

TOLEDO SISTER CITIES

International

Festival

APRIL 13, 2013



THE BLADE

The University of Toledo

along with **Intern in Ohio**

would like to

welcome you

to the **2013 Toledo Sister Cities International Festival!**



intern in OHIO

PRESENTED BY:



A Welcome From The International Festival 2013 Co-Chairs



On behalf of Toledo Sister Cities International and The University of Toledo, we welcome you to the 4th Annual International Festival. This year's event marks the first festival partnership between The University of Toledo (UT) and Toledo Sister Cities International (TSCI). We have a day filled with the celebration of our diverse cultures, including international performances featuring music, dance, martial arts and more; cultural exhibits; a special area in which to learn about the languages of many countries and try those

newly acquired skills; interactive activities for children from kindergarten through university levels; and opportunities to taste and enjoy various ethnic foods provided by area restaurants.

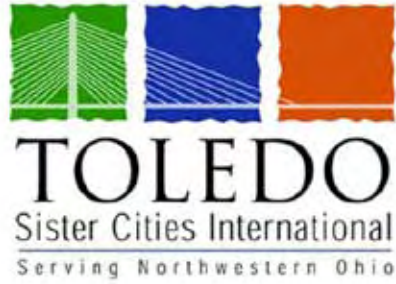
The International Festival was brought back to Toledo four years ago by a committed group of leaders within TSCI who recognized the cultural diversity of our region and wanted to celebrate both the uniqueness and commonalities shared among those living in our metropolitan area, comprised of northwest Ohio/southeast Michigan. For the past three years the event was held at the Erie Street Market and has grown yearly. Today, UT and the Center for International Studies and Programs (CISP) share great pride knowing that the festival will take place in our newly renovated Student Union Auditorium, aiding CISP's mission to facilitate cross-cultural interaction among students, faculty and staff that leads to better global understanding, an enriched personal experience, and a more peaceful world.

This year's UT partnership with Toledo Sister Cities International provides the opportunity for UT faculty, staff, international and domestic students to connect with the greater Toledo community. We are excited that TSCI and UT have united for the 2013 International Festival. Toledo Sister Cities International acts as a bridge to foster international activities promoting world peace through education, culture, and economic and business development in an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect.

The diversity of northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan provides us with much to celebrate. The International Festival helps us recognize the uniqueness of our population, coupled with the harmony and acceptance of all. We thank you for taking part in today's event. We encourage you to tell friends and neighbors about your time here today so that our celebration of diversity and unity can become a highly anticipated premier event for our community for many, many years to come. Enjoy the festival!

Susan Miko, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Toledo Sister Cities International
toledosistercities.org

Sammy Spann, Ph.D.
Assistant Provost for International
Studies and Programs
utoledo.edu/cisp



One Government Center, Suite 2100
Toledo, Ohio 43604
+ 419.245.3334
www.toledosistercities.org

13 April 2013

On behalf of the Toledo Sister Cities International Board of Trustees, I welcome you to the 2013 International Festival.

It is also my pleasure to thank formally The City of Toledo and The University of Toledo for their generous support of today's program. The volunteers from our sister cities and the university who have worked tirelessly to make this event a reality and the performers who have volunteered their talents and time also deserve our sincere appreciation. Toledo Sister Cities International also thanks our sponsors and advertisers for their generous financial support of the 2013 International Festival. Thank you one and all. You make this happen.

The mission of Toledo Sister Cities International is to be "a bridge to foster international activity for world peace and global concerns in education, culture and business in an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect." If you have a desire to reach out to the world, I invite you to become a member of TSCI. It is easy to join us. TSCI brings together persons in our community share an interest in learning about other countries and a desire to extend our famous Toledo hospitality with visitors and students from all parts of the world.

To become part of TSCI, fill out the personal membership form in this program or on our website and return it to us with a check at the level of membership that is right for you.

Enjoy the International Festival and savor the talent and diversity of the Toledo Community.

Christine J. Weisfelder, Ph.D., President
Toledo Sister Cities International Board of Directors



MICHAEL P. BELL
MAYOR
City of Toledo

April 13, 2013

Dear Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 4th Annual International Festival, hosted jointly by Toledo Sister Cities International and the University of Toledo. This collaboration, in its first year, is certain to allow the best of both organizations to flourish as they share the mutual desire to both serve and showcase the international communities of which Toledo and the surrounding areas are so proud.

This past year has allowed me to further strengthen and grow the relationships we have with the many Sister Cities which have mayor-to-mayor agreements with Toledo. Last summer, we hosted the Mayor of Delmenhorst, Germany, and just last month had to opportunity to host the Mayor of Hyderabad, Pakistan. Our Tanga Tanzania Sister City Committee visited Tanga in February of this year, bringing to fruition their partnership with the Tanga community in providing a stand-alone maternity ward for those women who previously did not have opportunities for these services, and often did not have access to hygienic facilities in which to give birth. Pre and post-natal care is now also available to them. This TSCI group also held ribbon cutting ceremonies for the opening of three newly built bathroom/shower facilities, which opened in two Tanga city parks and in the Tanga Merchant Square, which previously was without facilities of this type. Great celebrations were held in Tanga as these happy occasions were marked, and the ability to partner to serve other countries and create lifelong friendships are paramount to supporting the concept of Sister Cities, designed to promote culture, education and economic development.

As in past years, I look forward to visiting with our Sister Cities throughout the world as Toledo continues to pursue foreign direct investment and looks for opportunities to partner in economic benefit with our international collaborators. It is truly a "win-win" situation, as trade partnerships are one of the leading ways to solidify respect and integrity between international communities.

I'd like to thank both Toledo Sister Cities International and the University of Toledo for their dynamic partnership in hosting this year's festival. Many hours of collaboration went into the planning and executing this fine event, and I know you will find it to be a wonderful effort in helping students of all ages, "little sibs" who are visiting the UT campus today, and community members, as well, appreciate the wonderful diversity that helps distinguish the greater Toledo area as a leader in this timely and timeless commitment.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Bell
Mayor

Performance Schedule

Noon	Doors Open	
12:15 p.m.	Opening: National Anthem, Parade of Nations	
12:30 p.m.	Toledo International Youth Orchestra	Fifty student musicians bridge cultural differences through orchestral music.
1:00 p.m.	Rumblin' Rhythm Cloggers	American folk dancers perform modern clogging with jingle taps on shoes.
1:15 p.m.	The Three Amigos	Trio performs romantic Latin melodies featuring guitar, harmonica, and piano.
1:30 p.m.	Chinese Folk Dance and Martial Arts Demonstration	Enjoy a folk dance and martial arts demonstration.
1:45 p.m.	Polish American Concert Band of Sylvania	Concert band performs Polish and other musical selections.
2:30 p.m.	The Echoes of Poland	Polish folk dance and song performed in traditional costumes.
2:45 p.m.	50/50 Raffle	
2:50 p.m.	Shrine Brass Band	Small wind ensemble with interest in band music performs historical and lesser known American band pieces.
3:20 p.m.	Aegela Dance Company	Egyptian gypsy and Middle Eastern belly dancing performed with verve.
3:35 p.m.	50/50 Raffle	
3:40 p.m.	Toledo Swiss Singers	Award-winning choral group with Swiss and other song performances.
3:55 p.m.	Kazenodaichi Taiko (Japanese Taiko Drum Ensemble)	Advanced drumming ensemble performs with traditional Japanese drums.
4:25 p.m.	Bharatanatyam Interest Group	Colorful and percussive classical and semi-classical dance with focus on Southern India.

