



ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION

NEWSLETTER

www.RockvilleSisterCities.org

The Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC) is a non-profit corporation founded in 1986 to enhance and maintain the friendship and 'Sister City' relationship established by the City of Rockville in 1957 with Pinneberg, Germany, based on youth, educational, cultural and commercial exchanges pursuant to the People-To-People Program initiated by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956 to promote world peace.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGEby **Drew Powell**, President, RSCC

A labor of love! That sums up the efforts of literally hundreds of dedicated people on both sides of the Atlantic, in our Sister City, Pinneberg, Germany and here in Rockville.

Have you ever thrown a party, or for that matter, planned a wedding? Multiply that by a thousand and that's what it's like to plan not one, but two grand celebrations held in two cities all in the same year. Of course, I'm referring to the 60th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Rockville and Pinneberg.

The planning begins years in advance with the two cities comparing calendars, where multiple busy people must agree on dates, when they are available...no easy task. If you're the "visiting city," a delegation must be formed and travel arrangements must be made for each of the delegates. That information must be passed on to the host city in order to pair delegates with host families...part of the people-to-people concept that President Eisenhower had in mind, when he envisioned the Sister City initiative in 1956. Gifts, speeches and goodwill must be packed along with other essentials.

If you're the "host city," large venues must be reserved years in advance. Contracts with multiple vendors, such as caterers and live entertainment must be negotiated for a large Gala Reception. More venues must be secured for a grand Welcome Reception and Farewell Party. Guests must be invited to multiple events. Diplomatic functions

involving locally elected officials must be arranged. Transportation needs for visiting dignitaries must be reserved and a plethora of host families need to be contacted and paired with inbound guests. Daily excursions, which explore local venues, as well as regional ones, must be arranged for dozens of guests over a period of nearly a week. And if you're especially ambitious, throw in a citywide celebration (Rocktoberfest), where your seventy-plus guests and hundreds, if not thousands of citizens can mix, mingle and enjoy craft beers and schnitzel together. More gifts, speeches and goodwill present themselves through the week.

There are hundreds of other details that both cities must engage in, not to mention advertising, commemorative documentation and a multitude of complex logistics. It's a team effort, which requires a high level of coordination, commitment, and yes, financial resources on the part of both cities.

Some may say, why go through all the trouble ... now that's there's FaceTime and Twitter? But there's nothing like folks with different points of view, especially from different cultures and different parts of the world getting together and celebrating both our similarity and diversity. In the current environment of uncertainty, relationships such as the one Rockville has shared with Pinneberg for these sixty years mean more now than ever. It is the efforts of committed individuals toward this common goal of unity through respect and mutual cooperation that build the bridges, which bring people and nations together as friends.

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**PLAN TO JOIN US**  
**ON SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017**



**Seneca Valley Sugarloafers Walking Club  
and the  
Rockville Sister City Corporation**

**Invite you to a walk in honor of the  
Rockville-Pinneberg  
60<sup>th</sup> Sister City Anniversary**

**Beginning and ending at the Rockville  
Outdoor Municipal Swim Center**  
10 km (6.2 miles) AVA trail rating 1A  
5 km (3.1 miles) AVA trail rating 1A



More details on the RSCC Web Site:  
<http://rockvillesistercities.org/> or at  
<http://www.sugarloafers.org/>

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**DEC 2017 – DECORATING THE SISTER
CITY ROOM AT GLENVIEW MANSION**

It was another masterful year-end's decorating of the Sister City Room in the Glenview Mansion. Thanks again to RSCC Directors **Liz von Kaenel**, **Chris Malone** and **Gil Santiago** for their artistic work.



JAN 2017 – RSCC DISPLAY IN LIBRARY

Until January 31, the Rockville Memorial Library had a Sister City display featuring the 60th Rockville-Pinneberg Partnership Anniversary and the proposed German Tour, June 2-12, 2017.



Lynn Mandujano (shown) did a great job on the two display cases at the Rockville Memorial Library. The library allowed RSCC to set up the display one week early, and we hope Rockville citizens came away with some added knowledge about the Tour and our Sister City.

Unfortunately, we were unable to meet the required number of tour participants by the deadline date, and therefore the tour had to be cancelled. We greatly appreciate the interest shown by those who did sign up, and apologize for any disappointment caused by the cancellation.

JAN 2017 – VISITORS FROM JIAXING

From January 8-10, six delegates from our Friendship City, Jiaxing, China met with Rockville city officials and members of the RSCC on a goodwill visit that included meeting with representatives of the Rockville Economic Development, Inc (REDI), visiting sites in and around Washington DC, a reception and formal recognition of the delegation at Rockville City Hall, plus numerous opportunities for tasting various cuisines around Rockville (to include a formal dinner at the home of RSCC Director **Liz von Kaenel**).

