

# MIADC/EUROPE



- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Albania              | Italy                      |
| Andorra              | Latvia                     |
| Austria              | Liechtenstein              |
| Belarus              | Lithuania                  |
| Belgium              | Luxemburg                  |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | Norway                     |
| Bulgaria             | Poland                     |
| Croatia              | Portugal                   |
| Cyprus               | Romania                    |
| Czech Republic       | Russia                     |
| Denmark              | San Marino                 |
| Estonia              | Serbia & Montenegro        |
| Finland              | Slovakia (Slovak Republic) |
| France               | Slovenia                   |
| Germany              | Spain                      |
| Greece               | Sweden                     |
| Hungary              | Switzerland                |
| Iceland              | Ukraine                    |
| Ireland              | United Kingdom             |
|                      | Vatican City               |

# Destination Houston

## Council Officers

Cheryl A. May, Chairman

Paul B. Clemenceau, Vice-Chairman

James Prappas, Secretary

## Committee Chairs

Marie-Theresa Odermatt, Art, Culture & Education

Patsy Akers Rhymes, Special Events

Luciano Topi, Business Development & Marketing

Paul B. Clemenceau, Public, Community and Government Relations

Cheryl A. May, Issues & Concerns

## Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council /Europe Mission Statement:

Dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and continued growth of Houston's standing as a renowned international city, the mission of the MI-ADC/ Europe is to establish concrete objectives that embrace matters of international affairs, economic, and community development. The MI-ADC/ Europe will assist in the creation of strategies and in the implementation of projects that will enhance Houston's presence on the global stage.

## Meeting Dates:

### MIADC/ Europe:

Date: Friday, May 12, 2006

Time: 5:30—7:00 pm

Purpose: Mayor's Council Reception

Location: City Hall

Date: Thursday, June 8, 2006

Time: 3:30 pm

Purpose: Group Meeting

Location: City Hall

## Committees:

Art, Culture & Education

Date: May 18, 2006, 7:00 PM

RSVP : Marie-Theresa 713-621-5481

Special Events

Date: May 17, 2006

RSVP: Patsy Rhymes 713-669-8411

Issues & Concerns

Date: TBD

RSVP: Cheryl May 713-705-2345

## Chairman's Update - Cheryl May

During April I had the opportunity to attend three committee meetings of MIADC / Europe. I thank each Chairperson and those who attended. If you haven't been able to participate, I hope that you will find time in your schedule to be involved. We have a wonderfully diverse group of people sharing their knowledge and experience within our organization. The unique feature of blending our various backgrounds into a unified group is discovering all the activities our members have so diligently promoted, sponsored, encouraged, and donated countless hours in the hope of creating a worthwhile legacy for the future. The association has certainly broadened my horizons on all that is going on in Houston. I applaud each of you for your contributions, and am looking forward to learning more about our members and their organizations.

I had the pleasure to be invited to meet the new Consul General of Italy, The Honorable Christiano Maggipinto. We welcome him to our fine city. Council members Luciano Topi and Effie Rosene were kindly making introductions at the reception for the Consul General at the Italian Cultural and Community Center.

On Friday, May 12 we will gather at City Hall along with other Council members to enjoy some camaraderie. This will be the first time that all the Council members have the chance to meet. I am told that the room capacity will limit this meeting to members only. Perhaps at a future event we will be able to bring a spouse or guest. Don't forget your parking voucher!

Warm Regards, Cheryl

### **Committees** **MIADC/Europe**

#### **Art, Culture & Education**

Marie-Theresa Odermatt, Chair  
Lori Gallagher  
J. (Algirdas) Krygeris  
Henri Lenaerts  
Joanna Palasota  
Olia Holowka Palmer  
Waldmer Priebe  
Inger Russell

#### **Special Events**

Patsy Akers Rhymes, Chair  
Joanna Palasota  
Elena S. Phillips

#### **Business Development & Marketing**

Luciano Topi, Chair  
Jean-Pierre Muller  
Ostby Magne  
Andrew Pidgirsky  
Matthew Pilon  
James Prappas  
Waldemer Priebe

#### **Public, Community and Government Relations**

Paul B. Clemenceau, Chair  
Sergei Lomako

#### **Issues & Concerns**

Cheryl A. May, Chair  
Melvyn Douglass  
Lillian Jensen

#### **MIADC/ Africa** TBD

#### **MIADC/ Americas**

Chair: Mr. Alejandro Giannotti, President Bovay Engineers. 713-668-6641  
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Secretary: Mr. Charles Meacham, Partner, Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP. 713-  
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#### **MIADC/ Asia-Australia**

