

## CONCORD-SAN MARCOS SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Steven B. Bloomfield, chair  
Shirley Andrews, secretary  
Fiona Nauseda, secretary  
Nancy Kerr, treasurer

Steering Committee: Debbie Barr, Beatriz Desloges, Lisa Gutwillig, Kati Miller, Ed Wholihan and Bryan Wholihan.

Advisers: Sam Alexander, Al Armenti (former chair and co-founder), Cedric Bien, Beth Dawson, David Dawson, Cynthia Laflamme, Clara LeMoyne, Edie Mas, Lal Minton, Megan Sandel, Amy Schnitzer, Karin Segal, Gene Sheftelman and Barbara Tinker.

### *Mission*

The Concord-San Marcos Sister Cities Committee encourages peace and mutual understanding and socio-economic development in Nicaragua, through programs of cultural exchange and economic assistance carried out in a spirit of cooperation by the people of Concord and the city of San Marcos, Nicaragua. Concord Town Meeting established the Sister Cities Committee in 1986 and reaffirmed the value of the committee's work by a second vote in 1987. The committee works under the auspices of the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council. Voluntary membership of Concord citizens and voluntary support by means of financial donations and the contributions of goods and services from citizens in and around Concord sustain the committee's work.

### *Projects in 2010*

The year's highlights were two summer youth trips. Concord Carlisle High School teacher Beatriz Desloges led a two-week visit of high-school Spanish students to San Marcos. The students' experiences included language and cultural immersion, community-service activities and homestays. Concordian Lisa Gutwillig led a visit of Concord high-school students for community service and athletic competitions to cultivate friendships between Concordians and San Marqueños. Both visits afforded the participants unique involvement in the ongoing experience of community-to-community conversation and communion spurred by the Sister Cities relationship.



*Orientation session in June for CCHS travelers to San Marcos*

After months of work and some delays, the drilling of a 300-meter well, the installation of a pump and the assembly of distribution pipes was completed to bring potable water for the first time to El Uval, a village of 400 inhabitants within the municipality of San Marcos. The project benefited from \$50,000 of financial assistance provided by the committee.

Furniture from the old Willard School made its way to Nicaragua where it will be situated in San Marcos classrooms for the start of their 2011 academic year.

The Committee continued its sponsorship of scholarships with stipends of \$60 to each of 50 elementary school students at the Escuela San Marcos to encourage the children to stay in school, maintain their consistent attendance and continue to earn honors-level grades.

The Sister Cities Committee operates a micro-bank in San Marcos in cooperation with a small San Marcos-based board of directors. FECONDESAM, founded in 1996, has a financial base of over \$25,000 and its loans continue to be in the hands of nearly 40 small business people, mostly women, who have borrowed amounts between \$50 and \$2,000 at an interest rate of 5 percent.

### *Sources of Funding*

Donations from Concord citizens as well as contributions of goods and services continue to sustain the work of the Committee.

### *Future Directions*

The committee plans to respond to economic-development needs as expressed and defined by our San Marcos partners. Future youth trips emphasizing cultural im-

mersion and community-service will also command significant attention.

The Committee's Web site resides at: [http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA\\_BComm/San%20Marcos](http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_BComm/San%20Marcos)

## CONCORD NANAE NETWORK (CNN)

Tom Curtin, Chair  
Judy Terry, Vice-Chair

*Plus ca change, plus la meme chose!* This year saw exciting changes in using the Internet to further the sister city relationship and repeats of some oldies but goodies.



*Nanae October delegation and host families gather before saying "bye-o-nara."*

In April the Concord-Carlisle High School Concert Band and Sci Fi Club toured Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. The trip began in Sapporo where, as official representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts during the celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Massachusetts-Hokkaido Sister State Relationship, the group presented gifts to Hokkaido's Vice-Governor and played a joint concert with the Sapporo Shiroishi Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Most of the students had home stays and took part in a number of cross-cultural experiences.

From Sapporo the Concert Band and Sci Fi Club drove to the Prince Hotel in Nanae where they were welcomed

by Nanae Mayor Nakamiya and hundreds of Nanae citizens. The following days were filled with home stays, two concerts and cultural activities. The April 19 joint concert was streamed live to CCTV in Concord who then rebroadcast it live to homes in Carlisle and Concord. On April 20, the Concord-Carlisle High School and Nanae High School formalized their sister school relationship in a public ceremony.

In the spring, the Boston Foundation announced the creation of the Thomas G. Curtin-Bobby Kargula Nanae Fund that will donate a minimum of \$2,500 annually to the Town of Concord to support the Concord-Nanae Sister City relationship.

In late June, a delegation of CCHS and Willard School teachers went to Nanae to explore technological means to further the relationship between schools and to discuss the future plans of the Nanae High School's Concert Band coming to Concord. The trip was funded by the Curtin-Kargula Fund, the Willard School PTG and the teachers. No Town funds were used.

During his second year in Nanae, Concordian Bobby Kargula, the Coordinator of International Relations (CIR) in Nanae, added chapters to his website about his experiences in Nanae ([cir.concordcarlisle.wikispaces.net](http://cir.concordcarlisle.wikispaces.net)). Before finishing as CIR in September, he completed two videos about Nanae that can be seen at [concordnanae.com](http://concordnanae.com). We thank Bobby for his excellent two years of service to Nanae and Concord.

Nanae sent its annual delegation of eight students and six adults in October. The adults, including three local businessmen, were enthusiastically welcomed by Deputy Town Manager Doug Meagher, the Concord Museum, Orchard House, Emerson Umbrella and the Concord Art Association. A pizza night at CCHS was attended by host families, students and members of the Concord Nanae Network.

CIR-to-be Ben Mirin was a great help with the Nanae students at CCHS in October. Among other things, he organized the students producing a videotape of their visit. Before leaving for Nanae on November 28, Ben created a Concord-Nanae blog, youtube site and facebook page to facilitate the citizens of Concord, Carlisle and Nanae's staying in touch with each other.