



AKHBOR:

FALL 2017 NEWS

## News of Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities

**BDSC ANNUAL MEETING: DECEMBER 7, 2017, 7PM,  
1060 18TH ST, BOULDER. ROOM 134 (ENVD BUILDING)  
PAID PARKING AVAILABLE IN GARAGE, EAST OF UMC  
QUESTIONS? CALL: 720-771-3149.**

Free! All are welcome. Enjoy tea & sweets from the Teahouse and presentations. Cholpon Minbaeva will speak about her work on "The socioeconomic impact of the modified water flow in the Naryn River basin, Kyrgyzstan", and Shawhin Roudbari and Nate Jones will present the developing relationships between the CU-ENVD and the Tajik "built-environment" community. Hope to see you there!

### NAVRUZ 2017

Boulder was delighted to host the return to the Teahouse Plaza of the Tajik Navruz (Persian New Year) celebration March 19. The Tajik community invited all to celebrate with them enjoying traditional food, music and dancing. It was a great day and a wonderful festive affair.



### OPEN WORLD DELEGATION VISIT 2017

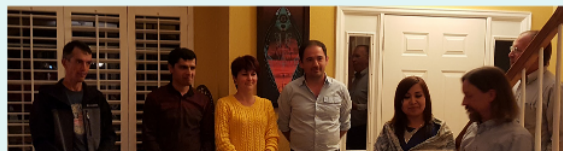
A delegation from Tajikistan visited Boulder under the auspices of the Open World Program, sponsored by the Library of Congress, from May 20 – 28, 2017. Members of the delegation were: Farrukhruz Izzatulloev, Head of Tourism Development and Tourism Infrastructure of the Republic of Tajikistan; Liliya Mustaeva, Marketing Manager, at the Bakhoriston Health Resort, near Khujand; Akbarjon Makhsudovich Murodov, General Director of the Akbar-Tour LLC, a travel agency in Khujand; Roziq Yafталiev, Director of the Oyanasoz NGO in Nisur village, in the Bartang Valley of the Pamirs; and Sitora Kasimova, the Facilitator of the tour and an employee of the United States Embassy in Dushanbe.

There were nervous moments shortly before the delegation arrived, as the mid-May snowstorm flooded the basement of one of the host families. Fortunately, the visitors were able to double up. Hosts Joe and Carolyn Stepanek and Rett Ertl (taking advantage of Sophia and Peter Stoller's vacant house) picked up the slack. Many thanks to the other hosts, Shawhin and Shideh Roudbari and Cholpon Minbaeva.

An itinerary arranged by Jeffrey Magnuson, Vice President of Boulder Dushanbe Sister Cities, provided fascinating interactions. The delegation heard presentations from the following: Mary Ann Mahoney, Director of the Boulder Convention & Visitors Bureau; Mark Davison Community Connections & Partnerships Division Manager and Keri Konold, Community Relations Officer, Open Space and Mountain Parks Department (OSMP), City of Boulder; Shelly Benford, Executive Director, Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark; Stacey Schulte and Nate Jones of the University of Colorado Department of Environmental Design; Susy Alkaitis, Deputy Director of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics; Darla Sidles, Superintendent; Kyle Patterson, Management Specialist, Public Affairs; and Rich Fedorchak, Chief of Interpretation and Education, Rocky Mountain National Park; Brady Robinson, Executive Director, The Access Fund; Alex Kosseff, Executive Director, American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA); Court Whelan of Natural Habitat Adventures, a travel agency specializing in responsible adventure travel; Asa Firestone, Co-Owner, Boulder Adventure Lodge; Abby Daniels, Director and Jancy Campbell, Board Member (and former President of the Board of Boulder Dushanbe Sister Cities), Historic Boulder.

The delegates asked relevant and pointed questions at every opportunity. Themes repeated themselves. The concept of preservation vs. recreation or public use was discussed in several of the meetings (City of Boulder OSMP, Rocky Mountain National Park, Historic Boulder). Similarly, a clean environment will draw more visitors, who then must be convinced not to throw their trash on the ground (Leave No Trace Behind). We must not shoot endangered species, but photograph them. In a word, if you make your country inviting and safe, your economy can benefit (Access Fund). And if you start designing your trails to be environmentally sensitive, rather than following animal trails (for example, minimizing erosion), then you can also save on maintenance (CU Department of Environmental Design).

