



Agenda DATE 12/18/14 TIME 4:23

SERVED BY Julie Bystron

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

SANTA FE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

December 21, 2016

CVB Administrative Conference Room

4:00 – 5:00pm

955-6707

Goals of Santa Fe's Sister Cities Committee

- More effectively market Sister Cities and what they do
- Develop educational programs in schools
- Strengthen relationships w/ existing Sister Cities
- Involve greater community in work/activities of Sister Cities
- Re-enforce and build existing relationships through trade and tourism efforts

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – October 26, 2016
4. Report of Chair – Carol Robertson Lopez
5. Report Updates
 - a. 2017 Proposed Sister Cities Meeting Schedule (Julie)
 - b. 2017 Sister Cities International Youth Summit – Update (Julie)
 - c. 2017 Sister Cities Teacher Grant Program – Update (Julie)
 - d. SCI Wall Map Replication request – Update (Julie)
 - e. 2016-17 Sister Cities International Journal Exchange (Jeff)
6. Action Items:
 - a. Request for Approval of 2017 Sister Cities Meeting Schedule
7. Committee Reports
8. Other Items

* Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's Office at 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

Item	Action	Page Number
Call to Order	The Chair called the Santa Fe Sister Cities Committee meeting to order at 3:40 pm. A quorum was declared by roll call.	Page 2
Roll Call	Roll call reflects a quorum	Page 2
Approval of Agenda	Report of Chair A & B – nothing to report. <i>Mr. Rubenstein moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Mr. Olivas, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	Page 2
Approval of Minutes, September 14, 2016	<i>Mr. Rubenstein moved to approve the minutes of September 14, 2016 as presented, second by Mr. Olivas, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	Page 3
Report of Staff	Informational	Page 3
Report of the Chair Review and discussion of a proposal to establish a Sister City relationship between RamatHaNegev, Israel and Santa Fe	Informational	Page 3 - 7
Action Items Request for approval of 2017 Sister Cities Meeting Schedule	Postponed to December meeting for approval in order to review the dates against the City Council meeting dates.	Page 7
Committee Updates/Other Updates	Informational	Page 7
Adjourn and Signature Page	There being no further business to come before the Sister Cities Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm	Page 7

CITY OF SANTA FE

SANTA FE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES – OCTOBER 26, 2016

Fran Lucero, Stenographer

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

SANTA FE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

Convention Center, Santa Fe, NM

3:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

GOALS OF SANTA FE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

- More effectively market who Sister Cities is and what they do
 - Develop educational programs in schools
 - Strengthen relationships with existing Sister Cities
- Involve greater community in work/activities of Sister Cities
- Re-enforce and build existing relationships through trade and tourism efforts.

MINUTES

1) Call to Order

The Chair, Carol Robertson-Lopez called the Santa Fe Sister Cities Committee meeting to order at 3:40 pm. A quorum was declared by roll call.

Present:

Carol Robertson-Lopez, Chair

Dr. Jeff Case

Bernard Rubenstein

Arthur Olivas

Kim Song, Alternate

Not Present/Excused:

Gilbert Delgado

Carl Moore, Excused

Rudy Fernandez, Excused

Clara Padilla-Andrews

Ling Tong, Excused

Others Present:

Zach Benjamin, Executive Director, Jewish Foundation of New Mexico

Mary Ann, Audience, Community Member

Julie Bystrom, Staff Project Manager

Fran Lucero, Stenographer

The Chair will make contact with Mr. Delgado to check on his health status.

2) Approval of Agenda

Mr. Rubenstein moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Olivas, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3) Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2016

Mr. Rubenstein moved to approve the minutes as presented, second by Mr. Olivas, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

4) Report of Staff

a) 2017 Proposed Sister Cities Meeting Schedule

Staff recommendation is to review meeting schedule at next meeting due to dates that may conflict with the City Council meetings.

Ms. Bystrom advised the Sister Cities Committee members that the work at the airport continues and in conversation with the contractor, the panels for Sister Cities display will remain in storage for safekeeping as the display area has not been identified.

Dr. Case commented that other airports throughout the US are very supportive of their Sister Cities and make it very welcoming when walking through their airports. Dr. Case would like to make sure that we don't lose a location for the panels at the airport; it is a very exciting panel presentation. Dr. Case asked if the contractor was approached and asked if he could replicate the Sister Cities wall and what the cost would be. Ms. Bystrom will put this item on her follow up and report back to the committee.

5) Report of Chair – Carol Robertson Lopez

a) Review and discussion of a proposal to establish a Sister City relationship between Ramat HaNegev, Israel and Santa Fe (Carol Robertson Lopez)

Dr. Case and Mr. Fernandez were able to speak to the Mayor to discuss this particular proposal. Mayor Gonzales has been in touch with the Counsel General from Israel who has personally invited him to visit Israel. Mayor Gonzales has asked the Sister Cities Committee to postpone any action on this sister city request until he returns from his meeting in Israel in mid-December. The Chair said today the committee members would review the proposal with an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Zach Benjamin, Jewish Foundation of New Mexico

Mr. Benjamin noted that he had a conversation with Ms. Bystrom and was informed of this future meeting with the Governor and his trip to Israel and is pleased that there is a possibility of a sister city relationship in the future with Israel. Attached for review was a proposal on behalf of Ramat HaNegev, Israel – Sister City exploratory working group provided by Betsy Ehrenberg, Founder of Bridges, Marcia Torobin, Founder, Santa Fe Jewish Film Festival, Eran Doror, City Manager, Ramat HaNegev Regional Council and himself. Mr. Benjamin stated that he is grateful for a possible sister city relationship in Israel. Mr. Benjamin said that if a different city is identified after the Mayor's visit, they will strongly support any relationship with an Israel sister city. Mr. Benjamin provided his proposal and letter of support from the Santa Fe Business Incubator who previously met with the Regional Council of RamatHaNegev.

