

INTERNATIONAL SISTER CITIES OF ROCHESTER NEWS

Volume 18, Issue 2

Fall 2008

50th Anniversary in Rennes

Fifty years old and still going strong! Rennes and Rochester have seen an uninterrupted flow of exchanges in all areas of life for over a half a century now. In Rennes, for example, "Rochester" has become a household word and everyone seems to know someone from Rochester.

A half century after Mayor Peter Barry and several other prominent Rochester citizens first journeyed to Rennes, returning the opening visit by Mayor Henri Fréville, Mayor Bob Duffy led a delegation of 36 Rochester citizens to Rennes in October 2008, returning Mayor Daniel Deleveau's May 2008 visit. The American delegation was offered a diverse program of seminars, historical visitations, business and economical seminars, political discussions, musical performances and the opportunity to experi-

ence fine French dining and wines. At the end of the celebratory week the Americans stopped off for two days in Paris.

The hardworking volunteers of the sister cities committees, led by chairpersons Terry Mathews-DeSant in Rochester and Eric Beaty in Rennes, carry out exchanges that involve an average of 300-400 citizens crossing the Atlantic Ocean each year to participate in some sort of a Rennes-Rochester activity. There are presently, nine Rochester area high schools exchanges with Rennes, matched up with seven Lycées (high schools) in Rennes. The Rochester area schools involved are Aquinas, Brighton, Brockport, East Irondequoit, Marcus Whitman, Pittsford-

(Continued on page 3)

Puerto Plata Delegation Visits



Mayors Duffy and Musa reaffirm Puerto Plata-Rochester Sister Cities agreement. Photo by David Mohny, City of Rochester.

Mayor Walter Musa of Puerto Plata led a 11-member delegation to Rochester in late July, renewing acquaintances and the sister cities agreement. See Relton Roland's "Moving Forward" report, page 8.

Regional Partnership Initiated with New Juaben, Ghana

The City of Rochester and the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce have entered agreements with the Municipal Council of the New Juaben Traditional Area of



l-r, Carl Lutz, MCE Kwasi Adjei, Daasebre Oti Boateng, Mayor Duffy sign regional cooperation agreements. Victor Berko-Boateng, rear. Photo Mohny

Ghana to develop a New Juaben/Genesee Valley regional partnership on the sister cities model. Mayor Duffy designated International Sister Cities of Rochester as his representative to develop the regional relationship.

(Continued on page 9, Ghana)

From the President's Desk



As we begin celebrating the 50th anniversary of International Sister Cities of Rochester (ISCOR) we have much to celebrate. As most of you are already aware, our most senior sister city committee, the Rennes Rochester Sister City Committee, has had an amazing year. And the Waterford Rochester Sister Cities Committee, celebrating its 25th anniversary has also had a great year. In both of those cases, Mayor Duffy led delegations to Europe to mark those significant anniversaries.

And beyond those two, our other sister cities are also doing very well. For example, Puerto Plata is thriving once again. Last spring they welcomed the Mayor, several City Council members and businessmen from Puerto Plata. I was a part of those activities and can report that the Rochester Puerto Plata relationship is quite healthy. Linkages continues to coordinate regular activities with Velikiy Novgorod, and Rochester representatives recently attended a music festival in Würzburg. In late December this year, the Mayor of Caltanissetta, Italy, will pay a visit to Rochester.

Many of the major activities involving our sister cities span more than one year. You may well recall the 35th anniversary celebration of the Rehovot Rochester Sister City Committee last year as well as the visitors from Bamako, Mali. And who could forget the ninety-person delegation of the Hamamatsu Junior Orchestra and their magnificent concert at the Hochstein Music School? Presently, our brand new sister city committee, the Xianyang Rochester Sister Cities Committee is working very hard right now trying to bring an incredible exhibit to Rochester. If they are successful, we can look forward to having some of the ancient Chinese Terra Cotta Warriors on display right here in Rochester. And the Krakow Rochester Sister City Committee is working towards bringing a major art exhibit to Rochester, perhaps sometime in the next two years.

So, I think we can be very proud of the activities of our sister cities.