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Chair-Elect: Mr. Glen Gondo, President, Japan America Society. 713-622-  
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Secretary: Ms. Linda Toyota, Development Officer, Holocaust Museum  
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#### **MIADC/ Canada**

Chair: Dr. Pauline Vaillancourt Rosenau. Prof. Mgt & Policy – Univ. of TX  
Health Sci. 713-500-9491. Pauline.rosenau@uth.tmc.edu  
Chair-Elect: Ms. Nadine Aboud Eidman, Sr. Director – JP Morgan Chase –  
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Secretary: Ms. Charlene Ripley, Vice President & Gen. Counsel, Anadarko  
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#### **MIADC/ Middle East/ North Africa**

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Secretary: Mr. Imad Abdullah, Principal, Landmark Architects Inc. 713-783-  
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#### **MIADC/ South Asia**

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Secretary: Ms. Manpreet Singh, Attorney at Law. Fabrega, Hood, Raynes  
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### Chairman's Note:

A meeting of all the elected chairs of the Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council was scheduled for Friday, April 14 at 3:30 PM. Unfortunately, this was Easter weekend and I had already scheduled an out of town trip to be with family. Paul Clemenceau, our Vice-Chairman, graciously offered to attend in my absence. Paul provided me with the following minutes:

**Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council Meeting  
Chairman's Meeting  
Friday, April 14  
3:30 PM  
City Hall, Houston, TX**

Ms. Chang chaired the meeting and six other people were present; Alejandro Giannotti representing the Americas; Pauline Rosenau representing Canada; Rami Shafiee representing the Middle East; Dr. Lennard Tenende representing Africa; either Mr. Ratnala or Mr. Chae (I can't remember ) representing Asia; and myself for Europe.

Ms. Chang reported on the proposed May 12th meeting of the MIADC with Mayor White and City Council members. She said that she would organize another meeting of the heads of each regional council before the meeting with the Mayor but did not yet have a date to propose.

She also proposed that we organize an annual gala to honor a local person as a "global leader" or some other title, much as is done by the World Affairs Council. The city would not fund the event but would help in organizing it and getting corporate sponsorships. The proceeds from the Gala could be used by the MIADC to fund its other projects. The city would not provide funding for anything but can provide certain in kind assistance through Ms. Chang's office.

She also suggested that the heads of the regional councils to arrange meetings of their councils on a quarterly basis.

She spoke about the up coming trade mission to China to which the section leaders are invited to participate (you may have already received an invitation) and she urged that we should feel free to recommend trade mission to countries in our respective regions as appropriate. The Mayor will select those that he can do and that have the most promise for Houston. In that vein we talked briefly about a trip that my committee is working on for a visit from the Mayor of Tyumen, Russia and a delegation from that city to Houston in September. The mayor is also planning a trip to Russia himself.

She asked that the regional heads elect a chairman and vice chairman. Two of us bowed out since we are not chairs this year. Mr. Giannotti said he would stand for election and so did Dr. Rosenau. Mr. Giannotti was then elected chairman and Dr. Rosenau was elected vice Chairman.

I requested to get a list of the different committees that each region has organized and Ms. Chang promised to get us a list.

The meeting was adjourned after one hour.

### Special Events Subcommittee

April 13, 2006

**Meeting Location:** The Grotto at 610 and Westheimer

#### Attendance:

Patsy Akers-Rhymes, Chair – British American Business Council Houston  
Elena Suvorova Philips – United Russian American Association  
Joanna Palasota – Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Greater Houston  
Cheryl May – Heather and Thistle Society  
Anna Williams – Houston International Festival Special Events Coordinator  
Marcus Mann

#### Brainstorming of Ideas:

- I. International Festival Partnership
  - A. Need to meet with Jim Austin to discuss possibilities after this year's festival.
- II. International Special Olympics
  - A. This may already be an existing event so will need to research more.
  - B. We could possibly get grants for this.
  - C. We could partner with the Hospitals, which already that already have International recognition.
  - D. We could bring over famous International Athletes to visit the children.
- III. International Music Festival
  - A. Bring in entertainment from around the world for a free concert in the park.

#### To Does:

- I. Cheryl will check with the Olympic Committee to find out what the actual reason was for turning down Houston as the Olympic site.
- II. Marcus will look into the Hospitals to find out where more on International patients.
- III. Patsy and Joanna will check into the Special Olympics idea.
- IV. Elena will talk to her Consul General about the hypothetical possibility of bringing a Russian Athlete to Houston.
- V. All the chairs of Special Events Subcommittee need to meet to make sure we are not all working on the same thing.

