



MONTGOMERY *Sister Cities*

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2009-2018



Xi'an, China



Hyderabad, India



Daejeon, South Korea



Morazán, El Salvador



Gondar, Ethiopia

The World of *Montgomery*



People have come to Montgomery County, Maryland from every corner of the globe. Montgomery Sister Cities was established to connect Montgomery County to the world by encouraging and fostering friendship, partnership, and mutual cooperation through educational, cultural, social, economic, humanitarian, and charitable exchanges between the people of Montgomery County and people from various nations around the world.

Welcome to Montgomery County, Maryland, USA

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STATE	Maryland
FOUNDED	1776
POPULATION (2018)	1,060,000
AREA	507 square miles
ELEVATION	875 feet
PRIMARY LANGUAGES	English, Spanish, Chinese, Amharic, French, Tagalog, Korean, and Vietnamese
PRIMARY RELIGIONS	Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu
CURRENCY	U.S. dollar
TIME ZONE	Eastern Standard Time (EST) (UTC-5)
ECONOMY	Life sciences, information technology, healthcare, hospitality, real estate, and agriculture

WWW.MONTGOMERYSISTERCITIES.ORG



November 2018

Dear Friends:

Montgomery County is a world class community, a talent magnet for extraordinary people from across the country and around the world. One-third of our one million plus residents were born in other countries. Having residents who understand every culture and speak nearly every language is Montgomery County's edge in the 21st century global marketplace.

People have come to Montgomery County from every corner of the globe. Our Sister Cities program takes Montgomery County to the world. It helps strengthen our cultural competence and expand our economic ties around the world.

Over the last decade, I am very proud to say that we have built Sister City relationships with some of the most extraordinary cities in the world representing the five top countries of origin of our immigrant population – China, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, and South Korea.

My thanks to the founding chairman of Montgomery Sister Cities Bill Hudnut and his successors Theresa Cameron and Bill Nance. Thanks also to all of the board members of Montgomery Sister Cities as well as the staff of the County's Office of Community Partnerships and to our partners at Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation.

My special thanks go to those who have taken Montgomery County to their native countries, made us feel at home, and taught us what it means to be a global citizen.

Montgomery County is working hard every day to become one of the world's most welcoming communities. Our Sister Cities initiative is helping us reach this ambitious goal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ike Leggett".

Ike Leggett
Montgomery County Executive



MONTGOMERY SISTER CITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce Adams
Nicholas Arrindell
Mumin Barre
Tracey-Alexis Dixon
Lorna Forde
Nancy Goldberg
William Nance, *Chair*
Nan Qiao
Darwin Romero
Roman Santillan, *Treasurer*
Clemmie Solomon

Founding Chair
Bill Hudnut



*Montgomery Sister Cities board members
Dianne Smith, Bruce Adams and Lorna Forde
visiting Humayun's Tomb in Delhi, India in 2014*

Become a Global Citizen

Support Montgomery Sister Cities

For an annual contribution of \$20 or more, you will receive an official Montgomery Sister Cities pin and quarterly email newsletters on our programs and progress. As Montgomery Sister Cities is a 501(c)(3) community nonprofit, your contribution is tax deductible.

**Please copy this form and mail it with your check made payable to
"Montgomery Sister Cities" to:**

Montgomery Sister Cities c/o Cynthia Morris
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, MD 20850

Name

Preferred phone

Email address (please print)

Mailing address

City/State/Zip

**To support Montgomery Sister Cities online,
please visit www.montgomerysistercities.org/donations/**

Washington Grove, Maryland silkscreen artist Joseph Craig English produced a limited edition original print that we call "World of Montgomery at Strathmore" for County Executive Ike Leggett to present to each of our Sister Cities. The print highlights the extraordinary talents of Montgomery's diverse population by featuring the faces of performers with the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra.

To order a beautiful 11x14" giclee reproduction of our Sister Cities gift (\$120 framed or \$75 matted), please contact sistercities@montgomerycountymd.gov.



*County Executive Leggett presenting
Joseph Craig English's "World of Montgomery at
Strathmore" print to Xi'an Mayor Shangguan Jiqing*

Letter from the Board Chair

County Executive Leggett's "brainchild" to create Montgomery Sister Cities and to bring Montgomery County to the world has developed and flourished. With the signing of an agreement with Daejeon, South Korea in October 2017, we now have partnerships with five cities – representing the countries of origin of many residents of Montgomery County whose families chose to immigrate here. The idea that we could find ways to strengthen relationships between communities here and abroad, starting with those already familiar to some extent, was and continues to be a laudable one. Already we have seen bonds grow between communities in the County and those in each of our sister cities, and they continue to strengthen in many fields, including health care, economic development, education, culture and art, even the creation and preservation of park lands. Much of the credit for providing leadership that provided the framework for these agreements and for building the mechanics that allowed this progress should be given to our Founding Chair, the late Bill Hudnut, to Theresa Cameron who followed him as Chair, and to the direction provided by a varied and talented Board of Directors. However, we should never forget, and the County is eternally indebted to Ike Leggett for his leadership, continued enthusiasm and support for Montgomery Sister Cities. Ike personally led delegations to all five cities and

participated in the official signing ceremonies in each case. He not only invested his personal time, but he also lent the weight of the Office of the County Executive, to give maximum advantage to each Sister City partnership to ensure a strong start.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and for the many who have benefitted and continue to benefit from your foresight and sage leadership, thank you, Mr. Leggett. Communities in Gondar, Morazán, Xi'an, Hyderabad, Daejeon, and in Montgomery County are better off because of all that you did for Montgomery Sister Cities.

