the sisters got the invite. they all came

A new crackerjack world
... all came. Showed up through a window, not the door. Jockeys let them in. Jockeys checked them off. Off-shore was Bologna Italy, Bogor, Indonesia, Brcko, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Galway, Ireland, Georgetown, Guyana, Lyon, France, Nanjing, China, Samara, Russia, Stuttgart, Germany, Suwa, Japan, Wuhan, China and Szczecin, Poland. And then there were the namesakes: San Luis Potosí, Mexico and St. Louis, Senegal. But more than Sister Cities were jamming at the club. St. Louis politicos and elites were there. That night they were cheering Clarence Harmon and his first lady, Janet. Mayor Clarence Harmon and Janet shared a birthday. It was their party. The Mayor was turning fifty-nine. Not much said about Janet’s number. But I could have missed it. I was busy. It was my club. The club was Cabool. A lot was going on.

The Mayor’s people were on the ground, decked in Sister gear. They were passing out Sister themed-snacks. The remix jockeys were plugged in and perched on a scaffold. The scaffold was the in-out box. It’s where Sister greetings were reformatted, looped, and projected around club Cabool. The band was off scaffold. It pumped out a St. Louie Blues background for e-geo missives and global snacks. And then there was the mundial cake. The mundial slice moment was web cast to all Sisters, and anybody-everybody on line. This was big, and not just big in the Sister City scene. It hadn’t been done much, or ever. Cabool had a thick data pipe, one of the first broadband lines in the midwest. Now it’s nothing. But back then in 1997 it was new, a brand new crackerjack world.
Dear Mayor Harmon

It’s very unique and gratifying that Global Interactive Mayoral Birthday Party will be held with global scale and global participation. I’m sure it’s a new type of international exchange by means of internet. Also we can know it possible to have a party with people all over the world at a time. As Mayor of Suva, one of your sister cities, I send you my hearty congratulations. And I expect you as a Global Mayor not only Mayor for St. Louis. It’s first time for me to participate such a nice party to a distance without asking my wish. I wish to have a chance to eat real cake together not “VIRTUAL” some day. I hope the relationship between St. Louis and Suva will be promoted more and more in the future.

Sincerely,
Mayor
Suva, Japan

Gene M. Pillot
Mayor
State of New Hampshire

Dear Mayor Harmon:

As Governor of Nebraska, I am pleased to offer you greetings on the occasion of your Global Interactive Mayoral Birthday Party.

This occasion is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the memories you have collected through the years, and I hope you will find it a source of solace as you reflect on both your past and the future.

They will appreciate the unique perspective only you can bring to these cherished stories. Please accept my very best wishes. A birthday is a special day, and your friends have put together a terrific party, so ENJOY!

Sincerely,
E. Benjamin Nelson
Governor
State of Nebraska

Dear Mayor Harmon:

What a great idea for a birthday party — no pounds to gain from too much birthday cake; no worries about whether your card should be sentimental, insulting, humorous, or inspiring; no scheduling conflicts to arrange; no travel plans to make; and no gift to buy. “You’ve thought of everything.” All we guests have to do is wish you a very happy 59th birthday, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to do that. I hope you will choose to share some of those memories with your friends and relatives.

This occasion is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the memories you have collected through the years, and I hope you will choose to share some of those memories with your friends and relatives.

Sincerely,
Samara City, Russia
Wang Hongmin
Yours sincerely,

Dear Mayor Harmon:

I am so pleased to hear that you are having your first birthday as a mayor. I’d like to express my sincere congratulations to you and wish you a very happy birthday. St. Louis and Nanjing have always been friendly cities and relations have improved over the years. I hope you will spend some time to visit Nanjing and you will see the changes that have taken place in Nanjing in recent years. I hope you can spare some time for a visit to Nanjing and you will see the changes that have taken place in Nanjing in recent years. I wish you good health and long life.

