



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 **Drew Powell**, President, RSCC

Rockville 2017! The City of Rockville is eagerly looking forward to hosting a record number of our friends from Pinneberg, Germany, this October for the celebration of our two Cities' 60th Sister City Anniversary. In a remarkable coincidence, Rockville will welcome exactly sixty guests from Pinneberg during our Sixtieth Anniversary!

This event has been in the works for at least two years. Literally dozens of volunteers, City elected officials and City staff on both sides of the Atlantic have worked on making this event (and the 60th Anniversary celebration in Pinneberg) a reality. With that, I would like to thank all those, who have made and are making this Anniversary celebration our best ever. First and foremost, thanks to Rockville's elected leaders, Mayor, **Bridget Newton** and Councilmembers, **Beryl Feinberg**, **Virginia Onley**, **Julie Palakovich Carr** and **Mark Pierzchala**, for their unwavering support of Rockville's Sister City Program. Also deserving of appreciation are, City Manager, **Rob DiSpirito**, City Clerk/Director of Council Operations, **Kathleen Conway**, and Director of Recreation and Parks, **Tim Chesnutt**, for their continuing commitment to RSCC and the program it facilitates on behalf of the City of Rockville. Worthy of praise are City of Rockville staff members, such as Special Events Manager, **Colleen McQuitty**, the Channel 11 crew, especially Television Production Specialist, **Hagop Balekjian**, the Public Information Office team, including **Lori Russler** and **Cliff Cumber**, City Horticulturist, **Rob Orndorff** as well as the entire staff of Glenview Mansion and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater.

Special kudos to RSCC Host Families, **Ying Chen** (and **Jay Wang**), **Bonnie Grimm** (and **Chris**

Malone), **Tom and Sherri McKenna**, **Sue-Ann Norian**, **Jack and Pat Rodgers**, **Wayne and Joan Savage**, **Betsy and Gary Thompson**, **Sue and Steve VanGrack**, **Bob and Stephanie Wright** and **Liz Von Kaenel**, for opening their homes to welcome members of the Pinneberg Delegation.

Grateful acknowledgement to Pinneberg Delegation members, including the head of the delegation, **Margrit Ziegler**, as well as Members of the "Indian Summer Tour," including Bürgermeisterin, **Urte Steinberg**, and Pinneberg elected officials and members of the DAGRP, **Bernd Hinrichs**, **Herbert Hoffmann** and **Felicitas Lorenz**.

Lastly, it is with utmost gratitude that I commend the entire RSCC Board of Directors and General Membership, who have contributed countless hours of their expertise and efforts to make this Anniversary the best yet. Special thanks to (and there may be some repeats here); Treasurer **Marika Brown** for her accounting prowess, Director **Gerrie Checkon** for help with Host Family pairing, Directors **Jack Rodgers**, **Ying Chen**, **Wayne Savage** and **Bob Wright** for Anniversary event planning and transportation needs, Director **Liz von Kaenel** (and **Jack Rodgers** again) for gift selection and coordination, Secretary **Steve Fisher**, for keeping track of it all, **Jerol Briggs** and **Sue-Ann Norian** for event meal arrangements, Webmaster and Newsletter Editor **George Albrecht**, for keeping everyone informed, **Christian Jessen-Klingenberg** for special overseas communications and Vice President **Brigitta Mullican**, for her continuing service and more things than can be mentioned in a newsletter.

Please join us in Rockville the week of October 2, 2017 in celebrating sixty years of friendship with Rockville's Sister City, Pinneberg!

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IMPORTANT!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017
RSCC ANNUAL MEETING

Please note the change of date – we sincerely hope you will be able to attend!



May 27-29 – HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS



RSCC volunteers manned a beer and “liquid refreshments” tent at the annual music and entertainment event in downtown Rockville. Thanks to the City, sales of “libation”/beer mugs were an opportunity for RSCC to earn some additional operational funds; tips from the crowd also helped provide additional monies toward the upcoming visit of our Pinneberg guests in October.

MAY 29, 2017 – ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

As in years past, the RSCC provided a contingent of marchers in Rockville’s annual Memorial Day parade. We were joined again by representatives from the German School in Potomac, and the Dragon Dancers from the Chinese Culture & Community Service Center in Gaithersburg. Both groups signified Rockville’s alignment with Pinneberg and Jiaying.



German School marchers



Dragon Dancers

JUNE 2017 - PASSING OF TWO GREAT RSCC SUPPORTERS



Verna Murphy was a loyal RSCC Member and stalwart volunteer for many causes; she died on 22 June 2017 at her residence in Solomons, MD. Verna was divorced from former RSCC President **David L'Heureux**.



