AGENDA
International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC) Meeting
August 6, 2014 * Board Room * 7:00 pm

IMAC CHAIR’S REPORT – Pat Fisher
- IMAC Annual Report to CA Board: May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014
- Recruiting new IMAC members
- Elections for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary on Sept 6

PROGRAM, MANAGER’S REPORT – Laura Smit
- Sister Cities High School Exchange 2014
- Signing formal Sister Cities Agreement with Tema, Ghana & travel to Ghana

PLANS & ACTIVITIES FOR FY15
1. Creation of “Official” Sister Cities Committees under IMAC
   - Cergy-Pontoise (France) Sister City Committee
   - Tres Cantos (Spain) Sister City Committee
   - Haiti Sister City Planning Committee

2. Caribbean Fest - Sunday, Sept 28
   - Overview of Culture Fest highlighting the Caribbean
   - Recruiting performers, exhibitors, gift certificates, food trucks
   - IMAC table activities – need questions for “Where in the World” game
   - Volunteer sign up for event

3. Sister Cities Cuisine & Culture Exchanges: Columbia/HC residents to France or Spain

   - Overview of program & recruiting restaurants
   - Input on planning program: rules, categories, passport, stamps, rewards program, prizes

5. Cultural Arts Fair, Oakland Mills Village Center, Sat, Oct 11
   - IMAC table volunteer Sign-up

Next Meetings, Reports & Ongoing events
- IMAC Meetings: Aug 6, Sept 3, October 1, Nov 5, Dec 3, Feb 4, March 4, April 1.
  All meetings run from 7 – 8:30 pm at CA Headquarters.
- International Book Club, August 13, The Attack, at Columbia Archives, 7:30 pm
- World Languages Cafe, August 27 @ Wegmans, 7 – 9pm
FY 14 Annual Report
International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC)

Accomplishments: May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014

1. **Dia de la Familia, Sept. 28, 2013**
   There were 500+ participants at the 11th annual Dia de la Familia, which was held at the Columbia SportsPark. There was a DJ from El Salvador and a salsa and merengue dance competition, Mexican food was provided by Azul 17, and School Age Services and IEMP provided entertainment and games for the children. The SportsPark offered free mini-golf and batting cages. This event has been held annually for 11 years during Hispanic Heritage month, but will not be held in the fall of 2014.

2. **50+ Expo, October 18, 2013**
   IMAC had a table at the 2013 50+ Expo in the CA room. The “Where in the World” spin the wheel game was very popular with attendees. Thanks to all the volunteers who staffed the IMAC table.

3. **Ghana Fest, November 17, 2013**
   Ghana Fest was held at Slayton House in the Wilde Lake Village Center from 3 – 5:30 pm on Sunday, Nov. 17th. This was the first event in Columbia to introduce Columbia’s new Sister City, Tema to the community. The program included Padraic Kennedy and Liz Bobo who discussed the history of Columbia’s sister cities, and the Chair of the Tema Sister City Committee, Valerie Montague, who gave an overview of our new relationship with Tema (near Accra, the capital of Ghana). A former Ambassador to Ghana and a former head of the Peace Corps in Ghana spoke and gave some background on Ghana and 50 years of good relations between Ghana and the United States. There were drum and dance performances by Kwame Ansah Brew’s Besa Workout/Fritete African drum and Dance Company and the Calvary Cultural Youth Dancers performed a series of Ghanaian dances. Attendees raved about the Ghanaian food and drinks were provided by Okumkom Catering. A DJ played Ghanaian Hip-Life and Azonto music, and there were paintings on display which are in the collection of Jim and Harriet Lancaster, who are members of the Tema Sister City Committee. Attendance was over 400 people, including many long time Colombians and Ghanaians.

