

**THANK YOU
For Sponsoring the Event:**

**KC Southern
Melinda Minks
Kory Gallaher
Top Innovations
Piming Kuo
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KCMO Police
Joe and Gloria Bessenbacher
Mike and Maggie Wood
Parks and Recreation KCMO
Office of City Manager KCMO
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
Jim Badzin and Allan Edelman**

**A special Thank You to the Luncheon Planning Committee:
*Susan Keipp, Jon McGraw, Melinda Minks and Ross Marine***

Special RECOGNITION

2008 Sister City Relationship Anniversaries

**Morelia—35 Years
Tainan—30 Years
Hannover—15 Years
Port Harcourt—15 Years
Ramla—10 Years**

2009 Sister City Relationship Anniversaries

**Freetown—35 Years
Xi'an—20 Years
France - 5 Years**

**Sister City Association of Kansas City, MO
4600 E 63d st, Kansas City, MO 64130
phone: (816) 513-7516 fax: (816) 513-7715
www.kcsistercities.org**

**Sister City Association of Kansas City
Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2008
-Kansas City Club-**

Program:

- 11:30 Gathering and Seating
11:45 Welcome and Recognition
- Mike Wood, President
Sister City Association of KCMO
- 11:50 Remarks
- Wayne Cauthen, City Manager KCMO
- 12:00 Invocation and Lunch
12:20 Slate Submission, Nomination and Election
of 2008-2009 Officers and Board Members
- Melinda Minks, Chair
SCAKC Nominating Committee
- 12:40 Awards Presentation
- Susan Keipp, Chair
SCAKC Awards Committee
 - Mike Wood
- 12:50 Final Remarks



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AWARD NOMINEES

Outstanding Project Award JOE BESSENBACHER

Joe has been instrumental in the preparation process of the KCPD's Spanish Immersion Program and has continually given a unique insight as to proper procedures, customs and behaviors of the inhabitants of Morelia, Mexico. He has worked tirelessly alongside KCPD department personnel and various community leaders in an effort to start this program. Its success is due in part to the commitment he had made. Joe assists at all opening ceremonies as well as contributing his time as a guest speaker in each class. He helps coordinate the cultural portions of the program, assists with graduation, and usually plans a trip to Morelia - in conjunction with the officers - to assist the instructor and students during their stay in Mexico. Joe has "personally forged a relationship with the people of Morelia and as a result has allowed our officers to benefit". From Officer Lynda Hacker, "Thank you for ...honoring a very deserving individual.

Special Conference Award CATHY LE

As SCI Conference manager Cathy served as the point of contact between Kansas City and Sister Cities International. She coordinated and communicated with IATO, SCI, and SCAKC and its Planning Committee. She spent many hours working with the special event subcommittees on venues, entertainment, contracts, transportation and scheduling. Cathy also coordinated budget and finance efforts and assisted in all aspects of sponsorship recruitment, activities and fulfillment. Cathy is a natural for this award - her work on behalf of SCAKC and the community was efficient, effective, professional and always done with grace and a smile.

Ray Morgan Spirit Award MIKE WOOD

Ray Morgan was a Past President of SCAKC who worked tirelessly to build and promote the sister city program of Kansas City as well as his participation in other international activities in the community. This Spirit Award recognizes someone who has made a significant contribution toward the advancement of this program. This is Mike's second year at the helm of our Sister City Association. He spent an extraordinary amount of time helping to make the recent SCI Conference a success by playing a significant role in helping to raise \$80,000 for the Conference. Mike has promoted SCAKC around the community and worked with various committee chairs to stimulate activities within their city committees. By always encouraging everyone to engage in each others' events and activities his approach is much in the spirit of how Mr. Morgan approached it.

ELECTION NOMINATIONS

Officers:

- President - Mike Wood
- 1st Vice President - Sam Nachum
- 2nd Vice President - Mary Edith Lillis
- Secretary - Susan Keipp
- Treasurer - Ross Marine
- Assistant Treasurer - Cynthia Pizano
- City Committee Chair - To be appointed by the President

Community Members:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. President | 6. Cynthia Pizano |
| 2. 1 st Vice President | 7. Jon McGraw |
| 3. 2 nd Vice President | 8. Kory Gallagher |
| 4. Secretary | 9. Melinda Minks |
| 5. Treasurer | 10. Ana Iriarte |

Non Voting Advisory Board:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. James Malouff III | 8. Barbara Dolci |
| 2. Marilyn Weld | 9. Gary Casey |
| 3. Alan Warne | 10. Jim Badzin |
| 4. Bob Lewellen | 11. Bruce Pennington |
| 5. Joan Caulfield | 12. Benny Lee |
| 6. Janiece Vohland | Names in Bold are new to Board |
| 7. Joyce Cox | |

