ALSCC) Professor Emeritus Augustine O. Esogbue; (Lagos—LASCC) Prince Bashiru Agunloye
Contact: esogbuennom@gmail.com



Map: Britannica

- Lagos is the economic, social, and education heart of Nigeria. It is the leading non-oil sector contributor to Nigeria's GDP
- Lagos contributes 30% of the nation's GDP, consumes 60% of its energy, pays 65% of its Value Added Tax (VAT), and accounts for 90% of Nigeria's foreign trade and 70% of all industrial investment.
- Lagos is popularly known as the Center of Excellence and could easily double as the Center of Logistics industry.
- The new planned EKO Atlantic city is designed to catapult Lagos into the 21st century as a major modern city.

Lagos Profile

Lagos, the most populous city in Nigeria, sixth largest in the world, and projected to become the third by 2015, has a population density that is second only to Mumbai, India.

Situated along the Gulf of Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean in the West African sub-region on a network of islands connected by several bridges, Lagos was Nigeria's capital from the colonial days through independence in 1960 and continuing till the mid 80s when the capital was moved to Abuja.

Lagos is perhaps the largest and most diverse multi-ethnic megacity in Africa with Nigeria's over 250 ethnic groups and several African and global countries well represented. The main language of education and business is English although the predominant native languages of Yoruba, Ibo, Hausa and Pidgin English are spoken liberally in the market places. Christianity and Islam are the dominant religions.

Several annual cultural festivals, the centerpiece of Nigeria's budding cultural tourism industry are featured but FESTAC 1977, is still remembered as the

single most ambitious cultural extravaganza of peoples of African descent ever held anywhere in the world.

Lagos boasts Nigeria's best known museums hosting the original exhibition of the famous 2000 years of Nigerian art, several private museums, the Museum of the Black World, numerous educational institutions, etc. The climate is tropical with the year broken primarily into rainy and dry seasons.



Photo: Announcement of first direct flights between Atlanta and Lagos

The Atlanta—Lagos link

The sister city relationship between Atlanta, Georgia and Lagos, Nigeria dates back to 1974 under Mayor Maynard Holbrook Jackson and there have been several exchange visits by the Mayors of the two cities.

Among Lagos Mayors who have visited Atlanta are Prince Olorun Nimbe, Prince Luqmon Ajose, and the previous Mayor Hon. Wasiu Sanni. Atlanta Mayors who have

visited Lagos include the Hon Maynard Holbrook Jackson and Hon. Andrew Young. Mayor Kasim Reed had planned to lead an economic development delegation from Atlanta to Nigeria with major stops in Lagos and Abuja initially in May, 2014, later changed to July, but the trip was on hold till after the elections of 2015; this is currently in a state of abeyance.

The Atlanta-Lagos Link continues later in this report.

There have however, been several cultural and trade missions between the two cities. The Lagos Atlanta Sister City committee under the leadership of Professor Esogbue, NNOM played a major role in writing the winning proposal on behalf of the city of Atlanta which led to the establishment of the Consulate General of Nigeria, the only African Career Consular Office, in Atlanta since 1980.

Atlanta—Lagos themes and objectives:

The Nigerian community in the Metro-Atlanta area has grown substantially over the years. In the early 70s, following the creation of the Atlanta–Lagos Committee, the focus was to use Lagos as the organic linkage between Atlanta and Lagos and, by extension/implication, Nigeria. Since the birth of the Nigerian Consulate General, facilitated by Atlanta-Lagos Committee Chairman, Prof. Esogbue and the mushrooming of various Nigerian groups, the emphasis of our program objectives now centers on leadership and support:

- Provide support to Nigerian organizations and promote inter and cross cultural relations.
- Work to uplift the image of Nigeria and develop programs which promote the integration of Nigerians in their host community.
- Instill and promote the spirit of volunteerism to assist the rapid development of communities, both in Lagos and in the Atlanta area.
- Provide support that supplements efforts of local schools and institutions to assure quality education and excellence for youth in Lagos Island starting with our adopted schools.
- Facilitate the efforts of well meaning citizens and institutions desiring positive ventures and engagements in Nigeria and the United States.
- Work collaboratively with all Nigerian organizations to support the Office of the Consulate General here in Atlanta while stressing the transfer of acquired useful skills and resources to drive development in critical infrastructures such as healthcare and education that are in short supply

A continuing feature of the relationship is the increased air traffic between Lagos and Atlanta intensified by the direct air link provided by Delta, the location of the Nigerian Consulate in Atlanta, the existence of a large network of education, religious and medical centers including the CDC, and the burgeoning high tech and commercial activities. This traffic is also complemented by a large exchange of visits between leaders of the Lagos Atlanta Sister City Committee (LASCC) and the Atlanta Lagos Sister City Committee (ALSCC) including Professor Esogbue, Mr. Alani Ogunlade, Engineer Soji Tinubu, Mr. Edmund Nosegbe, Attorney Commissioner Nyema Weli, Dr. Eugenia George, Prof. Femi Ajayi, Mr. Victor Mbaba etc. Prof. Esogbue, chair of the LASCC attended several meetings in Lagos, Abuja where he chaired conference session and made invited presentations.

Some of his visits included donations to support educational enrichment programs in two of the LASCC adopted schools. A highlight of these visits was his induction as a Life Member and recipient of the Lifetime Achievement in Engineering Award by the flagship Nigerian Academy of Engineering in June 2015 in pomp and pageantry celebrations at the University of Lagos witnessed by several Lagos Atlanta Sister City Committee members including Prince Bashiru Agunloye, Dr. Adio Moses, and Professor Femi Ajayi.



The Committee continued its tradition of promoting the activities of its members and associated Nigerian organizations by providing requisite support for their success thereby helping to better integrate them in our host community and uplifting the image of Nigeria. Among the activities in 2015 are: i) Member Victor Mbaba's Africa's Children Fund's Unveiling of Archbishop Desmond

Tutu's Portrait Painting in Buckhead (Right: Prof Esogbue with MC Channel 11 Brenda Woods) at the fundraiser and Taste of the World Fundraiser at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta; ii) Dr. Eugenia George's Nigerian Women Association of Georgia Fundraiser



and The EKO Club of Atlanta Health Mission to Lagos; Support of Chairman and Founder Prof. Esogbue's Life Achievement Award from the Nigerians in Diaspora Organization in the Americas during their Global Convention in Atlanta Georgia (NIDOA) as well as Fund Raising Workshop on Tropical Medicine and Banquet by the newly formed Nigerian Diaspora Diagnostic and Trauma Foundation (NDDTF) for the Establishment of a Level 1 Trauma Center in Nigeria to improve healthcare delivery in Nigeria. Several LASCC Members providing leadership to the new group include Prof. Esogbue, Otunba Alani Ogunlade, and Mr. Victor Mbaba. We note the leadership and mentorship of the Nigerian Missions led by Ambassador Geoffrey Teneilabe of the Nigerian Consulate General of Atlanta and their counsel to all Nigerians in Diaspora to join hands in the formation of the Georgia Foundation called the Nigerian Diaspora Diagnostic and Trauma Foundation (NDDTF) to build a center, first in the capital Abuja, and then in each of the six geopolitical zones. It is envisioned that one will be located in Lagos. (Below: organizers of the workshop with Nigerian Ambassador Teneilabe, from New York, and Prof. Esogbue).



Professor Esogbue attended several activities of the Africa America Institute (AAI), one at the Ford Foundation in Lagos, Nigeria in August 2015 addressing the State of Education in Africa and another in September 2015, a fundraiser in New York for scholarships to train Future African Leaders. Prof. Esogbue, a proud alumnus and beneficiary of AAI's African Scholarship Program of American Universities (ASPAU) is a perennial contributor to AAI fundraising programs. (Photo: AAI President Amini Kajunju).



An integral part of the function of the Lagos Committee is full participation in the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission's activities. The Committee registered close to 100% participation having attended all but one scheduled meeting and one suggested event. Finally, the ASCC Holiday party (photo below) was well attended by the group. Several members added color and cultural variety by attending in their colorful native attires. The Chair ensured that there was a variety and ample supply of tasty native dishes from Nigeria, courtesy of the Consul General of Nigeria who also was in full attendance. In addition to the Chair Prof. Esogbue, some of the members present included, Otunba Alani Ogunlade, Engineer Soji Tinubu, Dr. Toks Onabanjo, Mrs. Andjela Kessler and Mrs Felicia Ngozi Nnaife.



The local Committee in Lagos was reinvigorated by several visits of the Atlanta Chair. They report the formation of a sub-committee on Education headed by Mr Olatunji Folami to provide various educational support services such as books and supplemental materials to students from two of our adopted Schools: St. Mathias Boys School and Ahmadiyyah Girls Primary School. The Executive Secretary of the Lagos Committee reports a promise to make the donations during the second term of this year.

