



ROCKVILLE SISTER CITIES CORPORATION NEWSLETTER

www.RockvilleSisterCities.org

The Rockville Sister Cities Corporation (RSCC) is a non-profit service organization founded in 1986 to facilitate and maintain Rockville's Sister City relationships established by the City of Rockville in 1957 with Pinneberg, Germany and with Yilan City, Taiwan in 2019. These relationships are based on educational, cultural and governmental exchanges as well as a vital local program, pursuant to the people-to-people program initiated by President D. Dwight Eisenhower in 1956.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by **Drew Powell**, President, RSCC

So much has taken place since the last published RSCC newsletter, where shall I begin? First, by noting that although many email communications went to RSCC's constituency, the last RSCC newsletter published in the Fall of 2018. As President, I sincerely apologize for this lengthy hiatus.

Rockville Sister Cities Corporation and I are delighted that RSCC Director, **David Hill**, has stepped up to the difficult and important job of Chair of RSCC's Communications Committee, which is responsible for publishing a quarterly newsletter, maintaining and updating the organization's website (www.rockvillesistercities.org) and handing other communications activities.

Most significantly since the fall of 2018, with guidance from the Rockville Sister Cities Corporation, the City of Rockville has a new Sister City relationship with Yilan City, Taiwan. This was established formally on July 17, 2019 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gE4_eDhYLD8). During the time leading up to travel restrictions, Rockville and Yilan City engaged in no less than six physical exchanges, including cultural, educational and governmental aspects.

One of these exchanges involved a delegation of two teachers and ten students from the Richard Montgomery High School Jazz Ensemble. They participated in the Yilan International Arts Festival in October 2019. The RM students' experience was life-changing. They performed nearly continuously during their week's stay in Yilan.

In June 2020 Yilan City and the people of Taiwan (via TECRO) sent more than \$75,000 of PPE (face masks, gloves, etc.) to Rockville in spirit of friendship and caring during our time of need (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7C2fbmGfaM>).

Rockville's Sister City relationship with Pinneberg, Germany continues to strengthen. When Rockville and Pinneberg became Sister Cities in 1957, no protocol existed for how to formally establish a Sister City partnership. On October 13, 1957, Rockville's Mayor and City Council issued a Resolution committing to a Sister City relationship. Pinneberg's Mayor and City Council did the same on November 8, 1957, making our two municipalities formal Sister Cities. However, no

Sister City Agreement was ever signed. On November 15, 2020, Rockville and Pinneberg decided to remedy this situation by signing a Sister City Agreement in a live transatlantic televised (and streamed) Signing Ceremony. Rockville Channel 11 did a superb job with both the live telecast and the postproduction video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lg_Th5J36l&t=595s).

During our newsletter hiatus, RSCC's Yilan City Committee, under the leadership of RSCC Director, **Kuan Lee**, held two Taiwan Bubble Tea Festivals. This year's festival, on September 25, had an estimated 5,000 attendees. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywjItCr-HxE>). The festivals featured many exciting cultural performances, delicious Taiwanese cuisine, and of course, fabulous bubble tea! These events were free to the public.

In the past two years, RSCC's Jiaying Committee, led by RSCC Director, **Sean Lin**, held two Rockville Lantern Festivals at Rockville's F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, which welcomed more than 600 guests for each event (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywh-lmdOMHQ>). These highlighted performances of many Asian cultures, which celebrate the Lantern Festival annually. These events also were free of charge.

On November 8, 2021, RSCC's Pinneberg Committee, under the leadership of RSCC Director, **Hannelore Quigley**, held a "Celebration of Friendship," in recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the "On Site" joint Rockville-Pinneberg "Art in Public Places" sculpture *and* the 64th Anniversary of the Rockville – Pinneberg Sister City relationship, established on November 8, 1957 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y003j9639xs>).

In addition to the abovementioned events, the Rockville Sister Cities Corporation held many others, including: dinners, a wine tasting, a picnic, a webinar and much more. And as you may have noticed, RSCC even changed its name from the "Rockville Sister City Corporation" to the "Rockville Sister Cities Corporation" (plural), to better reflect our two Sister City relationships.

During this season of hope, I wish to thank the entire RSCC Board of Directors, our general membership and the City of Rockville for their continuing support. Thank you all!

