

# The CIVIC Citizen

The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities



MARK YOUR CALENDAR . . . . .

*Fall* ANNUAL MEETING  
SCHEDULED. . . . .

The annual meeting of CIVIC is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>. Members, friends and other interested persons are invited to attend the business meeting. Ahmed Kanna, PhD, a visiting professor of Middle Eastern and Muslim World Studies will talk about his experience here at Iowa. This will be followed by a social hour.

Please watch for further notice with details.



We want to keep all of you informed of our many activities, and hopefully encourage you to pitch in when you can. Co-editors Pat Kelley and Marianne Weiss hope to issue the newsletter quarterly. We invite you all to email us any items of interest or photos of your activities with our visitors. Suggestions for the newsletter or the organization are also always welcome.

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## From the President's desk ~ ~

"Why should we have all the fun? . . . ."

Board member Tricia Knox inquired at the annual retreat last year. She thought that more people should have an opportunity to meet the international visitors. She also thought that the visitors should have a chance to talk to us, making it more of a "two-way street." When she and I attended the national conference of NCIV, we found that several others had come to a similar conclusion and were making time for a public forum in their schedules. "*Talk **with**, not **to***" was a common theme.

This year we have been able to schedule these "Open Forums" for several of the visitors. They are usually held on the final day of the visit, in late afternoon in the International Programs Commons Room, and are open to the public. Attendance has been from five to 20 people, some of whom are students.

Board member Pat Kelley has volunteered to organize a Hospitality component for these events, and has assembled an impressive committee. Marianne Weiss sends out a notice of the forum to all members who have email, and invites people to contribute snacks. Bev Palmer, Doris Houser, Carol Spaziani, and Ricardo Sauro, form teams to set up the snack and coffee table, welcome visitors, and clean up afterwards. This touch of Iowa hospitality provides a friendly atmosphere and makes the visitors feel at home.

Vice-President Newman Abuissa skillfully moderates the conversation. The visitors seem to enjoy the informality and are willing to talk about their country and their program—why they wanted to come to the U.S. and what they have been studying while here. It is a subtle, but significant, change in focus: they are not just here to learn from us; we can also learn a lot from them. We hope that more members of the community will join us for these forums and get in on the fun.

Jean Lloyd-Jones



### CIVIC Welcomes International Writers

CIVIC's second annual fund raising event was held at the Brown Deer Golf Club on September 5<sup>th</sup>. The 30 participants from 24 countries in the 2007 University's International Writing Program were welcomed to Iowa City as our guests. On arrival they were greeted by their "host for the evening" and were seated at different tables with the attendees. After the writers introduced themselves, a delicious assortment of many appetizer size dishes from around the world were served.

Music with an international flavor was featured before dinner by Tareq Abuissa, the son of Vice President Newman Abuissa and Firas Al Sutan.

Our evening's speaker was Dr. Alan Brody who has recently retired from a twenty-two year career with the United Nations as head of UNICEF for Swaziland, returning to Iowa to work as a full-time writer, lecturer and consultant. Dr. Brody uses story-telling to provide in-depth information about the AIDS epidemic. He concluded by reading a fable "Lessons from Pigg Farm" from his new collection "Children's Tales for Perilous Times", which uses the genre of animal fable to give commentary on contemporary issues.

Our honored guest, Hualing Engel, Professor Emerita and co-founder of the IWP also made a few comments.

Thanks go to Jo Jones, Doris Houser, Kathy Moyer, Margaret Richardson and Kathy Belgum, the committee in charge of arrangements; photographers Verne Kelley, Tricia Knox and Kenn Atkinson; and to the donors who helped support the event. In addition to raising money, many from our community have become friends with writers from all over the world.





**Eleven Women Leaders from Eight African Countries**



They were from Eritrea, Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The group included a municipal mayor, a municipal manager, the head of a national council of churches, the executive director of a chamber of commerce, owner/manager of a shoe factory, directors of human rights, development, and women’s organizations. Their program took them to four cities—Washington DC, Charlotte, North Carolina, Iowa City, and Los Angeles.

They had an extensive “wish list:” to meet women political and business leaders, to know how our city, county and university cooperates on issues of interest to women, to learn how we are dealing with HIV/AIDS, to find out how we train women in office/computer skills, and they wanted to see the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center in Cedar Rapids and visit the Amana Colonies.



Richard Grimlund coordinated local transportation in two University of Iowa maxi-vans, ably piloted by, Ken Atkinson, Cara Williams, Dongwang Liu, Jeanne Cadoret, and Linda Hubbard.

