Dear Friends,

Last week Culver City hosted the 49th Annual U.S./Mexico Sister Cities Association convention. It was a great success in no small part to the work of the convention committee under the leadership of our Vice President, Marla Wolkowitz. The convention was co-sponsored by the city of Culver City and took place predominantly at City Hall. The convention workshops and keynote speaker were stellar and all agreed that it was the best convention they have had in a very long time. We succeeded in fulfilling our goal of not only offering an excellent convention, but also introducing the delegates to Culver City. The luncheon was conducted in 4 of our downtown restaurants, each featuring a different topic and speaker as well as cuisine.

In addition, to the convention, Culver City was represented at the Senshu marathon in Kazuka, Japan by Matt Seeberger and Mary Beth Pohl who successfully completed the marathon and had a wonderful experience in our sister city.

(Sister City Youth Ambassador Program ~ Summer 2012 Selection Process Going Well!)

Sister Cities International and Culver City are the recipients of a U.S. Department of State Youth Ambassador’s Program award. The program brings high school students and educators from the U.S., Canada and Mexico together for 2 three-week exchanges during the summer of 2012. Culver City, Modesto and Los Angeles were selected for the 2012 exchanges based on their strong trilateral relationships with their North American partners.

This grant is an extension of an exchange program of the U.S. that illustrates the U.S. policy priority of engaging youth across America. The educational program will focus on poverty and the environment. The program is fully funded by the state department and Culver City youth will have the opportunity to participate with all expenses paid.

CCSCC received 11 applications from well-qualified Culver City High School applicants. On Feb. 2, 2012 the candidates were interviewed at the C.C. Library by a select panel which included; Tayo Balogun, Scott Zeidman, Marla Wolkowitz, Barbara Honig and Donna Thayer. Based on the results of the interviews eight students (and 3 alternates) were identified as Culver City candidates and forwarded to Washington D.C. to be reviewed, interviewed, if applicable, and approved by Sister Cities International and the U.S. State Department. All participants are anxiously awaiting the results expected the first week of March 2012.

Carmelita Bell, Ellie Prsha and CCSCC President Barbara Honig enjoyed the Gala Dinner Dance at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel.

Lilah, Olivia and Marlee take a break from guiding the visitors from the USMSCA Board hither and yon “to and fro” the Culver Hotel to Sony Pictures, through downtown Culver City.

(continued on reverse side)
Thank you to Kathleen McCann, the Kaizuka chairperson for all her work in continuing this long standing program between our two cities. With the L.A. marathon just around the corner, we are about to welcome 2 marathon runners from Kaizuka to Culver City.

As part of the welcome of our guests from Kaizuka, we will be holding our March quarterly dinner on Tuesday, March 20th at the Grand Casino on Main Street in downtown Culver City. Please refer to the flyer and RSVP at your earliest convenience.

Serving on the Board of Directors and as the President has been very rewarding and we are now looking for new recruits to participate on the Board of Directors. Each of our committees, especially the ones surrounding our 4 sister cities, is very active and I encourage you to consider getting more involved whether on the board or with a committee. Playing an active role in citizen diplomacy is truly gratifying. Please contact Tina Mollica, our nominations committee chair, for more information.

Look forward to June/July to our trilateral Youth Ambassadors delegations sponsored by the U.S. State Department, our Kaizuka middle school exchange going to Kaizuka, and our Iksan City, South Korea high school exchange who will visit Culver City in late July.

See you on March 20th,

Barbara Honig

CCSCC is a member in good standing of SCI. SCI’s mission is: To promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation — one individual, one community at a time.