



## ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION NEWSLETTER

[www.RockvilleSisterCities.org](http://www.RockvilleSisterCities.org)

The Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC) is a non-profit corporation founded 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 MESSAGE

by Drew Powell, President, RSCC

**P**inneberg 2017! The Rockville Delegation's visit to Pinneberg, Germany was a huge success. On Tuesday, May 30, 2017 a majority of the twenty-eight member Rockville Delegation traveled to our Sister City of Pinneberg (some had already arrived, some would arrive in a day or two). Our delegation consisted of: Mayor **Bridget Donnell Newton**, Councilmember **Beryl Feinberg**, Councilmember **Mark Pierzchala**, City Clerk/Director of Council Operations **Kathleen Conway**, Television Production Specialist **Hagop Balekjian**, RSCC Webmaster and Member **George Albrecht**, RSCC Director **Ying Chen**, RSCC Secretary **Steven Fisher**, RSCC Member **Trish Gallalee**, RSCC Member **Bonnie Grimm**, RSCC Director **Bing Huang**, RSCC Member **Christian Jessen-Klingenberg**, RSCC Director **Chris Malone**, RSCC Member **Bill Michie**, RSCC Vice President **Brigitta Mullican**, RSCC Member **Sue-Ann Norian**, RSCC President **Drew Powell**, RSCC Student Member **Tyler Powell**, RSCC Director **Jack Rodgers**, RSCC Member **Pat Rodgers**, RSCC Member **Joan Savage**, RSCC Director **Wayne Savage**, Former Rockville Mayor and RSCC Director **Steve VanGrack**, RSCC Member **Sue VanGrack**, RSCC Director **Liz Von Kaenel**, RSCC Member **Jay Wang**, Former Rockville City Councilmember and RSCC Director **Bob Wright** and RSCC Member **Stephanie Wright**. Even though there were some delays in arriving in Pinneberg on May 31<sup>st</sup>, we finally made it with the help of our Pinneberg host families. The next day (Thursday), we traveled to Lübeck, a beautiful town 100 km east of Pinneberg for a city tour, a wonderful lunch at the Rathaus Ratskeller and a scenic boat ride on the Trave River, which encircles Lübeck.

On Friday morning, we enjoyed a historic guided walking tour of Pinneberg. The tour concluded in the Pinneberg Rosengarten (Rose Garden), where Pinneberg Bürgermeisterin, **Urte Steinberg** and Rockville Mayor **Bridget Newton** unveiled two attractive tandem park benches, which were donated for the occasion of the Rockville - Pinneberg 60<sup>th</sup> Sister City Anniversary; one, by the City of Pinneberg and one, jointly by the City of Rockville and Rockville Sister City Corporation. Later that evening, the Rockville Delegation was invited to the Pinneberg Rathaus for the formal 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. The speeches by Bürgermeisterin **Urte Steinberg**, Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft Rockville Pinneberg (DAGRP) President **Bernd Hinrichs** and U.S. Consul General to Northern Germany, **Richard Yoneoka** were inspiring. Mayor **Bridget Donnell Newton's** address brought the house to its feet as she gave her speech in German!

Saturday morning allowed for time with our host families, many of whom toured the city of Hamburg. The harbor area and new concert hall, the Elbphilharmonie, were breathtaking. Later that night the Rockville Delegation was invited to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Drostei (governor's house, roughly equivalent in function to Rockville's Glenview Mansion). Entertainment was provided by a wind quartet composed of very talented Pinneberg students and never-seen historical video footage of former Pinneberg Mayor Henry Glissmann's 1957 inaugural visit to the City of Rockville during Memorial Day festivities. The meal and comradery with our Pinneberg hosts was fabulous.

On Sunday, the delegation was treated to a spectacular tour of Schwerin, which is the capital and second-largest city in the northern German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Accompanied by an excellent guide, the tour of the Schwerin Castle was breathtaking and its conclusion with coffee, tea and dessert was scrumptious.

The hospitality shown to the Rockville Delegation by all of Pinneberg during our stay was overwhelming and unparalleled. **Bürgermeisterin Steinberg**, Pinneberg Elected Officials and Staff and especially the efforts of the DAGRP, which include **Bernd Hinrichs**, **Herbert Hoffmann**, **Margrit Ziegler** and **Felicitas Lorenz** will always be remembered. Thank you! ■

## SIXTY YEARS OF SISTER CITY PARTNERSHIP



Pinneberg *Bürgermeisterin* (Mayor) **Urte Steinberg** and Rockville Mayor **Bridget Donnell Newton** discuss how 60 years of City partnership have forged a strong and lasting bond between our two communities.

(Photo taken in the “Rockville Room” at Pinneberg’s *Rathaus* (City Hall). A delegation from Pinneberg, including Mayor **Steinberg** will arrive in Rockville in October.)