Mr. Benjamin stated that he has reached out to the City Manager in Ramat HaNegev to discuss this sister city opportunity.

Mr. Benjamin said that he reached out to the City Manager of Ramat HaNegev and he provided information on history and current engagement of the Bedouin population which is about 25% of the population of Ramat HaNegev.

Dr. Case asked Mr. Benjamin if he has personally been to this location. Mr. Benjamin said he has not; he will be visiting there next month.

Mr. Benjamin stated that there are basically three major ethnic groups that make up the Bedouin population; one comes from the Arabian Peninsula and the other two from Israel and Lebanon. Ramat HaNegev like Santa Fe is home to an extraordinary arts community with fifteen galleries and studios operating within its borders. Of the 7 members of the Board of Tourism, 3 are Bedouin. The Regional Council identified what referred to as the Tent Route Project which is set up to integrate and train the Bedouin residents on tourism and arts. This is being run in conjunction with the university. Through that program a number of tourism destinations have been set up by the Bedouins under the auspices of this project. Mr. Benjamin provided additional information on this project and noted it is all included in the proposal.

Dr. Case asked what are the aspirations of the Bedouin's?

Mr. Benjamin said that because the Bedouin culture was nomadic, only recently have they actually put down some roots. The goals are to catch up to whatever society they find themselves in to make a living off that society and what it has to offer and catch up to the majority in terms of education and prospects for the future. They are looking for opportunities to advance their education and their families. The Bedouin's elders came over the years to the local leadership and said they are were not interested in staying there, they were no longer nomadic, let's create a way to get integrated into the society and create something they could offer the society in return. The goal would be to run their own Bedouin tourist operation while maintaining their own culture and creating future opportunities.

Dr. Case asked if this integration of cultures in any municipal planning document? Is there a written document that talks about their goals and something we can see? Dr. Case added he is not requiring it; he would like to know if there is an official document that exists or signed by the municipality.

Mr. Benjamin said he believes there is and he will research further and provide the information to the Sister Cities committee members.

The Chair noted that there are changes in the nomadic world due to climate change.

With a population of 6,000, do you know the breakdown? Some 6,000 Jews live within the jurisdiction of the Ramat Negev Regional Council. In 2012, the council approved the

establishment of a new community, Ramat Tzipporim, to provide homes for 2,000 Azzazmeh Bedouins living in the region. The breakdown of adults and children was not available at this meeting.

Mary Ann: Audience

Asked what is the criteria for being a sister city. She stated that Israel itself has no policy for application and annexation. There is legal discrimination against non-Jews and against Arabs. The Bedouin's (inaudible) have not been identified by Israel yet; the state has refused to recognize them.

The Chair said; "one of the reasons I love sister cities; most of us have no influence on our federal government. One of the beauties of sister cities is to have connected cities to cities. We don't discuss national policies; in fact they accept me as an American and I cannot influence my federal government. My sphere of influence is at the city and community level. The reason that the sister cities model has worked for the last 60 years is the fact that we don't engage in discussion about our federal policies. We recognize that those are beyond our ability, but what we can do is have meaningful discussion. Many times, the issues as you have presented, we can find parallel's right here in New Mexico".

MaryAnn: There are parallel's.

Chair: There are many issues that we can't go back into history and change. When we are looking at our criteria we do not look at our government policy, we look at the people to people, community to community exchange. It is actually a very refreshing experience not to defend every action of the US Government in these relationships. I hope that this helps in understanding.

MaryAnn: In a way I guess it does but this research policy, it is illegal by International law. They are not in the past, they are continually happening.

Chair: We were founded by former President – Major General Dwight Eisenhower. After he saw World War II and he saw what happened in this war he knew it was too dangerous and the American people had to connect with people around the world and people around the world need to connect with us. This whole movement started and it is perfect base to get Mayors and Cities to connect on levels where we have influence. It was built on a peace building relationship.

Mr. Rubenstein said that we are aware of the political situation in Israel and we know that there might be a negative reaction if we enter in to a sister city relationship with Israel. We are aware of the negative as well as the positive relationships.

The Chair stated that Sister Cities is to establish a strong people-to-people relationship.

Mr. Olivas represents Japan, and in his 20 years he has seen things like this come up – many times issues have come up, mainly about World War II. We don't discuss those

types of issues; there is history to support those questions. We don't make decisions on any political situations; we work with the people to strengthen our relationship.

Ms. Bystrom: We can't continue to have war or judgements, we can continue to build bridges and all men are created equal and that is what we intend to do.

Dr. Case referred to Page 17 and stated that Sister Cities is not a business group, so when he reads this section the question is what are the tax deductible items referred to? Is Bridges to Santa Fe a non-profit or is it for profit? Dr. Case wants to make sure there is not a financial commitment and asked who pays these entities. Is there a conflict of interest?

