

# INTERNATIONAL SISTER CITIES OF ROCHESTER NEWS

Volume 21, Issue 2 FALL 2011



### LOS BOMBEROS DE PUERTO PLATA

#### Training starts Firefighter Project.

In June of 2011, three Puerto Plata fire-fighters, "bomberos," Chief Pedro

Martínez, Sgt.
Pedro Martínez

Jr., and Sgt. Major Roberto González, flew to Rochester to attend an intensive three week period of Firefighter I training and lodge and gain field experience with RFD fire companies. Under the tutelage and guidance of Monroe Community College and Monroe County Fire Bureau instructors and Rochester firefighter volunteers at the Public Safety Training Facility on

Scottsville Road, the Dominican firemen received state of the art training followed by a thorough evaluation of the program and their experience.

The Dominican firefighters enthusiastically performed the daily tasks with vigor and passed their final exams with flying colors, all the time expressing their sincere and heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Rochester firemen. To insure continued success, a framework for follow up in Puerto Plata was given to Chief Pedro Martínez and a request to

(Continued on page 6)



Sgt Maj Gonzalez, Sgt Martinez, Chief Martinez

#### STATE CONFERENCE

September 24th saw the first New York statewide sister cities program conference of this century! Organized by Louise Simon Schoene of Buffalo, the New York State Coordinator for Sister Cities International, it drew together representatives of sister cities programs from all over the state to share experiences and best practices.



Candace Black & Barbara Kruger conduct workshop in school exchange.

Visit the website of New York State Sister Cities for news of activities and opportunities:

www.nystatesistercities.com/

## MAYORAL GIFTS AGAIN DISPLAYED

Sister Cities gifts to Rochester Mayors are again on display for public view at City Hall. Martha O'Connor organized a display of long-stored gifts and personal items loaned by ISCOR members in Room 208A of City Hall,



recently dedicated for City Council and ISCOR meetings. Call City Council Office, 428-7538, to arrange a visit.







### From the President's Desk

Greetings, All. I'd like to reflect on some of the major events that occurred during the past twelve months, as



well as looking ahead to the future of ISCOR.

First, I would like to thank all the chairpersons of our sister cities committees; they are listed on the back page of this newsletter. They contribute endless hours of volunteer work promoting what President Eisenhower called "people to people" programs. Please know that your efforts are very much appreciated.

I would also like to thank our at-large Board members for their service: Lois Giess, Patti Donoghue, George Eisen, Maria Fisher, Martha O'Connor, Bill Sullivan, Patricia Uttaro, Carolyn Baker Scott, Lee Johnson, and Nancy Huppert. I am pleased to officially welcome our newest member of the board member, Kimberlie Barrett.

I also want to thank three City staff who, in addition to their regular workload, spend some of their time tending to many of the details that make ISCOR a success: Mike Leach, and Carmen Aponte and Ann Flynn from the Council Office.

Martha O'Connor has been especially helpful in creating several ISCOR displays. Her latest display is in our new Sister Cities cabinet in Room 208A.

Rochester welcomed visitors from many cities that included high school and college students, teachers, and medical professionals including those from Rennes, Krakow, Waterford, Alytus, Caltanissetta, and Xianyang. The former Rehovot Chair, Sheila Weinbach, made an official visit to the new mayor in our Israeli sister city, while public safety personnel from Puerto Plata trained at our fire academy.

I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of St. John Fisher College in developing a multi-faceted partnership with the Waterford Institute of Technology. Fisher's president, Dr. Donald Bain, recently signed a memo of understanding with WIT President Tom McFeely outlining opportunities in joint research and development programs, student and faculty exchange, and student work abroad opportunities in the Schools of Nursing. SJFC has also recently announced the launching of an Irish Studies Program initiated through a \$20,000 grant from the Annual Waterford/Rochester Sister Cities Golf Tournament Committee.

All in all, I'd say it was a pretty good year for ISCOR. We reached out to each other to promote cultural ex-

change, understanding, and friendship. We maintained past relationships, and forged several new ones. And we're planning to do more in the future.