A major potential boost to the local committee's activities is the appointment of a long time friend and Associate of the Lagos-Atlanta Committee Mr. Abdulahmed (aka Abdul) Mustapha as the Permanent Secretary at Lagos State Min of Science and Technology. Abdul was sworn in (photo above right) on August 5, 2015 while some members of his family and friends including Lagos Atlanta Committee Secretary Prince Adewumi were present to provide support.



Abdul has an MBA from Fairleigh Dickerson University and a long and varied experience in New York public service with project management and specialization in application selection and implementation, post implementation support. His new responsibilities include (next page):

- Initiate, formulate, execute, monitor and evaluate policies relating to Science & Information Communication Technology (ICT). Automation and reengineering of government business processes & harmonization of all existing ICT assets into a world class infrastructure. Support all e-governance solutions implemented in the Lagos State. Provision and maintenance of ICT services across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).
- Development of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) education as well as setting up ICT centers for state schools.
- STEM & ICT capacity building across all MDAs.
- Enlarging the pool of scientific manpower, attracting young people to careers in science and retaining same.
- Establishing globally competitive research facilities for the promotion of innovation, research & development in Science & ICT.
- Provision of advisory & consultancy services for all MDAs on Science & ICT.
- Developing new models of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in higher education, particularly for research in universities and technologically-industrialized areas.

The new governor, Mr. Akinwumi Ambode has continued the dynamic infrastructural developments of the administration of Governor Fashola who was appointed a Federal Minister of Works, Housing and Power. "Lagos Light Up Project Beautifies Lagos".

Governor Ambode's "Lagos Light Up Project, initially taunted as a crime fighting project has transformed the Lagos environment at night into a beautiful, almost western looking city to the delight and praise of many citizens.

See <https://www.naij.com/705688-see-ambodes-project-turned-lagos-london-photos.html>

Plans for 2016 and Beyond

- Continuation of our ongoing mobilization and membership drive to reinvigorate the hard core members of the group and intensive campaign to recruit new members;
- Renewal and forging of new bonds with the EKO Club Atlanta and the development of joint program of activities;
- Resuscitation of a once popular activity and celebration as well as fund raising event called Lagos Day in Atlanta;
- Participation in the planning and execution of Mayor Reed's Economic Development Mission to Nigeria (ensuring interest on the project) to occur before his term of office ends and the full involvement of our Lagos counterpart, the Atlanta Lagos Committee along with the government and people of Lagos Island in welcoming Mayor Kasim Reed's team to Lagos and Nigeria.;
- Continuation of the provision of needed support to our sister city adopted schools in Lagos;
- Continuation of our visibility and active leadership support to the Nigerian-Atlanta community, the work mission of the Nigerian Diaspora Diagnostic and Trauma Centers in each of the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria and the support of socio-economic and cultural activities of our members in Atlanta;
- Collaborative work with the Lagos counterpart group to develop a proposal for submission to the Lagos State government for the establishment of STEM centers in each of our four adopted schools in Lagos, and finally;
- Provision of any support that Abdul will need to be successful in his critically important assignment as Permanent Secretary of a Ministry so central to national development.



ANOG Pres Alaka Rose Okonta Ngozi Nnaife and Prof Emeritus Esogbue at the 2015 Nigerian Independence Celebration.

The Atlanta-Lagos link continued:

There is now a direct daily nonstop flight between Atlanta, Georgia and the city of Lagos provided by Delta Airlines with the LASCC playing a significant part in its opening. The Consulate General's Office is in charge of several economic and trade exchanges between Atlanta and the South East USA with Lagos and Nigeria. Several private trade missions are coordinated by the American Nigerian International Chamber of Commerce (ANICC) with Professor Esogbue as Founding Board Chair and Otunba Alani as Board of Trustee Member. ANICC has now reorganized and still hosts these shows. There is usually an annual Trade show coordinated by ANICC between the Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce and various cities in the US with Atlanta a major stopover.

Lagos –Atlanta Committee Members

Prof. Augustine O. Esogbue(Founding Chairman), Otunba (Chief) Alani Ogunlade,(Vice Chair), Engr. AdeSoji Tinubu (2nd Vice Chair), Prof. Laurent Monye, Prof.. Femi Ajayi, Mrs. Andjela Kessler, Dr. Cassandra Wanzo, Attorney Avarita Hanson, Dr. Meryl McNeal, Mr. Chika Njoku (deceased), Mrs. Marie Brown, Mrs. Sheila Brown, Mrs. Effie Turner, and Artist Mr. Steve R. Allen.

Atlanta-Lagos (Counterpart) Committee

Mr. E. Chike Nwanze (Chairman), Prince Bashiru Agunloye (Secretary General), Tunde Thompson, Dr. Adio-Moses, Mr. Abdul Mustapha, and Mr. Olatunji Folami.



NIDO 2015 Life Achievement Award.



Prof. Emeritus Esogbue being interviewed by Judita D54 for the Judita DaSilva Show on Silverbird.



Recipient Prof. E and Chief Adetunji.

Montego Bay

JAMAICA

Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1972
Chair: Dr. Yvonne Smith
Web site: www.atlantamobayscc.org
Contact: atlmobay@comcast.net



Map: Montego-Bay-Jamaica.com

- The City of Montego Bay is coastal town located on the North Western part of Jamaica.
- The population of Montego Bay is approximately 200,000 which includes many international residents.
- The primary business for the City is tourism. Montego Bay boasts some of the top hotels in the Caribbean.
- Montego Bay is served by Jamaica's largest airport, the Sir Donald Sangster International Airport. Several North American and European airlines run their Caribbean hub in "MoBay" connecting the island with the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Canada.

Montego Bay Profile

Montego Bay is the capital of the parish of St. James and the second largest city in Jamaica by area and the fourth by population. It is a tourist destination with duty free shopping, a cruise line terminal and several beaches. The city is backed by picturesque low mountains.

Today, Montego Bay is known for its large regional hospital (Cornwall Regional Hospital), port facilities, second homes for numerous upper class Jamaicans from Kingston as well as North Americans and Europeans, fine restaurants, and shopping opportunities. The coastland near Montego Bay is occupied by numerous tourist resorts, most newly built, some occupying the grounds of old sugar cane plantations with some of the original buildings and mill-works still standing. The most famous of these are the White Witch's Rose Hall and Tryall, both of which now feature world-class golf courses.



The infrastructure of the city is going through a series of explosive modernizations which once completed, aims to keep Montego Bay as a top destination in the Caribbean and the world. The Montego Bay Convention Centre, built on a large site near to the Rose Hall estate, was opened by Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding on 7 January 2011.

Source: Wikipedia

The Atlanta—Montego Bay link

The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee (the "Committee") is a non-profit, international organization with a branch in Atlanta, Georgia, and another in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The relationship between Atlanta and Montego Bay was established in 1972 by formal declaration of the respective

Mayors and City Councils of both cities. It is the second longest relationship that exists between Atlanta and its 18 sister cities.

Both the Atlanta and Montego Bay branches utilize the same business structure and operate in a similar manner. The Committee is run by a Chairperson and has several sub-committees each of

which is headed by a sub-committee chair.

Activities have included educational exchanges for students, academic and administrative staff, reciprocal art exhibitions and business and economic missions.

Vin Martin Sister Cities Memorial Health Mission donates US\$180,000 worth of medical supplies

The Atlanta-based Vin Martin Sister Cities Memorial Health Mission made some US\$180,000 (over J \$21.2m) worth of medication available for free distribution to patients during its three-day health mission in St James.



Fred Smith and the Montego Bay Health Mission Chair Metty Scarlett Jones at the opening ceremonies.

"Collectively we have about US\$180,000 worth of medication," said Fred Smith, the chairman of the local Atlanta Sister City Com-

mittee. "But it is just unique that an eye doctor came with US\$90,000 worth of medication and his intention is to give it out while he is here."

Smith made the disclosure at the opening ceremony of the mission which was attended by several civic leaders, including Mayor of Montego Bay Glendon Harris and Commanding Officer for

Mayor Glendon Harris of Montego Bay with doctors and patients.



St James Senior Superintendent of Police Steve McGregor.



Dr. Yvonne Smith and volunteers join young patients.

Director of the Vin Martin Sister Cities Memorial Health Mission Dr. Yvonne Smith, who gave Jamaica's healthcare system high marks, said that over the

two decades the health team has been visiting Montego Bay, one of the main reasons patients seek service at the mission is to get free medication.

"For the last 22 years we have been coming and I can personally say that the healthcare here in Jamaica is actually excellent; it is very, very good. Most of the patients that we have seen have been to doctors and have excellent care. They might not have been able to afford their medication, so for that reason they come to see us," Dr. Smith explained.

She said that over 2,500 patients were attended to during last year's mission. The doctor noted that this year's figure was higher as voluntary healthcare workers were not restricted to working out of the St John's Methodist Community Action Centre in Montego Bay, but fanned out into other St James communities, including the St James Infirmary.



