



## 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://www.rocknet.org/Community/SisterCities/>

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### A Year of Accomplishments

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

To start the year, Wootton High School hosted a group of students from the Theodor Heuss Schule. About the same time, RSCC members hosted a clarinet ensemble from the Pinneberg Musikschule, who gave a concert at the Glenview Mansion with a similar group from the Maryland Classical Youth Orchestra. The National Philharmonic graciously welcomed this group and their hosts with a concert at the Strathmore Music Center.

A group of students visited Pinneberg and the surrounding areas in Germany in June. The trip this year was accompanied by Ms. Sue Thorpe, who has replaced Tony DeRosa as the coordinator of these exchange visits. Ms. Thorpe and two of the students will speak at our Annual Meeting about the benefits of such student exchanges. We will also host another visit to Wootton by the Gemeinschaftschule about the time this newsletter is published.

RSCC sponsored its second annual observance of German-American Day with a dinner at the Old

Europe restaurant, which garnered over \$600 to support our cultural programs. We held our Spring Wine Tasting in conjunction with Jackie's Wine Shop and a Dim Sum Festival at the New Fortune Restaurant. These latter two events were fundraisers as well.

Arrangements were made and joint efforts with the Art Gallery at the Glenview Mansion were undertaken to host an exhibit of the surrealistic works by Detlef Allenberg, a Pinneberg artist, this month.

RSCC hosted a reception and arranged for harpist Kathleen Meredith to entertain our guests.

Besides the Din Sum dinner, RSCC erected and manned a booth at Rockville's Lunar New Year celebration. Also supporting our efforts towards our Asian community and to the enhancement of our Friendship City status with Jiaying, RSCC partnered with local GO clubs to sponsor a

Wei Qi tournament at the Rockville United Church. [Jim: Wasn't this at the Unitarian Church?]

Our efforts to reach out to the Rockville community led to the production and taping of a TV broadcast about the efforts of our non-profit corporation on Channel 19 TV Access Montgomery. We also initiated a project to support sending Rockville's

#### New Corporate Sister City Members

Congressional Motors  
c/o Susan W. Seboda  
801 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-424-7800

[www.congressionalmotors.com](http://www.congressionalmotors.com)

Transformations, LLC  
Chandra Tamirisa, Owner  
198 Halpine Rd., Apt. 1459  
Rockville, MD 20852  
240-506-9053

[www.tamirisa.com](http://www.tamirisa.com)

performing youth troupe, "The Finest!," to Pinneberg in 2012. RSCC pledged \$5000 towards this worthwhile project and encourages private donations from its members and city residents. RSCC also presented a wreath at the Memorial Day celebration and had a unit in the parade.



RSCC Members and Guests at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Dim Sum Luncheon Event

Another significant project this year was the review and proposed revision of our major governing documents, including the by-laws, policies and procedures, and duties of the officers. We hope to have the latest versions posted on our website by the end of the year. RSCC also generated a new policy on the formation of new sister cities to provide guidance to the numerous groups inquiring about partnerships with Rockville.

RSCC welcomes individuals, families, and corporations as members. We have significantly increased the number of corporate sponsors in the past year. If you agree with us that the Sister City mission to promote mutual respect and understanding of differences between people of different cultures is a worthwhile endeavor, we invite you to complete the Membership Application on the cover

of this newsletter and send it, along with the membership dues, to City Hall.

## CULTURAL EVENTS

### RSCC Celebrates German-American Day

By James McConkey

RSCC will again celebrate the founding of the first permanent settlement of Germans in America at Germantown, Pennsylvania on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1683, by holding a dinner at the Old Europe restaurant on Wisconsin Avenue in the District on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. A sit-down dinner, based on a variation of the traditional Oktoberfest menu, will be served buffet style. Patrons can purchase their favorite beers, wines, cocktails, or soft drinks from the cash bar. The festivities will commence at 5:30 PM.

