



ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION NEWSLETTER

Rockville Sister City Incorporated is a non-profit corporation founded in 1986 in order to support and promote mutual understanding through personal experience based on Youth, Educational, Cultural and Commercial Exchanges among Sister Cities throughout the World.

<http://rockvillesistercities.org>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Vibrant, Active Organization

By Brigitta Mullican, President—RSCC

We have been busy with our sister city program since the last newsletter. We had a successful wine tasting event in April; held a reception (May 11) at Croydon Creek Nature Center to honor Dr. Nelson and Mrs. Jane Hsu with a lifetime membership in RSCC; and (May 19) held a luncheon banquet at O'Donnell's Seafood Restaurant to honor our past Rockville Sister City Corporation presidents, Jim McConkey and Rotraut Bockstahler.

Besides honoring Rotraut and Jim for their service to RSCC, it was a chance for us to say goodbye. Rotraut and Larry Bockstahler are moving to Sarasota, Florida to be near their daughter and grandchildren. We will miss them and wish them well.

I want to thank all the members who renewed their sister city membership for 2013. If your name is not on the list of members in this

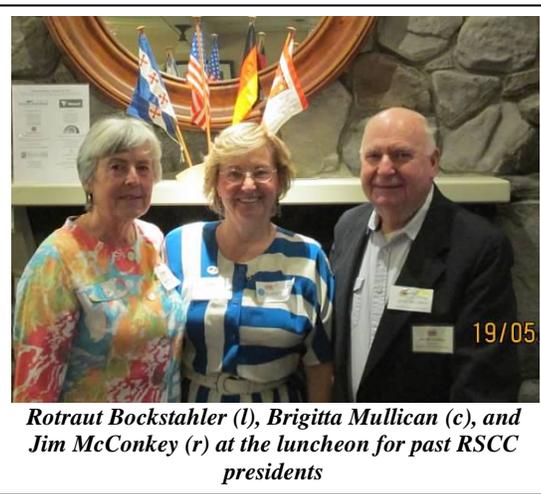
newsletter, we hope you will join again by using the form in the newsletter or downloading the membership application on our web site: rockvillesistercities.org. Our funding comes primarily from dues and donations. I can't say

enough about how wonderful our sister city members are with their support. We also ask each member to ask a friend to join us. Memberships are for the calendar year.

Our next cultural event is an outing organized by Chris Luckman. We will be heading to Wolf Trap's Filene Center in Vienna, Virginia to see the Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats on Sunday, July 7th, at 2:00 PM. We invite you to attend the performance with us! More information can be found on our new and improved sister city web site.

On June 25th through July 9th, the Pinneberg Dance group, the Tanzschule Leseberg, will visit Rockville, an exchange being organized by Karen Rawlins. This is the group who hosted Rockville's

Finest! Performance Troupe last summer. The group will go to New York City June 30th through



Rotraut Bockstahler (l), Brigitta Mullican (c), and Jim McConkey (r) at the luncheon for past RSCC presidents



Dr. and Mrs. Nelson Hsu recognized by Brigitta Mullican, RSCC President, and Rockville Council Member, Tom Moore

July 3rd. There are 18 visitors coming (15 teen girls, 3 adults). The dancers will perform at the City of Rockville's Independence Day Celebration.

Liz Von Kaenel and sister city volunteers worked hard to pull together another float for the Rockville Memorial Day Parade. This year we again had a Chinese dragon dance group join RSCC in the parade. If you attended the parade, we hope you saw our new Jiaxing, China friendship banner.

Gerrie Checkon has arranged for our German-American Day celebration for Saturday, October 5th, at the Golden Bull Inn in Gaithersburg. Denny Freezer and Jim McConkey are busy planning the Pinneberg Photo Exhibit, which will be in the Rockville Senior Center. The *Bürgermeisterin* (Mayor) of Pinneberg, Ms. Urte Steinberg, along with Bernd Hinrichs, President of the *Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft Rockville-Pinneberg* (German-American Society of Rockville and Pinneberg), our counterpart organization, are coming to Rockville for this photo exhibit. The North Bethesda Camera Club has been asked to participate. The public will be invited to this event. Please save the date (Sunday, October 6th), when we will sponsor the opening reception for the photo exhibit.

