



# INTERNATIONAL SISTER CITIES OF ROCHESTER NEWS

Volume 19, Issue 1

Spring 2009

## Würzburg 45th Anniversary

Lord Mayor Georg Rosenthal of Würzburg, Germany, led a delegation of eight to Rochester to celebrate the 45th anniversary of Rochester's third sister cities relationship. The delegates included Mrs. Hanna Rosenthal, City Councilwoman Regine Samtleben; city officials, and three representatives of Würzburg's universities.



Police Chief David Moore, Lord Mayor Georg Rosenthal, and Assistant to the Mayor Darryl Porter lead Würzburg delegation and ISCOR contingent in the Lilac Festival Parade. Photo MDL

Beautiful May weather accompanied the visitors as they toured the Eastman School of Music, Nazareth College, and Canandaigua Wine Country, marched in the Lilac Festival Parade, picnicked at the Rochester Touristen Verein's Camp Lima, and shared Mothers' Day activities with their host families.

The Lord Mayor's delega-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Waterford Musicians Carry ISCOR Banner



David Stone, uilleann piper, and Aisling Douris, violinist and dancer, leading Waterford Comhaltas musicians in St. Patrick's Day Parade

Thirty musicians and escorts from Waterford, Ireland, represented ISCOR in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14th. A crowd of 80,000 cheered the young visitors, introducing them to their first taste of this American celebration. See the story on page 6 about their visit.

## Caltanissetta Mayor Messana visits

Story Page 5



L-R, Marian Kobrin, ATAD; Mayor Salvatore Messana, Caltanissetta; Les Knox, ATAD & ISCOR, Giuseppina Messana, Mayor Duffy, Rosalba Pisaturro, Caltanissetta-Rochester Sister Cities Committee.

## From the President's Desk



**A commitment to citizen diplomacy** is certainly at the root of all the activities we undertake on behalf of International Sister Cities of Rochester. Of course, I realize that those who read this newsletter are the same people who are already committed to that premise. In that respect, writing this column is a classic case of "preaching to the choir!" Despite that, I want to take this opportunity to help reinforce that commitment and to thank a whole bunch of people.

As I complete my fourth (and final) term as President of the ISCOR Board, I want to recognize the efforts of so many of you who have helped make these eight years so successful. The Board is composed of three main groups: representatives of each of Rochester's sister cities; At-large and appointed members; and elected officers. The sister cities representatives typically are the Chairpersons of each committee or their alternates. These are the individuals responsible for the day-to-day operations of each committee. Without the consistent efforts of these folks, there would be no ISCOR. I would like to salute each of these people, those currently serving as chairpersons and those who served in that role at other times since 2001. It is through their efforts that I have had the opportunities to meet and greet officials and diplomats, and especially, regular citizens from each of our sister cities. This is where citizen diplomacy flourishes.

I also want to thank the At-Large members and the representatives of the Mayor's office and City Council. The special talents and attributes represented by these individuals serving as members of the ISCOR Board help round out the focus of the Board as something more than simply a congregation of sister city committee representatives. The Board certainly functions as a confederation of the sister cities committees, but it also functions as a leadership group for the overall program. It is this balance that makes it more than the sum of its parts. And the guidance and leadership for its elected officers is a critical component of that leadership. I want to particularly recognize those individuals: Secretary Jill Fortune, Treasurer Michael Leach, and Vice-President Carolee Conklin.

Two major parts of Rochester's government have also consistently provided support for ISCOR. Those are the

Mayor's Office and the City Council. William A. Johnson, Jr., supported sister cities throughout his tenure as Mayor, and Mayor Robert J. Duffy has continued that support both in Rochester and internationally in Waterford, Ireland, and Rennes, France. Without active support from our mayors, ISCOR would founder.



A special thanks also needs to go to Rochester's City Council. All its members have been supportive, but Past-President Lois Giess was a major voice for ISCOR. And her successor, Gladys Santiago, has continued that support.

During this past eight years we have seen significant changes for ISCOR. We have strengthened our ten sister cities programs. Each of those programs is working well now. In addition, Xianyang, China, was added as a sister city in 2008 and Alytus, Lithuania, is currently poised to be added, awaiting official actions.