As at previous dinners, a selection of prizes will be offered for a raffle to augment the funds supporting our cultural programs. We will have a brief talk about German immigration and the contributions of some of those émigrés to America.

Tickets are priced at \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members of RSCC. Contact Jim McConkey at [jfmcjr@comcast.net](mailto:jfmcjr@comcast.net) or Brigitta Mullican at [coburg1@verizon.net](mailto:coburg1@verizon.net) to reserve a seat. Reservation forms and/or applications for membership will be returned to you by e-mail. [Jim: I'm not quite sure what you mean by that.] Please make your reservations by September 20<sup>th</sup>. Seating is limited to 65 persons.

### RSCC at October Festival

By Tim Nixon

The Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC) will be participating in the World of Montgomery Festival next month. The half-day event will be in Wheaton on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, and it will run from



*You are invited!*

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery  
on exhibit  
September 6<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Detlef Allenberg**  
**Artist from Pinneberg, Germany**  
surrealistic paintings

***Meet the Artist and Opening Reception***  
***Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 PM***

***Friday Evening Concert at 7:00 PM***  
*featuring musical performance by*  
***Kathleen Meredith, harpist.***

***Rockville Sister City Corporation***  
*will provide refreshments for this*  
*opening reception.*

**The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery is**  
**located at Rockville Civic Center**  
**Park,**  
**603 Edmonston Dr.**  
**Rockville, MD 20851**

This event is FREE. For information, call 240-314-8682 or 240-314-8660, or visit our website at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). For recorded directions, call 240-314-5004. Glenview Mansion Art Gallery is wheelchair accessible. Gallery Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Tues. and Thurs., 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM. Gallery closed on official holidays. To confirm gallery hours, call 240-314-8682 or 240-314-8660.

noon until 5:00 PM. The festival will highlight Montgomery County's international character and its place in the wider world. Along with RSCC, other organizations that plan to take part include the Peace Corps, Rotary International, and 10,000 Villages.

RSCC will have a booth set up to distribute information about our organization, collect donations to help "The Finest!" with their travel expenses to Pinneberg, and recruit new members. RSCC Board Member Bing Huang will be writing visitors' names in Chinese calligraphy, and an RSCC officer will participate in an informational discussion and question-and-answer session about Sister City activities.

If you would like to help RSCC with the World of Montgomery Festival, please contact Jim McConkey at [jfmccjr@comcast.net](mailto:jfmccjr@comcast.net) or Tim Nixon at [timboinmd@comcast.net](mailto:timboinmd@comcast.net).

### **2011 Goethe Prizes Awarded**

By Rotraut Bockstahler, copied with permission from the American Goethe Society's *Das Blatt*

The new German-American Heritage Museum in downtown Washington was the setting for the American Goethe Society's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Goethe Prize ceremony on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The winners, all advanced students of German (third year and above) from area high schools in suburban Virginia and Maryland, were nominated by their teachers. Candidates were also required to submit a written composition on a topic of their choosing. Erika Joyce, AGS president, and Professor Irmgard Wagner, Goethe Prize administrator, presented each recipient with a certificate and a check for \$100. Those students recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in German Language studies were Ariana Chaivaranon, Jason Dodge, Lauren Falkenstein, Alexandra Hoenscheid, Kelsey Hood, Lisa Junta, Jeremy Khaw, Thomas O'Duden, Alison Regan and Kevin Vallejo. After the presentations, a reception hosted by AGS members was held for the

winners, their proud families, friends, and teachers. The AGS thanks Rüdiger Lentz, museum director and his staff for their gracious hospitality.

Congratulations, Jeremy Khaw! He is a student at T. S. Wootton High School. He was nominated by foreign languages teacher Mr. Anthony DeRosa and is a very serious and motivated student of the German language and culture.

### ***Denkbar—A New Venture***

By Rotraut Bockstahler

How about adding some philosophical thinking (*denkbare Dinge*) to your life?

