



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 **Drew Powell**, President, RSCC

Another busy and productive quarter has passed for the Rockville Sister City Corporation. The RSCC team, consisting of dedicated Board members, our General Membership, City of Rockville Elected Officials and Staff as well as Friends of RSCC, is what makes our organization so successful. Here's some of what we achieved in the past three months:

Rockville City Councilmember, **Beryl Feinberg**, assumed her role as RSCC's new City Council Liaison. Having majored in International Studies at American University, in addition to extensive international travel experience, Beryl brings a wealth of talent and energy well suited for her position as City Council Liaison.

RSCC and the [Rockville Volunteer Fire Department](#) (RVFD) co-hosted a Welcome Reception for the Pinneberg Volunteer Fire Brigade ([Freiwilligen Feuerwehr Pinneberg](#) FFP) at Rockville's historic [Glenview Mansion](#). RSCC/RVFD received a write up regarding this event in "[mymcmedia](#)," a publication of Montgomery Community Media (MCM), which was subsequently picked up by [Sister Cities International](#). Additionally, RSCC Board members participated in RVFD's 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet, which also commemorated RVFD's 25 year relationship with the Pinneberg Volunteer Fire Brigade. Seeing off *Brandmeister Claus Köster*, and visiting FFP firefighters, RSCC Board members joined in RVFD's farewell party for the Pinneberg Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The RSCC Mayor and Council Meet and Greet – Membership Appreciation event was a resounding success with more than fifty in attendance, which included Rockville Mayor **Bridget Newton**; Rockville City Councilmembers, **Beryl Feinberg**, **Virginia Onley** and **Mark Pierzchala**; Montgomery County Councilmember, **Marc Elrich**; Rockville Police Chief, **Terry Treschuk**; Rockville Acting City Manager, **Craig Simoneau**; Rockville's New City Clerk, **Kathleen Conway**; Rockville Assistant City Clerk, **Sara Taylor-Ferrell**; former Rockville City Mayor, **Steven VanGrack**; former Rockville City Councilmember **Bob Wright**; Rockville Volunteer Fire Department President **Eric Bernard**; Rockville Planning Board member **Don Hadley**; all of the Rockville Sister City Board of Directors; Rockville Sister City general membership; and many Rockville citizens. Retiring Rockville Police Chief, **Terry Treschuk**, was presented with a framed lifetime honorary membership.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of **Marika Brown**, **George Albrecht** and **Brigitta Mullican**, RSCC launched its first ever online contributions/payment system. Featured prominently on [RSCC's website](#), the "Donate Now" button allows anyone to contribute or make a payment to RSCC using PayPal or any major credit card. Immediately below the "Donate Now" section is a link to "AmazonSmile," which allows supporters to designate RSCC as the recipient of a small percentage of all their Amazon purchases.

RSCC is well on the way to filling all Board of Director vacancies. **Lynn Mandujano**, who was

part of the 2010 Jiaxing delegation, joined RSCC's Board in April. **Ying Chen's** status of a city-appointed Director changed to a board-appointed Director. Former Rockville Mayor, **Steven VanGrack**, applied for the now vacant city-appointed Director's position.

Thanks to the efforts of RSCC Director, **Lynn Mandujano**, June 2017 Germany tour planning is under way. Lynn will chair a travel committee for the Board and conduct a survey of desirable destinations in Germany.

As is a tradition, RSCC participated heavily in Rockville's [Hometown Holidays](#) this year. RSCC helped the City of Rockville staff a booth, which served four varieties of draft beer, ready-made cocktails and soft drinks. RSCC received a percentage of the proceeds to help with our fundraising efforts. Thanks to RSCC Board members and friends for giving of their time and energy to help make this such a success and especially to **Jack Rodgers** for organizing and managing booth operations. Booth volunteers included: **George Albrecht, Jerol Briggs, Marika Brown, Florence Wyand, Beryl Feinberg, Steve Fisher, Denny and Linda Freezer, Gary Funkhouser, Bing Huang, Chris Malone, Brigitta Mullican, Pat Rodgers, Gilbert Santiago, Nancee Simonson, Liz Von Kaenel, Lois Vuolo, Pat Wolf and Bob Wright**. Additionally, RSCC collected more than \$220 in tips from scores of thirsty patrons. Special thanks to **Beryl Feinberg** and **Fred Newton** for their generous donations.