4. **World Languages Café, 4th Wednesday of the Month - One year Anniversary**
   The World Languages Café began in March 2012, and has been held every month since then on the 4th Wednesday. The One-Year Anniversary Celebration was held on March 26, with a cake provided by Wegmans, “Happy Birthday” sung in 15 languages, and a presentation of a certificate (plaque) designed by the CA Marketing Department to the Wegmans representative. The plaque is now on display at Wegmans on the wall adjacent to the escalator. Interest in the World
Languages Café continues to be strong, with attendance running between 50 – 95 people per month. At least 410 individuals have participated in World Language Cafes in the past year. Featured languages with native or fluent table hosts were: Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, Farsi, French, German, Hewbrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

5. **International Book Club, 2nd Wed of the Month**

The International Book Club met every month from May 2013 to April 2014, and read the following books: *The Cellist of Sarajevo* (Bosnia), *Into the Beautiful North* (Mexico), *Flower Net (China)*, *Maya’s Notebook* (Chile), *The Orphan Master’s Son* (North Korea), *Back to Blood* (Cubans in Miami), *Solar* (England), *The Housekeeper & The Professor* (Japan), *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* (Chechnya) *Wife of the Gods* (Ghana), *The Caliph’s House: A Year in Casablanca* (Morocco), and *In the Shadow of the Banyan* (Cambodia). There are 60 members of the IBC, with a monthly attendance at the book discussion of 8 – 15 people. Meetings during FY14 were held at the Columbia Archives.

6. **Sister Cities High School Exchange 2013**

The annual Sister Cities Summer High School Exchange takes place every July with teens from Columbia/Howard County, Cergy-Pontoise, France (Sister City since 1977) and Tres Cantos, Spain (Sister City since 1990). In the last week of June 2013, 15 students traveled to Spain and 11 students went to France to live with Spanish and French host families. After two weeks, the U.S. teens returned, and in mid-July the French and Spanish groups arrived to stay with their American families until July 31. During their two week stay, day trips were taken to Washington, DC, Ocean City, Six Flags, New York and the Frederick Keys (baseball). Recruitment for the 2014 Sister Cities High School Exchange with Columbia’s Sister Cities -Cergy-Pontoise, France and Tres Cantos, Spain - took place in the fall of 2013, with applications received in Feb. 2014. Laura Smit offered three information sessions for parents and teens from October to December 2013, and Valerie Montague offered a session in Jan in Laura Smit’s absence. Laura visited 31 homes to do the home visits for each applicant in Feb and March 2014. All 31 teens were accepted to the program (21 for Spain and 10 for France). Laura provided three orientation sessions for the parents and teens in each group (Spain and France) in April and May 2014 prior to departure for Spain and France in late June.

7. **Planning & Recruitment of Artists for “The Art of Ghana – A Contemporary & Traditional Exhibition”, May 8 – 18; Reception, May 10**

The Tema Sister City Committee developed the idea to hold an exhibit of Ghanaian paintings, sculptures, photographs, and textiles in Columbia, in collaboration with the Columbia Art Center. The goal was to introduce the Columbia community to Ghanaian art and Columbia’s new Sister City, Tema. Art work was recruited from local Ghanaian artists, photographers, collectors and art historians, as well as from artists in Ghana (brought by the daughter of Tema Sister City Committee members). The opening reception was planned for May 10.
8. **Planning for Culture Fest on North Africa & the Middle East, May 18, 1:30 – 4:30pm, Miller Library**

From Jan to May 2014, IMAC members and Laura Smit worked to recruit performers and exhibitors, as well as food donations and gift certificates, for the Culture Fest on North Africa & the Middle East, a collaboration between CA and the Howard County Library System.

**Programs Planned for May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015**

1. **“The Art of Ghana – A Contemporary & Traditional Exhibition”, May 8 – 18; Reception, May 10**
   - An exhibit of Ghanaian paintings, sculptures, photographs, and textiles will be held from May 8 - 18, 2014, at the Columbia Art Center in the Long Reach Village Center. The event is a collaborative effort between the Tema Sister City Committee (a subcommittee of IMAC), the Columbia Art Center, and Laura’s IEMP Dept. The goal is to introduce the Columbia community to Ghanaian art and Columbia’s new Sister City, Tema.
   - Art work will be recruited from local Ghanaian artists, photographers, collectors and art historians, as well as from artists in Ghana (brought by the daughter of Tema Sister City Committee members). An Art Selection Committee will decide on the pieces. Liz Henzey and Trudy Babchak, directors at the Art Center, will hang the works, creating a nice balance of contemporary and traditional works in the two Art Center galleries. There will also be a “Ghana Market Place” with three vendors selling art work, clothing, jewelry and paintings.
   - The Tema Committee is planning the Reception with Laura’s assistance for Saturday, May 10th. Valerie Montague, Chair of the Tema Sister City Committee, will introduce the program and there will be a presentation by Professor Kwaku Ofori-Ansa, an Assistant Professor at Howard University of African Art and Art Education. Ghanaian snacks and a non-alcoholic ginger beer will be provided by Okumkom Catering.