This year has also seen the strengthening of relationships with area colleges and universities. I won't go into great detail, but, in addition to the long-running support of the University of Rochester, and the strong support of Nazareth College of Rochester, especially through the office of President Braveman and the Center for International

Education, we have strengthened existing or developed new connections with the Rochester Institute of Technology and Saint John Fisher College. This fall President Bain from Fisher travelled to Waterford to examine a possible sister college relationship, and President Destler of RIT will travel to Hamamatsu in December and represent Mayor Duffy as he explores future relationships there.



But telling you all this is kind of "preaching to the choir." Each of these many activities owes its success to your hard work and contributions, both in time and money. When we consider citizen diplomacy efforts, and that is what we are all about, the critical factor is the citizen diplomat.

Just last month, on October 23rd, ISCOR, in concert with the Rochester International Council, the United Nations Association of Rochester, and the International Business Council, sponsored a Summit on Citizen Diplomacy at the RIT Conference Center in Henrietta. The goal of this summit was to share skills and strategies for improving global business and intercultural relations and to raise local awareness of the value and importance of citizen diplomacy by bringing together members of the business, academic, non-profit, and international exchange communities. The keynote speaker at the Summit was author Dick Martin, former CEO of AT&T. In 2007 he authored a book, *Rebuilding Brand America*. In preparation for the Summit, I read his book. I want to share a passage from that book with all of you. Dick Martin wrote, "The most powerful tools of public diplomacy have been the tools of engagement – a two-way conversation that is open-ended by design. For example, educational and cultural exchanges build mutual trust and understanding over time. They take longer, but their effect is deeper."

(Continued on page 10, President's Message)

Coming Events

Dec. 7-Jan. 24, Kraków Christmas Creche exhibit at City Hall, 9AM-5PM. Reception Jan. 14, 5:30PM; RSVP 428-7319.

Jan. 8, 7:30 PM, Music of Russian Artists and Composers, Kilbourn Hall, info how-spin@earthlink.net

Mar. 14, 12:30pm, St. Patrick's Day Parade, downtown starting on East Avenue, going to Main Street and ending at Plymouth Avenue. (585) 234-5167



(Continued from page 1)

Sutherland, Pittsford-Mendon, Livonia, and Honeoye. Each of these schools has been involved in a 50th anniversary exchange in 2008.

At the University and colleges levels, there are four on-going exchanges involving the University of Rochester and Nazareth College working with the University of Rennes II; Rochester Institute of Technology working with the National Institute of Applied Sciences; and the UofR's French study-abroad program, held each summer in Rennes at the Franco-American Institute (1985-2008).



Mayor Duffy autographing napkins, paper scraps, arms, plaster casts, palms, etc., at Jean Zay Elementary School. Photo by T Mathews-Desant

The American and the French Sister Cities committees have sponsored many other kinds of exchanges. There have been medical, dental, cultural, governmental, musical, art, photography, professional sports, architectural and business exchanges. There have been exchanges between citizens who are physically challenged, as well as with those who are non-hearing. Many of our exchanges have resulted in international marriages or in citizens taking up permanent residence in the foreign land, but for those of us who always return home, we have not lost touch with our friends in Rennes but have, in fact, added them to our list of extended family members.

During my 50 year involvement with Rochester's oldest Sister City, I can honestly say that it has been a joy for me to have been able to develop opportunities for so many young students and adults to go abroad and to learn more about our French friends in Rennes, France.

Submitted by Terry Mathews-DeSant

[See the Spring 2008 issue for stories about the visit of Mayor Delaveau's delegation and about the Rochester youth basketball teams' successes in the Rennes International Basketball Tournament. --Ed.]

"Images of Rochester" Exhibit by Rochester Artists.

As part of the 50th anniversary of the Rochester Rennes celebration, there was an exhibition of photographs at the Franco American Institute gifted by the artistic community of Rochester to the city of Rennes when their delegation visited in the Spring. Four of the thirty two exhibiting artists were honored to be part of this October delegation: Sally Wood-Winslow, Deborah Johnson, Charles Brian Peterson, and Martha J. O'Connor.

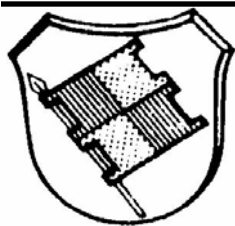


Sally Wood-Winslow and Martha J. O'Connor In front of O'Connor's photo

The reception came early in a busy week touring Rennes. Hundreds greeted our evening arrival at the Franco American Institute's Exhibition Gallery, right in the heart of town. What a sight to behold! The "Images from Rochester" were beautifully installed in a single row filling the gallery's crisp white walls. Visitors toasted the fine display with champagne. Hors d'oeuvres were shared and local chef Freddy Micault prepared sweet and salty crepes throughout the evening.