On Memorial Day, I was honored to lay a wreath on behalf of Rockville Sister City Corporation paying tribute to our nation's fallen service men and women. This was immediately followed by Rockville's 72<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Day Parade. Special thanks to **Liz Von Kaenel** for all her hard work making RSCC's parade entry one of the best. Representing our organization were many RSCC Board members and friends as well as **Christian Jessen-Klingenberg** and his enthusiastic students from the [German School of Washington, D.C.](#) (Deutsche Schule), rounded out by the Golden Dragon Dancers from the [Chinese Culture and](#)

[Community Service Center](#). Thanks also to **Jack Rodgers** for giving me the ride of my life (on the parade route) in his awesome 1986 Corvette convertible!

Thanks to the efforts of RSCC City Liaison, **Andy Lett**, and Rockville's IT Department, the City's Boards and Commissions [page](#) featuring RSCC has been amended and updated. This includes the reactivation of RSCC's City Hall phone number +1-240-314-5029.

Special thanks again to RSCC member, **George Albrecht** for all his efforts in maintaining [RSCC's website](#) and for the publication of the RSCC newsletter. And of course, thanks to RSCC Vice President, **Brigitta Mullican**, for her continuing support.

Thanks to all who make Rockville Sister City Corporation a success!

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**IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR RSCC MEMBERSHIP!**



**Memberships are for the calendar year. New and Renewing Memberships are being taken NOW for 2016. See the last page of this newsletter for the form, or visit our webpage <http://www.RockvilleSisterCities.org> . And please ask your neighbors and friends to join RSCC! An application is provided at the end of this Newsletter. Thanks!**

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**60th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING**

We hope that you will not only be interested in attending our 60th anniversary in Pinneberg in 2017, but that you will also consider being a host for our Pinneberg friends when they come to Rockville.

We are seeking input from RSCC members in two areas:

- 1) What would be new and exciting places to take our Pinneberg guests in and around Rockville/DC? and
- 2) What would be places in and around Pinneberg and/or Hamburg that folks from Rockville would like to visit?

Please send your ideas, comments, and/or desires (including your interest in journeying to Pinneberg) to us at [RockvilleSisterCities@gmail.com](mailto:RockvilleSisterCities@gmail.com).

Let's make this coming Anniversary (one of the longest partnerships in Sister City history) something special!

**Rockville Delegation visits Pinneberg, Germany - May 31, 2017 to June 4, 2017. Plus add-on week of travel to other parts of Germany (June 5 – June 11) for those who would like to join the group.**

**Pinneberg Delegation visits Rockville, Maryland - October 5, 2017 to October 8, 2017**

What places in and around Pinneberg, Hamburg, and the rest of Germany would you like to visit? **Do you have a special reason for wanting to visit Germany?** Please give us your feedback by July 15 so that we can plan a tour that meets your interests. (Or contact Director Lynn Mandujano directly at 301-926-4734.)

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**TWINBROOK LIBRARY GAMES DAY**

RSCC Member **John Goon** <[spineyone@yahoo.com](mailto:spineyone@yahoo.com)> is looking for gamer volunteers to support this two-month pilot event. Teach games, play, share games info, and have fun.

