

Santa Fe

cir

Council on International Relations

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Engaging our community in world affairs

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Coming Up

All events at The Forum, Santa Fe University of Art and Design, unless otherwise noted

CIR International Lecture Series

- “Terrorism Ten Years Later – Countering Terrorism: Strategy and Tactics”, Ambassador Henry Crumpton, April 16, 3:00 PM
- “Terrorist Groups and Terrorist Threats: A Muslim World Perspective”, Emile Nakhleh, May 7, 3:00 PM, location TBD

CIR Special Events

- “Hidden Reasons Behind the Turbulence in Egypt”, Dr. Jim Joy, April 5, 5:00 PM, St. John’s Methodist Church, dinner follows
- “Genius of Islam” author Bryn Barnard discusses contributions in science, art, and philosophy with a perspective on the evolution of Europe. April 29, 5:30 PM Santa Fe Prep
- “Iran Study Group—Engagement, Coercion and Iran’s Nuclear Challenge” May 26, 5:30 PM

World Affairs Discussion

- “Puppets of Death,” Morgan Smith will describe his travels in Mexico to learn about the drug war that has caused such tragedy, May 11, 11:30 AM, SF Hilton



Peter and Harvel Sebastian with international visitors from Africa in 2009. Photo by Brigitte Philipp

CIR Says Goodbye to Peter Sebastian

CIR lost a treasured friend, supporter, and colleague with the death of Peter Sebastian in March, 2011. A diplomat with the U.S. Foreign Service for many years, Peter’s most recent posting, before retirement to Santa Fe, was as Ambassador to Tunisia. Other posts included Morocco, France, Ethiopia and Central Africa.

Peter and his lovely wife Harvel moved to Santa Fe after traveling the world together. He was elected to the Board of Directors of CIR in 2007, where he served until his resignation due to ill health in January 2011. Peter’s contribution to CIR, as a member and as a board member, was enormous. His generosity to other members and to his board colleagues, was unfailing and genuine. After quietly listening to many a lively discussion in board meetings, Peter would invariably weigh in with a calm, considered opinion that summed up the situation perfectly. As recently as January, in declining health, Peter and Harvel hosted the CIR board members to a tea to discuss their experiences in Tunisia and to look at current events there. As one board member said “I will always remember him expounding brilliantly on Tunisia from the easy chair [in his living room].”

Peter was the perfect gentleman and consummate diplomat. He remarked on the reality of his recent health situation, saying that he planned to go out with his “panache blanc”. That white plume chosen by Cyrano de Bergerac to symbolize all things admirable was indeed well worn by Peter Sebastian.

Peter Sebastian Inspired Students and Spoke Their Language

*by Jeff Case, PhD.
CIR Student/Faculty Chair*

Editor's note: Dr. Case wrote this remembrance of Ambassador Peter Sebastian before Peter's death on March 22, 2011.

The CIR Fall Summit brought 58 enthusiastic students from seven area Santa Fe high schools and colleges to Monte Del Sol high school in October 2010. Like last year's Summit, we used a state department style briefing delivered by John Dobson, who had just returned from a World Affairs Council study trip on Taiwan.

As in previous seminars, former Ambassador Peter Sebastian once again inspired the students. We use a technique called The Closing to end the educational program. The Closing is part summation, part recounting of factual statements, part speculation, and part interpretation using history, economics, and geography. The main ingredient we are looking for is inspiration. We asked Ambassador Sebastian to stir the students' imaginations, challenge them intellectually, and give them something to savor for the rest of the year. Just as in last year's closing, the ambassador was up to the task. In fact, he was magnificent. For a full 30 minutes, Peter was able to weave the vernacular of young people who use YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter with the knowledge of a veteran Foreign Service officer to present to the students a perspective that is not found in textbooks but comes from real-life experience.

