



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 MESSAGE

by Brigitta Mullican, President, RSCC

In this first RSCC newsletter for the year, we want to thank the members who have joined or renewed their 2015 RSCC membership.

We ask those who still need to renew to use the application in this newsletter or download the membership form from our official website, www.RockvilleSisterCities.org. Our membership year is from January through December.

In January we congratulated our long-time City liaison, Betsy Thompson, on her retirement. We presented her with a framed certificate and a glass engraved clock. We wish her a good retirement.

For the Rockville **Chinese Lunar New Year** celebration, RSCC had an information booth. Thank you to our board members for representing RSCC at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater.

Our Sister City program continues to be very active. Our **Spring Wine Tasting** event is on Friday, April 17, 2015. The flyer is available this newsletter. Please send your reservation for your discount ticket of only \$25 by April 9. This year we will have an extra treat with music by the Seasharp Music Studio pianists.

All RSCC members are invited to join us on June 26 at the **Bethesda Big Train game**. Please contact us at RockvilleSisterCities@gmail.com by June 20

for your **FREE TICKET**. Make it a nice Sister City evening and come make some new friends. If you know organizations or businesses willing to work with our Board in planning the **60th Rockville-Pinneberg Sister City Anniversary**, please let us know. There will be official delegations going to Pinneberg and coming to Rockville in 2017.

Please visit our website, and read the rest of the newsletter for more detailed information. And help us recruit new members by sharing this newsletter. Thank you.

RSCC IS SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS

The RSCC Board of Directors still has one vacancy. 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.

THE VALUE OF PARTICIPATION IN RSCC

By Steve Fisher, RSCC Secretary
(This is a reprint of Steve's article in the Sep 2008 Newsletter, and is just as valid today as it was then.)

I don't contribute often to the newsletter, but I want to take this opportunity ... to let you know why your participation and membership is so important to the Rockville Sister City Corporation.

I ... served as Treasurer for the RSCC for over a decade. Over those many years we have hosted numerous visits from our friends across the sea and we, in turn, have been hosted with welcome arms by our friends from Pinneberg. We are a people-to-people activity. There is no economic basis for our decision to establish our Sister City relationship. There is a huge world out there and we just want to be exposed to more of it - and to enjoy new experiences of language, culture, food - and friendship. Anyone can sit home and watch television all day and gain nothing from the experience. Putting yourself in front of someone who may or may not speak English as well as yourself, and whose lifestyle is markedly different from your own is exciting - and interesting -and adds value to your own life experience.

My point is this, to continue to provide these life-enhancing, even life-changing experiences, people need to take advantage of the opportunities we provide for visits to Pinneberg, and hosting visitors from Pinneberg. We need to broaden our membership base and fund-raising sources so that the program activities we plan and organize are not unduly expensive for those who do participate. We have kept our membership dues low to encourage more participation, but many of those who have participated in exchanges never join or drop their membership after a year or two. We try very hard to provide great experiences for our guests, but meals, travel, admission tickets to events - they all cost money and our treasury is not so large that we can treat everyone who visits us as well as we have been treated by our hosts in Germany - who I might add, spare no expense to engage and entertain us when we pay a visit.

If you have been a passive member of the RSCC, I would encourage you to participate in our activities. Help us remain solvent through your continued membership and at least a few times each year, join us for a wine-tasting ... or other social activity so that you can get to meet and know us better.

We are all volunteers. No one in the RSCC is paid a nickel for anything. We contribute our time, effort, and financial resources to keep the organization running smoothly, and now we have embarked upon a second Sister City relationship that will further expand our reach to the world - and bring opportunity for those who share our vision to engage with their counterparts across the ocean - this time with China.

So when we reach out to you and ask for your participation in our events and activities, to volunteer to serve on our board of directors, and ask you to be our goodwill ambassadors to your family, friends, and neighbors in the community, it is because we want to grow and remain financially strong to continue serving the Rockville community with programs that enrich the lives of all who engage with us.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in the months and years to come. Please help us make the Rockville Sister City Corporation the very best Sister City organization it can be - and you too will be as enriched by the experience as those of us who currently participate.

