

Jan. 24, 2017 COUNTRY UPDATES

JAPAN

We had a wonderful exchange involving the UAB Japanese club which has worked closely with our Kita High program. We will host Kita again this summer. For the 10th year we have sent a collection of art quilts from the Birmingham Quilters Guild to Hitachi. We will also be sending runners to Maebashi.





UKRAINE

We will host at least one new Open World delegation in 2017. We will also host in February a group of Ukrainian officials involved in Emergency management and will setting up meetings for them. Also our humanitarian program sent its' 6th shipment which represents about 2 tons of supplies sent for war relief.

Dear Scotty and Vlad, I hope this e-mail finds you well. Today we received boxes from Meest-Express with the next delivery of humanitarian aid from Birmingham. Many thanks to you from all of us! I send you pictures later or put them on facebook.

Concerning our container in Odessa, it is a final stage already, we are waiting for one more payment from our side to be done and then immediately bring it to Vinnytsia. I'll keep you informed when it is already done.

Many thanks and regards from all your friends in Vinnytsia!

Best wishes,

Natalie

CZECH

The Beer exchange is progressing and we have the below invitation.

Hey Scotty,

Heather and I met last week with the Brewers guild and the owner of the J Clyde to catch up on her trip, and she had also met with the Brewers around town to share some of the beers she brought back. She brought up a couple of new ideas during our meeting. She was thinking we could pair each on of the breweries up here with a different one from Pilsen, and let each Brewery treat come up with their own interpretation of a collaboration beer. We could end up with several different customized styles of beer as a result. This would also alleviate some potential distribution headaches here, as each Birmingham Brewery can go through their own contracted distributor. We're planning to set up another meeting to try to get as many of the breweries in attendance as possible to talk through those possibilities. Would you have any upcoming availability either on a week night or weekend to attend a meeting?

I'm going to go ahead and extend an invitation for Purkmistr to visit us next summer during our Brewfest and give them a tentative date.

Jay Bennett
Cell: (205)-218-7903

Invitation from Plzen



ANNOUNCEMENT



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

The **Association for the Maintenance of War Memorials and Sites** (hereinafter referred to as HáEmGo) and 16 member organizations, coordinated by the **Krajczáros Foundation** are organizing an

International Candle Lightening Action on 11 November 2016.

We kindly invite you

the wartime soldiers' relatives, public life representatives, artists, scientists, adults, children, so as schools, municipalities, churches, the representatives of Hungarian and foreign civil organizations, the commandants of military and armed forces, diplomats, office and institution leaders, management and owners of companies, pensioners – in other words everybody - to join this commemoration.

We kindly ask everybody, who supports this initiative, to express their respect towards the soldiers who died for their country by lighting up a candle on **11 November at 11:11** am at their local memorial place, military cemetery, home, school.

In the framework of “Remember Together in the Common Europe” our aim is to remind today’s generation that keeping alive the memory of the great and great–great-grandfathers - who died at the battlefields - is essential to ensure that their names live further on therefore making them immortal.

Dear Reminiscent! We believe that it is important to inform about this initiative as many people as possible and not only our narrow communities. Therefore we kindly ask you to spread our aims and philosophy so as our invitation to the memorial act in your community as well. We also believe that the soldiers, their relatives and commanders will be the first to join this initiative and will help us to spread the announcement.

Heroes - including countless common soldiers - so will be immortal.

The main organizer of the program (also administers the HáEmGo) is the Krajczáros Foundation.

Contact:

<https://www.facebook.com/krajczaros.alapitvany> <http://krajczaros.uw.hu> , and
krajczaros@t-online.hu, tel. 06-30-9566736

In order to make visible this – already traditional - event:

- please inform us about your intention to participate (A short text message or e-mail (krajczaros16@gmail.com) or by sending a letter of intent to participate),
- and kindly asked to give a feedback on the realization of the event (photos, number of the participant, etc..)

Székesfehérvár, 22 October 2016

István Németh sk

Curator Krajczáros Foundation

ENGLAND

We expect a delegation in May 15-18 and we will send the Vulcan and artist in May. Also mark your calendar for the Vulcan gift unveiling

GHANA

Is working on finalizing a signing with Ashaiman and planning youth or adult trip for summer of 2017.