13 Sister city Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs in good standing (as voted by committees):

1. Seville, Spain (1967)—Cristina Ruiz/Teresa Martinez
2. Kurashiki, Japan (1972)—Miyo Wagner/Tim Wagner
3. Morelia, Mexico (1973)—Gloria Bessenbacher/Joe Bessenbacher
4. Freetown, Sierra Leone (1974)— Hassan Kamara/John Akinwale
5. Tainan, Taiwan (1978)— Piming Kuo/Hong-Wen Yeh
6. Xi'an, China (1989)— Robert Chien/Jeannette Nichols
7. Guadalajara, Mexico (1991)—pending
8. Hannover, Germany (1993)— pending
9. Port Harcourt, Nigeria (1993)—pending
10. Arusha, Tanzania (1995)—Eslun Tucker/Deogratias Rutabana
11. San Nicholas de los Garza, Mexico (1997)—pending
12. Ramla, Israel (1998)— Sam Nachum/Shea Gordon Festoff
13. Metz, France (2004)— Ann Sunderland/Sherrill Mulhern

President's Awards

SUSAN KEIPP

Whenever a task needs to be done carefully and thoroughly for the Sister City Association, Susan Keipp has been the person that the current president and previous presidents have repeatedly turned to. There is no question that future presidents will come to rely on her as well. Susan has participated in the rewriting of the SCAKC bylaws and frequently is called upon as our resident parliamentarian. She officially became Secretary of the organization this year, but has filled in on many occasions in the past when her skills were needed. Her minutes are accurate, timely and make for a thorough historical record of the SCAKC board's activities. The very successful Young Artist's Competition, a part of the Sister Cities International Conference, was, from beginning to end, Susan's project. She promoted the contest, encouraged students and art teachers, rounded up judges and even transported easels when needed. And, she has even picked up the ball and filed our late tax returns when they have inadvertently fallen through the cracks. So, for always being on-call and exemplifying the spirit of Citizen Diplomacy, Susan Keipp is a recipient of this year's President's Award.

BENNY LEE

Few people have had greater impact on Kansas City's position as an international city than Benny Lee. He is an entrepreneur of uncommon acumen and his contributions to not-for-profit causes are legendary. The Sister City Association of Kansas City is among the most recent organizations to benefit from his participation. The successful 2008 Sister Cities International Conference, which put Kansas City in a most favorable international light, might not have been possible without his committed leadership. His own personal involvement was evident to anyone who helped plan the event, but equally important was his encouragement of professional colleagues and personal friends to become engaged as well. Benny is a native of Taiwan, and though he only recently became an American citizen, he provides personal testimony to such fundamental American values as volunteerism and charitable giving. His service to the cause that Sister Cities stands for make him an ideal recipient of the 2008 SCAKC President's Award.

Volunteer Recognition

AWARDING VOLUNTEER PINS

Thank you all for your great support throughout the year!

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Community Service Awards

TERESA MARTINEZ

The amount of time it took to successfully coordinate and manage the volunteer program for the SCI Conference was huge. Teresa headed this up and after emailing and confirming over 160 volunteers she set up two training sessions at the Kaufmann Foundation to lay out the details for all the volunteers. She coordinated all scheduling specifically to match the needs and availability of each volunteer. In tandem with the training, she created a profession power point presentation to enhance information presented at the sessions. Many phone calls and emails were made to confirm specific assignments. Teresa also set up the volunteer check-in efficiently along with the volunteer room where refreshments were available for everyone. The volunteer program was lauded as very streamlined and very successful.

MELINDA MINKS

Melinda is well acquainted with the activities of the Sister City and Ethnic Enrichment organizations. Whenever the opportunity presented itself to feature members of our Sister Cities community and the countries involved in the Ethnic Enrichment Commission Melinda took advantage of those opportunities. Whether it was a festival, a special event or a public appearance, she could be counted on to commit her energy and hours to making it happen. This year she utilized her energy, resources and contacts in assisting SCAKC prepare for and host the SCI Conference. She assisted in coordinating the Opening Reception at the Liberty Memorial Museum, once again utilizing members of the ethnic community as meeters and greeters. She has worked tirelessly on The Stand of Colors, the SCI Conference, the Ethnic Enrichment Festival and the Dragon Boat Festival. Melinda's community service is stellar and often without equal.

SAM NACHUM

Sam is our Sister City Chair for Ramla, Israel. He is owner of Jerusalem Stone, here in Kansas City, and this year he donated over \$4,000 in kind key chains for all the delegates attending the 2008 SCI Conference. Sam donated the stone that adorns the stage at the Truman Library, stone artwork to the Reece/Nichols Benevolent Fund, Jewish Vocational Service, the BIAV Mordechai Award, and the list goes on. During the preparations for the Conference he was instrumental in having the Deputy Mayor of Ramla and other dignitaries attend. He maintains a good relationship with the Mayor of Ramla and other civic leaders in both cities that are involved with Ramla. This year Sam and his wife, Dana, hosted the singing group from Israel, Ram Nor, that performed at the Jewish Community Center in recognition of Israel Independence Day. Sam has such an appreciation for life and moves about with limitless energy and enthusiasm doing many kindnesses for others – some we know about and some done without looking for an accolade.