Mr. Benjamin stated that this is a cultural and economic exchange. He suggested a conversation with Betsy Ehrenberg. He stated that this impact program was created under Bridges of Santa Fe, a model under the auspices of a non-profit. Questions should be directed to Betsy.

Ms. Bystrom commented that in most requests for sister cities the representative has been to that country or city. With Mr. Benjamin never having been to this sister city it makes the question/answer interaction challenging. If you don't have that relationship with the requesting city we don't know what they are looking for, who is coming to the table and what is the hope from this relationship.

Mr. Benjamin said there are a few commonalities are arts and crafts, history and indigenous people.

b) Discussion of Sister Cities Sponsorships: (Dr. Jeff Case)

i) Sister Cities International Youth Summit – National Conference

Request is for the city to sponsor 2 individuals and the cost requested is for registration for 2-4 students and provide them each with a \$200 stipend each.

Ms. Bystrom asked the committee to identify next year's priorities, realizing there is no room for expansion on expenses. The budget that we have outlined needs to be spent accordingly and following the strategic plan. It was noted that this will impact future visitors to Santa Fe. It was re-confirmed that the request is \$1200 for 2 students, \$2400 for 4 students. The Chair asked Ms. Bystrom to find out if Sister Cities can pay the registrations in this fiscal year and the reimbursements would come out of next fiscal year funding. It was also requested that Ms. Bystrom explore the option of a stipend in the amount of \$200 each. Mr. Olivas would like to know what the budget balance is. Ms. Bystrom will report at next meeting.

ii) 2017 Sister Cities – Teacher Grant Program:

Collaboration with Santa Fe Public Schools and Partners in Education

The Chair and committee agreed to look at Sister City budget balance before a decision can be rendered. It was suggested to have a future conversation with Ruth Ann Greeley to possibly earmark our funds related to sister city relationships.

The Chair and committee members agreed to direct staff to explore with legal if these types of funding requests can be fulfilled with city funding.

6) Action Items

a) Request for Approval of 2017 Sister Cities Meeting Schedule

Postponed to December meeting for approval in order to review the dates against the City Council meeting dates.

7) Committee Reports

- Mr. Rubenstein shared that Mr. Joe Hayes is in Holguin, Cuba at an activity.
- Bernie will meet with the Mayor regarding a mayoral cultural exchange and report back to the committee.
- Mr. Bernie Rubenstein will be conducting symphony in Cuba.

Dr. Case shared the flyer from Fiesta Fela and said he was impressed with what they have done. There were close to 700 people in attendance. Next year they could possibly do a skype. Dr. Case suggested a follow up meeting as Sister Cities did not get recognition as a sponsor and we provided a contribution.

Ms. Bystrom will follow up and ask why we were not listed in the program and we made a contribution.

On behalf of Mr. Fernandez it was noted that Parral is in turmoil; both mayors lost to an Independent. A Councilor (Edgar) known to Santa Fe Sister City members, from Mexico was robbed and he was murdered. He had visited Santa Fe in the past.

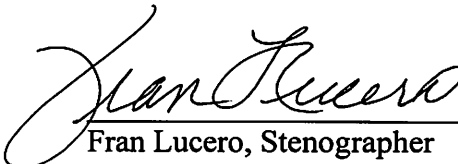
8) Other Items

9) Adjournment

There being no further action to discuss at the Sister Cities Committee meeting, the Chair called for adjournment at 5:15 pm.

Signature:

Carol Robertson-Lopez, Chair



Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2017 Sister Cities Meeting Schedule

Sister Cities Committee meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month. Meetings begin at 4:00 pm and will take place in the Community Convention Center – Administrative Conference Room unless otherwise specified. The following are dates for the 2017 calendar year.

Wednesday, January 11, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, February 8, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, March 8, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, April 12, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, May 10, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, June 14, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, July 12, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, August 9, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, September 13, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, October 11, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, November 8, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, December 13, 4:00 PM

All meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.

SCI 2017 Youth Summit/National Conference

This project would send from 2 to four (4) Santa Fe students to the Youth Summit held at the Sister Cities National Conference.

The Youth Summit will be held from July 14-16, 2017 in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The City of Santa Fe would pay for the registration fee of \$400 and \$200 to offset travel expenses.

The students would be required to write a 300-500 word report on their activities and impressions of the SCI Youth Summit.

The students would be required to complete a Santa Fe Sister City project in the following school year. The project would be approved by their teacher. Examples of projects are: a curriculum project, a service learning project, or one that has an academic or community benefit.

Students would submit a letter of interest and also a support note by April 15, 2017.

An informational notice will be broadcast to schools and the education community by January 15, 2017.

To penetrate and sustain involvement, we need a yearly commitment for funding.

A sub-committee of SCI members will select Santa Fe applicants and oversee the program.

Here are three excellent student testimonials below. Thanks.

Jeff Case PhD.

Santa Fe Sister City Committee

YLS was one of the BEST weeks of my life! I have met so many people that are working to achieve if not the same, than a similar goal as me. Speaking with them has opened my mind and shaped the way I think. This has been truly an AMAZING experience. 10/10, would recommend.

SCI 2017 Partners in Education Grants

To give visibility and depth to Santa Fe Sister Cities and the City of Santa Fe, we propose a teacher grant program with the SFPS/Partners in Education. Partners in Education is the official non-profit for SFPS that solicits both funding and then matches the funding to dedicated teachers who wish to build special curriculum projects. The special projects are to learn about Sister Cities and the cultural connections that students and Santa Fe citizens can make as diplomatic citizens.