The students gave the ambassador their full attention and I could

see from their expressions that the images that Peter was using were connecting. He would construct an image using three or four elements and then say, "now click the image and make it larger, and tell me what you see". For these students it is a special learning experience when you have a former Ambassador as your tutor explaining in a way that is understandable to them the complexity of these international issues. Many students, including Alex Wirth from Santa Fe Prep, were very complimentary toward these learning experiences. They said that the CIR Fall Summit was very worthwhile and The Closing from Ambassador Sebastian was special.

Ambassador Sebastian and his lovely wife Harvel first worked with CIR student programs three years ago in the CIR Summer Seminar on Iran. Peter and Harvel took two summer scholars, who are advanced students from the Mid-East Studies Program at Santa Fe Community College, under their tutelage. They were gracious in opening up their home and their lives. The dinner conversation gave a foundation which serves both of them in their current graduate studies, one at Middlebury College and the other at UCLA. Both students remarked that working with the ambassador was a life-changing experience.

Peter and Harvel have also provided yet another excellent learning experience called "An Afternoon with an Ambassador". In this program, he and his wife Harvel invited teachers and students into their home for a late afternoon conversation, mingling black tea and treaty obligations with chocolate



Ambassador Peter Sebastian in 2007

cake and boundary negotiations. This remarkable husband/wife team shared current events around the world and personal life challenges when living overseas. We are fortunate to have CIR members like Peter and Harvel who have the ability to put students at ease in a comfortable setting and give them a personalized learning experience. It takes a special attitude and dedication to open your home and to nurture these young people. The students can detect who is truly interested in their welfare, and when they see it is genuine, they responded with an enthusiasm equal to that which the Sebastians gave to them.

Enrique Otero, a teacher from the Waldorf School, gave this thank you: "The students and I were very happy and we learned a lot. The ambassador and his wife couldn't have been more gracious and generous. It was wonderful. Thanks to CIR for orchestrating the Summit and the private followup with a host of such caliber."

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Enrollment & Membership: Membership enrollment sales are final upon completion of the transaction. There is no refund available for any portion of a current enrollment.

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Please note: We are sorry, but we cannot offer refunds later than 72 hours prior to an event.

Travel: The above policies do not apply to deposits and payments for CIR trips. Please call the CIR office at (505) 982-4031 if you have any questions.

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National Meeting an Exchange of Ideas

The National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) held its annual meeting Feb. 16 - 19 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC. NCIV member organizations from across the U.S. and citizen diplomats from around the world celebrated NCIV's 50th anniversary and the 70th anniversary of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). A delegation of four attended from the Santa Fe CIR: Ellen Lampert, CIR Executive Director Patti Poitras, Susan Suss, and IVLP Director Herb Thomas.

The attendees heard from Ann Stock, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, who said, "Citizen diplomacy comes in many forms; it knows no age, no language, no race and social status."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton joined NCIV members at an evening reception celebrating their 50-year partnership with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Outstanding NCIV volunteers were honored with special awards. The IVLP Alumni Luncheon honored participants in the IVLP Gold Stars Tour program and featured remarks by Omowale Ogunrinde of Nigeria and Jiri Payne of the Czech Republic.

The conference featured many interesting sessions with an exchange of ideas on best practices concerning leadership skills in citizen diplomacy.



Photos, clockwise from top left: Ambassador John Beale of Barbados, Ambassador Audrey P. Marks of Jamaica, and Patti Poitras, Executive Director of the Santa Fe CIR during the Luncheon with the Ambassadors. Diana Li, winner of the NCIV English Language Officer/interpreter of the year award, and Herb Thomas, chair of the Santa Fe CIR IVLP program at the conference. Omowale Ogunrinde of Nigeria, executive director and CEO of the Foundation for Skills Development, a training center for unemployed adults, youth, and the physically challenged, spoke at the IVLP Gold Stars Tour event. Dr. Jiri Payne, icon of the democracy movement in the Czech Republic, also spoke during the IVLP Gold Stars presentation. Photos courtesy of Stan Miller (top left) and Diana Li.