**Twinbrook Library Games Day**

202 Meadow Hall Drive  
Rockville, MD 20851

**Saturday, June 25, 2016, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**  
**Saturday, July 23, 2016, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**Drop John a line** or call if you can drop by, have interest, or can help out. [301-315-8297](tel:301-315-8297)(H), [301-613-8297](tel:301-613-8297)(Cell)

**MAR 2016 - RSCC REPS ATTEND MoCo**

**SISTER CITIES**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

L-R: Three Rockville Sister City members (RSCC President **Drew Powell**: RSCC VP **Brigitta**



**Mullican**; Rockville City Councilmember **Beryl Feinberg**) with **Theresa Cameron** (Chair of the Montgomery County Sister Cities) and **Bruce Adams** (County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships) after the Annual MCSC meeting.

**APRIL 2016 - PINNEBERG FIREFIGHTERS VISIT ROCKVILLE**



Rockville-Pinneberg Firefighters have been in contact for 25 years. From time to time, firefighters from one city

journey across the Atlantic to visit their counterparts in the other city, for professional development, camaraderie, and renewing old acquaintances. The visit of Pinneberg Firefighters to Rockville in April 2016 was celebrated at the Glenview Mansion in high style. It was a welcoming and friendly event; just the type of exchange the Rockville Sister City Corporation encourages.



**APR 2016 - PEONIES BLOOMED IN FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**

There are two lovely flower gardens at Glenview Mansion specifically associated with the Rockville Sister City Corporation. One is a Rose Garden, established in October 1984 and associated with our Sister City, Pinneberg (the "City of Roses" in Germany). The other, established in November 2012 with the donation of plants from **Dr. and Mrs. Nelson Hsu**, is a Peony Garden; the peony is the traditional floral symbol of China.



Photos courtesy of RSCC Director **Bing Huang**, April 18, 2016

**MAY 2016 – NEW RSCC DIRECTOR**

Newly elected RSCC Director, **Rae Lynn Mandujano**, has replaced **Kathleen Conway**, who was selected to be Rockville’s new City Clerk.

**MAY 2016 - RSCC HAS A TELEPHONE MESSAGE LINE AT CITY HALL**

**The number is (240) 314-5029.** You can leave your question or message, and a text version of it will be copied the RSCC Gmail account to ensure that messages are noticed and addressed in a timely manner. Ain’t technology great?

**MAY 2016 – “MEET & GREET” WITH CITY OFFICIALS**



RSCC President Drew Powell presents Honorary Membership Certificate to retiring Rockville Police Chief Terry Treschuk

After a few date conflicts, RSCC Members were able to meet with elected Rockville officials on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> in City Hall.

RSCC sponsored a “Meet & Greet” event with the new Rockville Mayor and

Council. Light refreshments were served, and retiring Rockville Chief of Police, **Terry Treschuk**, was presented with an Honorary RSCC

Membership certificate. Chief Treschuk’s last day of work was June 1<sup>st</sup>.

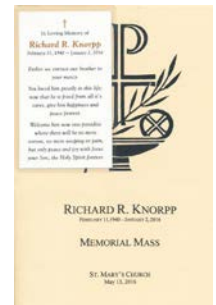
This event was for all RSCC members, and gave RSCC an opportunity to discuss the importance of our Sister/Friendship City relationships with Pinneberg and Jiaxing. This is especially important in light of the upcoming 60th Rockville-Pinneberg Anniversary in 2017.

It was emphasized that the Sister City bond is just that – a formal relationship between the municipalities of Rockville and Pinneberg. RSCC is privileged to be the primary vehicle through which exchanges and common events are planned, but the Mayor and Council are ultimately responsible for maintaining a healthy and vibrant connection between our two great cities.

Thanks to [Dana Bazaar](#) for providing delicious *hors d'oeuvres* for the event, and thanks to those who joined us.

**MAY 2016 - MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD FOR FORMER RSCC DIRECTOR, DICK KNORPP**

A Memorial Mass was held in Rockville, Maryland on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> for former RSCC Director [Richard Knorpp](#). Dick’s family, friends, clients, business partners, coworkers and RSCC friends were there to say goodbye. The service was held at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Rockville.



RSCC Members who paid final respects to the Knorpp family included **Brigitta Mullican, Steve Fisher, Liz Von Kaenel, Carol Vandrey and George Albrecht**.