We are asking for \$1,000 to be split into two \$500 grant applications for the 2017-2018 school year. We also ask that this funding be continued yearly. The funding solicitation is then broadcast to all SFPS teachers.

This is not the first time that Partners has found teachers who want to do Sister City projects. We did a two year project with teacher Jay Trujillo using CIR funds through Partners. See below.

Tentative Schedule Sister City Program

10:00 Welcome by Master of Ceremonies Carol Robertson Lopez, Principals Carlos Alarid and Christine Jirsa.

10:05 Chongshi Hello Song—Elena Chavez class(Jay, make up a song—Hello Dear Chongsi, Hello Dear Chonsi, Hello Dear Chongsi We Are Your Friends sung to Happy Birthday tune and so on)

10:10 Introduction of Honored Guests-Superintendent and Board members and Staff

10:15 Representative Jim Trujillo “Why it is Important to Learn About China”. If some parents are in the audience bring them forward.

10:25 World Map-Find China and New Mexico—Madelin Means

10:30 Mayor David Coss and Carol Rose “Why We Want to Be Friends With Zhangjiajie”

The Mayor and Carol Lopez present the Scrolls to Superintendent, school board members, staff and students.

10:35 Why We Like Chongshi—Peggy Brewer class

10:40 Serenity Brings You Further-- Jay Trujillo gives interpretation

10:45 Diligence will be the Path to the Mountain of Books—Jay Trujillo or other gives interpretation

10:50 Hardwork will be the Sail to the Ocean of Knowledge—Rosa Weiss or other gives interpretation

10:55 Goodbye—Carol Robertson Lopez, Give to students the red packets with money for their New Years Day gift. A Group Picture

SCI Wall Map/City Descriptions Replication

The wall map/city descriptions located in City Hall near the Mayor's office has received praise for its informative descriptions, beauty, and international enhancement.

We have a request to replicate/duplicate this item and distribute to classrooms, schools, offices. The item can be the same existing larger size or smaller size items that still retain beauty and educational character.

The cost is not yet known. As a pilot project we ask to begin with \$600.

SCI Journal Exchange 2016-2017 -- Title Page-List committee members

Preface Page--Quote from Eisenhower--SCI Purpose--Quote from Mayor Gonzales—Thought Leaders, Others

Table of contents- List Student writers

SCI Santa Fe Journal Exchange

The SCI Santa Fe Journal Exchange is an electronic journal originating and managed by the Santa Fe Sister City Committee and Co-Chaired by Dr. Jeff Case and the Student Representative Lauren Komer.

The purpose of the Journal is to share and exchange ideas on important , emerging topics; to use the Journal entries as a focal point for classroom lesson plans; to engage our youth in purposeful, thoughtful discussion; and to help our youth write in English meaningful journal entries.

There are some guidelines. Lauren Komer has put together a thoughtful outline on how we should work together. It reads:

“The Santa Fe Sister Cities Committee’s policies and guidelines are designed to define the requirements, formatting, and standards of our Sister Cities high school student writing exchange Following these rules and regulations will ensure our goal of creating a safe and collaborative exchange of works that will benefit all of our Sister Cities’ communities. The writing exchange is designed for students interested in the international community and who are looking to benefit their communities and the international community as a whole. Our primary purpose is to encourage learning between students through writing and sharing of culture.

The rules and regulations for Santa Fe Sister Cities Committee are as follows:

1. Works submitted to the Committee must be written in or translated into English before being sent for publishing.
2. We would prefer students to aim for works written in a formal or academic tone. We understand, however, that this is a learning exercise and that

English abilities may vary. We shall accept all responses regardless of the level of English.

3. All works should contain appropriate content suitable for a school setting or public newspaper; any work submitted that contains inappropriate content will be removed from the article exchange.
4. Articles, interviews, or creative writing pieces written have minimum word count of 200 words and a maximum of one page.
5. Works should be thoroughly edited for any careless mistakes, improper grammar, or any inappropriate content. Any works that are determined to be carelessly written or full of error will not be included in the exchange.
6. Works must be reviewed by a classroom teacher only and have proof of review with a signature from that teacher.
7. To submit a work, include your writing piece as an attachment in an email with your name, age, country, and city included. “

We currently have nine entries in our Journal. They are from Park Soon of Icheon High School, South Korea; Lileigh Thomas of Santa Fe High and Camila Seluja of Santa Fe High. All entries will receive a certificate of recognition signed by Mayor Gonzales to be included in their high school resume, and they will also receive recognition at an appropriate City Council meeting. All entries will be stored in the Santa Fe Sister Cities Facebook or at an appropriate city website.

The current topic is sustainability which is a fairly broad topic about food sources, climate, water and air quality, energy sources, and other topics.

The network to date is Santa Fe High, Santa Fe; Icheon High School, South Korea; Zhangjiajie High School, China; Livingstone High School, Zambia; Lusaka High School, Zambia; Parral Technical College, Mexico; and Bukhara High School, Uzbekistan.

Our immediate goals are to add more entries into the Journal, add more schools in Santa Fe and in our Sister Cities network, to prepare other Journal topics, and to evaluate educational value of this effort.