4:55 p.m.	50/50 Raffle	
5:00 p.m.	Toledo School for the Arts, Afro-Caribbean Drum and Dance	High-energy dancers and drummers perform African and Central American rhythms.
5:15 p.m.	Washington Local Schools 5th Grade LEAP German Singers	German folk songs and dances
5:25 p.m.	Ensemble Kitka Bulgarian Macedonian Folk Dancers	The beauty and traditions of old country Bulgarian Macedonian heritage are kept alive through song and dance.
5:40 p.m.	Teutonia Männer- and Damenchor	Male and female chorus sings traditional folk songs in Swiss, German, and English.
5:55 p.m.	Bag Raffle Drawing	Purchase tickets for \$1 each or \$5 for 6 tickets, then drop in bag behind individual raffle items. Remember to write your name and contact number if you plan to leave; you need not be present to win a raffle item.
6:10 p.m.	Millie and the Czech Us Out Band	Czech and Polish polka music and other ethnic tunes performed with spirit.
6:30 p.m.	Raijin Daiko	Taiko Japanese drumming group playing in Okinawan style.
6:40 p.m.	El Corazón de Mexico Ballet Folklorico	Traditional folkloric dance selected from some of Mexico's 31 states, each with its own unique style of music, dance, and costume.
6:55 p.m.	Okinawan Shuri-Ryu Karate	Demonstration of a traditional Japanese martial art from the island of Okinawa that uses empty hand techniques and nurtures healthy and balanced development.
7:15 p.m.	The Kaye Cook Dancers	West African dance and rhythms—audience participation encouraged.
7:30 p.m.	Toledo-Hyderabad Sister City Group	A fashion show of ethnic clothing and a dance performance evoke the charm and heritage of Pakistan.
8:00 p.m.	Close	

50/50 Drawing and Bag Raffle

50/50 Drawings are planned around the following times and will be announced:



Tickets will be sold on the floor. You must be present to win 50/50 drawings. A **Bag Raffle Drawing** will also be held sometime near 5:55 pm. Purchase tickets for \$1 each or \$5 for 6 tickets, then drop in bag behind individual raffle items. Remember to write your name and contact number if you plan to leave; you need not be present to win a raffle item.

Craft Vendors

Be sure to stop by the craft vendors who have joined us this year with international wares.



Language Corner

Take a moment to stop by the Language Corner, where you can try your hand at basic phrases in any of 15 languages! Come with a friend and learn and laugh together.

Time	Language	Instructor(s)
12:30 p.m.	Japanese	Mina Oiwa & Akane Yamamoto
1:00 p.m.	Polish	Kathy Grabel
1:30 p.m.	German	Warren Hunt
2:00 p.m.	Urdu	Anwer Ali
2:30 p.m.	Spanish	Rita Swade
3:00 p.m.	Chinese	Tianhui Yuan
3:30 p.m.	Hindi	Kalpa Varanasi
4:00 p.m.	French	Betsy Gouvernayre
4:30 p.m.	Swedish	Chris Weisfelder
5:00 p.m.	Greek	Tom Dalagiannis
5:30 p.m.	Russian	Warren Dick
6:00 p.m.	Arabic	Jesse Baum & Iyad Jaara
6:30 p.m.	Spanish	Mirta Parodi
7:00 p.m.	Italian	TBD
7:30 p.m.	African Language	TBD



Local International Restaurants

This year, we are pleased to have international food served by local ethnic restaurants here in the Toledo area. Thank you for coming and remember to support our local community partners!

Busia's Narozny— Polish cuisine

Hong Kong Buffet— Chinese food

Kotobuki— Japanese favorites

Phoenicia Cuisine— Greek/American fare

Shorty's BBQ— Down-home barbeque

Star of India— Indian cuisine

We're also pleased to serve international coffees and pastries from the Fresh Market. Food donations to nourish student volunteers provided by El Camino Real on Douglas and Sylvania and Ruby's Kitchen at 4933 Dorr, in the Library Plaza.



Performance Groups

Thank you to all who are performing today. Your performances enrich and inform us! In alphabetical order is a brief description of each performance group and contact information if you'd like to know more.

Aegela Dance Company (Toledo, OH)

These exuberant and talented women often come together for performances at Arab weddings, various arts festivals, and community benefits. They are a collection of diverse dance experience and personal achievements sharing a common love of Middle Eastern dance. Their repertoire features the dances of Egypt, North Africa, Greece, Turkey and Andalusia. Today, they share with you the Ghawazee style (Egyptian gypsies) and the contemporary form experienced in Middle Eastern clubs and theatres. The dancers are all from the Aegela Centers for Middle Eastern Dance located in the Martin School, Hill and Holland Sylvania. For more info: www.aegela.com, 517-918-9547.

Bharatanatyam Interest Group of Sylvania (BIGS)

The Bharatanatyam Interest Group of Sylvania presents several pieces of traditional south Indian classic dance. The dances emphasize both foot work and various facial expressions. We will also present one folk dance depicting a snake and the snake charmer. The artists are Megan Basrur, Abhijilli Basrur, Dhruva Pasupaleti, Aishwarya Ramanathan, Sneha Mashalkar, Nirmithi Shah, Sumiran Shah, Priya Varanasi, Ramya Subramanian, Evangelina Louis, Ananya Haldankar, Nisha Luke, Tina Maly, Shruti Warriar, Naveena Luke, Nikila Luke, and Napur Parekh. For more information, contact Dr. Bina Joe at bina.joe@utoledo.edu.

Chinese Folk Dance and Martial Arts Demonstration

Performers exhibit both grace and strength through Chinese Western Style folk dance and a martial arts demonstration. For more information, please contact Amy at minchen1111@hotmail.com.