We have also strengthened our relationships with other citizen diplomacy organizations in the community. These include the United Nations Association of Rochester and the Rochester International Council. We also have done much

*(Continued on page 10, President's Message)*

## Coming Events

**July 23-25, Cercle Celtique Dancers and Musicians of Brittany.** July 23, 7PM, City Hall Atrium; reception, performances, audience participation. **July 25&26.** 18th Annual Native American Dance & Music Festival on July 25 & 26 at Ganondagan State Historic Site, south of Victor. 585-742-1690. \$8 general, \$5 special, \$2 children 4-12.

**Aug. 8, 7:30 PM, V. Novgorod Photo Exhibit,** Image City Photo Gallery, 722 University Ave, 585-271-2540.

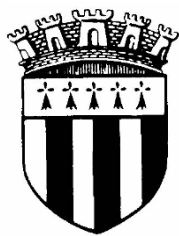
**Sept. 9 - Oct. 4, Sister Cities Photo Exhibit,** Image City Photo Gallery, 722 University Ave, 585-271-2540  
**Submissions** by 6/25; see "In Brief," p. 11.

**Sept. 13-24, 1150th Anniversary Tour, V. Novgorod,** Moscow, St. Petersburg. Linkages. Info: <http://www.linkagesrochester.org/>

**Sept 24-Dec 3. Visual Griots of Mali,** photo exhibit, Central Library, 115 South Ave., Rochester.

**Oct. 24-25, Kraków Christmas Creche Workshop** at Rochester Museum & Science Center. Reservations 585-474-0986.





## RENNES - ROCHESTER 1958

**COMING SOON: Cercle Celtique  
Breton Ensemble visits July 22-28**

The award-winning *Cercle Celtique* of Rennes will visit Rochester July 22-28 to tour and perform their traditional Breton music and dances. Founded in Rennes in 1932 to preserve and promote traditional Breton dance and music, the Cercle Celtique has traveled throughout Europe and to Japan to perform in cultural festivals.



*Cercle Celtique to perform at Ganondagan Festival, July 25 & 26*

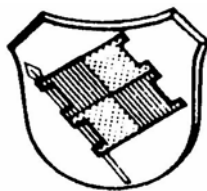
The ensemble will perform at a Rochester City Hall reception at 7PM on July 23rd. It will be featured at the 18th Annual Native American Dance & Music Festival on July 25 & 26 at Ganondagan State Historic Site, south of Victor, returning visits to Rennes by local Native American performers several years ago. Call (585) 742-1690 for Festival admission and schedule details or visit <http://www.ganondagan.org/NADMF.html>

The dancers and musicians wear traditional Breton attire. Round dancing, square dancing, line dancing and the gavotte are all part of their repertoire. The music is performed with authentic instruments, such as the *binioù*, the Breton bagpipe, and *bombarde*, a Breton shawm. Visit the Ganondagan site, above, for stunning video clips of several performances.

**Exchanges:** Students from Rennes' Lycée Chateaubriand visited Brighton High School and, on April 8th, were greeted at City Hall by Chief of Staff Jean Howard. Thank you to Jennifer Wheeler for arranging the visit!

A group of Finger Lakes Community College students, accompanied by FLCC Associate Professor of Modern

*(Continued on page 8)*



## WÜRZBURG - ROCHESTER 1964

### 45th Anniversary

*(Continued from page 1)*

tion came fully prepared to learn about our community and develop new connections to expand on the 45 years of successes of the Würzburg-Rochester connection.



Delegation with Albert Paley sculpture at Klein Steel

The International Business Council of Greater Rochester hosted an economic forum at which Lord Mayor Rosenthal and IBC Executive Director Laurie DeRoller profiled the very similar economies of the Würzburg and Rochester regions. The Finger Lakes wine industry well shown off at the dinner IBC hosted at the Culinary Institute in Canandaigua, where Dr. George Eisen, host of the delegation's tour and luncheon at Nazareth College, and Lord Mayor Rosenthal debated the relative merits of the ice wines of the Finger Lakes and of Franconia.

