Toledo Sister Cities International Serving Northwestern Ohio (TSCI) **CONNECTOR**

**TSCI is your community CONNECTOR building bridges within Northwestern Ohio**



**and stronger bridges within the world we all depend on by sharing**

**\* Great Art** **\* Great Culture \* Great Music \* Great Food \* Great People \***

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APRIL 2024

TSCI is providing resources every day to answer questions that are important now:

**What is a “Homeland” What is “American”**

**What is a “Heritage” What is “Normal”**

**What is “My Heritage” What is “Back to Normal”**

**Where is my family “From” What is “Going Back”**

**What is the difference between “Discrimination” and “Bias”**

**TSCI provides, promotes, and invites global understanding through**

**mutually beneficial economic, educational, and cultural exchange**

TSCI , the Northwestern Ohio chapter (1993) of Sister Cities International (“SCI”) which was started by President Eisenhower in Washington, D.C. (1956)

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**The Sister Cities Universal Law of Success:**

A foundation of three Success Building Blocks

to be completed in the following priority -

1. Communication, 2. Connecting, and 3. Contributing

To achieve TSCI’s “Next Level Initiative” goals, our three-year keystone **“Ambassador Program”** immediately focused on the first building block - **Communication** - by creating this newsletter - **CONNECTOR**.

At the annual **Ambassador Awards Recognition Dinner** in October 2024, four levels of **Ambassador Awards will be presented:**

# of awards

**Citizen Ambassador** - 1 Outstanding Community Leader with international influence

**Business Ambassadors** - 4 Public and Private Company, Non-Profit and Municipality Organization

**Food Culture Ambassadors** - 12 Representing each Sister City country’s food culture

**Youth Ambassadors** - 2 1-Secondary School student and 1- Higher-Level Education student

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**TSCI AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

A program to cultivate successful relationships and international understanding among the youth, adults, businesses, and organizations of the Northwest Ohio region by recognizing the ongoing efforts of business, civic, educational, cultural, and leadership supporters of the TSCI mission

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

**Q-** “When will TSCI publish “International Festival” activity informationupdates?

**A-** To make it easy to find just Festival information, a separate newsletter called FANTASTIC FESTIVAL **CONNECTOR** is published on the 15th of each month and can be sent to any email address submitted to [billk@bex.net](mailto:billk@bex.net).

**LATEST “AMBASSADOR PROGRAM” NEWS**

**Municipalities**

**TLC Public Library**

**Translations Available**

Information about your TLC Public Library’s many programs and services are translated in Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese. More info at toledolibrary,org.

**TLC Public Library**

**Small Business and Non-Profit Assistance**

Interested in creating a small business or a non-profit organization?

A team of expert librarians reviews how to create business plans, how to review industry research, non-profit grants, donor research and more. Appointments are recommended (45 min.) but walk-ins are accepted on a first come-first served basis. For information call 419-259-5370.

**TLC Public Library**

**Arab American Heritage Month**

Meet the author of *Carmen in America: From Damascus to Toledo*

Hear from Genevieve Kirkbride as she talks about the *Carmen* novel series, which chronicles the fascinating story of the Geha family’s immigration in 1946 from Lebanon to Toledo, Ohio **Thursday, April 11 at 3:30 pm in Maumee Branch**

**Saturday, April 20 at 2:oo pm in Sanger Branch**

**Regional Growth Partnership**

TSCI calls your attention to D. Paul Zito, VP of International Development for the Regional Growth Partnership providing a massive economic development resource available to all businesses seeking development opportunities in Northwest Ohio or globally. Particularly important is their expertise available for exploring a business’s site needs, any incentives available for expansion, and export assistance. With a worldwide network of contacts, Paul is Toledo’s own international go-to guy for answers and solutions at [zito@rap.org](mailto:zito@rap.org).

**World Affairs Council of Northwest Ohio**

Listen to fascinating travel stories and sample food from different parts of the world by Americans who traveled abroad. Keep Monday, April 15th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Epworth United Methodist Church, 4855 W. Central Ave., Toledo, Ohio reserved for “Travel Chat on Nepal”. The refreshments will be Fruit, Cheese, Vienna Iced Coffee and other desserts. These events are free and open to the public. Reservations 3 days prior are required to prepare the food.