Yours sincerely,
Mayor of Nanjing
Ching Wang Hongming

Gene M. Pillot
Mayor
State of New Hampshire

Dear Mayor Harmon:

Congratulations on the occasion of your first birthday as Mayor of the City of St. Louis, I’m sure you are looking forward to the challenge and the rewards of that leadership. I have the privilege of visiting your city several times over the years, and I have enjoyed its beauty, its history, and its amenities. I look forward to another visit soon.

Sincerely,
Gene M. Pillot
Mayor
Miami, Florida

Hon. Mr. Harmon

I am so pleased to hear that you are having your first birthday as a mayor. I’d like to express my sincere congratulations to you and wish you a very happy birthday. St. Louis and Nanjing have always been friendly cities and relations have improved over the years. I hope you will spend some time to visit Nanjing and you will see the changes that have taken place in Nanjing in recent years. I wish you good health and long life.

Yours sincerely,
Mayor of Nanjing
Ching Wang Hongming

Dear Mayor Harmon:

It was great to be 58! Now it’s time to relax and enjoy 59! Through the years you have had many tough challenges and tests, but in retrospect it has only made you stronger, wiser and the best. So on this day of much joy and celebration, I would like to wish you Mayor Harmon, the sincerest congratulations! HAPPY 59TH BIRTHDAY!!! Wishing you continued prosperity and happiness always!

Sincerely,
Bilu M. Harris
Mayor Oakland, California

Dear Mayor Harmon:

It’s a pleasure to wish Mayor Harmon many happy returns of this day, good health and happiness. May success and good luck attend him in all the endeavors and initiatives as Mayor.

Sincerely,
Yuri Tikhonov
Head of Foreign Affairs Committee

Dear Mayor of St. Louis:

I have been in office since January, which is only three months longer. By the way, I think it is a wonderful idea to have a global, virtual birthday party! I have asked my secretaries to chill a bottle of champagne to toast you on your birthday. Should you ever come to Stuttgart, just come around and see us. I would be delighted to welcome you to City Hall, you know, a mayor of your city.

Unser Angesicht, I have the privilege of visiting your city several times over the years, and I have enjoyed its beauty, its history, and its amenities. I look forward to another visit soon.

Sincerely,
Wolfgang Schuster
Mayor
Stuttgart, Germany
Dear Mayor Harmon:

On behalf of the citizens of Detroit, I extend a warm and enthusiastic Happy Birthday on your Global Interactive Mayoral Birthday Party! This is a wonderful idea. I’m pleased to be a part of the festivities. So far, I’m really getting a kick out if it. I don’t have to worry about packing a bag and rushing to the airport. I don’t have to fret about time or fuss with a tuxedo. Just kick back, put on a party hat, sit in front of my computer and enjoy the festivities. Because while St. Louis would naturally be my second choice to go visit and enjoy a good party, there's no touching a weekend in Motown!

Since, I’ve never attended a party on line, however, I need a few pointers on web social etiquette. Is it okay if I help myself to more than one slice of virtual cake? Well, at least I won’t have to worry about calories. Again, best wishes on this most memorable birthday!

Sincerely,
Dennis W. Archer
Mayor Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mayor Harmon:

It is indeed a pleasure to extend greetings on this very special occasion. Happy 59th Birthday! You have been a source of joy and inspiration to your family and friends over the years, and I am grateful for the opportunity to honor a distinguished fellow Democrat. May you be blessed with joy and happiness on this special day.

You have my best wishes for an exciting and enjoyable “Global Interactive Mayoral Birthday Party.” With the kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,
Zell Miller
Governor State of Georgia

Dear Mayor Harmon:

As Mayor of Louisville, I join your staff and “web surfers” from miles around in wishing you a happy birthday. It’s an honor to participate in my first ever Global Interactive Birthday Party, although the “virtual” cake leaves a little to be desired!