Don Vandrey was Rockville’s Public Affairs Officer for many years and an active and enthusiastic supporter of RSCC. Don loved running, and finished both the Boston and Berlin marathons in the same week in 1991! He donated his body to science.

RSCC's members also wish to extend their sincere condolences to Rockville's City Clerk and RSCC's City of Rockville Staff Liaison, **Kathleen Conway** on the recent passing of her dad, Michael Francis Conway, 94. He was a retired US Navy veteran, and will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

JUNE 29, 2017 – RSCC MEET AND GREET -

A chance to welcome old, new and prospective RSCC Members, and an opportunity to speak with City Officials was “on the agenda” Thursday night, June 29th at the Mayor and Council Chambers at Rockville's City Hall. Hors d'oeuvres, sweets, and a variety of libations rounded out the evening of discussion, recognition and announcements. A preview video presentation of our recent anniversary visit to Pinneberg was presented by Rockville 11's **Hagop Balekjian**. We thank Rockville Councilmembers **Virginia Onley** and **Mark Pierzchala**, and Rockville City Manager **Rob DiSpirito** for their attendance, and City Clerk/Director of Council Operations **Kathleen Conway** for her help in “making it all happen”.

Special Thanks go to **Sigy Krauss** of Sigy's Service Center, who upgraded his Corporate Sponsorship to “Silver” at the Meet and Greet.



JUNE 29, 2017 -RSCC DIRECTOR DISPLAYS HIS ART AT BWI-MARSHALL

Bingjib “Bing” Huang had to miss the Meet and Greet. “Sorry I won't be able to make it... [O]ne of my artworks will be displayed at BWI International Gallery.” Bing related that the central large character is “Buddhism” or “Zen”. The background characters are two famous poems which are related to Buddhism.



JULY 13-16, 2017 - SCI ANNUAL CONFERENCE



- RSCC President **Drew Powell** attended the Sister Cities International Annual Conference that was held in Virginia Beach, VA. He said there were many work-sessions covering a host of topics/issues. What proved to be beneficial was the networking

with other SCI Conference participants and establishing a relationship with them. [The photo shows RSCC President **Powell** with SCI Executive Director, **Mary Kane**.]

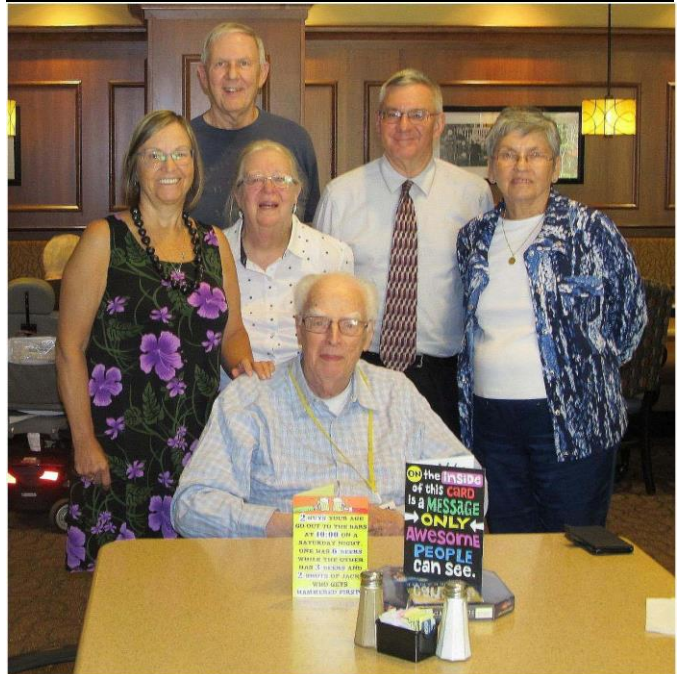
JULY 30, 2017 – ANNUAL DIM SUM FUNDRAISER



Over forty people turned out to support RSCC's annual fund raising event at the New Fortune Restaurant on July 30th. Great service and good food (and plenty of

it) was the order of the day. Thanks to Director **Bing Huang** for making the arrangements, to the owners and staff of New Fortune for making it another memorable event, and to our Members and friends who joined in the festivities. No one can claim they went home hungry!

AUGUST 5, 2017 - FORMER RSCC DIRECTOR BOB NELSON TURNS A SPRY 93



Top: George Albrecht
Middle: Brigitta Mullican, Liz von Kaenel, Steve Fisher, Marika Brown
Sitting: Bob Nelson (93 yrs young)

In early August, **Bob** celebrated with a few RSCC "Old Timers" at The Village at Rockville. Still sharp as a tack, but perhaps a bit less mobile, Bob

will converse with you in English, German, Portuguese, Spanish or French. (We chose English.) Happy Birthday, Bob!