Lord Mayor Rosenthal, Würzburg Director of Culture, Sports, and School Muchtar al Ghusain, and Rochester Deputy Mayor Patricia Malgieri exchanged presentations on our respective municipal governments at a special meeting of Mayor Duffy's Senior Management Team on Monday, May 11th. Rosenthal, al Ghusain, Councilwoman Samtleben and Director of Press Relations Christian Weiss, spent rest of the morning with leaders of City agencies. Irondequoit Town Supervisor Mary Ellen Heymann and Director of Recreation Michael Spang hosted Lord Mayor Rosenthal, discussing town government and their support for the Irondequoit Oktoberfest and Irondequoit Soccer Club-Würzburg soccer exchange. Barbara

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# VISUAL GRIOTS OF MALI



## *An Exhibit of Photography by African Youth*

*Griot (gree-oh) n. - a storyteller and keeper of the oral traditions of family and village*



**The Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County**  
**115 South Ave., Rochester, NY 14604**

**Opens:** September 24, 2009    **Closes:** December 3, 2009

### **Library Hours:**

M&TH. 9am-9pm; T,W,F 9am-6pm; S 9am-5pm; S 1pm-5pm

The exhibit is located in the Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building Lower Level.

**The Malian sixth graders' photographs are the result of the Academy for Education Development's Visual Griots project, a series of interactive workshops in Mali led by U.S. and Malian photographers that empower and engage youth in a powerful process of self-exploration and expression through the lens of a camera.**

*This exhibit is dedicated to the memory of Nestor Hernandez, creator of Visual Griots.*



Central Library  
of Rochester  
& Monroe County  
[www.libraryweb.org](http://www.libraryweb.org)

**Learn more at [www.aed.org/visualgriots](http://www.aed.org/visualgriots) or contact Shawn Davis at 202-884-8233 /[sdavis@aed.org](mailto:sdavis@aed.org)**

The Central Library is handicapped accessible. To request specific accommodations, contact Deborah Nevin at 428-8304 ten days prior to the program.





## CALTANISSETTA - ROCHESTER 1965

### Mayor Messana Visits Rochester

Mayor Salvatore Messana of Caltanissetta and his wife, Giuseppina, briefly visited Rochester on December 29th-30th. They visited their son, Francesco, currently an ATAD exchange student at McQuaid Jesuit High School, hosted by the family of Thomas Greiner and Joyce McAndrew who also have two sons at McQuaid. The Caltanissetta Committee hosted a reception for them and Mayor Duffy hosted a pleasant luncheon at Cutler's Restaurant at the Memorial Art Gallery for them.

**Mark your calendars!** Planning has begun for celebration of the 45th anniversary of the Caltanissetta-Rochester twinning in 2010. They include a **Gala Ball, February 20th**; a trip to Caltanissetta over Holy Week in April; a sports exchange in the summer; and a cultural event in October. Contact Rosalba Pisaturo if you would like to help in the planning or underwrite events: 247-7300.



## REHOVOT - ROCHESTER 1972

Modern Rehovot, Israel, was founded in 1890 by a group of immigrants from Poland; sixteen years later, they were joined by immigrants from Yemen. Together, they built a city centrally located in Israel that is known for its agriculture, especially citrus crops, and high-tech sciences.

Building on its heritage, Rehovot has continued to be home for many newcomers, including immigrants from Poland, Yemen, Russia, Ethiopia, Morocco, North America, and many other countries. Rehovot is considered to be a mid-sized Israeli city, and is known as a community where the diverse people live and work well together.

In this same tradition, the Rochester-Rehovot Sister Cities Committee is interested in creating an on-going exchange between young people in the two cities based upon this shared immigrant experience. Like Rochester, Rehovot is home to settlement houses that assist immigrants with their transition to a new life in a new country.

*Submitted by Dan Karin*



## KRAKÓW - ROCHESTER 1973

### Kraków Crèche Exhibits and Workshops

In December and January the Kraków-Rochester Sister Cities Committee hosted an exhibit at City Hall of Christmas crèches made in the style of the traditional "szopki" built each year by residents of Kraków. The 16 szopki displayed were built by Rochester residents and friends

and relatives from the northeastern US who traveled to attend the 2007 and 2008 szopka workshops sponsored by KRSCC and the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester (PHSR).



Gagne szopka, '08 Workshop, day 2

Following the exhibit, students of folklorist Dr. Christine Zinni's class at SUNY Brockport studied the traditional art and interviewed three of the Rochester builder teams. They learned about technical aspects of the traditional art; the role it is playing in the Rochester Polish-American community life; how "Rochester" is expressed in the szopki here as "Kraków" is expressed in Kraków szopki; and how persons not of Polish heritage are learning about our sister city's culture.

