

CIVIC CITIZEN

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The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

In This Issue

- * *President's Message*
- * *Bringing Iowa to the World*
- * *2001 CIVIC's Annual "Pot-Luck Picnic"*
- * *Recent CIVIC visitors*
- * *the Second Annual CIVIC Non-Event*
- * *NCIV Volunteer Citizen Diplomats Program nominated for Nobel Peace Prize*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all the members of CIVIC and to all our supporters who have served as professional contacts for our international Visitors (IVs). Thanks to you all—for without you, this organization would be unable to function.

As most of you know, CIVIC is one of 98 local Councils for International Visitors (CIVs) across the country that host IVs through the International Visitor Program sponsored by the US Department of State. The visitors are recommended by our embassies abroad in over 100 countries. We in Iowa City are eligible to host these IVs because we are an affiliate of the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV).

NCIV sponsors an annual meeting which is attended by representatives of the local CIVs and personnel of various Washington DC-based agencies who are responsible for the nation-wide planning for the IVs. This year's meeting was held in Pittsburgh and CIVIC was represented there by Tom Baldrige, executive director; Marianne Weiss, office coordinator; Doris Houser, board member, and me. The program included a full schedule of major speakers, with smaller seminars on many of the nitty-gritty aspects of creating successful programs for IVs. The time in between was spent making new friends from around the country and around the world. During these gatherings, we find that we often face the same problems in program-

Contd pg. 4

BRINGING IOWA TO THE WORLD

The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities had a highly productive year as we introduced nearly 140 visitors from all parts of the globe to Iowa City. Between June 2000 and June 2001, CIVIC volunteers hosted guests from Algeria to Zambia, New Zealand to Belarus. As lawyers, journalists, teachers in American studies, urban/rural planners, musicians, activists for non-governmental organizations and more, the visitors brought to Iowa the world's range of interests and professional involvement. In turn, Iowa shared its contacts and resources in the diverse fields of creativity for which our part of the state is known, including rural health care, agriculture, creative writing, legal education, voluntary organizations. Heading toward November last year, various journalists were offered insights into freedom of expression and the US system of presidential elections.

Members of CIVIC have had the opportunity, this past year, to offer hospitality to nurses from Andorra, an Egyptian Playwright, an Uzbek journalist, and university students from Belgrade who had played an active role in the positive changes currently taking place in the Balkans. In addition to arranging programs for individual visitors and small groups, CIVIC hosted several larger delegations. We organized hospitality for: Russian contem-



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Contd pg. 5

Sign up for the Second Annual CIVIC Non-Event!

A RETURN TO HIGH SCHOOL

This year CIVIC makes it possible for you to step back in time to recreate three days of The High School Experience.

Should you choose to avoid the experience, CIVIC makes it possible for you to “buy out” of the total experience or of as many components as you wish. The *entire Return to High School* can be avoided for only \$249.99. The cost of avoiding individual discomfitures appears on the brochure that was recently mailed to you.

To enjoy or avoid the pleasures of *déjà vu*, please make your buyout check payable to CIVIC, 120 International Center, Iowa City, IA 52242-1802.



Special Note: CIVIC has received compliments on the cleverness of the Non-Event mailing and the critique that this form of fundraising turns some people off. In any case, the amount of contributions so far has not been enough to cover the cost of mailing the brochure. PLEASE, this is a major fundraising effort on which we are counting for a significant portion of our budget. We need your support. If you see any value in citizen diplomacy, if you see our efforts to reach out to others around the world to help them to understand the United States and its citizens and for us to understand them in return as contributing to a safer and better world in which to live, please contribute financially so that we can continue. Our budget is not large, \$27,000 per year, but we must raise most of it through dues and donations. CIVIC was successful in gaining a modest increase in our support grant from the US State Department, but this was offset by the (understandable) decrease in the modest financial support received from the University of Iowa. Thank you for doing all you can. **P.S. It's tax deductible.**



NCIV Volunteer Citizen Diplomats Program from across the United States nominated by U.S. Senator Arlen Specter for the 2001 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

PITTSBURGH, PA, MARCH 9, 2001 - The volunteer organization, Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities (CIVIC) and volunteers of 97 sister organizations from 44 states across the U.S. were officially nominated for the Nobel Peace prize by U.S. Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

The surprise announcement was made during the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) annual meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. The ovation was deafening at the John Heinz History Center and Museum after more than 300 volunteer participants from across the country heard the first sentence of Senator Specter's nomination letter, "It is most gratifying for me to nominate the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV), Volunteer Citizen Diplomats Program, for the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize".