**MAY 2016 – HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS**

Once again, RSCC operated a Beer and Cocktails Booth, located on Maryland Avenue near Starbucks, during Hometown Holidays (HTH). The booth was open from 2 to 10 PM on both Saturday and Sunday.



Bob Wright, Drew Powell and Lois Vuolo were among the RSCC volunteers who helped the City of Rockville dispense beer, margaritas and soda at one of three refreshment stands. RSCC earned \$1 for each mug sold, plus receipts from the Tip Jar.

RSCC members enjoyed fellowship while serving drinks to Hometown Holiday attendees. The city compensates RSCC for the work of the RSCC volunteers, making this activity an important source of funds to support RSCC programs. RSCC revenue came from the sales of HTH Beer Mugs and the Tip Jar. Thanks to all who helped!

**MAY 2016 – MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

RSCC participated in the traditional wreath laying ceremonies (led by American Legion Post 86) and marched in the Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 30. Once again, the RSCC marchers were joined by the Dragon Dancers from CCACC, and this year also by students from the German School in Potomac.



President Drew Powell placing RSCC's wreath at the eternal flame

**JUN 2016 - STAMMTISCH**

A *Stammtisch* (German for "regulars' table"), is an informal group meeting held on a regular basis. A

*Stammtisch* is not a structured meeting, but rather a friendly get-together. [Wikipedia]



The RSCC contingent

Steve "Fritz" Buckingham, a member of the Frederick Sister City group, extended an invitation to the Rockville Sister City group for June's monthly *Stammtisch* in Frederick. Those attending from RSCC included **George Albrecht, Fred Bird, Marika Brown, Steve Fisher, Christian Jessen-Klingenberg, Brigitta Mullican, Liz Von Kaenel and Lois Vuolo.**

Normally, the group meets from 7 pm on at [Brewer's Alley](#), but due to overcrowding there, the event moved across the street to the [Reina Restaurant](#). We and the Frederick folks hope to get together again soon to discuss Sister City matters that concern both of our groups.

The Frederick *Stammtisch* occurs on the first Friday of each month. For more information please contact [Fritz](#) or [RSCC](#).

**UPCOMING**

**Sunday, August 14, 2016, 2:00 pm** - RSCC's annual **Dim Sum** event will again be at the New Fortune Restaurant in the Walnut Hill Shopping Center in Gaithersburg. Those of you who have attended previous Dim Sum fundraisers know what a delicious and varied menu is in store. Save the date now. Watch for more information on the RSCC WebSite: <http://rockvillesistercities.org/>





- **“Rocktoberfest”** (in Rockville) is being scheduled for **Saturday, September 24, 2016**. Details to follow.
- **German-American Day Dinner** - **Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**, or **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** (still in planning stage)
- **October 2016** – marks the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the RSCC**

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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!

[Your Account](#) > [Change Your Charity](#) > Search Results

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

Showing 1 - 1 of 1 Results Sorted by relevance

**Rockville Sister City Corporation** ([About](#)) Rockville, MD

« Previous | Page: 1 | Next »

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**RSCC THANKS ITS NEW (AND RENEWING) MEMBERS FOR 2016 (SINCE MAR 15, 2016)**

(See also the December 2015 & March 2016 newsletters if your name doesn’t appear here.)

**CORPORATE:**

- B. F. Saul Company (Todd Pearson, POC)
- City of Rockville (Andy Lett, POC)
- International Travel Consultants, Inc. (Gabrielle Williams, POC)
- Sigy’s Service Center (“Sigy” Krauss, POC)
- Wells Fargo (David Johnson, POC)
- Westat (Bruce Romer, POC)

**FAMILY:**

- Balboa, Sam & Sue
- Briggs, Tom & Jerol
- Katz, Sidney & Sally
- McKenna, Tom & Sherri
- Meyer, Bob & Holly
- Romer, Bruce & Kay Bowman
- Santiago, Gilbert & Andrea
- VanGrack , Steven & Susan

**INDIVIDUAL:**

- Amini, Arezou
- Chang , Victor
- Choi, Sam
- Feldman, Barbara
- McConkey, Jim
- Onley, Virginia
- Pontius, Jane
- Von Saunder, Alice

**HONORARY:**

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







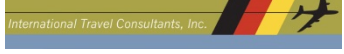





Thanks to all of you for your support of RSCC!

