

2021-02-18 Pasadena Sister Cities Minutes

Attendees: Michael Warner, Taleen Hindoyan, Laura Terry, Carla Boykin, Kevin Muhlback, MaryEtta Knox, Boualem Bousseloub, Angie Gomez, Joan Reyes, Helen Kouyoumdjian, Lena Kennedy, Ofelia Edmondson, Maureen McConnell, Johnny Kamon, Bryan Takeda, Joan Reyes, Tammy Silver, Lucie Sarkissian, Maggie Gihanian, Isabel Warner, Elisia Ligons Farmer, Berdge Babikian, Armen Aroyan.

Guest: Lucia Adams

Approval of the January 2021 minutes: Joan Reyes moved and Maggie Gihanian seconded. Motion passed.

Membership: Taleen said we have 42 paid members with a total of 79 people on our roster. If you haven't yet paid your dues, send \$25 check payable to Pasadena Sister Cities Committee to: Pasadena Sister Cities, PO Box 822, Pasadena CA 91101

Senegal: Lena Kennedy spoke about how to get more young people involved in Pasadena Sister Cities. Youth-to-Youth committee is a possibility. Maybe even as young as elementary school aged. Partner with other community organizations like church youth organizations. They will work with Carla Boykin. Doing a writing and creative project contest. Winning pieces of writing will be displayed at the Central Library and artwork in various Pasadena libraries. Boualem spoke about developing a partnership with San Rafael Elementary School. He talked about their ongoing speakers series. They had over 150 attendees at their last Zoom speaker event with Dr. Wiggins from Caltech.

Japan: Johnny Kamon said he needs payment for the sheets of stamps. He and Michael will coordinate payments for orders. Michael will email people that ordered. There is a workshop in May coordinated by the California-Japan Sister Cities Network. Supported by the Northern and Southern California Consulate Generals of Japan. Will discuss best practices for virtual exchanges. Everyone is invited and you will hopefully hear a lot of good ideas. Bryan Takeda said they are working on a virtual exchange program with Mishima. Maybe have a koto concert. Lena Kennedy suggested we do a program with the local California/Los Angeles Olympics director.

Germany: Maureen McConnell received an email from Alina Reinhardt about the possibility of doing a Zoom call with Ludwigshafen sometime in March.

Finland: Laura Terry Finland is planning to develop a fund raiser to help with the cost of supporting a student mentorship. She submitted information concerning the International Sister

Cites Youth Panel Symposium to the First AME Church, Pasadena, Young People's Department Director. Lucia Adams, a member of First AME Church, Pasadena has agreed to join the Finland Sub-Committee.

Armenia: Maggie Gihanian thanked Pasadena Sister Cities for our \$2500 donation to ARDA (Armenian Relief and Development Association). The city of Vanadzor will select 50 refugee families that are living in government housing and give each family \$50 to buy necessities. Food and heat are the top necessities. Our donation will reach refugee families. The committee is brainstorming fundraisers and thinking about future youth exchanges. Seda, a friend in Vanadzor has a business selling needlework online. To browse or purchase, see this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/MARTIS-100921641686449/>

China: no report But, Cathy Wei participated in a Lunar New Year video presentation created by affiliates of the committee of International Education at Pasadena City College. Here is a screen shot of Cathy...



Youth Exchange: Isabel has nothing to report.

Youth Symposium: Carla Boykin spoke about the Youth Summit. Was on February 6. 4,400 people attended. Advertising on Instagram was more effective than advertising on Facebook. Sessions went very well. Students were very engaged. Maybe 5:30-8:30pm was too long. They had musical and dance performances. Had a good discussion on the Race and Gender Equity panel. We had two Pasadena students participate. Maybe have them come to a meeting and report about their experience? Will be a livestream on the Social Sister City website on March 20. This Youth Symposium is planned to be an annual event.

New Business

Michael Warner asked if people would be interested in buying a Pasadena Sister City mask.

Laura Terry is now our Hospitality Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Silver
Pasadena Sister Cities Secretary