AUGUST 26, 2017 – MEETING OF MARYLAND-GERMANY SISTER CITIES

The *Augustoberfest* in Hagerstown provided the opportunity for officers and members of the three German-related sister cities in Maryland (Rockville/Pinneberg; Hagerstown/Wesel; and Frederick/Morzheim, Schifferstadt) to get together to discuss common goals and problem areas that face each of our organizations. It also gave



attendees the ability to see how the Hagerstown Fest has grown and flourished over the past 22 years.

In attendance were: **George Albrecht (R); Drew Powell (R); Steven (Fritz) Buckingham (F); Andrea Quinn (F); Connie Lenhart (H); Marika Brown (R); Liz vonKaenel (R); Steve Fisher (R);**

Brigitta Mullican (R); Doug Stull (H); Susan Stull (H); Sybille Faucette (F).

Special thanks go to Hagerstown co-President, Jeanne “Dusty” Graham for formalizing the unofficial meeting minutes.

We hope that our organizations’ members will partake in future events at each other’s location. For example: rotating luncheon/dinner events or information tables at any appropriate events for all three sister city groups.

COMING! – OCTOBER 2-8 – Guest visitors from Pinneberg !

COMING! – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7th – ROCKTOBIERFEST !

This free festival, which will coincide with the visit of a delegation from Pinneberg, Germany to mark 60 years as Rockville’s sister city, will feature local breweries, two stages, a craft and food area, and kids’ activities. Come join us!



**Rockville • Pinneberg
60 Years – Sister Cities**

<http://www.rockvillemd.gov/index.aspx?NID=1952>

COMING! – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15th – WORLD OF MONTGOMERY

See RSCC at The World of Montgomery located at Montgomery College, Rockville
Noon - 4:00 pm

<http://worldofmontgomery.com/>



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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 »

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

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS GOOD FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR; YOU CAN HELP OUR ACCOUNTING RECORDS IF YOU RENEW OR JOIN DURING JANUARY/FEBRUARY EACH YEAR. THANK YOU!**

Calling all RSCC members to renew their 2017 membership. The RSCC membership is on a calendar year basis, from January to December.

**Starting January 2017 yearly membership dues are now \$25 for individuals and \$40 for families. Corporate memberships are now at 3 levels of Sponsorship; Gold, Silver and Bronze. Student Memberships are *free*.**

To join or renew, please visit our website at <http://rockvillesistercities.org/HTML-Join/rsc-join.HTML>

**We thank the following members for having already paid for their 2017 RSCC memberships.**

**Brigitta Mullican, Membership Chair**

**Corporate GOLD****Corporate SILVER**

- Sigy’s Service Center

**Corporate BRONZE****FAMILY:**

- Gandler, William & Jayne
- McKenna, Tom & Sherri
- Schrack, Roald & Pat Wilson
- Schwindaman, Dale & Jean
- Williamson, “Skip” & Caryl McNeilly

**INDIVIDUAL:**

- Balekjian, Hagop
- Barnett, Leah
- Choi, Sam
- Coyle, Jim
- Curtis, Tom
- Gilchrist, Jim
- Goon, John
- Hill, David
- Lee, Kuan
- McIntyre, Nancy
- Solomon, Janice
- Wong, Kent

**STUDENT:**

- Harrison, Geoffrey
- Macomber, Mark
- Macomber, Sean

**HONORARY:**

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

Thanks to all of you for your support of RSCC and for your timely renewals!

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

**RSCC STUDENT MEMBERSHIP**

RSCC has created a new Student Membership category. There is no fee for this membership. The Student Membership is designed to introduce students to the activities and programs of the Sister City organization and attract students to become active in these activities. The student membership provides students with opportunities to create

projects related to our German and Chinese sister cities and earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours. Point of Contact is RSCC Member **Christian Jessen-Klingenberg** <c.j-k@t-online.de> You can find the form on our web page (<http://rockvillesistercities.org/>)

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RSCC BOARD MEETINGS

Rockville Sister City Corporation Board meetings are open to the public. **Beginning January 2017**, they are now held the third Wednesday of each month (except December) starting at 7:00 pm in the Rockville City Hall on 111 Maryland Avenue. Contact President Drew Powell to be advised of any schedule changes.

RSCC BOARD GAMES

RSCC member **John Goon** hosts a free weekly games club at the Rockville United Church, 355 Linthicum Drive, from 7-11 every Friday. 100+ board/card games on site. 25-30 players per meeting. New and traditional games. All age groups represented. Hosts several community service outreach programs for young NIH patients/families and the elderly. Student Service Learning hours offered. Contact John at spineyone@yahoo.com or 301-315-8297 for more information.