2. **Culture Fest on North Africa & the Middle East**

The event will be held on May 18th. There will be performances, including Middle Eastern/belly dancers, instrumental music and carpet making. There will be country/cultural tables representing Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Morocco and Palestine, as well as organizational tables by the University of Maryland’s Arabic & Farsi program, the Foreign-Born Information & Referral Network (FIRN) and the CA International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC).

Food from the region will be provided by: Rebecca Dongarra’s Dionysus' Kitchen catering company served couscous and garbanzos; the Algerian table hosts will donate boxes of Algerian dates; the Moroccan table will provide Moroccan green tea; and IMAC will provide a variety of Middle Eastern fruits and snacks and candies to sample, ranging from dried apricots to baked goods and candy such as Turkish delight.

3. **Sister Cities High School Exchange 2015**

In June – July 2014, 21 students will travel to Spain on June 24 and 10 to France on June 25th to live with Spanish and French host families. After two weeks, the U.S. teens will return, and on July 14 and 15 the French and Spanish groups will arrive to stay with their American families until July 31. In the fall of 2014, recruitment for the summer 2015 Sister Cities High School Exchange
will begin via brochures sent to schools and PTAs, email, Facebook, outreach to alumni, outreach to the high schools, and information sessions in the CA Board Room. Applications for Summer 2015 are due in February 2015.

4. **Caribbean Fest, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014 – 1:30 – 4:30pm at Miller Library**
The fall 2014 Culture Fest, held in collaboration with Howard County Library System, will be a Caribbean Fest, featuring the music, dance and food of the Caribbean islands. This free family event will be held on Sunday, Sept. 28, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm at Howard County Library System’s Miller Branch, which is located at 9421 Frederick Road in Ellicott City. The Caribbean Fest will highlight bands, organizations and dance groups representing the English-, French-, Spanish- and Dutch-speaking islands of the Caribbean in an afternoon of music (including bachata, reggae, calypso, steel drum, salsa, merengue and compas/konpa), dance performances, displays and demonstrations. All the countries and territories of the Caribbean are invited to participate with performers and exhibitors — Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Bermuda, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Martin, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Virgin Islands. Caribbean food trucks will be selling snacks and refreshments in the Miller Library parking lot. IMAC members will be helping to recruit bands, food vendors and performers.

5. **Cultural Arts Festival, Oakland Mills Village Center, October 11, 2014**
IMAC will participate in the annual Oakland Mills Village “Cultural Arts Festival.” Laura will be assisting to bring in some Latino and Caribbean music bands and food vendors, and IMAC will have a table there, staffed by IMAC volunteers. This year, IMAC and Laura’s International Exchange & Multicultural Programs Department will not be holding the annual Dia de la Familia day for the Hispanic community. Instead Laura will be participating in events organized by various Columbia Villages, and bringing entertainment for the Hispanic community to these events.

6. **Adult “Cuisine & Culture Exchange” with Cergy-Pontoise**
The next Cuisine Exchange trip to France will run from Oct 9 to Oct 19, 2014. Columbia and Howard County residents will live with host families in Cergy-Pontoise, Columbia’s Sister City since 1977. Up to 16 participants will travel to France for a Cuisine & Culture (including architecture and sightseeing) exchange. Laura is working out the details for this fall’s program with the CAJA, CA’s counterpart in France, in order to create the press release and the flyer. Publicity for the Exchange will start in August.

7. **CA World Food Passport – Kick off planned for Jan 2015**
This is a new multicultural program that IMAC plans to kick off with Laura Smit in January 2015, during restaurant week in Howard County. As culture and food go hand in hand, the program goal is to encourage residents of all ages to try the wide variety of ethnic foods we have here in our County. CA will create a World Food Passport that County residents can pick up and get “stamped” when they eat at different ethnic restaurants in Columbia and Howard County. Once they have ten stamps in their World Food Passport, they will be able to bring it to CA to get a “prize”, which would be gift certificates or coupons from restaurants that are participating in the
World Food Passport program. The program will be promoted to ethnic food restaurants in Columbia/Howard County, and restaurants will sign up to participate and be given instructions for participating in the program. Each restaurant will have a stamp or sticker that certifies that the passport holder ate at their restaurant.