**The PHSR will offer its third public workshop, Oct. 24-25, 2009, for construction of szopki, at the Rochester Museum & Science Center.** Fifteen multi-generational teams will participate, under the guidance of Pittsburgh artist David Motok. **The workshop is open to participants of all backgrounds**—a team need only be ready and willing. Contact Ilona Frederick, 585-474-0986, [IlonaAnne@gmail.com](mailto:IlonaAnne@gmail.com), if you would like to register for the workshop. Major funding for the workshop has been awarded by the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester's Community Arts Program.

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

*Submitted by Michael Leach  
Photo by Edward Przybylowicz*



## WATERFORD - ROCHESTER 1983

**A Year in Review.** It has been one year since the Mayor's delegation visited Waterford to celebrate our 25th anniversary. The trip had a great energizing affect within our communities and this year we have been busy pushing forward new ideas. Here are some of the activities that have taken place since our visit last year. We started subcommittees to explore opportunities in the following areas: Tourism; Business; Education; Arts & Entertainment; and Athletics.

While progress in International endeavors has logistical hurdles, the following is an example of the activity of the last year.

*Educational Exchange* – On our visit last May, we presented the Waterford Institute of Technology a letter of intent from Dr. Donald Bain, President of St. John Fisher College stating an interest in developing a partnering relationship between the two institutions. Since that time Dr. Bain has visited W.I.T. and this June, five faculty members of the W.I.T. School of Nursing will visit St. John Fisher College to continue the process.

on their visit including at Bausch & Lomb, City Hall, St. John Fisher, Monroe Community College and at Irish Night with the Amerks. Burke McCarthy did a marvelous job of arranging the itinerary, host homes, and “Cabaret night” at his home. Our young guests and their escorts enjoyed all the festivities including marching in the Parade carrying our Sister City flags. Most of all they were touched by the hospitality of the host families.

*Tourism and Business* – For the last year we have been working to develop good working relationships and a common vision for expanding business and tourism opportunities between Waterford and Rochester. These are separate entities, however we are convinced that to progress on either, we must develop a solid foundation of leaders in both countries with a common commitment and vision. We must also create ways to understand the strengths, similarities and differences of our respective communities to push the envelope of opportunity. We have recently made some breakthrough progress and are targeting a trip to Waterford in May 2010 for workshops on the subjects.

While we are still in the early stages of these efforts, we are pleased with the progress made across the board in the last year. We look to the road ahead with enthusiasm and confidence.

We have also enjoyed participating in the many important celebrations marking anniversaries or other significant milestones reached by many of our other ISCOR committees. It has been an exciting Sister Cities year.



Rochester City Hall concert. Photo by Paul Kavanaugh

*Arts & Entertainment* – Ted McGraw has continued correspondence and music exchange with Nora Kavanaugh from W.I.T. Nora accompanied 18 young members the Waterford chapter of Irish traditional music organization Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann on their visit to Rochester to participate in the St. Patrick's Day festivities. The talented young music, dance and vocal artists ranged in age from 7-25 years of age. They performed at many venues

terms of numbers of marching units and bands. The Celtic Faire raised \$2,000, which was donated to the Waterford ISCOR Committee. **Tom O'Connell**, Chairman of the Waterford Committee and Past President of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Col. O'Rourke Memorial Society **led the Parade as Grand Marshall** [*emphasis added—and deserved—Ed.*].

### Rochester St. Patrick's Day Parade “World Class”

The 2009 St. Patrick's Day Parade was a huge success breaking all records as 85,000 parade fans lined the streets to watch one of Rochester's most popular community events.

There were also records set in

*Submitted by Tom O'Connell*





## VELIKIY NOVGOROD-ROCHESTER 1990

### 1150th Anniversary Recognitions

**Tour.** Linkages of Rochester, Inc., sponsor of the the V. Novgorod-Rochester connection, invites you to join a special Anniversary Celebration Tour to Russia for stays and sightseeing in Moscow, Novgorod and St. Petersburg. The tour will feature two full days of historic and cultural activities, performances and exhibits presented for the official 1150th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of Novgorod, the "Father of Russian cities", in 859 AD, viewed by Russian historians as the birth of the Russian state.

