



ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION  
NEWSLETTER

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

by Brigitta Mullican, President, RSCC

The Rockville Sister City held its 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership meeting in September, welcomed the



Theodor Heuss Schule exchange students, and in October held a dinner in honor of German- American Day and to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

A small group of RSCC members met Martin and Marion Vollertsen of Eutin, Germany at the Rockville Town Center. Lisa Duhm, a

23-year old from Hamburg, stayed with me for a 4-week internship at the Germany Press Agency.

RSCC continues to seek new members and is grateful to those of you who joined as new members. Membership dues are our main way to connect people to our Rockville Sister City program. Members receive quarterly newsletters, get invited to all RSCC functions as well as other cultural events, have an opportunity to travel with other members, find people with similar interests at social gatherings, and help broaden the cultural horizon of one's family.

In October, Dr. Joey Jones invited me to attend the Robert Frost Middle School welcome reception for the 12 students and three teachers from the Beijing No. 5 Middle School. Robert Frost Middle School has had an exchange program since 2009. Dr. Jones

will meet with our Jiaying Delegation who plan to visit Rockville in December.

Director Drew Powell and I met with Dr. Michael Doran, Wootton High School principal, who told us his high school has had a student exchange relationship with Beijing for eight years. Here is another opportunity to connect and share the process of how to get our Friendship City, Jiaying, China, matched with a Rockville school.

I personally want to thank the RSCC Board for their hard work during 2013. A special "thank you" also goes to all the members who supported us with their membership, hosting, and attendance at our fundraising events. We ended the year with 16 corporate sponsors and we send them a **BIG THANK YOU!** **Please note that our membership drive is in December for the 2015 membership year. Please join or renew NOW.**

Members are invited to join a Rockville Delegation to visit Pinneberg the first week in May 2015. [Please contact me immediately if you are interested in joining the group.](#) We will be hosted by 20 Pinneberg families for five days. Why not plan a Germany trip for 2015 and join us in Pinneberg?

Please visit our website, [www.RockvilleSisterCities.org](http://www.RockvilleSisterCities.org) and read the rest of the newsletter for more detailed information. And help us recruit new members by sharing this newsletter. Thank you.

And Happy Holidays to all!

**RSCC IS SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS**

The RSCC Board of Directors has three vacancies. Two are Mayor and Council appointees and require that the applicant resides within the corporate limits of Rockville. If you would like to make your mark for International Relations, please contact RSCC President, Brigitta Mullican at 301-230-0890. Let's talk about it!

In addition to Directors, we are in need of a newsletter editor. Skills in Microsoft Word and an ability to meet deadlines (4 times a year) are all that are needed.

**RSCC WELCOMES ITS NEWEST (AND RETURNING) MEMBERS**

**Individuals:** Houston Hancock; Douglas Clark; Julie Pfefer; Terry Santoro

**Individual Renewals:** Bill Michie; Bob Eckman

**Families:** James McNerney & Lisa Adams; Gabriela & Gabriel Romero

**Corporate:** Rockville Kiwanis Club; Richard Gottfried, CPA, LLC.

Thanks to all of you for your support of RSCC!

Congratulations also to the newest RSCC Director, Kathleen Conway, who was appointed at the October Board Meeting.

**October - PINNEBERG STUDENTS VISIT ROCKVILLE**

On Sunday, September 28, twelve students from the Theodor Heuss Schule in Pinneberg arrived at Washington's Dulles Airport to begin a 2-week stay in the United States. They were accompanied by



two teachers. Oliver Großcurth and Angelika Kramer (and her son Johann). Their plans included

visiting Wootton High School, attending the German-American Day Dinner, a side trip to New York City, and a Farewell Party.

**Our sincere thanks go out to the host families who sponsored our Pinneberg friends during their visit!**

**October- VISITORS FROM GERMANY**  
by Denny Freezer

Denny and Linda Freezer had the pleasure of hosting Martin and Marion Vollertsen of Eutin, Germany. They were nearing the end of a journey with multiple stops in the U.S., including in their Sister City of Lawrence, Kansas. The photo shows a dinner gathering on October 12th at Gordon Biersch to celebrate the visit of the Vollertsens.

