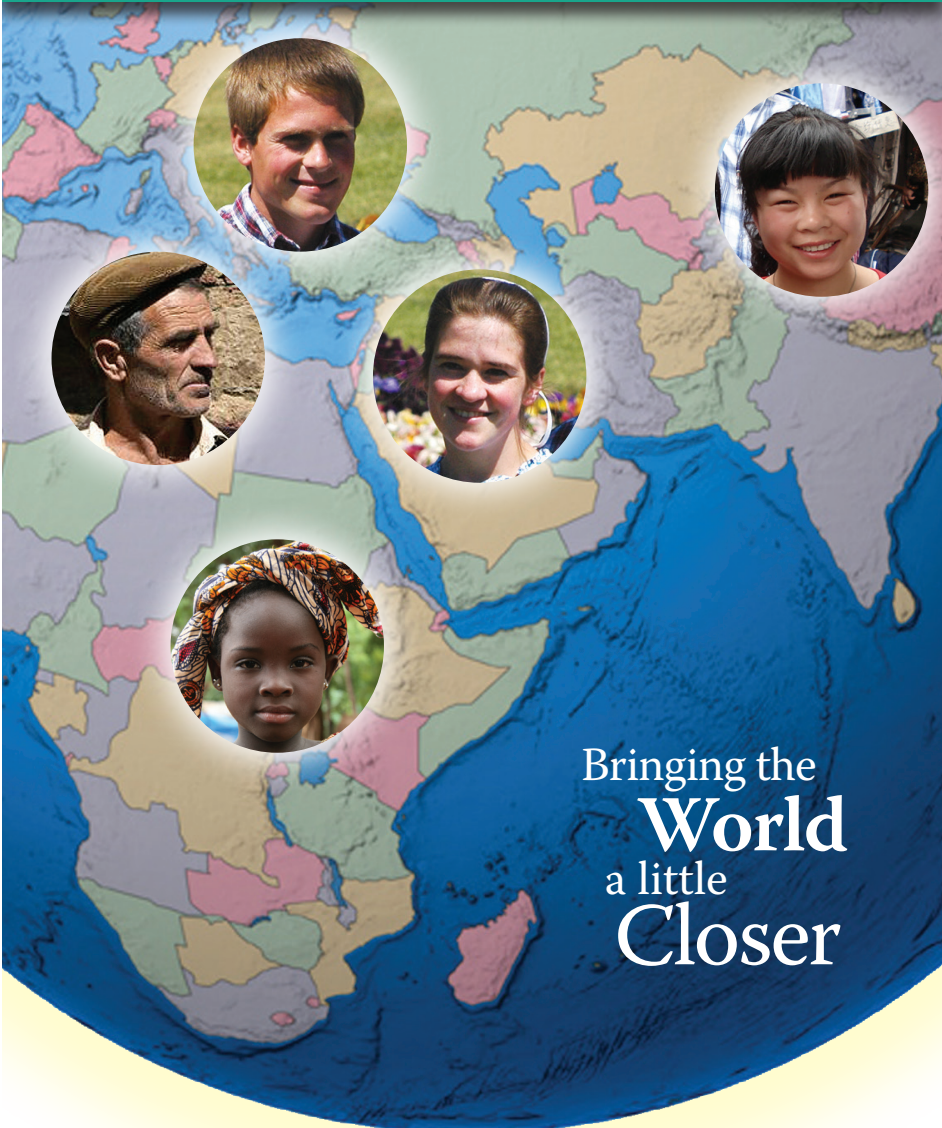




# International Sister Cities of Rochester, NY, Inc. 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Bringing the  
**World**  
a little  
**Closer**

---

**ISCOR's 2016/2017 year** *has been full of activities that have benefited Rochester and its sister cities. We thank Mayor Lovely A. Warren and the Rochester City Council for their support of Rochester's sister cities program and all the volunteers, institutions, and businesses whose work has assured our success this year.*

---

**RENNES:** Community outreach was a highlight of the Rennes-Rochester Sister Cities Committee activities. Serving up samples of galette saucisse at the City of Rochester Public Market provided an opportunity to start conversations about our work in citizen diplomacy and a "Welcome to Rochester" walking tour of downtown Rochester allowed the committee to strengthen its connection with Rennes college students studying at local institutions. The annual Bastille Day celebration, the undergraduate study abroad scholarship, and high school student exchanges continue to thrive.

—Hannah Barry, *Chair*

---

**WÜRZBURG:** Judy and Dean Ekberg represented Rochester at the opening of the 2017 Würzburg Mozart Festival. Leaders and youth of the Canoe Inclusion Project, whose purpose is inclusion of young people with and without disabling conditions in a variety of water sports experiences, visited Rochester. They paddled on the Genesee River and the Erie Canal, and enjoyed the hospitality of the Rochester Schwaben Verein and a host of sightseeing experiences.

—Dean Ekberg, *Chair*

---

**CALTANISSETTA:** Concluding the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the sister cities tie, a Rochester delegation spent the 2017 Holy Week in Caltanissetta. It was warmly welcomed and entertained by the Caltanissetta sister cities organization AGERICA and City officials. At City Hall Mayor Giovanni Ruvolo dedicated a "Rochester-Caltanissetta Hall" for display of memorabilia of sister cities connection. Noted sculptor Leonardo Cumbo opened the exhibit BRIDGES with displays of works by Caltanissetta and Rochester artists. The delegation visited historically important towns of Sicily and met with educators and business leaders to continue our strong student exchange program and to initiate new economic and cultural programs for the future. In summer 2017 AGERICA president Alida Marchese visited Rochester to develop further connections.

