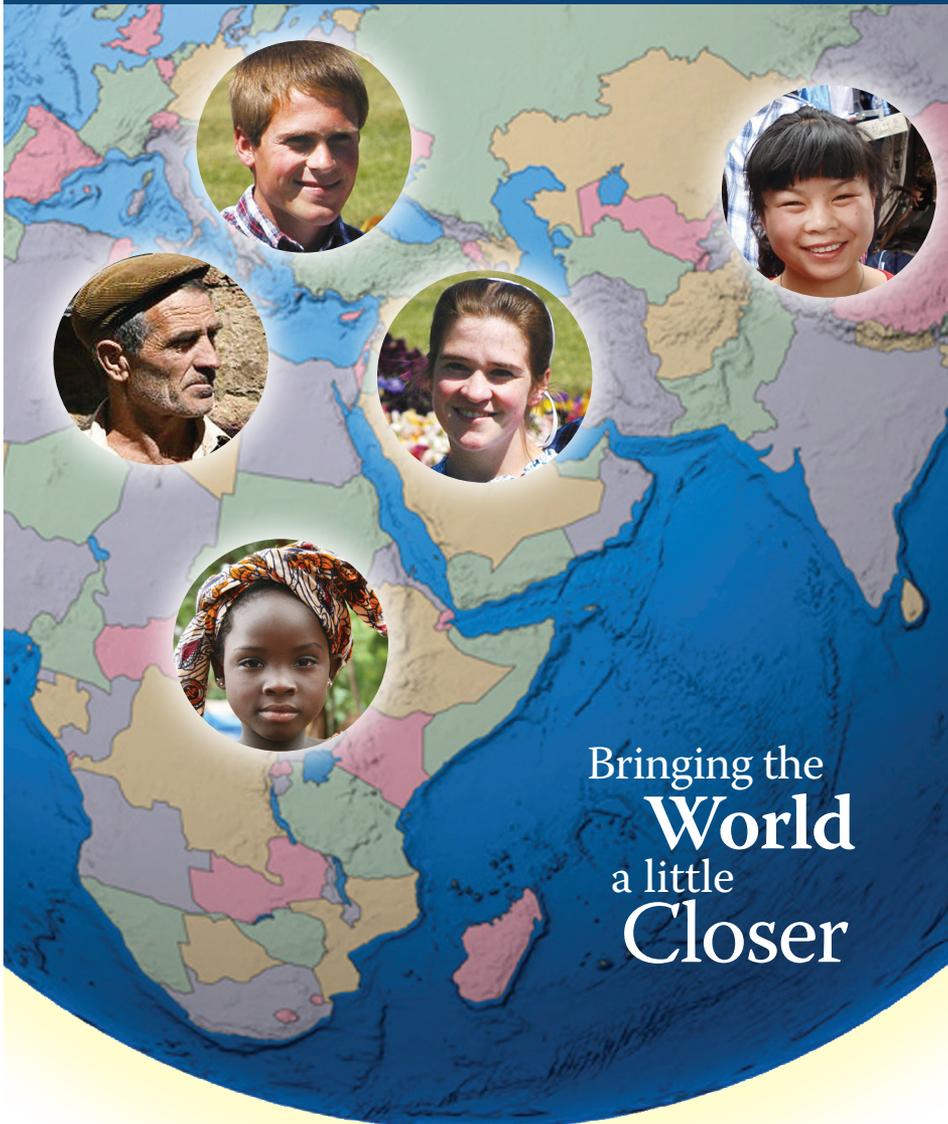




International Sister Cities of Rochester, NY, Inc. 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Bringing the
World
a little
Closer

SIXTY YEARS FOR ROCHESTER'S SISTER CITIES PROGRAM!

2017/2018 has been a busy year for ISCOR. We thank Mayor Lovely A. Warren and the Rochester City Council for their support of Rochester's sister cities program and all the volunteers, institutions and businesses whose work has assured our success this anniversary year.

RENNES: Celebrating 60 years of the Rochester's original sister cities relationship, the committee welcomed a delegation of nine visitors from Rennes in May and sent a delegation of fifteen to Rennes in October. The anniversary visits focused on higher education exchanges and explored the history, culture and city development of each community. In March a group from the Susan B. Anthony Museum & House celebrated International Women's Day in Rennes and helped dedicate its "Susan B. Anthony Square". The committee hosted an American diner breakfast for Rennes college students studying in Rochester and strolled across the Pont de Rennes.

–Hannah Barry, *Chair*

ALYTUS: Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence, we organized a concert to honor Lithuanian partisans who fought the Soviet occupation of their country. Juozas Jakavonis, 92, veteran of the early Soviet era resistance in the Alytus Region, served as guest speaker. Eastman school of Music students, high school students from Alytus and a soloist of Lithuania's National Opera participated in the program. Mayor Warren issued a proclamation honoring Mr. Jakavonis. The concert was live streamed to other Lithuanian communities in U.S., generating much publicity for our Sister Cities tie in the U.S. and in Lithuania.

