



## 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 D. Dwight Eisenhower in 1956 to promote world peace.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by **Drew Powell**, President, RSCC

On what is now an inauspicious date, September 11, in the year 1956, at the White House Conference on Citizen Diplomacy, then President Dwight David Eisenhower, delivered a speech at the "People-to-People Conference" officially giving birth to what is now the enduring worldwide Sister City Program.

The President's speech and the discussions during this conference focused on the urgent need for "People-to-People" diplomacy. Eisenhower stated, "If we are going to take advantage of the assumption that all people want peace, then the problem is for people to get together and to leap governments -- if necessary to evade governments -- to work out not one method but thousands of methods by which people can gradually learn a little bit more of each other."

This meant that governments around the world, including our own, would not take a direct role in this initiative, but rather step back and let everyday citizens act as diplomats on the stage of world peace. Given that, what many might refer to as the most brutal of all wars, which took place only eleven short years earlier, Eisenhower was asking that people reach out to citizens of other countries and disparate cultures, some of which may have been bitter enemies, and extend an olive branch of peace and understanding. As President Eisenhower affirmed, "A particular part of the work that we expect to do is based upon the assumption that no people, as such, want war--that all people want peace. We know this to be a true assumption, but we know also that in certain portions of the world it is not understood as such."

The essence of the Sister City mission must be to promote a People-to-People, Community-to-Community theme of mutual understanding, acceptance and peace, while not allowing ourselves to be entangled in politics and long entrenched agendas of hatred, bias and fear.

As we have come to understand, now more than ever, the ties that unite us can sometimes be fragile ones. This means that not only must we not succumb to politics and hatred, but in spite of our differences, we must approach each other with respect, caring and civility. This concept applies at all levels, from inside Sister City Program conference rooms, to bilateral Sister City interactions and even the potential formation of new Sister City relationships.

There will be times when we have our differences. However, every effort must be made to address our differences amongst ourselves and not seek, as Eisenhower warned, resolutions from outside governmental institutions.

In his "Conference on Citizen Diplomacy" address, Eisenhower challenged us, "The problems are: How do we dispel ignorance? How do we present our own case? How do we strengthen friendships? How do we learn of others? These are the problems."

Most sincerely,

Drew Powell  
President  
Rockville Sister City Corporation

**SAD NEWS**

Two friends of RSCC have recently passed away.

Former RSCC Member **Fred Beckner** passed away “Friday, December 29, 2017 at his home in Gaithersburg, MD after a courageous battle with cancer. He is survived by sons, Frederick L. Beckner and Stephen E. Beckner and grandson, Christian S. Beckner. Memorial services [were] held at the Rockville Unitarian Church in Rockville, MD on Friday, January 5, 2018.” [Published in *The Washington Post* on Jan. 2, 2018.] RSCC members **Holly and Bob Meyer, Brigitta Mullican, Steve Fisher** and **George Albrecht** attended Fred's service.

RSCC Director **Ying Chen**'s mother, **Shirley Tu**, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, January 12, 2018. Shirley leaves behind her husband, **Frank Chen**, who was born in Jiaxing, China, which became a Friendship City with Rockville in 2009. Ying said her mother was an excellent seamstress and brought joy to many friends with the clothes she sewed for them.

Numerous RSCC Directors attended Shirley's service, and Ying said, “Thank you for coming to my mother's memorial service, and the beautiful flower arrangement from RSCC. I was thrilled that she was surrounded with caring friends and family who have wonderful memories of her. She was an elegant lady with many talents. Her love and caring brought warm moments to her family and the community.”

**ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION  
WELCOME RECEPTION FOR VISITING  
PINNEBERG INTERN AND SCHOLAR**

On **Friday, March 9, 2018**, RSCC will welcome our newest visitors from Germany, City of Pinneberg Intern, **Lena Ousvatova**, and Quickborn Exchange Student, **Milena Koch**, at a reception to be held at Rockville's historic **Glenview Mansion between 7:00 – 9:30 PM**. Glenview Mansion is located at 603 Edmonston Drive in Rockville, (see following two articles). All are invited - come join us! The reception will be a casual social gathering for participants to enjoy the company of friends and neighbors, meet local leaders, and introduce our guests to America. It will also mark the end of sub-

zero weather and snow; the arrival of spring; and the formation of new friendships. To help celebrate, *hors d'oeuvres*, fruits, and pastries will be served, accompanied by a variety of beverages, including wine and beer. Reservations received by February 28<sup>th</sup> will be \$25, or \$30 for tickets purchased at the door.