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

### 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>Nexus Holidays DC</b><br/>Xiaosheng Bi, Owner<br/>932 Hungerford Drive #7A, Rockville MD 20850<br/>Phone: (301) 917-2222 • 1 (800) 919-8041 • Fax: (301) 917-2240<br/><a href="http://www.nexusholidays.com">www.nexusholidays.com</a>   <a href="http://www.nexusholidays.net">www.nexusholidays.net</a></p> |  <p><b>City of Rockville, MD</b><br/>111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850<br/><a href="http://www.rockvillemd.gov/">http://www.rockvillemd.gov/</a></p>                                                                                                                               |
|  <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 Tyne<br/><a href="mailto:Tyner@Taliesan.com">Tyner@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 !**

**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 pm in Rockville City Hall on 111 Maryland Avenue.

[Contact President Drew Powell](#) to be advised of any schedule changes

**DID YOU KNOW?**

| JIAXING                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | PINNEBERG                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Jiaxing University is home to 94 years of history and tradition. It is a provincial institution of higher learning authorized by the State Ministry of Education. It is located on South Lake in Jiaxing City, Zhejiang Province.</p> <p>There are about 19,100 full-time students at present, and 1,400 or more faculty members - 870 full-time teachers and 350 professors and associate professors.</p> <p>The University offers 38 undergraduate programs and 7 specialized higher education programs covering 8 disciplines of economics, management, engineering, science, liberal arts, medicine, law and education.<br/> <a href="http://www.at0086.com/Jiaxing-University/whyus.aspx">[http://www.at0086.com/Jiaxing-University/whyus.aspx]</a></p>                                                                                                                                  | <p>The Baltic University in Exile was established in the displaced persons camps in Germany to educate refugees from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the aftermath of the Second World War.</p> <p>In early 1947, it was moved to a former <i>Luftwaffe</i> barracks in Pinneberg (Eggerstedt-<i>Kaserne</i>) and renamed the Displaced Person's Study Centre. The University was closed in September 1949.</p> <p>A total of 76 students graduated from the Baltic University in its short existence: 53 of them were Latvian, 16 Lithuanian, and 7 Estonian. Three student fraternities, <i>Fraternitas Imantica</i>, <i>Gersicania</i> and <i>Fraternitas Cursica</i>, were founded in Pinneberg.<br/> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltic_University#cite_note-2">[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltic_University#cite_note-2]</a></p> |
| ROCKVILLE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p>Montgomery College (MC) is a public, open access community college located in Montgomery County, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C. The college has three campuses, the largest of which is in Rockville.</p> <p>This college was organized in 1946 as "Montgomery Junior College," with its campus located at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. In 1950, the college moved to Takoma Park, absorbing the Bliss Electrical School, a private, for-profit institution formed in 1893, and that had occupied the site since 1908.</p> <p>The Rockville campus opened in 1965. Graduates of two-year degree programs typically transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Rockville campus offers more than 600 courses in more than 40 curricula.<br/> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montgomery_College">[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montgomery_College]</a></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |



## A 60 Year Friendship

**Herbert Hoffmann**, spokesman for the German-American Society Pinneberg, talks about his fascination with the U.S.A. and Donald Trump

Mr. Hoffmann, the German-American Society [Rockville] Pinneberg (DAGRP) has existed since 1984. How long have you been involved and how did it come about? Herbert Hoffmann: *I don't remember all the details. My first visit to Rockville was in 1987. I must have already been a member at that time. It was the 30th anniversary [of the Pinneberg-Rockville relationship] and even then the relationship was greatly valued. As a [DAGRP] board member for the past 15 years, I have been responsible for public relations. [As part of my responsibilities], I also liaise with the municipality, local clubs and associations as well as with some partners in Rockville.*



Never before published photo: Former Pinneberger Mayor **Henry Glissmann** (standing second from right) visiting a school in Rockville in 1958. [Former Rockville Mayor, **Dickran Hovsepian**, standing second from left] The formation of the Sister City relationship was a year earlier.