The Echoes of Poland

The Echoes of Poland was founded in the fall of 1967 when Paulina Tul-Ortyl was asked to prepare a group of young people to perform for a Polish Christmas celebration. From this start, they were asked to participate at many local festivals and church functions. Highlights have included performances of the Dozynski, the Polish Harvest Celebration, and many visits to Rzeszow, Poland for the Triennial World Festival of Polish Folk Dancers. In 1997, The Ohio House of Representatives recognized the members of the Echoes of Poland for their valuable contribution to the preservation of our Polish culture through song and dance. Today, the group practices Tuesday and Thursday nights. Through the weekly practices, Mrs. Ortyl has instilled in her members a great sense of pride and love for Polish folk customs through dancing and singing. A non-profit organization, the Echoes of Poland have performed at festivals and concerts throughout the United States, Canada and Poland. A children's group to train the young members for the adult ensemble was added in the mid-70s. Since 1979, we have staged our own concerts in the Toledo area to show our full repertoire of regional and national dances. If anyone is interested in joining The Echoes of Poland, please contact Paulina Tul Ortyl at 419-531-8658. For more info: http://www.polishtoledo.com/echoes_of_poland.htm

El Corazón de Mexico Ballet Folklorico

In 1996, “El Corazón de Mexico”, which translates as “The Heart of Mexico”, was founded by director Elaina Hernandez. “El Corazón de Mexico” demonstrates the beauty and charm of the culture by performing from a repertoire of over 100 dances. Mexico is made up of 31 states. Each state has a unique style of music, dance and costume. Each performance gives the audience a taste of the variety within this art.

“El Corazón de Mexico” consists of over 30 dancers ranging in age from 6 to 30 years. A sincere desire to learn both Mexican dancing and tradition, along with dedication to hard work and weekly practice throughout the entire year, are asked of all dancers. In return they receive a new awareness of their heritage, good leadership skills and an education in both the history and culture of Mexico. Their many talents come together to create a beautiful and exciting performance. “El Corazón de Mexico” was featured at a performance at Walt Disney World in Florida on December 27, 2007.

“El Corazón de Mexico” performs at festivals, cultural celebrations, parties, weddings, civic and religious functions and other events. For information concerning the group, please visit our website, www.elcorazondemexicodance.com, or contact Raymond or Christine Soto – Managers, (419) 242-7071, 435 Segur Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43609, Elaina Hernandez – Director, (419) 283-1628, Es_maverick@hotmail.com.

Ensemble Kitka Bulgarian Macedonian Folk Dancers

Ensemble Kitka was founded in 1963 by families wanting to keep alive the beauty and traditions of their old country heritage and to pass these traditions onto their children through song and dance. These traditions continue through a third generation. The ensemble has traveled throughout the United States and Canada and has won many “Best Ethnic” entertainment awards. The ensemble is led by Cosmo Timofeev, artistic director and choreographer, and Barbara Pappas, director.

The “Kaye Cook” Dancers

The “Kaye Cook” Dancers originated in the 80’s with a family of dancers called the Shaheer Family. The original group has moved on, but the dance tradition continues with dancers from Toledo Public Schools and Lutheran Christian School. We dance, create, chant, and feel the drum beat of West African dance moves. The audience will participate! For more information, call Kaye at 419 297-3399.

Kazenodaichi Taiko (Japanese Taiko Drum Ensemble)

Kazenodaichi Taiko is an ensemble of advanced drummers engaging in the expressive and dynamic Japanese art form, Taiko. The group uses big drums (taiko), which had their origin thousands of years ago in village, monastic, and festival life. The drums are now played in a group called kumidaiko, which infuses the modern with tradition and heritage, to produce a sound, style, and attitude that are larger than life. Get ready to live big with Kazenodaichi Taiko!

Millie and the Czech Us Out Band and/or Millie’s Polka Band

Millie Okapal, leader of the group should have the nickname “Firecracker”. She grew up in a very traditional Czech home where music was always a big part of her life. She learned to play the accordion and button box at an age when most of us are becoming grandparents. She and her late husband

traveled all over the Midwest entertaining thousands of polka fans. Her picture even landed on the Nebraska state roadmap. She’s been a guest musician with many headline polka bands, including Hank Haller and Fred Ziwich to name a few. Millie eventually began to gather other polka music lovers and musicians with her free spirited open-stage jam sessions at a popular Ottawa Lake tavern near her home. She has produced two music CD recordings that have been aired on many polka radio programs in Ohio, Michigan and Ontario, Canada. Millie was inducted into the Michigan State Polka Hill of Fame in 2008. Over the years the more tightly-knit group of Czech and Polish musicians have had so many requests for both Czech and Polish music and other ethnic tunes, that the name evolved from the original Millie and the Czech Us Out Band to Millie’s Polka Band as it is known today.

Polish American Concert Band

We are a 50-member year-round community band that enjoys playing music at locations throughout greater Toledo, OH. We are a diverse group with a shared love of music. Founded in 1890, we have some third and fourth generation members in the group—but are always looking for fresh faces. We rehearse Tuesdays from 7:30-9 pm at the Calvalry Bible Chapel on Alexis Road, between Secor and Talmadge. Come on out, we have a folder waiting for you! Contact: JimPacBand@yahoo.com.

Okinawan Shuri-Ryu Karate

Okinawan Shuri-Ryu Karate-Do, from the island of Okinawa, is a traditional Japanese martial art employing empty hand techniques and combat in tandem with Kobudo (weaponry), the extension of the empty hand. While defense in nature (only to be used in defense of one’s life, family, or country), this style nurtures the practitioner in a healthy and balanced development of body, mind, and spirit. Sensei Amanda Kaufman (Advancing Karate, Ltd.) is a 3rd degree Black Belt who teaches this martial art of Okinawan Shuri-Ryu Karate-Do and independent self-defense training programs to all ages and skill levels. For more information, call 419-509—4277, e-mail advancingkarate@yahoo.com, or visit www.advancingkarate.com.

Raijin Daiko

Raijin Daiko from the University of Toledo is a taiko (Japanese drumming) group playing in an Okinawan style called Eisa Daiko.

Rumblin’ Rhythm Cloggers

The Rumblin’ Rhythm Cloggers range from age of 12 to 76. Our dance form is a combination of Appalachian flatfoot dancing, Irish, African-American, and American tap, to name a few. The original cloggers did wear wooded-soled shoes. Modern style groups as we are wear a double or jiggle tap. We dance to a variety of music-Irish, bluegrass, country, and pop.

Shrine Brass Band

The TSCI International Festival Band is a small wind ensemble whose core membership is the Zenobia Shrine Band. In addition the band has other musicians who enjoy playing band music. The band programs music from different periods that is not often performed. This includes civil war music from the Confederate 26th North Carolina Regimental band, German military marches and lesser known American band pieces. Under the direction of David Kohler, the band practices Mondays from 7:30 – 9:00 at the Zenobia Temple in Perrysburg. Contact David Kohler at dkohler376@aol.com.