They met Bernd and Ingeborg Hinrichs (from Pinneberg) at a function of the Hamburg U.S. Consulate General and subsequently became friends, and when Bernd lent Martin his copy of "Rockville: Portrait of a City", Martin was hooked and decided he had to see it for himself. On this trip they also visited Boston MA, Lawrence KS, Chapel Hill NC, Mount Vernon and Alexandria VA, Gettysburg PA, Baltimore MD, and Washington DC.

**October – WORLD OF MONTGOMERY**

RSCC Director Bing Huang partook in the [World of Montgomery](#), by doing calligraphy for translating English names into Chinese characters. Bing has been instrumental in maintaining close contact with officials in our Friendship City, Jiaxing.



**October - RSCC BOOSTER**  
**JOHN MOSER DIES**

December 15, 1924  
 - October 5, 2014

John Moser, called Rockville's Renaissance man, died in early October. He was born in

Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1937 when he was 13. In 1943, John joined the US Army where he served as a paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division.

John and his family settled in Rockville in 1953, where he began his lifelong dedication to local volunteer activities. He lost his wife Jenny in 2002. He is survived by his daughter Faith and second wife Marlene.

John had a wide and varied career with the US and Maryland Governments, became the first lobbyist for the City of Rockville in Annapolis, and was active in numerous volunteer activities. The list of organizations for which he worked is long, and encompassed civic, art, and political arenas. He greatly enjoyed the theater, reading and travelling. He served on the Rockville Cultural Commission for years.

John visited Rockville's German Sister City Pinneberg when the Sister City relationship was formed. He was a big supporter and continued member of the Rockville Sister City Corporation. RSCC will miss him.

*[Excerpted from John's memorial program at the Rockville Unitarian Universalist Church.]*

**Corporate Sponsors - Calendar Year 2014**

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>Rockville-Twinbrook Real Estate</b>                  Victor Llewellyn, Contact  <a href="mailto:VictorLlewellyn56@gmail.com">VictorLlewellyn56@gmail.com</a></p>		<p><b>Law Office of Thomas K. Brown, LLC</b>                  22 West Jefferson Street Suite 401, Rockville, MD 20850                  Phone: 1-888-783-9180   <a href="mailto:tbrown@thomasbrownlaw.com">tbrown@thomasbrownlaw.com</a></p>



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

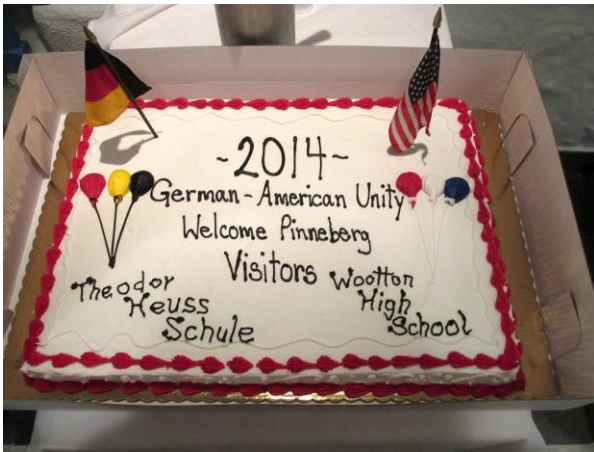
**October – GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY CELEBRATION**

By Gerrie Checkon

Rockville's Sister City Corporation again commemorated the first German settlement in the country in Pennsylvania in the mid 1600's with an evening of good food and friendship. This year it was held at Mykonos Grill on Congressional Lane

in Rockville on October 5. The restaurant's owners were both born and lived in Germany and delighted in hearing German spoken in this well-known establishment for Greek fare.

Seventy persons attended, including the teachers and the 13 German students participating in a student exchange at Wootton during that time.



**Gabrielle Williams' generous donation allowed us to invite them as our guests.**

**Anja Cyriax, Cultural Counselor and German-American Liaison Officer at the German Embassy, was our guest speaker.**

Attendees remarked about the wonderful meal, ambiance and comradery of the event.