"We are finding that it is important that we continue to build on the outreach, like go into the rural communities such as Barrett Towns, Johns Hall, Cambridge and see people

because we have a lot of shut-ins and the intent is to get into these communities and see these people," said Dr. Smith.

The mission included medical doctors, nurses, dentists, ophthalmologists, opticians and a chiropractor.

In 2015 we extended our outreach to the infirmary (a home for the homeless and aged) in Montego Bay where we provided health services and supplies for personal hygiene. At the night shelter we provided meals and blankets. Christmas was more enjoyable to the children from Jamaican AIDS support, the psychiatric unit at Cornwall Regional Hospital, the infirmary and home for adolescent matters. Our humanitarian efforts was also felt here in the U.S. as we supported Nicholas House a home for the homeless here in Atlanta.

The Vin Martin Benevolent fund provided:

- Scholarship to 3 students in Jamaica at the high school and college level.
- Supported one of our members after a cardiac transplant.

Our fundraising efforts continue with our Annual Brunch, Golf tournament, and Annual Dance for Health.

Funds raised from these events and other private donations and contributions afforded the success for our health missions.



Newcastle

GREAT BRITAIN

Atlanta - Newcastle Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1977
Chair: David Smith
Contact: AtlantaNewcastle@gmail.com



- Newcastle is the capital of the North East of England, located close to the border with Scotland, 100 miles south of Edinburgh and 276 miles north of London.
- It is an important business and financial center, with a broad economic base spanning manufacturing, information technology, commercial and professional services and retail distribution.
- Newcastle upon Tyne is 113 sq km in size with a population of 269,500. The city is the 20th most populous in England, and as such, is one of England's core cities.

Newcastle Profile

Newcastle is a city full of energy, with a fierce sense of pride and a friendly regional identity. Dramatically located on the steep banks of the River Tyne, the city is an impressive sight whether approached by road or rail. Newcastle is rich in culture, architecture and history with a great reputation for style, shopping and nightlife.

Historically, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne was at the forefront of 19th century industrial innovation. At one time a quarter of the world's shipbuilding was centered in the district.

Other trades, particularly retail, have now replaced traditional industries. Major employers now include the public administration, education and health sectors.

There has been recent large-scale regeneration in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. The Quayside is the area along the banks of the River Tyne that has received heavy investment to provide a modern environment

for modern arts, music, housing, culture as well as bars and night clubs. It is one of the most dramatic areas of townscape in the country.



Newcastle is designated as one of six UK cities of science in recognition of world-class strengths, notably in the fields of healthy aging, medical science and sustainability. Together with the North of England, the region hosts 1,000 companies in the Life Science and Healthcare industry.

Five Centres of Excellence encourage the exploitation of world-class research; build infrastructure to support and nurture high technology companies; and form international partnerships. The Centres of Excellence combined are an engine of highly skilled, internationally experienced technology executives in Bio-processing, Fuel Cells, Assistive Technologies for the Aged and Open Access.

The Atlanta—Newcastle link

The Atlanta-Newcastle relationship has its origins in a visit by Dr. Martin Luther King and Andrew Young (subsequently UN Ambassador and Mayor of Atlanta) to Newcastle in 1967, when Dr. King was recognized with an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Newcastle. In 1977, then Governor Jimmy Carter announced the foundation

of the Atlanta Friendship Force, a citizen diplomacy organization, whose first mission was to Newcastle (the nearest major city to George Washington's ancestral home). The cities of Atlanta and Newcastle formed their sister city relationship at that time.

The Atlanta-Newcastle Sister City Committee maintains connections with both Atlanta and Newcastle city governments and organizations in each location. Activities have included educational exchanges for students, academic and administrative staff, reciprocal art exhibitions and business and economic missions.

Atlanta—Newcastle themes and objectives:

Newcastle Sister City Committee has established the following objectives:

- Share best practices in key domains: science, innovation and culture such as:
 - * Newcastle Science City
 - * Bike sharing program
 - * Economic Development/Workforce Development/Tax Increment Financing
 - * Airport
- Invite Newcastle to the next Sister Cities Economic Development Conference in Atlanta.
- Establish contact between local sister city committees and maintain contact between Mayor Reed and Leader Forbes.
- Develop airport cooperation.
- Increase trade opportunities.
- Increase opportunities for foreign direct investment.

Since 1998, an annual Joint Exchange in British and American Cultures has taken place between Georgia State University and the University of Northumbria in Newcastle (UNN).

Aimed at English and History majors with two years left of their degree, the program provides a total immersion experience through which American students visit the Newcastle to study, live, and travel with British students over an academic year, followed by a reciprocal visit to Atlanta by students of UNN.

The program offers students the opportunity to jointly concentrate their studies in British and American cultures with a focus on literature, culture and history. Participants are able to expand their experience through travel throughout the region and beyond.

Information on the exchange is located at <http://english.gsu.edu/northumbria-undergraduate-exchange-program/>

American students immerse themselves in British culture during their study program in Newcastle.



At the May 2015 meeting of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, British Consul General Jeremy Pilmore Bedford spoke about the role of the consulate in the Atlanta community. He outlined several areas of shared interest between Newcastle and Atlanta including the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's visit and award ceremony at Newcastle University, coming up in 2017. Other areas included the sharing of best practices in support of female entrepreneurship and life sciences knowledge between the Centres for Life, Georgia Tech and the Centers for Disease Control. He would like to see spinoff business developments between the Atlanta Technology Development Center and the Newcastle Science Centre and joint research programs between Newcastle University and Georgia Tech. Both cities, he explained, have a fast growing creative sector, for example in the area of computer game development.



At the May Commission meeting (L—R), David Smith, Chair Atlanta-Newcastle Sister City Committee with British Consul General, Jeremy Pilmore Bedford and Dr. Cedric Suzman, appointed Commission member.



Newcastle headquartered Sage Software Inc., a business management software and services company, announced plans to put its North American headquarters at Atlantic Station in Atlanta. The expansion is expected to bring about 400 jobs. The Midtown office will add to Sage's presence in Lawrenceville, GA. Combined, the two offices will employ about 1,000.

Sage is the world's third-largest supplier of enterprise resource planning software and the largest supplier to small businesses, with 6.1 million customers worldwide.

In the UK, the company is the patron of The Sage Gateshead music venue. The venue is part of the Quays development, which also includes the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art and the Millennium Bridge. It is also home to Royal Northern Sinfonia and regularly hosts other visiting orchestras from around the world.



Nürnberg

GERMANY

Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1998
Co Chairs: Shean L. Atkins and Teri Simmons
Contact: shean@the-atkins-group.com



Map: Britannica

- Nürnberg is the second-largest Bavarian city, and fourteenth largest municipality in Germany.
- With 500,000 inhabitants, Nürnberg is the economic, services and cultural centre of Northern Bavaria, and the centre of the Nürnberg Metropolitan Region with about 3.5 million inhabitants.
- The city benefits from its central location within the European economic region.
- The freight centre in the port of Nürnberg is one of the most important transfer centers in Southern Germany.

Nürnberg Profile

Nürnberg boasts a unique mixture of tradition and modern times. Its almost thousand years of history are still obvious in its cityscape.

The City acknowledges the historical responsibility resulting from its special role during the period of Nazi rule and for this reason is actively concerned to promote respect for human rights. In addition to international conferences, human rights education in the Nazi Party Rally Grounds

Documentation Centre, the Human Rights Film Festival and other events, these efforts include the Nürnberg International Human Rights Prize.

Today, Nürnberg citizens from all nationalities live together in an atmosphere characterized by tolerance and calm co-existence. The city supports international relations with 14 sister cities.



Since the 1970s, Nürnberg has transformed itself into a service center with high growth rates in the fields of innovative services. The strengths of the Nürnberg economic region lie in the fields of communication and multimedia, traffic engineering and logistics, energy and environment, power

electronics and service industry. Nürnberg expertise, particularly in some seminal technologies, ranks among the best in Europe. Valuable impetus is given by research institutes

located in the Nürnberg region, such as for example the Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits.

Nürnberg is one of Europe's fastest growing trade fair locations. Every year, over 1,2 million people visit about 100 events and about 50 specialist trade fairs and congresses, including the world's largest specialist trade fair for toys.

Text: <http://www.nuernberg.de>

The Atlanta—Nürnberg link

Established in 1998, the City of Nürnberg, Germany is Atlanta's 16th sister city. Atlanta-Nürnberg remains a very active partnership in the areas of civil and human rights, economic development, education, and culture. The relationship continues to expand and encourage exchange on both sides of the Atlantic.

With the establishment of Atlanta's National Center for Civil and Human Rights, collaboration in this area has deepened and become stronger. Given the histories of both cities, Atlanta and Nürnberg-based institutions are more engaged in exposing, advocating for, and protecting

human rights and civil liberties for the world's citizenry.