Submitted by Sally Wood-Winslow

[See Ray Griswold's report on plans to develop further sports exchanges in "Sports," page 9. Ed.]



WÜRZBURG - ROCHESTER 1964

Anniversary Plans Developing.

Rochester and Würzburg will celebrate the 45th anniversary of Rochester's second sister cities relationship in 2009. Planners in both cities are coordinating schedules, looking ahead to such events as the Lilac Festival and 4th of July celebrations in Rochester and the Mozart Fest in Würzburg (June). Stay tuned!

A great big "Thanks!" Dan and Susan Hoffman and the Irondequoit Soccer Club for hosting yet another successful soccer exchange! See the sports section for a report and photos from this year's tournament.

Wishing everyone Frohe Festtage und alles Gute zum neuen Jahr! (Look it up!)



BAMAKO - ROCHESTER 1975

"Visual Griots of Mali" Exhibit

The Rochester Public Library will host the "Visual Griots of Mali" Art Exhibition for 12 weeks from mid-September to mid-November 2009. The exhibit of black-and-white photographs, first housed at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, highlights the work of 22 students ages 10 through 16, in images that illustrate contemporary rural life in Mali.

Sample photos are shown at http://presentmagazine.com/full_content.php?article_id=656&full=yes&pbr=1

The Bamako Committee has worked for more than two years to bring this exhibit to Rochester. It has been a challenge arranging a venue because of the lengthy lead times required by galleries and the requirement for the space to be accessible both to the general public and RCSD children.

For more information on the Bamako Rochester Sister Cities Committee, call Clyde Forbes at 436-8656.



CALTANISSETTA - ROCHESTER 1965

Mayor Messina Visits Rochester

Mayor Salvatore Messina of Caltanissetta is making a brief visit to New York City and Rochester on December 29th-30th. He will visit his son, Francesco, currently an ATAD exchange student at McQuaid Jesuit High School, hosted by the family of Thomas and Joyce Greiner, who also have two boys at McQuaid. The Caltanissetta committee and Mayor Duffy will greet him at a City Hall reception.

Submitted by Rosalba Pisaturo



REHOVOT - ROCHESTER 1972

*Wishing you all a
Happy Hanukkah
and a wonderful New Year!*

Jewish Art.org tells us that "the origin of Hanukkah is based on events that happened hundreds of years ago. In those days, Antiochus, king of the Greeks, attempted to force all the Jewish people under his reign to follow the Greek religion. The Jews rebelled under the leadership of Judah Maccabee. They fought for three years until finally they drove the Greek soldiers away...."



"To celebrate their victory, the Jews wanted to rededicate the Jerusalem temple by lighting the Menorah. But they could only find oil to last for one day. Miraculously, this small amount of oil lasted for eight days; just long enough to make new oil. We celebrate this great miracle until today...."

"Hanukkah, which is also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated in the Hebrew month of Kislev, that usually occurs in mid to late December. The celebrations go on for eight great days and revolve mainly around the tradition of lighting the menorah (or the Hanukiah as it's called in Hebrew)."

Find out more at <http://www.jewish-art.org/hanukkah.html>

KRAKOW - ROCHESTER 1973

**Krakow Creche
Exhibit at City Hall
Thru Jan. 24th**

The Kraków-Rochester Sister Cities Committee will host an exhibit of Christmas crèches made in the style of the traditional "szopki" made each year in Kraków. The exhibit will be in the City Hall Visitors Area, open to the public from 9AM-5PM, M-F (admission free, handicapped accessible). A public reception is scheduled for January 14th, 5:30PM.



John and Anna Weldy, 2007

The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester sponsored its second public workshop for construction of szopki, at the Rochester Museum & Science Center in October. Fifteen multi-generational teams participated, under the tutelage of Pittsburgh artist David

Motok. A total of 30 szopki have been produced to date, and we hope that the Kraków tradition will take hold here, perhaps with Rochester variations.