Teutonia Männer- and Damenchor

The Teutonia Männerchor (toy-ton -ya men-ner-kor) has entertained generations in the Toledo area with musical programs dating back to 1867! The Teutonia Männerchor was founded in 1867 as a German male chorus. As such, it is the oldest continuing performing arts organization in the Toledo area. The ladies' chorus, the Tuetonia Damenchor, was founded in 1969. The Teutonia choruses, under the direction of Eric Graber, rehearse every week on Monday evenings at Oak Shade Hall, 3624 Seaman Rd., in Oregon, during the months of September through June. There are currently 60 singers in the choruses. For more information, contact Tim by e-mail: teutonia@sbcglobal.net, or write: TEUTONIA, P.O. Box 167561 Oregon, OH 43616-7561.

The Three Amigos

Trio playing romantic Latin melodies from Mexico, Central America, and South America, especially from Columbia. Musical instruments include the harmonica, piano, guitar, maracas, and tambourine. Misael Martinez (guitar) is from Columbia, Pablo Zelaya (harmonica) is from El Salvador, and Bob Duris (piano) is from Toledo, Ohio. Contact info: Misael Martinez, 419-250-6565.

Toledo-Hyderabad Sister City Group

A fashion show of ethnic clothing and a dance performance evoke the charm and heritage of Pakistan.

Toledo International Youth Orchestra (TIYO)

Toledo International Youth Orchestra (TIYO) has been in existence since 2000 under the direction of Mr. Yang Kun Song. It is composed of over 50 student musicians from NW Ohio and southern Michigan. Their mission is to bridge cultural differences through music. For more information about TIYO, contact Liz at 419-350-9895.

Toledo School for the Arts Afro-Caribbean Dance and Drum

A high-energy group of dancers and drummers will perform, featuring authentic African and Central American dance and drumming, plus original choreography flavored with traditional styles. For more information, contact Bethany at burbanski@ts4arts.org.

Toledo Swiss Singers

The Toledo Swiss Singers is a chorus comprised of approximately 45 men and women. It evolved from the original "Toledo Gruetli Verein" or men's society, which was founded on May 9th, 1869. In 1894, a women's auxiliary was added to accept wives and daughters as members. It wasn't until 1930 that meetings were held in English. In 1888 the Helvetia Maenerchor - Swiss Men's Choir - was founded and the singing began. As the years passed, the society gradually became more international in flavor and the group adopted the more Americanized name of the "Toledo Swiss Singers," joining the men's and ladies choirs in 1924. Our aim is to retain and preserve the culture and songs of Switzerland, live up to our ancestors' tenets of faith and behavior, help others and be good citizens. Having a good time is a must! Our group is a "young" group with ages running from 17 to 80+. If you enjoy singing, please feel free to come over and check us out - you will be surprised! Speaking or knowing German is not required - we will help you. For more information, feel free to call Marcia Amstutz at 419-862-3707, Phil Huffman at 419-727-8280 or Marilyn Riedeman at 419-855-4192.

Washington Local Schools 5th Grade LEAP German Singers

Once a year for about 8 weeks, Washington Local School's gifted elementary students learn a foreign language. In the 5th grade, they learn German. We would like to perform for you now some of the songs and dances we've been learning.

Congratulations to TSCI 2013!
from the acclaimed writer/physician
Simi K. Rao
releasing her first major novel *this summer*
Find my musings, short stories,
cultural insights and more at my official blog!
SimiK Rao. Wordpress.com
Find us on **Facebook** facebook.com/simikrao
 @simikrao

Sister City Organizations Reaching Out to the World

Sister City organizations in Toledo appear below, presented in order of the year a Sister City Agreement was signed. The Sister City and Country appear on the second line.

Association of Two Toledos (1931)

Toledo, Spain

Established in 1931, the Toledo, Ohio – Toledo, Spain connection is the oldest formally recognized sister-city relationship in the world. The cultural and historical connection, however, goes back to at least 1835. In that year the fledgling local newspaper, The Blade, figuratively rattled sabers, made of steel from the Spanish city, in defense of Ohio's claim to what is now Toledo, during the dustup with Michigan in what came to be known as the "Toledo War." Spanish and American Toledoans probably first met personally at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. In 1909 Wamba, a medieval Spanish king, was chosen as patron and centerpiece of a folk festival along the banks of the Maumee. In the early twentieth century, two University of Toledo presidents visited Spain and adopted a Spanish crest and a Spanish motto for the institution. And in the 1920s Toledo, Ohio's Rosary Cathedral was designed with a Spanish model in mind.

In 1934 a delegation of local dignitaries, including a high school student, was invited by the city council of Toledo, Spain and the government of the Spanish Republic to attend the week-long Corpus Christi celebrations in Toledo, Spain. Plans were made for a Spanish delegation to return the visit in 1937 as part of Toledo, Ohio's centennial celebrations. However, the Spanish Civil War, World War II, and a dozen years of Spanish political isolation impeded any further formal contacts until the 1950s. In the early 1950s, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially recognized the value of "sister city" relationships and this became the basis for the Sister Cities International organization of which Toledo Sister Cities is a member, representing Toledo, Ohio.

A Spanish delegation finally arrived in 1962, twenty-five years late. Since then, several formal exchange delegations, including several mayors and local dignitaries, have gone in both directions. Activities over the years have included student, athletic, and artistic exchanges. In 1962 the first satellite phone call, via Telstar, between Spain and the US was between the city halls of our two cities. In 1966 the film El Greco, starring Mel Ferrer, was premiered in the Ohio Toledo. In 1971, in response to the naming of "Toledo, Ohio Street" in Spain, "Toledo Spain Plaza" was dedicated at the corner of Monroe and Collingwood. In the same year, Toledo, Ohio donated a Jeep to the municipal police of Toledo, Spain. In 1982 the Toledo Museum of Art hosted a magnificent exhibition of paintings by El Greco, and 1990 featured the dedication of the stunning mural of the two Toledos which can be viewed today in the lobby of the Real Seafood restaurant at International Park. On the fiftieth anniversary, in 1981, large delegations went in both directions, and the Americans were received by King Juan Carlos. On the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary, King Juan Carlos, presiding at a ceremony of the Royal Foundation of Toledo, presented a plaque to the American delegation, which represented both Toledo Sister Cities International and the Association of Two Toledos.

Qinhuangdao Sister City (1985)

Qinhuangdao, China

Qinhuangdao is known as the Glass City of China and is a major port about a two-hour train ride from Beijing. As one of the most beautiful and pleasant Chinese cities near the Pacific Ocean, Qinhuangdao is also a popular vacation destination.

Michael Cicak of Glasstech, Inc., worked closely with Mayor Donna Owens in 1985 to establish this sister city relationship. Since then, many Chinese and American community leaders, including Dr. Yueh-Ting Lee, Dr. Guangzhong Chen, and Ms. Hewen Slak, have developed and supported joint initiatives that encompass education and cultural exchanges, business and economic development, and medical and health collaboration.

This constructive cooperation has led to the development of a partnership agreement between Yanshan University and the University of Toledo. The Toledo Hospital has also developed a partnership with Qinhuangdao's First People's Hospital.