Nicaraguan Journalists Visit Santa Fe

Story and photo by Peter Sherwood

In a February Santa Fe snow-storm, Jo and I welcomed six bright, young, and inquisitive journalists for dinner, accompanied by two interpreters.

Following champagne punch, a walkthrough of our version of an 1840s New Mexican ranch house, and a tour of Jo's paintings, we sat by the fire and traded questions.

Lucia, the news director whom I named the "interviewer", asked what I did for a living. When I asked why that was important, she said that she could better understand my views if she knew where I was coming from.

Anulfo asked what experience I had that I wished I could have changed. I responded that during my time with the CIR board during the late '90s there was no such thing as "sides". The Iraqi war changed all that and the board became quite polarized. This I regretted and it seemed our guests understood.

The "interviewer" asked about my politics. I replied that most of northern New Mexico voted Democratic and Santa Feans were quite liberal. Sort of Hollywood East. They chuckled when I admitted to being conservative and a bit lonely.

Anulfo talked about Nicaragua's revolution back in the '80s and the eventual electoral victory of the Sandanistas. He was critical that Ortega hadn't followed through on his campaign promises. I suggested that campaign promises were one thing, but that it takes the middle ground to get things done. The genial Filadelfo poked fun at Anulfo and changed the subject.



Journalists from Nicaragua visit the home of Peter and Jo Sherwood for a candlelight dinner.

Sergio was the cameraman for the group. His big camera was flashing here there and everywhere. Then the dinner bell rang and we had a brief prayer wishing for new ideas for our Nicaraguan guests to assist their careers as well as the transfer of thoughts to assist America to be a better neighbor. Next came the ring of wine glasses to many bienvenudos y saludos followed by Jo's candlelight dinner.

Roberto must have been the oldest; perhaps in his late 30s. He was sitting next to me when I mentioned that he was the most traveled of the group. He tried to deny it, but I pointed out that he had been to six U.S. cities. His eyes lit up as he told of a young Nicaraguan soldier who deserted and fled to the U.S. The deserter had heard of Roberto, who was the editor of a newspaper. He eventually contacted Roberto and asked to be interviewed. This was right up Roberto's alley so he flew to Miami followed by several cities in a type of underground routine until they could link up. Roberto felt his follow-on newspaper article was the highlight of his career.

Anulfo got some chuckles when he recounted the experience they had the previous day at Starbucks. They had met an older woman who spoke Spanish and had opinions on everything from politics to the weather. What they enjoyed most was that this encounter reminded them of family life back home. This was the first such feeling they had had since traveling to several large American cities. Based on this single experience they began to feel at home in Santa Fe for the first time on their trip to the U.S. That was until this evening with the warm fire and Jo's dinner.

The beautiful Yunaisi was fairly quiet during the visit. The few times that she did speak showed her English was the best of the group. As we got up from the dinner table I kidded her in a fatherly way suggesting she shouldn't be so shy with her fine English.

By this time the coffee and apple pie had disappeared, the fire had gone down, and it was time to say good bye. Their English and our miserable Spanish were good enough to initiate many a parting hug.

Ukrainian Champions of Cultural Heritage Preservation and Regional Economic Development Visit Santa Fe

by Bogdan Banu and Carol Robertson Lopez

The delegation of Ukrainian museum managers, administrators of cultural heritage preservation programs, and grassroots leaders of NGOs that champion historic preservation gained a deep insight to the role society and the business community play in implementing programs of national heritage preservation and economic and social development. Most importantly, the visitors learned about the extensive involvement of private citizens in identifying and promoting sites that seek national landmark designations.

Sunday, November 21

The visit to Santa Fe began with a driving tour shortly after checking into the hotel. Ms. Carol Robertson Lopez, City Councilor and Lead Programmer for the Santa Fe CIR, led the tour, which included a visit to the city historic plaza and the art gallery district. Ms. Robertson Lopez and her associates Mr. Nikita Lukichev and Mr. Jeff Case did an excellent job of introducing Santa Fe, arguably the most exciting destination of the trip, a city with a unique cultural and political history.