More information is provided on the RSCC website - <http://rockvillesistercities.org/>

**RSCC WELCOMES GERMAN EXCHANGE  
STUDENT MILENA KOCH**



As part of RSCC's assistance to German exchange students who wish to attend school in Montgomery County, the RSCC recently assisted **Milena Koch**, with her application and acceptance to Richard Montgomery High School during the Spring 2018 semester. Milena is a student from Quickborn, Germany, a town with a population of 20,000, which is just 8 miles northeast of Pinneberg, Rockville's Sister City.

Milena has the good fortune to already have a supportive host family, Annette and Alexander Purves. Richard Montgomery Principal, **Damon Monteleone**, stated that he would be delighted to have Milena attend Richard Montgomery this spring. Given her abilities, Milena will do well at RM and will enrich RM's and Rockville's cultural diversity.

Please join the Rockville Sister City Corporation in welcoming Milena Koch to Rockville!

**PINNEBERG INTERN TO VISIT**

**Lena Ousvatova**, a student intern with the City of Pinneberg, plans to come to Rockville from February 28 to March 28, 2018 for the purpose of shadowing various government officials at the municipal, county and state levels. Plans are for her to visit different departments at Rockville City Hall; spend time with District 3 County Councilmember **Sidney Katz**, who will introduce her to County Council operations; and then time with District 17 State Senator, **Cheryl Kagan**, in Annapolis to learn



Lena

about the workings of the Maryland Legislature. Lena, a graduate school student, will be receiving her degree in Public Administration in June 2018.

**SISTER CITY BENCHES AT GLENVIEW MANSION** (by Steve Fisher)

“I visited Glenview ... to see how the City placed the two 60th Anniversary benches in the garden. The benches are at the far end of the garden, outside of the fenced area.” (We hope you'll go visit, once it warms up for good!)



**RSCC GOLD SPONSORS**

**RSCC HAS ITS FIRST TWO GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS!**

**B. F. SAUL**



RSCC President **Drew Powell** (right) presents **Todd Pearson** of the B.F. Saul Company with a **Gold Sponsor** membership certificate on December 14, 2017. Thanks to **B. F. Saul** for its great support of the Rockville Sister City Corporation!

**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL CONSULTANTS**



On December 18th President **Powell** met with **Gabrielle Williams** at her office on Rockville Pike to present ITC with its 2018 **Gold Sponsor** membership certificate. Thanks also to **International Travel Consultants** for its generous support.

**...AND A NEW SILVER-LEVEL SPONSOR, TOO!**

Westat, a long-time supporter of the RSCC has become a **Silver Level** Sponsor. Thanks again to our friends and supporters at Westat!

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR ROCKVILLE'S MAYOR**

At the December Board Meeting and Holiday Party (December 20th, hosted at Director **Liz von Kaelnel's** house), President **Powell** presented Rockville Mayor **Bridget Donnell Newton** and her husband **Fred** with a Certificate of Appreciation for the generous hospitality they showed to our Pinneberg visitors during the 60th Anniversary festivities in October. Bridget and Fred opened up their home for an incredible welcoming party for our German friends. Thank you, Bridget and Fred!



RSCC President, Drew Powell, and Rockville Mayor, Bridget Donnell Newton

**CHINESE YEAR OF THE DOG STARTS FEBRUARY 16, 2018**



RSCC Director **Bing Huang** used his artistic and calligraphic talents for his interpretation of the New Year event.

CCACC ([the Chinese Culture and Community Service Center](#)) is going to celebrate the Lunar New Year at both Montgomery Mall (2/16 & 3/2) and Lakeforest Mall (2/12 - 2/25). **Bing** will do calligraphy at Lakeforest Mall on 2/18 & 2/24 during the afternoon.

### **FROM THE GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION (GAHF) OF THE USA**

2018/2019 has been designated as *Deutschlandjahr USA 2018/19* by the German government, a step that will not only bring fresh attention to the historic contributions and achievements of German immigrants, but also highlight the important connections that still exist and continue to grow today. The *Deutschlandjahr USA* initiative will emphasize the German presence in the United States with a variety of projects and events. For more info:

<https://gahmusa.org/>

### **WATCH THESE FILMS ABOUT ROCKVILLE'S 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH PINNEBERG**

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

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

Great work done by Rockville's Channel 11 Television Team!

### **RSCC THANKS ITS NEW (AND RENEWING) MEMBERS FOR 2018**

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!