In September 2010, a delegation from Toledo led by Mayor Michael Bell met in Beijing with a delegation from Qinhuangdao, and the China Committee of Toledo Sister Cities International was established to further support this relationship.

Every year, four or five delegations from the Qinhuangdao come to visit Toledo. Qinhuangdao also sends Chinese students to the International Youth Academy. Many college students from Qinhuangdao also come to study in Toledo and college students from Toledo visit Qinhuangdao each year.

For more information, contact Chris Weisfelder at chris.weisfelder@toledo.oh.gov.

Toledo-Szeged Committee, Inc. (1990)

Lucas County – Csongrad County (1996)

Szeged (Csongrad), Hungary

Szeged, in Csongrad County, is located on the Great Plain in southern Hungary. The Szeged-Toledo sister city relationship was established under the leadership Rev. Martin Hernady of St. Stephen's Church and Ann Galloway, then vice-president of Sister Cities International. The sister city agreement was signed in October 1990. Founding members included Ann Galloway and Judy Balogh. State Representative Peter Ujvagi was also been instrumental in strengthening the relationship, having led trade delegations to Szeged and welcomed Hungarian leaders in Toledo. Additionally, a relationship was established between Lucas County and Csongrad County, Hungary, in 1996.

The Toledo-Szeged Committee supports educational exchanges on both secondary and university levels in collaboration with the Toledo-Lucas County and the Szeged-Csongrad County Friendship Association in Szeged. The committee has hosted many political leaders, professors, students, and musicians. In 2011, the Toledo-Szeged Committee welcomed Mayor Laszlo Botka of Szeged to Toledo.

The Toledo-Szeged Committee is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Hungarian heritage through interchange of people, programs, and ideas. Ongoing programs include a Christmas gift project (that provides gifts to orphans and underprivileged families) and participation in the Birmingham Festival. Cultural programming such as concerts, galas, craft demonstrations, and lectures by visiting dignitaries are also offered.

Since 1999, the dual relationships with Szeged and Csongrad County have received additional support from the Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development.

For more information, contact Eric Bergman at bergmanwriter@aol.com.

Toledo-Poznan Alliance (1991)

Poznan, Poland

Poznan was the general departure point for most of Toledo's immigrants from Poland. Encouraged by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, the Toledo-Poznan Alliance was established in 1990. In the spring of 1991 the respective mayors signed official documents in Toledo and Poznan. In 1992, the Toledo-Poznan Alliance assisted in the founding of the Toledo Sister Cities International (TSCI).

Poznan is located in one of the most commercially active regions of Central and Eastern Europe. As the home to year-round international trade fairs, Poznan represents a gateway to the emerging markets of Eastern Europe. The Toledo-Poznan Alliance has welcomed leaders from Poznan to Toledo and has assisted in the development of educational exchanges. In addition, the University of Toledo and the Adam Mickiewicz University have explored the possibilities of academic exchanges between the sister universities.

For more information, contact Kathy Grabel at bokat@buckeye-express.com.

Lebanese Sister City Regional Committee (1998)

Beqaa Valley, Lebanon

The Beqaa is a vast open valley nestled in-between Lebanon's two mountain ranges. It has long been known as the bread basket of Lebanon and a corridor of civilizations. Since ancient times, the valley has been the source of the region's agricultural heritage and a thoroughfare for commerce.

A regional relationship between the Beqaa Valley in Lebanon and the 9th U.S. Congressional District in Northwest Ohio was signed in October 1998. Persons instrumental in the development of the sister region relationship were Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Yehia (John) Shousher, President of the Lebanese-American Association of Toledo, and Genevieve Geha-Kirkbride, Chairperson of the Toledo Sister Cities Lebanese Regional Committee.

The support for this endeavor flowed from the strong Lebanese-American community in the Toledo area and the desire to foster appreciation, education and enjoyment of the Lebanese culture. Projects have included a shipment of wheat and medical equipment to Lebanon with the aid of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and through the efforts of John Shousher and his committee. The committee has also lent its support to Lebanese students at the University of Toledo, particularly with student exchanges.

Beqaa Valley projects are ongoing and continue to be supported by the Toledo area Lebanese-American community – both Christian and Muslim – in Northwest Ohio. Despite the political difficulties in the Middle East, the connection between Lebanese people in Northwest Ohio the Middle East remains strong and active. Through these efforts, it is hoped that friendly person-to-person and institution-to-institution interaction will promote better understanding and acceptance of all peoples.

For more information, contact Genevieve at veve33@buckeye-express.com.

Toledo-Toyohashi Sister City Committee (2000)

Toyohashi, Japan

The Toledo-Toyohashi Sister City relationship began in 1997 when Mrs. Justine Singer visited Toyohashi and became friends with Mr. and Mrs. Murata. In the fall of 1998, the Toyohashi Photo Club sent its first delegation to Toledo.

In February 1999, a Toledo delegation visited Toyohashi to plan for sister city relations. In September of 1999, an official Toyohashi group came to Toledo. On April 29, 2000, a twelve-member Toledo delegation participated in the signing of sister city relations in Toyohashi. Mayors Finkbeiner and Hayakawa signed the document for their respective cities. On May 16, 2000, the two mayors repeated the signing ceremony at the Toledo Museum of Art.

Since then, there have been many exchanges with the eighth biennial visit of representatives of the 23 Toyohashi Junior High School students to Toledo to take place at the end of October 2013. Several high school visits have taken place between the two cities with the Bowsher High School and the Toyohashi Commercial High School exchange as one of the leaders. Annually, a University of Toledo student delegation, led by Professor Joseph Hara, visits Toyohashi and has become a regular part of our international friendship. Students from Toyohashi have been participants in our annual summer International Youth Academy (IYA).

In July 2006, Toledo City Council President Mark Sobczak and others traveled to Toyohashi to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the official designation of Toyohashi as a city. In both 2009 and 2010, Professor William Hoover led groups of citizens to Toyohashi. In March 2010, more than 100 Toyohashi youth orchestra members performed concerts in Toledo and in the summer of 2011, the Toledo International Youth Orchestra visited Japan and presented concerts in Toyohashi.

The Toledo-Toyohashi Sister City Committee (TTSCC) expects 10 Japanese students to participate in our International Youth Academy this summer, Professor Hara's students to visit Toyohashi, and other exchanges not yet specified. TTSCC welcomes new members and people interested in participating in our programs.

For information, please contact William D. Hoover; 2240 Goddard Road; Toledo, Ohio 43606; whoover@utoledo.edu; 419-531-8242.

Toledo-Tanga Sister Cities Committee (2001)

Tanga, Tanzania

Tanga is located in east Africa. Like Toledo, Tanga is a seaport, and the population of the two cities is also about the same. In 1996, a group of citizens interested in promoting and cultivating international relations with a city in Africa met under the leadership of Virginia Haywood-Smith. From this interest, the African Sister Cities Committee of Toledo Sister Cities International was formed. In 1999, after researching and exploring a number of possible sister cities, the committee decided to pursue a sister cities relationship with Tanga, Tanzania.