In the past, the majority of our Sister Cities activities have with great success focused on tourism, humanitarian aid, and educational, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges. Today our community and our sister cities also seek ways for our international linkages to support economic development. Our Waterford chair, Tom O'Connell, has taken an important leadership role in this endeavor. Recently, delegations from Rochester, ISCOR, as well as individual travelers, have met with businesses, business and tourism development agencies, and university technology transfer offices during the course of their travels.

Four years ago, ISCOR became an affiliate member of the International Business Council of Greater Rochester (IBC). The IBC and its executive director Laurie DeRoller have generously provided economic forums for information sharing between visiting delegations and local business leaders. Laurie has also participated in recent delegations abroad, reaching out to the business communities in some of our sister cities.

These efforts by some of our travelers, as well as our partners like the IBC, have greatly enhanced ISCOR's ability to serve as a gateway between Rochester and our sister cities as we explore the economic possibilities in this new realm of interest, enhancing our linkages.

Of course, none of these special relationships would be successful for all of these years without all of you—the ISCOR volunteers. Thank you for all of your hard work and commitment. The extraordinary success of ISCOR is your success, and I congratulate you for making our Sister Cities program a rewarding experience for both the greater Rochester area and our sister city communities.

I wish you all the best in the coming holiday season and continued success in our sister cities program.

Multi-City Travel 2013
Want to visit several European Sister
Cities in 2013?

Members of some of our sister cities committees are considering a trip to our European sister cities in Spring or Fall

2013. It would mix tourism and development of opportunities for our sister cities relationships. The working estimates for the trip is \$4000 cost, two week duration, up to 30 travelers. Request a survey to express your interest in the trip from Kim@1Magellan.com; put "SC Trip Survey" in the subject line.



#### RENNES, FRANCE 1958

#### School Exchanges Very Active!

Over the last thirty years, I've had the pleasure of working with a fine group of individuals who are making an impact on our community today. Educational ex-

changes currently twin ten area high schools with seven lycees in Rennes. The University of Rochester, Nazareth College and Rochester Institute of Technology also have very active long-term exchange programs. Indeed, at the end of August, twelve engineering students from the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Rennes (INSA) arrived in Rochester for six months of studies in all manner of engineering, from mechanical to microelectronic. In early October, our committee had a reception at RIT for these new arrivals. They all had English-speaking roommates and they all were somewhat amazed by the amount



Students of Lycée Bréquigny visit students at RCSD School 36

of homework. In the end, however, they all were very satisfied by the experience.

(Continued on page 7)

#### **Coming Events**

**Dec. 4, Piano recital of Janusz Skowron**. Free. Strong Auditorium, UofR River Campus. 3pm

**Dec. 10.** *Wigilia*, Traditional Polish Christmas Eve customs and dinner, St. John Fisher College, 5:30 PM. Info and tickets: www.polishheritagerochester.org

**Dec 11, Polish Christmas Traditions, Symbols and Carols.** Free. Landers Auditorium, Hutchison Hall, UofR River Campus 3pm

**Jan 31, Rochester's Sister Cities Program.** Presentation by Mike Leach & Martha O'Connor. Free, Fairport Public Library, 7:15PM. 223-9091 for reservations.

All listed events are handicapped accessible.



#### WÜRZBURG, GERMANY 1964

Rochester delegates join International Women's Day Conference.

The City of Würzburg invited each of its sister cities to send three women delegates to their 3 day, International Women's Conference on March 18-20. Rev. Kay Michelinie, Rev. Carol Anne Strawbridge and Margaret Corbin, UNAR, were our Rochester delegates. Lord Mayor Georg Rosenthal and Deputy Mayor Ms. Marion Schaefer-Blake met with them several times.

Margaret Corbin gives this report:

We were housed at Akademie Frankernwarte Würzburg, and all our meetings were held there. 150 women, mostly from Europe, gathered and exchanged experience and examined steps toward equity for women around the world. A common denominator among the attendees is the lack of child care. Not having affordable care, keeps women from education, steady employment and upward mobility in any field.