### Mayor's International Affairs and Development Council/Europe Art, Culture, and Education (ACE) Committee

Inaugural Meeting  
8 April 2006

Attending: Marie-Theres Fischer Odermatt, chair  
Joanna Palasota  
Al Krygeris  
Olia Holowka Palmer  
Cheryl May

Chair Marie-Theres opened the meeting by distributing an agenda.

Each member present introduced him/herself and shared some personal information relevant to the Council's and Committee's work.

Discussion of the aim/goals of the committee took place. We will promote the City of Houston to our target audiences, focusing on the artistic, cultural, and educational events offered by Houston's European communities and their agents.

The target audiences of our work were identified:

- 1) visitors to the city, especially international visitors
- 2) local ethnic communities

Specific methods of reaching the target audiences were identified:

- Place public service announcements in the local media (Houston Chronicle, Paper City, Houston Press, KUHT, KUHF-FM)
- Secure a webpage for MIADC/Europe on the City's website and post events listings
- Produce a newsletter and distribute locally
- Have a MIADC/Europe booth at major conventions/conferences
- Provide personalized tours of Houston to groups of visitors

Cheryl counseled that we tackle one project at a time.

It was decided that we would compile events planned for the remainder of 2006. Joanna will request that all standing and regional members of MIADC/Europe send her a list of their communities' planned public events. A newsletter will be created and distributed. Joanna will also request every community/organization's web addresses.

When the events list is compiled we will approach the Mayor's office regarding server space and for assistance in reaching media contacts.

If we can secure server space, we will put our events list, local European community links, and a PDF file of our newsletter on the MIADC/Europe ACE Committee webpage. The ACE page URL can be disseminated via Cheryl's monthly MIADC/Europe newsletter.

Future plan: coordinate our work with the work of the other MIADCs (Africa, Asia, etc.). Cont. Page 9

**Issues and Concerns Committee**

**April 10, 2006**

**11:30 AM**

**Attendees:**

**Lillian Jensen**

**Mel Douglas**

**Cheryl May, Chair**

**The first meeting of the Issues & Concerns Committee was a luncheon meeting at the Cheesecake Factory. Our main agenda was to discuss the aim of this committee.**

**We determined that our approach should be twofold:**

- 1. Internal Issues**
- 2. External Issues**

**Internal Issues**

**This committee felt that the Internal issues facing MIADC/Europe should be first on the discussion table. The following topics were discussed as items that we need to address within MIADC/Europe and possibly with other Council groups:**

- Financial Concerns. It is apparent that we do not have funds available to us to help accomplish our Mission. How does the Mayor envision that we fund our proposals? Is each committee within our group responsible for financing their agendas?**
- People Resources. We need to develop contacts and interest in our Council. This could be accomplished by inviting non-council people to join our groups to help accomplish our goals. This could involve seeking established non-profit organizations to help us in our endeavors.**
- Mayoral Support. We need to discern the type of support we can expect from our Mayor's office. This would include usage of facilities and other possible resources the City has available.**
- Communication. We need to communicate effectively with the other Council Members.**

**External Issues**

**A discussion was held on topics that would be pertinent to our Mission. We touched on addressing: Immigration, Transportation and City Planning.**

**Before adjourning, we set another meeting date for noon on May 8th. However, due to conflicts, we are going to reset that date.**

**Cheryl May, Chair**

**Meeting of the Business Development and Marketing Committee.**

Italy America Chamber of Commerce – March 31, 2006

Present at the meeting:

Ms. Maria Bofill	Belgian Trade Commission
Mr. HW Korten	German American Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Matthew G. Pilon	Simmons & Company
Ms. Effie M. Rosene	Czech Cultural Center Houston (Secretary)
Mr. Luciano Topi	Italy America Chamber of Commerce (President)

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**PROMOTE BETTER AWARENESS OF HOUSTON AS A MORE FAVOURABLE PLACE FOR BUSINESS WITH THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND CORPORATIONS**

**INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF THE ECONOMIC INFLUENCE OF "NEW EUROPE" IN HOUSTON**

***DEVELOPING A MARKETING PLAN TO FOCUS ON POTENTIAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN CORPORATIONS***

***ENHANCING PROJECTS AND PLANS THAT WILL DEVELOP THE INTERNATIONAL/EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN HOUSTON***

***PROPOSING ACTIONS AND PLANS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND GROUPS IN HOUSTON***

***EXPOSING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN HOUSTON***

There is a need for Europe to understand Houston as an International Business Center and also from Houston, to fully measure the growing economic impact of Europe.