The Polish Heritage Society is taking reservations for the Oct. 24-25, 2009, workshop. It is open to participants of all

backgrounds—a team need only be ready and willing. Funding to underwrite production costs is also being sought. Contact Ilona Frederick, 585-474-0986, Ilo-naNAnne@gmail.com if you would like to register for or help underwrite the workshop.

See the szopki in color at the PHSR website:
<http://www.polishheritagerochester.org/szopka.aspx>

Submitted by Michael Leach



Cunningham family at work, 2008 Workshop.



Agnieszka Empel decorating tower.

EU Commission Grant Application

Thank you, Erin and Laurie!!



ISCOR extends a huge THANK YOU to Erin Cole of the V. Novgorod committee and Laurie DeRoller of the International Business Council for ramrodding an application for a grant of up to €100,000 from the European Commission.

In August Erin, studying for her masters degree at Syracuse University, learned of the opportunity for international organizations to apply for grants to fund projects that would improve awareness and understanding of the European Union in the US. Laurie offered to have the IBC be the lead agency to apply for and administer the grant. They invited the Center for International Education at Nazareth College and the committees for our sister cities located in the EU to apply. Erin and Laurie pulled together the materials prepared by the team and submitted the application in mid-September. Our application was not successful, but the reviewers gave constructive, positive comments to help us in future applications. Erin and Laurie did great work leading the team and assembling the application in spite of the short notice. Those of us who participated appreciate their advice, enthusiasm, and hard work very much! —MDL



WATERFORD - ROCHESTER 1983

The Irish are coming!

Plunkett O'Brien's award winning troupe of young entertainers, are coming to Rochester to join us in celebrating in our St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14th. These are the same young men & women who entertained the Rochester Delegation at our reception in Waterford. Their performance schedule is being developed. Contact Burke McCarthy at for more information or to help (585-924-6366 or burke@retrotech.com). [Ted McGraw features them and their friends occasionally on the "Irish Party House," Sundays, 88.5FM, 11AM-noon. —Editor]

St. Patrick's Day Parade Week. The Waterford committee will be supporting the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. In 2009, it will become a "Parade Weekend" as the Parade Committee, Clarion Riverside Hotel and the Rochester Amerks have joined efforts to offer a "Play and Stay" package Friday night that includes tickets to "Irish Night with the Amerks", Irish entertainment at the Blue Cross Arena and following the game at the Clarion Hotel, lodging, parade t-shirts, breakfast for two, all for \$149. The teams organizing this Irish Night and the Celtic Faire as charitable events have designated the Waterford ISCOR Committee as the beneficiary, to support our worthy endeavors. The Parade Committee also invites the ISCOR Committees to join us again at the Parade and bring all your International Flags to show Rochester what we have to offer! Sign up or check for details on out soon to be unveiled update of the website



SJF Pres. Bain and WIT Prof. Byrne

St. John Fisher – Waterford Institute of Technology Partnering Efforts St. John Fisher College President, Dr. Donald Bain, met with several Waterford area business leaders on a recent visit to Ireland. These meetings included visits with Monica Leech, Chief Executive Officer, Waterford Chamber of Commerce; Frank O'Regan, Vice President,

Global Operations Europe, Bausch & Lomb; and, Professor Kieran Byrne, Director, Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT). During their working lunch meeting at WIT, Dr. Bain and Professor Byrne discussed possible areas of partnership between their respective institutions of higher education. This is an important step in creating a partnering relationship between SJF and WIT, that hopefully leads to the exchange of students, faculty, curriculum, open up intern opportunities and even aiming higher, multi-national Nursing Degrees.

John Kavanaugh and Patricia O'Reilly Recognized for WRSCC leadership. On November 20th, at our Annual ISCOR Reception, our founding Chairman and leader for 25 years, John Kavanaugh was honored for his service to the



l-r, Lee Johnson, Pat O'Reilly, John Kavanaugh, Debbie O'Connell, Bob Duffy; front Tom O'Connell. Photo by Jeff Mills

committee and to the ISCOR Board. His many years of leadership and encouragement that have carried us to this juncture. Patricia O'Reilly, who assisted John in this role since 1999, was also honored.