**Non-Profits**

**Aurora Senior Health Clinic**

A new clinic serving those 60 and over recently opened in Toledo’s South End in the Aurora Gonzalez Community Center. The Neighborhood Health Association is partnering with The University of Toledo Medical Center and the Toledo Clinic to make this Geriatric Primary Care & Specialists Clinic possible in one location. Call 419-241-4230 to get more info or make an appointment.

**HerHub Community**

Learn more about Golden Care Partners, KM Educational Consulting, Sofia Quintero Art and Cultural Center, and other local women-owned businesses in their online HerHub Directory!

**Businesses**

Congrats to **John Amato** and **Jupmode** for beingselected as an honoree for the 2024 “The Doing Right Spotlight” with University of Toledo Family Business Center.

**Food Culture**

The City Paper **2023 Best of Toledo** is out and our **Toledo Sister Cities International Cuisine Ambassadors** were well represented:

Sushi

Winner!– **Kengo Sushi and Yakitori**

Indian

Close 2nd – **Bombay Kitchen**

Italian

Very close 2nd – **Inky’s**

**Youth**

Opportunity to tell your school or youth story here

FEATURED ALLIANCES

Chinese Association of Greater Toledo

Chinese dancers will be part of the Fantastic 2024 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL Press Release on April 24 at One Government Center at 10:30am with the Mayor kicking off Festival Celebrations.



Toledo Opera Company

Closing the season is the exciting **Ragtime** by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens starring Derrick Davis as Coalhouse Walker and Joshua Jeremiah as Tateh on April 19th and 21st.

Such a high quality opera company presenting rich stories full of hope, heart, and humanity in a city of Toledo’s size deserves the support of the entire Northwestern Ohio community.

For more information visit toledoopera.org or call (419) 255-7464.

Toledo Museum of Art (TMA)

In a truly historical event, TMA will present four important paintings by Caravaggio in conversation with works from the Museum’s permanent collection. The exhibition marks the first time in more than a decade that four paintings by this renowned Italian artist have been viewed together in the United States and only the second showing ever of Caravaggio’s work at the Toledo Museum of Art. A single composition by the artist was shown at the Museum in 1951.

Caravaggio’s theatrical works will appear alongside examples of paintings by Italian, French, Dutch, and Spanish artists from TMA’s collection to demonstrate the breadth and intensity of his influence. The Caravaggio paintings on view are on loan from the Kimbell Art Museum (Fort Worth, Texas), the Wadsworth Atheneum 9Hartford, Conn.), the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), and the Detroit Institute of Art (Detroit).

FEATURED PARTNERSHIP – Londrina, Brazil

Toledo has once again proved it is a premier international gateway to the Midwestern United States. Working with The Toledo Mayors office, Toledo City Council, Owens Corning, Regional Growth Partnership, The University of Toledo, and Thread Marketing, Toledo Sister Cities International is preparing to welcome a delegation from our Sister City in Brazil.

The Londrina delegation will include the Mayor of Londrina and the three key decision makers looking for best practices to help in guiding the future of the city.

The visit is scheduled to take place for a week beginning May 20, 2024 with activities focused on economic development, education, regional resources, tourism events, governmental operations, and opportunities for Toledo-Londrina partnerships.

Just another example of Toledo Sister Cities International working together with Toledo organizations to grow, enhance, and market Toledo as “The Worlds’ Best Connection to the Future of Middle America”.

TOLEDO SISTER CITIES PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

Beqaa Valley/Lebanon - Brazil – China – Germany – Hungary

India – Italy – Japan – Pakistan – Poland – Spain – Tanzania

We stand together not because of who we are,

but because of who we may become.

ASSOCIATION OF TWO TOLEDOS (“ATT”) – Toledo, Spain

BEQAA VALLEY/LEBANON – Region

Our partnership is actively working with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur to advise and assist in generating interest in the Beqaa Valley issues and opportunities to respect the culture and work for peace.

Also see attached flyer about Genevieve Kirkbride presentations on the *Carmen* books.

BRAZIL – Londrina

Early discussions are underway for a GTIYO trip to Londrina, Brazil in 2025.