Corporate Sponsors - Calendar Year 2015

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>The Finest Performance Foundation, Inc.</p> <p>15 Clemson Court, Rockville, MD 20850 http://www.thefinestperf.org/</p>	 <p>Sigy's Service Center BMW Specialist sigysbmw@aol.com</p> <p>110 Crabb Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 Phone: 301-881-6725 http://www.sigysbmw.com/</p>
 <p>Rockville-Twinbrook Real Estate Victor Llewellyn, Contact VictorLlewellyn56@gmail.com</p> <p>Phone: 301-807-4575 or 301-424-0900 ext 113</p>	 <p>Law Office of Thomas K. Brown, LLC Immigration and Family Law in Maryland</p> <p>Law Office of Thomas K. Brown, LLC 22 West Jefferson Street Suite 401, Rockville, MD 20850 Phone: 1-888-783-9180 tbrown@thomasbrownlaw.com</p>
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 <p>Case Design/Remodeling Bruce Case, President</p> <p>http://www.casedesign.com/areas-we-serve/rockville-maryland/ Phone: 301-229-4600</p>	 <p>Attn.: Kate Nelson 15728 Crabbs Branch Way, Rockville, MD 20855 301-417-1000 http://www.americancustomcontractors.com/</p>
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POC: John Tyner Tvner@Taltiesan.com
<http://www.kiwanisrockville.8m.net/index.html>



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richgott3@verizon.net
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 POC: Todd Pearson Todd.Pearson@bfsaulco.com



David Johnston - Senior Financial Advisor
 Phone: (301) 230-5734 david.johnston@wellsfargo.com

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

December 2014 - JIAXING DELEGATES VISIT ROCKVILLE

Jiaxing sent officials to visit Rockville in December. Their mission was 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.

On Monday, December 15th - after a long ride from New York - a Welcome Reception was held at the Rockville City Hall, and afterwards the delegates had an opportunity to observe a regularly scheduled meeting of the Rockville Mayor and Council.



On Tuesday, December 16th, the delegates met with Rockville school principals at Julius West Middle School. This meeting gave an opportunity for both the Jiaxing delegation and Rockville schools to know more about how the school systems work on each side of the Pacific Ocean.

After lunch, they were given briefings by Rockville City Staff. Both sides learned a lot regarding each other's methods of governing.

At the end of their busy day our guests were honored at a reception/dinner at the Rockville Hilton Hotel. The evening began with a Happy Hour/Ice-Breaker sponsored by [Westat, Inc.](#), one of RSCC's longtime corporate sponsors, and we would like to recognize them for their thoughtful and greatly appreciated support of this event.





During the reception for Jiaying visitors

January 2015 - NEW BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED

Julie Pfefer was appointed at the RSCC’s January Board Meeting as its newest Director. Julie has a background in technology sales and marketing including international experience; RSCC thanks her for volunteering and wishes her the best in her upcoming endeavors.

Ying Chen was appointed by the Rockville Mayor and Council, also in January. It is the second time she has served on the RSCC Board. Ying has a background in Real Estate. Her father is originally from our Friendship City, Jiaying, China.

Congratulations to these new Directors.

January - The Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC) was invited to the **Annual Montgomery County Sister City Meeting** on January 13. The County has 4 Sister Cities: Morazan, El Salvador; Gondar, Ethiopia; Xian, China; and Hyderabad, India. Each subcommittee gave a report. RSCC also gave a briefing on its activities.



RSCC Secretary Steve Fisher at the MoCo Meeting

January – BETSY THOMPSON RETIRES FROM ROCKVILLE CITY GOVERNMENT

Betsy Thompson retired from Rockville City Government in January after a 27-year career, primarily with the Parks and Recreation Department. Betsy was honored at a retirement party for her at Rockville’s Glenview Mansion on January 14th. Acting as City Liaison for many years, she was instrumental in helping to coordinate numerous RSCC activities with the City of Rockville through numerous administrations. Betsy has visited Pinneberg on many occasions, and without her help the 40th and 50th Anniversary celebrations could not have been the successes they were.

