

Georgia to Georgia Foundation and Atlanta Tbilisi Sister City Committee (ATSCC) would like to present to you GEORGIAN CONNECTOR, a new bi-annual newsletter with a goal, to bring together all the USA based organizations that support and promote country and people of Georgia. Through this newsletter we will keep you up to date on the news of GA2GE & ATSCC and also give you an opportunity to learn about other organizations and share with you great support that keeps growing towards Georgia.

If you know of an organization or are part of organization that supports Georgia and would like to be included in our newsletter please let us know.

In this issue we will introduce you to:

- Everything Georgian, Inc
- Georgia National Guard
- Georgia Mission, PRUMC
- Friends of Georgia
- A Call To Serve International

GA2GE: Open World Delegation

GA2GE foundation hosted a Georgian delegation from the Open World Leadership Program from April 28 – May 5. The visiting delegation included professionals from various public sectors of Georgia. Giorgi Kekelishvili, Auditor, Chamber of Control of Georgia, Nina Khatiskatsi Program Director, Transparency International - Georgia, Lela Taliuri Election Project Coordinator, Georgian Young Lawyers Association, Maia Tsiklauri Reporter, Liberali LLC, Nato Zaalishvili General Counsel, Georgian Chamber of Control, Tinatin Museridze, Facilitator for the group.

The delegates visited Atlanta to learn more about government ethics and campaign finance reform. The delegation's program included a discussion with journalists from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution; presentations by independent election monitoring organizations; visits with Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp and State Revenue Commissioner Doug MacGinnitie; and a trip to the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. The delegates were able to witness a local political campaign when they toured the campaign headquarters of Dennis Brown, candidate for the Forsyth County Commission. The delegation also got a chance to visit local attractions like the Coca-Cola museum & Atlanta Aquarium.

This delegation was the eighth delegation that the foundation has hosted. Through these programs together with Open World Organization, GA2GE hopes to provide better resources and training to the professionals in the country of Georgia.



Delegates visiting Coca Cola Museum, Mr. Dennis Brown and accepting certificates from HBSS.

First Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser to benefit Georgian orphanages.

On October 30, 2012 GA2GE will host its First Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser at the Rivermont Country Club. We encourage you to please come out and support us, participate or simply visit. The tournament will close with the **5th Annual Taste of Georgia Dinner**, which will be held at 6:00 PM at the Clubhouse.

8:30 to 10:00 AM Golfers Breakfast
9:00 to 11:00 AM Registration
9:30 to 10:30 AM Putting Contest
11:00 AM Shotgun Tee

- Silent auction - open during breakfast and dinner
- Sales of Mulligans, Raffle Tickets, Par 3 Poker,
- 50/50 Drawing, Putting Contest - at registration
- 2 New cars for Hole In One Holes
- Wine, Vodka, Beer, Food - available from assorted companies
- Pre-sale of tickets (\$10) for iPad

Upcoming Events

- **September 6, 2012 - 6:30 PM** ATSCC & GA2GE quarterly meeting will be held at the office of HBSS, 191 Peachtree Street, St. 2900, Atlanta.
- **October 30, 2012** – GA2GE will host First Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser to benefit Georgian orphanages. **Following the tournament 5th Annual Taste of Georgia Dinner will be held at 6:00 PM at the Rivermont Country Club Clubhouse.**
- **October 12-20, 2012 & December 1-9, 2012** Open World delegation from Georgia is visiting.

We are seeking host families at this time. Please let us know if you are able to assist. The delegation will concentrate on Rule of Law principles, will visit local attractions, meet with local professionals and attend conferences.

- **November 16, 2012 -January 6, 2013** Fernbank Museum of Natural History will feature a **Georgian Christmas Tree** during its Winter Wonderland: Celebrations and Traditions Around the World, the third annual multi-cultural event highlighting celebrations, holidays and cultural traditions from around the world. We are seeking volunteers for this project to assist us with gathering ornaments and decorations. Please let us know if you are interested to help out.

