



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

Exchanges and Events

By Brigitta Mullican, President—RSCC

Thank you to all the members who renewed their Rockville Sister City Corporation membership for 2013. Our funding comes primarily from dues and donations. Another thank you goes to the board members who are working hard to promote our entire sister city program.

The sister city web site has been improved and is now up-to-date with our upcoming activities. Please visit and bookmark it on your browser and let me know if you have suggested improvements, comments, or recommended activities. (Please also remember that the web site is maintained by volunteers and is basic, but functional.)

The RSCC relationship with Jiaxing, China is getting more and more attention. Along these lines, the city of Jiaxing cordially invites entrepreneurs and businesspersons from Rockville, who are interested in doing business with enterprises in Jiaxing and China, to attend the Yangtze River Delta Investment and Trade Symposium in Jiaxing this June.

In September, RSCC is sponsoring a tour to nine Chinese cities, including Jiaxing. Details of the trip are on the RSCC web site. Participants are required to be or become RSCC members. There is a limit

of 20 travelers, and the deadline for deposits is April 30th, 2013. One of our corporate sponsors, Nexus Holidays Washington DC Travel Service, is working with RSCC to plan this trip.

The Pinneberg *Tanzschule* (Dance School) Leseberg will be in Rockville this summer from June 25th through July 10th, 2013. Plans are being made for the dancers to perform in Rockville's 4th of July celebration. Another Pinneberg high school group will come to Rockville in October. Teachers from Wootton High School will coordinate the event, and an exchange of Rockville high school students will go to Pinneberg in 2014. We are always in search of host families, so please contact us if you are interested.

In honor of German-American Day in October, there will be a Pinneberg Photo Exhibit in the Rockville Senior Center. The Pinneberg *Bürgermeisterin* (Mayor)—newly elected this past November—Ms. Urte Steinberg will be in Rockville for the opening reception. The *Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft Rockville-Pinneberg* (German-American Society of Rockville/Pinneberg), our counterpart organization, is actively organizing all of the Rockville visits. If you are interested in being involved in this Photo Exhibit, please contact us.

As I stated above, our sister city funds come from membership dues, donations, and fundraising events. I invite you to come to our next fundraising event, a wine tasting in the Rockville Glenview

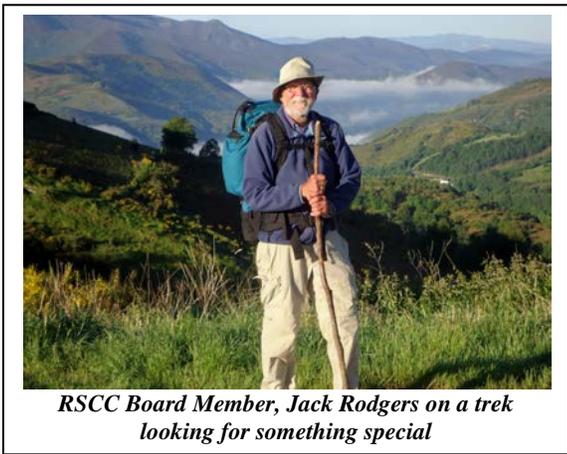
Mansion on April 5th. Please visit the website for more details, and early reservation discounts.

If you are not a member of RSCC and are reading this, I invite you to join us. An application is on the back of this newsletter. And if you have any questions or suggestions about RSCC, please don't hesitate to call me at (301) 230-0890.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Looking for Something Special?

By Jack Rodgers



When winter is over and spring arrives, we look for something special to do. It can be a search for adventure. The views from the top of mountains are spectacular, but take it from the hiker above, even this pleasure is enhanced by a sip of wine from a flask taken from your pack. Alas, the Cordillera Cantabrica are distant, and it takes time and effort to climb them.

Wine itself is something special that can be enjoyed independent of mountain views. It is acclaimed by rugged individuals and poetic philosophers alike. Ernest Hemingway, whose beard is mimicked above, said, "Wine is one of the most civilized things in the world and one of the most natural things of the world that has been brought to the greatest perfection, and it offers a greater range for enjoyment and appreciation than, possibly, any

other purely sensory thing." Furthermore, the poet Omar Khayyam wrote,

When once you hear the roses are in bloom,
Then is the time, my love, to pour the wine;
Houris and palaces and Heaven and Hell—
These are but fairy-tales, forget them all.

So if you are looking for something special this spring and can't get to high peaks, come to the Rockville Sister City wine tasting at 7:00 PM on Friday, April 5th, at Glenview Mansion. The elegance of the mansion and the view of the grounds will be enhanced by a variety of wines and canapés. More information and specific details are available at <http://rockvillesistercities.org/>.