"We go back in 2017," says **Herbert Hoffmann**.  
Photo: Oster



Pinneberg Mayor **Urte Steinberg** at "Pinneberg Avenue" in Rockville

So you've played a longstanding role in the German-American Society [DAGRP] and its friendship between Pinneberg and Rockville. How many times have you been to America? What were your best and worst experiences? *I have been to America many times. Generally, I have had only had positive experiences, because I've always known America as a holiday destination. It is a fascinating country and has much to offer for tourists. Everyone dreams about the Grand Canyon, the California Coast and Highway Number One, but I'd rather live in Germany. I feel comfortable here and would never want to move away from my home. The best experience for me was the friendliness of Americans. Some Germans may see this as superficial. To the contrary; the Americans I've experienced thus far are dear people on which one can rely and maintain a friendship over many years. I'm still in contact with people, who I met on my first trip in 1987.*

Rockville has a population of 60,000, Pinneberg 40,000. Both cities are similar in many ways. They are near the cities of Washington, D.C. and Hamburg respectively. What makes them different? *They are definitely very different: Rockville is a very prosperous city, unlike Pinneberg, which has been experiencing a weakened economy. That does not exist in Rockville. There are many interesting companies that have made Rockville their home. And there are many wealthy people that live there and have well-paying jobs in Washington, D.C. Rockville is a modern thriving city.*

Has the relationship with [Pinneberg's] American partners changed over the years? Are the friendships growing or diminishing? *The relationship created many friendships. Every now and again there may have been some cooling, but the relationship is stable. We are aware that Rockville has also established a partnership with a city in China. And - it is clear - economic interests go towards China. However, overall the original partnership with Pinneberg has never been neglected.*

When you think about the 60 year Sister City relationship, what was important during the past six decades? *Most importantly is that the relationship has endured for nearly 60 years. It is always fascinating to see how many people take care of the partnership as it continues. The mayors [of Rockville], which, unlike Pinneberg's, are elected every two years, have had great interest in keeping the partnership strong. Likewise, the citizens [of Rockville], want to get to know Pinneberg. The commitment on both sides [of the Atlantic], along with ongoing preparations, are also a defining feature of our partnership.*

Were there any difficult situations where the DAGRP was in jeopardy? *No. There has not been a move to disband our organization. Of course, there were ups and downs, but that's true for any organization. There was nothing that presented itself that we could not overcome.*

To what extent do politics matter? For example, has there been an effect [on the Sister City relationship] due to activities of the AFD [Alternative for Germany Party] in the recent elections? And what about the U.S. presidential candidate, Donald Trump? *Refreshingly, there is no effect. We attach great importance to the ensuring the notion that politics do not matter. The friendship of the people and the partnership between the cities is what is crucial. Yes, there have been political discussions [with our Rockville friends] over a beer from time to time. I remember, for example, when George Bush was president. When the end of his term was approaching, some of our Rockville friends felt relieved. But otherwise politics is unimportant. This can be seen in the Board of our organization. Bernd Hinrichs is a member of the CDU [Christian Democratic Union of Germany (Party)] in Pinneberg. I am a member of the Pinneberger SPD [Democratic Socialist Party of Germany] and others go their own way politically. Our differing viewpoints make our society strong.*

Thank you for our conversation. (Interview: Kira Oster, Translation by Drew Powell)  
[Report from the Pinneberg Daily Paper, March 24, 2016 / \[Part 1\]](#)

**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 2016.**

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: RSCC, 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 11/8/2015-gwa)

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