–Rimas Chesonis, *Chair*

THE BAMAKO Committee followed-up discussions held in 2017 with Bamako Mayor Adama Sangaré's delegation regarding college admissions by providing assistance to Mahalmadane "Abba" Touré, son of Bamako's Director of International Relations, to attend college in Rochester upon attaining the required TOEFL Test Scores for admission. Monroe Community College staff provided excellent support. Association for Teen-Age Diplomats Alumna Altiné Traoré visited in October 2018. Now a German Language Professor at a University in Mali, she visited her ATAD hosts Calvin & Evelyn Hubbard and attended her host sister Yuressa's wedding reception.

–Alicia Ward, *Chair*

THE CALTANISSETTA committee seeks to add university faculty projects to its active high school student exchange program and to advise the AGERICA sister cities organization in Caltanissetta as it seeks to expand Caltanissetta's sister cities program.

–Rosalba Pisaturo, *Chair*

THE HAMAMATSU committee participated in the "Asia-Pacific Heritage Family Day" at the Memorial Art Gallery in May.

–Josephine Perini, *Past-Chair*

THE KRAKÓW committee worked with Polish-American community organizations to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Polish nation and its independence at the end of World War I. The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester and the Kraków committee offered but had to postpone a public workshop for construction of traditional Kraków Christmas Crèches led by Pittsburgh artist David Motok.

–Michael Leach, *Chair*

PUERTO PLATA: The Puerto Plata Rochester Committee has continued to focus on the Fire Fighters Assistance Project, begun several years ago. Two fire trucks are scheduled to be shipped by U.S. Military training flight to Puerto Plata. An application has been approved by the U.S. government Denton Program for shipment of another fire truck, an ambulance and two SUVs donated by American Medical Response, and 13 tons of donated surplus firefighting gear.

–Relton Roland, *Chair*

REHOVOT: Rochester City Council Member Mitch Gruber and his wife Amy called on Rehovot Deputy Mayor Yaniv Markowitz during their visit to Israel in March.

–Daniel Karim, *Chair*

VELIKIY NOVGOROD: In January Linkages co-sponsored a performance of traditional Russian music by the Yale Russian Chorus with the Eastman Community Music School. Linkages also sponsored teacher exchanges as it has for over 25 years. A teacher from Rochester traveled to Novgorod in June to conduct a two-week seminar for teachers of English; in October a teacher of English in Novgorod was selected to come to Rochester for three weeks to learn about the American educational system. Linkages also hosted an Open World delegation this year around the theme of Women Civic and Political Leaders. The group learned about Rochester's historical role in promoting women's rights and met with prominent women leaders, including Mayor Warren.

–Paul Caccamise, *Chair*

THE WATERFORD committee continues to build networks between St. John Fisher College, Nazareth College, RIT and SUNY Brockport with the Waterford Institute of Technology in the fields of Law, Law Enforcement, Nursing and Journalism. St. John Fisher College sponsored an Irish Studies presentation on sustainability delivered by the Irish and Worldwide Sustainability Managers from Bausch and Lomb, a corporate citizen of both cities. The committee also partnered with the Col. Patrick O'Rorke Memorial Society to sponsor the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Irish Rebellion and renovations to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Washington Square Park.

–Tom O'Connell, *Chair*

WÜRZBURG: Five Rochester athletes participated in the 30th Annual Würzburg Residenz 10K Run in April: Tremain Harris and Kendra Hayle of City Recreation and high school students Alona Miller, Di'ajanae Richardson, and Evan Stevely. Judy and Dean Ekberg represented Rochester at the opening of the 2018 Würzburg Mozart Festival. Würzburg cross-country cyclist and former firefighter Jörg Richter visited fire stations and the Golisano Children's Hospital during a Rochester layover as he bicycled from San Francisco to New York City to raise funds for a German Care-for-Rare Foundation for children with rare diseases. We have invited Würzburg runners to participate in the September 2019 Rochester Marathon.

–Dean Ekberg, *Chair*

THE XIANYANG committee has begun plans for a trip to China to develop new opportunities for connections with our Chinese sister city.

–Michael Coniff, *Chair*

60th Anniversary Exhibit at City Hall: Trustee Martha O'Connor produced an exhibit of photographs from the early days and current times of our sister cities relationships. It was mounted in the City Hall Visitors Area.

Submitted by the Executive Committee of the ISCOR Board of Trustees.

Contact Us:

For more information about ISCOR, call (585) 428-7045
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Or write to:

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