We also threw in some bonus events: the Friday night Gallery Walk, Church services on Sunday morning, and the Johnson County Democratic Barbecue on Saturday. They shook hands with the candidates, got autographs and had their photos taken.



All of us who had the good fortune to meet these beautiful women felt that it had been a wonderful experience. We sent them on to LA with mixed emotions.

**We applaud Citizen Diplomats whose volunteering makes our programs so successful . . .**

 <p><b>Programming</b></p> <p>Jean Lloyd-Jones Marianne Weiss Mona Martin Suzanne Kirchner Tricia Knox</p>	<p><b>Transportation</b></p> <p>Lester Batterman Janice Trammell Richard Grimlund Paul Werger John Christenson Pat William Joe AOssey Jeffrey Ford Ken Atkinson Cara Williams Dongwang Liu Jeanne Cadoret Linda Hubbard</p>	<p><b>Home Hospitality</b></p> <p>Lyle &amp; Linda Hubbard Don &amp; Suzanne Kirchner Dick &amp; Doris Myers David &amp; Tamara Schoenbaum Geraldene Felton</p> <p><b>Escort &amp; Lead Tours</b></p> <p>William Eginton Jean Lloyd-Jones Hatem Abumsizer Mona Martin</p>	<p><b>Overnight Stays</b></p> <p>Tom Carlisle &amp; Barbara Booth Steve Cunningham &amp; Judy Brown Jon Buswell &amp; Donna Chandler John &amp; Kathy Fait Fuller Don &amp; Suzanne Kirchner Jean &amp; Richard Lloyd-Jones Marilyn Neely Gayle &amp; Ken Royar</p>
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**Professional Appointments**

<p>Bill AOssey Stefanie Bowers William Casey Amy Correia Pam Creedon Monique Dicarlo Frank Durham Lyombe 'Leo' Eko Mohammad Hamas Elmasry Geraldene Felton Lois Gray</p>	<p>Bruce Gronbeck Kay Halloran Nicholas Johnson Beverly Jones Donna Katen-Bahensky Karen Kubby Larry Langley Janet Lyness Cliff Missen Lyle Muller Ginny Naso Joe Nolte</p>	<p>Carole Peterson Kurt Pierick Mark Ridolfi Gayle Savatos Christine Scheetz Gerald Sorokin Bill Tubbs Amy Weismann Vernon Yoder Mervat Abd Al Raouf Youssef James &amp; Catherine Sladek</p>	<p>Peveerill Squire Jerry Steffensmeier Charles Swanson Stephen Vlastos Jerry Waddilove Ross Wilburn Victor Zesiger Chris Merrill Jane McCune Dorothy Paul Sally Mathis Hartwig Marcella David</p>
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Chris Gnade  
Connie Benton-Wolfe

Cheryl McMillan

Linda Schreiber



### **New Feature . . . Get to Know Your Board of Directors**

Given his warm and welcoming nature, it is no wonder that Richard "Dick" Braverman found his way to CIVIC and its Board of Directors in 2001. "I have always had an interest in world affairs and helping people," Dick said. So far, his positions on the board have included being the 2001 treasurer and being a home hospitality host, among other volunteer duties.

His interest in international affairs is demonstrated by his degree in political science from the University of Iowa in 1955, after which he spent two years in the Army. Following his term of service, Dick then went on to join, and eventually head, his father's wholesale food business - Hawkeye Foodservice Distribution. In his years with CIVIC, Dick has volunteered his business for tours, making it a unique outlet to CIVIC/FRC visitors who are interested in food distribution. Dick's sons now run the company.

According to Dick, his parents greatly influenced his international worldview. Both his mother and father immigrated to the US from Poland, each having mastered an extraordinary number of languages and passing down a respect for people of other cultures. "They instilled in me the necessity of getting involved with people all over the world to make the world a better place," Dick said.

Dick's vision is not just for those around the globe, it is also for young people here at home. In this interconnected world, he would like to encourage high school students to pursue at least one foreign language. Furthermore, he hopes programs like CIVIC move into the high school setting. "I would like to see more done to get high school students involved in this (CIVIC) so that they are in tune with what is going on in the U.S. and the world, and know what they can do to pursue a career in diplomacy or international affairs. It is a dynamic field to get into." In addition to all this, he and his family continue to promote youth leadership through their annual scholarship to local high school seniors.

He does not anticipate that he will renew his term on the Board of Directors next year, but he does plan to stay involved in some capacity of CIVIC. Thanks to you, Mr. Braverman, for your service to our community and our world.



## *CIVIC*

*Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities*

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*Friends of CIVIC*

*YOU make the difference*