Taiwan Bubble Tea Festival, September 25, 2021, Town Center Plaza

Rockville Sister Cities Corp.'s Yilan Committee brought Rockville City another successful Taiwan Bubble Tea Festival at the Town Center Square. Bubble tea is a popular beverage originating from Taiwan, often made of a mixture of black tea, milk and sago pearls. This year the event also brought another popular Taiwan street food called Gua Bao, also known as Taiwanese Hamburger, made from braised pork belly and pickled cabbage. Do not be surprised if this tasty Taiwanese delicacy "hamwich" appears at Rockville's 355 eatery in addition to the many places that server Bubble Tea.

This year notable speakers at the event included Mayor Newton, US Congressman Raskin, and Taiwan Representative Bi-Khim Hsiao.



Photo: Steve Fisher

Mayor Newton spoke on the importance of diversity and inclusion; Congressman Raskin spoke on the importance of freedom and democracy; and Representative Hsiao spoke on the importance of "rock-solid" US-Taiwan relations in supporting world peace.



Photo: Steve Fisher

As expressive of Rockville's sister city relationship with Yilan City, this festival brought together people from all walks of life to remind us of the importance of diversity and inclusion. As one of the few local events that remained on schedule, due to COVID19, local residents had a much-needed opportunity to come out, enjoy the Town Center out-of-doors, and spend quality time with family and friends.



Photo: Steve Fisher

County Councilmember Sidney Katz, Mayor Newton, City Councilmember Beryl Feinberg, stage organizer, Representative Hsiao. In background: event organizer and RSCC Dir. & Yilan Comm. Chair Kuan Lee

Over five thousand people attended. Performers included local Taiwanese band, Taiwan Republic; Japanese Taiko-artists, Mark H Taiko Connection; American University Korean-pop dance team, K-Districts; Maryland Naginata Jyoshinkai; and Formosa Association of Student Cultural Ambassadors. Local participating vendors included Bao Bei, Momo's Café, Bobabop, and Japong Bakery. Program books were available for attendees who wanted to

learn more about Taiwanese culture. While simply attending the event, everyone quickly learned about Taiwanese culture and the similarity to American culture, as a blend of many sub-cultures via native people and diverse culture arriving to the island by many different immigrants for 500 years. If you want to learn more about our Taiwan cultural events, please feel free to contact us.

A Celebration of Friendship, Artwork Re-Dedication, November 8, 2021, Welsh Park

In 1991, The City of Rockville installed the sculpture "On Site", by a Pinneberg artist to honor our Sister City relationship.



Artist Gabriele Schmidt-Heins and former Mayor Dick Hovsepian, "On Site" for the artwork construction.

Photo: RSCC Archive

On Nov. 8, the 30th anniversary of the sculpture and 64th anniversary of the Sister City relationship, a re-dedication ceremony was held at the Welsh Park (site near the SE corner of Manna-kee St. and Martin's Lane), to honor our long-lasting relationship with Pinneberg.

Mayor Newton, former Mayor Steve VanGrack, RSCC Pres. Drew Powell, and a representative of the German Embassy spoke in person, while Pinneberg Mayor Urte Steinberg and DAGRP Pres. Bernd Hindricks (of the Pinneberg Sister City org.) spoke remotely. Councilmember Pierzchala also attended.



Photo: David Hill

"On Site" artwork and event tents. Drew Powell speaking.

Further, an elementary school art contest culminated, related to this artwork and occasion. Students creatively depicted the "On Site" artwork and wrote a response to "the meaning of friendship." The contest was conducted with support from the Rockville Science Center and kudos to organizer Hannelore Quigley, RSCC Pinneberg Comm. Chair. Student winners received an educational cash award.



Photo: David Hill

Mayor Newton and Ms. Quigley present contest awards. See also, a video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y003j9639xs>

Rockville Volunteer Fire Dept. Muster, October 24, 2021, Carver Ed. Building Frontage

At the parade of fire engines and muster of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department for the kick-off of their 100th anniversary celebration, the RSCC hosted a table and directors participated in the celebrations. The formal speeches, including that by RSCC President Drew Powell, were live streamed to the Pinneberg Volunteer Fire Brigade. This, because the two fire companies have a shared exchange and relationship over many years, as a form of cultural and professional exchange. Other notables speaking were the Mayor, State Senator Cheryl Kagan, and fire department officers.



Photo: David Hill

Many historic fire vehicles from the region were paraded through town and then parked on display in the large lot and field in front of the Carver Educational Building, along with other activities and food trucks. Children particularly were welcomed to sit in these fire trucks and enjoy other activities. Awards for the fire trucks were given.



Photo: David Hill

Drew Powell speaking, [behind L-R:] Deputy Chief Lazar, Mayor Newton and Senator Kagan, Chief Lagonis, RVFD Pres. Bernard.

