

Mayors proclaim 'Guanajuato Day'

by Kernan Turner Ashland Amigo Club

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Ashland Mayor John Stromberg (left) and Guanajuato, Mexico, Mayor Alejandro Navarro Saldaña applaud a hand-made ceramic replica of the Guanajuato Coat of Arms, the city's symbol since 1741. Guanajuato donated the shield to Ashland last year, but it wasn't unveiled until Monday at a ceremony proclaiming "Guanajuato Day" in Ashland on the 50th anniversary of sister-city relations.

The mayors of Ashland and sister-city Guanajuato, Mexico, proclaimed "Guanajuato Day" in Ashland on Monday.

More than 50 citizens from the ancient Mexican metropolis and mining center are in Ashland this week, joining in 50th anniversary celebrations of sister-city relations.

A like number of Ashlanders will travel to Guanajuato for its anniversary activities in May.

The formal proclamation, signed by Ashland Mayor John Stromberg and Guanajuato Mayor Alejandro Navarro Saldaña, recognizes that their cities' municipalities and universities "have forged strong ties" since 1969 and share a "diverse bi-cultural experience."

City, chamber and university representatives from both municipalities and the public packed the Ashland council chambers during the proclamation signing ceremony.

The document states, "With 2019 marking the 50th year anniversary, the Sister City affiliation and the Amistad (student exchange) Program have forged strong ties between the two cities, and that relationship continues until this day."

In his remarks, Guanajuato Mayor Navarro Saldaña said the sister-city connection "binds two cities, two cultures and two countries together. ... Fifty years is a great trajectory between two beautiful, great countries and serves as a role model for the world."

In other activities Monday, the Guanajuato visitors toured Ashland and local wineries before dinner in the Brickroom Restaurant hosted by the city and chamber of commerce.

On Tuesday, scheduled activities include a breakfast hosted by Temple Emek Shalom, a visit to play in the snow and have lunch on Mount Ashland, a visit to a La Clinica health center and a reception, choral concert and dinner at Southern Oregon University.

On Wednesday, Ashland Parks and Recreation and the Ashland Lions Club will serve a farewell breakfast at the Brickroom. The final celebratory event is a dinner party hosted by the Ashland Amigo Club, also founded in 1969, at the Ashland Springs Hotel ballroom.