For a thriving, sustainable and continued relationship, there is also a focus to cultivate young, emerging leaders who will build on the success of the partnership's solid foundation.

Atlanta—Nürnberg themes and objectives:

- As German companies are major investors in the State of Georgia – employing more than 20,000 Georgians, economic development undergirds the partnership between Atlanta and Nürnberg.
- In addition to economic development, the Atlanta-Nürnberg Committee also focuses on civil and human rights as well as cultural and educational exchanges.

Memorium Nuremberg Trials



Entrance to the Nuremberg Trials Memorial

In February, Dr. Henrike Claussen, chief curator of the Memorium Nuremberg Trials, traveled to Atlanta to meet with confirmed and potential partners to further discuss and clarify cooperation for an exhibition project of the Memorium Nuremberg Trials. There is much interest in the project that will highlight the main legal proceedings for war criminals during the Nazi regime. Confirmed local partners include the National Center for Civil and Human Rights and the Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta. During her visit, Dr. Claussen also met with representatives from Emory University and the Breman Museum – both of which are interested in becoming partners for the exhibition and the associated programming that will accompany it. It is planned that the exhibition will not be restricted to only the historical event of the Nuremberg Trials, but also make references to the present – focusing especially on international criminal law as a tool for protecting human rights.

To continue generating interest on the topic, Dr. Claussen was also hosted by Atlanta-Nuremberg Committee co-chair Teri Simmons at the law offices of Arnall Golden Gregory where she was the featured speaker for a presentation titled, “The Nuremberg Trials – a historical overview of the Memorium exhibition.” An expert of the subject, Dr. Claussen impressed the audience with her talk and related visuals.

Dr. Henrike Claussen presents an overview of the Memorium Nuremberg.



Student Exchange

In June, the student exchange that was started in 2014 between Atlanta’s Maynard Jackson High School and Nuremberg’s Sigmund-Schuckert Gymnasium got even stronger as a delegation of 21 --17 students and 4 chaperones -- traveled to Nuremberg to continue building on a relationship that is rooted in human rights. In addition to learning about German culture and language, the students worked collaboratively on a human rights project titled, “Equal rights for all! A self-determined life with dignity.” The project focused on the lives of refugees and included local refugees who gave first-hand accounts of how their lives are impacted by world issues, current laws, and public perception and behaviors.



Exchange students from Maynard Jackson High School pose with students from the Sigmund-Schuckert Gymnasium during their visit in June 2015.

International Human Rights Award

On September 27, 2015, Amirul Haque Amin, president of IndustriALL affiliate National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF) in Bangladesh received the Nuremberg International Human Rights Award. As president of NGWF, Bro. Amin has been fighting for the rights of garment workers in Bangladesh for more than three decades. As a trade union leader, Amin has been active in the introduction of a minimum wage and the signing of the Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety. Amin was lauded for the tenacity and intrepidity with which he has tried to improve the lives and working conditions of Bangladeshi garment workers, sometimes at considerable personal risk. Shean Atkins, Atlanta-Nürnberg Committee co-chair traveled to Nuremberg for the awards ceremony and related programming.

Atlanta-Nuremberg Committee co-chair Shean Atkins poses with the 2015 International Human Rights Awards recipient Bro. Amirul Haque Amin and Nuremberg’s Lord Mayor Dr. Ulrich Maly.

The trip also allowed Mr. Atkins to continue to build partnerships for human rights advocacy with our twin city and others around the world.



Climate Protection and Renewable Energy



The Nuremberg Department of International Relations and its Department of Environment and Health collaborated with the surrounding metropolitan area to organize and host a second climate control conference where experts shared strategies on regenerative energies and energy efficiency.

Dennis Creech, president and CEO of Southface Atlanta was invited to travel again to Nuremberg to share best practices and Southface innovations that promote energy efficiency and utilize renewable energy systems in its design concepts. Mr. Creech's workshop was well-received by conference attendees with many wishing to establish stronger connections with Southface.



Southface Atlanta CEO Dennis Creech shares renewable energy innovations.

ChristkindlesMarkt

Rod Brown, an Atlanta native, continues to participate in the Atlanta-Nürnberg Sister Cities Committee. In addition to serving as a host-ambassador for many of our friends and partners visiting with various Nuremberg delegations, Rod has, for eight consecutive years, successfully operated the Atlanta Booth in the international section of the Nürnberger Christkindlesmarkt. The month-long market, which opens the Friday preceding the first Sunday of Advent and ends on December 24, is one of the largest Christmas markets in Germany --boasting approximately 2 million visitors annually. Rod's year over year success has much to do with his business acumen --understanding his clientele and supplying product to meet market demand. The Atlanta Booth is frequented by those looking for a wide array of American crafts and goods. At the booth, patrons continue to find a selection of snacks and treats that reflect Georgia's southern charm to souvenirs and gifts that capture Atlanta's alluring culture.



Port of Spain

TRINIDAD

Atlanta - Port of Spain Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1986

Chair: of Atlanta-Port of Spain Sister City Committee (APSCC) Karen Clarke (kclarke@cmmgloboonline.com); Co-Chair: Norma Kendall-Hamlet (zaxn27a@juno.com)

Chair of Port of Spain-Atlanta (PASCC): Ms. Gia Gaspard-Taylor (jeantrinidadntobago@yahoo.com)

Website: www.atlantaposscn.org



- Settled: 1560
- Incorporated: 1990
- Mayor: Raymond Tim Kee
- Governing Body: City Corporation
- Port of Spain is the capital of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. It is located on the Gulf of Paria, on the northwest coast of the island of Trinidad with an estimated population of 600,000.
- The city serves primarily as a retail and administrative center and it has been the capital of the island since 1757. It is also an important financial services center for the Caribbean.

Port of Spain Profile



The city is home to the largest container port on the island and is one of several shipping hubs of the Caribbean, exporting both agricultural products and manufactured goods.

The pre-lenten Carnival is the city's main annual cultural festival and tourist attraction.

Today, Port of Spain is as a leading city in the Caribbean region. Trinidad hosted the Fifth Summit of the Americas in 2009 whose guests included US President Barack Obama and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Port of Spain also hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2009 and hosted a Commonwealth Business Forum in 2011.

Port of Spain reflects its wealth from proceeds from the international sale of natural gas, which has aided the country in the Port of Spain International Waterfront project constructed on the former Port Authority site.

The Atlanta—Port of Spain link

Under the Sister Cities Charter, the Atlanta - Port of Spain Sister City Committee was founded in 1986 as a people-to-people exchange.

It was an outgrowth of an Atlanta trade mission to Trinidad and Tobago in 1985 and a subsequent trip to Trinidad by the Atlanta Women's Chamber of

Commerce in 1986. The purpose was to foster understanding across international frontiers and to promote good human relationships.

The two cities were officially twinned in 1987. The Atlanta - Port of Spain Sister City Committee maintains connection with both Atlanta and

Port of Spain city governments and organizations in each location.

Activities have included educational exchanges for students, academic and administrative staff, reciprocal art exhibitions and business and economic missions.

Atlanta—Port of Spain themes and objectives:

The Committee has put on its agenda the promotion of the undermentioned activities between both cities.

- Arts and Culture
- Economic Development
- Humanitarian Assistance
- Youth
- Sports

Our 2016 Goal:

- Plans are currently being formulated for the Port of Spain Fire and Rescue personnel to continue their training in Atlanta. A member of the trade and development sector to visit Atlanta in 2016.
- Increase trade opportunities by partnering businesses with respective Sister City.
- Becoming a sustainable city by focusing on environmental and infrastructure issues, cultural heritage restorations, and social and economic development.
- One of the Committee goals is the continued partnership with the local organizations in humanitarianism.

A "Voice of Harmony" fundraiser was held at the Living Faith Church. The Concert fundraiser featured talents of many youths, performing in singing, dancing, and poetry. This worthy cause serves as a outreach program for the youth to enhance their creative talents, self-esteem, leadership, purpose, and citizenship in Atlanta. The APSCC Chair, Karen Clarke attended the event, as well as promoted the Youth Humanitarian goals for the Committee.

The APSCC Chair, Karen Clarke and Co-Chair Norma Kendall-Hamlet attended Trinidad & Tobago Association of Georgia (TTGA) fourth annual Tea Party, which was held on March 12th 2015 at the Georgia Piedmont Conference Center in Clarkston, GA. Karen Clarke was the captain for the table; she designed the centerpiece. See photos of some of the participants.



The Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee co-sponsored "The Georgia Caribbean American Heritage Celebration, which was held at the City Hall Atrium on June 1st." The 10th Annual Caribbean American Heritage Month Opening Ceremony. We showcased our diverse Caribbean Heritage through Traditional Costumes, Music, Displays, and Food.