If you weren't able to attend this year, mark your calendar for the first weekend in October next year.

### **October – CHINESE STUDENTS VISIT ROCKVILLE**



Students from Beijing, China visited Robert Frost Middle School from October 1-7, 2014. RSCC President Brigitta Mullican (right) met with the Principal of Frost, Dr. Joey Jones (center), and the visiting Principal from Beijing, Ms. Chun Lin Yang (in pink blouse), to learn more about their sister school relationship.

### **October- ONE MONTH OF SISTER CITY HOSPITALITY**

by Lisa Duhm

Twenty-three year-old Lisa Duhm came to the US as an intern at the German Press Agency, in order to know how journalism works in the US Capital. What she did not expect to find: a network that connects her hometown to the city of Rockville and has given her the opportunity to get to know the American way of life.

Brigitta Mullican doesn't usually ask for favors, her hands-on, do-it-yourself mindset is what keeps her going. But this time, she was serious: "Could you write this article for our website?" was one of the first things she asked when I arrived at her home in Rockville just about a month ago. It was my first



time in the US and - overwhelmed by all the new impressions and trying to return some of Brigitta's extraordinary hospitality - out came my "Yes, of course, no problem." I did not expect how time would fly by during the next four weeks.

Now, here I sit in the room that has been mine for the last month and I have just about an hour left before my bus leaves and takes me to my next destination, New York. Here I sit trying to write an article about my impressions and feelings as a young German coming to the US for the first time, but also the experiences of an aspiring journalist working with the German Press Agency (dpa) in the world's center of power, Washington, DC.

One thing is for sure: I had a great time. I worked with the largest German news wire and learned how German news is reported. I was there when we first heard about the crash of Space Ship Two and I was there when they published the preliminary results for the midterm election. I wrote a lot of short news pieces, but also some longer ones, for example the one about Muriel Bowser, DC's new mayor. I went

to press conferences with important German politicians and was allowed to cover an event with Michelle Obama at the White House. When I think about it now, it still seems crazy: I went to the White House and met Michelle Obama!

However, this is not all. Whenever I was free, I explored the US Capital. And I have to say: I got to know it, at least partly. I went to most of the museums at the National Mall, roamed through Georgetown, Eastern Market, Cleveland Park, and went to a concert at the Library of Congress. On the way, I also made new friends. Together, we celebrated Halloween, one of the most American experiences ever.

My time in DC has prepared me for the rest of my journey. I have two months ahead of me, and I want to get to know the US even better. I thank the Sister City Corporation for making my experiences here in DC and Rockville possible, and special thanks go - of course - to Brigitta, but also to George (Albrecht), Lois (Vuolo) and Liz (Von Kaenel) who gave me an even broader insight into the American hospitality!



### **November – FALL WINE TASTING**

by Jack Rodgers

To celebrate the beginning of autumn, Rockville Sister City (RSCC) held a wine tasting and fund raiser at Glenview Mansion on Friday, November 7. Attendees included both RSCC members and a large group of friends, neighbors, and folks looking for a new experience. Six varieties of white table wines were served along with champagne, dessert wines, and a buffet of appetizers and dessert. An objective of the event was to present types of wine that complement each part of a meal. As always, however, the main purpose was to create a great social evening and raise funds for RSCC programs. The wine tasting was a success on all accounts. Rockville cable channel 11 recorded the affair with interviews and a video. Typically, champagne is often served before dinner to stimulate conversation and to accompany hors

d'oeuvres or appetizers such as caviar, shrimp or sushi. The latter two dishes were provided as part of the buffet along with a choice of Korbel or Chandon champagne. Both champagnes received positive reviews from guests, as did the shrimp and sushi.