Photographers' Circle to Visit Rockville

By Jim McConkey

A group of photo enthusiasts from Pinneberg, *der Fotokreis*, will exhibit a number of pictures from Pinneberg at the Rockville Senior Center this October. They will arrive in Rockville on October 4th, set up the exhibit on Saturday, October 5th, and expect to be ready to open the exhibit to the public on Sunday, October 6th. The Rockville Sister City Corporation plans to hold a reception at the Senior Center for members of local photo clubs and interested Rockville citizens on Sunday evening, where American and German photographers can meet and discuss topics of mutual interest. Most of the visitors can converse in English, although the opportunity is there for Americans to practice their German, if they are so inclined.

The exhibit will include photographs of Pinneberg and the surrounding area to let Rockville residents learn something about their Sister City in Germany. We will also try to arrange for the local clubs to conduct some of the Germans around the local area for some photo opportunities.

We expect that Pinneberg's new *Bürgermeisterin*, Urte Steinberg, will accompany the group and will

meet with Rockville Mayor Phyllis Marcuccio and city administrators while she is here. It is also expected that Wootton High School will be hosting a visit from students of the *Gemeinschaftsschule* at the same time.

RSCC invites all Rockville citizens to view the display and to meet with as many of our visitors as possible.

Lunar New Year in Rockville

By Jim McConkey

On Saturday, February 16th, 2013, members of the RSCC supported Rockville's Lunar New Year celebration by setting up a display at the County Executive Office Building during the afternoon's performance session. The display highlighted the new Friendship City relationship with Jiaxing with posters showing the signing of the Friendship Agreement in September 2009 and a display about the planned trip to China in September 2013. There was also a display on the exchange programs with Pinneberg. Banners and flags were prominently displayed to attract visitors to the display. Brigitta Mullican and Jim McConkey staffed the display and provided information to the visitors.



Rockville's Mayor, Phyllis Marcuccio, and RSCC's Jim McConkey at the Lunar New Year Celebration

A goodly number of people among the several hundred people attending the performances stopped by RSCC's display. Most were interested in what RSCC was about and took copies of the newsletters

and flyers that were available as handouts. Several showed intense interest in the planned trip to China and looked on the offering as a great value. Over half a dozen families left their names and contact information and took applications.

The performances were very interesting examples of the instrumental and vocal music and dance of China. Meanwhile, performances by various youth and adult groups also represented the cultural traditions of Korea, India, and the Philippines.

COMMUNICATIONS

Pinneberg during World War II

By Denny Freezer

I recently read a terrific book titled *Savage Continent, Europe in the Aftermath of World War II* by Keith Lowe. *Savage Continent* is about the fact that the war in Europe may have officially ended with dancing in the streets, but for several years after the war's end, anarchy and civil war and vengeance reigned in many areas. Lowe goes into considerable detail about the Displaced Persons (DP) camps set up after WWII. The purpose was to temporarily house the inhabitants of the huge network of slave-labor camps that existed at the end of the war, as well as to house those who had fled westward in advance of the Red Army. The ultimate goal was to keep the DPs alive and repatriate them when possible, although many felt they had no home left and did not want to be repatriated.

Lowe includes in *Savage Continent* a map of "Displaced Persons camps in Germany, Austria, and Northern Italy," showing what must be 50 – 100 camps, including one in Pinneberg, Germany. Despite having some fantastic memories of visiting Pinneberg and hosting our friends from Pinneberg, I don't remember actually looking Pinneberg up on the web in Wikipedia. Sure enough, the entry says, "After World War II the number of inhabitants of Pinneberg doubled because of the forced

immigration of expellees, predominantly from East Prussia. Later on, in contrast to many other cities in Schleswig-Holstein, Pinneberg was able to keep the number of inhabitants stable.” Unfortunately, beyond that statement, the Wikipedia entry does not further elaborate.

That bit of history whetted my appetite, so I next read *Inferno: The Fiery Destruction of Hamburg, 1943*, also by Keith Lowe. This book includes a very interesting, albeit concise, history of Hamburg to the present day, but it is mainly a frightening story of the firebombing and near total destruction of Hamburg by British and American bombers in late July and early August of 1943. One attack wave alone involved nearly 800 bombers, and some of the fires burned for two months after the bombing stopped. Pinneberg actually appears only once in the book, in an account by someone who evacuated from Hamburg to Pinneberg only to find that he felt he was still too close to all the bombing. Lowe discusses, in general ways, Hamburg’s satellite towns being swamped with refugees and the logistics of trying to track one million displaced persons. Yet according to Lowe, Elmshorn, which my map shows to be very close to Pinneberg, had the misfortune of being just far enough from Hamburg to be clear when Hamburg was covered in smoke. During a night of bombing in heavy thunderstorms, a fire started in Elmshorn, either from a lightning strike or a bomb, and because it was in the clear and easily visible to the pilots, something like 150 more bombs were dropped on that one town.