Join the fun

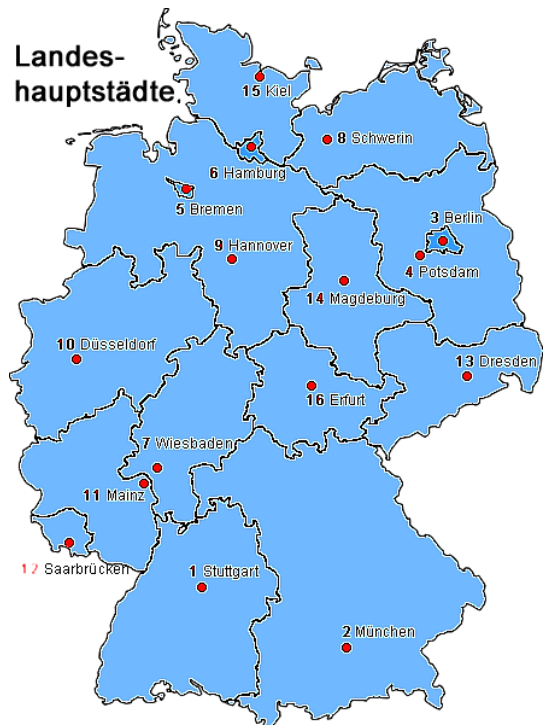
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**German Federal States**  
**Deutsche Bundesländer** (German)

Also known as:  
**Länder** (German)



Germany's 16 "States"



German State Capitals

**Corporate Sponsors - Calendar Year 2017**

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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**City of Rockville, MD**

111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850  
<http://www.rockvillemd.gov/>

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**Westat Inc.**  
 Bruce Romer, Contact  
[BruceRomer@Westat.com](mailto:BruceRomer@Westat.com)

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 Phone: 301-294-3830 <http://www.westat.com>

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**Corporate BRONZE**



**Law Office of**  
**Thomas K. Brown, LLC**

22 West Jefferson Street Suite 401, Rockville, MD 20850  
 Phone: 1-888-783-9180 [brown@thomasbrownlaw.com](mailto:brown@thomasbrownlaw.com)

**Corporate SILVER**



**International Travel**  
**Consultants**  
 POC: Gabrielle Williams

1010 Rockville Pike #401, Rockville, MD 20851  
 Phone: 301-294-0222 or 1-800-466-4660 Fax: 301-294-5324

**Corporate BRONZE**



**Rockville Economic**  
**Development, Inc.**

95 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850  
<http://rockvilleredi.org/> Phone: 301-315-8096

**Corporate BRONZE**



**Rockville Volunteer Fire**  
**Department**  
 Serving the citizens of Rockville  
 for over 90 years

PO Box 1547, Rockville, MD 20849  
 Phone: 301.424.0310 <http://rvfd.org/>

**Corporate BRONZE**



**Kiwanis Club of Rockville,**  
**Inc.**

POC: John Tyner  
[Tyner@Taltiesan.com](mailto:Tyner@Taltiesan.com)  
 Phone: 301-168-2146  
<http://www.kiwanisrockville.8m.net/index.html>

**Corporate BRONZE**



**David Johnston - Senior**  
**Financial Advisor**  
 Managing Director - Investments

7901 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814  
 Phone: 301-230-5734 | 800-777-3664 Fax: 301-907-2062  
 Email: [david.johnston@wellsfargo.com](mailto:david.johnston@wellsfargo.com)

**Corporate BRONZE**



**B. F. Saul Company**  
 POC: Todd Pearson

[Todd.Pearson@bfsaulco.com](mailto:Todd.Pearson@bfsaulco.com)  
 7501 Wisconsin Avenue - Suite 1500E - Bethesda, MD 20814  
 Phone: 301-986-6000 <http://www.bfsaul.com/>

**ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION (RSCC)**

**Individual/Family Membership Application or Renewal - RSCC is a Tax Exempt, Not-For-Profit Corporation**  
**(We welcome Corporate Sponsors! Please find our Sponsor information at <http://rockvillesistercities.org/>)**

I would like to (check one) renew, or apply for membership. Enclosed is my **tax deductible** payment (check one):

\$25 Individual **OR** \$40 Family

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

**Memberships are for the calendar year (January to December). There is no prorating of your membership.**

**Please print. Please provide your email address. Otherwise we have no way of keeping you informed of our activities and events.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(For internal use only. We do not release to other organizations.)

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (This is my Work Home Cell)

**Make check payable to "RSCC" Send to: RSCC, c/o Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850-2364**  
OR you may pay by [PayPal](#) (click) --- be sure to include all applicable information!

**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 10Mar 2017-gwa)

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