If you are not a member of RSCC and are reading this, I invite you to join us. As I stated previously, an application is on the back of this newsletter. If you have any questions or suggestions about our sister city program, please don't hesitate to call me on (301) 230-0890. You are also welcome to contact us at rockvillesistercities@gmail.com.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Upcoming Student Visit

By Karen Rawlins

Excitement is building on both sides of the Atlantic for our *Tanzschule Leseberg* visit scheduled for June 25th through July 9th, 2013.

We have a list of wonderful host families who are graciously opening their homes to the 18 teens and adult guests. A meeting will be held with host families and other interested parties on Monday, June 10th, at 7:00 PM at the Twinbrook Baptist Church, which is located at 1001 Twinbrook Parkway, on the corner of Baltimore Road.

Michael Patt (Trip Coordinator in Germany) is working with RSCC to refine the itinerary. Thus far, the visit includes the following activities: a two-day tour of Washington, DC's monuments and museums; tubing/white water rafting at Harpers Ferry; a trip to New York City; a welcome by the Mayor and Council, as well as a performance at Rockville's Independence Day celebration; hiking at the Billy Goat Trail at Great Falls; a Bethesda Big Train baseball game; a performance with The Finest performers at Twinbrook Baptist Church; a visit to the Special Gospel Service at People's Community Baptist Church; a bike ride on the Carl Henn Millennium Trail through Rockville; and a going away party at College Gardens Park. Once the itinerary is finalized, copies will be sent to the visiting guests and their host families.

RSCC has been most helpful with helping to find host families, providing Metro fare cards, and helping to pay some of the trip/ticket expenses. The City of Rockville is making Rockville senior buses and recreation van transportation available whenever possible.

The Finest Performance Foundation (FPF) is proud to be a sponsor of this exchange. FPF is interested in making this trip as special and memorable as their trip to Germany last summer was. Do you want to help? Sponsor a student! Or part of a student's experience. For all of the many things we have planned, it costs only \$250 to sponsor one student. Or you can donate any lesser amount just to help out.

We are looking for sponsors. To thank you for your generosity, we will include your name (or family name) on our memento to be presented to the

students before they depart for Germany. FPF students and parents are continuing fundraising efforts throughout the summer and accepting tax-deductible contributions earmarked for this exchange. To donate, visit www.thefinestperf.org. We thank you in advance and welcome everyone to look for and support our RSCC and FPF exchange activities and fundraisers whenever possible.

There is also a Saturday, July 6th, performance planned to be at Twinbrook Baptist Church, which is cosponsored by the Church. The Chinese Dragon Team might also take part in this performance. Other local area performers are also being considered. We want this visit to be a diverse cultural experience for our guests.

***Fotokreis* Visit**

By Denny Freezer

In October 2013, we will be hosting 12 visitors from Pinneberg, including members of the *Fotokreis* (Photographers' Circle) camera club, along with the *Bürgermeisterin* or Mayor of Pinneberg. They will all arrive on Friday, October 4th, and depart (or move on to further sightseeing in the U.S.) on Saturday, October 12th.

On Saturday the 5th, they will be installing a photo exhibit to fill the lounge of the Rockville Senior Center (RSC). On Saturday evening our visitors will join us for a German-American Day dinner. Then on Sunday the 6th, there will be a reception in the RSC lounge, with light hors d'oeuvres served, and the exhibit will be open to the public the week of October 7th to 11th. *Fotokreis* members intend to take turns acting as docents for the exhibit.

We have invited members of the North Bethesda Camera Club (NBCC), one of the largest photo clubs in the area with 150 members and a waiting list for those interested in becoming members, to join us at the reception on October 6th (which will not otherwise be open to the public), and we are planning to have members of the NBCC set up some photo excursions in the Rockville and/or

Washington, DC areas during the week of the exhibit.