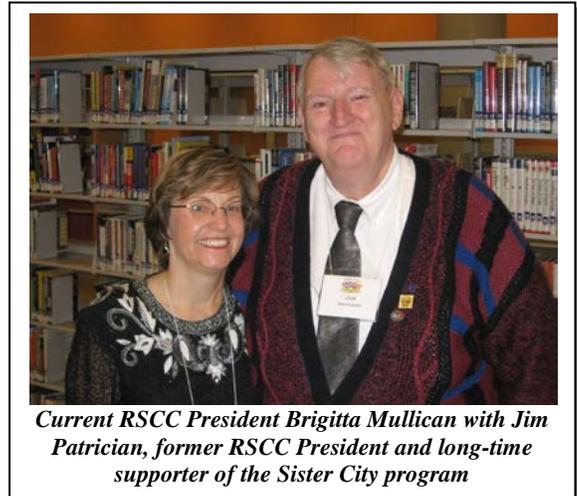
As a result of all of this reading, I’m curious as to whether anyone has personal information or has come across references as to how Pinneberg fared during the mass exodus from Hamburg and during the DP camps after the war. A doubling of the inhabitants must have had an incredible impact on residents of Pinneberg, and it’s possible that some of our friends were small children at the time or would have heard the stories from their parents. I would love to hear from anyone with further

information about Pinneberg during and shortly after World War II.

Former RSCC President and Staunch RSCC Supporter Dies

By George Albrecht

James H. Patrician was born on December 10th, 1938 and passed away on Saturday, February 9th, 2013. A resident of Rockville, Maryland at the time of his passing, Jim was born in Massachusetts. While serving in the U.S. Army as a Russian linguist in the former West Germany, he met his future wife Chana, who preceded him in death in 2003.



He became involved in computers and computer programming in the early years of their development, first in the Army and later with Honeywell in West Germany. Returning to the US, Jim was employed with Booz-Allen. Later he started his own firm (Analytics International Corporation), and he also worked for Washington, DC’s city government. He once had an opportunity to join an early Microsoft development team, but according to his son David, he had to forgo the move because Chana did not like the thought of moving from the Washington she knew (DC) to the Washington so far away (WA).

Jim was on the initial Sister City Task Force, which had the mission to reinvigorate a long moribund Pinneberg-Rockville relationship. When the new partnership blossomed, he was the first Treasurer of the incorporated RSCC (1986 – 1992); he later served as its President (1992 – 93). Jim and Chana brought a sense of vitality and vigor to the new Pinneberg-Rockville affiliation, emphasizing exchanges, developing personal relationships, and keeping “in touch” across the ocean with ever-improving computer technology. He developed a near-native fluency in the German language, partially from his time in Germany, but also from his keen mind and his desire for constant learning. Jim and Chana are survived by their son, David, Rockville's first exchange student to Pinneberg, and a reporter for Delta Radio, based in Hamburg; and by Jim's older sister Mary Nadeau, in New Hampshire; and by Eva Miller, his companion of many years. Jim was buried next to Chana on Feb 13th at Judean Memorial Gardens in Olney.

Board Meeting Schedule

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

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Report for 2013

By Nancee Simonson

The Rockville Sister City Corporation thanks the following supporters for their membership dues and additional contributions. Our main source of income is our membership dues. This list represents those who have paid in 2013, not 2012.

Corporate Members

China Travel Service/Nexus Holiday Group, Inc.
(Xiaosheng Bi and Cleo Kung)

City of Rockville
Westat, Inc. (Bruce Romer)

Family Members

Rotraut & Larry Bockstahler
Nancy Breen & Patrick Joyce
John Britton & Katherin Treiman
John & Janet Brown
Thomas & Sarah Brown
Sam & Kil-Cha Choi
Tom & Stephanie Curtis
Jennie & William Forehand, Jr.
Dennis & Linda Freezer
Gary & Claire Funkhouser
Tanya & Bill Gazdik, Jr.
Robert & Beverly Hedrick
Barry & Aileen Klein
Chris & Carol Malone
Jim & Cynthia Marrinan
John & Rita McKee
Thomas & Sherri McKenna
Caryl McNeilly & Robert Williamson
Robert & Holly Meyer
Kevin Moran & Tim Nixon
Thomas & Carol Moran
John & Marlene Moser
Mark & Lesley Pierzchala
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

Individual Members

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

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)

------(please cut here) -----(please cut here)-----

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