



INTERNATIONAL SISTER CITIES OF ROCHESTER NEWS

Volume 20, Issue 1

Spring 2010

ALYTUS, LITHUANIA, 12th SISTER CITY

On May 18 Mayor Robert J. Duffy and Mayor Česlovas Daugėla signed a sister cities agreement, cementing the ties authorized by the Rochester and Alytus city councils in 2009 and establishing Rochester's 12th sister cities relationship.

Mayor Daugėla's delegation included City Council members, businessmen, and college faculty.

After arriving on May 14th the group attended a reception at the home of Arunas and Pam Chesonis. The delegation marched in the Lilac Parade next day with the Alytus-Rochester Committee as part of the ISCOR contingent and, that evening, enjoyed a



Alytus Delegation and SC Committee, ATAD students in the ISCOR unit in the Lilac Festival Parade. Photo by Erin Marozas

Red Wings game at Frontier Field courtesy of Red Wings president Naomi Silver. The evening was completed with a bit of Rochester night life. On Sunday, the delegation attended a reception given by the Rochester Lithuanian community at St. George's Church Hall and later visited Niagara Falls.

On Monday, May 17th, after breakfast with the Alytus-Rochester Committee the delegation vis-

ited the Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning Company, enjoyed luncheon meeting and visit at Nazareth College. After an economic forum at the International Business

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Terry Mathews-DeSant Receives RIC Award



Photo by Judy Weinstein, RIC

The Rochester International Council awarded Terry Mathews-DeSant its International Citizen of the Year award for 2010 on May 2, 2010, at its 53rd Annual Awards Dinner at the Daisy Flour Mill Restaurant.

Terry was jointly nominated for this prestigious award by Mayor Robert J. Duffy, ISCOR President Carolee Conklin, and Acting President Raymond Griswold of the Rennes-Rochester Sister Cities Committee to receive the award. It recognizes Terry's more than 20 years' leadership of the RRSCC, service as a Trustee of ISCOR, and establishment of high school and college connections between Rennes and Rochester that have involved thousands of students in our communities over the years.

After receiving the RIC award and reading of a joint proclamation issued by Mayor Duffy and ISCOR President and City Councilwoman Carolee Conklin, Terry delivered the keynote address for the RIC banquet. Terry was joined at the event by seven tables full of families, friends, and sister cities program colleagues.



From the President's Desk

Hello all, the past few months have been a busy time for ISCOR in Rochester. On Tuesday, May 18th, the hard work



and commitment of the Alytus, Lithuania Friendship Committee under the leadership of Remis and Roma Chesonis, and Chet Pieniezny culminated in the signing of a Sister Cities agreement by Mayor Robert J. Duffy and Mayor Česlovas Daugėla at Rochester City Hall. Mayor Daugėla led a six person delegation to Rochester that had a few missteps along the way. The delegation was expected to arrive here on Thursday, May 13th, but instead found they were booked to Rochester, Minnesota!

Rimas got them to Rochester in time to lead the Lilac Parade on Saturday morning, sans luggage. The miscues continued when the delegation went to the airport on Wednesday to depart for Lithuania and found that the Rochester, Minnesota, mistake had not been corrected: another day.... It's surely a trip they will long remember, and they saw more of the USA than they had planned!

On a sad note, we all mourned the passing of Otto Fuchs last December. Otto and Edie have been the guiding hands of the Wuerzburg Committee for longer than most of us can remember. Otto's hearty laugh, good humor and zest for life will be sorely missed and long remembered. We extend our sincere sympathies to Edie and her family.

Our friend and long time Chair of the Waterford Committee, John Kavanaugh has been in ill health and we send him our very best wishes. Should you want to drop John a note, his address is 193 Fox Chapel Road, Henrietta, NY 14467.