8. **Signing Formal Sister City Agreement with Tema in Ghana**
   In July of 2012 Columbia signed a “Friendship City” Agreement with Tema, Ghana. At that time, under Sister Cities International policy, Columbia was not able to achieve full “Sister City” status with Tema, because two American cities who were already Sister Cities with Tema would not give their permission. In April 2014, the Sister Cities International Board voted to remove the requirement that new sister city relationships require a Cooperative Agreement to be signed by the mayor of both cities. This means that Columbia can now sign a formal “Sister City” Agreement with Tema. A delegation of Ghanaians from Tema is planning to visit their other sister city, Norfolk, in the fall. If they do, Tema Sister City Committee members will bring the Ghanaian visitors up to Columbia to be hosted with families. Laura Smit, the Program Manager, hopes to travel to Ghana in FY15 so as to meet with individuals and organizations in Tema and begin to organize exchanges for youth and adults. Various members of the Tema Sister City Committee are planning trips to Ghana for themselves in FY15 and FY16, and will be spending a few days in Tema while they are there.

9. **Recruiting New Members for IMAC**
   Some of our members have moved out of the area, and IMAC attendance at meetings has been lower from January to June, but it seems to be more an inability on the part of members to attend meetings than disinterest, as many people participate by email. Laura will place an ad in the Columbia Villages email newsletters, as well as a press release in the Patuxent papers to recruit new members and achieve a greater cultural diversity. The bylaws also stipulate that we should have members from all 10 Columbia Villages. We are currently missing representation from Dorsey Search and River Hill.

10. **IMAC Meeting Dates, August 2014 to April 2015:** IMAC members present discussed our meeting dates for next year. We had been meeting on the 4th Monday for the past few years, but this year many meetings had to be rescheduled or cancelled. It was agreed that we should try meeting on a different day of the week for the FY15 academic year, as some IMAC members have not been able to attend due to other Monday meetings or classes. We will tentatively start meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month, and see how this works for our members. Next IMAC Mtg Dates are: Aug 6, Sept 3, October 1, Nov 5, Dec 3, Feb 4, March 4, April 1. All meetings run from 7 – 8:30 pm at CA Headquarters.

11. **Ongoing Programs**
    - **World Languages Café** (4th Wed, except for Nov & Dec), 7 – 9 pm at Wegmans: July 23, Aug 27, Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 19, Dec 17, Jan 28, Feb 25, March 25, April 22
    - **International Book Club**: (2nd Wed), 7:30 -9:00 pm at Columbia Archives: July 9, Aug 13, Sept 10, Oct 22, Nov 12, Dec 10, Jan 14, Feb 11, March 11, April 8
Minutes
International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC) Meeting
June 9, 2014 * Board Room * 7:00 – 8:30pm

In Attendance:  Pat Fisher, Debra Paper, Linda Potsiadlo, Jean Salkeld, Laura Smit
Absent:  Camellia Blackwell-Taffel, Zarrin Caldwell, Munrali Das, Paulomi Desai, Susan Di Paula, Marcy Gitt, Tomi Iluyomade, Xili Luo, Valerie Montague, Alice Pham, Deb & Roshni Ray, Connie Sarazin, Larry Schoen, Suzanne Waller

International Exchange & Multicultural Program (IEMP) Manager’s Report – Laura Smit

- Laura reported that she is gearing up for the 2014 Sister Cities Summer High School Exchange. This year there are 21 teens from Columbia/Howard County traveling to Tres Cantos, Spain from June 24 to July 10, and 10 teens going to Cergy-Pontoise, France. From July 14 to July 31, there will be 64 Spanish, French and American teens here in Columbia, and trips are planned to Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Hershey Park, Ocean City, and New York. There will also be a Columbia Villages Scavenger Hunt and the Spanish and French teens will experience a baseball game. The Sister Cities Welcome Party will be held on Tuesday, July 15th, from 7 – 9 pm at the Columbia SportsPark, this year, instead of at the Swim Center (which is closed for renovations.) Advisory Committee members are welcome to attend any of the events or trips, and should contact Laura if interested (Sister Cities Exchange schedule is attached with June 9 Minutes).