**Please note if your name is not on this list, your 2018 membership is due. Thank you.**

*Brigitta Mullican*, Membership Chair

#### **Corporate GOLD**

- B.F. Saul Company (Todd Pearson, POC)
- International Travel Consultants Inc. (Gabriele Williams, POC)

#### **Corporate SILVER**

- Westat (Bruce Romer, POC)

#### **Corporate BRONZE**

- Kiwanis Club of Rockville (John Tyner, POC)
- Law Offices of Thomas K. Brown
- REDI (Laurie Boyer, POC)

*(Italics indicate additional contribution. Thank you!)*

#### **FAMILY:**

- Adams, Bruce & Margaret Engel
- Bockstahler, Rotraut & Larry
- Brown, John & Janet
- Conway, Kathleen & Family
- Feinberg, Beryl & Ed
- Freezer, Dennis & Linda
- Funkhouser, Claire & Gary
- Jessen-Klingenberg, Christian & Katharina
- Klein, Barry & Aileen

- Malone, Chris & Bonnie Grimm
- McKee, John & Rita
- McKenna, Tom & Sherri
- Moran, Tom & Carol
- Newton, Fred & Bridget
- Over, Eric & Laurie
- Powell, Drew & Family
- Rodgers, Jack & Pat
- Romer, Bruce & Mary Kay Bowman
- Santiago, Gilbert & Andrea
- Savage, Wayne & Joan
- Yu, Shawn & Family (**new members**)
- Williamson, "Skip" & Caryl McNeilly
- Wright, Bob & Stephanie
- Zhang, Zhen & Xiaobu Ye (**new members**)

#### **INDIVIDUAL:**

- Albrecht, George
- Brown, Marika
- Checkon, Gerri
- Curtis, Tom
- Eckman, Bob
- Fisher, Steve
- Gallelee, Trish
- Huang, Bing
- Jordan, Joe
- Lee, Kuan
- Luckman, Christine
- Lui, Bin (**new member**)
- Michie, Bill
- Moran, Mike
- Mullican, Brigitta
- Thorpe, Sue
- von Kaenel, Liz
- Vuolo, Lois
- Whitaker, Claire

#### **STUDENT:**

- Macomber, Mark
- Macomber, Sean
- Powell, Tyler

#### **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](#).

### **PEERLESS ROCKVILLE 2018 HOMES TOUR THE HISTORIC WEST END**

May 12, 2018 - 1-5 pm

Tickets available soon at [www.peerlessrockville.org](http://www.peerlessrockville.org)  
The 2018 Homes Tour will visit neighborhood homes and gardens and explore their history.

### INTERESTING TIDBITS ON A GERMAN EASTER - BY HANS GEORG BEPLAT (FORMER DAGRP PRESIDENT)

Easter was the spring god of the old Germans called *Ostera* (Old English: *Ēastre*). In many countries it is called Pasha Fest. Because of spring and light, we Germans have the habit of making big fires in the fields. The idea is to burn the winter away and to welcome the light of springtime. There is also a practical reason for these fires. It is the easiest way to get rid of all the branches of the trees that are trimmed in spring. There are many fires around Pinneberg at this time of year. Young men engage in competition to see who can make the biggest Easter fire. They collect the wood ahead of time and they hide it away until the time for the fires. They also protect it so that boys from other villages don't come and take it for their fires. In some areas they combine the Easter fires with open air parties where you can get sausages and beer.....

In many gardens around the area you also find trees decorated with Easter eggs and in the homes there are branches with colored Easter eggs hung from them.



(A German Easter Egg Tree)

Some people play a game called "*Osterei pitchen oder ditchen*" (a slang expression) where two people take hard boiled eggs and they throw the eggs against each other. The person whose egg is cracked loses the game. It is played over and over again and children, especially, love to play it.

We also have an interesting tradition at Eastertime called *Eierabend*. On Holy Saturday the family gets together for a special dinner at which only eggs and potato salad are eaten. The eggs are served in three different ways: boiled, fried and scrambled. You place your order in the kitchen ahead of time, stating how many you want to have of each kind. I was told by my father that in my family the record was somewhere around 12 eggs per person.

(Easter occurs this year on Sunday, April 1, 2018. Its date is determined as follows: In 325CE the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. From that point forward, the Easter date depended on the ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 for the vernal equinox, i.e., the beginning of Spring.)

### QUICKBORN EXCHANGE STUDENT AND HOST FAMILY DINE WITH RSCC PRESIDENT



(L-R) Annette Purves, Kai Purves, Alexander Purves, Drew Powell, Martinique Purves and Milena Koch dine at Match Box, Rockville.

On Wednesday, January 24, 2018, Quickborn, Germany exchange student, **Milena Koch**, her host family and Rockville Sister City President, **Drew Powell**, enjoyed dinner at Match Box, "Vintage Pizza Bistro," in Rockville.