The Executive Committee of ISCOR met on May 4th and appointed a Nominating Committee to make recommendations for Board membership. The Nominating Committee will be chaired by ISCOR Vice President Les Knox, and Michael Leach, Martha O'Connor, and Lee Johnson will serve. The Committee plans to make recommendations to the Board prior to our September 13, 2010, meeting. If you have any suggestions for Board membership please contact Les Knox at lesknox@frontiernet.net

As Chair I have asked Board Member, Kevin Loughran to review our by-laws and bring to our September meetings any proposed changes.

(Continued on page 7, President)

Association For Teen-Age Diplomats Offers Host Family Opportunities

The Association For Teen-Age Diplomats (ATAD) offers high school students from the sister cities of Rochester the opportunity to attend school here in Monroe County for a year. This experience provides the international students the opportunity to learn more about our school culture, extra-curricular culture and varieties of home cultures. One student said that "being an exchange student and living this experience totally changed me." The exchange experience very often brings challenges in a "growing" way. The students and host families look more broadly at the world considering the impact of their actions on a global scale.

We need your help to provide these opportunities and homes in which the students may live while attending school here in Monroe and neighboring counties. The students come with medical insurance, their own spending money, and clothing or purchase funds. What you as a family provide is a bed in a room that he/she shares with a family member or not, three meals a day, nurturing, possibly help with homework and possibly transportation. This is not a travel program, so you do not need to find exciting places they can venture to.

Many families find that their lives have been changed in many ways as a result of this experience which includes being a part of a family in one of our Sister Cities of Rochester. Please call Karen Grover at 385-3639 if you would like to hear more about this experience.

Coming Events

Aug. 8, Caltanissetta Nissa v. Rochester Rhinos, Paetec Park. Tickets 232-1900.

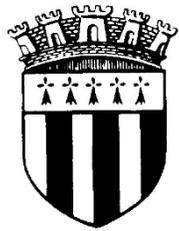
Nov. 14. International Gala, Convention Center. 5PM. Caltanissett 45th. Tickets 247-7300 \$50.

Oct. 9th. Columbus Day Parade. ISCOR and Caltanissetta Unit. Contact Michael Leach, 428-7319.

Oct. 26-Dec. 6. Sister Cities Photo Exhibit. Rochester City Hall Link Gallery. Martha O'Connor, organizer, at moconn4@rochester.rr.com.

Oct. 22-23, Kraków Christmas Creche Workshop. RMSC. Contact Bob or Barbara Pippin, 924-2905.

Dec 7-Feb. 14. Winter Holidays Display, City Hall Visitors Area. Contact organizer Sonia Pospical, travelbug@rochester.rr.com.



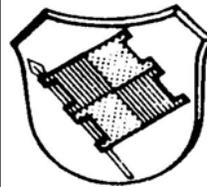
RENNES, FRANCE 1958

Thirty-one students from Honeoye Central High School traveled to Rennes in March. Senior Nicole Eigbrett concludes an essay about her trip with, "Our French exchange program was truly the ultimate immersion experience, where each opportunity to learn could never be mimicked in a classroom. It was a huge leap of independence for many of us and a risk well-worth taking. My first trip influenced me in so many ways, and going once more reinforced my aspirations for travel and language study in the future. In my opinion, going abroad to any foreign culture is the best thing a person can do for themselves. I honestly could gush about France all day, but that would not be beneficial to you, the reader – go out and see what secrets and glories the world has to offer for yourself!"



Eight members of the girls basketball team from Mercy High School took second place in a friendly tournament with 32 teams from Rennes' sister cities in the 10th annual ASPTT tournament in April.

Raymond Griswold and Sonia Pospichal succeed Terry Mathews-Desant and Cathy Nye in leadership of the committee. A long-time committee member, Ray is a past chairman of the committee and has served as its sports program coordinator. Sonia has served in several roles for the committee over the years.



WÜRZBURG, GERMANY 1964

Ed Hall, President and CEO of VisitRochester, and artists Albert and Francis Paley will represent Mayor Bob Duffy at the 2010 MozartFest in Würzburg, June 4-6, 2010.