In 2001 the sister cities agreement was signed by Tanga Mayor Salim Kassim Kisauji and Toledo Mayor Carleton Finkbeiner. While touring the Toledo Fire Department garage, Mr. Kisauji voiced a need for a fire truck. Toledo's current Mayor Michael Bell (who was Fire Chief at the time) arranged for the donation of a used fire truck, and the Toledo-Tanga committee raised funds for shipping it to Tanga.

The committee has also sent medical supplies to a health clinic in Tanga and donated funds to an AIDS orphanage. A pen pal relationship has been established between the Toledo Early College High School and the Toledo Secondary School in Tanga, and the Toledo-Tanga Committee has paid the tuition for four students enrolled there. The committee has also supported the Toledo International Youth Orchestra's project for building a classroom at the school and providing school supplies and physical education equipment.

A Sister Cities International (SCI) grant was awarded to Tanga, in 2010, through the African Urban Poverty Alleviation Program. This project, coordinated by our sister cities in Toledo and Tanga, constructed three toilet blocks in heavily populated areas of Tanga— Mkwakwani Market, Mgandini Market, and Sakarani Garden. The grant also included the construction of a maternity ward at Duga Dispensary, as well as, medical supplies.

For more information, contact Chris Weisfelder at chris.weisfelder@toledo.oh.gov.

Delmenhorst Sister City Committee (2002)

Delmenhorst, Germany

In 1999 former TSCI Executive Director, John Henry Fullen, approached the Toledo German community to see if there was any interest in forming a sister city relationship with a city in Germany. A committee was formed under the leadership of Christa Luttmann, Erich Drescher, and Hans Ersepke. The committee contacted Dr. Dirk Schroeder, who was the president of the German-American Club of Bremen, Germany. Attempts to establish that relationship were not successful, so Dr. Schroeder approached community leaders in Delmenhorst, a city about 18 miles southwest of the port city of Bremen. This resulted in the formation of NordSCI, encompassing Delmenhorst and the surrounding area of the northwest state of Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony) with Friedrich Niemyer as Committee Chairman. In December 2002, a Sister City agreement was signed by Toledo Mayor Jack Ford and Delmenhorst Mayor Carsten Schwettmann in Toledo City Council chambers. The relationship was finalized in September 2004 with Mayor Jack Ford leading a delegation to Delmenhorst. Others instrumental in the development of the sister city relationship were German-American Festival members Peter Petersen and Frank Fink, as well as Delmenhorst Vice-Mayor Anke v. Wittke-Grothenn and her husband Heinz Grothenn. The committee has established and supported partner school relationships, participated in art and cultural exchanges, and has hosted several business delegations

As an extension of the educational component of TSCI's mission, the Toledo-Delmenhorst Committee began a series of presentations on October 20, 2011 at Oak Shade Grove in Oregon, OH. Topics of these presentations have included German Troops in the Civil War, the history of German businesses in the Toledo Area, a history of the city of Delmenhorst, a report on the annual student exchange between Bowsher High School and Maxx Planck Gymnasium students, a history of the waves of German immigrants, and some personal biographies of local German-Americans.

For further information, please contact Rogene Kohler at dkohler376@aol.com or 734-856-2913.

Toledo-Coimbatore Sister Cities Committee (2010)

Coimbatore, India

The city of Coimbatore established an international sister city relationship with the city of Toledo to foster friendship between citizens and cultivate international cooperation. This effort was led by Dr. Subba Rao and Dr. Ragu-Nathan. Coimbatore, known as the Manchester of South India, is home to a large number of textile mills, textile machinery manufacturers, hosiery units and engineering industries.

Coimbatore is strategically located at the junction of the three modern southern states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka, with proximity to many important cities of southern India. Also known as Kovai, Coimbatore (population 1.25 million) is the second largest city of Tamil Nadu and one of the fastest growing cities in India.

As an example of Coimbatore's growth as a center for higher education, PSGIM, the premier educational institution in Coimbatore and the University of Toledo have a well-established relationship for the last four years, with students from Coimbatore completing the second year of the MBA program at the University of Toledo. Additionally, there have been faculty exchanges, joint research projects and a televised conference between the family business leaders. The city is also a center for culture. Musicians, dancers, artists, business persons and educators regularly visit Toledo to give performances and talks.

For more information, contact, contact Kalpa at Kalpanavaransi@yahoo.com.

Hyderabad, Pakistan Sister City (2011)

Hyderabad, Pakistan


Hyderabad is one of the oldest cities of the Indian sub-continent and lies just east of the River Indus. It is an important commercial and industrial center, with a history also of silk production and gold work. It is also well-known as the city that makes the decorative glass bangles so popular in South Asia.

In 2011, the city of Hyderabad established an international sister city relationship with the city of Toledo to bring business, cultural, and educational benefits to each city. This effort was led in Toledo by Dr. Anwer Ali. Medical tourism, educational training (especially of medical students), and investment are priorities.

For more information, contact , contact Chris Weisfelder at chris.weisfelder@toledo.oh.gov.



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The Toledo-Delmenhorst (Germany) Committee

Toledo Sister Cities International Festival

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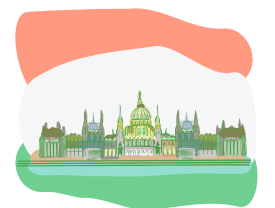
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Qinhuangdao Sister City, China



Qinhuangdao, China is a port city located just northeast of Beijing. Since the Sister City relationship was established in 1985, the committee has been in constant collaboration with Toledo, working to advance cultural, educational, and medical exchange. Student exchanges have taken place and we are pleased with the successful collaboration and exchange between the First People's Hospital in Qinhuangdao and Toledo Hospital. Qinhuangdao is known as the Glass City of China, so shares a common background with Toledo, the Glass City.

Committee members include Joseph Chao, Amy Min Chen, Guangzhong Chen, Gerry Dane, Llew Gibbon, Jim Hartung, Bruce Kennedy, Mingsheng Li, Jun Lu, Jinghua Deng Meyer, Russ Reising, Yangkun Song, Dengyue Sun, Qi Wang, Yanling Yan, and Xianwu Zeng.



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Toyohashi, Japan

For information contact:
Professor William D. Hoover
419-531-8242
whoover@utoledo.edu



Important approaching events:

This summer, Toledo Sister Cities International will host its 18th annual International Youth Academy. The Toledo-Toyohashi Sister City Committee expects ten Japanese students to participate in this popular program. In addition, a number of US students will visit Toyohashi.

If you would like to be involved with the committee and especially if you would like to be a host family, please contact Professor William D. Hoover at 419-531-8242 or at whoover@utoledo.edu.