"The Atlanta Soccer Fest" Chair of APSCC, Karen Clarke and Fitzroy James, Caricaturist and Member participated at the Atlanta Soccer Festival on Saturday, September 12th. We celebrated Atlanta's diverse international community to honor our rich tradition of



inclusion and cultural diversity, to promote understanding, respect, and appreciation of our cultural diversity. This venue was a great opportunity to bring more awareness and exposure for the Commission.



Chair of APSCC, Karen Clarke and Anselmo, Centro Misionero Vino Nuevo, Inc. join united efforts on the local streets donating food and clothing to some of Metro-Atlanta homeless individuals. One of the Committee goals is the continued partnership with the local organizations in humanitarianism.

In 2015, Ms. Gia Gaspard Taylor, President of Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister Cities lobbied for CEDAW campaign at various municipalities in Trinidad and Tobago, by harnessing the power of cities and promoting the adoption of CEDAW as a municipal ordinance in cities large and small in order to create a framework for improving the status of women and girls.



Christmas Traditions in Atlanta; ASCC and Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee took part in the Winter Wonderland exhibition at the



Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta. Celebrates the holidays with festive exhibition featuring spectacular cultural displays decorated in honor of traditions observed around the world. The Theme of APSCC Christmas Tree was "Carnival in Trinidad."

Ra'anana

ISRAEL

Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 2001
Chair: Arnold Heller
Web Site: www.arnoldheller.org



Map: GraphicMaps.com

- Ra'anana is in the heart of the Central District, located 15 miles north of Tel Aviv.
- The population was about 80,000 in 2013 – Israel's tenth largest city
- It is bordered by Kfar Saba on the east and Herzliya on the west.
- The majority of residents are native-born Israelis; a quarter of the population are immigrants from the Americas, Europe, and South Africa.
- Ra'anana is home to many leading global companies and local start ups. It was designated a Green City award by the World Health Organization in 2005.

Ra'anana Profile

Ra'anana is known locally as 'Little America' because so many settlers came from New York. By the 1947 War for Independence, it was a village of 3,000 residents. In the 1980's, Ra'anana was declared a city and occupies six square miles.

Ra'anana's industrial zone in the north of the city is home to the Renanim shopping mall and many high-tech companies that include Emblaze, Hewlett-Packard, NICE Systems, On Target Communications, SAP and Texas Instruments. In addition, Microsoft's head office in Israel and Amdocs are located in an office complex at the eastern edge of the city, close to the Ra'anana Junction. Ahuza Street runs through the city from east to west and is lined with shops, restaurants, and a cultural center.

Ra'anana is renowned for its excellent school system – there are twelve elementary schools, ten middle schools, and eight high schools. The world class K-12 Music Conservatory opened two years ago to nurture young prodigies. Ra'anana is also home to the Open University and Ra'anana College.

Ra'anana Park is the largest in the Sharon District – it

offers walking and bike trails, sports fields, a zoo and children's petting center, and a lake which is surrounded by special gardens. The Founder's Museum presents the story of Ra'anana's original settlers in diorama's that capture the city's frontier spirit.

Ra'anana is home to the Lowenstein Hospital, a national rehabilitation center. The main soccer club of the city is Hapoel Ra'anana – Bnei Hasharon is the best basketball team and plays in the Metro West High School. With a large population of American expatriates, the Ra'anana Express were an inaugural team in the Israeli Baseball League.

Ra'anana is also home to Beit Issie Shapiro, a world class institute dedicated to providing innovative therapies and education for people with special needs. The Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City proposed that a Friends of Beit Issie and Atlanta's Marcus Center for Autism (Children's Healthcare Network) Committee be established and sponsor the sharing of best practices, information, and technologies.

Photo: Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed with Ra'anana Mayor Zeev Bielski.



The Atlanta—Ra'anana link

The Atlanta – Ra'anana Committee formed out of a student exchange between North Atlanta High and Ostrovsky High School in 1998. At that time, Dr. Arnold Heller, applied to the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission for Ra'anana to become the

seventeenth sister city partnership.

The first twinning mission took place from May 11 – 17, 2001. The second took place on July 25 – 28, 2001 when the proclamation was signed as a highlight of the

2001 Sister Cities International Convention in Atlanta.

The Atlanta – Ra'anana link will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary on July 27, 2016.

Themes and objectives:

The main focus of the Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee - ARSCC - has been to nurture friendship and economic development between the peoples of the two cities, and facilitate social, cultural, educational and athletic exchanges.

In the area of economic development, the ARSCC works closely with Conexx (Atlanta - Israel Chamber of Commerce Southeast Division) and Director Guy Tessler; Israel Consul General Mrs. Judith Shorer, the Atlanta Mayor's Office, and the Georgia Department of Trade to strengthen economic life in both cities and regions. There are currently six Ra'anana-based companies - Amdocs is the largest - that have made an investment impact in Atlanta that is estimated at more than \$200,000,000.

The 2014 re-election of Zeev Bielski re-invigorated the partnership and led to 2015 being a year of triumph and resurgence.



The highlight of 2015 was ARSCC collaboration in Conexx' March 21 - 27 Georgia Cyber Tech Mission to Israel led by Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed (see group picture). The mission included representatives from the Metro Atlanta Chamber, leading Atlanta corporations, the Mayor's Office of International Affairs. The cyber-security theme brought together Israeli hi-tech executives with Georgia's technology leaders to foster joint ventures. For more details, access [www.arnoldheller.org/Rededication & Renewal - The Two Mayors Meet](http://www.arnoldheller.org/Rededication&Renewal-TheTwoMayorsMeet).



On March 24, 2015, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed was hosted by Ra'anana Mayor Zeev Bielski, the highlight of fifteen years of program building. As part of the meeting held in Ra'anana's Beit Yad

LaBanim, Mayor Reed visited the Commemoration Room and laid a wreath in memory of the fallen IDF soldiers; the mayors discussed strengthening the sister city relationship in a conference that included Deputy Mayor Eitan Ginzburg, CEO Michael Hirsch Negri, CFO Amir Bartov and Spokesman Yaoz Sever.



Mayor Reed was accompanied by Mrs. Judith Shorer, Israel Consul-General in Atlanta; Anne Torres, Director of Communications; Claire Angelle, Director of International Affairs; and Dr. Arnold Heller, ARSCC Chair.



Mayor Bielski thanked Mayor Reed for his visit and presented him with a plaque of appreciation in the name of the city's residents. In attendance at the meeting were Ra'anana residents born in Atlanta and people with relatives

living in Atlanta who were excited to meet Mayor Reed and were warmly received by him.

In the April 15, 2015 issue of the Atlanta Jewish Times, journalist Joe Sterling documented Mayor Reed's mission to Ra'anana and the goodwill that was generated. The ARSCC recognizes Conexx, Director Guy Tessler, and Israel counterpart Bracha Schlomo for their great support for the Mayoral visit to Ra'anana and inclusion of Dr. Heller in the Cybertech gala for Mayor Reed and welcoming party in Old Jaffa.

Ra'anana is first city in Israel to plant a Holocaust Memorial Daffodil Garden.

The Daffodil Project is a global effort to plant 1.5 million daffodils worldwide in memory of the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust. ARSCC member Rena Kahn serves on the Am Yisrael Chai Atlanta Committee, the group that created the project and is pictured planting daffodil bulbs with Mayor Bielski.

Michael Hirsh Negri, Vice President of Administrative Faculty of Bartov Elementary School and his sixth grade students planted the 80 bulbs in the Ra'anana Botanical Garden.



280,000 daffodils to date have been planted; Atlanta was the first city with 30,000 bulbs. Music students from the Ra'anana Music Conservatory performed traditional songs to mark the 10th of Tevet - the International Day of General Kaddish commemorating the victims of the Holocaust. 200 flowers were also presented at the Warsaw Ghetto Fighters Museum and the Alexander Muss High School in Israel.



AM Yisrael Chai Sandy Springs.



On Jan. 25, 2015, Rena Kahn and AM Yisrael Chai remembered the Holocaust by presenting Dr. Benjamic Ferencz, the only living prosecutor from the Nuremberg War Tribunal. At age 95, Dr. Ferencz is still an electrifying presence with an extraordinary memory that powerfully transmits a message of peace through law.



On October 20, 2015, Dr. Heller met with Rabbi Ed Harwitz, Headmaster, Weber School, and teacher of Hebrew, Alon Fein, who is from Ra'anana and working at Weber this year. Various forms of collaboration between Weber, a Jewish high school in Sandy Springs, and Ostrovsky, Aviv and Metro West High Schools in Ra'anana were discussed - some have been employed. The ARSCC looks forward to assisting Weber in developing school to school joint projects that provide our youth with wonderful learning opportunities such as a basketball or baseball exchange.

Rabbi Ed Harwitz, Weber School Headmaster



On Oct. 13, two terrorists carried out two stabbings and one car ramming attack that injured three people in Ra'anana. Nearby civilians subdued the terrorists, the first attack since the city was established. The ARSCC, on Oct. 14, emailed Mayor Bielski and the Municipality of Ra'anana that the people of Atlanta stood with them during this tragic moment.