CHINA - Qinhuangdao/Nanchong China Committee

TSCI is privileged to once again have the insight and leadership of Jing Meyer to be a Coordinator & contributor for the 2024 International Festival. In addition to her performances of some of the most noteworthy dances in previous Festivals, her contributions as a Citizen Ambassador for Toledo will help lead TSCI forward through year two of our three year “Next Level Initiative”.

GERMANY – Coburg

The Coburg, Germany Partnership Committee is working closely with the Toledo Technology Academy Division of TPS to implement the Student/Teacher exchange program conceived and facilitated by the German Partnership of TSCI.

HUNGARY - TOLEDO-SZEGED COMMITTEE (Szeged, Hungary)

The Polish-Hungarian Friendship Leadership Reception Was held at the Hungarian Club of Toledo. Beginning with socializing around tables of outstanding Hungarian embroidery and equally outstanding Polish and Hungarian treats to sample, we were impressed with the warm greetings and smiles all around. After heartfelt greetings from Peter Ujvagi and fascinating history shared by Tom Sorosiak, we heard an update on the Polish Community Center by Tom Waniewski. After introductions and toasts all around, we had the pleasure of listening to Congresswoman Marci Kaptur share fond memories and an inspirational vision for the future of Toledo. After that, we could all leave with more hope for tomorrow.

INDIA - Coimbatore

Paresh Dalwalla is assembling an outstanding team to lead the Toledo/Coimbatore Sister City Partnership forward. If anyone in the community has an interest in participating in Toledo’s Sister City Partnership within the country with the largest population in the world, please contact (419) 245-3334 to give us your contact details.

On 11/6/23 The Economist launched a new newsletter, “Essential India”. TSCI will be ramping up our study of the world’s most populous country ahead of next Spring’s general election.

ITALY - Ferrara

The Ferrara Partnership Committee is working with the Italian Superbowl Football Game Organization to have Toledo’s own Regional Growth Partnership have a sponsorship role in the 2024 Italian Superbowl in Italy. Then in 2025, they are working on having it return to the Glass Bowl once again.

JAPAN – Toyohashi

Greater Toledo Youth Orchestra is making plans to visit Toyohashi, Japan in June of 2024.

PAKISTAN - Hyderabad

Life-saving work being done here in Toledo is now turning into life-saving work across the world. We take for granted these days in the US that physicians can get things like advanced brain scans but also have them read by neurology teams in a timely manner. That is not the case in places like Pakistan, specifically Karachi where Promedica doctor Syed Zaidi attended medical school.

Doctor Zaidi is now working with physicians in Karachi, a city with a few million more people than the state of Ohio, to share the technology to get those scans ready in a timely manner, which is the ultimate goal of this Promedica partnership. Minutes matter when talking about the lack of immediate access to advanced brain imaging. According to Doctor Zaidi, every 10 minutes lost in stroke care increases the chance for a worse outcome by five percent.

POLAND - TOLEDO POZNAN ALLIANCE

This group continues to play an important role understanding better than most how new programs are built on a foundation of years of hard work by dedicated members of previous TSCI leadership teams. We look forward to the contribution of their wisdom gained through decades of experience here in Toledo.

TANZANIA - Tanga

This summer the National Institute – Minority Economic Development and Sister Cities International in Washington D.C. are sponsoring the Tanzanian Economic Development Summit on July 22-26, 2024 in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. This world Summit will bring together key government and business leaders from the U.S. and Tanzania to explore opportunities in the following sectors: Healthcare – Technology – Manufacturing – Agriculture – Tourism. This Summit will give current insights into government and private sector initiatives in Northeast Africa. For more info call 734-790-9519.

RECENT TSCI STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

TRIO Educational Opportunity Center

TSCI NOTES

TSCI Office

President Bill Knegendorf is encouraging each member of the TSCI Board to consider scheduling time in the TSCI office for either themselves or perhaps a non-Board member of their Partnership.

Early in 2024 an inventory of all materials, memorabilia, and display items will be completed so that we can organize and display these museum quality pieces in a redesigned office. The offices can then be used by other organizations to host receptions and gatherings while experiencing an International view of Toledo.

Board Members

TSCI Board members continue to meet with community leaders exploring a possible role for them in the exciting “Next Level Initiative” underway at Toledo Sister Cities International.

