



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.

www.rockvillesistercities.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sister City Programs

By James F. McConkey, Jr., President—RSCC

Sister city relationships reflect President Dwight D. Eisenhower's intent to exercise person-to-person diplomacy. He saw value in getting to know, understand, and respect other points of view, whether or not we ultimately agree with them or not.

To this end, the Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC) conducts annual high school student exchanges. Thomas S. Wootton High School has been the primary participant from Rockville recently. The exchanges are designed to help young people gain an understanding of and respect for another culture and lifestyle, regardless of any language differences. Students from several Pinneberg schools alternate in visiting Rockville on such exchanges.

Sister City initiatives and RSCC efforts in particular also support adult exchanges like bicycling trips or newly initiated tour groups. For instance, Rockville will host a group of 30 Pinneberg residents touring the East Coast of the USA in May 2012. Rockville is planning a cruise on the Elbe River in 2013. We also host cultural exhibits, such as art exhibits (last September we held an exhibit of paintings by Pinneberg artist, Detlef Allenberg). Moreover, we are currently sponsoring and working to raise funds

so that a Rockville youth performing troupe can visit Pinneberg during the summer.

Over the years, the cities have exchanged a number of gifts with each other. These gifts have benefited the cities in real and lasting ways. Rockville, for example, can thank Pinneberg for the rose gardens in front of City Hall and at the Civic Center, a sculpture in Welsh Park, and paintings and other items displayed in City Hall.

Rockville is in the process of developing a new relationship with Jiaxing, Zhejiang Province, China. This is an important new development that was sponsored by a group of interested Rockville citizens who view the partnership as an important connection to their cultural heritage. There still are many difficulties to be worked out in the establishment of this relationship, and we welcome the support of individuals to help cement this partnership. Anyone interested in volunteering for this effort can call me at 301-926-5059. We currently have a group working to propose a relationship with a city in India. Also, we have received inquiries from several cities in South America and in Africa.

Montgomery County recently established a county-based sister city program and last year made its first visit to the Morazon area of El Salvador. The county hopes to increase its sister city relationships by adding four more in the coming years and is considering cities in Israel, Ukraine, Ethiopia, and China.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Rockville Sister City Spring Wine Tasting

By Jack Rodgers

RSCC is sponsoring a spring benefit wine tasting at the Glenview Mansion in Rockville from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Friday, March 23rd, 2012. The tasting will be open to the public as well as RSCC members and their guests. RSCC invites all to come and take part in the evening. At the tasting, patrons will be the experts; they will sample four wines, vote for a favorite, and enjoy the company of friends and Rockville neighbors.

Your appreciation for both wines and winemakers will grow if you understand the basics of wine tasting. Here are just a few of those basics in tasting a wine as explained by Stacy Slinkard, a professional wine guide (<http://wine.about.com>). Keep in mind that while you can smell thousands of unique scents, your taste perception is limited to salty, sweet, sour, and bitter. It is the combination of smell and taste that allows you to discern a wine's flavor. You are advised to pour about 2 to 4 ounces of wine into a glass.

Then take a good look at the wine. Examine its color and clarity. Assess the wine's opacity. Is the wine watery or dark, translucent or opaque, dull or brilliant, cloudy or clear? To get a good impression of your wine's aroma, swirl your glass for a solid 10 to 12 seconds. Do you smell oak, berry, flowers, vanilla, or citrus? A wine's aroma is an excellent indicator of its quality and unique characteristics. Finally, take a taste. Start with a small sip and let it roll around your mouth. Try to discern the flavor profile of the wine—fruit, spice, or maybe a woody flavor. Is the wine light-bodied (like the weight of water), medium-bodied (similar in weight to milk), or full-bodied (like the consistency of cream)? Can you taste the remnant of the wine on the back of your mouth and throat? What was the final flavor



impression—fruit, butter, oak? Does the taste persist or is it short-lived?

At the March RSCC wine tasting, after patrons have taken the time to sample the various wines (at least four), they will be given an opportunity to vote for a favorite. The results of the vote will be reported in the RSCC newsletter. In addition to wine, hors d'oeuvres, and pastry will be served.