I had the opportunity to lead a discussion on violence. The group chose to discuss war and how it affects women and how women can affect war.



International Women's Day, Celebrating 100 Years 1911-2011

It was a well led, dynamic 3 days and I felt privileged to attend for Sister Cities of Rochester! Würzburg, as usual, was a fabulous host city; we thank Eva Maria Barklind Schwander, Office of International Affairs.

Submitted by Margaret Corbin



#### CALTANISSETTA, ITALY 1965



Student Exchange. We were pleased to greet Carla Cordova of Caltanissetta, and her host parents Michele and Michael Lauria and host sister Bianca at the International Sister Cities of Rochester Annual Reception. Carla will be with us at Greece

Athena High School through the school year. MDL



#### REHOVOT, ISRAEL 1972

Ever since I was a young child I have volunteered. As I grew up I received benefits from the Baden Street Settlement, the JCC and other organizations.

I knew that I had to give back to the community. Over the years, I have been involved with many local organizations; this year it was time for me to volunteer internationally.

In September I served in a program called Volunteers for Israel, which provides support for the Israel Defense Forces. I had the privilege of joining people aged 17 – 93 from several continents. Each traveled to Israel to volunteer for 1-to-3 weeks in a warm climate in a warm uniform, doing unskilled work. Of the almost 400 volunteers, some groups spoke Hungarian, some French, some Spanish and my own group, from South Africa, New Zealand, England, Holland, Germany, Australia, and the USA, spoke English.

Our time was not just work! Education and touring was an important part of the experience. One of my most meaningful, emotional trips was to the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, a wonderful monument in the shape of an unfurling USA flag on a pedestal that contains a piece of the World Trade Center. It is the only memorial outside of the USA that has all of the names of those that died in that horrendous loss of life.

The group also visited the Aalon Institute in our sister city, Rehovot, Israel. This is a museum to remember the underground bullet factory, where about 400 people worked secretly from 1942-1948 crafting munitions.

After my military volunteering, I returned to Rehovot for sister city work. I stayed with Dalia and Rannan Nutmann, who have led several music tours to Rochester. We attended a pre-Jewish New Years reception at Rehovot City Hall where I was officially greeted by the Mayor. Several others warmly greeted me and told me that they had fond memories of their visits to Rochester for Sister City functions. They are looking forward to more Rochester/Rehovot functions.

Submitted by Past Chair Sheila Gissin Weinbach,

#### **BAMAKO, MALI** 1975



Chi Wara.

In traditions of the Bambara/Bamana people who live in the Bamako region, a farming antelope named Chi Wara taught farming skills to their people. Dancers wearing carved wooden Chi Wara headdresses and strips of rafia clothing scratch the earth with long sticks, imitating

the Chi Wara hoeing the soil with his horns. Both male and female figures are worn, symbolizing the need for



Dancers wearing chiwara headdresses, Mali.

both to work cooperatively to assure a successful harvest.

The chiwara was chosen by ISCOR News Founding Editior Jean Cappelino, long-time supporter of the cooperation vital to our Bamako-Rochester relationship, as the symbol to head our Bamako articles as an expression of the purpose of our program.

Photo: www.vub.ac.be/BIBLIO/nieuwenhuysen/african-art/ objects/S-CHIWARA3.jpg

Article: www.vub.ac.be/BIBLIO/nieuwenhuysen/african-art/ african-art-collection-masks.htm

**MDL** 



#### KRAKÓW, POLAND 1973

# Traditional Christmas Eve Dinner at St. John Fisher College.

The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester once again invites us to a share in a community Christmas Eve Dinner and celebration of Polish traditions. Enjoy music,

food, recitations, and good company on Saturday, December 10th, 6-9PM, at Cleary Auditorium in Kearny Hall at St. John Fisher College. Adults \$35, students 7-21, \$15. Reserved seating for tables of 10 available. Menu, description of the tradition and registration links at www.polishheritagerochester.org/inner/wigilia.aspx.