"What a tremendously exciting moment it was for me - celebrating NCIV's 40th anniversary and then being recognized in this way. I will remember this for the rest of my life," said Doris Houser, a CIVIC board member and volunteer attending the annual meeting.

According to Senator Specter's nomination letter, "Heads of State, including British Prime Minister

"This nomination acknowledges their tremendous efforts to foster international understanding and develop lasting ties, and we are very proud that Senator Specter recognized their contribution" - Tom Baldrige, CIVIC Executive Director.

2001 CIVIC's Annual "Pot-Luck Picnic" to Welcome IWP Writers

A 'Hot' time in City Park

WHEN: Wednesday, September 5th
Gather at 5:30 p.m.
Introduction and Eating at 6:00 p.m.
(more or less)

WHERE: Shelter No. 3, Upper City Park

WHY: To welcome the new International Writers from 25 countries,
To meet and make exciting friends,
To break bread with interesting people.

R.S.V.P. CIVIC office – 335-0351 or
Cadoretts – 644-2746
To tell us how many are coming & what kind of food you will bring.

In the July heat wave CIVIC hosted a pot-luck picnic for a group of medical students from Aichi University in Nagoya, Japan. They were studying English as a second language at the University of Iowa. Special thanks to Ashley Calkins, City High senior, who made many phone calls for the cause and on the evening following took the group to the Johnson County 4-H Fair.



Home hospitality at Kathie and David Belgum's for a Multi-Regional group in Foreign Policy from Albania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Pakistan, Slovenia, and Tunisia.



This edition of the CIVIC newsletter was prepared by staff of CIVIC, with editing by Rowena Torrevillas, and the kind assistance of designer Modei Akyea.

NOBEL PRIZE NOMINATION CONTD.

Tony Blair, Anwar Sadat, Indira Gandhi, F. W. deKlerk and 185 other senior government officials have participated in NCIV related activities.”

The four-term Senator's letter also mentioned that “My wife and I have participated in many NCIV sponsored forums ... we have both enjoyed and benefited from the various programs which aim to increase the understanding and appreciation international cultures.”

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded annually to an individual or organization who “shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.” It is awarded in December by the Norwegian Nobel Committee to reward the champions of peace with no consideration given to the nationality of candidates.

“This is a great day for CIVIC and the highest recognition our volunteers could receive. For 15 years our 'citizen diplomats' have opened their homes, offices and classrooms for professional exchanges making friends with the world's new leaders. This

nomination acknowledges their tremendous efforts to foster international understanding and develop lasting ties, and we are very proud that Senator Specter recognized their contribution,” said Tom Baldridge, CIVIC Executive Director. The national network of over 300,000 volunteers from 44 states serves participants of the U. S. State Department's International Visitor Program and other prominent visitor exchanges. The mission is to promote democracy and worldwide peace by bringing international delegations to our region and managing one-on-one contacts to improve cross-cultural understanding. CIVIC also assists various departments of The University of Iowa and other community organizations in arranging appropriate local appointments and activities for international visitors.

The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities seeks volunteers to join their effort to promote democracy and friendship around the world. They can be reached at 319 335-0351 or through their website at www.uiowa.edu/~civic.



CIVIC thanks the Iowa City/Coralville Convention & Visitors Bureau for a \$200 grant to be used specifically for increasing tourism. CIVIC will use this grant to promote the resources of eastern Iowa among the agencies in Washington, D.C., which send international visitors to us.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTD.



ming and can share our solutions.

The four of us from Iowa City attended different sessions of the various seminars. Two that I attended were on HIV/AIDS and the environment, both growing problems around the world. These are areas in which we at CIVIC have done some programming in the past. Listening to the (somewhat depressing) data on the subjects and the needs of other countries, I understood that in Iowa cities, we are able to tap even more of our local resources and expand what we can offer the visitors. Due to the large number of countries needing information in these areas, there need to be many sites around the US where visitors can exchange information with their counterparts. We all depend on the services of our local professionals who graciously donate their time, even as we need to be considerate so as not to abuse their generosity.

While much of the focus was naturally international, the speaker I found the most moving was a Pittsburgh man, 'MacArthur genius award' winner William Strickland, who had been, as a youth, talented but unmotivated and on a road to trouble. He received help and went on to establish a high school; the mission of the school is to seriously challenge young people—not only to work very hard, but to be creative in both traditional artistic venues, and in such areas as cooking and construction. The message that came out of this was that one person can make a difference and can join with others to change our world for the better—starting wherever one is at the time.