Dinner entrees may be accompanied by various wine selections. White dinner wines can be sweet, tart (acidic), dry, or effervescent. They also vary with respect to alcohol content (normally 7 to 12 percent) and viscosity. While taste preferences are unique for each person, tart wine may best balance foods that contain more fat such as pork while dry, sweeter wines can enhance the delicate flavor of cheese, fish or chicken. The six dinner wines provided for tasting along with spicy chicken wings were:

Piesport Michelsberg, Germany	Kouros Rhoditis, Greece
Gewürztraminer, Germany	Bordeaux, France
Dry Riesling, California	Lugana, Italy

The most preferred choice was Piesport Michelsberg, a favorite at previous wine tastings. Some thought the Gewürztraminer was a little too sweet to accompany an entrée.

Dessert wines and digestives mark the end of a meal. Some believe these drinks, which often are sweet and contain significantly more alcohol (15 to 25 percent alcohol), may improve digestion. Also, it is assumed that consumption with a full stomach can limit the impact of higher alcohol content. Two dessert wines were served - Moscato (California) and Pear Port (Virginia), along with choices of pastries, cake, and cookies. The Pear Port, a fortified wine produced by Horton Vineyard, was the big hit of the evening. This white port was enthusiastically endorsed by guests and its supply was quickly consumed.

### **November – CHINA VISAS**

Thanks to a bilateral government agreement extended visas have been created. Under the arrangement, tourists and business people will get



multiple entry visas valid for 10 years while students will get multiple entry visas for five years. Before the agreement, the visas were valid for 12 months only. [*China Daily*, Nov 13, 2014]

**December - JIAXING DELEGATES VISIT ROCKVILLE**

A Jiaxing delegation will be in Rockville for a few days in December. Their mission is to: 1) meet with the City of Rockville Mayor and Council; 2) hold discussions with educational contacts; 3) visit schools in Rockville and explore the possibilities of establishing sister school relations between our two cities; and 4) learn the experiences in fields of administrative supervision and the utilization of public funds.

**December – SISTER CITY ROOM**

The Sister City Room at Glenview Mansion is now decorated for the holiday season. Please stop by to see our decorative display, thanks to Liz Von Kaenel and her Merry Band of Decorator Elves.

**MAX and MORITZ**



Max and Moritz is a German language illustrated story in verse. This highly inventive, blackly humorous tale, told entirely in rhymed couplets, was written

and illustrated by Wilhelm Busch and published in 1865. Many familiar with comic strip history consider it to have been the direct inspiration for the Katzenjammer Kids.

**JOIN RSCC ON A TRIP TO PINNEBERG NEXT YEAR!**

The German-American Society in Pinneberg (DAGRP) has invited an RSCC delegation to visit Pinneberg, Germany the first week of May 2015, in order to begin planning efforts for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations that will take place in both Pinneberg and Rockville in 2017.

If you are interested in joining this delegation, meeting new (or old) friends in Pinneberg, and helping DAGRP and RSCC in planning for our 60th, please [contact President Brigitta Mullican](#).

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE**

RSCC wishes to thank the Mayor and Council for their in-kind support of the RSCC during the past year - staff support, printing and mailing of the RSCC Newsletter, bus transportation for visitors from Pinneberg, providing space at City Hall for the RSCC Board to meet, and especially liaison help from Superintendent of Recreation Betsy Thompson and Councilmember Virginia Onley

We look forward to a great 60th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Pinneberg in 2017!

**RSCC BOARD MEETINGS**

Rockville Sister City Corporation Board meetings are open to the public. They are held the second Tuesday of each month (except December) starting at 7:30 p. in Rockville City Hall on 111 Maryland Avenue. [Contact President Brigitta Mullican](#) to be advised of any schedule changes.

January 20	August 11
February 10	September 8
March 10	September 22 Annual Meeting
April 14	October 13
May 19	November 10
June 9	December 8
July 14	

**OUR TOWN – ROCKVILLE**

The Rockville Sister City Corporation has accepted the invitation to participate in being part of Rockville’s Story by supporting the Maryland Public Television Documentary.

**ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION (RSCC)**  
**Membership Application/Renewal Form - RSCC is a Tax Exempt, Not-For-Profit Corporation**

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 2015.**

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

**Memberships are for the calendar year. There is no prorating of memberships.**

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_, Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_, Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **RSCC** Send to: Rockville Sister City Corporation, c/o Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850

**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 06/22/14-gwa)

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