On Oct. 22, Mayor Bielski, on behalf of the people of Ra'anana, thanked the ARSCC and the people of Atlanta for their support. "The courage and resilience exhibited by a few good residents of Ra'anana on that day, helped avoid a much bigger disaster. Your friendship is deeply moving and a great source of pride for me. With sincere gratitude and appreciation; Zeev Bielski."

Atlanta and Ra'anana - moving forward together.

The triumphs of 2015 produced a resurgence that envisions for the future a number of ambitious projects that reflect both short and long term goals.

- Establish a Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro and Marcus Center for Autism Committee to promote the sharing of best practices, information, technologies, applications for special therapies and education. An annual gala would raise money to sponsor joint programs and projects to advance education and therapy for special people. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta manages the Marcus Center and supports a Beit Issie - Marcus Center partnership.
- Sponsor a collaboration between the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra with Ra'anana's Music Conservatory Youth Orchestra. The ARSCC's supports Director Limor Akta and Ass't. Director Guy Porat's wish for the two youth orchestras to play and learn together; we hope Robert Spano, Atlanta Symphony Director, will join with us in this endeavor. Phase 1 of the Music Center's master plan is complete; phase 2 will include a coffee shop for the school's talented performers to exhibit their talents and earn money for their programs.
- Joe Barry Carroll Artists in Residence Program is collaborating with the Atlanta Sister Cities Committee to sponsor artists from their respective cities. The former basketball star will open his home to visiting artists from participating sister cities to produce great art. Sessions may range from 14 - 30 days. Sean Atkins, Atlanta - Nuremberg Committee Chair worked with Mr. Barry to create this vision. The ARSCC looks forward to sponsoring interested artists to take advantage of this creative opportunity.



Salcedo

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1996
Chair: Victor Ramirez
Website: www.dominicania.org and www.atlantaga.gov
Contact e-mail: vramirez@bellsouth.net



Map: Wikipedia

- Located approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes from the nation's capital of Santo Domingo, the city of Salcedo has 92,193 inhabitants. (Wikipedia)
- The main economic activity of Salcedo is agriculture and the main products are plantain, cassava, coffee and cacao.
- In 1994, Dominican-American author Julia Alvarez published her novel, *In The Time of The Butterflies*, a fictionalized account of the lives of the heroic Mirabal sisters, from Salcedo. The novel was adopted into a Hollywood movie starring Selma Hayek as Minerva and Edward James Olmos as Trujillo.

Salcedo Profile

Salcedo is the capital of the Mirabal Sisters Province and birthplace of the three Dominican heroines who made their ultimate sacrifice for their country by giving up a privileged life to fight against the powerful dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo.

On December 17, 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 as the annual date of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in commemoration of the sisters.

Salcedo has one of the most visited museums in the Dominican Republic, the Mirabal Sister Museum.



Basically, the museum consists of a walk-through tour of the house the family lived in before the sisters' death. The house is kept in the same

condition as it was back in the 1960s—the furniture, the clothes, the kitchen, everything. There's a memorial to the sisters in the backyard, and in 2000 the sisters' bodies were exhumed and moved there as well.

The Mirabal sisters are also commemorated on the 200 Dominican

pesos bill. They are seen as heroes in the Dominican Republic, as Trujillo's dictatorship crumbled after their death.

Photo: Parque Atlanta, Salcedo (see Highlights, next page)

The Atlanta—Salcedo link

The active sister cities ties between Atlanta and Salcedo contributed toward the opening of Delta Air Lines' first direct flight to the Dominican Republic. The director of the Atlanta's Office of International Affairs Claire McCleveighn, the chair of the ASSCC Victor Ramirez, and the ASSCC committee member Fernando Ramirez were at the

cutting-ribbon ceremony for that flight at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, on December 1, 2005 (Photo right). They also flew on that inaugural flight to the capital of Santo Domingo and met with the US Consul



General to inform him on future exchange plans between the two cities.

Atlanta—Salcedo themes and objectives:

- To promote the legacy of outstanding leaders who fought bravely and heroically.
- To develop business exchanges among companies interested in implementing and acquiring Atlanta's high technology industries and Salcedo's vast production of agricultural and handcrafts products.
- To promote high school student exchanges between Atlanta and Salcedo.
- To generate cultural exchanges among citizens of both cities with the purpose of embracing the human and civil rights movements lead by Reverend Martin Luther King and the Mirabal Sisters.
- To promote collaboration and fellowship between our cities governments to better serve our constituents.

Dominican Independence Day proclamation at Atlanta City Hall, February 27, 2015.

The Dominican International Association and the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister Cities Committee commemorated 171 years of Dominican Independence on Friday, February 27th, 2015.

Doctor Jay Tribby, from councilman Kwanza Hall's office, presented a proclamation that was signed by all Atlanta City Council members. In one of several paragraphs written on the plaque, it says that "Dominican nationals who reside in the City of Atlanta have significantly contributed to the economic growth and well-being of the city, while enhancing the bonds of friendship between the United States and the Dominican Republic".

Among the attendees we had former Atlanta councilwoman Mary Davis, ASSCC co-founder Esther Davis, Atlanta Mayor's Office of International Affairs Director Claire Angelle, and board members of both the ASSCC and the DIA.



Dr. Jay Tribby from the Atlanta City Council, Victor Ramirez of ASSCC and DIA, and Masters of Ceremony JJ and Architect Esther Davis at the proclamation of the Dominican Independence Day in the city of Atlanta.



Dominican nationals and Atlanta community leaders receiving the 2015 Dominican Independence Proclamation plaque from the Atlanta City Council at the Atlanta City Hall.



2015 Dominican Independence Proclamation at Atlanta City Hall. From left, former Atlanta councilwoman Mary Davis, Architect Esther Davis, ASSCC & DIA Chair Victor Ramirez, and Mayor's Office of International Affairs Director Claire Angelle.

'It's all About the Children' gala at Atlanta City Hall.

The Atlanta – Salcedo Sister Cities Committee and the Dominican International Association partnered with Pediatric Cancer Treatment Foundation to hold their annual "It is All About The Children" Gala Dinner & Silent Auction on October 3rd, 2015.



The Honorable Mayor Valentin Fernández and Councilwoman Lorenza Bautista, from Salcedo, attended this fundraising event in Atlanta. Dominican songwriter Clelia Montes De Oca performed Latin love songs for the audience.



PCTF donated the amount of US\$10,000 for the Atlanta Children's Hospital and US\$1,800 for the Cancer Society of Salcedo. DIA US\$200 as well, and Mayor Fernandez delivered the US\$2,000 donation to the President of that organization Mr. Antonio Corniel, in the Dominican Republic.



Our efforts are to raise funds for the children of Atlanta and Salcedo who are waging a daily battle with cancer. Our mission is to give these children the tools they need to better cope with their difficult journey ahead.

Taipei

TAIWAN

Atlanta - Taipei Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1979
Chair: Peter Yeh
Contact: peter.yeh@atlanta.com



Map: globaltrade.net

- Taipei is located in the Taipei Basin of Northern Taiwan. It is surrounded by New Taipei City and is the largest city in Taiwan.
- There are approximately 2.6 million people living in Taipei, and a population of over six million in the metropolitan area.
- Taipei City Government, the administrative hub of the city, was founded in October 1945 as a provincial municipality.
- The Taiwanese government is starting to recognize the importance of entrepreneurship to Taiwan's economy, and has recently announced the launch of several programs and initiatives to make it easier for foreign entrepreneurs to come to Taiwan.

Taipei Profile

Taipei, now the island's most populous city, originated as a small trading port over two hundred years ago before becoming the political, financial, and cultural center of Taiwan.

During the last few decades there has been tremendous growth in the city. Now a sprawling metropolis, Taipei is an ideal place to visit for those who love the hustle and bustle of the big city.

(Source: yahoo travel)

There are many tourism attractions in Taipei. Among them, the most famous ones are Taipei Building 101, the 4th tallest building in the world, and National Palace Museum, which houses one of the world's largest collections of artifacts from ancient China.

Taipei City's industrial environment has progressed into a new era in line with changes around the globe. In addition to building a quality investment environment and attracting outside companies to

move in, the city government has also introduced several incentives, subsidies and guidance measures in order to encourage increased research and innovation as well as to improve added value and

competitiveness from enterprises. Meanwhile, the department is proactively paving the way for technology industries, including biotech and cloud computation, and creative design industries by

combining Taipei Neihu Technology Park, Nankang Software Park, and Beitou-Shilin Technology Park into a Taipei Technology Corridor, which will become the core of Taipei City's industrial growth and the beginning of a transformed economy.

Taipei City is devoted to improving its infrastructure and building an environment favorable for production and economic activities.