As the new Mayor of St. Louis, I know you are primed and ready to take your city by storm. Speaking as Louisville’s veteran Mayor of more than 12 years, I want to remind you that it is also important to take time out of your busy schedule to celebrate life’s milestones. Fortunately, you seem to be surrounded by dedicated staff members who help you do just that. To help commemorate your birthday celebration, I have declared October 28, 1997, as “Mayor Clarence Harmon Day” in Louisville, Kentucky. I hope you have a memorable birthday party, and send best wishes for a lifetime full of happiness and joy.

Sincerely,
Jerry E. Abramson
Mayor Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Mayor Harmon:

Greetings from the City of Newark, California. Have a wonderful birthday and a great year!

Sincerely,
David W. Smith
Mayor Newark, California

Dear Mayor Harmon:

On behalf of my staff and all the citizens of the state of New Hampshire, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on becoming the next Mayor of the City of St. Louis! I deeply regret I cannot join you for birthday cake in person, but I will join you for virtual cake and ice cream on the website. It happens to be my favorite flavor! Best wishes once again.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Shaheen
Governor State of New Hampshire

Dear Mayor Harmon:

As Governor of Nebraska, I am pleased to offer you greetings on the occasion of your Global Interactive Mayoral Birthday Party.

This occasion is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the memories you have collected through the years, and I hope you will choose to share some of those moments with your friends and relatives. They will appreciate the unique perspective only you can bring to these cherished stories.

Please accept my very best wishes. A birthday is a special day, and your friends have put together a terrific party, so ENJOY!

Sincerely,
Benjamin Nelson
Governor State of Nebraska

Dear Mayor Harmon:

On behalf of my staff and all the citizens of the state of New Hampshire, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on becoming the next Mayor of the City of St. Louis! I deeply regret I cannot join you for birthday cake in person, but I will join you for virtual cake and ice cream on the website. It happens to be my favorite flavor! Best wishes once again.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Shaheen
Governor State of New Hampshire

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Please accept my very best wishes. A birthday is a special day, and your friends have put together a terrific party, so ENJOY!

Sincerely,
Benjamin Nelson
Governor State of Nebraska
What next? as if anything might come; but rather Whither? Whither away? For it is surely of the essence of the evolution concept hard though it be to realise it, more difficult still to apply it that it should not only inquire how this of today may have come out of that of yesterday, but be foreseeing and preparing for what the morrow is even now in its turn bringing towards birth.

Cities in Evolution | Patrick Geddes

Patrick Geddes was a message Huxley and Darwin sent to the future. He died in 1932; the same year Aldous Huxley published Brave New World - another dispatch. Geddes left us a tool chest packed with maps. They’re maps to build platforms that glimpse, peer ahead, assess what is coming, and maybe humanize this new place.

The Cartographer’s Dilemma | Holm-Guzzardo
Here, then, and in the coloured original of course more clearly, we have the first, and (up to the time of its making) the only, fairly accurate picture of the growing of Greater London. This octopus of London, polypus rather, is something curious exceedingly, a vast irregular growth without previous parallel in the world of life perhaps likest to the spreadings of a great coral reef. Like this, it has a stony skeleton, and living polypes call it, then, a "man-reef" if you will.

the very word "lines" nowadays most readily suggesting the railways, which are the throbbing arteries, the roaring pulses of the intensely living whole; or, again, suggesting the telegraph wires running beside them, so many nerves, each carrying impulses of idea and action either way.

For this exhibition has made a beginning, as yet the most clear and definite beginning, of the comparative study of cities; each shown like a living being, in constant relation to its environment; and with the advantages of this, its limitations too. Like the living being it is, a city reacts upon its environment, and in ever-widening.

What really matter nowadays the divisions between innumerable constituent villages and minor boroughs whose historic names are here swallowed up, apparently for ever, like those microscopic plants, those tiny plants and animals, which a big spreading ameba so easily includes, so resistlessly devours?