The SCI Journal Exchange has received support from teachers at Santa Fe High. We have also received verbal encouragement from SFPS School Board Member Linda Trujillo, Mayor Javier Gonzales, and City Councilor Peter Ives.

Prototype of Student Essays on Santa Fe Sister City Sustainability Journal

Resource Recycling

I-cheon-high school, Icheon, South Korea

Park Joon soo, age 17

To constantly develop and keep our community healthy, it is important to take attention to environmental problems. In I-cheon, citizens try hard to keep this city healthy. They try to save the environment in various fields, especially in the business about incinerating waste. At first, incineration sounds disagreeable. Because trashes such as paper, plastic or glass, when incinerated, would emit dioxin and other chemical substances that have bad influences on people. To solve the problems, I-cheon city is managing 'resource recovery facility'. It is a massive incineration plant to dispose a lot of trash from 5 cities, eastern part of Gyeonggi ; Icheon, Gwangju, Hanam, Yeosu and Yangpyeong. Also convenient facilities such as soccer field, tennis court, swimming pool and so on were constructed with this massive plant. This plant was constructed in Hobeop-myeon in 2008 and is still running. At first, there were arguments between the city government and residents, because residents insisted that this plant would have bad effects on them. The city government promised to support 3 billion won and suggested benefits for the residents. Finally, they compromised successfully.

Constructing this facility, there are some advantages. This plant can incinerate up to 300t per day and produce 8200kW an hour using heat generated while burning trash. When incinerated, the volume of trash decreases up to 99% and weight also decreases up to 85% compared with burying wastes in landfill so that incineration helps to extend the span of the landfill.

Convenient facilities open classes for swimming, soccer and so on. Also with shuttle bus, many people visit this place more easily. On average, 1,310 people visit here and about a third of them are the residents of Hobeop-myeon.

Residents say that the city government deals with civil complaints and support as promised. So they are satisfied with the policy of the city government. Residents can use convenient facilities for admission 80% off and the plant provides energy resources generated when incinerated for the residents at first.

Finally, I believe that this plant has an important meaning for city government to have listened the opinions, reflected them and found solutions, and it will take an important role for protecting the environment in the future.

Park Joon soo, Age 17, Icheon High School, Icheon, South Korea

Sustainability in the Community of Santa Fe, New Mexico

By Camila Seluja,

As a young member of the community in Santa Fe and the state of New Mexico as a whole, sustainability is constantly an issue with heavy prominence in the mind. How could one not be concerned with energy and resource abundance when one is part of the generation readying itself to take over the world's politics, education systems, and problems of both low-scale and far-reaching extents. This city, although not perfect when it comes to fixing sustainability issue, at the very least has brought the challenge into the eyes of the public and the government. City regulations provide guidelines for water use, such as the strong suggestion for citizens to water only three days a week, public and government buildings to post water conservation signs on their premises, overhead irrigation systems prohibited to be used for watering grass or shrubs, and a host of other such principles, all of which are vital to have been established due to Santa Fe's high desert environment. The adding of solar panels to many public centers has been emphasized in the city since 2007, and thirteen such energy-saving projects have been completed since that time. Due to Northern New Mexico's status as a high desert, water and solar energy are issues at the top of the list when it comes to sustainability. Water conservation must be stressed being that droughts are often a yearly occurrence, and the amount of sunlight a high desert receives makes it foolish to turn away from the abundant solar energy that can be collected. Although Santa Fe has not turned a blind eye to either of these crucial sustainability issues, there is always more that can be done. Conservation of energy and sustainability of other resources is a topic that has widely gained supporters and proponents. However, many have agreed that sustainability is an issue, but shrugged off the issue after a month or two, in an incredibly American, these-problems-are-too-big-for-one-person-like-me-to-solve-so-I'll-do-nothing fashion. Thus, the current environmental issue that is the most important in both my and the international community is not necessarily one of sustainability or conservation, but rather one of human sloth and ignorance. At this point in time, it is doubtful that there are many people who do not know that sustainability is an issue, therefore proponents must begin battling the good people of the world who know of these problems, yet continue to go about their daily lives and never attempt to fix the environmental qualms because the whole endeavor is simply too "big." Well, news flash, if normal people got off their couches and worked together (a message that will seem incredibly corny, but it must continue to be stressed) the problem wouldn't be too big. This could be the generation to take credit for restoring the Earth's sustainability, a prize too precious for words.

Camila Seuja, Age 17, Santa Fe High School, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Lileigh Thomas

17 years of age Santa Fe High School, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Water and Air: Life's Ultimate Necessities

A dirt path that leads to the top of a mountain. Slightly green pine trees line the path, and provide slim shade for any hikers. At the top, one can see the outstretches of New Mexico; a land where water is coveted like jewels and the air is the second cleanest in the world. These characteristics are ones I have noticed throughout my seventeen years living in New Mexico. My father and I frequently hike in the surrounding mountains with our dogs and get to take part in the glory of fresh air. I currently work as a gardener at a local educational center and have received training on effect watering in dry, arid climates where drought is just a way of life. In the midst of this strange unbalance of lacking and abundance, I have had my eyes opened to the critical issues surrounding the two most vital components of life on Earth: water and air.