# WATERFORD, IRELAND 1983

Education, Tourism, Business connections advancing!

Advancing connections made during visits of Mayor Bob Duffy's delegation to Waterford in 2008 and Rochester visits of Waterford Mayors Halligan and Roche thereafter, the Waterford committee is assisting Rochester institutions in building connections with counterparts in Waterford.

St. John Fisher College, under the leadership of President Donald Bain, recently signed a memo of understanding with Waterford Institute of Technology President Tom McFeely outlining opportunities in joint research and development programs, student and faculty exchange, and student work abroad opportunities in the Schools of Nursing. Several planning visits between schools are in the works now. The Waterford Committee is assisting the planning teams.

SJFC has also recently announced the launching of an Irish Studies Program initiated through a \$20,000 grant



Golf Tournament Chair Jim Growny presents SJFC President Bain with endowment check for Irish Studies Program

(Continued on page 6)



#### VELIKIY NOVGOROD, RUSSIA 1990

Board member Debra Fromm Faria, met with Velikiy Novgorod leaders in aging services in June. Novgorod faces the challenge of caring for the high proportion of older adults in its population. For the past ten years Linkages has sponsored a Partnership for Elder Services. Debra met with city, university, and service agency officials to develop a checklist of needs which the Partnership will begin addressing with Novgorod colleagues.

Linkages sponsors two ESOL teachers each summer to travel to V. Novgorod to conduct a two-week seminar in English language instruction at the Center for Educational Development. Participants spend part of their summer vacation to improve their English language skills and language instruction skills. The seminar is also an opportunity to learn more about American history and culture. This year the Linkages Education Committee selected Wendy L. Lawther and Larry Webber. Wendy is an ESOL teacher at East High School in Rochester; Larry teaches social studies in the Webster school district.

Two grants, recently awarded to two Linkages Board members, will advance the work of two Linkages Partnerships. Debra Fromm Faria, professor at the SUNY Brockport and chair of the Linkages Partnership for Elder Services, was awarded a SUNY Chancellors grant to develop a course in International Social Work at the college. Debra will be offering a course on international perspectives in social work to students in the Social Work department of the college.

In addition, COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) Institute for Globally Networked Learning in the Humanities, has selected Barbara LeSavoy, chair of gender studies at SUNY Brockport to become part of a two-year international educational partnership project. Prof. LeSavoy, chair of the Linkages Partnership for Women's Issues, and Dr. Elena Lukovitskaya at Novgorod State University will use blended technology to mount a globally networked course, "Sex and Gender Across Cultures," likely live for spring or fall 2012. Gender studies classrooms in Brockport and in Velikiy Novgorod will be linked through video conferencing as part of the project.

Submitted by Paul Caccamise

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



#### HAMAMATSU, JAPAN 1996

**Lecture Webcast Live to Hamamastu**. At the initiative of Timothy Cosgriff of the SUNY Empire State

College Genesee Valley Center, the Hamamastu Committee worked with ESC, the United Nations Association of Rochester, and the George Eastman House to produce and share via live webcast of a lecture Hamamatsu, celebrating the International Day of Peace

On September 21, 2011, at 7 p.m., (9 a.m. on Sept. 22 in Japan!) Kathy Connor, curator of the George Eastman Legacy collection, spoke on Eastman's 1920 trip to Japan and display rarely viewed artifacts from George Eastman House, International Museum of Photography and Film.

Deputy Mayor Leonard Redon offered the City of Rochester's greeting to Mayor Yasutomo Suzuki and the citizens of Hamamatsu.

The proceedings of the free, public event were translated live into Japanese.

MDL

(Continued from page 5, Waterford)

from the Annual Waterford/Rochester Sister City Golf Tournament Committee; it will be directed by Prof. Timothy Madigan.

Business development committees of key municipal and regional officials have been established to exchange economic information and development priorities.