FOR ALL RSVPS AND QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL: Nina Tickaradze at ninat@hbss.net

TEACHING IN GEORGIA:

It was several years ago when Mr. W. Scott Henwood first traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia and offered to teach American Legal History and Legal writing. Since then Mr. Henwood has been teaching at various departments at The Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as at the Law school of Ilia State University. Mr. Henwood is due back to Tbilisi to teach at the Ilia State University for two weeks November of this year.



ABOUT GA2GE & ATSCC

The Georgia to Georgia Foundation (Ga2Ge) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization based in Georgia, USA. Ga2Ge is dedicated to following the philosophy of American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie "to do real and permanent good" in Georgia.

Together with Atlanta Tbilisi Sister City Committee (ATSCC) which is one of eighteen Atlanta Sister City Committees between Atlanta and various cities around the world, it endeavors to build economic, legal, educational, and humanitarian progress in Georgia.

These organizations seek to assist humanitarian efforts, promote education and cultural exchange, encourage sustainable agriculture, and ensure that the country of Georgia has one of the most efficient, open, and productive climates for economic development in the region. By providing practical education to Georgian professionals and expanding the horizons of Georgian students through exchange programs and education, these organizations are building a brighter future for the development of Georgia.

For more information please visit: www.atscc.org

Everything Georgia, INC. - www.egatl.com

First Annual Georgian Festival

On May 26th, 2012, Everything Georgian Inc., a non-profit dedicated to promoting Georgian Arts and Culture, proudly hosted the first annual Georgian Cultural Festival (GSF). The event took place at John Howell Park in Virginia Highland, Atlanta, GA. Aside from being a great cultural step for the Georgian community in Atlanta, GCF was created to introduce and educate the local residents about the rich traditions and customs of Georgia.

Attendees of the festival were treated to Georgian food and wine, folk performances from young Georgian dancers, local Georgian musicians and singers, and to Georgian traditional art and crafts. There were many activities such as a backgammon tournament for grownups and grape stomping and mural painting for kids. Event goers were also able to shop for Georgian souvenirs, festival memorabilia and pose for pictures in life size Pirosmeni cutouts.

The 2nd Annual Georgian festival is planned for May 12, 2013 and we encourage each one of you to participate.



Young Georgian Dancers performing Simidi Dance

GA National Guard, Update:

On June 26, 2012 in Tbilisi more than 100 U.S. military and civilians kicked off a bi-lateral humanitarian assistance and emergency response exercise with classes on the skills and theories necessary for successful disaster response. Public affairs officers from the Georgia Army National Guard and U.S. Army in Europe (USAREUR) were among the participants who provided a crisis communications class meant to help shape the country's public affairs efforts.

Shared Horizons 2012 is a U.S. European Command-directed exercise conducted by USAREUR and supported by the State Partnership Program. It is designed to help the country of Georgia government provide civil response in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. About 12 Georgia Army Guardsmen and 25 USAREUR personnel were working alongside 100 Georgian government officials at the Georgian National Guard Training Center. The Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Defense were leading the exercise.

"The program is built around traveling contact teams that work with our Georgian counterparts on a variety of matters throughout the year," Air Guard Lt. Col. David Johnson, the SPP Director explained. We [the state of Georgia] also conduct continual familiarization visits that focus on implementing 'Combatant Commander strategy' and U.S. foreign policy with which to build partner capacity." "This, in turn," he added, "acts as a building block for the long-term civil-military relationship the state of Georgia and the Country of Georgia." The bilateral program between the two Georgias has existed since 1995.

GEORGIA MISSIONS, PRUMC: www.georgiamissions.org

UPDATE FROM LYNN BANKS:

On September 21st a team of 13 volunteers will be traveling to Georgia to work at 5 children's institutions in the Imereti region. We will be playing/teaching/interacting with about 350 children and youth, many of whom ATSCC individuals sponsor. We have all sort of fun crafts, Olympic competitions, leadership classes, talent shows, and art planned. We will be there for two weeks. This is our 15th trip to this region. We support these institutions throughout the year.