Beginning this September, the American Goethe Society is planning a monthly gathering in the afternoon, with coffee and conversation about philosophy (in English). The plan is to facilitate a philosophical discussion that takes us on a leisurely inquiry into the history of ideas, beginning with the ancients, Plato and Aristotle. The emphasis will be on participants' questions that will be generated by the problems these philosophers raise. Texts supplied at cost. Venues will be decided later. Please contact Irmgard Scherer at [ischerer@layola.edu](mailto:ischerer@layola.edu).

## **EXCHANGES**

### **Wootton Students Visit Pinneberg**

By Sue Thorpe

Anyone living around or visiting Rockville has seen the "Sister City: Pinneberg, Germany" signs throughout the town. While it's one thing to have heard about Pinneberg, it is truly eye opening to realize that Pinneberg is a living, breathing city like Rockville, not just a name on a sign. Thirteen students and one teacher, all from Thomas S. Wootton High School, took part in an exchange program in June with students and families in Pinneberg. Throughout the two-week journey, the

visitors formed long-lasting friendships and had incredible experiences. Here are reflections from some of the students:

After a 10-hour journey that included a three-hour delay, we arrived in Hamburg—exhausted, hungry, but excited about what was to come. We were all terrified that we would not get along with or be able to communicate with our host families. But as we stepped out in the Hamburg airport atrium, all of our fears dissolved when we realize our families were waiting for us, smiling and waving. They quickly welcomed us into their homes with open arms and open hearts. We spent our first weekend individually with our families, but met up throughout the next week to see the sights in Pinneberg and Hamburg. We experienced a typical German school day, met the mayor of Pinneberg, climbed at a local high-ropes park, visited the Hamburg Emigration Museum, and walked through a building entirely in the dark. This last activity, called "Dialogue in the Dark," was a museum designed to illustrate what it's like to be blind.

During our second week in Germany, we took a train to Berlin. As we explored the city, we noticed, among other things, how convenient the transportation system was. Berlin is a city with a long and violent history: from the nearly-destroyed Gedächtniskirche to the ever-present Berlin Wall, we were constantly reminded of the city's difficult past. We visited major landmarks around the city, like the Brandenburg Gate, the German History Museum, and the TV Tower, and we took a boat tour on the River Spree. We were even lucky enough to receive a private tour of the German Parliament Building, the Reichstag, considered by many the most important building in Germany. We climbed to its dome and saw a panoramic view of the city.

Soon, it was time to pack up and say goodbye to our host families. We spent our last day preparing a meal we shared together with all the families. As we all sat together, we reflected on our experiences for the past two weeks. The food was different, but

tasty: Schnitzel, Döner, Goulash, Bratwurst, and lots of bread. We were surprised to find that mineral water is the standard water in Germany. The small, compact cars everyone drove also impressed us, but surprisingly enough, cars were not the main mode of transportation—bikes were. It was as if Germans were doing all they could to minimize pollution. Overall, we could not thank our host families enough for welcoming us into their households.

We want to thank the Rockville Sister City Corporation for their support for this entire adventure. We greatly appreciate their generous contribution to the farewell celebration with our host families and to our visit to Berlin. We will never forget the great time we had in Germany. We made friendships that will last for the rest of our lives, and we all grew from the experience . . . and now we can't wait to see our German friends when they come see us in September!

—Samantha Wermers, Lucian Hodor,  
and Jean-Philippe SanGiovanni

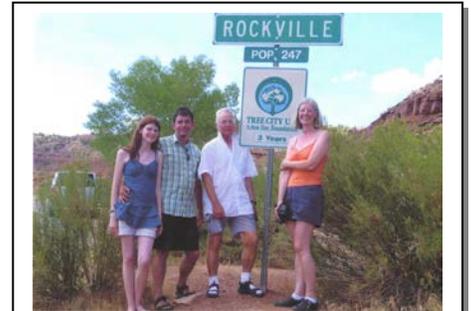
## Host Families/Guests Forge Friendship