Milena, who is attending Richard Montgomery High School during the 2018 spring semester is staying with the **Purves family** of Potomac; **Annette, Alexander** and their children, **Kai and Martinique**. As it turns out, Annette and Milena's mother, Corinna, have been life-long friends in Germany, hence the connection.

Milena, is an exceptional student from Quickborn, Germany, a town that is just 13 km (8 miles) northeast of Pinneberg, Rockville's Sister City, residing in the German state of Schleswig-Holstein. The Rockville Sister City Corporation had the good fortune of assisting Milena with her application to attend high school in Montgomery County.

On Friday, March 9, 2018, the Rockville Sister City Corporation will honor Milena and her host family, as well as Lena Ousvatova, an intern from the City of Pinneberg, at a reception to be held at Rockville's historic Glenview Mansion. Please see [RSCC's website](#) and page 2 of this newsletter for more information.

<p align="center"><b>Corporate Sponsors - Calendar Year 2018</b>                      The Rockville Sister City Corporation gratefully wishes to acknowledge the following Corporate Sponsors.                      (Sponsor since...)  <b>Please remember our Sponsors in your shopping and professional travels.</b></p>	
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ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION (RSCC)

http://RockvilleSisterCities.org/

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Today's Date: For Calendar Year:

This membership is for the Calendar Year listed above only! (January 1 through December 31)

This is a New Membership or Renewal

Enclosed is my tax deductible yearly contribution (check ONLY ONE box below)

Free Student \$25 Individual \$40 Family \$100 Bronze \$250 Silver \$500 Gold

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

\$ Additional (tax deductible) contribution

\$ Total Enclosed Your Check #

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

OR

Pay by PayPal by clicking here

(Please provide as much info as possible [AS A MINIMUM WHAT YOU ARE PAYING FOR and YOUR E-MAIL OR PHONE #] in the "Comments" box; we will contact you for any missing information)

Please print the following information as applicable to a Student, Individual, Family or Corporate.

Name: Spouse's Name: individual family student (if "family")

Name: Name and title: business (business representative)

Street Address: City: State: ZipCode:

Email Address: (used for RSCC notices and information only)

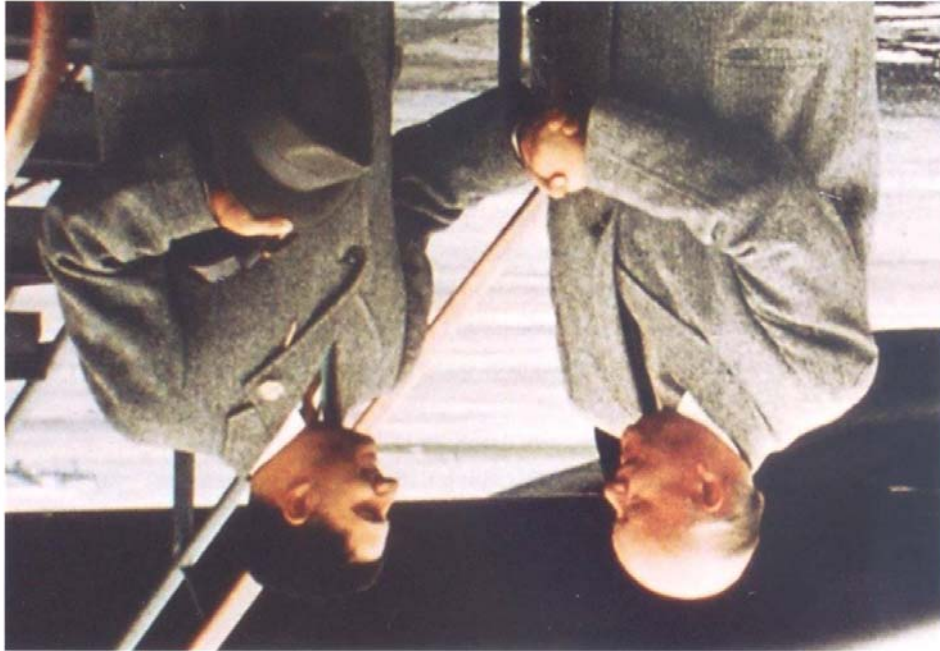
Preferred Phone #: This is my Home or Work or Cell

Please check the areas of your interest and participation below.

- Hosting visitors from Pinneberg Cultural Exchanges
Hosting students from Pinneberg Bicycle Events
Fundraising Events Membership Help
Serving on Board of Directors Wine Tasting Event
Memorial Day Parade Event Serving as Committee Chairperson
Other Interests (List)

Other member comments, suggestions, etc.

*Bürgermeister Henry Glissmann und Dickrun Hovsepian, die Gründerväter der Städtepartnerschaft*



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