



NEW ORLEANS

CITIZEN DIPLOMACY COUNCIL

LOCAL BUSINESSES OPEN DOORS TO OPEN WORLD

Upcoming Visitors and Topics of Study

Near East Regional Group
(10)
US Elections
Jan 22—Jan 26

Multi-Regional
Group (21)
Small Business
Jan 24—Jan 30

Regional Group (6)
Student Leaders / Civic
Responsibility
Jan 29—Feb 1

United Kingdom (1)
African American Politics
Feb 6— 10

Africa (12)
Administration of Justice
Feb 7—Feb 12

Germany (4)
US Elections
Feb 9—Feb 13

Czech Republic (6)
Transparency and De-
mocracy
Feb 10— Feb 13

Africa (7)
Accountability &
Good Government
Feb 13—Feb 16

Algeria (5)
Psychological Effects after
a Disaster
Feb 17— Feb 20

Not all visitors the NOCDC hosts are with the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Some come from other governmental offices or from private entities. One exchange growing in numbers for the organization is the Open World Program administered by the Open World Leadership Center, an independent legislative branch entity headquartered at the Library of Congress.

Recently, the NOCDC hosted three Open World

groups from Russia and Ukraine. They came to learn more about *Social Welfare & the Media*, the *Rule of Law*, and the *Administration of Non-Governmental Organizations*. Their programs were more intensive than those of the IVLP as they stayed in the state for seven to eight days rather than the IVLP average of three to four.

Open World programs expose professionals to a variety of ideas and practices. Perusing a list of appointments shows just how concentrated their time is.

The Social Welfare / Media group, for example, addressed the role of print & radio journalism, the operations of a television facility, the radio as entertainment, and the education of journalists. Public relations & developing a corporate image, using

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(below) Ms. Candice Washington of Second Harvest Food Bank (fourth from right) met in December with Russian participants in the Open World Social Welfare / Media program. Ms. Washington also met in August with the Open World NGO Administration group from Ukraine.



Dear Members:

Happy New Year! This year we have a lot to be happy about as 2007 was one of our most successful years. During the last twelve months we hosted 423 international visitors from the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program and the Library of Congress Open World Leadership Program. We arranged 342 professional meetings with professionals in the region, and 93 visitors were entertained for dinner in our members' homes. In 2007 we also utilized technological advancements to keep you constantly informed about our international guests through our website. Members received monthly electronic newsletters about our visitors and email notification about home hospitality opportunities.

Since the spring of 2006, we acquired a new office, changed our name to the New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council to better reflect what we do, and changed our logo to the fleur-de-lis to better showcase our city. The board revised the organization's outdated by-laws to a more current version, and we hired more staff. We now have 2 full-time and 2 part-time employees. Although we lost nearly 100 dues-paying members after the storm, 70 members renewed their dues in 2007 and we welcomed new members as well. We have truly weathered the storm.

I could not have accomplished this without the assistance of our board of directors. I would like to extend a special thank you to Elizabeth Williams for serving as president for three years and for guiding us through the rough times after Katrina and to our outgoing board members, Monica Ramsey and Jo-Ann Testa Hebert, who served us faithfully for many years. I am happy to announce our 2008 Board of Directors:

Walter Wolf III - *President*

Elizabeth Williams, *Immediate Past President*

Neal Morris, *Vice President*

John Exnicios

Mary I Hicks, *Secretary*

Heather Farnsworth

John Hopper, *Treasurer*

Marianna Rubino

It is hard to believe that I have been the director of our council for 10 years. I could not have done my job without our loyal and dedicated volunteers. I owe my deepest gratitude to you for your continued support of our council and look forward to working with you again in 2008.

Regards,

Mary E. Dennis

Executive Director

Fellowship Training Program Participant in Louisiana

Mr. Toshikazu Shimizu, Superintendent with the National Police Agency in Tokyo, Japan, visited Louisiana on a short-term professional fellowship training program. Under Public Law 402 (The Smith-Mundt Act), the Office of International Visitors administers such programs for foreign nationals who are sponsored by their respective governments. They are similar to those prepared for participants of the IVLP but all costs and travel expenses are paid by the nominating foreign governments.

PL-402 participants are carefully selected by their own countries and are interviewed by Department of State Public Affairs Officers before they are formally nominated to the program. Nominees represent only those with a strong potential for future leadership within their individual ministries. As such, participants are expected to play major roles in the further development of their governments.

In the majority of programs, participants are required to seek training at various organizations. In most cases, fellows are expected to spend a significant period of time at a



federal agency, at a non-governmental organization, and at an institute of higher learning.

Mr. Shimizu's training program will end next month when he will return to Japan after being away from home since last September. During his four days in our state he met with several people at the Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory as well as with James Bernazzani, Mark Gant, Sheila Thorne, and Amy Ford at the FBI office in New Orleans. Anna Duggar, director of the New Orleans Police Department Crime Lab introduced Mr. Shimizu to several of her staff members who discussed DNA analysis, collection of samples, and DNA databases.

