



International Sister Cities of Rochester, NY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Bringing the
World
a little
Closer

ISCOR's 2014/2015 year *has been full of activities that have benefited Rochester and its sister cities:*

RENNES: The Rennes-Rochester Committee has supported student exchanges involving more than 150 students at the university and high school levels. RIT and Nazareth College have significantly expanded their programs. A group of Breton singers and musicians stopped in Rochester as part of their “Fete de la Bretagne”, cross-country tour, and the committee took part in poetry and story readings at Nazareth College. The highlight for the year was the visit of a delegation headed by Deputy Mayor for International Relations Jocelyne Bougeard. Mr. Martial Delaire, head of Rennes’ Physical Therapy Institute, signed an exchange agreement with Nazareth College’s physical therapy program. —Raymond Griswold, *Chair*

WÜRZBURG: A very successful October 2014 visit by Lord Mayor Christian Schurchardt’s delegation from Würzburg was followed in November by a warmly received delegation from Rochester led by Mayor Lovely Warren. Dean and Judy Ekberg represented the City of Rochester at the 2015 Würzburg Mozartfest. Plans are progressing for the Eastman School of Music students to perform at the 2016 Mozartfest, supported by a grant from the Kilian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Foundation. A Würzburg high school student participated in each of the 2014/15 and 2015/16 exchanges sponsored by the Association for Teen-Age Diplomats. —Dean Ekberg, *Chair*

CALTANISSETTA: The 50th Anniversary of the Caltanissetta-Rochester relationship was marked by the visit of a delegation of 15 led by Mayor Giovanni Ruvolo. Mayor Lovely Warren will lead a Rochester delegation to Caltanissetta for Easter Week 2016, kicking off the next 50 years of exchange.

REHOVOT: Following a July meeting of Orna Korn of Rochester with officials in Rehovot, Mayor Lovely Warren, and ISCOR President and City Councilmember Carolee A. Conklin led a five-member delegation to Rehovot during the latter part of October to reinvigorate the Rochester-Rehovot sister cities connection. Deputy Mayor Yaniv Markowitz and Havayot Community Centers CEO Adi Deutsch are reciprocating the visit at the time of this report. —Daniel Karin, *Chair*

KRAKÓW: The Kraków committee continues to work with Polish-American community organizations to support a variety of relationships with Kraków. The vigorous ones between the medical schools at the University of Rochester and the Jagiellonian University, and the U of R’s Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies and the UJ’s political science and history departments relationship function independently. The committee works with the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester to support the PHSR’s public Christmas Eve dinner celebration, “Wigilia” and Easter Egg Decoration Workshop which continue to introduce the public to Polish and Kraków traditions. —Michael Leach, *Chair*

BAMAKO: Now in the 40th year of the Bamako-Rochester relationship, the committee has transitioned from the 10-year leadership by Clyde Forbes to that of long-time supporter Alicia Ward. It has assisted former Peace Corps volunteer Matthew Heberger obtain publicity and a grant from the Webster/Penfield Rotary Club to help finance his Dokotoro Project’s production of a Bamabara translation of the basic healthcare manual “Where There Is No Doctor”. —submitted by Alicia Ward

WATERFORD: St. John Fisher College and the Waterford Institute of Technology are strengthening exchanges in nursing, business, history and journalism. The committee participated in the 2015 rededication of the O’Rorke Memorial Bridge. 2016 will bring a Rochester-Waterford regional business development symposium, and a March/April

presentation of O’Neill’s “A Moon for the Misbegotten” by Rochester’s GEVA Theater in cooperation with the Waterford Theatre Royal. —Tom O’Connell, *Chair*

VELIKIY NOVGOROD: The 25th anniversary of the signing of a formal Sister City agreement in 1990 between Rochester and Velikiy Novgorod, led by Linkages of Rochester, was marked by a May visit by a Rochester delegation of five led by Linkages President Paul Caccamise and City Councilmember and ISCOR President Carolee Conklin. The visit coincided with the City’s observance of the 70th anniversary of World War II Victory Day (May 9) and included planting a lilac bush from Rochester in Novgorod’s Lilac Garden. Two local English teachers, Loretta Konecny and Hannah Burley, conducted a two week seminar in Velikiy Novgorod for teachers of English in the region, marking the 20th year of this project. Linkages is concluding a year-long exchange on domestic violence issues in both Russia and the U.S. sponsored by a Peer to Peer Dialogue grant awarded to Linkages by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in 2014. Linkages is also the recipient of an Open World grant to bring a delegation of substance abuse service professionals to Rochester from Novgorod in October.