### MARCH 21, 2017 – TRINIDAD and TOBAGO DISCUSSES THE SISTER CITY PROCESS

The City of Rockville was host to **Joel Martinez**, the Mayor of Port of Spain, which is the capital of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting included Rockville City Council Member **Virginia Onley**; City Manager, **Rob DiSpirito**; City Clerk, **Kathleen Conway**; **Gabriel Acevero**, local representative of Mayor Martinez; representatives from the cities of Gaithersburg, Kensington and Takoma Park as well as a representative from the Montgomery County Sister City program. Representing Rockville Sister City Corporation was RSCC Treasurer **Steve Fisher** and RSCC President **Drew Powell**. Items discussed encompassed co-

operation and information sharing in the areas of planning and land use development, a modern and efficient transit system, modern approaches to crime fighting and community policing, affordable housing and most importantly a potential Sister City relationship with a regional jurisdiction, such as the City of Rockville.

Mayor Martinez seemed particularly impressed with Rockville’s Sister City program and would like to continue discussions with the City of Rockville and RSCC to this end. In closing, Mayor Martinez invited all attendees and interested citizens to Trinidad and Tobago’s Carnival celebration.

Watch the video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72reCaj642M>

**APRIL 22, 2017 - VOLKSMARCH**



**Fun, Fitness, Friendship**

Thanks to those who joined the Seneca Valley Sugarloafers Walking Club and the Rockville Sister City Corporation for the first

official event of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season – a Volksmarch ! This noncompetitive 3.1 mile (5 km) or 6.2 mile (10 km) walk happened on a misty Saturday, but was attended by about 85 walkers nonetheless. The event started and ended at the Rockville Outdoor Municipal Swim Center. (Volksmarching - a peoples’ walk - got its name from its origins in Europe.)



Our very own “native” Pinneberger, **Christian Jessen-Klingenberg**, partakes in his first-ever Volksmarch...in Rockville!

**APRIL 2017 – AMBASSADOR’S LETTER**

The City of Rockville received greetings and congratulations from The Honorable **Peter Wittig**, Germany’s Ambassador to the United States on the occasion of its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Sister City with Pinneberg. In part, Ambassador Wittig stated:

*“The connection between Germany and the United States of America arises from a long-lasting friendship. Both countries share common historical experiences, basic democratic values and interests and are characterized by a variety of economic, political and cultural relations. This strong partnership will continue to be crucial for the freedom, security and economic success of both countries.*

*“Against this backdrop, a close personal and trusting network is a fundamental pillar of the stability and success of transatlantic relations. The city partnership between Rockville and Pinneberg makes an important contribution to this.*

*“...The deep, friendly bond between Rockville and Pinneberg is a living example of successful civil society commitment and an exemplary understanding between people.*

*“With this in mind, I would like to congratulate you, the citizens of Pinneberg and Rockville, on the 60th anniversary of your partnership and wish you all the best in the future in strengthening German-American friendship.”*

*Peter Wittig*



**MAY-JUNE 2017 – ROCKVILLE DELEGATION VISITS PINNEBERG TO CELEBRATE OUR 60<sup>th</sup>**

Twenty-eight delegates from Rockville spent six glorious days in our sister city, Pinneberg, in celebration of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. With an itinerary packed full of exciting events and interesting visits, **our Pinneberg hosts provided exceptional hospitality to each visitor from America. Danke schön!**



(Above) **Margrit Ziegler** (DAGR Gift Coordinator, center) with Pinneberg Mayor **Urte Steinberg** (left) and Rockville Mayor **Bridget Donnell Newton**, unveiling the “Pinneberg-Rockville Benches” at the Pinneberg Rosengarten (June 2, 2017)



(Above) Gala evening at the *Drostei* (June 3, 2017)



(Above) RSCC President **Drew Powell** takes a moment in Lübeck to capture a scenic photo.



(Above) Mayor **Steinberg**, Pinneberg Council-Provost **Natalina di Racca-Boenigk**, Mayor **Newton**, US Consul-General for Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Bremen, Schleswig-Holstein, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern **Richard (Rick) Yoneoka**



(Above) DAGRP President, **Bernd Hinrichs** during a break in the action



(Above) Celebrating in The Rockville Room



(Above) DAGRP's **Herbert Hoffmann**, RV Councilmembers **Beryl Feinberg** and **Mark Pierzchala**, and RV City Clerk/Director of Council Operations **Kathleen Conway** enjoying the reception.



(Above) RSCC VP **Brigitta Mullican** chats with *Bürgermeisterin* **Steinberg** and Brigitta's hosts, **Ilka Allwardt** and **Hans Georg Beplat**



(Above) Yes, the food was something else!



(Above) A guided tour of Pinneberg, led by Pinneberg's "Night Watchman".

Many more photos can be found on the Rockville Drop Box site. Please go to: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9k67olrtdt0et7sn/AABVghoQ\\_JD6T2hKIdZbDPgoa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9k67olrtdt0et7sn/AABVghoQ_JD6T2hKIdZbDPgoa?dl=0)

Rockville Channel 11's Videographer, **Hagop Balekjian**, was there to document all the events, and a full-featured program will appear soon on [The Rockville Channel](#). We will notify RSCC Members by e-mail when that occurs.