Monday activities included

- Breakfast at The Original Pancake House
- DC Tour & Lunch
- A visit to the Kennedy Center
- Reception at Rockville City Hall and attendance at Council Meeting
- Dinner at Liz von Kaenel's

Tuesday activities included

- Breakfast at Ying Chen's
- Informative meeting at Kaplan University
- Lunch at Hibachi Supreme



Visiting Glenview Mansion

The purpose of the Delegation's visit to Rockville was to recognize and celebrate the Friendship City relationship, to discuss cultural and commercial initiatives and to discuss a possible expansion of Jiaxing's relationship with Rockville from a Friendship City to a Sister City status. This change in status requires additional discussion and recommendation from the Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC) and discussion/approval by the Rockville Mayor and Council.

The delegation consisted of Ms. **ZHOU Meifang**, Messrs. **LI Yue** (Head of Delegation), **ZHANG Jinxi**, **CAI Shanlin**, **ZHANG Liqun**, and **ZHANG Liangen** (interpreter). Mr. ZHANG was also ably assisted by RSCC Directors **Bing Huang** and **Ying Chen**.

Bing provided his calligraphy artwork for 2017, the Year of the Rooster, as a gift to the delegation.



Bing's gift to the delegation.

In 2019, Rockville celebrates its 10th Friendship City anniversary with Jiaxing.

JAN 2017 – BOARD MEETINGS CHANGE

Rockville Sister City Corporation Board meetings are open to the public. **Beginning January 2017**, they are now held the third Wednesday of each month (except December) starting at 7:00 pm in the Rockville City Hall on 111 Maryland Avenue. [Contact President Drew Powell](#) to be advised of any schedule changes.



JAN 2017 – YEAR OF THE ROOSTER

The year of the Rooster began on January 28, 2017. The **Rooster** is tenth in the Chinese zodiac. Each year is related to an animal sign according to a 12-year cycle. Years of the Rooster include 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, and 2029.

新年快樂！ (Happy New Year!)



RSCC joined the celebration at Lakeforest Mall, where Director **Bing Huang** exercised his calligraphy skills once again and RSCC Member **Lynn Mandujano** discussed RSCC membership and the proposed Tour of Germany. Thanks to both for representing RSCC at this annual event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for the first official event of the 60th Anniversary – a **Volksmarch**! A **volksmarch** is a noncompetitive 3.1 mile (5 km) or 6.2 mile (10 km) walk. It's not a pledge walk, it's not a race, it is a fun activity you do with a club, with your family, with your pet, or all by yourself. **Volksmarching** got its name from its origins in Europe.



On **Saturday, April 22, 2017**, starting and ending at the Rockville Outdoor Municipal Swim Center,

you will have the opportunity to walk 5 km or 10 km in an American Volkssport Association-sanctioned Volksmarch. Come out for some fun, fitness, and friendship as we get the Anniversary Year underway! For more info go to <http://www.sugarloafers.org/>.

Our next annual **Dim Sum** luncheon will occur on **Sunday, July 30**. Mark your calendars for this delicious event!

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## BUY AMAZON? HELP RSCC!

RSCC is now part of the "AmazonSmile" project.

What is AmazonSmile? It's a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization (that's us!) every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. That's us!

Go to <http://smile.amazon.com> to sign up and choose "Rockville Sister City Corporation" as shown in the next column. Thanks for your support!

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Choose from almost a million charities, schools, and other nonprofits. We will reach out to the organization you select to ensure it is ready to accept donations from Amazon.

Rockville Sister City Corporation

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## RSCC THANKS ITS NEW (AND RENEWING) MEMBERS FOR 2017 (SINCE DEC 5, 2016)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS GOOD FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR; YOU CAN HELP OUR ACCOUNTING RECORDS IF YOU RENEW OR JOIN DURING JANUARY/FEBRUARY EACH YEAR. THANK YOU!

Calling all RSCC members to renew their 2017 membership. The RSCC membership is on a calendar year basis, from January to December.