An official Rochester delegation for the Novgorod 1150th Celebration will be accompanying the tour group. Membership in Linkages is not required to join the Tour. Contact Shae Hanford at shaeha@frontiernet.net or phone (585)244-3863



**Image City Photo Exhibit Celebrates 1150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
In honor of the 1150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Velikiy Novgorod, Linkages will sponsor a photo exhibit of the work of photographers in

Novgorod this summer. The exhibit, representing the work of several professional Russian photographers, will run from July 9 through August 15 at Image City Photo Gallery. Image City, located at 722 University Ave. in the "Neighborhood of the Arts," has become a premier photo gallery in upstate New York. The exhibit will feature photos of the architectural treasures, beautiful landscapes and residents of Novgorod as they appear in its 1150<sup>th</sup> year. Admission to the gallery is free. A reception to open the exhibit will take place in July; ISCOR members are invited to attend. Further details about the show and the reception will be made public as they are firmed up.

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## HAMAMATSU - ROCHESTER 1996

The Hamamatsu Committee has been involved with several community activities throughout this year working with the University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester Institute of Technology and the Urban Choice Charter School.

Through connections with our Committee, the University of Rochester Medical Center has begun a program with a medical center in Hamamatsu for to study Family Medicine practices and procedures. Two doctors from Hamamatsu are expected to visit the UofR Medical Center for two weeks every six months. The first two visited in February for a successful start to this program. The visiting doctors were also treated to dinner by HRSCC, hosted by Jim and Junko Mills and Lee and Maurine Johnson.

Our Committee also facilitated a visit to Hamamatsu by Rochester Institute of Technology President Dr. William Destler and several other people from RIT. The following article was written by Paul A. Harris, Director of Corporate Relations for RIT upon their return. It sounds like a successful and enjoyable visit!

**Rochester Dignitaries Visit Sister City Hamamatsu.** In December 2008, Rochester Institute of Technology President Dr. William Destler, along with several administrators and faculty, made an official Rochester Sister City visit to Hamamatsu, Japan. President Destler and his colleagues enjoyed a meeting with Hamamatsu Mayor Yasutomo Suzuki at the Hamamatsu City Hall. The RIT dele-



gation enjoyed tea and conversation with the Mayor and members of the Sister City Committee in the Mayor's private office. President Destler read and hand-delivered a formal letter to Mayor Suzuki from Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy which thanked the Mayor for the hospitality shown to Rochester citizens. The representatives of the two cities then exchanged gifts symbolic of their respective culture. Mayor Suzuki presented an exquisite hand-made silk scarf to all Rochester visitors and President

(Continued on page 11)



## PUERTO PLATA - ROCHESTER 1997

### Visits and Opportunities

Earlier this year, Phil and Loretta Fedele, and Peggy and Tony Ruscio visited Puerto Plata on a pleasure trip. They toured the city of Puerto Plata, appreciated some of the mountainous landscape, visited City Hall, the public market, and the church. They met with Edison Garcia, Walter Musa's Chief of Staff. They delivered CDs containing photographs of the of July 31, 2008, ceremony, in which Mayor Robert Duffy and Mayor Walter Musa reaffirmed the sister cities relationship at the Rochester City Hall.

Last month, I was contacted by Natanya Pucci, a graduate student from Canada doing her field work with FilterPure Inc., a non-profit organization in Jarabacoa, DR. The organization provides accessible clean water to families whose only water sources are rivers contaminated with toxic runoff and parasites. The filters are manufactured in the town of Moca, D.R., using local employment and local resources. The FilterPure, Inc., has produced and distributed 11,000 filters to families across the country, "freeing families from chronic stomach pain and malnutrition." I provided Natanya with some contacts in Puerto Plata.

I also met with Lynda Howland from the Bamako Sister Cities Committee, who is also working on a water project in the city of Bamako, Mali. We shared notes on opportunities and challenges we confront in the implementation of water or filter projects in both the Dominican Republic and Mali. Lynda is exploring water project funding partnerships with Rotary International, I provided Lynda a list of Rotary Clubs in Bamako she may contact. Thanks to Rotarian Glen Balch who assisted me in this effort.

Chris and Carl Luft at Dominican Hope, Lima, NY, report that they are exploring the pertinent requirements for building a school in Puerto Plata that will serve 300 kids. They are working with Mayor Musa and Edison García to answer various questions.