Respects for a dear friend The Waterford Committee also sends our respects and prayers to the family of our great friend from Waterford, Dick Fanning, Superintendent of the Waterford Marina. He was also one of Waterford's representatives who visited us in 2007 and was our guide and constant companion on our trip to Waterford in May 2008. Dick exhibited all the graceful qualities of an Irish gentleman. He was immediately your friend and would look to take care of your every need. He was a great Ambassador as well as dedicated public servant and family man.

Submitted by Tom O'Connell



VELIKIY NOVGOROD-ROCHESTER 1990

Baskets from V. Novgorod at High Falls Gallery



Basket by Vladimir Yarish, V. Novgorod

From October through December 21, Linkages partnered with High Falls Fine Art Gallery, 60 Browns Race, to mount an exhibit of birch baskets created by an internationally recognized basket weaver Vladimir

Yarish from Velikiy Novgorod. A celebrated basket weaver, basketry scholar and teacher in V. Novgorod, Yarish displayed 21 of his works at the gallery.

Yarish is the master craftsman of a basketry studio in Novgorod with 40 artisan/student members. Trained as a musician, Vladimir graduated from St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts in 1980. He began making birch bark baskets in 1984 after having been shown how by a friend. The exhibit included such traditional pieces as nesting dishes, salt cellars in the form of ducks, canisters for liquids, a necklace, and rattles.

Yarish was in the US in October to conduct classes in basket making in various sites around the country and to present workshops at a national basket weavers' conference in Michigan.

Submitted by Paul Caccamise

And Ye Editor learned of a thank you for another exhibit:

Dear Paul: Thank you for participating in the Memorial Art Gallery's Russian Family Day celebration on November 16. The event was a tremendous success and attracted 1,532 visitors. Visitors were impressed with the range of activities and even more impressed with the quality of work presented. Please extend my thanks to the other

(Continued on page 8)



HAMAMATSU - ROCHESTER 1996

With no mayors traveling in either direction over the Pacific Ocean lately, HRSCC has been rather quiet, but we have broken the silence with two wonderful meetings, both held at our members' houses. And before we knew it, things were heating up again.

On November 10th the Society for Chamber Music in Rochester, chaired by HRSCC member Dr. Edna Claunch, hosted a Jon Nakamatsu concert at Hochstein Music School. Jon is the Gold Medal winner of the 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. HRSCC provided a gift and became a small part of this fantastic concert of piano, clarinet, and several string instruments.

On November 17th Junko M. Mills (Chairperson) and Maurine Johnson (Vice-chairperson) met with the representatives of RIT, helping them prepare to visit Hamamatsu on December 9th. President William Destler, Ms. Lisa Cauda (VP for Development and Alumni Relations) and Dr. Pengcheng Shi (Professor and Director of the Ph.D. program in Computing and Information Sciences) will carry a letter from Mayor Duffy to Mayor Yasutomo Suzuki of Hamamatsu. Junko and Maurine are convinced that the meeting prepared the RIT delegation to be fully ready to represent Rochester and its citizens with élan!

From November 19th to 21st, Mr. Takashi Daito (Assistant Director, Japan Local Government Center, NYC Office) visited us. Takashi is a staff member of the International Affairs Division of Hamamatsu City Hall. He conducted research interviews for his bilingual education research project. He met with Mr. Jay Piper, Director of the ESOL Program for the Rochester City School District and visited classrooms for second language learners at both The Children's School and Monroe High School. In addition, HRSCC provided the tours of Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester Medical Center, and George Eastman House. Takashi also



Takashi Daito at Annual Reception. J. Mills *(Continued on page 11)*



PUERTO PLATA - ROCHESTER 1997

Moving Forward

On July 29, 2008, the Mayor Walter Musa, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, led an official delegation of 11 city officials, legislators, and business people from Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, on his first visit to Rochester. At a City Hall reception hosted by Mayor Duffy, the mayors re-affirmed the 1997 sister cities agreement between Rochester and Puerto Plata. The delegation visited Niagara Falls, and Nazareth College and Monroe Community College. Mayor of Lima, NY, Carl Luft and his wife Christine, founders of the Dominican



PP Delegation, PP-R committee, and Dominican Hope donors at picnic in Lima.

Hope Foundation in Lima, hosted a picnic for the delegation, a tour of Lima construction company Superior Walls and the Ambulance Services Unit of Lima. The picnic provided lots of positive relationship building between Puerto Plata, Rochester, and Lima, and support for Dominican Hope Foundation's project to construct an elementary school in Puerto Plata.