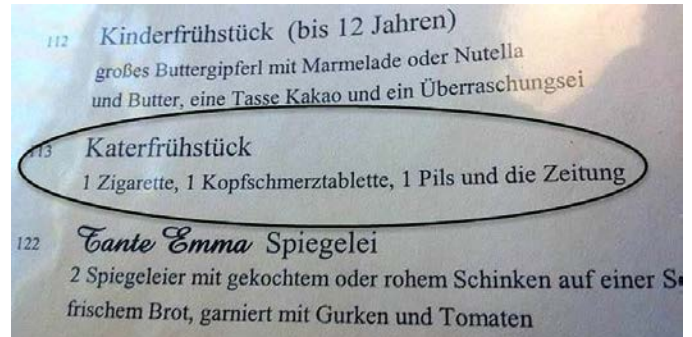


Betsy’s immediate plans are to continue her work with the Ski Patrol, and to put her communication skills to work as a Tour Guide in Washington DC.

RSCC wishes Betsy all the best for the future, and thanks her for her help, dedication and creativity over the years. Betsy, it’s 5 o’clock somewhere!!

CHEERS TO BETSY'S  RETIREMENT!

IMPROVE YOUR “RESTAURANT GERMAN”



(Translation: “Hangover Breakfast” – 1 Cigarette, 1 Aspirin, 1 Beer and the newspaper...)

PLAY BALL!

Again this summer, thanks to the generous support of the **Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation**, **Bethesda Big Train Baseball** will showcase the extraordinary nonprofits of Montgomery County. Big Train Baseball (now a program of BCC Baseball) will honor two nonprofits at each of the 22 home baseball games of the **Bethesda Big Train** to be played at **Shirley Povich Field** this summer. For more information about Big Train Baseball, including the schedule and directions to the field, please log onto <http://www.bigtrain.org/>. Povich Field is located in Cabin John Regional Park near Westfield Montgomery.

The RSCC Board has selected the game for **Friday June 26** (v. Gaithersburg Giants). We will have a booth to be manned for the game and up to 100 FREE tickets available. Join us for an evening of volunteering and America's favorite pastime. More details coming. Watch the [RSCC Website!](#)

January - RSCC's PINNEBERG FRIEND DIES

News was received from Pinneberg that RSCC's and DAGRP's dear friend, Ingeborg Kath, passed away in late January. Inge was the widow of former Pinneberg Mayor (1963 -1990) Hans-Hermann Kath, and a devoted supporter of the Pinneberg-Rockville partnership. We shall miss her.



<http://trauer.shz.de/traueranzeige/ingeborg/40666027>

February - RSCC PARTICIPATES IN CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The Chinese Lunar New Year (Year of the Goat) began on Thursday, February 19, 2015.



RSCC Director Bing Huang was at Lakeforest Mall to show his Chinese calligraphy skills.

Bing was also at Rockville's Lunar New Year Celebration at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater on February 28th. RSCC had a presence at the Rockville celebration to describe its relationship with Friendship City Jiaying.

DID YOU KNOW?

"...since the Middle Ages in most Catholic countries ... the word *vast-schanc*, possible origin of *Fasching*, means the last serving of drinks before Lent." (*German Life Magazine*, Feb/Mar 2015)

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.

RSCC THANKS ITS NEW (AND RENEWING) MEMBERS (AS OF MARCH 3, 2015)**CORPORATE:**

- B .F. Saul Company (Todd Pearson, VP)
- Kiwanis Club of Rockville (John Tyner)
- Law Office of Thomas K. Brown
- Richard Gottfried, CPA, LLC
- Rockville Econ Dev Inc. (Laurie Boyer, Exec Dir)
- Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC (David Johnston, Sr Fin Adv)
- Westat, Inc. (Bruce Romer)