I'm looking forward to meet with people from Puerto Plata Sister Cities, Dominican Hope, Rochester Young Professionals, and others who expressed interest in participating at various levels of leadership. If you wish to participate, please call me at (585) 473-5346.

*Submitted by Relton Roland*

*(Continued from page 3)*



Languages, Barbara Kruger of Penfield, were featured in the March 17 issue of Ouest-France newspaper after being received by the Deputy Mayor of Rennes as guests of honor

at the Rennes City Hall last month. This event was the kick-off of an exchange program established this year between the Catholic Institute of Rennes, a private university in Rennes and FLCC. Students were hosted by the family of a Catholic Institute of Rennes student. They attended university classes with their host student and were fully immersed in the French culture and lifestyle.

*Submitted by Barbara Kruger, FLCC*

*(Continued from page 7, V. Novgorod)*

**Partnership for Children.** The Partnership for Children has sponsored a number of professional exchanges since its formation in 1998. The early trips to Russia by American child welfare professionals and to the US by their Russian counterparts focused on how to set up a foster family care system. In June two professors, Debra Fromm-Faria and Jed Metzger (a member of the Linkages Board and chair of the Partnership for Children) will return to Novgorod again to meet with professionals. They will train on a nationally researched approach to working with families that emphasizes making use of internal family resources and strengths as the engine for family healing. This approach may be especially useful in Russia where public resources to support families in their struggles are extremely limited.

For years, the Partnership on both sides of the ocean has discussed an exchange of students. This year that opportunity is being offered to social work students at Nazareth College and SUNY Brockport. Jed and Debra have designed a special credit-bearing course that will include study in the US, the trip to Novgorod and a cross-cultural experience in social work practice. They expected two or three students to express an interest; at last count 15 students said they were prepared to take the course and travel to Novgorod!

*Submitted by Paul Caccamise*

*For further details, visit  
<http://www.linkagesrochester.org/>*





## XIANYANG, CHINA 2007

### Teachers and Travelers

**Teachers:** Three area high schools sponsored a visit by a high school teacher from China. Xianyang committee co-chair Dalei Huang arranged for Ms. Minhua Hou, a high school English teacher from Beijing, to fill in for teacher Bai Xiaowen from Xianyang, who was unable to take time away from his job. Teacher Hou spoke to Rochester high school students about teenage life in China at Aquinas and Our Lady of Mercy high schools and at Nazareth Academy.

**And Travelers.** *Marcia L. Habecker, Nazareth Academy, reports:* On Monday, April 27, three Nazareth Academy students: Seniors Stephanie Brown, Mara Kouides, freshmen Jillian Cook, and English teacher Marcia Habecker returned from a very exciting, illuminating experience in Xianyang and Beijing, China. They were part of the Rochester Sister-Cities Delegation of nine students and five adults who spent eight full days in China including Rochester's Sister City, Xianyang, China. The nine students from high schools in Rochester spent their evenings with host families in both cities, and days visiting high school classrooms and taking excursions to various historic points of interest in both cities.

*Stephanie Brown, Nazareth Academy, reports:* The first thing I love about China I noticed right away: the landscape is a beautiful blend of lived-in, urban community and traditional, natural splendor. Small cottony seeds float in the air between branches of pink-white flowers and tall, many-storied apartment buildings. City and nature occupy the same space, rather than competing for it.

It really hit me that I was in China the very first night in Xianyang, Rochester's sister city. We were driven from a welcome dinner at the adults' hotel to a nearby school. I stepped off the bus and there she was: my host mother, a high school English teacher. Someone handed down my luggage, I waved goodbye to my group, and my host mother took my hand. We headed off down the street;

that was the moment, perhaps the most magical moment of my life so far. In that moment I became someone more than myself, not simply Stephanie Brown but Mu Jun Li, the name my host sister would later gift to me. Walking down a darkish road in a gentle rain, my hand in that of a woman I had known no more than three minutes, in an ancient city in an ancient country halfway around the world from my home, I felt so incredibly small, yet so refreshingly real. I was clear, present, alive. I will never forget that moment.

In their sixth-floor apartment I met my host sister and father. My host sister Mu Xi Yuan has learned some English at school, and was very eager to meet me. Her father does not speak English, but he smiled at me and asked, through my host mother, if I wanted a cup of tea. They were all very surprised to hear that I like tea, that I drink it at home all the time. My host mother laughingly explained she had bought some "Cola" just in case. From then on, I was part of the family.