—Paul Caccamise, *Chair*

HAMAMATSU: The committee participated in the “Asian Pacific American Heritage Family Day” at the Memorial Art Gallery in May. It has set new development goals to establish student exchanges, sponsor a “Japanese Day” event with RIT and collaborate with the RIT Japanese Club. It is developing plans to observe the 20th anniversary of the Hamamatsu relationship in 2016.

—Yuko Matsuda, *Chair*

PUERTO PLATA: The Puerto Plata Rochester Committee has continued to focus on the Fire Fighters Project, begun several years ago. Even as we were delivering the first shipment of 20,000 pounds of firefighting equipment and an ambulance, donated by Rural Metro Ambulance, additional materials and supplies were being donated locally by a wide variety of fire departments. We hope to deliver another 10 tons of equipment and four donated Rural Metro vehicles in the spring of 2016.

—Relton Roland, *Chair*

XIANYANG: The Xianyang committee connected two elementary schools, the Neil Armstrong School in Gates and Xianyang Elementary School, in an exchange of videos about their respective schools and the daily life of an elementary school student. It was quite interesting and exciting to see the differences and similarities between schools.

—Michael Coniff, *Chair*

ALYTUS: This spring, Committee Vice-Chairman Prof. Algis Bulsys taught a two-week course to graduating students at Alytus College. Committee Chairman Rimas Chesonis visited Alytus this summer during the Alytus City Days and established many new contacts for future projects. Committee member Jan Naujokas organized a major shipment of clothes to the nursing home of senior citizens in Alytus and 93 shoe boxes of Christmas gifts for the local orphanage.

—Rimas Chesonis, *Chair*

CITIES OF LITERATURE: 70 people attended the “Cities of Literature” poetry and literature readings produced by Hannah Barry and presented by students and volunteer supporters of each of our sister cities committees at the Rundel Library in May.

THREE ANNIVERSARIES EXHIBIT: Martha O’Connor of the ISCOR Board prepared an exhibit of artifacts and memorabilia in the Visitors Area of City Hall, commemorating the major anniversaries of the Bamako (40 yr.), Caltanissetta (50 yr.), and Velikiy Novgorod (25 yr.) relationships.

We’re looking forward to an equally exciting 2015/2016 year!

Submitted by the Executive Committee of the ISCOR Board of Trustees

Contact Us:

For more information about ISCOR, call (585) 428-7045
or visit www.cityofrochester.gov/sistercities

Or write to:

International Sister Cities of Rochester, Inc.

Lovely A. Warren, Mayor
City Hall, 30 Church St., Rm. 308A
Rochester, NY 14614

Follow us:

 www.facebook.com/ISCORnews

 Twitter: @ISCORnews

Board of Trustees

Lovely A. Warren, <i>Mayor</i>	Kathleen Hansen
Carolee A. Conklin, <i>President</i>	Nancy Huppert, <i>Ex-Officio</i>
Leslie J. Knox, Jr., <i>Ph.D., Vice-President</i>	Lee Johnson, <i>Ex-Officio</i>
Kevin Loughran, <i>Secretary</i>	Kim Jones
Michael Leach, <i>Treasurer, Kraków</i>	Daniel Karin, <i>Ph.D., Rehovot</i>
Hannah Barry	Yuko Matsuda, <i>Hamamatsu</i>
Paul Caccamise, <i>Velikiy Novgorod</i>	Katarzyna Murphy
Rimas Chesonis, <i>Alytus</i>	Thomas O'Connell, <i>Waterford</i>
Michael Coniff, <i>Xianyang</i>	Martha J. O'Connor
Patricia Donoghue	Rosalba Pisaturo, <i>Caltanissetta</i>
Dean Ekberg, <i>Würzburg</i>	Relton Roland, <i>Puerto Plata</i>
Maria Thomas Fisher	Patricia Uttaro
Lois Giess	Alicia Ward, <i>Bamako</i>
Raymond Griswold, <i>Rennes</i>	