IN MEMORIUM, Otto Fuchs

Early in December 2009 we were deeply saddened to lose Otto Fuchs to cancer. His wife and co-chair, Edie, will continue to provide the able leadership of the Rochester-Würzburg Sister City Committee as she and Otto have done for more than two decades.

Ed Hall, President and CEO of VisitRochester, drafted and will read a proclamation signed by Mayor Duffy during Mozartfest ceremonies in Würzburg in June; extracts follow:

WHEREAS: Since the last gathering of the representatives of the Sister Cities of Würzburg; Rochester-Würzburg Sister City Committee Co-Chair Otto Fuchs passed away, and

WHEREAS: Otto Fuchs was a driving force in the Würzburg-Rochester Sister City relationship, and was a true friend and champion of camaraderie between nations; proud of his German heritage and likewise proud of his American hometown of Rochester, New York, and

WHEREAS: Otto Fuchs dedicated a tremendous amount of time and energy to fostering the relationship between Rochester and Würzburg through the Sister Cities Committee, where he served with distinction and passion, and...

WHEREAS: Otto Fuchs often traveled to and enjoyed the annual MOZARTFEST in Würzburg, it is appropriate that on the occasion of the opening of this, one of Otto's favorite events, that we, his friends from many nations, pause in remembrance of our departed friend.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert J. Duffy, Mayor of the City of Rochester, New York, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 4, 2010, to be:

OTTO FUCHS REMEMBRANCE DAY

In Rochester and urge citizens in Rochester, Würzburg, Germany, and the other Sister Cities he touched to recall and honor the lifetime of work and good deeds of our friend and true "citizen of the world," Otto Fuchs.



CALTANISSETTA, ITALY 1965

SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 5-9PM, for the International Gala at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Caltanissetta-Rochester sister cities relationship. A lively program of international entertainment is planned.

Negotiations are also underway to bring the Nissa soccer team from Caltanissetta for a friendly game with the Rochester Rhinos on Saturday, August 7th. Watch for news!



REHOVOT, ISRAEL 1972

Rochester-Rehovot-Albuquerque Partnership Building on the historic relationship between Rochester and Rehovot and the connection established between Rehovot and Albuquerque,

NM, in 2008, the three cities are negotiating a three-way cooperation agreement that will be concluded by the three mayors in Albuquerque in July at the Annual Conference of Sister Cities International. Cooperation will focus on projects related to education, culture, and other mutually beneficial activities.

Submitted by Dan Karin



BAMAKO, MALI 1975

“Visual Griots of Mali” at Downtown Central Library

After nearly two years of planning and work, the exhibit of 40 photographs, first displayed at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History, was

shown at the Downtown Central Library, from October 2009-January 2010 for the Rochester community to view. Featuring photos taken 22 Malian sixth graders’ the result of the Academy for Education Development’s Visual Griots project, and a selection of photos taken by children of the Rochester Boys and Girls Club, all showing life in their communities. The Rochester branch of Links, the African-American women’s service organization, was recognized by the United Nations Association of Rochester for its support of the project.



KRAKÓW, POLAND 1973

PHSR Affiliation. The KRSCC has affiliated with the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester to bring new resources and volunteers to strengthen and develop the Kraków-Rochester relationship. PHSR has long been a key supporter of the KRSCC.

UJ Deans. Four deans from the Jagiellonian University School of Medicine visited Rochester for a series of conferences at the UofR School of Medicine and Dentistry, organized by Prof. Ralph Jozefowicz, MD. Members of KRSCC and PHSR met with the deans at a dinner to discuss opportunities for new activities that could benefit both communities.