Corporation Annual Meeting, September 26, 2021, King Farm Pavilion

Officers, directors and members met at the King Farm Hay Shelter, September 26 for the formal annual corporation meeting. Just gathering to sustain organization governance was an accomplishment. A number of official actions were accomplished: board elections, reports by the president, treasurer, and membership committee. The organization is strong albeit having taken a hiatus in this challenging health times. Directors elected to new terms are: David Hill,

Kuan Lee, Sean Lin and Hannelore Quigley. An action approved is a change of name, to become Rockville Sister Cities Corp. (plural of City) as a recognition that we now have, and perhaps will have more, than one Sister City. Further ideas were introduced or discussed, of which you may hear more as they come to fruition.

Next Board Meeting: December 15, 2021.

German-American Day Picnic, October 3, Woodley-Gardens Pavilion



Photo: Steve Fisher
Picnic in Woodley Gardens Park pavilion

Friends of Sister Cities gathered for the annual German-American Day celebratory meal, this year as a picnic at the Woodley-Gardens Park pavilion. Thanks to Elizabeth von Kaenel, for coordinating a great meal of German food.

Recognition of the day and our Pinenberg Sister City connection were made by President Drew Powell and Pinenberg Committee Chair Hannelore Quigley.



Photo: Steve Fisher
Officers&Dir.: David Hill, Elizabeth von Kaenel, Gilbert Santiago, Hannelore Quigley, Drew Powell, Chris Malone, Steve Fisher, John McKenzie

PPE for CHU De Cocody Hospital in Cote d’Ivoire, Donation Fund

RSCC seeks donations in-kind or cash contributions for sealed packages of sterile medical gloves, as new project to support the CHU de Cocody Hospital in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast, Africa). This hospital desperately needs this personal protective equipment and RSCC is responding to a local outreach on its behalf, with a new donation fund. Cash contributions will be used to purchase medical gloves, to go

with in-kind contributions in an upcoming shipment. See the RSCC website (URL lower left) for details. *[We also remember the support and generosity of Yilan City in sending \$75,000 of PPE to the City of Rockville, in our time of need, early in the Covid pandemic. This protective equipment went to Rockville First Responders. We pay it forward.]*

In Memoriam: Jack Rodgers



RSCC lost one of its own, with the passing of Jack Rodgers, Nov. 14. Jack was a longtime director and served as president. Drew Powell writes “Jack had boundless energy and caring

for others. He showed this publicly with his involvement in so many of the things he did on behalf of the Rockville Boards and Commissions on which he served.” Our deepest condolences go to his family and friends, and we will miss you Jack. [see an online obituary at: <https://www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/John-M-Jack-Rodgers?obId=23109861>]

News from our Sister Cities

Pinneberg

- DAGRP (Pinneberg Sister City Org.) met again, October 29, after a Covid hiatus. Here is picture in the Rockville Zimmer (Room) of their Rathaus (City Hall). Notice Rockville memorabilia on the walls.



Photo: Christian Jessen-Klingenberg

- **A milestone** in Rockville-Pinneberg Sister City history is former RSCC Dir. Christian Jessen-Klingenberg lately resigned from our board when he moved (back) to Pinneberg. Now a resident there, he is installed as a member of DAGRP Board, becoming the first person (anyone can recall) to be a director for both organizations. Christian: we miss you here and look forward to seeing and collaborating with you further via DAGRP.



DAGRP officers and directors. Christian on left, Pres. Bernd Hindricks center.

Yilan City

- Yilan Sister Cities Corp. hosted a City Diplomacy Banquet on Oct. 30, at the Evergreen Hotel in Jaioxi, Yilan County. In attendance were representatives from Austria, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent, and the Grenadines to explore new sister city relationships as well as share the Yilan experience with the existing sister city, particularly with Rockville Sister Cities Corp. Local news video of event: <https://kamalan-news.com/local/4/10889>

- Yilan City Mayor Chiang Tsung-yuan announced his candidacy for Magistrate of Yilan County in the next election. This position is equivalent to County Executive of Montgomery County, rather than Mayor of Rockville. Mayor Chiang led the Yilan City delegation for their official visit and signing of the Rockville-Yilan City Sister City agreement in July, 2019. He is remembered fondly here. Good fortune Mayor Chiang with your campaign.



Sponsors, Calendar Year 2021

The Rockville Sister Cities Corporation gratefully acknowledges the following Sponsors.