The committee will try as a first step to prepare a report which points out what set us as a better option in comparison with the other major American cities from an economic, business and environmental perspective. Also the real size of European business in Houston has to be evaluated.

The idea is to create a marketing plan for mutual understanding, with comprehensive information about positive and negative aspects of Houston as an economic and commercial partner, while quantifying the relevance of Europe to Houston.

### Meeting of the Business Development and Marketing Committee

(Continued from Page 9)

Everybody agrees that in all the activities of the Committee, the Greater Houston Partnership can be a powerful and useful ally.

Mr. Topi suggested an immediate visit to Mr. Keith L. Miceli - Senior Vice President World Trade at the Partnership to present the mission statement of the Committee and work together for its objective.

Eventually, the committee will talk to larger Corporations to see their plans to cooperate with Europe. Consuls could be included as well at a later point.

### Art, Culture, and Education (ACE) Committee

(Continued from Page 6)

It was confirmed that for the ACE committee, Joanna Palasota will be the communications coordinator and Olia H. Palmer will be the recording secretary.

Reminder: Mayor's Reception at City Hall on Friday, May 12.

Next ACE committee meeting will be Thursday, May 18, 7:00 p.m. at Marie-Theres Odermatt's residence.

Respectfully submitted,

### Scottish Community

The Houston Highland Games Association (HHGA) held its first Scottish Games and Celtic Festival in 1971. Thirty-five years later, this annual event has grown to include globally recognized competitive events and guests. Many participants/competitors in the annual bagpiping, fiddling, harp and pipe bands competitions have achieved world-wide recognition and awards. Merchandise and food vendors offer a diverse selection of cultural items, tastes and aromas! Family "clan" booths provide opportunities to research family cultural and genealogical links. Workshops are offered in Gaelic, Robert Burns, and Genealogy for those desiring to develop their respective expertise.

HHGA goals include:

- Promote Scottish/Celtic culture & heritage
- Provide a forum for Celtic arts
- Recognize recent contributions to the advancement of Scottish culture & heritage
- Recognize historical contributions to Texas heritage by those of Scottish ancestry
- Establish funds/scholarships & charitable donations

HHGA's annual Games & Festival will be held May 12-14th, 2006.  
Visit the HHGA website at [www.houstonhighlandgames.com](http://www.houstonhighlandgames.com)

- Melvyn Douglass, FSA Scot

### Russian Community

Kindness without Limits - Russian-American nonprofit organization.

May 9 - War World II ending day (Victory Day). Greeting of the Russian-American veterans by the students of the Russian Saturday School (Kindness without Limits). Phone: 281-370-1464

May 15 - May 23 - hosting the Academician of the Chechen Academy of Science, one of the Russian President aids and consultants in Chechen issue, professor Yavuz Ahmadov. His private visit relates to the fundraising activities of Kindness without limits for those Beslan children who will be coming to Houston for the medical treatment. All these children have the shell fragments in the heads and need our help. Phone: 281-370-1464

#### **Yavus Akhmadov**

Famous historian Akhmadov Yavus Zaindievich was born in Semipalatinskaya district of the Kazakh Soviet Republic in 1949. He started school education in the city of Jambul and continued when he returned to his homeland, the village of Goity in Urus-Martan District in the Checheno-Ingush autonomous republic. He graduated from the historical faculty of the Checheno-Ingush State Teachers Training Institute in 1970.

He started his carrier as a history teacher at a school in Goity. A year later he was invited to work in the local lore museum of the autonomous republic. Later he started postgraduate studies at the Institute of History, Archeology and Language of the Dagestan branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Makhachkala while working in the museum. He defended his thesis on the topic: "Relation between the peoples of Checheno-Ingushetia and Russia in the 18<sup>th</sup> century" in 1978. He continued his research work at the scientific research institute of history, language and literature in the autonomous republic in the seventies. During his 12-year work at the institute he published scores of articles, the first volume of "The History of Chechnya", a collection of documents on Russian-Chechen relations in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and two school textbooks "The History of Checheno-Ingushetia". In 1990 Yavus Akhmadov defended his doctorate thesis in Rostov-on-Don on "People of the North Caucasus in the foreign policy of Russia, Iran and Ottoman Empire between 16<sup>th</sup> century and the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Since then he has been working in the Checheno-Ingush State University as a Professor. He was elected as an academician of Academy of Sciences of Chechen Republic in 2001.