Smolensk Crash The world was stunned to learn of the tragic airplane crash on April 10, 2010, near Smolensk, Russia, of the airplane carrying Poland’s President, Lech Kaczynski, and his delegation to services to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyń Forest Massacres of WWII. President Kaczynski and his wife were buried in an internationally attended ceremony in Wawel Castle in Kraków. The City’s Bureau of International Cooperation was deeply involved in managing this event. Long-time friend of the KRSCC and BIC staffer Lucyna Rudyk writes of this tragic occasion:

“Thank you for the letters with condolences....Last week was very difficult for us: we still were in shock. It does not matter whether someone had voted for him [President Kaczynski] or not. He was the President of Poland. His wife Maria was a person respected by every political party. I feel very sorry for them and for their daughter. I feel sorry for all 96 victims of this tragedy. Of course we should come back to our duties but everything seems to be different after 10th April 2010. Please pray for my Country. Best wishes. Lucyna”

2010 Kraków Crèche Workshop and Exhibits. On October 23 & 24 the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester (PHSR) and KRSCC will host the 4th annual “Kraowska Szopka” workshops at the Rochester Museum & Science Center. Led by Pittsburgh artist David Motak, multi-generational Rochester family teams will learn how to construct the traditional Christmas crèches of Kraków. Major funding for the workshop was provided by the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester’s Community Arts Program. Contact Bob and Barbara Pippin, 924-3905, to register.



WATERFORD, IRELAND 1983

Mayor of Waterford, Councillor John Halligan will make his first visit to Rochester on May 25. He will meet with Mayor Duffy, tour Bausch & Lomb, meet representatives of the Rochester International Business Council and Greater Rochester Visitor's Association, and enjoy a driving tour of Rochester.

The Annual Rochester-Waterford Sister Cities Charity Golf Tournament will be held on June 4th in Waterford. This worthy event has raised over \$500,000 over the last 25 years for a host of worthy beneficiaries.

Musicians Travel. Nine young and "senior" musicians who play Irish traditional music locally will travel in June to Waterford to share Irish music played in the Rochester and Western New York with their Waterford counterparts. Sponsored by Rochester's Tom Finucane Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and the Waterford committee, this reciprocates last year's visit by fine young musicians from Waterford.

Tourism and Business Trip, September 2010. In September a group of twenty will travel to Waterford for two days of meetings and workshops to create relationships and foundations for the promotion of tourism, business, educational and cultural exchanges between our Regions. This will be followed by a seven day tour of Cork, Killarney, Dingle Bay, Galway and Connemara. The team is a great mix of seasoned travelers, long time committee members and many new faces, who have joined our ranks, including several members of the Rochester Young Professionals who are interested in International diplomacy AND vacationing in Ireland. Anyone interested in learning more about this trip can contact Tom O'Connell at tomrosco@frontiernet.net

"Forgotten Ireland" Exhibit. Visitor traffic was heavy at the March/April "Forgotten Ireland" exhibit of a collection of 20th century Irish artists' work organized by Ivan Lennon of Rochester. The exhibit included works of Michael Power-O'Malley, Charles Lamb, Sean Keating and Harry Kernoff, ranging from paintings and prints depicting the humble beauty of everyday life in early 20th century Ireland to the horrors of the War of Independence. Bravo to Ivan Lennon for having the passion and drive to take his vision to fruition, and to St John Fisher College for their generosity and continued support of the Irish Community of Rochester! --Martha J. O'Connor

Submitted by Tom O'Connell and Martha O'Connor



VELIKIY NOVGOROD, RUSSIA 1990

Novgorod teacher visits Rochester. Natalia Zhogina, a lead teacher in the Foreign Language Department of the Velikiy-Novgorod University Preparatory Gymnasium was awarded the bi-annual five week travel grant by Linkages of Rochester for March 4 – April 8, 2010. In five weeks Natalia completed a packed schedule of school visits including School Without Walls, School 36, Monroe High School, East High, Eastridge High, Harley, Hamburg Middle and High School as well as a Tutoring Center for refugees in Rochester.