INDIVIDUAL:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Albrecht, George | • Miller, Eva |
| • Brown, Marika | • Moran, Michael |
| • Checkon, Gerrie | • Mosely, Tom |
| • Chen, Ying | • Mullican, Brigitta |
| • Creech, Laura | • Onley, Virginia |
| • Ekman, Bob | • Pfefer, Julie |
| • Fisher, Steve | • Pontius, John |
| • Gallalee, Patricia | • Samadani, Fred |
| • Gilchrist, Jim | • Santoro, Terry |
| • Goon, John | • Simonson, Nancee |
| • Hall, Jr., John | • Thorpe, Susan |
| • Huang, Bing-Jib | • Von Kaenel, Elizabeth |
| • Luckman, Christine | • Von Saunder, Alice |
| • Malone, Chris | • Vuolo, Lois |
| • Mandujano, Rae Lynn | • Wang, Josephine |
| • McConkey, James | • Wasilak, James |
| • McGuckian, Eileen | • Wolff, Patricia |
| • Michie, William | |

FAMILY:

- Adams, Bruce & Peggy Engel
- Baker, Gary & Dunja
- Bockstahler, Rotraut & Larry
- Briggs, Jerol & Tom
- Brown, John & Janet
- Choi, Sam & Kil-Cha
- Conway, Kathleen & Family
- Coyle, James & Lorine
- Curtis, Tom & Stephanie
- Feinberg, Beryl & Edward
- Formentini, Elizabeth & Kenneth Ranney
- Freezer, Dennis & Linda
- Funkhouser, Gary & Claire
- Hubble, Hilbert & Joan
- Katz, Sidney & Family
- Klein, Barry & Aileen
- McKee, John & Rita
- Meyer, Robert & Holly
- Palakovich-Carr, Julie & Eric Carr
- Pierzchala, Mark & Lesley Cross
- Powell, Andrew & Debra Vaughn
- Reuther, Ted & Patricia
- Rodgers, John & Patricia
- Romer, Bruce & Kay Bowman
- Santiago, Gilbert & Andrea Giunta
- Savage, Wayne & Joan
- Van Grack, Steven & Susan
- Williamson, Robert & Caryl McNeilly

HONORARY:

- Hsu, Dr. Nelson and Mrs. Jane

Thanks to all of you for your support of RSCC!

If your name is missing, misspelled or otherwise needs correction, please let us know immediately.

February – ROCKVILLE LUNAR NEW YEAR VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILxDmnYFYjk&feature=youtu.be>

March - PINNEBERG STUDENTS DISCUSS TRIP TO ROCKVILLE

Before the annual meeting of the German-American Society Rockville Pinneberg [DAGRP] started, four students of Theodor Heuss school had their say.

Merle Szimkowski, Hermann Siebel, Benita Thiel and Anneke Sellmann reported together with teacher Oliver Grosscurth on their trip to Rockville.

Siebel reported of a friendly welcome at the 3000-student American high school [Wootton] and the host families. "I had a whole floor for me," he said, and also praised the "drivers", the host parents. After the 14-day stay, it was clear changes were

felt: "I think my English has improved. My English teacher thinks that too." Especially memorable to Benita Thiel was a roadblock in Washington, where the group was stopped by police. Minutes later darkened limousines rushed past, including a police escort.

"We cannot prove it, but we are sure that we saw Obama," said the Heuss-student. In the Rockville Room of [Pinneberg's] Town Hall is a similar photo of a sedan with a waving US flag and Presidential Seal on the driver's door. In addition to attractions such as the Capitol, the White House or the Statue of Liberty during a trip to New York, Merle Szimkowski was intrigued by something else: "It was nice to see the daily life of the people and not just tourist attractions." Sellmann brought the opinion of the students to the point: "That was one of the greatest experiences I've had in my young life and we want to once again thank you, that you made it possible." Many contacts with host families are still intact - and the anticipation on a return visit [from Rockville students] was great. In July, six to ten students and two teachers [from Rockville] are expected in Pinneberg.

"It's good to hear something like that. This is an endorsement of our work, when it has such a positive impact," said Bernd Hinrichs, president of the German-American Society Rockville Pinneberg. ...There were 158 members in DAGRP at the end of 2014. "There are 61 couples and 37 individuals. The male to female ratio was, as usual, almost balanced with 81 to 80," Treasurer Hans-Dietmar Bethke said. He resigned his position [as Treasurer] after twelve years. [B]ut he was re-elected by the Society's members as a Board Director to supervise the website. Felicity Lawrence was elected as the new Treasurer. Vice-President Margrit Ziegler was also confirmed in office as were Directors Birgit Drechsler and Michael Patt.