**Starting January 2017 yearly membership dues are now \$25 for individuals and \$40 for families. Corporate memberships are now at 3 levels of Sponsorship; Gold, Silver and Bronze. Student Memberships are free.**

To join or renew, please visit our website at <http://rockvillesistercities.org/HTML-Join/rscc-join.HTML>

**We thank the following members for having already paid for their 2017 RSCC memberships.**

**Brigitta Mullican, Membership Chair**

## **Corporate GOLD**

## **Corporate SILVER**

- International Travel Consultants - Gabriele Williams, POC

## **Corporate BRONZE**

- B. F. Saul - Todd Person, POC
- Kiwanis Club of Rockville - John Tyner, POC
- Law Office of Thomas K. Brown, LLC
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- Rockville Economic Development, Inc. - Laurie Boyer, POC
- Rockville Volunteer Fire Department - Eric Bernard, President
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- Westat - Bruce Romer, POC



**FAMILY:**

- Adams, Bruce & Margaret Engel
- Balboa, Sam & Sue
- Bockstahler, Rotraut & Larry
- Briggs, Jerol & Tom
- Brown, John & Janet
- Brown, Thomas & Sarah
- Curtis, Tom & Stephanie
- Feinberg, Beryl & Edward
- Freezer, Dennis & Linda
- Funkhouser, Gary & Claire
- Jessen-Klingenberg, Christian & Katharina
- Katz, Sidney & Sally
- Klein, Barry & Aileen
- Marrinan, Jim & Cynthia
- McKee, John & Rita
- McKenna, Tom & Sherri
- Moran, Thomas & Carol
- Newton, Bridget & Frederick
- Patrician, David & Nadia
- Pierzchala, Mark & Lesley Cross
- Powell, Andrew & Debra Vaughn
- Prautzsch, Frank & Linda
- Reuther, Ted & Pat
- Rodgers, John & Patricia
- Romer, Bruce & Kay
- Santiago, Gilbert & Andrea
- Savage, Wayne & Joan
- Sobsey, Alice & Robert
- Thompson, Betsy & Gary
- VanGrack, Steve & Susan
- Wright, Robert & Stephanie

**INDIVIDUAL:**

- Albrecht, George
- Brown, Marika
- Chang, Victor
- Checkon, Gerrie
- DiSpirito, Rob
- Eckman, Bob
- Fisher, Steve
- Gallalee, Patricia
- Goon, John
- Grimm, Bonnie
- Huang, Bing-Jib
- Malone, Chris
- Mandujano, Lynn
- McConkey, Jim
- McGuckian, Eileen
- Michie, Bill
- Moran, Michael
- Mosely, Tom
- Mullican, Brigitta
- Pontius, Jane
- Simonson, Nancee

- Thorpe, Susan
- von Kaenel, Elizabeth
- von Kaenel, Margo
- Vuolo, Lois
- Wasilak, Jim
- Whitaker, Claire
- Yokum, Craig

**HONORARY:**

- Hsu, Dr. & Mrs. Nelson (for having donated the Peony Garden at the Glenview Mansion)
- Treschuk, Terry (retired Rockville Police Chief)

**STUDENT**

- Powell, Tyler

Thanks to all of you for your support of RSCC and for your timely renewals!

If your name is missing, misspelled or otherwise needs correction, [please let us know immediately](#).

**RSCC STUDENT MEMBERSHIP**

RSCC has created a new Student Membership category. There is no fee for this membership. The Student Membership is designed to introduce students to the activities and programs of the Sister City organization and attract students to become active in these activities. The student membership provides students with opportunities to create projects related to our German and Chinese cities and earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours. Point of Contact is RSCC Director **Nancee Simonson** ([nanceesimonson@aim.com](mailto:nanceesimonson@aim.com)). You can find the form on our web page <http://rockvillesistercities.org/>

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RSCC BOARD GAMES

RSCC member **John Goon** hosts a free weekly games club at the Rockville United Church, 355 Linthicum Drive, from 7-11 every Friday. 100+ board/card games on site. 25-30 players per meeting. New and traditional games. All age groups represented. Hosts several community service outreach programs for young NIH patients/families and the elderly. Student Service Learning hours offered. Contact John at

spineyone@yahoo.com or 301-315-8297 for more information.



Join the fun

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### Rockville - Pinneberg Celebrate 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Sister Cities! - By Bob Wright, February 28, 2017

Do you know that the City of Rockville has a Sister City relationship with Pinneberg, Germany? Pinneberg is located in northern Germany, near the city of Hamburg... and here's how that relationship came to be.

In the early 1950's, **Dickran (Dick) and Viola (Vi) Hovsepian** had a problem with their water heater. They were told the part they need would come from Germany. This caused some consternation for the Hovsepians. In 1956, midway into Dickran Hovsepian's term as Mayor of Rockville, he found information about a new program President Eisenhower was trying to establish, and immediately thought of his previous involvement with "German technology."