- Laura stated that the rest of her report would be covered in our discussion of accomplishments during the last fiscal year, and our plans for the next one: May 2014 to April 2015.

IMAC Chair’s Report – Pat Fisher

- Pat reported that the Columbia Association Board of Directors has asked to receive the minutes from all CA’s Advisory Committee meetings. The Minutes will be posted on the CA website, as is done with the Board Minutes. Leslie Barnett met with Pat and Laura to discuss changes that the Board is requesting. A member of the Board will be attending some of the IMAC meetings.

- Pat noted that attendance at IMAC Meetings has been down since January, and asked Laura to check with current IMAC members regarding their absence, and to see if they wished to continue as members. It was agreed that Laura will send out a request for new members to the Columbia Village Centers, and ask the Communications Department for a press release to go into the Patuxent Papers. It was agreed that we would move the IMAC meeting date to the 1st Wed of the month (instead of the 4th Monday) starting in August and see if that is better for attendance.
Review of Accomplishments from May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014

IMAC members assisted Laura Smit with the following events and activities:

1. **Dia de la Familia, Sept. 28, 2013**
   There were 500+ participants at the 11th annual Dia de la Familia, which was held at the Columbia SportsPark. There was a DJ from El Salvador and a salsa and merengue dance competition, Mexican food provided by Azul 17, and School Age Services and IEMP provided entertainment and games for the children. The SportsPark offered free mini-golf and batting cages. This event has been held annually for 11 years during Hispanic Heritage month, but will not be held in the fall of 2014.

2. **50+ Expo, October 18, 2013**
   IMAC had a table at the 2013 50+ Expo in the CA room. The “Where in the World” spin the wheel game was very popular with attendees. Thanks to all the volunteers who staffed the IMAC table.

3. **Ghana Fest, November 17th, 2013**
   Ghana Fest was held at Slayton House in the Wilde Lake Village Center from 3 – 5:30 pm on Sunday, Nov. 17th. This was the first event in Columbia to introduce Columbia’s new Sister City, Tema to the community. The program included Padraic Kennedy and Liz Bobo who discussed the history of Columbia’s sister cities, and the Chair of the Tema Sister City Committee, Valerie Montague, who gave an overview of our new relationship with Tema (near Accra, the capital of Ghana). A former Ambassador to Ghana and a former head of the Peace Corps in Ghana spoke and gave some background on Ghana and 50 years of good relations between Ghana and the United States. There were drum and dance performances by Kwame Ansah Brew’s Besa Workout/Fritete African drum and Dance Company and the Calvary Cultural Youth Dancers performed a series of Ghanaian dances. Attendees raved about the Ghanaian food and drinks were provided by Okumkom Catering. A DJ played Ghanaian Hip-Life and Azonto music, and there were paintings on display which are in the collection of Jim and Harriet Lancaster, who are members of the Tema Sister City Committee. Attendance was over 400 people, including many long time Columbians and Ghanaians.

4. **World Languages Café, 4th Wednesday of the Month - One year Anniversary**
   Pat reported on the March, April and May World Languages Cafés, held at Wegmans, our community partner. The World Languages Café began in March 2012, and has been held every month since then on the 4th Wednesday. The One-Year Anniversary Celebration was held on March 26th, with a cake provided by Wegmans, “Happy Birthday” sung in 15 languages, and a presentation of a certificate (plaque) designed by the CA Marketing Department to the Wegmans representative. The plaque is now on display at Wegmans on the wall adjacent to the escalator. Interest in the World Languages Café continues to be strong, with attendance running between 50 – 95 people per month. At least 410 individuals have participated in World Language Cafes in the past year. Featured languages with native or fluent table hosts were: Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Pat asked for volunteers to set up and coordinate the June 25th World Languages Café, as both she
and Laura have to attend a FIRN Board Meeting. Marcy Gitt and Linda Potsiadlo volunteered to run the June WLC.

5. **International Book Club, 2nd Wed of the Month**

The International Book Club met every month from May 2013 to April 2014, and read the following books: The Cellist of Sarajevo (Bosnia), Into the Beautiful North (Mexico), Flower Net (China), Maya’s Notebook (Chile), The Orphan Master’s Son (North Korea), Back to Blood (Cubans in Miami), Solar (England), The Housekeeper & The Professor (Japan), A Constellation of Vital Phenomena (Chechnya) Wife of the Gods (Ghana), The Caliph’s House: A Year in Casablanca (Morocco), and In the Shadow of the Banyan (Cambodia). There are 60 members of the IBC, with a monthly attendance at the book discussion of 8 – 15 people.