If you are interested in meeting with future PL-402 fellows, please contact our office as this pro-



(top) Anna Duggar & Mr. Shimizu in the flooded lab; (above) Examining drug evidence

gram not only strengthens global understanding but also provides excellent opportunities for networking in several fields.

To all of our members & volunteers,

We hope you had a splendid holiday season & that 2008 brings health & happiness to you & your families.

Thank you for all of your generous support & for your dedication & commitment to citizen diplomacy.

– The Staff at NOCDC

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

**Redmellon
Southern Food Museum**

“In the New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship, and never in want.”

– Irish toast

Please keep your eyes open for your membership renewal form which should arrive in your mail shortly.

Open World

Cont. from page 1

the media to advance the mission of a non-profit, the operation of a battered women’s shelter, and international adoption were covered. They also visited a public school and attended a reception given in their honor. On weekends they went to Jean Lafitte Swamp, Mardi Gras World, and Grand Isle. The community welcome given to these profession-

als was overwhelming!

The U.S. Congress established Open World in 1999 after Librarian of Congress & Russian expert James H. Billington shared his dream of a U.S.-Russian leadership exchange. A bipartisan effort quickly led to its creation and it is now available to political, civic, and cultural leaders from all post-Soviet republics. To date, more than 11,000 leaders have participated in this exchange.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT OPEN WORLD

- 123 U.S. federal & state judges have hosted their Russian and Ukrainian counterparts
- 52 state governors & members of the U.S. Congress have hosted participants
- The average age of participants is 38



www.openworld.gov

Visitor Feedback

I think that North African people have the wrong idea about the USA and its people. This trip has positively changed my own ideas. I was touched by what I saw and I hope that more young

Tunisians will visit New Orleans to learn how a disaster can make people stronger, giving them force and perseverance."

IVLP participant R. Bakar from Tunisia who traveled to Louisiana on a Rule of Law

Program in the autumn of 2007.

You can find more visitor feedback on our website under the "Testimonial" tab:

www.nocdc.com

EDITH HOLTZMAN SOFER

Mrs. Edith Sofer, a member of the Citizens' Diplomacy Council (CIV) for a number of years, passed away on November 26, 2007, at the age of 91 years. Like many women of her generation, she joined the work force during World War II. She taught school and worked at the U.S. Treasury, but her favorite employment was in public relations with MGM when the studio had offices in New Orleans. Memories of all the old movies and screen celebrities were her companions during her last years.

An avid traveler, she and her late husband, Max W. Sofer, traveled extensively in Europe and in the U.S. as well as to the Caribbean. These trips always included seeing friends, an art exhibit, an historical site, or an exceptional geological formation.

Mrs. Sofer attended the CIV gatherings, fundraisers, and lectures with fervor and was most appreciative of the warmth and offerings of friendship she received at these events. On the way home, she would say, "I didn't meet anyone I didn't like."

We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family.

Professional Resources – Thank you to our professional resources and to their colleagues for meeting with visitors

Beuerman Miller Fitzgerald PR—**Greg Beuerman**

Café Reconcile—**Janet Davas**

Common Ground Relief—**Sakura Kone**

Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court—**Cindy Delger, Courtney Schroeder**

John Exnicios, Attorney

Judge Patricia T. Hughes—Covington, LA

Judge Lee Romero—Covington, LA

Louisiana Eastern European Adoptive Families (LEEAF)—**Karen Bordelon**

Louisiana State Bar Association—**Kelly Ponder**

Loyola University—**Dr. Robert Thomas**

Loyola University Law School—**Prof. James Klebba**

LSU Health Sciences Center—**Leslie Capo**

Metropolitan Center for Women and Children—**Dale Standifer**

New Orleans Legal Assistance—**Paul Tuttle**

Pontchartrain Elementary School—**Dr. Wiseman**

Press Club of New Orleans—**Catherine Koppel**

Project Fleur de Lis—**Steven Engro, Susan Fendlason**

Rivarde Detention Center—**Christopher Bruno**

Second Harvest Food Bank—**Candice Washington**

St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Court—**Malise Prieto**

St. Tammany Assistant District Attorney—**Lane Carson**

Stone Pigman— **Keith Hall**

Times– Picayune— **Jim Amoss, Lynn Cunningham, David Meeks, Manuel Torez**

Unity for the Homeless— **Vicki Judice**

US Attorney—**Jim Letten**

WDSU-TV—**Lu Adams, Jonathan Shelley**

WGSO Radio— **Jeff Crouere**

Home Hospitality – Thank you to everyone who welcomed visitors with home hospitality and sight seeing.

Mrs. Nancy Turner, Anne and Neal Morris, Jeanne and John Foster, and Susan and John Exnicios hosted Russian visitors in their home through the Open World Leadership Homestay Program.

JoAnne Testa Hebert and Jim Hebert invited the two groups of visiting Russians to their home for a dinner party.

December 2007 Figures

Total Visitors – 22

Total Room Nights – 28

Countries Represented

India, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka

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