Monday, November 22

Ms. Robertson Lopez with Mr. Lukichev and Mr. Case delivered a formal program orientation session, then accompanied the delegation to an appointment with city officials: Ms. Rebecca Wurzbarger, Mayor Pro Tempore and City Councilor, Santa Fe City Council; Kate Noble, City's Economic Development Program; and Keith Toler, Convention and Visitors Bureau of Santa Fe.

The discussion focused on the connection between economic development and cultural and historic preservation. The officials described how the city implements a regional economic development plan and preserves the historic character of Santa Fe by administering the Historic Districts and Archaeological Districts ordinances. David Rasch, Historic Preservation of the City of Santa Fe, explained how the city's participation in the UNESCO Creative Cities program also helps Santa Fe maintain its historic and architectural integrity through adapting model public education strategies and creating innovative public and private partnerships.

Ms. Barbara Buhler Lynes, museum curator, guided the visitors on a tour of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and answered questions about museum management and revenue generation.

Dr. Frances Levine, Director, Palace of the Governors and the New Mexico History Museum, discussed a new role history museums can play in the life of communities by offering alternative presentations of the nation's and local historic contexts. She led visitors on a tour of the permanent and temporary exhibitions that span the 500 years of New Mexico history.

Tuesday, November 23

The day's program included a visit to Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. Ms. Robertson Lopez described the history of federal recognition of Native American communities in the Southwest, their government structure, religious and cultural tra-

ditions, and carved red clay pottery. The issues of economic development and cultural preservation by the pueblo Indians were further discussed at the Buffalo Thunder Resort. Mr. Tim Vigil, Director of Economic Development for Pojoaque Pueblo, showed the visitors around the casino grounds, which, apart from the gambling building, include restaurants, hotel, spa, and sports and recreation areas, making it a family friendly vacation destination.

The last appointment of the day was to the Museum of International Folk Art, yet another example of the state government effort of promoting the preservation and development of traditional culture and crafts in combination with the economic development agenda. Ms. Marsha Boll, Director of the Folk Art Museum, and Ms. Laura Sullivan, Director of Development of the Museum's Folk Art Market, both described the significance of the annual Santa Fe International Folk Art Market. The largest folk art market in the world is held in summer in conjunction with the Spanish Market and the Indian Market. The UNESCO sponsorship supports participation of international artists and the artist training programs. The visitors exchanged the business cards with the museum representatives and talked about plans for connecting Ukrainian folk artists with the Folk Art Market organizing committee. After the discussion, the visitors spent time studying the world's largest collection of more than 135,000 artifacts of traditional crafts.

Iranian Odyssey, March 1-15

Story and photos by Barbara Chatterjee

Santa Feans felt at home in the low sierra of central Iran rimmed by dove gray peaks with salt lakes scattered between; a land of enchantment, populated by centuries-old adobe structures.



Shops and bazaars were stocked with food and spices, bright clothing, everyday items, and consumer appliances. Nowruz is the March 21 Iranian New Year, which is a two-week holiday for dressing in new clothes, visiting family and friends, and gift-giving.



Construction is ongoing, as is the repair of old structures by retiling the domes of mosques and stabilizing archeological ruins. We saw factories, fuel tankers, transports with new shiny cars and motorcycles, and freight haulers ferrying goods around the country.

Our curiosity about the people was a two-way street. Because Iran has few tourists, we were curiosities, especially when our American identity became known. School children practiced their limited English and some of us responded with equally limited Farsi. We photographed each other; a few school children sought autographs. Women, as well as men, moved freely and we saw them engaged in various lines of work. We were told that some young adults look for opportunities abroad, but clearly the internal market must be successful enough at some level to move all the goods we saw.

Some women wore bright colors and fairly fitted outfits. Women of all ages chose to wear the all-covering black chador. The women in our group wore long-sleeved jackets and headscarves; only once at a holy shrine did we don a chador. Most men wear western dress, although exotic attire did show up occasionally.