**UPCOMING – JUNE 29, 2017 – RSCC MEET AND GREET**

The Mayor and Council of Rockville and The Leadership of the Rockville Sister City Corporation invite you to a reception to pay tribute to members of the RSCC for their support and service to RSCC and to offer prospective new members an opportunity to meet and greet the Rockville Mayor and Council and the RSCC Board of Directors on Thursday evening, June 29, 2017 at 6:30-8:30 pm in the Mayor and Council Chambers at Rockville City Hall (111 Maryland Avenue). Light refreshments and beverages will be served. Please RSVP to [RockvilleSisterCities@gmail.com](mailto:RockvilleSisterCities@gmail.com) **no later than Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>**. Hope to see you there!

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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, 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.

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!



**RSCC THANKS ITS NEW (AND RENEWING) MEMBERS FOR 2017 (SINCE MAR 15, 2017)**

**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 recently paid for their 2017 RSCC memberships.**

**Brigitta Mullican, VP & Membership Chair**

**Corporate GOLD**

**Corporate SILVER**

**Corporate BRONZE**

**FAMILY:**

- Chen, Ying and Family
- Conway, Kathleen and Family
- Hubble, Hilbert & Joan

**INDIVIDUAL:**

- Feldman, Barbara
- Luckman, Christine
- Ma, Qing
- Norian, Sue-Ann

**STUDENT:**

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**HONORARY:**

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

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 sister 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 MEETINGS**

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.

**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](mailto:spineyone@yahoo.com) or 301-315-8297 for more information.



Join the fun

**IN MEMORIAM**



Stephanie Curtis  
November 3, 1946 – April 26, 2017

***Corporate Sponsors - Calendar Year 2016***

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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|  <p><b>Westat Inc.</b><br/>Bruce Romer, Contact<br/><a href="mailto:BruceRomer@Westat.com">BruceRomer@Westat.com</a><br/>1600 Research Blvd, Rockville, MD 20850<br/>Phone: 301-294-3830 <a href="http://www.westat.com">http://www.westat.com</a></p>                                                             |  <p><b>The JBG Companies</b><br/>Fishers Place and Twinbrook Metro<br/>5635 Fishers Lane, Suite 0200, Rockville, MD 20852<br/>Phone: 301-468-0200 <a href="http://www.JBG.com">http://www.JBG.com</a></p>                                                                             |
|  <p><b>Sigy's Service Center</b><br/><b>BMW Specialist</b><br/><a href="mailto:SigysBMW@aol.com">SigysBMW@aol.com</a><br/>110 Crabb Ave., Rockville, MD 20850<br/>Phone: 301-881-6725 <a href="http://www.sigysbmw.com/">http://www.sigysbmw.com/</a></p>                                                          |  <p><b>Law Office of Thomas K. Brown, LLC</b><br/>Immigration and Family Law in Maryland<br/>22 West Jefferson Street Suite 401, Rockville, MD 20850<br/>Phone: 1-888-783-9180 <a href="mailto:tbrown@thomasbrownlaw.com">tbrown@thomasbrownlaw.com</a></p>                           |
|  <p><b>International Travel Consultants</b><br/>POC: Gabrielle Williams<br/>1010 Rockville Pike #401, Rockville, MD 20851<br/>Phone: 301-294-0222 or 1-800-466-4660 Fax: 301-294-5324</p>                                                                                                                          |  <p><b>Rockville Economic Development, Inc.</b><br/>95 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850<br/><a href="http://rockvilleredi.org/">http://rockvilleredi.org/</a> Phone: 301-315-8096</p>                                                                                               |
|  <p><b>Rockville Volunteer Fire Department</b><br/>Serving the citizens of Rockville for over 90 years<br/>PO Box 1547, Rockville, MD 20849<br/>Phone: 301.424.0310 <a href="http://rvfd.org/">http://rvfd.org/</a></p>                                                                                            |  <p><b>Kiwanis Club of Rockville, Inc.</b><br/>POC: John Tynar<br/><a href="mailto:Tynar@Taliesan.com">Tynar@Taliesan.com</a><br/>Phone: 301-168-2146<br/><a href="http://www.kiwanisrockville.8m.net/index.html">http://www.kiwanisrockville.8m.net/index.html</a></p>               |
|  <p><b>David Johnston - Senior Financial Advisor</b><br/>Managing Director - Investments<br/>7901 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814<br/>Phone: 301-230-5734   800-777-3664 Fax: 301-907-2062<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:david.johnston@wellsfargo.com">david.johnston@wellsfargo.com</a></p>                    |  <p><b>B. F. Saul Company</b><br/>POC: Todd Pearson<br/><a href="mailto:Todd.Pearson@bfsaulco.com">Todd.Pearson@bfsaulco.com</a><br/>7501 Wisconsin Avenue - Suite 1500E - Bethesda, MD 20814<br/>Phone: 301-986-6000 <a href="http://www.bfsaul.com/">http://www.bfsaul.com/</a></p> |

**THANKS TO ALL OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF RSCC!**

**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: Rockville Sister City Corp., c/o Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850.  
OR you may pay by [PayPal](#) (click) --- be sure to include all applicable information!

**AREAS OF INTEREST: (TO ALL MEMBERS, NEW & RENEWING, 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 10Mar 2017-gwa)

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