Source Taipei.gov.tw; Photo: www.taipei-101.com.tw



The Atlanta—Taipei link

Taipei became the sister city of Atlanta in November 5, 1979, when Mayor Lee, Teng-hui of Taipei and Mayor Maynard Jackson of Atlanta signed a sister city agreement in Taipei, Taiwan.

The Atlanta-Taipei Sister City Committee, with the assistance of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, maintains connections with both Atlanta and Taipei city governments and organizations in each location.

Activities have included student exchanges from high schools and colleges, cultural performance, trade missions, and official visits between the two governments.

Atlanta—Taipei themes and objectives:

The Atlanta-Taipei Sister City Committee has set its agenda to pursue the following objectives:

- Volunteering in Atlanta communities
- Hosting cultural workshops
- Promoting youth exchanges between the two cities
- Promoting official visits to both capitals
- Managing social media and virtual communities to promote the sister-city relationship
- Act as a mouthpiece for local Taiwanese organizations to get more exposure
- Foster increased business cooperation between the two cities

The Atlanta-Taipei Sister City Committee unveiled its new logo, designed by board member Irene Chien. Depicting a majestic Phoenix alongside the Taipei 101 building, the new logo evokes prominent imagery of both sister cities. Concurrently, our committee also inaugurated our Facebook page to promote the friendship between the two great cities of Atlanta and Taipei. Visit our FB page at: <https://www.facebook.com/ATSistersCity/>.



Aside from that, 2015 also saw the Atlanta-Taipei Sister City Committee move forward in its efforts to promote cultural exchange as it began to plan a series of Chinese Culture 101 workshops to take place at various public libraries in metro-Atlanta. The inaugural session took place at the Chamblee Public Library, part of the DeKalb County Public Library System. Participants learned about the art of the Chinese tea ceremony, the art of paper-cutting, and traditional Chinese calligraphy. The event was a great success and the Atlanta-Taipei Sister City Committee was invited back by the library. We made plans for future workshops at various other libraries as well.



Chinese culture 101 workshops



From September 5th through 9th, the Taiwanese government once again sent a delegation of students, the Taiwanese International Youth Ambassadors, to visit Atlanta. The delegates spend their days touring the city, attending meetings and seminars, and giving traditional Taiwanese culture performances. This year, the delegation of 20 students paid a visit to the First Lady of Atlanta, Mrs. Sarah-Elizabeth Reed, along with the Director of International Affairs, Ms. Claire Angelle, and the Chief of Protocol, Ms. Vanessa Ibarra. (Photo below).



Finally, the Atlanta-Taipei Sister City Committee once again made a showing at the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission's Annual Holiday Party. Many sister city committees were in attendance, and the food was plentiful. Local Taiwanese restaurateurs graciously donated delicious, authentic Taiwanese food dishes for attendees.

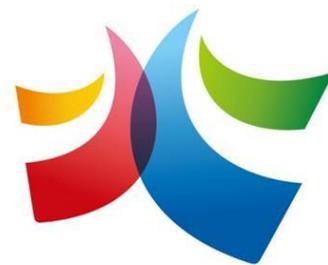


Taipei Summer Universiade

Taipei is excited to be the host of the 29th Summer Universiade from August 19 through 30, 2017. Preparations are already underway! The Universiade is an international sporting and cultural festival which is staged every two years in a different city. It is only second to the Olympic Games.

The Summer Universiade consists of 11 compulsory sports with 14 compulsory disciplines and up to 3 optional sports chosen by the host country.

Embracing FISU's motto of 'Excellence in Mind and Body', the Summer Universiade incorporates educational and cultural aspects into 12 days of sports competitions, allowing university student-athletes from all over the world to celebrate with the host city in a true spirit of friendship and sportsmanship. For updates of this event please see: <http://www.fisu.net/en/Summer-Universiades-3490.html>



TAIPEI 2017 29TH SUMMER UNIVERSIADE



Taipei Universiade Masco (source: <http://www.taipei2017.com.tw>)

Tbilisi

REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1988
Chair: John Hall ; Co Chair Nina Tickardze
Web Site: www.at SCC.org
Contact: ninat@hallboothsmith.com



- Located in the South Caucasus.
- Population of 1.5 million (2012).
- Key Business Sectors: agricultural production. Significant oil and gas potential as well as other natural resources including manganese, iron, coal, copper, gold, granite, limestone, marble, mineral waters and dense forests that cover one third of the country.
- Doing business in Tbilisi- with the establishment of Free Industrial Zones in Georgia, there are new incentives and opportunities to produce and export goods with a minimal tax burden.

Tbilisi Profile

Tbilisi (Georgian: თბილისი), is the capital and the largest city of Georgia. According to Georgian legends, it was founded in the 5th century by King Vakhtang Gorgasali who, while hunting, shot a pheasant which fell into a warm spring and was either boiled or healed. The king was inspired to found a city on the site, and the name of the city derives from the Georgian word tbili meaning "warm". Although the city has been destroyed and rebuilt some 29 times, the layout of the Old Town is largely intact with narrow alleys and big crooked houses built around courtyards.



The Georgian language is a member of the Kartvelian (South Caucasian) family of languages. It has its own alphabet, which is thought to have

evolved about the 5th century.

Tbilisi has been home to people of diverse cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, though it is overwhelmingly Eastern Orthodox Christian. Notable tourist destinations include cathedrals like Sameba

and Sioni, classical Freedom Square and Rustaveli Avenue, medieval Narikala Fortress, pseudo-Moorish Opera Theater, and the Georgian National Museum.

The Georgians are a proud people with an ancient culture.

They have through the ages been noted as warriors as well as for their hospitality, love of life, lively intelligence, sense of humour, and reputed longevity.

The Atlanta—Tbilisi link

The Atlanta-Tbilisi sister city committee was formed in 1988.

Since the beginning of the Atlanta-Tbilisi committee the two cities have since benefited from each other. Many students, lawyers, educators, doctors, and

politicians have come to Atlanta from Tbilisi for educational training and they left here with a wealth of knowledge and many new friends. Committee members have gone to Tbilisi and experienced the culture and hospitality and the warmth of the

Georgian people. Many committee members still have long lasting relationships with the many people who have come to Atlanta from Tbilisi and we look forward to building new lasting relationships with the people of the country of Georgia and Tbilisi.

Atlanta—Tbilisi themes and objectives:

The Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee & Georgia to Georgia Foundation work together to seek out, facilitate and promote social, economic, humanitarian and cultural interaction between Atlanta, GA, USA & Tbilisi, Georgia.

The Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee (ATSCC) endeavors to build economic, legal, educational and humanitarian progress in Georgia. We believe, with efforts of our developing friendships between the two great countries, we can assist and further promote stability and economic growth within the country of Georgia.

The Georgia to Georgia Foundation (GA2GE) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Atlanta, Georgia. GA2GE is dedicated to following the philosophy of American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie "to do real and permanent good" in Georgia.

The Foundation seeks to assist humanitarian efforts, promote education and cultural exchange, encourage sustainable agriculture, and ensure that the country of Georgia has one of the most efficient, open, and productive climates for economic development in the region. By providing practical education to Georgian professionals and expanding the horizons of Georgian students through exchange programs and education, the foundation is building a brighter future for the development of Georgia.

April, 2015 Georgian delegation in Atlanta via Open World Program

ATSCC together with GA2GE continues its long relationship with Open World Programs by hosting Georgian delegates from various cities in the country of Georgia in Atlanta. In the April of 2015 we hosted another Georgian delegation with the concentration on Rule of Law.

The delegates included: Deputy Head of Division for Reforms Coordination Ministry of Internal Affairs, Georgia; Assistant to the Judge; Lawyer at the Transparency International Georgia, Head Of Unit at the Shida Kartli and Mtskheta-Mtianeti Regional Prosecutor's office; Legal Education Coordinator, East West Management Institute and several lawyers.



Schedules for the delegates were tailored based on their interests and experiences. Some of the most memorable meetings were with



Judicial Qualifications Commission State of Georgia, First Amendment Foundation, tour of Fulton County Jail, The Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia, meetings with Judges and hearings at the courts. Delegates also got a chance to visit local attractions, Coca Cola Museum, Human Rights Museum, CNN center, and greatly enjoyed spending time with their host families.

November 2015, Mr. Henwood teaching at SEU University, Tbilisi, Georgia

Mr. Scott Henwood was invited to SEU University in Tbilisi, Georgia this November to teach Foundations of American Legal Institutions and Election Law. Mr. Henwood is a great supporter of Georgia and a volunteer for the Open World programs. It is through these programs that we had an opportunity to meet with SEU staff and engage in a teaching opportunity.



December 2015, 4th Annual Georgian Christmas tree at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History

ATSCC volunteering team of local Georgians organized and sponsored a display of the Annual Georgian Christmas Tree at the Fernbank Museum. Georgian ornaments decorating the tree represented cultural traditions and holiday crafts found through different regions in Georgia.



