

to make a full accounting of the financial base of FE-CONDESAM, of over \$25,000, and they had not yet contemplated other projects of mutual opportunity and responsibility. The board did guarantee a full accounting by year's end, but at the end of the year a letter to Bloomfield from the board president, Javier Ruíz, indicated little progress in accounting for all of the loans or, for that matter, other FUNDISMAR initiatives. These will be agenda items for the new year.

During the summer visit, the group found that efforts to connect to the computer laboratory of the San Marcos Colegio Juan XXIII were very likely to be stymied in the future, as they had been in the past, so the Concord visitors decided to pursue a relationship of student-to-student communication with the high school they visited in Estelí. By December, a donated computer from CCHS had been installed in Estelí in order to pursue communications in English and in Spanish once the school year begins anew in Nicaragua, in March.

Sources of Funding

Donations from Concord citizens, as well as contributions of goods and services from Concord institutions such as the Concord Public Schools and Emerson Hospital, historically have sustained the work of the committee. In 2012, owing to concerns the committee had with regard to the viability of its partnership, formal fundraising did not occur for the second straight year. Only with greater reassurance of reliable governance in San Marcos, will the Committee reinstate its hopes for mutual progress and, therefore, the reinvigoration of fundraising initiatives in the coming year.

Future Directions

The implementation of mutually confident economic-development projects between Concord and San Marcos has proven to be elusive since the completion of the well in El Uval in 2010. The Committee hopes to restore some movement in this arena during 2013.

The coordination of summer youth trips has been a source of inspiration for Concordians and San Marqueños for many years. In 2013, the committee expects to cooperate with Concord Carlisle High School teachers, especially Spanish teacher Erin Lynch, to make possible another visit for experiential learning for Concord youths in San Marcos. The community-to-community

conversation enabled by these trips has become perhaps the essence of the Sister Cities relationship. The Committee website resides as: [http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_BComm/San Marcos](http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_BComm/San_Marcos).

CONCORD NANAE NETWORK

Tom Curtin (chair)
Robin Cicchetti
Sue Curtin
Kimiko Furutani
Kristina Joyce
Junko Kargula
Nancy McJennett
Shoko Miller
David Nurenberg

2012 was the twentieth year of Concord-Nanae friendship and the fifteenth year as formal sister cities. The relationship is rich and vibrant.



Nanae Visitors enjoyed many of the cultural experiences Concord has to offer.

Coordinator of International Relations (CIR) Ben Mirin added to the concordnanae.com website he started on beginning his assignment in the Nanae Town International Relations Section in 2010. By the time he finished his two years in Nanae, he had posted sixty-four videos of life in Nanae. There are timeless snapshots that include holidays, food, CCHS delegations, and ceremonies, among others. All Concordians are encouraged to explore the site. We thank Ben for his excellent two years of service to Nanae and Concord.

Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) Ben Haydock has been doing an excellent job teaching English to Nanae

junior high and elementary school students. In addition, he has done a video student exchange with teacher Lynne Kwarczynski of Alcott Elementary School and a letter exchange with the fifth grade students of teacher Nancy Dillon of Thoreau Elementary School.

In April, the Concord-Carlisle High School Sci Fi Club toured Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. The trip began in Nanae where they were welcomed by Nanae Mayor Nakamiya and hundreds of Nanae citizens. The following days were filled with home stays and cultural activities. From Nanae they went to Sapporo where they visited Hokkaido's State Assembly and met with Nanae's representative, Mr. Tomihara. All of the students had home stays, visited two schools, and took part in a number of cross-cultural experiences. After Sapporo, they briefly toured Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nara.

The highlight of the year was the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the sister city relationship in early October. Nanae sent a delegation of twenty-five people that included Mayor Nakamiya, five members of the Nanae Town Assembly, citizens and town workers, and eight junior high and high school students. Concord's Board of Selectmen welcomed the Nanae delegation to the Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration at the Concord Town House. Special events were held at CCHS, Orchard House, the Concord Museum, and the Concord Art Association. The entire delegation did home stays.

Part of the ceremony at the Town House was the installation of CCHS and Boston University graduate Nick Ferbert as the next CIR in Nanae. He returned to Nanae with the delegation and has since served with the distinction of his predecessors.

Nanae Town, whose delegations have long enjoyed their visits to the Orchard House, invited Executive Director Jan Turnquist to visit Nanae in November as one of its anniversary gifts to the town. With staff member Kiko Mills as interpreter, Ms. Turnquist brought Louisa May Alcott and "Little Women" to the people of Nanae and several of their elementary schools.

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thomas McKean, Chair
Frank Okurowski, Clerk
Al Couvillon
Mara Dolan

In 2012, the Cable Advisory Committee had two primary focuses: to become informed regarding the relicensing process by working with the Board of Selectmen, Town Management, and legal counsel retained by the Town to negotiate a new contract and to obtain a working understanding of CCTV, the local Public Access channel(s) and the primary beneficiary of the funds received by the Town as a result of the Cable contract.

As such, the Committee visited the site of CCTV at the High School and had presentations by Lindsay Alaimo, the Executive Director of CCTV, to review their budget and anticipated needs when the High School renovations are completed and CCTV moves to a new location within the new high school. The Committee has also been provided with anticipated future Community needs and interest for additional services and a staffing plan and for capital equipment and facilities plan. CCTV provided a list of accomplishments of the current services they provide. Their operating budget and capital/facilities budget was presented and reviewed. The information provided by CCTV and their cooperation is much appreciated.

The Committee also met on two occasions with counsel hired by the Town to negotiate a new contract with a cable provider. Attorney William Solomon explained the process of contract renewal and the parameters of The Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 which confines the issues that are involved in the relicensing process. Although the current contract does not expire until April of 2014, it was felt that there could be advantages in seeking a new agreement sooner. Deputy Town Manager, Doug Meagher and Board of Selectmen liaison Stanley Black have been helpful in directing the Committee in their work. Unfortunately, due to personnel changes at Comcast, the current cable operator, there has been a delay in negotiations. The Committee anticipates getting input from Town citizens and making a recommendation during this year in the hope of arriving at a beneficial contract for the Town.