In addition, Natalia attended professional development workshops at BOCES, Monroe High and Nazareth College. She observed ESL and Russian classes at RIT. Natalia not only observed teaching, but also made arrangements for continued student-to-student interactions between her students and the classes she visited.

During her visit, Linkages members and friends hosted Natalia at their homes and on visits to schools, concerts, museums and places of historical interest throughout our region. Linkages also sent Natalia to the TESOL 2010 Conference in Boston.

Russian TV Documentary of Rochester. Rochester will soon be the subject of a series of short documentaries on Novgorod TV. During Lilac Festival week in May, a group of three TV journalists from Slavia Television of Velikiy Novgorod shot segments on the Rochester's history, current life style and cuisine; cultural institutions and tourist attractions; and an interview with Mayor Duffy. Linkages received a great deal of assistance from VisitRochester and the Rochester/Finger Lakes Film & Video Office. The documentaries will be aired on Novgorod TV as part of a series Slavia TV is planning on each of Velikiy Novgorod's sister cities.

*Submitted by Tanya Schueler-Choutairi
And Paul Caccamise
For further details, visit
<http://www.linkagesrochester.org/>*



HAMAMATSU, JAPAN 1996

**Japanese Culture Class at the
Urban Choice Charter School**

One of the important roles of the Sister Cities Committee is to promote cultural understanding in our community. On April 27th and May 4th, two members of our Hamamatsu Rochester Sister Cities Committee (HRSCC), Jim & Junko Mills, visited the Urban Choice Charter School. This is the second year for the HRSCC to present a Japanese Culture Class at the school.

The one hour program included proper bowing practice, Japanese phrases, folding of origami puppy faces, and Kami-shibai, an old Japanese technique of story telling with pictures, now a disappearing art.



At the end of the class, the students were presented a paper with some Japanese words, such as "peace" 平和, "world" 世界, "patience" 我慢, "dream" 夢, and "possibility" 可能性 and enjoyed Japanese candies, which were great hit.

The students' Thank You Notes comments say it all, such as:

".....I learned more about Japanese culture. I hope you have enjoyed it ever since you've been to America..."

".....I liked when the dragon was mean and then it became nice to all people....."

".....Thank you for showing us about your culture and telling us all about Japan.....I learned that when you bow low you would be respecting your elder...."



A picture from "Tear Drops of a Dragon"

(Continued on page 7)



PUERTO PLATA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1996

Champions Recruited. The Puerto Plata Committee is organizing a trip to Puerto Plata for Spring 2011 that will mix business and pleasure. It will focus heavily on learning about the community and establishing connections that will be the basis for future activities that benefit both Rochester and Puerto Plata as well as enjoying the delightful tourism opportunities of our sister city in the Caribbean.

The Committee has recruited Champions in our community to assist us in this effort. Community Champions will advise us and help us garner resources in this community to support this effort. Focus Champions will recruit travelers, facilitate and coordinate with Puerto Plata in specific focus areas, including education, public health, public works, sports and recreation, tourism, trade and commerce, arts and culture, public safety, and others we may identify as planning progresses.

If you wish to participate in any of these activities, please call Relton Roland, at (585) 473-5346, to discuss opportunities.



XIANYANG, CHINA 2007

Martha O'Connor and the Xianyang committee are working with Mr. David Baez, Director of Foreign Languages for the Rochester City School District, 13 RCSD students and teacher Tian Loshi, and Teacher Bai in Xianyang, to make connections using current and more advanced technology (polycoms etc...) with Xianyang and, perhaps, our other Sister Cities as well.

Dalei Huang and Michael Coniff have been working closely with Nazareth College to arrange for up to four students and a teacher from China to participate in the intensive language program this summer. At least one of our students and a teacher who had gone on our trip last year plan to go back to Xianyang this summer, accompanied by Dalei at least to Beijing. The high cost of this summer's air fare may prevent the group from going to Xianyang.