On Monday the 7th, *Fotokreis* members will be meeting with the Mayor and Council in the evening, and *Fotokreis* members are invited to the weekly NBCC meeting the evening of Wednesday, October 9th, at Faith United Methodist Church, 6810 Montrose Road in Rockville. The club averages about 60 members at any given meeting, and the meeting that night will start with a photo print competition.

In the meantime, members of the NBCC are developing a checklist of places for photo excursions, and in many cases these could be combined with some good, old-fashioned sightseeing. Members of *Fotokreis* had expressed interest in several "excursions," such as to the Billy Goat Trail and taking pictures of monuments at night. The president of the NBCC assures me that they have a lot of expertise in the club, with one member who has written two books about Great Falls, where the Billy Goat Trail is located, and several members who know the best places for taking pictures of monuments at night.

A Party Recap and an Inquiry

By Jack Rodgers

The RSCC spring wine tasting occurred Friday, April 5th, at the Glenview Mansion. As usual, the event was fun with ample libations and light fare for approximately 50 RSCC members and guests. Six different wines were served at the conventional (open) tasting station.

Although a formal record of the preferences expressed at the open taste test station was not kept, many made favorable comments about the wines from both Argentina and Spain. Also, several patrons were disappointed the offering did not include the sparkling German wine produced by Henkell and Company, a dry wine that had been served at the fall event.

As in the recent past, the spring wine tasting also included a blind taste test wine station. The test was designed to let volunteering participants decide how much they know about wine based on the response of their palate. The testing method was to let the volunteers determine if they could correctly identify the type of wine served from unlabeled containers. Four varieties were used in the test: Chablis, Riesling, chardonnay, and pinot grigio. These wine types range from relatively sweet (Chablis) to relatively dry (pinot grigio). To eliminate possible effects of taste differences associated with different producers, an effort was made to provide all of the types from a single vintner (*viz.*, Yellow Tail).

All participants were allowed to choose between two testing methods. The first option was to be served a taste of a single, unidentified wine and then try to identify which type was served. After the first trial, if they wanted, participants could then be served another type of wine, and again they were asked to identify the variety. The second option involved the use of a reference. Volunteers were allowed to first select and then taste one of the four wine types as a reference. They were then served a second unidentified wine and asked to identify its type using the first taste as a reference (sweet or dry).

The spring wine tasting earned more than \$900 that will support future RSCC cultural exchange programs. It also was a great opportunity to meet the mayor of Rockville (Phyllis Marcuccio), city council members (Mark Pierzchala), and candidates for election to city council (Beryl Feinberg and Julie Palakovich Carr).

Some RSCC members have suggested an RSCC beer tasting event should be offered in the fall. It is possible to serve a variety of bottled domestic and imported beers. However, it is more difficult to serve a variety of draft beers because of the volume of beer in a single keg and the need to rent serving equipment. An event serving draft beer would only be financially feasible if the number of participants

substantially increases to perhaps 150. Nevertheless, there will be an RSCC tasting event of some sort on Friday, October 25th. What is your opinion? Should the event be exclusively a beer tasting, exclusively a wine tasting, or offer tasting of both wine and beer? Please contact us at rockvillesistercities@gmail.com and let us know what you think.

German-American Day Dinner

By Gerrie Checkon

Plan now to celebrate an important cultural event with Rockville Sister City Corporation. In observance of German-American Day, you are invited to enjoy camaraderie and a tasty dinner at the Golden Bull Grand Café at 7 Dalamar Street in Gaithersburg, Maryland on Saturday, October 5th, 2013 from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM.

German-American Day commemorates the first German settlement in North America. Thirteen families established Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1683. Commemoration of the event lapsed during World Wars I and II. President Ronald Regan reestablished the observance of German-American Day in 1983 to honor the 300th anniversary of German immigration and culture in the U.S.

Mark October 5th on your calendar. More details will follow by email and on the web site. In the meantime, contact Gerrie Checkon at gerrie.checkon@longandfoster.com or at (301) 279-0708 with any questions.