A 2013 European ISCOR Tour Announced. A committee was formed to begin planning efforts for a tour of European Sister Cities in 2013. The actual destinations and time of year are still being evaluated. The timing would most likely be late Spring or early Fall 2013. The final itinerary will most likely be decided by which will be most effective in regards to accomplishing our mission, cost, duration and which Sister Cities are interested in participating in the planning of events in their Cities.

It will certainly be a unique opportunity to tour Europe and experience Sister City hospitality and friendships. And all involved want to use this trip to continue our respective efforts to build programs and relationships between our regions. This trip will also provide an opportunity to learn from each other as we promote partnerships in Education, Business, Tourism, Arts & Culture, Athletics and more.

Please contact Tom O'Connell at 749-0211 for more information. Europe......here we come!

For more information, contact Tom O'Connell



#### PUERTO PLATA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1997

(Continued from page 1, Bomberos)

report back to Rochester during the year.

Several Rochester firefighters want to travel to Puerto Plata next year to provide further instruction and exchange of ideas attests to the success of this cultural, humanitarian aid, and professional exchange endeavor.



Graduation Ceremony at Fire Academy

This training is the first step to implement two top priorities of the Puerto Plata-Rochester Sister Cities Committee that result from the opportunities assessment visit to Puerto Plata by an 11-member Rochester delegation in November 2010 (See Spring 2011 ISCOR News). The Committee selected the two most highly feasible projects, expanding the Conani Pre-School for needy children and the Puerto Plata Firefighters' project, as their top priorities.

The training opportunity arose on very short notice. With the commitment and active involvement of Monroe Community College, the Monroe County Fire Bureau, the Rochester City Fire Department, and the Puerto Plata Rochester Sister Cities Committee, and invaluable assistance from the US Embassy to Dominican Republic and staff of the Consulate, the firefighters' project took flight.

The Conani School expansion project is expected to commence during Spring 2012.

The Committee seeks a total of \$25,000 to send donated functional surplus firefighter turnout gear, hoses, and other equipment, two fire trucks and two ambulances to the Puerto Plata fire department, and to provide the final \$8000 needed to supplement \$20,000 that has already been raised for the school by Dominican Hope, led by Chris and Mayor Carl Luft of Lima, NY. Contact Relton Roland, 585-473-5346, if you would like to assist in this effort.

Submitted by Lynn Pigage and Michael Leach



#### ALYTUS, LITHUANIA 2009

# Rochester Delegation Participates in Alytus Days

This past June marked the 430 year anniversary of the establishment of the city

of Alytus, Lithuania, a special occasion celebrated during the Alytus City Festival, June 17-20, one of the largest cultural celebrations in Southern Lithuania. In the month of June 1581 Grand Duke Batoras granted city rights to Alytus and its residents, an historic event that the annual festival commemorates,

Education subcommittee members Professors Don Marozas and Joseph Bulsys of SUNY Geneseo, participated in the festival at the invitation of Alytus mayor, Feliksas Dziautas. They arrived a day early to meet with educators from the city and were given tours of various educational facilities from the primary through the college levels. They were impressed with the educational system in Lithuania, particularly the efforts of educators to encourage the artistic talents of youngsters, and to instill in them an appreciation for their cultural heritage.

During the festival there were opportunities to attend the



Young musicians entertain at art exhibit opening. Photo by Don Maroaas

official opening of the Alytus City Days celebration, visit cultural venues, attend artistic exhibitions, see traditional folk art, and enjoy the surroundings of Druskininkai, a quiet, nature-centered spa complex south of Alytus. Don and Joe left Alytus in high spirits, feeling welcomed, and energized to develop strong educational ties between the two cities.

Collaboration between Alytus College and SUNY Geneseo is underway to explore projects from online network-



#### XIANYANG, CHINA 2007

The Committee is working with Nazareth College, the City of Rochester, and the City of Xianyang to

bring Xianyang Foreign Affairs Office staff member Li Bo to Rochester for studies at Nazareth College and an internships with several City of Rochester departments. The committee would welcome opportunities for Ms. Li to visit secondary and elementary schools to meet students and talk about life in Xianyang.