6. **Annual Sister Cities High School Exchange 2014**

Recruitment for the 2014 Sister Cities High School Exchange with Columbia’s Sister Cities - Cergy-Pontoise, France and Tres Cantos, Spain - took place in the fall of 2013, with applications due in Feb. 2014. Laura Smit offered three information sessions for parents and teens from October to December and Valerie Montague offered a session in Jan in Laura Smit’s absence. Laura visited 31 homes to do the home visits for each applicant. All 31 teens were accepted to the program (21 for Spain and 10 for France). Laura provided three orientation sessions for the parents and teens in each group (Spain and France) in April and May prior to departure for Spain and France on June 24 and 25.

**Programs Planned and Held from May 1 to April 30, 2015**

1. **Planning & Recruitment of Artists for “The Art of Ghana – A Contemporary & Traditional Exhibition”, May 8 – 18; Reception, May 10**
   - An exhibit of Ghanaian paintings, sculptures, photographs, and textiles was held from May 8 - 18, 2014, at the Columbia Art Center in the Long Reach Village Center. The event was a collaborative effort between the Tema Sister City Committee (a subcommittee of IMAC), the Columbia Art Center, and Laura’s IEMP Dept. The goal was to introduce the Columbia community to Ghanaian art and Columbia’s new Sister City, Tema.
   - Art work was recruited from local Ghanaian artists, photographers, collectors and art historians, as well as from artists in Ghana (brought by the daughter of Tema Sister City Committee members). Liz Henzey and Trudy Babchak, directors at the Art Center, created a nice balance of contemporary and traditional works in the two Art Center galleries. There was also a “Ghana Market Place” with three vendors selling art work, clothing, jewelry and paintings.
   - The Tema Committee planned the Reception with Laura’s assistance for Saturday, May 10th. It was a nice opening and was attended by over 100 people, including many Ghanaians, who heard an introduction by Valerie Montague, Chair of the Tema Sister City Committee and a presentation by Professor Kwaku Ofori-Ansa, an Assistant Professor at Howard University of African Art and Art Education. Ghanaian snacks and a non-alcoholic ginger beer were provided by Okumkom Catering.
   - The art work was selected by an Art Selection Committee consisting of four volunteers with experience in the arts: Camellia Blackwell-Taffel (IMAC member & international art curator), Stephanie Lyon (CA Art Advisory Committee President), Rhoda Toback (Tema Sister City
Committee and Wilde Lake Board member) and Dr. Kwaku Ofori-Ansa (Assistant Professor of African Art at Howard University).

2. **Culture Fest on North Africa & the Middle East, May 18, 1:30 – 4:30pm, Miller Library**
   - From Jan to May 2014, IMAC members and Laura Smit worked to recruit performers and exhibitors for the Culture Fest on North Africa & the Middle East, a collaboration between CA and the Howard County Library System. The event was held on May 18th and was a great success with nine performances, including Middle Eastern/belly dancers, instrumental music and a carpet making performance. There were country/cultural tables representing Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Morocco and Palestine, as well as organizational tables by the University of Maryland’s Arabic & Farsi program, the Foreign-Born Information & Referral Network (FIRN) and the CA International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC.)
   - Food from the region was provided by: Rebecca Dongarra’s Dionysus’ Kitchen catering company served couscous and garbanzos; the Algerian table hosts donated 10 boxes of Algerian dates; the Moroccan table provided Moroccan green tea; and IMAC provided a variety of Middle Eastern fruits and snacks and candies to sample, ranging from dried apricots to baked goods and candy such as Turkish delight. Attendance was estimated by the Library at 500+ adults and children.
   - Thanks to all the IMAC and student volunteers: Zarrin Caldwell, Pat Fisher, Paulomi Desai, Valerie Montague, Susan Di Paula, Alice Pham, and Jean Salkeld, as well as HCPSS GT Interns Brittany Johnson and Nishant Atal, and Ivy Liang from the Long Reach HS International Student Organization.