Proceeds from the wine tasting will be used to finance Rockville Sister City programs. The cost of admission is \$25 per person, if purchased by March 14th, or \$30 per person, if purchased at the door. Tickets for admission can be purchased in advance by sending a check payable to Rockville Sister City Corp., Attn. Steve Fisher, City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Film Night: *Bagdad Café*

By Liz von Kaenel

On Thursday, February 23rd, 2012, RSCC presented the film *Bagdad Café* at Rockville's Senior Center. Both members and guests enjoyed this award-winning movie by German director Percy Adlon. Marianne Sägebrecth offers an understated but masterful performance as Jasmin, a German tourist stranded in the Mojave Desert after leaving her husband. She finds her way to the Bagdad Café, a run-down motel/restaurant/gas station. It is managed by Brenda, an over-worked, hard-as-nails,



tough woman, who was also abandoned by her husband. The two women eventually bond. Jasmin's interactions, both with the colorful characters frequenting the café and her surroundings, result in a change for the better. C. C. H. Pounder (from *The Shield*) portrays Brenda, and we even saw a side of Jack Palance, in the role of Rudi Cox, that we have never seen before! A social hour with light refreshments preceded the movie. The next film evening will be held in early summer. We hope to see you there!

Pinneberg Excursion to the USA

By Jerol Briggs

RSCC is pleased to welcome a visiting group of friends from Pinneberg to Rockville in May 2012. We are expecting a group of 30 guests from Pinneberg here in Rockville on Sunday, May 13th for two days. The group is making a *Sonderreise* (i.e., a special trip) from Pinneberg to visit New York City, and Philadelphia, York, and Lancaster in Pennsylvania, before heading to Annapolis for a tour of the State House, and then on to Rockville. In the Lancaster area, the group will learn more about the unique Amish culture and its German roots. They will arrive in Rockville on Saturday evening and will visit Mount Vernon on Sunday, May 13th. On Monday, the group, accompanied by RSCC members, will travel by Metro to Capitol Hill for a tour of the Capitol, followed by free time to visit the sights in Washington. We also are planning a walk through the Rockville Historic District and a visit to Town Center on Tuesday morning, before the group departs by bus to Dulles Airport for a Tuesday evening departure for Pinneberg. RSCC is also planning to host a dinner on Monday evening for our guests from Pinneberg and RSCC members. We will provide details for the Monday evening dinner soon, but please mark your calendars and plan to attend and meet our guests from Pinneberg. Many of the travelers have not been to Rockville before, so we're pleased to welcome new friends to our city.

German-American Day Dinner

By Gerrie Checkon

Celebrate an important cultural event with RSCC. Enjoy camaraderie and a tasty dinner at Clyde's Tower Oaks Restaurant on Sunday, October 7th, 2012 between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

Rockville's Sister City Committee has planned this dinner to commemorate the founding of the first German settlement in the United States at Germantown, Pennsylvania in the mid-1600s. These European immigrants and their descendants

have been a vital part of America for three and a half centuries. Every year German-Americans and others recognize their presence in the US and the contributions they have made.

For the first time we will be hosting our party at Clyde's, a recognized Rockville establishment whose management will prepare a German meal to anchor the festivities. Clyde's has agreed to offer German beer and perhaps even develop a commemorative cocktail for German-American Day as part of the cash bar. Mark the date on your calendar. More details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter, or contact Gerrie Checkon at 301-279-0708 for further details.

The Finest Securing Funds

By Karen Rawlins

Greetings, Members and Friends of the RSSC!

We are moving along swiftly with our plans for Germany. Michael Patt (Trip Coordinator in Germany) has been sent the list of travelers with contact information for the host families. Our websites are displaying photos and excerpts from IMPACT performances. Our on-line campaigns are effective. Thus far we have raised \$2,350, and that's just on-line! The good thing about that is the Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation has generously agreed to grant us \$5,000 and match \$2,000 of what we have raised on-line. The RSSC has contributed \$1,500 of their \$5,000 grant toward placing the deposit on the flights. The IMPACT members are raising sponsorships of \$500 each toward the trip, and some of them have already accomplished this. The Finest Performance Foundation has received its tax exempt status 501 (c)(3) from the IRS and has begun drafting additional grant requests. The IMPACT Troupe performed for the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission and received an honorarium of \$2,000 toward the trip. More performances are being planned as "donation or honorarium only" appearances to raise funds.

We wish to thank the RSSC members and friends for all the support and encouragement. This is a unique and rare opportunity for such a cultural exchange. We expect many benefits from both sides of the Atlantic.



Members of The Finest/IMPACT excited about the funding for their trip to Germany

along the way. Part of the tour will be two days touring the Czech capital and flying home from there.

Please let us know if you would like to participate. The cost is estimated to be \$3,000+ per person plus airfare (\$1,000+). The cost currently includes nine guided shore excursions, one night hotel accommodations in Berlin, and one night hotel accommodations in Prague.

Members with time constraints could just fly into Berlin, but RSCC encourages travelers to experience the two or three days of hospitality with a family stay in Pinneberg.