Events Attended by TSCI Officers gathering the best ideas from the region

International Women’s Day Signature Luncheon (sponsor)-Women of Toledo

Polish-Hungarian Friendship Day Leadership Reception

Travel Chat on Iceland–World Affairs Council of Northwest Ohio

SCAM ALERT

We have received information that certain area codes are being used by scammers to make millions of calls. Be very careful when accepting calls from 268, 284, 473, 649, and 876.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.

*Goethe*

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WORDS OF INSPIRATION

The words of Keith Burris ( former editor, V.P., and Editorial Director of Block Newspapers*)* regarding Toledo, Ohio, summarizes why I chose Toledo (above all the other 9 cities I’ve lived in) to complete the best years of my life: Bill Knegendorf

*“What makes a city great? What the smaller city has going for it are two major quality-of-life factors: low cost of living(especially housing) and less time in traffic.*

*What makes it livable: Cost, health care and transportation should be key factors.*

*But intangibles matter as much: Quality of political leadership; willingness to experiment; a police chief with a mind, heart, and imagination.*

*And finally, confidence matters. Toledo’s greatest challenge is confidence. All the elements are in place. The city and region are ready to fly. We need to believe in the possibility of growth and progress. We need to believe in ourselves.”*

I also have confidence the elements are in place, and let’s all help Toledo fly!

*Comments, suggestions, corrections, additions can be submitted to Bill Knegendorf - President at* [*billk@bex.net*](mailto:billk@bex.net) *or texted to 734-790-9519.*

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| CONNECTOR May | April  2024 |
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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  | 1 | 2 | **3** | 4  Finance Comm 3:30  Executive Comm 4:30 | 5 | 6 |
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| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Swiss Singers  Concert 3pm  Oak Shade Grove |  |  | Wednesdays with Wade Virtual  Town Hall 4:30 p.m. | TSCI BOARD MEETING  5:30pm Virtual | POLAND BOARD  10-12am  Sylvania Library | TANGA BOARD  11am  Luv Bakery |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
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| 21 | 22 | 23  Save Gas – Save Parking – Save Your Nerves – Go TARTA  Info @ Tarta.com | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27  Check them out!  Toledo Museum of Art  Specialized Inclusion Tours  Toledomuseum.org |
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| 28 | 29 | 30 |  |  |  |  |
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“FANTASTIC” FESTIVAL

WHO: For anyone looking for a memorable day of FUN, ETHNIC

FOOD, CULTURAL MUSIC, MAGICAL DANCING, A

WONDERLAND OF GAMES, PRIZES, & AUTHENTIC ITEMS

TO SEE AND BUY.

WHAT: The most exciting “INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL” ever

in Northwest Ohio

WHERE: Oak Shade Grove, Seaman Road in Oregon, Ohio

(*GERMAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL AND THE SUMMER POLKA PICNIC LOCATION*)

WHEN: May 11, 2024 11:00 am to 10:00 pm

Family time 11:00 am to 6:00 pm (Parade and Dignitaries 1:00 pm)

Adult time 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm (Kids Wonderland closed)

WHY: Sure to be a sell-out talked about for years!!!

*(GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY – ONLY 2,000 AVAILABLE )*

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| |  | | --- | | [A poster of two women](https://sistercities.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1c837221eacb97a08e1abd683&id=32d931efae&e=3fd2b095b2) | |

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| |  | | --- | | The Annual Young Authors and Artists Showcase is now open for submissions! | |

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| |  | | --- | | We are excited to announce that the 2024 Young Artists and Authors Showcase theme will be “ClimateScape: Resilient Cities for Tomorrow’s Climate.” This theme not only aligns with the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda but also resonates deeply with Sister Cities International’s commitment to fostering cooperation among cities. We invite young artists and authors to delve into the pressing challenges of climate change and its profound impact on cities. From rooftop gardens and green infrastructures to diverse communities united in sustainability, “ClimateScape” celebrates the resilience of our cities while fostering a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow. | |

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| |  | | --- | |  |   [Visit our website to find out more about the Showcase and to review the eligibility requirements.](https://sistercities.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1c837221eacb97a08e1abd683&id=131ab31635&e=3fd2b095b2) |

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| Awards will be given out to the YAAS winners who place 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.  **1st Place: $1,000 2nd Place: $250 3rd Place: $100** |

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