President Daan Braveman of Nazareth College hosted a luncheon and made a presentation of college's programs and the role the college plays in the community and the world. Some delegation members expressed interest in nursing program, and possible opportunities in Puerto Plata for Nazareth internships and study abroad slots. Mario Martinez, Arts & Cultural Sub-committee Chair, organized the event at Nazareth.

Joann Santos, Director of the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program, and Diane Cecero, President's Division/ Diversity Council, hosted a tour of Monroe Community College campus, including the student's technology room and the state-of-the-arts Nursing Department. The delegation was interested in technical training and certification programs such as construction inspection, hotel, restau-

rant management and tourism and opportunities for potential partnership relations.

The delegation's visit culminated with a dinner hosted by Mayor Robert Duffy at the High Falls, Rochester, NY.

There are many opportunities for people in the Rochester area to get involved in the Puerto Plata connection. Some of the opportunities include travel to Puerto Plata in 2009; business connections; technical assistance in city public safety and public works, assessment/taxation staff, and tourism industry support; student exchange; and opportunities to develop agreements between MCC, Nazareth College, and Puerto Plata Schools for Internet access to online materials.

The Puerto Plata-Rochester Sister Cities Committee invites you to become a volunteer promoting citizen diplomacy, by connecting with Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, with initiatives, such as supporting the Dominican Hope construction of a school in Puerto Plata, business exchange/connections that will benefit both cities, tourism, music and the arts and many other opportunities.

Thanks to Mayor Robert Duffy and to all who helped in making the delegation feel welcome to Rochester

Submitted by Relton Roland

(Continued from page 7, V. Novgorod)



Photo by Gary Graham, courtesy of MAG

members of Linkages, Inc. We are grateful for the support that you and your committee offered in promoting the event....

Sincerely,
Debora McDell-Hernandez, Coordinator of Community Programs and Outreach, Memorial Art Gallery

SPORTS

Annual Waterford-Rochester Sister Cities Charity

Golf Tournament. Planning has started for the 22nd annual charity golf tournament that has raised nearly \$500,000 for Waterford and Rochester. Corporate sponsors as well as golfers are needed. It will be held in Rochester this year on May 29th at Ravenwood Golf Course in Victor. Contact Burke McCarthy If you would like to participate as a sponsor, golfer, or in some support capacity. Visit the tournament website for information about the developing plans: www.rochesterwaterford.com/home.html

The Irondequoit Soccer Club hosted 30 young players of two **Würzburg teams** August for tours and a tournament on August 8th at McAvoy Field. The games were well



Würzburg (white) and Irondequoit (blue) boys teams at official tournament.



Würzburg (white) and Irondequoit (blue) girls teams at official tournament.

attended by enthusiastic fans; all teams won from their time together. Thanks to Susan and Dan Hoffman and the

Irondequoit Soccer Club!

Rennes Connections Plus!

Ray Griswold, Sports Coordinator, Rennes-Rochester Sister City Committee, writes:
A' tout le monde,

While I was in Rennes with the Rochester delegation in October, I met several people that could advance our exchanges significantly. I met a wonderful group of marathoners at Segre's "kayakathon." After pulling seven clicks in a kayak, I handed off to my host who ran the next seven. They all had experience, having run the Berlin marathon last year and all were in training for the Vienna marathon this year. They would love to run a marathon in the United States.

Later on in the week, I sat down with the Sports Director for the City of Rennes and we discussed strategy for future exchanges. His office helps sports clubs throughout the area develop their activities, including overseas exchanges. Over the last sixteen years, for example, Rochester has been represented by over 10 boys and girls basketball teams at various basketball tournaments. There are like organizations in Rennes that together could develop the programs for soccer, basketball, fencing, judo, baseball and infinitum could be constructed and maintained. In addition, we have begun constructing the framework for people to benefit from over fifty years of goodwill by exchanging houses with families over in France. We already have people on both sides of the Atlantic ready to take part.

To help develop these, to learn more or to stay abreast of this, feel free to contact me at 264-0232 or rgris7152@aol.com. A' bientot!