RSCC and the Memorial Day Celebration

By Liz von Kaenel

RSCC continues to participate in the City's celebration of Memorial Day. Prior to the parade, President Brigitta Mullican placed a memorial wreath at the city's eternal flame. The wreath was supplied by Pinneberg's DAGRP, the equivalent to our RSCC. An RSCC contingent appeared in the parade and represented both Jiaxing and Pinneberg. The unit started with the Pinneberg-Rockville banner carried by Liz von Kaenel in a German

dirndl and Lois Vuolo in red, white, and blue with a jaunty Uncle Sam hat. That was followed by President Mullican in a white Corvette convertible driven by Jack Rodgers. And next, a bright red truck, driven by George Albrecht, was decorated with two large Chinese lanterns and a black-eyed Susan/rose-covered arch with a large world globe hanging from the center. Carol Nicholas waved to parade crowds from the back of the truck. Steve Fisher and Chris Luckman carried the Jiaying-Rockville banner, and Bingjib Huang and Jeffery Liu, both in colorful Chinese dress, carried the Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC) banner. Under the direction of coach Liu and accompanied by a Chinese drummer, a large group of young people from the CCACC performed a crowd-pleasing dragon dance.



RSCC's Memorial Day Parade Contingent

COMMUNICATIONS

RSCC Officers for 2013

By Brigitta Mullican

The Rockville Sister City Board elected the following officers for 2013:

Brigitta Mullican, President
Tim Nixon, Vice President
Marika Brown, Treasurer
James McConkey, Secretary

The board members are George Albrecht, Marika Brown, Gerrie Checkon, Sam Choi, Denny Freezer, Bing Huang, Chris Malone, Jim McConkey, Carol Nicholas, Tim Nixon, Karen Rawlins, Jack

Rodgers, Nancee Simonson, and Elizabeth von Kaenel.

The Rockville Sister City Corporation meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, in Rockville.

Pinneberg Student Exchange

By Brigitta Mullican

Teachers Gerrit Siems and Silke Werner will accompany 12 German 10th grade students (5 girls, 7 boys) to Rockville. The students attend the *Grund- und Gemeinschaftsschule Pinneberg* school. They will arrive on September 22nd, 2013 and leave on October 6th. During their visit, the group will travel to New York City for four days. Ms. Sue Thorpe from Wotton High School will help coordinate the program and is seeking Wootton High School students to host the Pinneberg Sister City students.

The DAGRP's Newest Member

By George Albrecht

Bernd Hinrichs, President of the *Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft Rockville-Pinneberg* (German-American Society of Rockville and Pinneberg) or DAGRP, is the proud grandpa of a brand new baby boy. Bernd and his wife Ingeborg welcomed little Bendix Zaremba into the world on March 19th, 2013. The little guy was just over 19 inches long and weighed a bit more than five and a half pounds at birth. Bendix, his mom Gesa, and his dad Timo are all doing well. RSCC sent its congratulations to our friends in Pinneberg on this happy occasion.



Bendix Zaremba and his loving Oma

MEMBERSHIP

Current Membership Roster

By Nancee Simonson

Rockville Sister Cities Corporation thanks all its members for their continuing support. If your name is not listed below, there is still time to send in your membership for 2013. Annual membership is for the calendar year from January through December 2013. We appreciate all membership support since it is one of our main sources of funding for our programs.

Corporate Members

Allied Technology Group (Matthew D. Lee)
China Travel Service/Nexus Holiday Group, Inc.
(Xiaosheng Bi and Cleo Kung)

City of Rockville
JBG Companies (Ashley Lambdin)
O'Donnell's Seafood Restaurant (William Edelblut)
Westat, Inc. (Bruce Romer)

Family Members

Rotraut & Larry Bockstahler
Nancy Breen & Patrick Joyce
Jerol & Tom Briggs
John Britton & Katherin Treiman
John & Janet Brown
Thomas & Sarah Brown
Sam & Kil-Cha Choi
James & Lorine Coyle
Tom & Stephanie Curtis
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Kevin Moran & Tim Nixon
Thomas & Carol Moran
John & Marlene Moser
Julie & Eric Palakovich Carr
Mark & Lesley Pierzchala
Allan & Karen Rawlins
Theodore & Patricia Reuther
John & Patricia Rodgers
Bruce Romer & Kay Bowman
James & Betty Anne Sadler
Wayne & Joan Savage
Elizabeth & Gary Thompson
Steven & Susan Van Grack
Pat Wilson & Roald Schrack