GOLD Sponsorship



Kavalan Distillery, Yilan, Taiwan

<https://www.kavalanwhisky.com/en>

Mingo Lin

Bronze Sponsorship



Thomas K. Brown Law Office

tbrown@thomasbrownlaw.com

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 13, 2022: Lecture: The History of RSCC, part of Peerless Speakers Series (virtual). Presenters to include Drew Powell, Hannelore Quigley and David Hill of RSCC board. See link: <http://www.peerlessrockville.org/events-and-programs/> for future information.
- Feb. 11, 2022, Lantern Festival, the Jiaying Committee hosts a seasonal festivity themed for the traditional Chinese holiday.
- Mar. 18, 2022, 6:00-8:00pm: International Night at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater

See further: the tentative 2022 event calendar below.

Fun Videos to Watch

Rockville's 60th Anniversary Celebration with Pinneberg

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6fhDUhaj3s>

Founding the Rockville Sister City with Yilan City in 2019

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gE4_eDhYLd8



Rockville Sister Cities Program Calendar of Events for 2022

December 10, 2021	Event/Location	Event Type	Date/Time
	Rockville Lunar New Year Celebration at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD	Public Free Non-RSCC	February 10, 2022, 6 - 8 PM
	Rockville Lantern Festival at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD	Public Free RSCC	February 11, 2022 6 PM Concessions/7 PM Live Performance
	International Night at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD	Virtual (RSCC participation)	March 18, 2022, 6 – 8 PM
	RSCC Membership Appreciation and Mayor and Council Meet and Greet at Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.	Members Free RSCC	TBD (proposed April 2022)
	Student Exchange: Theodor Heuss Schule Students (Pinneberg, Germany) visit Richard Montgomery High School	Student Exchange RSCC	TBD
	Taiwan Fiesta, Rockville High School & Yilan Sister City Assoc. Delegation Visit	Public/Free Tickets RSCC	TDB (proposed May 2022)
	Rockville Hometown Holidays Taste of Rockville – Beverage Booth Rockville Town Center	Public Free Non-RSCC	May 28 - 29, 2022
	Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade Rockville Town Center	Public Free Non-RSCC	May 30 2022
	RMHS Student Awards Ceremony RSCC Scholarship Awards at Richard Montgomery High School	Public Free Non-RSCC	TBD (should be May 2022)
	RSCC Membership Wine Tasting Social at the Glenview Mansion 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD	Members Free RSCC	Proposed for June 2022
	RSCC Dim Sum Fundraiser at New Fortune Restaurant 16515 S Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD	Public Paid RSCC	Proposed August 14, 2022, 2 PM - 4 PM
	RSCC Decorates Rockville Memorial Library Display Case for Bubble Tea Festival - Rockville Town Square	Public Display	TBD September 2022
	Rockville - Taiwan Bubble Tea & Food Festival, Rockville Town Square	Public Free RSCC	Proposed September 24, 2022, 10AM - 5PM
	RSCC Annual Membership Meeting at Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. Rockville, MD	Members Free RSCC	September 15, 2022, 6:00 PM
	Rocktoberfest, Rockville Town Center	Public Free Non-RSCC	TBD, October 1 or 8, 2022
	German-American Day Picnic Woodley Gardens Park Pavilion	Free for RSCC Members only	TDB October 2 or 9, 2022, 2:00 PM
	RSCC Decorates Rockville Memorial Library Display Cases Rockville Town Square	Public Display	December 1 – 31, 2022



Rockville Sister Cities Corporation (RSCC)

<http://rockvillesistercities.org>

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Today's Date: _____ This is a: New Membership or Renewal

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution for (check one only):

Corporate Sponsorship Levels

Student (free) \$25 Individual \$40 Family \$100 Bronze \$250 Silver \$500 Gold

\$ _____ Additional (tax deductible) contribution.

\$ _____ Total Enclosed Your Check # _____

Make your check payable to "RSCC" and mail it and this completed application to:
Rockville Sister City Corporation, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850

OR

Email this form to rockvillesistercities@gmail.com and pay via PayPal by link:
<http://www.rockvillesistercities.org/wp/purchase-donate/>

Please print the following information:

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____
(if applicable, for family)

#+Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Phone Number: _____ Type: Home Work Cell

Please check areas of your interest or participation below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting visitors from Sister/Friendship Cities | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural exchanges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting students from Sister/Friendship Cities | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising events | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving on Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Wine Tasting events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Day Parade event | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as committee chair |

Other comments or suggestions:



Montage created by Lena Ousvatova during her internship in Rockville

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