(Continued from page 1, Ghana)

Culminating two years of correspondence, local meetings, and delegation exchanges, on July 31, 2008, Mayor Duffy, Livingston Co. Chamber of Commerce President Carl Lutz, Daasebre Professor Emmanuel Oti Boateng, Omanhene (paramount chief) of the Ashanti people of the Eastern Region of Ghana, and Municipal Chief Executive Kwasi Adjei signed agreements at Rochester City Hall to develop the partnership.

Hosted by Victor Berko-Boateng, President of the Rochester Association of Ghanaians and Friends, the five-member delegation visited many institutions, including waste-to-energy Covanta Corp. of Niagara Falls; the Livingston County Fair and local farms; SUNY Geneseo; the newly-opened Frederick Douglass Resource Center, George East-

man House, and Garth Fagan Dance. The International Business Council hosted an economic forum.

Supporters of the developing New Juaben/Genesee Valley connection are led by Victor Berko-Boateng and include representatives of various communities and institutions in our region, including ISCOR. Victor has just led a second local group for a recent visit to Ghana. Several who remained behind held a community dinner as a local celebration of the Akwantukese migration festival of New Juaben's Ashanti people.

For further information about the New Juaben/Genesee Valley connection, contact Michael Leach, 428-7319, or Victor Berko Boateng, 377-7503.

(Continued from page 2, President's Message)

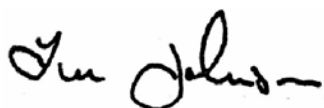
That statement reflects much of what we do through Sister Cities, and why, I think, our programs are so strong. But there is a reality we must consider. No matter what your political beliefs are, I think we all recognize that the international reputation of the United States of America has suffered during recent years. Since 9/11 we have had the invasion and occupation of Iraq, the establishment of the prison at Guantanamo, cases of torture and rendition, and accidental bombings of civilians in several countries. At no previous time during our lifetimes has our country's image around the world seemed so negative. As I watched the Republican and Democrat conventions this past summer, I was particularly struck by a comment made by former President Clinton. To paraphrase him, he said that America used to be known worldwide for the power of its image, not the image of its power.

Yet, on our recent sister cities trips: Rennes, Waterford, Wurzburg, Puerto Plata, Xianyang; our international friends continued to honor us with their trust, their friendship and their love. I think that this speaks volumes about the power of citizen diplomacy and the sister city movement. In his book, *The World Is Flat* (another book I read this year), Thomas Friedman includes a statement by Dov Seidman, Founder of LRN, the company that provides ethics and governance advice for global corporations. He said, "Having an abundance of trust is essential in a world of collaboration, because the more people trust each other, or their leaders, the more likely they are to work well together."

Sister Cities is not a political organization. I am certain that ISCOR members represent virtually all political persuasions. But the fact that the incoming Obama administration includes public diplomacy as an important agenda item should be very encouraging to all of us.

This will be my eighth and final year as President of the Board of International Sister Cities of Rochester. I will step down from that role next June 30th. I will do so with much pride, for I am confident that what we have been doing successfully for the past fifty years will inform our decisions and activities in the future.

I want to thank all of you who have helped make my job easier during those eight years. I won't try to list everyone, but I do want to give special thanks to Mayors Johnson and Duffy, Lois Giess, Carolee Conklin, Jean Howard and a very special thank you to Mike Leach.




XIANYANG, CHINA 2007

Happenings and possibilities

Three area high schools who are willing to sponsor a visit by a high school teacher from China. Teacher Bai Xiaowen from Xianyang, the escort of the first student delegation last year who was loved by all he visited in Rochester, was unable to take time away from his job. As a substitute, co-chair Dalei Huang has arranged for Ms. Minhua Hou, a High school English teacher from Beijing to come in his place. She has excellent credentials and will be able to speak to Rochester high school students about teenage life in China and can speak about our sister city Xianyang. The three schools that are sponsoring the trip: Aquinas, Our Lady of Mercy and Nazareth Academy were initiated in the "China experience" by Chinese visitor Rose Zeng, who made presentations at these schools on her life in China. Aquinas hosted the first delegation of students from Xianyang and sent two students to China in Spring of 2008.

In other news, the committee continues to work with the Rochester Museum on getting an exhibit of terra cotta warriors here. A similar exhibit is now traveling to large cities in the southern US. It is now opening in Atlanta and has presold 80,000 tickets! We will keep you posted.

Submitted by Mike Coniff

Friendship Committee Reports

"Friendship Committees" are established to explore sister cities connections with additional communities and to develop programs of activities that can be the basis for long-term, mutually beneficial relationships.