ISRAEL

Is recruiting athletes/participants for the 2017 Maccabi Games in Birmingham. The committee is also pursuing a unique opportunity to create a joint film school in Birmingham and with a potential second Israeli sister City. Attached info. The youth exchange is coming together-below is an email from intern Charles to the prospective group parents. :

Good afternoon parents,

It was a pleasure meeting all of you last week at our Jordan/ Israel Summer tour information meeting. First, I wanted to reach out to everyone and make sure you had my contact information. As we move forward with our summer plans, I will be contacting you with updates regarding passports, visa's, itineraries and packing tips. If at any time you have questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Second, within the next week, I will forward a basic agreement that will need to be signed and submitted by the end of the month along with a non-refundable \$100 deposit. This will reserve your students space and allow us to start making preparations for the trip.

Finally, below I have included a link to a video I created while on study abroad last year. This will allow you all to get to know a little more about me and give you a glimpse of Arab and Jewish culture.

I look forward to working with you all and seeing you at our next meeting. Have a great weekend and we will be in touch soon.

<https://youtu.be/oC3l0TqQsfQ>

Hannah Halpern gave bat mitzvah money to an inner city dance school! Over winter break a few families from Birmingham went to Israel and visited the school. Hannah learned a dance to dance with the girls in the school. They had a wonderful event and Uri is a part of the video and talks about his visit last year. It is 30 minutes long but I think it is important for sister city to hear the first part and maybe the dance they do together(around the 11 minute mark). We have also incited a couple of these girls to come to the Maccabi games this summer.

JORDAN

Working with Sen. Shelby's office on possible USAID and other contacts and possible youth exchange in the summer with Israel and Jordan for students from Phillips Academy. Updated Jordan report except for the attacks on the crusader castle in Karak but the Jordanian government is showing more determination to help the city not be affected from the tourism point of view. The youth exchange is coming together-below is an email from intern Charles to the prospective group parents. :

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CHINA



第十一届伯明翰华人春节联欢会
11th Annual Birmingham Chinese New Year Gala

Saturday, January 28
11:00am-2:30pm

Boutwell Auditorium
1930 8th Avenue
Birmingham, Alabama



2017
HAPPY NEW YEAR
— year of the —
ROOSTER

DONATIONS:

For the past decade, the gala has attracted more than 20,000 attendees. We need your continuing support for us to cast Birmingham Chinese Classic 2017, for our communities. Any donation would be a great help to us. *Let's Do It All Together!* Please make check payable to "Birmingham Chinese Festival Association" and mail to address:

Attn: Scotty Colson, Economic Development, Mayor's Office
710 N. 20th St.
Birmingham, AL 35203

Our Alliances/Partners:
City of Birmingham / CSSA / Birmingham Chinese Association (BCA) / Chinese American Business Association of Birmingham (CABAB)/ Birmingham Chinese Schools / USCPFA / Birmingham Public Library / Birmingham Museum of Art / Birmingham International Center / Cultural Alliance / Birmingham Sister Cities, Inc. / Families with Children from China / Children of the World

Thank you!
The Birmingham Chinese Festival Association, an Alabama Non-Profit Organization
<http://www.bhmchinesefestival.org/>

HUNGARY

Kali is working with Szeke. on participation with future music/culture festivals. Szeke. is also looking to recruit athletes for the Maccabii Games next summer...along with Ukraine and Czechs

ITALY

Donna is working on this possible connection. No Baloney...couldn't resist 😊

Keep your fingers crossed. I know someone who is good friends with the mayor of Bologna. I expressed our interest in a Sister City relationship, which will be communicated to the mayor, who is visiting the states over Thanksgiving. I'll keep you posted.

Donna Francavilla

~Frankly Speaking Communications, LLC

JAMAICA

Jan 3-5 signing trip planned and planning conference call planned for next Wednesday. We will have a sister City signing in Kingston Feb. 13-17, 2017.

SENEGAL

Bettina is recruiting a new committee and Chair for next year.

INNAUGURAL GALA

Mark and Bettina attended the SCI Inaugural Gala that emphasized Slovenia, the birthplace of the First Lady.

