

Sister City News

Sister City Celebration

It was a beautiful October afternoon, the ideal setting for the Sedona Sister Cities Association Member/Guest event. More than fifty individuals gathered on the VINO di Sedona patio to celebrate the season and receive updates on Sedona's ongoing search for a Sister City.

The event commenced with a warm welcome from Mayor Scott Jablow. Following his greeting, Vice Chair Carol Myers expressed her gratitude to Lauren and Jonathan Maldonado, the new owners of VINO di Sedona, for their generous support. She also introduced Chuck Marr, who had some insights to share about Canmore, Canada.

Chuck had recently returned from a trip to Canmore and was quick to note the remarkable similarities between Sedona and Canmore: both places boasted natural beauty, a strong tourism industry, and friendly residents. He went on to mention that, thanks to the efforts of Heather Walters, a dedicated supporter of the Banff Mountain Film Festival who resides in Canmore, he had the opportunity to meet with other Canmore locals. The following day, Janet Krausert, the wife of Canmore Mayor Sean Krausert, joined Chuck at the Canmore Rotary Club meeting. Here, they

found that ten individuals were interested in forming a resident's committee to explore the potential of a Sister City relationship.

Looking ahead, a group of fourteen Sedona residents will be visiting Canmore and Banff for the annual Banff Mountain Film Festival from November 1st to 6th. This trip provides an additional chance to strengthen connections with Canmore.

Sara Crosby-Hartman then provided an update on their discussions with leaders from Blessington, Ireland, a picturesque community situated south of Dublin. Blessington already has an established sister city agreement with O'Neil, Nebraska. Officials from Blessington engaged in a productive Zoom call with the Sedona team to assess local interest in a potential Sedona-Blessington relationship.

The event concluded with Mayor Scott Jablow drawing the raffle ticket winners for Irish and Canadian gift baskets, capping off a delightful evening filled with lively conversations, fine wine, and delicious charcuterie.



Judy, Beth, Linda, Sara ready to raffle



Karen, Carol, Chuck, Edyta, Sue share sister city stories



**Pat, Mark, Winnie
Photos by Carol Ortiz**