- Thanks to our friend Herbert Hoffman in Pinneberg for this *Pinneberger Tageblatt* article

**February - GREETINGS TO ALL FROM
FORMER MEMBERSHIP CHAIR JOE BATZ**

Joe and Mae ("Pigeon") Batz send greetings to their RSCC and DAGRP friends from their abode in Leisure World, off Georgia Avenue and Norbeck Road.

RSCC Member George Albrecht recently had lunch with Pigeon, Joe, and Joe's home caretaker, Joe Brown (a lot of Joes there) at the nearby *Full On Craft Eats & Drinks* near their home. It was a pleasant visit for a couple of hours, remembering many visits and visitors.

Although Joe is going through some difficulties with his memory, he wanted George to make sure to pass on his special regards to *Frau* Erika Wupperman in Pinneberg. *So gesagt, so gemacht!*

GERMAN TRUE TYPE FONTS



[Download the entire library \(402,333 bytes\).](#)

Impress your friends (whether you can write German or not) with an array of cool, genuine German Fonts, courtesy of The German Corner, <http://germancorner.com/>.

PINNEBERG HISTORY

When a castle was first built in Pinneberg around the year 1200 AD, the site had already been used as a Germanic [Thingstätte](#) for several centuries. In 1370 the castle was captured by Count Adolf VIII of Schauenburg and [Holstein-Pinneberg](#).

In 1397 Pinneberg was first mentioned in official documents as a seat of courts.

In 1472 a Renaissance castle was built in place of the old castle. It was heavily damaged in the years 1627 and 1657 and was finally torn down in 1720. Between 1765 and 1767 the Drostei was built for the [Drost](#) Hans von Ahlefeldt. This brick building, which was probably erected by Ernst Georg Sonnin, is the most important example of Baroque architecture in the district of Pinneberg.

After some servants and craftsmen had settled in the vicinity of the castle, the settlement expanded slowly, only receiving municipal rights in 1875, although it had been the seat of the Danish '[Landdrost](#)' since 1640 and seat of the Prussian district administrator since 1866 within the [Province of Schleswig-Holstein](#).

In 1905 the settlement of 'Pinneberger Dorf' was incorporated and in 1927 the villages of Thesdorf and Waldenau followed.

After World War II the number of inhabitants of Pinneberg doubled because of the [forced immigration of expellees](#), predominantly from [East Prussia](#). Later on, in contrast to many other cities in [Schleswig-Holstein](#), Pinneberg was able to keep the number of inhabitants stable.

[From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia]

**Spring 2015 Wine Tasting
Benefitting the Rockville Sister City Corporation**

Friday, April 17, 2015

7:00 – 9:30 PM

Glenview Mansion

603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, Maryland

Plan something special to mark the start of spring! Taste six different wines in a magnificent setting. Begin a weekend with the pleasure of wine and conversation accompanied by soft music at Glenview Mansion – Rockville’s own Downton Abbey – where fancy dress is optional.

Wine served with hors d’oeuvres, fruit, and pastries

\$25 contribution for reservations received by April 9

\$30 contribution for tickets purchased at the door

Thank you for your support of the Rockville Sister City Corporation

<http://RockvilleSisterCities.org>

✂

Spring 2015 Wine Tasting – Benefitting the Rockville Sister City Corporation

I have enclosed \$ _____ (\$25 each) to cover the cost for those listed below:

Names: _____

Address : _____

Preferred Phone #: _____ Special accommodations you may need: _____

E-Mail _____

Advanced reservations deadline is April 9, 2015

Mail this form with a check made payable to “RSCC” to:

RSCC, Attn: Marika Brown, City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave, Rockville, MD 20850

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)

✂-----(please cut here) -----✂ (please cut here) -----✂ (please cut here) -----

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