By Jim Sadler

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the Rockville Chorus visited Pinneberg, Germany and was greeted with a warm welcome by the Burgermeisterin and city officials. During our week I had the good fortune to stay with the Glismann family, all of whom spoke excellent English. Norbert Glismann installs and services high-speed mail sorting equipment throughout Germany; Elke is an attorney in a Hamburg bank; and 15 year-old Katja is a talented violinist and the only child of a Pinneberg host family to play in the youth orchestra. I also had the great pleasure to meet Elke's father, Siegfried Sonneborn, a retiree, who took me to several events when Norbert and Elke were at work. He was a radio operator in the German army near the close of WW II and became a USA prisoner. Since I was a radio operator in the

US army during WW II, Siegfried and I spent hours exchanging communication experiences.

The Glismann family and Siegfried toured several states on the West Coast during the summer of 2010, but this year they decided to visit the East Coast and Rockville. The week before Easter they returned to visit New York City and then made their first visit to Rockville.



**The Glismann Family  
in the Western US**

My youngest son Brian, his wife Laurie, and their daughters Erica and Jillian joined the Glismanns for a day tour of Washington, D.C. and another day visiting Baltimore's Inner Harbor. My wife Anne and I escorted the Glismanns, Brian's family, and our oldest son Fred and his wife Barbara on a delightful Potomac River evening dinner cruise. The group attended Easter Sunday services at Faith Methodist Church and enjoyed dinner at our home. We have established a bond that hopefully will result in more exchange visits. Thanks to the Rockville Sister City Corp for promoting such cultural and personal exchanges.

## The DAGRP Plans Visit to the US

By James McConkey

The *Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft Rockville-Pinneberg* (DAGRP) has initiated a tour to the United States for citizens of Pinneberg. It is being called *Eine Sonderreise an die Ostküste der USA* (A Special Trip to the East Coast of the USA). The DAGRP is currently taking reservations for the trip to take place from May 7<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, and 17 reservations have already been booked. The tour is being arranged in partnership with Globetrotter Reisebüro GmbH, similar to RSCC's arrangement with Nexus Holidays and the trip to China.

The *Sonderreise* itinerary includes visits to New York City; Philadelphia and York, Pennsylvania, including the Amish area; Washington, DC; and Annapolis. In addition, the group will spend two days in Rockville. The group will be housed in the Best Western Plus hotel in Rockville, so hosting arrangements are not needed this time, but RSCC should be planning for the visitors' time in Rockville.

It is hoped that this activity will attract new members to the DAGRP.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Annual Meeting in September

By James McConkey

RSCC will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Glenview Mansion in the Rockville Civic Center Park. Members will be welcomed at a reception starting at 6:30 PM. The business meeting will open at 7:30 PM.

Accomplishments for the year will be reviewed, including the Allenberg Art Exhibit, the student exchange programs, the initial Dim Sum Festival, the status of the Friendship Agreement with Jiaying, and the initiation of a project to send Rockville's "The Finest!" Performing Youth Group to Pinneberg in 2012. The major considerations for the membership will be the approval of a comprehensive revision of our by-laws and the election of new directors.

Susan Thorpe, the Wootton High School advisor, and two of the students who visited Pinneberg earlier this year, plus one of the teachers from the Gemeinschaftschule, currently escorting a group of German students visiting Rockville, will speak briefly on the importance and the benefits of exchange programs to our youth and their understanding of the world and other cultures.

## Board of Directors Changes

By James McConkey

Sadly, several members of the RSCC Board of Directors found it necessary to resign their positions in the past year. Ying Chen first gave up her position as the key contact with Jiaying. Then Wayne Savage had to leave because of business conflicts. Most recently Norm Hampton left the board. The contributions of three will be missed.