Please contact Denny Freezer (dennyfreezer@verizon.net) or Marika Brown (marika.brown@verizon.net), if you are interested in participating. The trip is open to anyone, but Rockville Sister City membership will be required before booking. Membership costs \$20 per year for individuals and \$30 for a family.

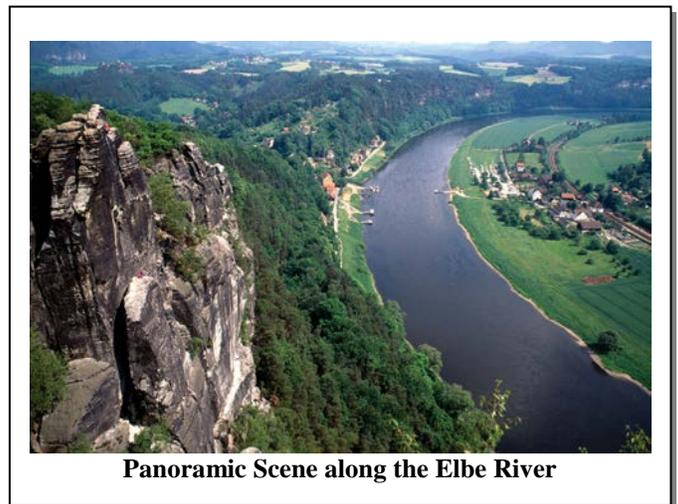
COMMUNICATIONS

Elbe River Cruise

By Marika Brown

As we reported in the December newsletter, we are planning an Elbe River cruise for next year, either spring or fall. Since payment is required far in advance of the tour, we just couldn't get it accomplished this year. We hope that we can firm up a date by the middle of March. We are working with Patty Perry of Cruise Vacations and most likely will select Viking River Cruises. They have an excellent reputation and have many dates to choose from.

We are hoping to have 20 – 24 participants. We are still planning on flying into Hamburg, spending two or three days with families in Pinneberg, and taking the train to Berlin for two days of visiting the German capital. We will join the tour group there and then board the ship in Magdeburg for a week-long cruise up the Elbe to Prague with several stops



Panoramic Scene along the Elbe River

New Mayor and Council Liaison

By Jim McConkey

The RSCC is pleased to welcome Councilman Tom Moore as our new Mayor and Council liaison. He is replacing Piotr Gajewski. We hope he takes an active interest in our activities and gets a chance to visit Pinneberg and maybe even Jiaying.

Sister City Experiences Change Lives

By George Albrecht and Brigitta Mullican

Holiday greetings came from former RSCC member David Patrician, who was visiting Nepal with his friend, Nadine. David's international lifestyle began when he was a Rockville-to-Pinneberg high school exchange student in 1989. Since then he has taught school in Korea, worked for a television company in Germany, been employed by the Voice of America, and traveled the world. His dad, Jim Patrician, was a Director of RSCC, was President of the organization from 1992 to 1993, and served for several years as Treasurer.



Former RSCC Member, David Patrician, and His Friend Nadine in Nepal

Pinneberg Opens Rockville Room

By Jim McConkey

On the 29th of February, the DAGRP dedicated the new Rockville Room in the Pinneberg *Rathaus* (i.e., City Hall). They modified meeting room B in the conference room area and arranged it to display collections of items from the long association between our cities, similar to the way we have set up the Pinneberg Room in the Glenview Mansion. They held a public ceremony to dedicate the room, led the members through the collection, and then conducted a DAGRP meeting there.

New Sister City Proposals

By Jim McConkey

The Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC) and the city of Rockville have recently received a number of inquiries about starting new sister city relationships. We have received communications from cities in Africa, South America, and Ukraine. We also have one citizen actively working to propose a relationship with Samalkot, India. Any persons interested in helping in such endeavors are encouraged to contact RSCC's President, Jim McConkey, at jfmcjr@comcast.net.

Board Meeting Schedule

RSCC Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month—*except December*—at 7:30 PM in City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, in Rockville.

MEMBERSHIP

Become a Member

We invite anyone who is interested in joining us to fill out the membership application in this newsletter. The only requirements for membership are completing the application and paying annual dues. Current members who haven't already done so, please don't forget to renew your membership.

RSCC Acknowledges Donation

By Jim McConkey

RSCC gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Allied Technology group and its chairman, Mr. Matthew Lee, for their sponsoring membership and donation. These funds will go to supporting cultural exchanges with Pinneberg. We welcome all such donations supporting activities associated with both Pinneberg and Jiaxing. Remember, since we are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, such donations to RSCC are tax deductible.

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