Next year's meeting is scheduled for March 14-16, 2002, in Washington, DC. In addition to the speakers and seminars, there will be time set aside for delegates to make appointments to meet with each of our congressional representatives, so we can request that they support an adequate budget for the International Visitor Program. These meetings in themselves are an educational experience. All CIVIC members are eligible, indeed encouraged, to attend the annual meeting. Please consider putting this on your calendar, and contact the office for more information. Join us for a great and inspiring time.

-Jeanne Cadoret

Recent CIVIC visitors



Visitor from Madagascar at Hawkeye Foodservice Distribution, Inc., May 22, 2001

L-R: Dick Braverman, Angela Gaboza Rabozakandraina, Jeff Braverman; interpreter Margot Fox

Ms. Rabozakandraina came from Antananarivo, Madagascar, where she is Project Head, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She is responsible for the development of the national program on food security, and has a special interest in health and nutrition. As part of her program in Iowa City she visited Hawkeye Foodservice Distribution, Inc., to learn about the role of dietitians at the wholesale level and their support of state and federal nutrition and food safety standards.



The CIVIC Annual Dinner 2000, at the Wayne Richey Ballroom, IMU

Thomas Baldrige (CIVIC executive director); Ambassador Kenneth Quinn (President of World Food Program and former Ambassador to Cambodia); Remi Cadoret (CIVIC member)

BRINGING IOWA TO THE WORLD *Contd.*

porary musicians in the spring; the annual picnic for the International Writing Program, and a program for fifteen teachers of American Studies from a diverse range of places including Gaza, India, Tunisia, and Yemen were highlights of the fall programming; and a potluck for ten students from Tokyo Denki University enlivened a cold winter.

The majority of these visitors were guests of the Department of State, through the International Visitor Program. Their professional contacts across the US were administered by various agencies, including the Institute for International Education, Meridian International Center, Delphi International, the Phelps Stokes Fund and the Africa-America Institute.

The visitors' activities in Iowa City were planned by a stalwart group of CIVIC volunteers and staff led by Executive Director Tom Baldrige,



Office Coordinator Marianne Weiss and CIVIC President Jeanne Cadoret. The volunteers most active in programming were Carol Spaziani, Bill Eginton, Mary Neuhauser, Doris Houser, Ian Smith, Judy Sutherland David Curry, Harry Kane, Earl & Marilyn Rose, Verne Kelley and Kathy Belgum. Additional programming was provided by Peter Hlebowitsh (College of Education faculty), Rowena Torrevillas (IWP coordinator), Jan Stoffer Tursi (Program Director, National Czech and Slovak Museum), Tim Walch (Executive Director, Hoover Library) Bill Aossey, Jr. (Cedar Rapids businessman), Lois Gugel and Dave Groh (Kalona), Karen Myers (Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies) and Tim Kramer (intern).

At the start of the new millennium, from the nation's heart, CIVIC continues to bring Iowa to the world.

CIVIC HONOR ROLL

These CIVIC members were active in CIVIC's Diplomat Program. They donated \$100 per year, in addition to their annual membership dues, for 5 years:

KENT AND LORETTA ANGERER
EDWIN AND ETHEL BARKER
JEANNE AND REMI CADORET
FRANK AND MARGARETH CHENG
JOHN AND JEAN ECKSTEIN
SANDRA AND GERALD ESKIN
ANN AND RICHARD FEDDERSEN
MARV HARTWIG
ARIE AND ANTONIA KROEZE
JOHN AND GERTRUDE MACQUEEN
IAN AND JEANNE SMITH

The following supporters started the program less than 5 years ago:

JANE HUIT
REX AND SANDRA HONEY
KENNETH AND JANIS HUBEL

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Member FDIC

CIVIC-Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

For nearly two decades CIVIC volunteers have personally welcomed international visitors chosen by U.S.embassies as potential national and international leaders. They come from fields of:

Politics & Government, Journalism & Law, Business & Finance, Education & Health Care, Agriculture & Environment, Engineering & Science.

Our guidance and hospitality make a difference. Visitors benefit from meeting Iowans in their homes, in their workplaces and at leisure. There are benefits for you as well:

- Learn of current conditions in countries of our visitors.
- Learn more about peoples of the world through direct experience.
- Appreciate how foreign cultural conditions can affect our government's actions and policies.
- Develop personal friendships and professional associations.
- View our customs and policies through the eyes of others.

CIVIC

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