My tour group visited many fascinating sites, including the city wall and the terracotta warriors, but my favorite times were spent with my Chinese family. My first morning, my host mother took me on a tour of the neighborhood park. I saw an old man doing Tai Chi under the shelter of some flowering trees, and his movements flowed like poetry. The next day I went to school with Mu Xi Yuan. The students welcomed me and the rest of my group with a procession involving flowers and a band, and every time we entered a classroom the students clapped and cheered. In fact, everyone I met

in China, both in Xianyang and in Beijing, was incredibly warm and welcoming. Living in the most populous country in the world, they seem to have learned how to get along with and appreciate each other. Like the buildings and trees, they coexist without having to compete.

I have been able to stay in contact with Mu Xi Yuan and her family by email, and we hope to see each other again soon. I know I will go back to China in the future. Having fallen in love with the language, I now plan to begin classes in Chinese when I start college this fall, and eventually spend a semester studying abroad.

Thanks to the Sister Cities program, I have discovered a new part of myself. I never dreamed I would find it in China. —Stephanie Brown



Jillian Cook, Mara Kouides, and Stephanie Brown (lower right) with Xianyang friends

*(Continued from page 2, President's Message)*

partnering with the Center for International Education at Nazareth College of Rochester, and have had ongoing relationships at St. John Fisher College, Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Rochester, including the Medical Center and the Eastman School of Music. Recent outreach activities have also included SUNY Geneseo and SUNY Brockport.

Another major relationship developed in the past few years has been with Rochester's business community, especially through the International Business Council. I would like to thank Laurie DeRoller, IBC's Executive Director, for her support. It has always been apparent to those of us in ISCOR that sister cities has had positive economic impacts on our community, but this relationship has allowed other members of the community to become aware of these impacts.

I want to thank Michael Leach for all his hard work supporting ISCOR on behalf of the City of Rochester. Mike serves as the elected Treasurer for the ISCOR Board, as the Chairperson of the Krakow-Rochester Sister Cities Committee, and as the Mayor's liaison to ISCOR. For many years, Bob Meyer served in the liaison role. After Bob retired it took awhile to figure out how to fill his role. Mike Leach has become the "go to guy" for ISCOR. His contributions are myriad. Thanks again, Mike.

A final thank you may be the most important; that is, a thank you to my wife of almost forty years, Maurine. Many of you know Maurine through her role as Chairperson of the Hamamatsu Rochester Sister Cities Committee, and some of you know her through her previous role as a Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages in the Webster CSD. I wouldn't even be involved in Sister Cities if it were not for Maurine.

I am retiring from the Presidency of the ISCOR Board, but not from a commitment to ISCOR and to citizen diplomacy. Carolee Conklin will become President on July 1, 2009. Given her competency, dynamism, and her commitment to citizen diplomacy, I am confident that ISCOR will flourish under her leadership. I pledge my continued support to Carolee and the new Board.



*(Continued from page 3)*

Duffy gave Hanna Rosenthal a special tour of St. John Fisher College, and joined later by Councilwoman Samtleben, hosted them for lunch.

Prof. Dr. Vladimir Dyakonov, chairman of the board of the Bavarian Center for Applied Energy Research, presented at a conference at the University of Rochester. Barbara Moll of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Würzburg, met with faculty at the UofR School of Medicine and Dentistry. Eva Stumpf-Wirths, Chancellor of the Würzburg University of Music, met with Director David Harman and manager Susan Basu of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra; Dean Douglas Lowry and faculty of the Eastman School of Music, and, joined by the Rosenthals, al Ghusain, and Weiss, with Director Margaret Quackenbush and faculty of the Hochstein Music School.

Mayor Duffy hosted a meeting with Mayor Rosenthal and leaders of the Rochester and Würzburg sister cities programs to discuss program priorities. Afterwards they joined the full delegation at a City Hall reception at which featured a reaffirmation of the sister cities agreement, and a private dinner for the delegation, host families, and sister cities program supporters.

The visit concluded with a visit to the George Eastman House, Albert Paley Studios, and a luncheon hosted by Klein Steel.

An official Rochester delegation led by City Councilwoman Carolee Conklin will visit Würzburg in July for the Mozart Festival and to build on the new connections.