*Submitted by Martha O'Connor, Dalei Huang,
and Mike Coniff*

In Brief

Lilac Festival Parade. A 40-strong unit of ISCOR supporters marched in the May 15th Lilac Festival Parade, led by President Carolee Conklin. With strong support from the Association for Teen Age Diplomats carrying our sister cities flags, the unit featured the Caltanissetta 45th anniversary and the mayoral delegation from Alytus, Lithuania. Parade goers waved and cheered as the Alytus delegation and 20 supporters of our newest sister cities committee enthusiastically sang Lithuanian songs at various points along the route. **THANK YOU TO ATAD STUDENTS AND FAMILIES** You made our unit more colorful and fun.

Sister Cities Photo Exhibit. Trustees Martha O'Connor

(Continued from page 6)

“.....Your kimono was very cute and long.....”

“.....You have a cool name and you're a cool girl....”

“.....I learned that Japan is a good place after all.....”

“.....I hope to see you again. Next time if you come in, could [you] bring in your mother please?.....”

(President's Message, continued from page 2)

Kudos from the Chair:

---Mike Leach, our "utility player", whether its lugging Sister Cities flags, doing a briefing for the Mayor, arranging dinners and tours, scheduling press conferences, making gift selections, or doing the hundred and one other things he does, and does so well.

---Martha O'Connor for her work with schools and setting up an exhibit of Sister Cities photos in the link scheduled for next Fall. Martha is ALWAYS available for a parade.

(Continued from page 1)

Council of Greater Rochester, the group visited Golisano Children's Hospital and the Friendly Nursing Home. The day was completed with a wine tasting and dinner at the Woodcliff Lodge hosted by the IBC.

On Tuesday, May 18th, the delegation visited the Trident Precision Manufacturing Company in Webster and had lunch with the Rotary Club in Penfield and gave a presentation on Alytus.

Late on Tuesday afternoon, Mayor Daugėla met with Mayor Robert Duffy to discuss the various aspects of the relationship of the two sister cities. Later, during the City Hall reception, the two mayors formally signed the Sister

and Patti Donoghue will organize an exhibit of Sister City photos to be displayed in the Link Gallery in City Hall from October 26-December 6, 2010. Contact Martha at moconn4@rochester.rr.com to express your interest in participating. Details will be announced this summer.

Christmas Crèche and Traditional Winter Holidays Decorations Display. Trustee Sonia Pospichal will organize an exhibit of traditional Christmas crèches of Rennes and decorative items used in our many sister cities such as *menorahs, szopki, gwiazdi*, to be displayed in the display cabinets of the City Hall Visitors Area, December 13, 2010 -February 14, 2011. Send a note to Sonia to express your interest: travlbug@rochester.rr.com. Details will be announced later this summer.

“.....I learned that Japan[ese] people talked very different than us.....”

It is not an easy task to represent one culture in an hour, and do so for elementary school students. But hopefully, the students picked up some pieces of it and, with the understanding of different cultures, know that they are agents for world peace!

----Ray Griswold for bringing in Rochester Rotary to help Alytus, Puerto Plata, and Bamako projects.

---- Sonia Pospichal for organizing the Christmas 2010 exhibit

We are not only a Multi-National group but a Multi-talented one as well. Thank you, all, for all you do.



Cities agreement (Watch for a YouTube video of the event!). Dinner followed at the Pier 45 restaurant at the Port of Rochester in Charlotte.

Mayor Daugėla and the rest of the Alytus delegation were very pleased with their visit to Rochester. They hope that the agreement between the two cities will bring into fruition many good things for both.

Rimas Chesonis and the members of the Alytus-Rochester Committee are thankful for the many efforts of Mayor Robert Duffy, Carolee Conklin, Mike Leach, and Laurie De Roller, who helped make everything work.

Submitted by Chet Pieniezny

International Sister Cities of Rochester
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Alytus, Lithuania: 12th Sister City



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