—Rosalba Pisaturo, *Chair*

---

**REHOVOT:** Under the assumption that overseas travel would provide long term benefits for urban teens, in August six adults and eleven Rochester youth traveled to Rehovot, Israel. Warmly welcomed by our Israeli hosts, we settled into our rooms at the Hebrew University College of Agriculture dormitory in Rehovot. Our Israeli friends took us to Jerusalem, the Tel Aviv markets, the ancient city of Jaffa, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, and the Dead Sea. Graciously welcomed by Rehovot Mayor Rachmim Malul, the youth shared their experiences with him. The City youth were amazed by the many new sights, and were happy to meet and travel with several of the Rehovot youth who had visited Rochester last summer. The Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation provided funding for the teens' airfare, with some additional assistance from the Weinbach family.

—Daniel Karin, *Chair*

---

**KRAKÓW:** The Kraków committee has continued to work with Polish-American community organizations to support such relationships with Krakow as the vigorous, independent programs between the University of Rochester and the Jagiellonian University. The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester and the Krakow committee supplemented an Association for Teenage Diplomats Gary Simon scholarship to permit Rochester City School District student Jordan Majors to visit Krakow in August; he stayed with the family of 2016/2017 ATAD Krakow student Mateusz Olszamowski.

—Michael Leach, *Chair*

**BAMAKO:** The Bamako Committee, led by chair Alicia Ward, hosted a delegation of four led by Bamako Mayor Adama Sangaré in October 2017. The delegation met with leaders of City of Rochester Department of Environmental Services Operations Bureau and the Rochester Fire Department, Monroe Community College, Rochester Institute of Technology, and the Eastman Community Music Program to discuss exchanges and assistance projects to develop in the future.

**WATERFORD:** Exchanges continue to strengthen between St. John Fisher College and the Waterford Institute of Technology in fields of medicine and Irish Studies.

—Tom O’Connell, *Chair*

**VELIKIY NOVGOROD:** Despite rocky national relationships, in the past year Linkages, which handles the Rochester-Velikiy Novgorod connection, maintained the strong relationships forged over many years and developed new connections with friends in our Russian sister city. Through a grant from the Library of Congress Open World program, in October 2016 Linkages hosted a group of young leaders from Velikiy Novgorod who work with persons with developmental and other disabilities. In June 2017 two local teachers were sponsored by Linkages to travel to Velikiy Novgorod to conduct a two-week seminar for Novgorod region teachers on instruction of English as a Second Language and on American history and culture. Linkages President Paul Caccamise attended a national conference for representatives of US and Russian sister cities in Virginia Beach in July on issues of citizen diplomacy, business and economic development, and self-government. Committee members served samples of Russian Cucumber and Radish Salad to Rochester Public Market shoppers one Saturday in August for in the Flavors of Rochester at the Market program. —Paul Caccamise, *Chair*

**HAMAMATSU:** The committee participated in the “Asian Pacific American Heritage Family Day” at the Memorial Art Gallery in May.

—Jeffrey Mills, *Chair*

**PUERTO PLATA:** The Puerto Plata Rochester Committee has continued to focus on the Fire Fighters Assistance Project, begun several years ago. It is applying for US government Denton Program air transport for thirteen tons of donated equipment and gear, three fire trucks donated by the City of Rochester, and an ambulance and two SUVs donated by American Medical Response for shipment.

—Relton Roland, *Chair*

**XIANYANG:** The Xianyang committee seeks local supporters and new opportunities for connections with our Chinese sister city.

—Michael Coniff, *Chair*

**ALYTUS:** The Lithuanian-American Community along with the Catholic parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Ann’s donated Christmas gifts to the Orphanage and Nursing Home in Alytus. This was done by filling over 100 shoe boxes of toys, candy, gloves, socks, etc. At our initiative, the Alytus Chamber of Commerce organized a Trade Mission to Rochester consisting of ten businessmen looking for business relationships with our companies. Twenty-one meetings were arranged with the assistance of Rochester Business Alliance and the Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Meredith Harrigan of SUNY- Geneseo visited Alytus College this June having received the Erasmus Institutional Mobility Grant to develop an online course for both institutions.

—Rimas Chesonis, *Chair*

Flavors of Rochester at the Rochester Public Market: Six sister cities committees participated in the Flavors of Rochester at the Market over the summer, giving visitors to the City of Rochester Public Market a taste of traditional sister city foods which could be prepared from products available at the Market.

Submitted by the Executive Committee of the ISCOR Board of Trustees

# Contact Us:

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

Or write to:

**International Sister Cities of Rochester, NY, Inc.**

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

Follow us:

 [www.facebook.com/ISCORnews](http://www.facebook.com/ISCORnews)

 Twitter: @ISCORnews

## Board of Trustees

Lovely A. Warren, Mayor	Kim Jones
Carolee A. Conklin, President	Daniel Karin, Rehovot
Leslie J. Knox, Jr., Vice-President	Kevin Loughran
Carolyn Schuler, Secretary	Cheryl Marshall
Michael Leach, Treasurer, Kraków	Jeffrey Mills, Hamamatsu
Hannah Barry, Rennes	Dana K. Miller
Paul Caccamise, Velikiy Novgorod	Katarzyna Murphy
Rimas Chesonis, Alytus	Thomas O'Connell, Waterford
Michael Coniff, Xianyang	Martha J. O'Connor
Patricia Donoghue	Rosalba Pisaturo, Caltanissetta
Dean Ekberg, Würzburg	Relton Roland, Puerto Plata
Kathleen Hansen	Mitchell Rowe
Nancy Huppert, Ex-Officio	Patricia Uttaro
Lee Johnson, Ex-Officio	Alicia Ward, Bamako