The lack of water in New Mexico is stunning. The main river (the Rio Grande) once experienced a drought that lasted six consecutive years! While recently it has become more difficult to notice when we are in a drought since we now draw water from three other states, yet if one were to visit a New Mexican reservoir, it would be painfully obvious how little water there is to go around. Thankfully, restrictions on watering plants has become a presence in the lives of residents, with failure to uphold the restrictions resulting in a fine. However, most water that is used by households is wasted in bathing or toilets. To combat this waste, it should be a more common ideal to teach young children about conserving water, households should be more aggressively encouraged to switch to low-flow toilets, and mindful bathing techniques should be taught by parents.

While water is incredibly invaluable to living creatures, so is the air we must breathe.

Very few things are more upsetting to me than seeing the air around this beautiful area dirtied by

a surrounding fire that was easily preventable or watching a large eighteen wheeler truck spout the most heinous fumes from its exhaust pipe on the highway. These terrible things ruin the air all living things so desperately need to survive on this planet, and it is so upsetting that we take it for granted. Recently I read an article in the paper about two men in Beijing, China who, as an art project, would go out into the streets of Beijing and photograph each other vacuuming the air around them. While this may seem comical, the photos that went along with the article were anything but. The article went on to say that some days, the air quality in Beijing is so terrible that all outdoor activities are discouraged. In fact, spending over 30 minutes in these conditions can have the same effect on one's lungs as smoking cigarettes for about ten years. This horrifying truth is why I believe the clean air in New Mexico so desperately needs to be preserved because at this rate, it may not be around for much longer.

Lileigh Thomas, Age 17, Santa Fe High School, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Name: Bombwe J.K Mapesho,

15 years of age,

David Kaunda National Technical High School, Lusaka, Zambia.

Air, Soil and Biodiversity the key components of life.

Time, the interval between two events becomes key to anything in life especially when it comes to saving someone or something. Zambia 'the heart of Africa' and home to one of the seven wonders of the earth this being the mighty Victoria falls, has a good climate, lovely scenery of vegetation, awesome mountainous terrains and rich soils for agricultural purposes, which attracts many people to come and settle in the country and as a result an increase in the population. Now with an increase in the population comes an increase in the demand for land, food or any other key resources so as a result we may run into a shortage.

With a shortage comes many effects like we have in Zambia, where the trees have undergone deforestation in many areas due to the shortage of land for residential and non-residential purposes, now the trees cut down play a key role in that, they provide us with oxygen which is the most essential to our survival and not only do the trees provide us with oxygen but also food like the mango fruit. In most cases the trees deforested are not afforested which is bad in truth. Soil plays a key role when it comes to the agricultural sector in that plants are grown in the soil and the soil acts as a reservoir of the mineral salts or nutrients needed by the plants for growth and above all this trees also carry out a key role in a plants growth in that when the tree leaves shed, they rot and provide nutrients to the soil. The trees also provide guard to the soil against erosion which wipes off the mineral salts leaving the soil with

little or no nutrients for the growth of plants and as a result as a country we tend to import food from other countries. Now in most cases the trucks that transport the food into the nation release deadly fumes which are in form of smoke and this, in itself is pollution.

As the fumes rise and settle amongst the components of air, this gets to affect the biodiverse system in that certain animals will fail to breath and the atmosphere will be too deadly to live in and as a result they die which results in the depletion of the population of the animals leading to extinction, just like the tiger which is currently classified as an endangered animal which is believed to go in extinction in the next 5-10 years if not taken keen interest into. Not only animals are in danger, but also ourselves! Take for instance China, United States and Brazil may not have a suitable atmosphere for living in within the next 10 years due to the massive increase in Carbon Dioxide content in the air due to several factories in existence. To solve this problem, the first thing to be re-established is our moral conduct towards the environment in that, it should be our responsibility to maintain and repair our motor vehicles so as to avoid the tarnishing of the atmosphere and above this we should also carry out afforestation either on the same land or on other specified land. And as individuals we can also hold discussions with friends, family or communities about the benefit of sustaining our natural resources and the government should take serious measures to ensure that the endangered and non-endangered species of animals are kept safe away from poachers. As individuals we can also refrain or reduce on the use of cigarettes furthermore, steps can be taken to switch to the use of solar power as an energy source so as to practise **sustainability** we can also encourage the growing of trees at residential areas. To give a clearer picture if the chicken was to go in extinction would we have a sizzling meal of French fries and chicken anymore? So let's take action and be responsible before we wipe ourselves and the future generations to come off the face of the earth.

Bombwe J.K Mapesho, 15 years of age, David Kaunda National Technical High School, Lusaka, Zambia.

dbombwe@gmail.com

(Ms. Mubila helped proof-read the essay)

Name: Kanyanta M Makasa

15 years old

David Kaunda National Technical High School, Lusaka, Zambia

Importance of air, water, soil and biodiversity in Makeni

I live in Makeni a town found in the far western parts of Lusaka province of Zambia. Whilst at home I once went through several paintings of heaven and paradise along its well-lit corridors. I then paused for a moment as I stared at one painting, by Abel Chungu of Zimbabwe, depicting the Garden of Eden. As I looked even closer I noticed the one thing all these paintings had in common. That was colours of green, and blue accompanied with paintings of several animals. This led me to the realisation that a perfect environment ought to have a lot of green vegetation with spots of flowers amidst the green, increasing its beauty. The presence of water clear enough to make one thirst upon sight. And not forgetting the lovely sight of springing antelope, and birds soaring in the sky just to mention a few.