Toulouse

FRANCE

Atlanta - Toulouse Sister City Committee

Date of Affiliation: 1974
Chair (2015): Betty Davis
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Map: Country-France-Holidays

- Toulouse is France's fourth largest city.
- Population – 1.25 Million.
- Capitol of the Midi-Pyrénées Région.
- Capitol of Europe's aerospace industry.
- Major industries include Aeronautics, Space, Electronics, Information Technology and Biotechnology.
- Toulouse's world renowned university is one of the oldest in Europe (founded in 1229) and, with more than 119,000 students, is the third-largest university campus of France after Paris and Lyon.

Toulouse Profile

Toulouse, known as La Ville Rose, the Pink City, because of its red-brick architecture, is a popular tourist destination. As the gateway to the Pyrénées, it is close to a number of wonderful outdoor attractions. The city itself is full of character and charm. Toulouse boasts dozens of museums and exhibits about the region's history and culture. Toulouse has two historic sites listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Toulouse is always working to improve its culture. In the last decade, the city has restored monuments dating back to the time of the Counts of

Toulouse, refurbished the city's symphonic concert hall, built a city theater, constructed the massive concert venue Zénith, the largest in France outside

Paris, and more.

Culturally, Toulouse is home to the Galerie du Château d'eau, one of the oldest places dedicated to photography in the world and the Académie des

Jeux floraux, the oldest literary society of the Western World.

Toulouse's economy is growing as quickly as its population. Thriving aerospace and biotech industries fuel the economy.

The city hosts l'Oncopole de Toulouse, the largest cancer research center in Europe.

The city is also a major French university location, with four universities and 16 quality institutes.



The Atlanta—Toulouse link

Atlanta began her official sister city relationship with Toulouse on December 17, 1974 when then mayors Maynard Jackson of Atlanta and Pierre Baudis of Toulouse signed a proclamation declaring Toulouse and Atlanta sister cities. Jackson had lived in Toulouse as a child, while his mother was pursuing her doctorate in French. He felt that the two sister cities would make

excellent partners.

Since 1974 the Atlanta Toulouse Sister Cities Committee has maintained an active and productive relationship with Toulouse, France. With a membership in Georgia of over 100, the Atlanta Toulouse Sister Cities Committee communicates with our corresponding committee in Toulouse, and we

maintain a focus on French culture. We host visitors from Toulouse who come to Atlanta for business or social purposes. We share activities with Alliance Francaise, the French American Chamber of Commerce-Atlanta, and the French Heritage Society that promote French-American collaborations and expansion of interests.

Atlanta—Toulouse activities

2015

Atlanta—Toulouse objectives:

Our mission is to establish friendships and promote cultural understanding between the people of Toulouse and Atlanta.

The Atlanta Toulouse Sister Cities Committee accomplishes its mission through citizens exchanges, and events with a focus on culture.



The highlight of our year was the two-part 40th anniversary celebration of the Atlanta-Toulouse Sister Cities partnership held in Toulouse and Atlanta. In April members of ATSCC from Atlanta traveled to France to visit their counterparts in Toulouse. In addition to official activities with ATSCC Chair Betty Davis delivering a speech in French to the mayor of Toulouse and others, there were fun outings with the combined group, shown here on a hike.



Above: Chief of Staff Candace Byrd speaks during a ceremony in Toulouse. The City of Atlanta gifted a Phoenix statue to Toulouse to represent how both communities rose from the ashes of tragedy to become strong, unified, and vibrant cities.



Above: In Toulouse. Colette Delcros from Toulouse with Betty Davis and Carol Riggs from Atlanta.

In November there were activities for our guests from Toulouse ATSCC who visited Atlanta. Shown at an official 40th anniversary reception are Claire Angelle, Director of International Affairs at the City of Atlanta; Atlanta's first lady Sarah-Elizabeth Reed; ATSCC Atlanta Chairperson Betty Davis; Aviv Zonabend, Deputy Mayor of Toulouse; and Valerie Jackson, former first lady of Atlanta whose husband was Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson.



Below: Colette Delcros from France and another guest at the reception in Atlanta.

In April, ATSCC members housed teachers who were chaperones for middle school students from the Saint Joseph School in Toulouse



France on a visit to Sutton Middle School in Atlanta. Dr. Shamita Johnson, on the left, arranged the student visit. She is shown with members of Maynard Jackson's family, Atlanta schools staff and ATSCC members at the students' reception.



Atlanta—Toulouse activities

2015

ATSCC members also accompanied the students from Toulouse on their visit to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change.



On January 5, 2015, ATSCC members had an opportunity to reconnect at our annual Fete des Roi party (photograph below of member Frances Penn with hostess Elizabeth Munson, and former ATSCC President Carolyn Wills).



On January 11, ATSCC members joined the Alliance Française in a rally against terrorism. Mary Ellen Allen is shown in the photo.



On January 13, ATSCC Chair Betty Davis (on right in photo) is shown at the reception for the incoming class of students from France at Georgia Tech. We subsequently took interested students on a variety of excursions.



Below: Anne Jamet, Guillaume Boucher, Antoine Tortosa, Chloe Osina, and Jimmy Da Silva (Georgia Tech students from France) on ATSCC excursion at the Booth Museum of Western Art in Cartersville, Georgia with Thomas Jefferson's statue in the Hall of U.S. Presidents on February 21.



Mark David Long replaced Betty Davis as Chair of the ATSCC effective January 2016.

We appreciate Betty's 14 years of service.

Another group of Georgia Tech students from France at lunch with ATSCC members before a hike up Stone Mountain on February 28.



Georgia Tech graduate students from France Nicholas Lavalette and Matthieu Schmitt on a North Georgia wine tour with ATSCC on March 21.



(Opposite top): In July ATSCC members visited an impressionist exhibit at the Hunter Museum of Art in Chattanooga, TN. First row Betty Davis, Mary Jane McCraney, Mot Dinos, Margo Fox Hester. Second row Regine Reynolds-Cornell, Donna Lasseter, Carol Evans, Deborah Riedmiller, Enrique Dorta. Third row. Randy Barto, Diana Butler, Mark Long and Peggy Heinisch.



For a new class of Georgia Tech graduate students from France, the ATSCC hosted a dinner at the home of Dr. Alex Garcias on September 13.



On September 14 Atlanta's First Lady Sarah-Elizabeth Reed shared a dinner with ATSCC members. Shown are Sophie Gauthier from Toulouse, Mrs. Reed, Enrique Dorta, Lesley Ward, and party host Dr. Alex Garcias.



LETTER FROM MAYOR KASIM REED

Greetings:

Since I entered office in 2010, my Administration has been hard at work ensuring that the City of Atlanta remains globally competitive. This year, we have continued to see progress in this effort. FDi magazine, a unit of the Financial Times, recently ranked Atlanta the #1 city in the Americas for its foreign direct investment strategy. Additionally, AT Kearney Global Cities Index ranks Atlanta the 36th most international city in the world, up from number 40 in 2010.

To continue raising Atlanta's global profile, we must build and maintain relationships with our international counterparts. Sister City partnerships represent an incredible tool to promote peace and prosperity through cultural, educational, humanitarian, and economic development exchanges.

In a recent study released by Sister Cities International and Value Ideas' Measures That Matter, sister city relationships contribute more than \$525 million to the U.S. economy each year on exchange related expenses alone. As home to the world's most traveled and most efficient passenger airport, I can assure that our community greatly benefits from these subnational partnerships. With 18 sister city partnerships, Atlanta also has great potential to forge business opportunities to enhance our economy, create jobs for our citizens, in addition to gaining a better understanding of cultures across the globe.

That is why my Office of International Affairs led four missions to visit our sister city counterparts in 2015. Last March, I traveled with CIOs and CISOs from leading Atlanta-based companies on a cyber-security trade mission to Israel where I met with Mayor Bielski of Ra'anana to discuss the important relationship between our cities. This mission was followed with visits to Salcedo, Dominican Republic; Toulouse, France; and Fukuoka, Japan by senior members of my team.

In 2015, the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission celebrated two historic anniversaries. Last October we welcomed a number of delegates from the City of Toulouse, including Council Members Miquel-Belaud and Zonabend, to celebrate 40 years of cooperation and to kick off the France-Atlanta 2015 series. The following month Fukuoka Mayor Takashima led a delegation of 100 business men and women to Atlanta to celebrate our 10th anniversary and explore further cooperation.

This year, I will continue to focus our efforts on expanding as a global city by growing international trade, attracting foreign direct investment, counseling small and medium Atlanta businesses on how to export, and fostering deeper connections with our 18 sister cities.



A handwritten signature of Kasim Reed in black ink.

Kasim Reed
Mayor of Atlanta



ATLANTA SISTER CITIES COMMISSION

