

The Tulsa-Celle Sister City Partnership Newsletter

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Upcoming Event:

Partnership Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 5th, 2003
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: EL PASO restaurant
10808 East 71st street. Right across from Target.

Partnership members, friends, non-members are all welcome. Cost for dinner starts at \$8.50 per person. However, if you do not wish to order a meal, that will be alright as well.

Meeting Agenda

We will have two speakers: Mr. Baer, member of the Mayor's Citizen Corps Volunteer Project will speak to us on volunteers for disaster preparedness and the Language and Culture Bank.

Ruby Libertus, VP Membership for the Tulsa Celle Partnership will give us a short presentation on the human dimension of Globalization, i.e. "The Characteristics of a Global Citizen"

Getting to Know Your Officers:

Beginning with this issue, I would like to include a new feature: "Getting to Know Your Officers".

Since Ruby Libertus will be one of our speakers, I will start with her. Her presentation "The Characteristics of a Global Citizen" will be a brief summary of a study she has conducted by interviewing 22 members from 9 global organizations. One of those organizations was the Tulsa Global Alliance. This study was – of course – very close to Ruby's heart. She herself has a most colorful background and has been exposed to and living with "Global Citizens" all her life. Her mother is from Finland. Her father was born in Colombo, Sri-Lanka, but his background is from South India. Ruby was born in Pharr, Texas but her family left the US when she was 3 years old. They went to Finland for a year and then to Sri-Lanka. She spent most of her childhood on this island. At school age, she was sent to a boarding school in the Himalayas and ended up spending her teenage years in Pakistan. During vacations, the family would go to either Finland or Sri-Lanka. Ruby then went to the University of Vancouver, Canada, for her freshman year

before coming to Oklahoma to complete her bachelors and masters. Ruby has dual citizenship, American and Finnish/European Union. She speaks Finnish and Singhalese, understands some German, and we all can attest to her English. Ruby loves to travel and has either lived or toured the following countries: Germany, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, France, Bulgaria, England, Singapore, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, Canada, Mexico, Russia, Italy, and Greece.

Ruby says, she even brought her dog with her from Sri Lanka! But, from her study you will learn that you do not even have to travel to be a Global Citizen. Most important is the mindset of globally involved people; how globally involved people interact with other cultures; what motivated them to become globally involved, etc. Ruby found that some of the common characteristics are global curiosity, open-mindedness, tolerance, understanding, awareness, a broad world-view, global consciousness and finally global action.

We are looking forward to hear her and hope many of you will be able to join us.

Update on our Membership Drive

We are proud to announce that our Partnership made second place among the various TGA Sister Cities in the number of new members recruited. Thank you for your support. Of course, if you or anyone you know is interested in joining, you do not have to wait for a membership drive. We will be happy to have you join us any time. Just call one of the officers of the partnership and we will give you the information you need.

Update our Questionnaire regarding our Meetings: Our membership would like for us to continue our meetings at restaurants where we can combine business with pleasure. It seemed that a TUESDAY was better for most. It was decided that we would hold these meetings on the first Tuesday every other month (the even months: August, October, December, etc) and keep you informed through our newsletter every other month (odd months: July, September, November, etc).

Update on the Celebration, May 2003

An official delegation from the Partnership and the City of Tulsa, accompanied by Indian dancers George and Judy Coser and others visited Celle during "Cellebration" of Europawoche 2003 in early May and had a wonderful time. The City of Celle generously treated the visitors to dinners at the Ratskeller restaurant, city and castle tours, trips to Berlin, Hannover and Wolfsburg and a boat trip on the Aller river. The group also was able to meet visitors from Celle's eight other sister cities and share our culture with them.

The participants (official and unofficial) were Sam and Gail Roop, Prof. Roger Randle, Karen and Delbert Schafer, Wolfgang and Silke Becker, Michael Pate, Arnold and Gwen Bieber, Barbara and Thomas Conrad, Jack and Jinny Wynn, Ruth Obermark and her friend, Kathy Breese, George and Judy Coser, our Indian performers whose trip was made possible by a large donation from Monetta Trepp to the Tulsa Celle Partnership.

Sam Roop, the leader of the official delegation presented gifts to Celle's Lord Mayor Martin Biermann on behalf of the City of Tulsa and Tulsa's City Council. Additionally, the leaders of Celle's sister cities delegation's received each a copy of a table top book "Tulsa – The great American City". T-shirts, Tulsa pins, pamphlets, and other items were available to the public during the exhibition.

The Jagdhornblaesercorps from Celle performed twice on stage during the Tulsa presentation on Wednesday, May 7, which was opened with short remarks by Lord Mayor Martin Biermann, the American Consul from the U.S. Consulate in Hamburg, and Councilman Sam Roop. In the

evening the Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft of Celle invited everybody to an American style Potluck Dinner at the home of Susanne Reinike-Jungclaus. The members of the Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft also helped in our booth with t-shirt sales and information about the Partnership.

The weather cooperated wonderfully, and a good time was had by all

Thank You's are in order:

Our Partnership wants to thank the Tulsa Metro Chamber Tourism Office and UPS Supply Chain Solutions for their help in making the arrangements to get information materials shipped to Celle for the Celebration.

Especially, we would like to thank Monetta Trepp for her help and donation to send Judy and George Coser – the Indian dancers – to Celle. Their dance presentation at the open air stage and in various Celle schools really impressed the German audience old and young alike.

We also thank our hosts, described by Karen Schafer as “the wonderful people who greeted us and welcomed us in their homes and lives”.

Exchanges

Update on Lena Severloh. Sad news! As hard as we all tried, we could not get a visa for Lena. She has now resigned herself to taking one year of university classes in Germany first and then try again.

Frauke Hempel: During her visit to Celle, Barbara Conrad has personally spoken with the German consul in Hamburg who has given us some more leads and offered his help to obtain a visa. You may recall that Frauke wants to work with children in her preparation as a future Social Worker. The Oaks Indian School has offered to let her do her internship there. And we are now hoping to have better luck with her visa.

AJ Flusche: AJ graduated from Broken Arrow HS in May. He is currently in Germany, a guest of the family whose son AJ's parents had hosted here during the visit of the Celle Soccer Team. The two boys had formed a friendship and decided that AJ would spend from 6 months to a year in Germany and go to school there together with his new friend Ben.

Marja Willis has returned from a visit to Celle with 5 of her Wilson Middle School students. They were very excited about the opportunity to visit Germany, stay with Celle families and visit their host children's schools.

Marx Byars-Horton is working on a future student exchange program with the with the Kaiserin Auguste Victoria Gymnasium in Celle.

LOOKING AHEAD

For the first weekend in October we have invited a Celle band called “Grass'n'Groove” . Their repertoire is American and Irish Singing and Fiddling. They present pub music on a high level and a wide range of Anglo-Saxon and Irish folk music. We will share the group with the German American Society and are looking forward to some lively music.

For continuous updates on our Partnership, and links to the Celle newspaper etc, please visit our website under Tulsa Global Alliance www.tulsaglobalalliance.org. Go to sister city “Celle”, scroll to the bottom of that page and click the box: “click here for more”