Though not heaven, Makeni is very pleasant with gusts of fresh oxygen supplied from the millions of trees and grass bushes of the area. Quietness is the order of the day due to the little traffic is overtaken by the lovely songs of birds. To add on the advantage of low traffic on roads is that there is less pollution due to exhaust emissions of the vehicles.

The soil is rich with most of the land being arable and is used for farming. The knowledge acquired by these farmers helps them know about the importance of the soil, and hence do their best in preserving the soil. Plants as well do their part in taking care of the soil as their roots sink deep into the ground hold the soil and keeping it firm.

The presence of plants and soil led to a warm welcome to various species of animals such as the ever singing birds and cricking crickets. Not forgetting the ground builders of nature such as ants, termites, and worms. These animals thrive with the assistance of water which is found in colossal amounts. Most of this water however is hard, consisting of calcium ions in salts such as calcium hydrogen carbonate.

This forms sculling on pots and furring on heating elements. This water can be softened by heating or replacing the calcium ions with sodium ions in a device called an ion exchanger. The use of plastic pipes would also reduce on the negative effects of hard water as plastic pipes don't easily get blocked by the insoluble calcium carbonate formed from the calcium ions of hard water.

Besides these negative effects of the hard water in Makeni and the forming of scum when using soapy detergents when washing. Hard water is much healthier than soft water for consumption, as it supplies the body with essential minerals such as calcium which is needed for the growth of healthy bones and healing of wounds through the clotting of blood.

This lovely environment of Makeni ought to be preserved for future generations. These efforts include formation of school clubs, and non-governmental organisations that help in the protection of the environment.

Kanyanta M. Makasa, 15 years old, David Kaunda National Technical High School, Lusaka, Zambia.
kanyanta.1.makasa@gmail.com *This essay was proof read by teacher Mubila (Ms)*

Name: Kaumbu Nyongi

16 years of age

David Kaunda National Technical Secondary School, Lusaka, Zambia.

Biodiversity: Our future.

Zambia, Africa's butterfly, it is called because of its shape. She is a vibrant, dynamic, and diverse country. Zambia is exciting, ever growing ever changing and a combination of seventy-two tribes living in peace and harmony.

Seventy percent of Zambia's total surface area remains untouched. This is a privilege too significant to lose. It must be brought to attention that this privilege is not enjoyed in all parts of the world today.

Zambia is blessed with an abundance of wildlife, which includes the big five and a wider variety of different animals. As for plants, there is a wide variety, ranging from the fire Lillie to the miombo or the Zambian teak.

Sadly, this privilege has been taken for granted. This is made evident through deforestation, over-fishing and non-eco-friendly activities. Approximately seven decades ago white rhinos went extinct in Zambia due to poaching. As if, this is not enough, the number of endangered species is on the increase.

Many developed countries today are trying hard to return what they lost due to the strive for development. The common concept that develops you would have to replace everything natural as the cause of all the problems. On the contrary I believe that development take place without having to completely destroy nature. For example, developing certain areas and preserving others for wildlife and natural vegetation. Another example is the building of zoos to keep endangered species.

In as much as the government has put in place measures to reduce or eradicate the threat against biodiversity, if we are not co-operative, it will fail to achieve this. It is time that everyone began to propound and think critically about the activities threatening biodiversity. Deforestation, poaching, over-fishing, and non-environmental friendly activities just to make money, I would describe this as temporal enjoyment for long term suffering, being the best description of this scenario.

I call upon every person to take part in improving our environment and protecting wildlife and natural vegetation. More especially we the young people should take keen interest into such issues. We the young are innovative, energetic, we have the time, and most importantly it is our future that we are protecting from destruction. The majority of Zambians are below the age of 18 years meaning if all young people work towards protecting wildlife and vegetation, we would have the majority of working towards this aim. Let us take part in environmental clubs, environmental activities, forums promoting wildlife and vegetation and all possible activities protecting and promoting biodiversity. All in all, be the change you want to see.

Kaumbu Nyongi, 16 years of age, David Kaunda National Technical Secondary School, Lusaka, Zambia.

kaumbunyongi2@gmail.com *(Proof-read by Mrs Simonga, teacher at David Kaunda National Technical Secondary School)*

Name: Nataizya Shanice Kaluba (16 years of age)

School: David Kaunda National Technical High School, Lusaka, Zambia.

Water and Land: The resources taken for granted.

Lusaka, the capital of my country, Zambia. It has beautiful scenery in most places and the people that live in this city are the epitome of friendliness. With these good qualities and more, it is hard not to love the place. But there is one thing about Lusaka that puts me off, and that is the abuse of our water and land.

Mother Nature, in all her generosity, has blessed Zambia with ample water. So the fact that we have water crises in some places is rather puzzling. After careful thought, I have narrowed down the cause of this problem to two factors; wastefulness and pollution. Wastefulness is a problem that affects the entire world generally. The problem starts with simple tasks like brushing one's teeth and escalates with bigger tasks like irrigation. With new payment methods like prepaid systems for water, it is easier for people to monitor the quantity of water they use daily.

Water pollution is also a reason for concern. Lusaka has quite a number of unplanned settlements especially in its outskirts. Some of these settlements are located near waterbodies. Unfortunately, the water is dirtied by the people who live near these bodies, especially by throwing waste into the water. Poorly constructed pit-latrines, a common feature in these settlements, pose a great danger to underground water. In the long run, this becomes a serious health risk because most of our household water is pumped from boreholes.