Honorary Members

Dr. Nelson & Mrs. Jane Hsu

Individual Members

George Albrecht	William Michie
Ingrid Barnes	Eva Miller
Marika Brown	Michael Moran
Victor Chang	Tommy Mosely
Gerrie Checkon	Brigitta Mullican
Emily Cooke	Bob Nelson
Sandie Lee Deighton	Carol Nicholas
Bob Ekman	John Pontius
Steve Fisher	Nancee Simonson
Patricia Gallalee	Susan Thorpe
John Goon	Elizabeth von Kaenel
John Hall, Jr.	Alice Von Saunders
Bing-Jib Huang	Lois Vuolo
David L'Heureux	Josephine J. Wang
Christine Luckman	James R. Wasilak
Rae Lynn Mandujano	Yi Weng
James McConkey	Claire Whitaker
Eileen McGuckian	Patricia Wolff

Corporate Sponsors—Calendar Year 2013

The Rockville Sister City Corporation gratefully acknowledges the following corporate sponsors and encourages all members to patronize these businesses.



Nexus Holidays DC, Inc.

Xiaosheng Bi, Owner
932 Hungerford Drive #7A
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: (301) 917-2222
Fax: (301) 917-2240
www.nexusholidays.com
www.nexusholidays.net



ALLIED TECHNOLOGY
GROUP INCORPORATED

Allied Technology Group, Inc.

Dr. Matthew D. Lee, Founder and Chairman Emeritus
1803 Research Blvd., Suite 601
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: (301) 309-1234
<http://www.alliedtech.com/>



City of Rockville

111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
<http://www.rockvillemd.gov/>



Westat, Inc.

Bruce Romer, Contact
1600 Research Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20851-3129
Phone: (301) 294-3830
bruceromer@westat.com
www.westat.com



O'Donnell's "Tang o' the Sea" Restaurant

William (Billy) Edelblut, Contact
311 Kentlands Blvd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Phone: (301) 519-1650
<http://odonnellsrestaurants.com>



THE JBG COMPANIES

The JBG Companies

Fishers Place and Twinbrook Metro
5635 Fishers Lane, Suite 0200
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: (301) 468-0200
www.JBG.com

ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION (RSCC)
Membership Application/Renewal Form

I would like to (check one) ___renew, or ___apply for membership. Enclosed is my tax deductible payment (check one):
_____ \$20 Individual, _____ \$30 Family, or _____ \$100 Corporate Membership, for the Calendar Year _____.
Additional tax deductible contribution of \$_____, **Total enclosed \$_____**. RSCC is a Tax Exempt, Not-For-Profit Corporation.

Please print below.

Please, Please provide your email address. Otherwise we have no way of keeping you informed of our activities and events.

Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____ Email Address: _____

For internal use only. We do not release to other organizations.

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____, Work Phone: _____, Cell Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: RSCC Send to: Rockville Sister City Corporation, c/o Rockville City Hall,
111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850-2364

AREAS OF INTEREST: (TO ALL MEMBERS, NEW & RENEWAL, PLEASE, PLEASE CHECK AT LEAST ONE.)

I would be interested in: ___Hosting visitors from Pinneberg; ___Hosting exchange students (high school); ___Fundraising;
___Helping with membership drive; ___Helping w/ Wine Tasting Events; ___Helping w/ Memorial Day Parade; ___Organizing
Cultural or Sport Exchanges; ___Bicycle Tours; ___Developing or Helping with Other Events; ___Serving on Board of Directors;
___Just participating; ___Other (specify below) (These are not commitments, but do help us understand our members' interests.)

Other Comments, suggestions, etc. _____

Memberships are for the calendar year. There is no prorating of memberships. Members who join on or after September 1st will be credited with membership through the remainder of that current calendar year AND the full following calendar year.

Application/Renewal Form Ver.10-5(Revised 8/18/09)

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Rockville Sister City Corporation
c/o Rockville City Hall
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850-2364