Yavus Akhmadov has published more than 70 works, including 7 monographs and textbooks. Several works have been published in the Commonwealth of Independent States, Turkey and the United States. Yavus Akhmadov took part in several Soviet, Russian and international conferences.

He is also a famous statesman. He was the Minister of Information and Press in the Chechen republic between 1994 and 96. He has headed the regional department of the Russian Press Ministry in the Chechen republic since early 2000. He is one of the Russian Federation President aids and consultants in Moscow in present time.

May 12 - Russian Speaking Women Association. Documentary of the Russian producer Maria Halina: "My mother".

Following discussion of reality and fate of the Russian women in the current Russia. (Time and facility will be updated). Phone: 281-370-1464

the USSR and world history, the Baylor Medical Center doctors who worked on the Chernobyl program in Houston, Russian, Belorussian, Ukrainian so called liquidators who cleaned up the nuclear reactor and surrounding area, the Russian and Ukrainian consuls in Houston are invited. The event takes place at the

### Russian Community from Page 10

May 23 - Cross-Cultural Network - Radio Program in Russian "We, Texas & Russia", Cross-Cultural Bridge, Russian Club of the Goldberg Tower, Ukrainian-American Cultural Center hold the Chernobyl commemoration - 20 years after Chernobyl tragedy. The participants are those who went through that dark days of the USSR and world history, the Baylor Medical Center doctors who worked on the Chernobyl program in Houston, Russian, Belorussian, Ukrainian so called liquidators who cleaned up the nuclear reactor and surrounding area, the Russian and Ukrainian consuls in Houston are invited. The event takes place at the Rice Temple Baptist Church, 6409 Greenbriar St, Houston, TX 77030, at 7:30 p.m. Phone: 281-370-1464

### Italian Community

May 2nd at 7:00pm - Splendor of Sicily Lecture Series - Loyalty, Courage, and Wisdom: Tradition and Social Struggle Represented in the Sicilian Puppet Theater by Ms. Livia Bornigia. Held at The Italian Cultural and Community Center. Contact 713-524-4222

May 16th at 7:00pm - The Italian Dine Around: Simposio. Held at Simposio. Contact: 713-777-8151

May 23rd at 6:30pm - Cooking Class: Papa LaRosa presents Pizza Tossing and Pizza Making. Held at the Italian Cultural and Community Center. Contact: 713-524-4222

May 24th at 7:15pm - Italian Film Series: La Finestra di Fronte (2003). Held at the Italian

More information about all these events can be found at [www.HoustonItalianCenter.com](http://www.HoustonItalianCenter.com)

Czech Community Calendar. Czech Center Houston—4920 San Jacinto Street in the Music District Houston, Texas 77004 - Telephone: 713 528 2060 - [www.czechcenter.org](http://www.czechcenter.org) - [czech@czechcenter.org](mailto:czech@czechcenter.org) [www.houstonreceptions.org](http://www.houstonreceptions.org)

**Conversational Czech Language Classes for Adults.** Twelve weekly sessions on Mondays 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. beginning September 11, 2006. Enjoy the challenge and have fun! Members donation of \$30.00 and Non-members \$70.00. *Comenius Library and Presidents Room.*

**Beginners Children's Czech language class.** Eight weekly sessions Saturday mornings 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. beginning September 16, 2006. Donation \$30.00.

**Language Students** are requested to pre register by calling 713-528-2060. For information contact instructors Glenn Sternes, 713-516-7721, [Sternesg@HAL-PC.org](mailto:Sternesg@HAL-PC.org) or Marie Mann, 713-246-6099, [cesvys@yahoo.com](mailto:cesvys@yahoo.com).

**July 14, 2006** – Friday evening *Cooking with the Klimas* – lecture, music, cuisine, 6:30 p.m. Prague Hall.

**September 16, 2006, Czech Center's Twelfth Annual Fall Charity Benefit Gala in Prague Hall, Reception and Silent Auction in Brno Gallery.** The Grand Prize Drawing winners (watch for your notice of prizes to be awarded!) announced, a sumptuous dinner and champagne toast will crown a festive and rewarding evening. 6:30 p.m.

**November 2006** - Celebrating Czechoslovakia's freedom from communism: 16th Anniversary. *Prague Hall*. Open to the Public.

**December 2006** – Members and Donors Family Traditions Christmas Party.

Reception, appearance by Svaty Mikulas and retinue, Christmas fun.

Date and time to be announced.

Events require RSVPs to 713-528-2060 or email: [czech@czechcenter.org](mailto:czech@czechcenter.org) Check our website [www.czechcenter.org](http://www.czechcenter.org) for notice of events scheduled.

### Standing Council (6)

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