Land is equally used unwisely. While wastefulness is not as big a problem with land as it is with water, pollution is. It is embarrassing to admit that garbage heaps in Lusaka are common. What is more upsetting is that we residents take the liberty of making the heaps ourselves but do not bother to clear them.

Thankfully, the Lusaka City Council employs workers to clean the city and we do have volunteers who are responsible enough to clear the garbage, though not adequate.

The first step that has already been taken to stop the abuse of these two resources is making people aware of the consequences. Although they may not be evident yet, they are inevitable. Once the indifference shown by people towards the sustainability of our environment stops, our land and our water will be better taken care of.

But even after all the awareness, taking an active part in taking care of our land and our water remains a personal decision. As soon as we stop taking the abuse casually, it is expected to stop. Hopefully.

shanicenattie@gmail.com (Proof read by Ms N. Mulalelo, teacher)

Name: Nathan Namunji Musole

Age: 17 years

School: David Kaunda National Technical Secondary School, Lusaka, Zambia.

Forestry

Birds singing beautifully at dawn. This is how people of Lusaka were woken every morning. Full of vegetation. Forests made Lusaka appear colourful and good to live in.

Every Saturday morning, my father and I enjoyed the fresh air that the forest offered. They provided fresh air. They also created a conducive environment for some animals and insects to survive. They sourced fresh air for animals including humans to breathe. They contributed in giving comfort to the

citizens of Lusaka. They earned people of Lusaka the title of environmentalists. Now, this is in the past as Lusaka no longer has forests.

Many people tend to ignore the importance of forests. This is noted as some people cut trees down and do not re-plant. It is sad to note that Lusaka no longer has forests because of negligence and unwillingness to protect forests. Due to such reason, the forests around Lusaka have died out at the expense of furniture and charcoal.

Zambia has been experiencing problems with electricity due to low water levels in the dams that are a source of hydro-electricity. As a result, we have turned to charcoal as an alternative source of energy.

Deforestation is one of Lusaka's biggest problems not only due to the need of an alternative energy source but also the expansion of the city.

The fumes also come from burning trees for fire-wood and charcoal which are the main reasons for deforestation. Environmental Education must be embarked on by every responsible member of the human community.

Furthermore, measures to curb deforestation are to be embarked on by different organizations that are aiming at making our environment safer for the future generations.

The United Nations Environmental Programme is one of the agencies with the aim of environmental safety at heart. It educates people on the importance of environmental conservation and sometimes, it supports and sends officials to take part in Reforestation programs.

In Zambia, The Zambia Environmental Management Agency(ZEMA) has embarked on environmental education throughout the country. This is helping people learn on the importance of forests. This is hoped to improve our environmental awareness as well as the desire to protect forest reserves. ZEMA is very dedicated to saving the Zambian environment. They have their emphasis on Lusaka as it is the country's major city.

I believe saving our natural resources such as forests should be one of our core values as humans and environmentalists. The current statistics about our environment are alarming. Let us preserve our environment for the future generations.

nathannmusole@gmail.com

Ms. N Mulalelo (teacher) helped proof read the essay

Lawson Kawaza

15 years of age

David Kaunda national technical school

SUSTAIN AND SAVE LIFE THROUGH WATER

Zambia, as a developing country, is one of the countries with abundant resources. Water is one of these resources.

This resource, unfortunately is being contaminated. This is affecting the ten provinces and the 72 tribes which use resources in a variety of ways according to their culture. Zambia remains perilously vulnerable to unreliable water resources because of its insufficient funds to accommodate clean water especially in rural areas. Negative effects of dirty water are in sundry ways including diseases and unfit environment for example in the compounds in Lusaka, the water used for drinking would be the same water being used for washing and swimming which is very unhygienic and unhealthy which leads to the high death rate and low life expectancy in Zambia. Diarrhoea as well as cholera are the second leading killer of children under 5 years, these kinds of diseases kill thousands of people in a year all because of dirty water. IMAGINE dirty water flowing, deforestation, pathogenesis, desertification, air pollution, noise pollution, land pollution, land degradation all happening at the same time... where are we going?

Seeing how abundant and valuable water, air and the environment are, in the world, any pollutant in them causes 'death' to the environment. A fact by a scientist states "you can survive about 4 weeks without food but only 5-7 days without water" (sustainwater.com)

That is the reason why sustainability and preservation of water, air and the environment is very important, because a negative effect in them responds negatively to us as well.

A project worked on by myself with help from my friends was created because of the unfitness of the environment. It is called "**basic sterily-method**, this method is very cheap to make and use on a large scale, efficient, easy to use and very important especially in developing countries like Zambia. It produces 89% clean water, better than the water with pathogens that people from rural areas use.

It is an advancement and improvement from what was created by the United Nations and world healthy organisation called the Solar Water Disinfection (SODIS).

Such projects and ideas would really help and cater for most rural areas and the world because the dirty water being converted to clean water would be safer for domestic use. finding methods to sustain water is very important. In my language we say "PAMOZI TUNGA CHITE CHILI CHONSE" meaning together we can do anything, even sustaining water. This is the reason why sustainability and preservation of water in relation to biodiversity and air is the heart of the world.

Through co-operation towards the preservation of water, we can improve Zambia and the world at large.

lawsonkayz.jr@gmail.com

(proofreading by Mrs Simonga, teacher at my school)