### ***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-Rochester Sister Cities Relationship Recommended by ISCOR Board**

The ISCOR Board of Trustees endorsed the recommendation of the Alytus, Lithuania, Friendship Committee that the Rochester City Council approve a sister cities relationship between Rochester and Alytus. At the May 4th Board meeting, Rimas Chesonis and Chet Pieniezny reported on the activities of the friendship committee over the past three years and the development of a partner committee in Alytus. ISCOR's recommendation will be presented at the Rochester City Council's July 14th meeting and at a subsequent meeting of the Alytus City Council. **We look forward to recognizing Alytus as Rochester's 12th sister city in Fall 2009.**



(Continued from page 7)

Destler showed his respect with a one-of-a-kind sculpture handmade by RIT faculty member William Keyser. This piece, as told by President Destler, represents hope and the future for a continued successful relationship between the Sister Cities of Hamamatsu and Rochester.

Following the meeting with Mayor Suzuki, the Rochester delegation was treated to a formal tea ceremony and a traditional Japanese lunch compliments of the Sister Cities Committee. (PAH)

**HRSCC Members Provide Japanese Culture Classes at Urban Choice Charter School.** On February 10th and 13th, HRSCC members Junko Mills and Takako Horton provided two one-hour Japanese culture classes to the 3rd graders at Urban Choice Charter School. Upon arrival, Junko and Takako were greeted by several students and Ms. Joanne Trainor with beautiful early spring blooms, along with a hand made paper banner with Japanese greetings, which was created by the students.

The sessions included a quick Origami lesson, an interview tape of Junko's 10 year old nephew in Tokyo (which got real attention from everyone!), proper bowing practice, a quick Japanese language lesson, a traditional Japanese story telling and Q & A session.

The students were polite, attentive, and they looked like



Junko Mills reads Kami Shibai (Paper Theater), a traditional Japanese method of story telling with pictures.

they could not get enough. Although the preparation took a long time including much coordination with Mrs. Trainor, Junko and Takako were very satisfied that the Hamamatsu Committee was able to provide a small piece of Japan to the group of young students in our community!

*Submitted by Maurine Johnson*

## In Brief

On April 30th, at its Annual Dinner, the United Nations Association of Rochester presented past-president of ISCOR **Nancy M. Huppert** with its **Lifetime Achievement Award**. It recognized Nancy's years of leadership of local, state, national and international volunteer and service organizations. Mayor Robert Duffy and Councilwoman Carolee Conklin issued a proclamation, read at the dinner, that recounted her leadership of ISCOR and her service as New York State Coordinator, Board member and President of Sister Cities International, and her continuing role for SCI as Global Envoy, representing SCI at international conferences and promoting the sister cities program in more than 100 countries worldwide. Years of effort to establish Japanese and Hispanic sister cities were successfully concluded under Nancy's leadership with the twinings with Hamamatsu and Puerto Plata, and she initiated the connections with Xianyang.

**Board changes.** July will see the addition of two new members to the ISCOR Board of Trustees: Martha O'Connor and Yolanda Wade. Carolee Conklin will assume the Presidency and Les Knox will become Vice-President; Jill Fortune, Secretary, and Michael Leach, Treasurer, will continue in those offices. Esther Denaro Maltese will conclude her office as Trustee. Thank you, Esther, for your many years of service to the board!

Maria Thomas Fisher, President of **Rochester Young Professionals**, has begun working with the ISCOR Board to develop a travel program featuring our sister cities. ISCOR had information tables at two recent gatherings of RYP members to promote the travel and inform them of volunteer opportunities with ISCOR.

**Sister Cities Photos sought for Exhibit:** Plans are in the works for an exciting photo exhibit of Rochester's Sister Cities. The show will run September 9- October 4, 2009, at **Image City Photo Gallery**. We are currently seeking submissions of representative photos from each of our Sister Cities. A total of 12 photos will be selected. You may submit up to 3 images on CD (300dpi) to Lynda Howland, 71 Brook Rd, Pittsford, NY 14534, by **deadline June 25**. Questions? call Lynda @381-7420 or email lyn-howl@yahoo.com or moconn4@rochester.rr.com (Martha O'Connor) with "REQUEST INFO" in subject line.

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.

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City Hall, Room 307-A  
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Rochester, NY 14614-1284

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**Download ISCOR News IN COLOR from our Website:**  
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