The ultimate goal of this visit is to help Tajikistan become a tourist destination. Since only 7% of Tajikistan's land area is arable, agriculture cannot support the economy. And since the country is remote from most population centers, it is difficult to be an exporter, given the difficulty in transporting goods. However, this remoteness also appeals to adventure travelers. Tajikistan has two spectacular mountain ranges, the Pamirs (whose highest peak is 24,590 feet), and the Fann Mountains (which reach 18,009 feet), and, of course, spectacular scenery. An adventure travel industry would raise the income of the people of the Pamirs, and of the country as a whole. We at Boulder



### BDSC PRESIDENT MOVING TO MALI

We are both sad and happy to report that Stephanie Martz our wonderful BDSC board president will be leaving Boulder October 1 for Mali, Africa. With a background in public health and years working in parts of French speaking Africa she will be working at USAID as the Global Health Security Agenda Advisor. What a great opportunity though we will miss her. We wish her the very best on



## NEWS FROM DUSHANBE...

### TAJIK MOTORCYCLISTS TOUR USA CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF US AND TAJIK FRIENDSHIP



The "We Are Tajiks" motorcycle group, sponsored by the US Embassy in Dushanbe and the Tajik government, set out on a grand tour of the USA this May. They were celebrating 25 years of United States and Tajikistan friendship. The group lead by Farkhod Kalonov started in Miami and wound their way through the USA via the Dakotas, Colorado, Las Vegas and Los Angeles. They stopped for a brief visit in Denver with Tajik friends and then came up to visit Boulder and the Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse May 27. An exciting time was had by all exchanging stories of motorcycle adventures. To learn more about Farkhod's group and about motorcycle touring in Tajikistan, check out his website [TajMotoTour.tj](http://TajMotoTour.tj)



"We Are Tajiks" Motorcycle Group

### BOOKS FOR DUSHANBE



This winter in response to information that there is a high interest in learning English in Tajikistan but a lack of English language books for English learners, Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities, the Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse, and the local Tajik community organized a book drive. In one week's time Boulder school children, families,

and individuals brought their favorite children's books to the Teahouse. Books for Humanity director Anita Stuehler donated funds and boxes of collected books, the Boulder Public Library donated books, the Denver Tajik community gathered and brought books to Boulder. One Saturday afternoon, volunteers sorted and packed mainly children's books for Dushanbe, 1300 of them. United States Ambassador to Tajikistan, Elizabeth Millard who had suggested the book drive during her October visit to Boulder, arranged for the delivery of our books via U.S. military transport at no charge, a huge savings for us. We delivered our books to Fort Carson all packed and labeled. Several weeks later they arrived at the US Embassy in Dushanbe. They were delivered to the Boulder-Dushanbe Friendship Center and Dushanbe Schools at an official handing over ceremony celebrating 25 years of US/Tajik diplomatic relations. 500 books were delivered to the Boulder-Dushanbe Friendship Center. Other books were distributed to local schools, many with plans to create a special English language library. This effort was amazing. So many people in Boulder and Denver stepped forward to share their favorite stories with our sister city friends half way around the world. Thank you to all who donated books, volunteered and who delivered the books. Happy reading to our Tajik friends!



### BOULDER-DUSHANBE FRIENDSHIP CENTER AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE SPEAKERS



The Friendship Center continues to be a busy place. English classes and discussion groups are on going. Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities recently assisted the FC with purchases to replace broken solar collectors and ageing

### SKYLER HOGUE AWARDED FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to CU Environmental Design School student Skyler Hogue who has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study the Tajik language in Dushanbe for the Fall 2017 semester. He is participating in a program offered through American Councils. Skyler will also be volunteering at the Boulder-Dushanbe Friendship Center assisting with conversational English practice for Friendship Center students. Skyler sent photos of a recent trip.



A four hour drive from Dushanbe and a one hour hike from the Du-Oba Basecamp rewards mountaineers and campers alike with the breathtakingly blue waters of Alaaddin Lake, seated about 9,000 feet above sea level.

### INTERESTED IN JOINING THE BOARD?


Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities is inviting participation by interested folks to join our Board of Directors. We are a small group and would like to encourage interested folks to join the board. Projects we undertake depend on board members interests and expertise. There are great opportunities to follow through on international exchange projects between our cities promoting better understanding.

Interested? Contact: Rett Ertl, [rettertl@hotmail.com](mailto:rettertl@hotmail.com).

### RENEW OR JOIN BDSC TODAY

It's that time of the year: Annual membership fees are due! If you are a member, please renew your membership before the end of the year. If you are not a current member, we would be happy to welcome you! To receive future newsletters, event notices, and invitations, and to support our efforts, send a check for a \$30 basic membership to:

Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities - Membership  
764 Sunshine Canyon Dr.



lead acid storage batteries for the solar electric system. They are always interested in English language speakers who would like to work with their students. Let us know if you are interested in this great opportunity to spend time in beautiful Tajikistan. Contact: [sophiastoller@yahoo.com](mailto:sophiastoller@yahoo.com).

Boulder, CO 80302

Please include your name, address, phone, and email address with all correspondence. You can also pay online at the BDSC website: [www.boulder-dushanbe.org](http://www.boulder-dushanbe.org). Click on "membership" and follow the instructions. Thank you for supporting Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities!