



# DENVER SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER 2010

## NAIROBI, KENYA

POPULATION: 3,138,295 (2008)

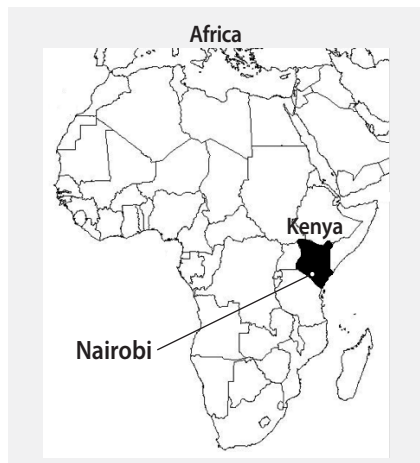
MAYOR: Geoffrey Majiwa

SPOKEN LANGUAGES: Swahili (official)

SISTER CITIES: Denver, USA

FORMALIZATION: 1975, Denver's 3rd Sister City.

**DID YOU KNOW?:** The name "Nairobi" comes from the Maasai phrase Enkare Nyirobi, which translates to "the place of cool waters". It is also popularly known as the "Green City in the Sun" and the "Jewel of Africa."



Denver Sister Cities International promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation with cultural, educational and economic endeavors.

Denver Sister Cities International  
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## Nairobi, Kenya

I was clueless about Nairobi before writing this article. In my research, I discovered a metropolitan city with an impressive skyline and a fascinating, multi-dimensional personality.

Nairobi started out in 1899 as a primitive rail depot between Mombassa and Uganda as little more than a malaria-infested swamp. In one century, it grew to a city of over two million people and is now forecasted to more than double to 5 million by 2015.

It has been called Kenya's "biggest and baddest" city. Alongside a thriving music and growing arts scene, numerous memorable parks, a diversity of restaurants, and jump-offing convenience for tourists going on safari, Nairobi houses Africa's second largest slum and struggles with crime and corruption.

A 2001 U.N. report claimed 1/3 of all Nairobi residents had been robbed in one way or another. Most crime occurs in the slums and does not affect tourists. But the estimated one and a half million who live in the shanties of Kibera, Nairobi's largest slum, suffer not only murders, assaults and rapes but AIDS, HIV, scant education, and scarce clean water. The poverty is extreme. Most earn less than \$1 a day and many earn nothing at all.

Nairobi is part of Kenya, and Kenya was home in the mid-20th century to the Mau Mau uprising – considered one of most important events in recent Africa history in which tens of thousands native Kenyans were killed. The conflict accelerated Kenya's independence from England and prompted many other revolutions in Africa against colonialism.

### **Today, despite a violent past and contemporary challenge, Kenya offers:**

- Nairobi National Park, an enormous wildlife preserve on the outskirts of the city
- The National Museum of Kenya, renowned for its display of early humans and lush gardens
- Parliament buildings, law courts, McMillan Memorial Library, and City Hall ... all a display of the city's British roots
- A large Municipal Market and bazaar
- The Kenya National Theatre
- The Go-Down Arts Centre in a converted industrial warehouse with an array of art studios
- The Langata Giraffe Centre where you can observe, hand-feed, and even kiss giraffes
- The beautiful Jamia Mosque with domes, marbles, and inscriptions from the Koran
- Karen Blixen's (Out of Africa) rustic farmhouse where she lived from 1914 to 1931.

From shanty town to capital of all East Africa to a 21st century Mecca for adventurers, hunters and travelers from all over the world, Nairobi, Denver's Sister City since 1975, is a remarkable city.

### **25 for \$25:**

Few restaurants in Africa hold the fame and notoriety of the world-renowned Carnivore Restaurant in Nairobi. Filled nightly with locals, ex-pats, and tourists alike, Carnivore features an exquisite array of exotic tableside carved meats. Even Secretary of State Hillary Clinton couldn't pass up a chance to dine there during a recent visit to Kenya. Please join the Nairobi Committee as we celebrate Nairobi's most renowned restaurant at Denver's very own version of Carnivore- Rodizio Grill! Space is limited – Call 303-832-1336.

**What:** Nairobi's 25 for \$25 Dinner

**Where:** Rodizio Grill (1801 Wynkoop Street Denver)

**When:** Thursday August 5, 2010 at 6:30 pm

**Cost:** \$25 (Includes carved meats, salad bar, soft drinks, tax, and tip)  
\$35 for non-members

## Letter from the President

Summer is here and we have a bushel of activities on our calendar in the coming months for our members and the people of Denver. Look for more wine tasting events, picnics, celebrations and bocce ball tournament all in our parks, plus book club gathering and receptions for visiting delegations and friends. The Friendship Dinner is in September, which is our major fund raising event, is looking to be very exciting with wonderful auction items coming in. Keep an eye on the weekly Envoy as some events are planned and happen very quickly and I am hearing conversations of some fabulous events in the works to help support our growing student exchange programs. In April Takayama had 38 people in their tour and Kunming just returned from their tour in May and both were reported as having been terrific and wonderful. Check out our web site for event pictures and the "Calendar" (under the What We Do tab), for upcoming events which you can now sign up and pay for on line. You know one of the benefits of traveling as a member of DSCI is the warm welcome you receive from the people and officials of our sister city. So start planning, as I am, for the October trip to Potenza Italy. Oh, by the way, the Nairobi dinner will sell out fast so you should not wait to long to sign up. You snooze, you loose.

I'll see you at our next event.

*Flora DuPree, President*

303-587-8588 or [flora@floradupree.com](mailto:flora@floradupree.com)

### Please Mark Your 2010 Calendars

July 2: Takayama 50th Anniversary Celebration at Littleton High School Theater, 2:30-4:30pm

July 3: Takayama 50th Anniversary Celebration at Cherry Creek Arts Festival, 10:00am-5:00pm

July 24th & 25th: Colorado Dragon Boat Festival Sno Cone Booth-at Sloan Lake

July 30: Brest Wine Tasting , 6:00pm in Highlands neighborhood home

August 2: Cuernavaca's Curandero Event at Cuernavaca Park

August 5: Nairobi's 25 for \$25 dinner at Rodizio' Grill, 6:30pm

August 22: Axum Picnic from 3:00-5:00pm Axum Park

*Please call or email the City Chairs to find out dates of their Committee meetings and watch the Monday E-Blasts.  
Call our office if you do not receive the E-Blasts.*

Denver Sister Cities invites you to join us for a good book and good conversation on September 15, 2010.

The new book club will select a new book to read every quarter that relates to our sister cities. The first selection is "Unbowed" by 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Wangari Maathai. This is the compelling memoir of the first Kenyan woman to earn a Ph.D. and her political and environmental work in the male-dominated and politically volatile Kenya she found when she returned to that country in 1966 after she completed her education in the United States.

All are invited. To join, please contact Bob Connelly at 303-947-9475.

### We Need Your Email Address!!!

So you can receive the Monday "chock-full-of-news" E-Blasts, please send your email address to [info@denversistercities.org](mailto:info@denversistercities.org). Soon we will be sending this newsletter out digitally, as well.

## CITYSCAPES

### Axum, Ethiopia (Sister City since 1995)

Using the restroom at Hawelti Elementary School in Axum, Ethiopia, used to involve walking up a hill behind the school and finding a bush. There were no water nor toilet facilities. The school's Parents Committee had begun building a latrine but ran out of funding.

In March, The Axum Committee, with help from DSCI, helped complete the latrine and construct a wash station. A delegation from Metro State College of Denver, which was working on a video project, attended the dedication. We hope the students' health and attendance will improve. *Axum Chair: Pat Tucci at 303-279-5504 or [ptucci@sprintmail.com](mailto:ptucci@sprintmail.com)*

### Brest, France (Sister City since 1948)

Join the Brest Committee for an evening of wine tasting and help support exchange students who will travel to France at the same time. The wine tasting is from 6-9 p.m., July 30, at the home of Dr. Michael and Katie Ament in the Highlands area. RSVP soon.

The committee is also working with Daniele Goasdoue in Brest, Christian Roche at DCIS and JoAnne Doyle of the Boulder Valley school district to bring a group of high school students from Brest to Denver in the fall of 2010. *Brest Chair: Ari Lourie at 303-478-8684 or [arilourie@aol.com](mailto:arilourie@aol.com)*

### Chennai, India (Sister City since 1984)

In August, the Chennai Committee will celebrate India Independence Day Chennai Park. On Oct. 9, we will



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### **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (Sister City since 2001)**

Do you know what is the coldest capital of any nation on Planet Earth? Ulaanbaatar! Formerly known as Urga, Ikh Khuree Khot and Niislel Khuree as it grew from the religious into the political center of the nation, "Ulaanbaatar" became the name of the city in 1924, after the revolutionary leader, Sukhbaatar.

The Luby ñ Jenkins School Pairing Program's summer delegation heads over to Mongolia mid-June for a two week visit to each of its partner schools, and many other events and projects are planned while they are there. Students and teachers from both Denver Center for International Studies in Denver and Greyhills Academy High School in Tuba City, AZ make up the delegation.

The summer delegation trip is being finalized. Contact Jim Wagenlander at [Wagenlander@wagenlander.com](mailto:Wagenlander@wagenlander.com) with questions.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. *Ulaanbaatar's Chair: Peg Johnson at 303-698-0687 or [Peg.Johnson@yahoo.com](mailto:Peg.Johnson@yahoo.com).*

host exchange students this summer. Details are under works. And Sonoda Restaurant in Aurora also hosted a successful 20 for \$25 on May 20. *Takayama Co-Chairs: Kimiko Side at 303-333-5200 or [eside3990@aol.com](mailto:eside3990@aol.com) and Brian Matsumoto at 303-916-9988 or [matsi22000@yahoo.com](mailto:matsi22000@yahoo.com).*

# CITYSCAPES

(in alphabetical order)

commemorate Gandhi Memorial Day. Any interested speakers who can relate Gandhi's principles of nonviolence in today's turbulent world should email [info@sistercities.org](mailto:info@sistercities.org).

Karin Schumacher will also give a slide show of her four week trip to India in January. The next meeting is 4-6 p.m. June 19 and will be followed by a potluck dinner. *Chennai Chair: Karin Schumacher at 303-321-1634 or email [karinschu@msn.com](mailto:karinschu@msn.com)*

## Karmiel, Israel (Sister City since 1977)

Denver students continue to learn with their counterparts in Karmiel, Israel, thanks to the International Book Sharing Project. The Karmiel Committee is evaluating Abraham Lincoln High School for inclusion in the online Holocaust literature study project. Other schools involved include George Washington, South and Mullen High Schools. Also, Dr. Ellice Goldberg's medical lecture series in Karmiel is finalized. Goldberg will present in Denver this summer as she is unable to give a preview before her trip as originally planned. *Karmiel Chair: John Berman at 303-832-7645 or [jaberman.com](mailto:jaberman.com)*

## Kunming, China (Sister City since 1986)



Left to right: Tom Heng, Amy Aquirre, Jim Ryder, Flora Dupree, Joe Sinisi, Hing Ryder, Greg Koss, Jeanie Johnson, John H. Yee, Mayor Hickenlooper, Naili Yee

Next time you are at the Denver Zoo please look for the peacock sculpture near the edge of the Carousel Meadow.

The bronze piece by Chinese sculptor Yuan Xiao-chen was relocated from Denver Botanic Gardens after its recent construction.

The gift was from the people of Kunming to Denver and is entitled "Good Fortune Is Her Stay." A photo of Mayor Hickenlooper and the Kunming Committee will be delivered to Kunming by a delegation led by Jeanie Johnson.

A formal rededication of the sculpture will be held in summer or fall. *Kunming Co-Chairs: Jan Bryant at 720-837-5592 or [fjan4info@aol.com](mailto:fjan4info@aol.com) and Jeanie Johnson at 303-755-9706 or [jeaniebj@aol.com](mailto:jeaniebj@aol.com)*

## Nairobi, Kenya (Sister City since 1975)

Help students in rural areas of Kenya gain access to books through a book drive the Nairobi Committee is supporting. The drive aims to collect 120,000 books to create 60 libraries in poor rural areas of Kenya. The drive is sponsored by SCOPE and Arvada Sunrise Rotary and volunteers are need throughout the summer to sort boxes for shipping. Contact Ashley at [ruiz.ashley@gmail.com](mailto:ruiz.ashley@gmail.com).

Also, 32 loans totaling \$1,875 were granted to help Kenyan entrepreneurs through micro-credit financing. *Nairobi Chair: Ashley Ruiz at 303-910-9316 or [ruiz.ashley@gmail.com](mailto:ruiz.ashley@gmail.com)*

## Potenza, Italy (Sister City since 1983)

A truckload of "crusher fine," a few hours of committee-member labor and our bocce ball courts are ready to go for the First Annual Potenza Committee Bocce Tournament scheduled for Saturday, September 4, 2010, at Potenza Park. Please join us!

Also, a customized tour of Potenza, Matera and other picturesque towns in the Basilicata region is planned for October 21-31, 2010. Contact Anne Di Candido Griffin at [grifndeak@comcast.net](mailto:grifndeak@comcast.net). The medical conference on celiac disease (gluten intolerance) will involve a Potenza physician and/or medical researcher attending the Dr. Arne Silverman Lecture on November 19, 2010 at Children's Hospital. *Potenza Co-Chairs: Anne Griffin at (720) 988-3828 or [grifndeak@comcast.net](mailto:grifndeak@comcast.net) and Kathy Jackson at (303)493-2120 or [kathytalavera@hotmail.com](mailto:kathytalavera@hotmail.com)*

## Takayama, Japan (Sister City since 1960)

The 50th celebration of the Denver-Takayama sister city relationship continues at the Cherry Creek Arts Festival. Please join us on July 3 for Japanese dance, traditional music, Taiko and tea ceremony. The City of Denver will also host a reception.



Denver sent a 30-member delegation to Japan and was received warmly including a tree-planting commemoration. Takayama will send 90 representatives to Denver and we hope to welcome them as well.

Also, the Takayama committee and the city of Denver will

*continued on back page*