Alytus, Lithuania, Friendship Committee.

The Alytus Friendship Committee, under the coordination of the committee secretary, Jan Naujokas, will be working on three tasks to help the residents of Alytus, Lithuania.

Our first task will be to provide Christmas gifts to the children of poor families;

The second task is to provide additional walkers and handicapped equipment to the nursing homes in Alytus;

The third task is to help make contact between Alytus sports organizations with those in Webster.

Submitted by Chet Pieniezny

In Brief

Vitré-Greece Sister Cities Association Closes Books.

With the retirement of supporting teachers from the Greece school system, the Vitre-Greece Sister Cities Association recently decided to disband. It has generously donated \$300 from its treasury to the Rennes-Rochester Sister Cities Committee. French teachers from the Greece school system maintained ties with schools in Vitré, France, a small community near Rennes, for several years.

Sister City artifacts and plants sought: Principal Paul Montanarello of Rochester City School District School #36, seeks artifacts and plants that are typical of our sister cities to place in the lovely Sister Cities garden that students have developed in a school courtyards. Call "Mr. Mont" at 342-7270 to discuss what you might donate.

Listen to performances by top-rate **Waterford youth and adult musicians and singers** recorded or collected by host Ted McGraw this May on **"The Irish Party House"**, Sundays, 11AM-Noon, on WRUR, 88.5 FM. Enjoy Ted's "The Ol' Fiddler" show at 10.

Spumette di Nocciole

Hazelnut Meringues. This is a specialty of the Caltanissetta Region during the Christmas season:

- 1/2 pound hazelnuts
- 4 egg whites
- 2 1/4 cups confectioners' sugar
- grated rind of 1 lemon
- butter and flour for baking sheet



Chop the hazelnuts finely without peeling them. Beat the egg whites until stiff and gradually add the confectioners' sugar. Continue beating until the whites stand in peaks. Fold the hazelnuts and lemon rind. Grase a sheet of wax paper or foil with butter and sprinkle lightly with flour. Drop the meringue mixture on to the baking sheet in teaspoonfuls. Bake in a slow oven (350 degrees) for about 30 minutes, or until the meringues are firm but still white. Take them from the oven, cool, then peel them off the paper. These meringues will keep for some time in an airtight container.

Ciao, Rosalba

(Continued from page 7), Hamamatsu

attended the ISCOR Reception, which was followed by a dinner, hosted by HRSCC.

Last but not least, HRSCC would like to welcome a new member, Mr. Jonathan Schmidt. He was a member of the Corning Sister Cities Organization, which is a Sister City to Osuka-cho, a small town near Hamamatsu! Jon taught English in Ibaragi, Japan, for two years. At a later date, he completed a school administrative program at St. John Fisher College. Currently he is Dean of Students at a Rochester charter school. He is very excited to be part of the HRSCC and looks forward to sharing in everyone's love of Japan and its culture. Respectively, the current members of HRSCC are most pleased to have him join the group and look forward to working with him.

Submitted by Junko Mills

2nd Summit on Citizen Diplomacy a Success



Congratulations to Josephine Perini, Judy Weinstein, and their committee for the tremendous success of the second Summit on Citizen Diplomacy. Held on October 23rd, 2008, at the RIT Conference Center, it drew nearly 100, including representatives of Rochester's international organizations, universities, and businesses. Planned by representatives of the Rochester International Council, the United Nations Association of Rochester, ISCOR, and the International Business Council, Themed "Global Competence in the 21st Century," its keynote speaker was Dick Martin, retired Vice President for Public Relations and brand management of AT&T and author of the best selling book *Rebuilding Brand America*. (See the "President's Message," page 2, for Lee Johnson's summary of his message; visit his blog at www.dickmartinblogs.com for recent articles and a link to new and used copies of his book.) Following a delicious international buffet lunch, Bruce Graham, Director of Communications at Eastman Kodak, addressed the plenary session on the advantages an expatriate American brings to an international business. Five concurrent sessions were held, presenting information about our local international organizations and various topics related to international business. Visit the Rochester on Summit Citizen Diplomacy, www.rochestercitizendiplomacy.org, for further information and, soon, information about the 2009 Summit.

Submitted by Josephine Perini

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