Bingjib Huang is trying to establish new contacts with the Jiaying government. We also are trying to find an interested member to fill Ying's position as a Director. Both Wayne and Norm were Mayor and Council appointees, and we are awaiting actions by the Mayor and Council to fill these positions. We understand that applications for positions on the Board by Carol Nicholas and Maricka Brown have been made to the City Clerk. These positions have been advertised in Rockville Reports.

## 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

### Membership Report

The Rockville Sister City Corporation welcomes its newest corporate members: **Congressional Motors** and **Transformations, LLC**. We also thank the following supporters for their membership dues and additional contributions. Our main source of income is our membership dues.

*Family Members*  
Joseph and Mae Batz

Rotraut and Larry Bockstahler  
Jerol and Tom Briggs  
Marika Brown and Family  
John and Janet Brown  
Thomas and Sarah Brown  
John Britton and Katherin Treiman  
Gerrie Checkon and Dale Hoover  
Sam and Kil-Cha Choi  
Tom and Stephanie Curtis  
Jennie and William Forehand, Jr.  
Dennis and Linda Freezer  
Gary and Claire Funkhouser  
Elizabeth and Lorne Garrettson  
Tanya and Bill Gazdik, Jr.  
Hilbert and Joan Hubble  
Norman Hampton and Gerri Kochan  
Richard and Judith Knorpp  
Rose and Steve Krasnow  
John and Rita McKee  
Thomas and Sherri McKenna  
Robert and Holly Meyer  
John and Marlene Moser  
Kevin Moran and Tim Nixon  
Mark Pierzchala and Lesley Cross  
Theodore and Patricia Reuther  
John and Patricia Rodgers  
Roald and Patricia Schrack  
James and Betty Anne Sadler  
Wayne and Joan Savage  
Jean and Dale Schindaman  
Caryl McNeilly and Robert Williamson  
Xiaming Zhu and Guoqing Weng  
Stephanie and Robert Wright

*Individual Members*

George W. Albrecht	James McConkey
Toby Altman	Eileen McGuckian
Aziz James Barimani	William Michie
Ingrid Barnes	Eva Miller
Stephen Bennetts	Michael Moran
Betsy Billard	Tommy Mosely
Virgil Blizard	Brigitta Mullican
Victor Chang	John S. Pontius
Emily J. Cook	Bruce Romer
Sandie Lee Deighton	Pofen Salem
Stephen H. Fisher	Jane Salzano
Patricia Gallalee	Janice Solomon
John Goon	Susana Thorpe
John F. Hall, Jr.	William Vogel
Bing-Jib Huang	Elizabeth von Kaenel
Hannelore Hulick	Lois Vuolo
David L'Heureux	Susan Wallick
Christine Luckman	

**Corporate Sister City Members**

Allied Technology Group, Inc.  
Matthew D. Lee  
1803 Research Blvd., Suite 601  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-309-0185  
<http://www.alliedtech.com>

Aziz James Barimani—Frames by James  
414 Hungerford Drive, #114  
Rockville, MD 20850-4125  
301-762-1011  
<http://local.yahoo.com/info-12488082-frames-by-james-rockville>

City of Rockville  
111 Maryland Ave.  
Rockville, MD 20850  
240-314-5000  
<http://www.rockvillemd.gov/index.html>

Congressional Motors  
c/o Susan W. Seboda  
801 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-424-7800  
[www.congressionalmotors.com](http://www.congressionalmotors.com)

Nexus Holidays DC, Inc.  
China Travel Service DC  
Xiaosheng Bi Cleo J. Kung  
932 Hungerford Drive, #7A  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-917-2222  
[www.nexusholidays.com](http://www.nexusholidays.com)

Transformations, LLC  
Chandra Tamirisa, Owner  
198 Halpine Rd., Apt. 1459  
Rockville, MD 20852  
240-506-9053  
[www.tamirisa.com](http://www.tamirisa.com)

Westat, Inc.  
1600 Research Blvd.  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-251-1500  
[www.westat.com](http://www.westat.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 1<sup>st</sup> 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