We also enjoyed having Giorgi Mgvdeladze visit. He is in medical school in Kutaisi. He was awarded a two-month clerkship at Grady by Dr. Kenneth Walker and Emory. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and we are most grateful for this opportunity.



Lynn Banks with an orphaned boy

American Friends of Georgia, Inc: www.afgeorgia.org



American Friends of Georgia, Inc. (AFG) is a non-profit, non-political U.S. based public charity with 501(c)(3) formed in 1994 to help the people of Georgia during a difficult post-Soviet transitional period. For over 17 years, AFG has been raising funds for our Georgian partners who set up successful innovative programs to care for the most vulnerable populations in Georgia—primarily children and elderly who are displaced, abandoned, disabled or suffering from leukemia, cancer or tuberculosis. Programs include: rehabilitation, education, palliative care, cancer prevention, nursing, medical care, refugee assistance, sanctuary, art therapy, environmental education, culture and art.

Current education and health programs are: •Abbess Mariam's Tbilisi Day Care Center for Vulnerable Children •Higher Education Scholarship Fund for Former Street Children •NGO Biliki's Small Group Homes for Orphans Released from State Orphanages •Community College for Decorative Gardening •NGO New

Life's Integrated School for Disabled Children in Telavi •Nikozi Education and Cultural Center for the Children Affected by War •Art Rehabilitation for Internally Displaced Children in the Shavshvebi Settlement •Abbess Mariam's Mercy Center Hospice, Nursing School and Home Care Program •Hematology/Oncology Center & Parents House for Children with Leukemia •GARDASIL Vaccine Program for Prevention of Cervical Cancer in Georgian Girls •Infant House for Disabled Orphans with Hydrocephalus.

Please consider a gift to AFG to help continue our work assisting vulnerable Georgians. Your donations are tax deductible. You may contact Marusya Chavchavadze, Executive Director, at afgeorgia@gis.net or 508-349-2180 with any questions.

Join us and see the unique country of Georgia through our eyes for our 'Journey to Georgia' trip September 9 - 18, 2012 with an optional extension of September 18 - 23. AFG and the MIR Corporation have developed a fascinating trip combining the pleasure of touring a fabulously beautiful and welcoming place and the "business" of visiting some of AFG's humanitarian projects. For more details, visit AFG's website www.afgeorgia.org or the MIR Corporation's website www.mircorp.com/tour_american_friends_georgia_2012.asp

A CALL TO SERVE INTERNATIONAL: www.acalltoserve.org

A Call To Serve (ACTS) International, based in Columbia, Missouri, is celebrating its 20th anniversary of developing "partnerships for peace" between the United States and Georgia. The not-for-profit ACTS International was the first NGO in Georgia after the fall of the Soviet Union and, through funding from the U.S. State Department, has shipped millions of dollars in privately donated medications, medical supplies and other much-needed items to Georgia.

With the support of Lions Clubs International, ACTS operates the Ron James Georgian Diabetic Children's Camp, now in its 17th year. More than 1,000 diabetic children and young adults are alive and thriving, thanks to the camp's educational programs. This summer's camp will take place July 30-Aug. 5 in Kvareli. Donations are needed and may be made online at <http://acalltoserve.org>. A gift of \$500 will cover one camper, but any amount is appreciated.



Camp Kids with Trish Blair

The Rotary Club South of Columbia, Missouri, will sponsor its fourth annual wine dinner, featuring the wines of Teliani Valley, on Wednesday, Nov. 7. The fundraiser will benefit the construction of the new Mother and Child Health Clinic in Dmanisi. For more information, e-mail wella4203@gmail.com.

Updates on ACTS' events and activities are posted at <http://facebook.com/ACTS.International>.