The program was called the "People-to-People" program, administered by the U.S. State Department. It was a way to forge contacts with people of foreign nations (and most likely to capitalize on those bonds as deterrence against impending post-WWII Soviet intentions). After an extensive search by Rockville officials, and some haggling with the State Department, Rockville was paired with the city of Pinneberg, Germany, which is located in the northernmost state of Schleswig-Holstein. The decision was based on similarities of size, location, economies and populations at the time. When the dust finally settled, Mayor Hovsepian and the Rockville City Council made an official Resolution on October 13, 1957 to establish a Sister City relationship with Pinneberg. Mayor Hovsepian then made a trip to Pinneberg to present the Resolution to Pinneberg's *Bürgermeister* (Mayor) **Henry Glissmann**.

In May of 1958, Mayor Glissmann paid a return visit to Rockville, staying with Dick and Vi Hovsepian for over a week. Mayor Glissman attended many festivities designed to mark the occasion. From those two auspicious visits a city partnership was born. Although it waxed and waned over the next 30 years, with sporadic visits in both directions by

officials and residents of both cities, a reinvigoration of the process occurred in 1984. In the mid-1980s non-governmental (private) organizations were formed in both cities: the Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC) and the German-American Society, Rockville-Pinneberg (DAGRP). These two groups were established to augment their respective city governments' dedication to the tenets of the original resolution – that is, to maintain and grow a healthy international relationship on a people-to-people basis.

Since their formation, the RSCC and the DAGRP have been instrumental in initiating exchanges of every type: governmental, athletic, educational, artistic, cultural, and personal. The two cities even have streets named for their counterparts: "Pinneberg Avenue" is located in Rockville, and "Rockvillestraße" is found in Pinneberg.

In the past thirty years, the two cities have enthusiastically celebrated the 10-year anniversary years - 1987, 1997, etc. For the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, in 1987, the entire Rockville Mayor and Council traveled to Pinneberg. Former Mayor **Steve VanGrack** was a member of that 1987 delegation, "I



Rockville Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton  
and RSCC President Drew Powell

found our visit to Pinneberg informative, festive and heart-warming. I have formed a number of lasting friendships with residents of Pinneberg. Over the years many of those friends stayed with me during their visits, both official and non-official, to Rockville."

The Rockville-Pinneberg relationship is now 60 years old, one of the longest in formal Sister City history. In October 2017, Rockville will host a delegation from Pinneberg. In June 2017 a delegation of Rockville officials and citizens will travel to Pinneberg for events and festivities celebrating the relationship. Mayor **Bridget Donnell Newton** heads the Rockville delegation, "I'm looking forward to our visit to Pinneberg in June and to hosting their delegation in October. I thank the RSCC and DAGRP for their diligence in maintaining this special relationship between our two cities through the years. Especially in this day and time - it is vital that we work together and celebrate the commonalities we share as people." **Drew Powell**, President of the Rockville Sister City Corporation, is also eagerly anticipating the two celebrations, "As we move forward to the June and October celebrations, we are reminded of the generational teamwork on both sides of the Atlantic, which makes our unique partnership so special. It is truly a labor of love on the part of the cities of Pinneberg and Rockville, our counterparts at the DAGRP, the RSCC Board of Directors and General Membership as well as the citizens of both municipalities. Together, we are building bridges of hope and mutual understanding."

Perhaps you would like to join the RSCC as it continues to bring the people of these two cities with different cultures closer together?



## Corporate Sponsors - Calendar Year 2017

The Rockville Sister City Corporation gratefully wishes to acknowledge the following Corporate Sponsors.

**Please remember our Sponsors in your shopping and professional travels.**

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**ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION (RSCC)**

**Individual/Family Membership Application or Renewal - RSCC is a Tax Exempt, Not-For-Profit Corporation**  
**(We welcome *Corporate Sponsors!* Please find our Sponsor information at <http://rockvillesistercities.org/>)**

I would like to (check one) ☐ renew, or ☐ apply for membership. Enclosed is my **tax deductible** payment (check one):

☐ \$25 Individual **OR** ☐ \$40 Family

☐ Additional tax deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total amount enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships are for the calendar year (January to December). There is no prorating of your membership.**

**Please print.** 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: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (This is my ☐ Work ☐ Home ☐ Cell)

**Make check payable to "RSCC"** Send to: RSCC, c/o Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850-2364  
 OR you may pay by [PayPal](#) (click) --- be sure to include all applicable information!

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

- ☐ 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; ☐ Other (specify below)

(These are not commitments, but do help us understand our members' interests.)

Other Comments, Suggestions, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Application/Renewal Form (Revised 10Mar2017-gwa)

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