Bekaa Valley, Lebanon



We honor the spirit of brotherhood to promote cultural understanding and to build relationships both within and between nations.

Thanks to the local leadership of Toledo's Lebanese-American Community, the 9th Congressional District, and the people of Bekaa Valley, Lebanon!

Hyderabad, Pakistan



Hyderabad, Pakistan and Toledo, OH became sister cities on February 15, 2011.

Hyderabad is a city, district, and division in the Sindh province of Pakistan. Hyderabad is one of the oldest cities of the sub-continent and lies just east of the River Indus. Before the creation of Pakistan, it was known as the Paris of India. It was the capital of the Sindh province until the capital was transferred to Karachi. Hyderabad is an important commercial and industrial center, with key production of textiles, sugar, cement, as well as the manufacturing of glass, soap, ice, paper, and plastics. It also has a history of silk production, silverwork, gold work, and lacquer.

Newly developed settlements and industrial estates surround the congested old city area. Hospitals, universities, municipal gardens, a zoo, sports stadium, and several literary societies are in the city. Hyderabad is known for its cool breezes and balmy nights. The Toledo-Hyderabad Sister City Committee Members are pleased to participate in the Toledo Sister Cities International Festival.



COMMITTEE MEMBER

Dr. Anwer Ali
 Dr. Noor Khaskhely
 Dr. Shaukat Rashid
 Nasir Tausif
 Dr. Munir Ahmed

Naureen Ali
 Carrie Norris
 Dr. Abida Khan
 Ali Khan

For more information, contact: dranwerali@gmail.com



Coimbatore, India



Coimbatore, India and Toledo, Ohio established Sister City relationship in 2010. The cities share several similar characteristics, including a busy manufacturing economy.













Congratulations!

Toledo-Coimbatore Sister Cities Committee is pleased to participate in the International Festival!

Coimbatore is located in southern India with primary industries in engineering and textiles. Coimbatore is a manufacturing, tourism, educational, and health care center with nearly a million people.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about our committee, contact Kalpa at kalpanavarasaki@yahoo.com <<mailto:kalpanavarasaki@yahoo.com>>.

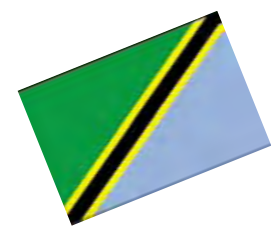
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Kalpa Varanasi Dr. Bina Joe

Dr. Crystal Luke Paresh Dalwalla

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Toledo Tanga Sister Cities Committee of TSCI (Tanga, Tanzania)



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Tanga, Tanzania



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- Financial Donations to an AIDS Orphanage in Tanga
- African Urban Poverty Alleviation Program for Construction of Public Toilets and Maternity Ward

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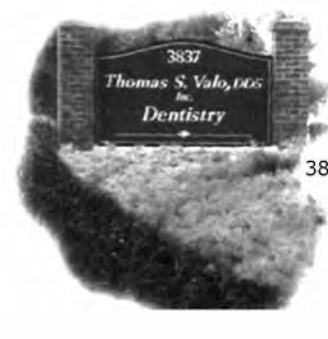
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For more information about CAGT, its membership and events, please visit
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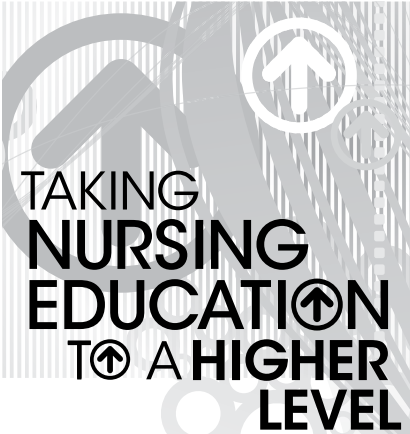
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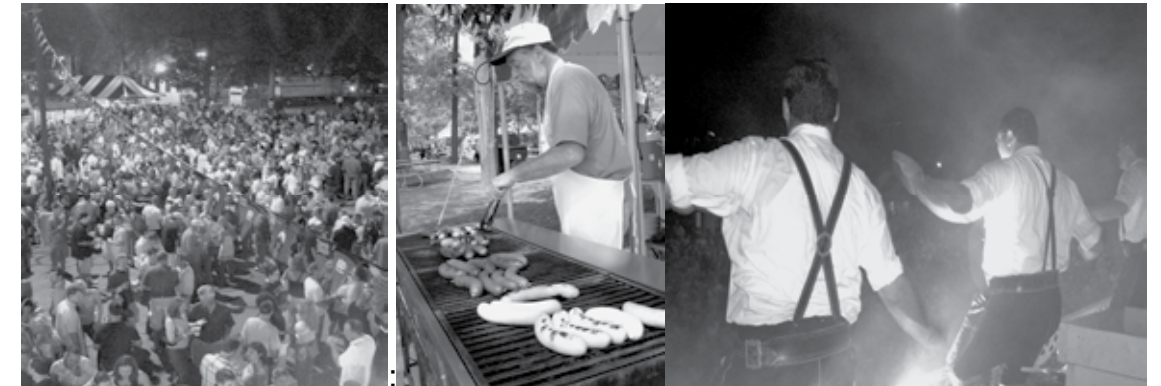
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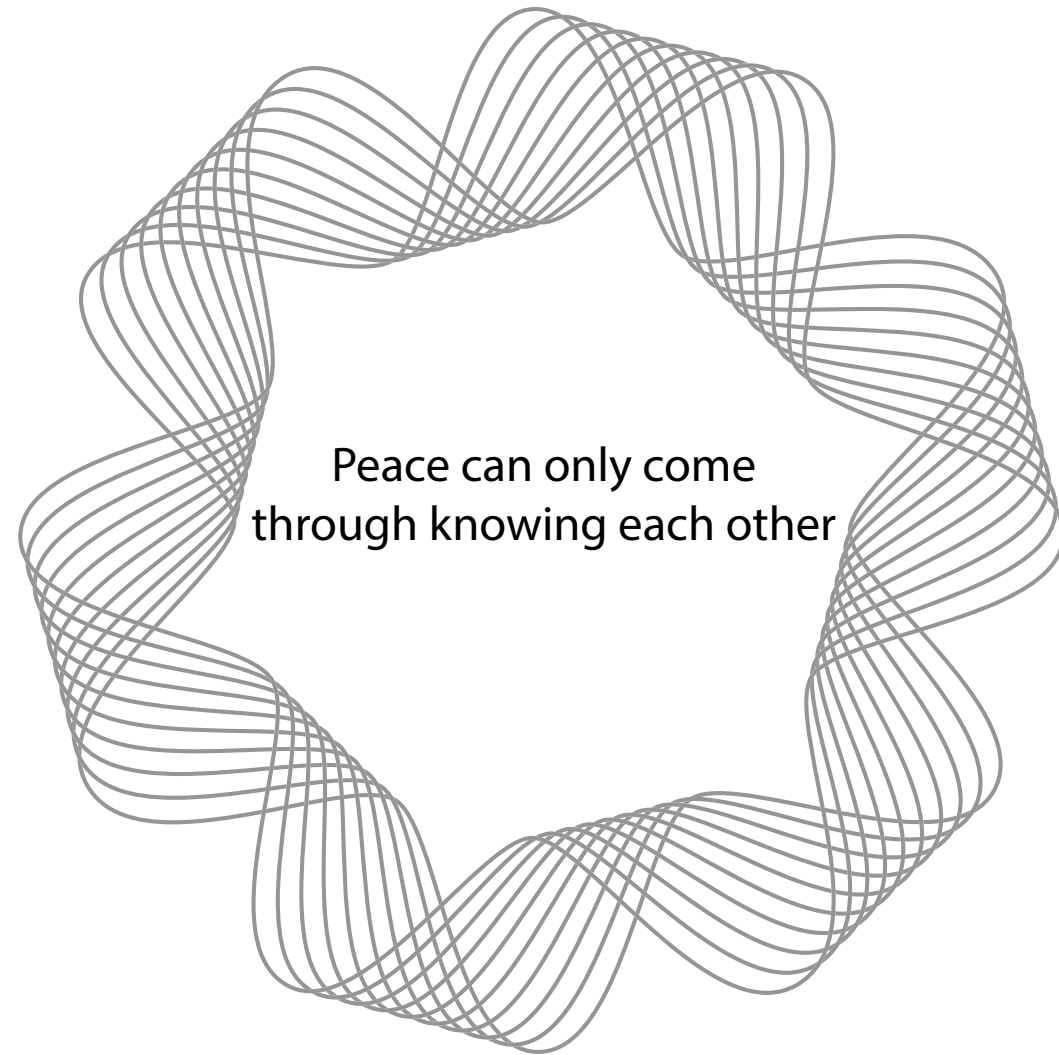
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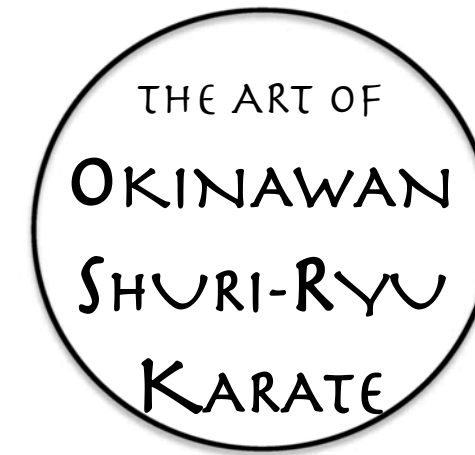
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Thank You to Committees and Community:

Thanks first to The University of Toledo for its generous support and assistance and to Sammy Spann, Assistant Provost, for his wealth of information and support for international programs. Thanks to Mayor Bell for all of his support with the International Festival. Thank you also to the people of Toledo for coming, for telling us from the beginning they have been waiting for an event like this to take place again.

Without the commitment and hard work of all the individuals on the committees of the International Festival we could not have put it on. At the risk of missing someone, we would personally like to thank all the committees and their members:

Festival Manager – Susan Miko with assistant manager, Rogene Kohler

Facilities & Venue Committee – Bill Hoover, Rogene Kohler, Angela McCulloch

Financial Director – Chris Weisfelder

Entertainment and Talent Committee – Rogene Kohler, Kristi Pawlak, Bruce Way

Sponsorship – Johnnie Early, Kalpana Varanasi, Tom Gutteridge

Food – Kimberlie Colson

Publicity – Glen Wang (webpage), Eric Bergman, Amy Bui, Gabor Balazs, and Johnnie Early (photography)

Program Content – Eric Bergman

Tickets – Angela McCulloch

Auction & Raffle – Pat Konwinski, chair, Walter Palicki, and the ethnic clubs

Auxiliary Services – Lisa Pietras, Eric Bergman, and many volunteers!

Decorations – Norm Beczynski, Teresa Brailsford

Student Contact – Lisa Pietras, Kalpana Varanasi

Vendors Committee – Lisa Pietras, Kalpana Varanasi, Angela McCulloch, and Jing Meyer

Language Corner – Kristi Pawlak, Amy Bui

Thank you also to all the members of the TSCI Board who helped by selling tickets. Thanks to Susan Miko, Executive Director, for her oversight and cheerful countenance. Thanks to Washington Local's 5th grade LEAP classes. Thanks to Norman Beczynski and assistant Teresa Brailsford for their assistance in decorating. Thanks to Bruce Way (formerly of WGTE and now with UT), Qarie Marshall from WGTE, and Rob Wiercinski from WTOL for serving as emcees during the event. Thanks to Michael Lieber, Sylvania Town Crier, and Brent Lohmann of B Creative for the TSCI logo design. In addition, thank you to Amelia Acuna and Anthony Tscherne of The University of Toledo for program design and publicity, to Brenda Young for venue assistance, and to Sara Clark for volunteer coordination at UT.

The Festival Committee Coordinators,
Eric Bergman, Kristi Pawlak, Lisa Pietras, and Johnnie Early

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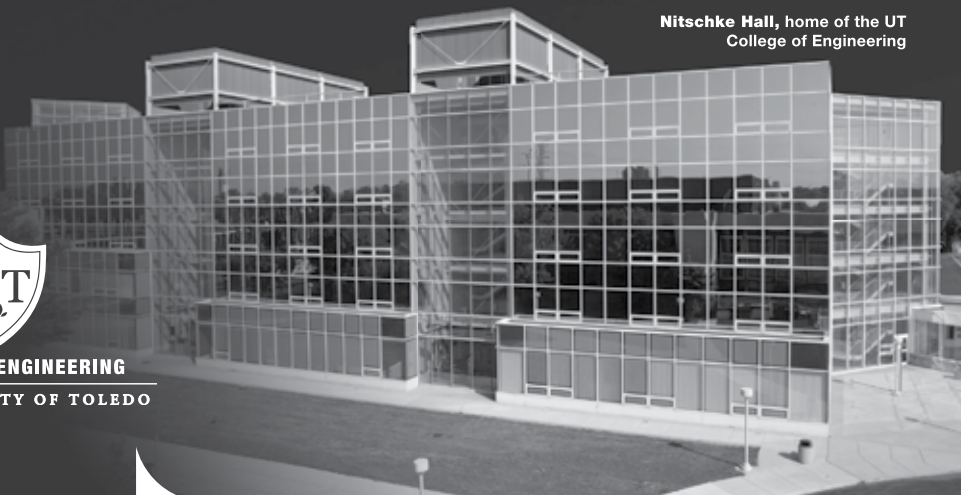
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To learn more about TSCI and its programs, or to become a member, contact:

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