Our guide found eateries from formal restaurants to teahouses to tiny spots where we could taste kebobs,



Top left: The group from Santa Fe CIR in Isfahan. Left: Spices in an Isfahan bazaar. Top: Approaching Achaemenid royal tombs at Naqsh-e Rostam near Persepolis. Above: Zein O Din Caravansera

eggplant, and stew. We were introduced to abgusht, a lamb stew slow-cooked in a single-serving crock (dizi). In the mountain village of Abyaneh the chicken fesenjan, stewed in pomegranate and walnuts, was memorable. Salads, vegetables, and fruit are readily available.

Our visits to historical sites began at Persepolis, the Achaemenid capital near modern Shiraz, and Pasagard, the capital built by Cyrus the Great where his tomb stands. Outside Kerman, the Arg-e Rayen (Citadel of Rayen), we saw how fortresses provided stability and protection. Near Yazd we visited a Fire Temple where Zoroastrian monks maintain an always burning hearth.

At Zein-O-Din we overnighted in a caravansera on the way to Yazd. Caravansera are thousand-year-old Silk Road caravan stops that dot the landscape every 20-30 miles (a day's journey for the camels). The caravansera at Zein-O-Din was a small square fort with only one entrance, which was once large enough for camels to enter to unload their burdens. An equally fortified stable for the camels stands outside. Our "rooms" were sleeping platforms with carpeting on the floors and walls, enclosed by high draperies for privacy; the beds were downy mats, almost like sleeping bags. And so it was for the intrepid seven who journeyed on CIR's Iranian Odyssey.



IVLP Charts a New Way Forward

Thirty CIR members interested in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) met on March 20 at the home of Zella Cox, CIR Deputy Director of IVLP. Programmers discussed ways to meet the demands for complicated programs while maintaining the appeal of being a programmer.

The IVLP is designed to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries through visits that reflect the participants' professional interests and support U.S. foreign policy goals. The program fosters "citizen diplomacy, one handshake at a time." Selected by American embassies abroad, International Visitors come to the U.S. to meet professional counterparts and to gain an appreciation of the diversity of the U.S.

CIR volunteer programmers arrange meetings, transportation, and cultural exchanges. Programmers accompanying visitors to meetings cite fascination with what they have learned about their own city. Resulting friendships often lead to offers of hospitality reciprocation.

If you would like to get involved with the IVLP, contact the CIR office.

Santa Fe International Folk Art Market

The Santa Fe International Folk Art Market is scheduled for July 8 - 12 this year on Museum Hill. Stop by the ticket tent to buy a ticket from CIR volunteers. And remember that kids can travel the world through the Passport Program at the Market, sponsored by Santa Fe CIR. See you at the Market!



Maria Balvina Contento Ambuludi, exhibitor at the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market

Coming this summer! 2011 Gala Event

Formal dinner with Iraq Ambassador Crocker,
June 16, Bishop's Lodge

Cocktails, dinner, wine, and conversation
in an extraordinary setting

Keep checking the CIR website for details!

"Like" us on Facebook and receive email updates of all the latest CIR events

Reflections on Turkish Study Tour 2010

In August of 2010, five local teachers went on a two-week, expense-paid study tour to Turkey, thanks to a grant awarded to Santa Fe CIR by the Turkish Cultural Foundation and administered by the World Affairs Council of America. Three of those teachers share their thoughts after returning to their classrooms.

Kennan Girdner

My visit to Turkey this summer was an incredible journey. I asked myself, "How can it get any better than this?". It did though! This was the first of many days where my mind was indeed swimming with all the sights and sounds of life in Turkey.

Maria Barcelona

Istanbul is a wonder to behold in terms of natural and historical architectural beauty. The ambiance of the ever-present sea is enchanting, and the beauty of the old Byzantium city sets one's imagination whirling. It was all so breathtakingly beautiful and deeply interesting.

Scott Hauenstein

The tour promoted and highlighted the many successes of the Turkish Republic and left this traveler with the feeling that there is much more about Turkey we do not know but we will soon come to understand.

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