Submitted by Michael Coniff, 732-5803

(Continued from page 3, Rennes)

Less than two weeks later, a contingent of young French men and women from Lycée Bréquigny spent the morning and shared lunch with elementary students at Rochester City School District School #36 on Carter Street and, later, were fêted by elected officials and sister-city personnel at Rochester City Hall. This group, led by Professor Jean Homo, was being hosted for two weeks by Honeoye High School, its French teacher, Mme. Penny Hensler, and families of its students. Following a day trip to Niagara Falls and a few days in the Big Apple, they will return to Rennes with a much better idea of life in the United States.

Three elements make the high-school programs successful: They are content-driven with the students spending a full week in class with their hosts. They are also enjoyable and educational with trips to the Museum of Play, the George Eastman House and more. Finally, they are cost-effective. Just last spring, two weeks over in France for students from Eastridge High School cost \$1,475 per student, making a "once-in-a-lifetime" trip affordable to everyone, especially with fundraising factored in.

More high schools are being sought for this experience. Presentations by our committee members at the the NYS Foreign Language Teachers Assn. conventions over the last six months have resulted in several new high schools seeking more information with some that are actively in the pipeline to bring this to fruition. We look forward to working with them all. Contact me for further information.

Submitted by Ray Griswold, 264-0232

ing among students, a summer short course, to a formal study abroad program. Dr. Marozas is planning a workshop in special education, as early as next summer. Don and Joe are most thankful for the invitation from the city of Alytus, and the financial support received from SUNY Geneseo.

Submitted by Joseph Bulsys

International Sister Cities of Rochester City Hall, Room 307-A 30 Church Street Rochester, NY 14614-1284

#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

In this Issue:			
Los Bomberos de Puerto Plata	1		
State Sister Cities Conference	1		
Mayoral Gifts Displayed	1		
President's Message	2		
Sister Cities Trip 2013	2		
Coming Events	3		
Committee News	3		
Board Members	8		

Hamamatsu, Japan

Xianyang, China

Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic

Jonathan Schmidt, Chair

Relton Roland, Chair

Dalei Huang, Co-Chair

Michael Coniff, Co-Chair

May your holidays be filled with the warm joy of friendship and love from home and abroad!

**\*** 

Label Here

#### **ISCOR BOARD MEMBERS**

Honorary Chair	Mayor Thomas S. Richards	Altytus, Lithuania	Rimas Chesonis, Chair
President	Carolee Conklin		
Vice President	Les Knox	Members at Large	
Secretary	Kevin Loughran	Carolyn Baker-Scott	Les Knox
Treasurer	Michael Leach	Kimberlie Barrett	Kevin Loughran
Rennes, France	Raymond Griswold, Chair	George Eisen	Martha O'Connor
Würzburg, Germany	Edie Fuchs, Chair	Maria Thomas Fisher	William F. Sullivan
	Dean Ekberg, Alternate	Lois Giess	Patricia Uttaro
Caltanissetta, Italy	Rosalba Pisaturo, Chair	Ex-Officio	
Rehovot, Israel	Daniel Karin, Chair	Lee Johnson, Past President	
Kraków, Poland	Michael Leach, Chair	Nancy Huppert, Global Envoy, Sister Cities International	
Bamako, Mali	Clyde Forbes, Chair		
	Rachel Adonis, Alternate	<b>Board Meetings</b> 208A City Hall, 5:30pm, Open to public.	
Waterford, Ireland	Thomas O'Connell, Chair	2012: January 9th; March 5th; May 7th	
Velikiy Novgorod,	Paul Caccamise, Chair		
Russia		<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Michael Leach

**General Information:** 

Mayor's Office, 585-428-7045 Website and contact information:

http://www.cityofrochester.gov/sistercities/

**Mailing List:** To update, add, or delete names and addresses, contact Michael Leach, 585-428-7319 or mleach@CityofRochester.gov