

Celebrating 50 years of effort for world peace and friendship

It looked as if the United Nations was having a picnic in Sister Cities Plaza at Logan Square on Thursday. Nearly 400 citizens from around the world met to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Visitors Council (IVC) of Philadelphia at its 18th annual BBQ.

The highlight this year was the burial of a Peace Time Capsule to be opened in 2029, on IVC's 75th anniversary. In the capsule were letters from various government officials, as well as notes and personal mementos from IVC friends and employees.

IVC president **Nancy Gilboy** put in items such as a current annual report, brochures of seminars from the 25th and 30th anniversaries, an official Philadelphia visitor's guide, and a photo of IVC board member **Robert Frye**, now chief of protocol in Baghdad.

She also wrote a three-page letter expressing her hopes for world peace, and for the IVC. "I hope it's even stronger in 25 years," she said.

During her remarks, she talked of **Guijin Li**, who is visiting with the Sister Cities Program from Tianjin, China, with fellow visitor **Mu Yang**. Guijin Li wrote a poem for the capsule saying peace would reign when people accepted all cultures.

Before the time capsule's burial, people signed their names on its exterior. Among the signers were **Mark Beyerle**, **Susan Kellogg**, **Cheryl Mannings**, **Mary Platt Coles**, **Masahiko Narita**, **Yi-Chen Kao**, and **Joan and Branch Heller**.

"I don't want to get too close to the capsule," joked senior citizen **Anne O'Callaghan**, "in case they bury me with it."

IVC's motto is "Make Friends, Make Contacts, Make Peace." It works with the U.S. State Department to build amicable relationships between emerging world leaders and Philadelphia-area people and businesses, and cultural and



JOHN COSTELLO / Inquirer Staff Photographer

Nancy Gilboy of the International Visitors Council watches as the Peace Time Capsule is buried by Sam Curry of the Fairmount Park Commission.

educational institutions. IVC administers the Sister Cities Program, the Philadelphia Trade Office, and the U.S. State Department International Visitor Leadership Program.

IVC senior project officer **Ron D'Alonzo** handled the Philadelphia visit of five imams from Kvevz

Republic. **Mukaddas Kojoniazov**, **Mahamatkarim Matmuratov**, **Kojo Appazov**, **Zieviddin Madjidov**, and **Adhambek Amirov** were at the picnic wearing tall conical white hats traditional to their culture. As part of the leadership program, the men will travel to various cities to explore religious diversity and tolerance in the United States.

Other international guests expected to attend were **Lily Golden** of Russia, **Yasuo Eguchi** of Japan, **Qingli "Ada" Hang** of China, **Hyui-Seung Lee** of South Korea, and **Tzu-Chen Wang** of Taiwan.

Baird Brown, IVC board chair, attended, as did **Stephanie Naidoff**, Philadelphia commerce director, and **Charles Moore 3d**, director of the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Also there were **Todd Bernstein**, **David Webster**, **Rafiq Fazalbhoj**, **Phoebe Resnick**, **Harvey Philip**, **Paul Matyskiela**, **Paul Marttila**, and **Anna and Peter Kraynak** with their 3-year-old son, **Jack**.

The \$47,000 in proceeds will support IVC programs.



Pauline Pinard Bogaert
Social Scene