3. **Sister Cities Summer High School Exchange**
   The annual Sister Cities Summer High School Exchange takes place every July with teens from Columbia/Howard County, Cergy-Pontoise, France (Sister City since 1977) and Tres Cantos, Spain (Sister City since 1990). This year, 21 students traveled to Spain on June 24 and 10 went to France on June 25th to live with Spanish and French host families. After two weeks, the U.S. teens will return, and on July 14 and 15 the French and Spanish groups will arrive to stay with their American families until July 31. During their two week stay, many day trips and activities planned. In the Fall of 2014, recruitment for the summer 2015 Sister Cities High School Exchange will take place via brochure, email, Facebook, outreach to alumni, outreach to the high schools, and information sessions in the CA Board Room. Applications for Summer 2015 are due in February 2015.

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6. **Caribbean Fest, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014 – 1:30 – 4:30pm at Miller Library**
The fall 2014 Culture Fest, held in collaboration with Howard County Library System, will be a Caribbean Fest, featuring the music, dance and food of the Caribbean islands. This free family event will be held on Sunday, Sept. 28, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Howard County Library System’s Miller Branch, which is located at 9421 Frederick Road in Ellicott City. The Caribbean Culture Fest will highlight bands, organizations and dance groups representing the English-, French-, Spanish- and Dutch-speaking islands of the Caribbean in an afternoon of music (including bachata, reggae, calypso, steel drum, salsa, merengue and compas/konpa), dance performances, displays and demonstrations. All the countries and territories of the Caribbean are invited to participate with performers and exhibitors — Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Bermuda, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Martin, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Virgin Islands. Caribbean food trucks will be selling snacks and refreshments in the Miller Library parking lot. IMAC members will be helping to recruit bands, food vendors and performers.

7. **CA World Food Passport – Kick off planned for Jan 2015**
This is a new Multicultural Program that IMAC plans to kick off with Laura Smit in January 2015, during restaurant week in Howard County. As culture and food go hand in hand, the program goal is to encourage residents of all ages to try the wide variety of ethnic foods we have here in our County. CA will create a World Food Passport that County residents can pick up and get “stamped” when they eat at different ethnic restaurants in Columbia and Howard County. Once they have ten stamps in their World Food Passport, they will be able to bring it to CA to get a “prize”, which would be gift certificates or coupons from restaurants that are participating in the World Food Passport program. The program will be promoted to ethnic food restaurants in Columbia/Howard County, and restaurants will sign up to participate and be given instructions for participating in the program. Each restaurant will have a stamp or sticker that certifies that the passport holder ate at their restaurant.

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travel to Ghana in FY15 so as to meet with individuals and organizations in Tema and begin to organize exchanges for youth and adults. Various members of the Tema Sister City Committee are planning trips to Ghana for themselves in FY15 and FY16, and will be spending a few days in Tema while they are there.

9. Recruiting New Members for IMAC
Some of our members have moved out of the area, and IMAC attendance at meetings has been lower from January to June, but it seems to be more an inability on the part of members to attend meetings than disinterest, as many people participate by email. Laura will place an ad in the Columbia Villages email newsletters, as well as a press release in the Patuxent papers to recruit new members and achieve a greater cultural diversity. The bylaws also stipulate that we should have members from all 10 Columbia Villages. We are currently missing representation from Dorsey Search and River Hill.

10. IMAC Meeting Date, August 2014 to April 2015: IMAC members present discussed our meeting dates for next year. We had been meeting on the 4th Monday for the past few years, but this year many meetings had to be rescheduled or cancelled. It was agreed that we should try meeting on a different day of the week for the FY15 academic year, as some IMAC members have not been able to attend due to other Monday meetings or classes. We will tentatively start meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the Month, and see how this works for our members.

Next IMAC Mtg Dates are: Aug 6, Sept 3, October 1, Nov 5, Dec 3, Feb 4, March 4, April 1. All meetings run from 7 – 8:30 pm at CA Headquarters.

11. Ongoing Programs
- World Languages Café (4th Wed, except for Nov & Dec), 7 – 9 pm at Wegmans: July 23, Aug 27, Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 19, Dec 17, Jan 28, Feb 25, March 25, April 22
- International Book Club: (2nd Wed), 7:30 -9:00 pm at Columbia Archives: July 9, Aug 13, Sept 10, Oct 22, Nov 12, Dec 10, Jan 14, Feb 11, March 11, April 8