

Sister City News

A Common Ground Conference

Sedona Sister Cities successfully hosted the Arizona Sister Cities Annual Conference on November 15-16, marking a significant milestone for the organization. The event included the first annual Mayor's International Dinner, which drew an impressive 156 attendees.

A welcome reception for distinguished mayors and international guests was held at the home of Dr. Beth and Joe DuPree. Attendees included Mayors Scott Jablow (Sedona), Ginny Dickey (Fountain Hills), Phil Goode (Prescott), Ann Shaw (Cottonwood), and Jesús Leonardo García Acedo (Imuris, Mexico). Other notable guests included Rob Seeley, Chair of the Canmore Canada-Sedona Friendship Committee, and Ricki Garrett, President and CEO of Sister Cities International.

The Mayor's International Dinner was a vibrant affair, beginning with a thoughtful invocation by Uqualla, a respected member of the Havasupai Tribe. Entertainment by the Lajkonik Polish Folk Ensemble brought high energy to the evening, complementing a keynote by Ricki Garrett. Her address underscored the



**Mayors Dickey, Shaw, Ricki Garrett,
Goode & Jablow**

importance of fostering common ground during a time of global challenges.

The Saturday conference held at Yavapai College featured diverse sessions such as "Pathways to Partnership," "Youth Ambassador Exchanges," and "Managing Delegation Visits," drawing overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants. A sense of community and common cause made all conference interactions significant to the 73 participants. One highlight of the conference was the introduction of the Ambassador Bear, a symbolic and highly sought-after item that quickly sold out.

The leadership of Conference Director Carol Myers inspired the planning team including Sedona Sister Cities members Winnie Muench, Sara Crosby-Hartman, Dave Palmisano, Linda Goldenstein, and Chuck Marr.

The event reinforced Sedona's commitment to fostering global connections and cultural exchange.