As we move on to the next phase of community-to-community development under the Montgomery Sister Cities banner, we give a hearty welcome to Montgomery County Executive-Elect Marc Elrich. The Board of Directors, and I personally, look forward to working with you and to continuing to strengthen relationships in the County and abroad.

William Nance
Chair of Board, Montgomery Sister Cities



Sister Cities International



Sister Cities International was created at President Eisenhower's 1956 White House conference on citizen diplomacy. Eisenhower envisioned an organization promoting peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world. Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for more than 500 Sister Cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 140 countries. This network unites volunteers focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic development, and humanitarian assistance. For more information, log onto www.sister-cities.org.



Morazán *El Salvador*

When Montgomery Sister Cities held a public forum in the summer of 2009 to solicit ideas for prospective Sister Cities, by far the most popular choice was El Salvador, the number one country of origin of Montgomery's immigrant population. The Department of Morazán (the equivalent of a US state) was selected as it lies in the heart of the region where the civil war was fought in the 1980s. Many people fleeing the violence came to the Washington area. Montgomery Sister Cities board member Evelyn Gonzalez led an exploratory delegation to Morazán in August

of 2010. On July 26, 2011, County Executive Leggett traveled to the town of San Francisco Gotera and signed the county's first Sister City agreement.

Leaders of COTSA, an umbrella group of Salvadoran hometown associations, partnered with Gonzalez. Neftali Benetiz took us to Joateca to participate in the inauguration of the town square, and Montgomery Sister Cities Board member Neftali Granados and his brother Jorge Granados hosted the delegation in Guatajiagua. The most moving experience of the trip was a

visit to the site of the massacre that took place in El Mozote on December 11, 1981 during the civil war.

One of the top priorities of the Morazán committee has been to provide educational opportunities for students beyond high school. Three Montgomery College professors from the Global Humanities Institute travelled to Morazán in 2013 to offer technical assistance in forming a community college. The committee purchased ten computers for the start-up technical school. In partnership with the Association for Educational



Morazán Governor Miguel Ventura, County Executive Ike Leggett, former United States Representative Connie Morella, and County Councilmember George Leventhal light candles at the El Mozote memorial on July 26, 2011

One of the top priorities...has been to provide educational opportunities for students beyond high school.

Development for El Salvador, the committee has sent medical equipment and educational supplies to Morazán worth more than \$20,000.

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland completed a four year project that built

26 houses and repaired 23 others in Morazán's El Barrial community. Ninety international volunteers participated in 15 trips with Habitat investing \$360,000 in the community. MoverMoms, a nonprofit that promotes service by busy families, organizes trips for county residents each summer. Hungry for Music raised money for instruments for children.

In November of 2015, County Council President George Leventhal and Salvadoran native and Maryland Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez led a mission trip to Morazán. The highlight was a presentation by Council President



Habitat for Humanity volunteers

Leventhal of donated medical equipment to the Hospital de Gotera along with a check for \$11,000 from donations by Montgomery County businesses and residents to be used to modernize the hospital's neonatal care center. The County's Department of Technology Services donated 150 computers it had retired from county service to local schools.

In addition to an annual Fiesta fundraiser, the Morazán committee showcases the Salvadoran culture and cuisine at events including COTSA's annual Salvadoran Festival and Montgomery County's World of Montgomery Festival.

For more information about how you can get involved, please contact sistercities@montgomerycountymd.gov.



County Council President Leventhal joined Dr. Orellana and nurses at Hospital de Gotera on November 8, 2015.

Bienvenidos



FAST FACTS

COUNTRY	El Salvador (population 6,378,000)
DEPARTMENT	Morazán
CREATED	1875
POPULATION	199,519
AREA	360 square miles
ELEVATION	1,000 to 2,700 feet
PRIMARY LANGUAGE	Spanish
PRIMARY RELIGION	Christian
CURRENCY	U.S. dollar
TIME ZONE	Central Standard Time (CST) (UTC-6)
ECONOMY	Agriculture and crafts



Gondar Ethiopia

Diaspora members from nine African countries competed to be selected as Montgomery's Sister City in an open process organized by the County Executive's African Affairs Advisory Group that engaged hundreds of county residents. After nine months of review, the advisory group selected Gondar, the ancient capital of Ethiopia. Effective advocacy by the Montgomery College Ethiopian Students Association (MCESA), led by Yasin Yimam and

supported by Professor Solomon Teklai and Dean Clemmie Solomon and advisor Genet Aklilu, resulted in the choice of Gondar.

Solomon Ayele led a small delegation to Gondar in January of 2012 to meet with the Mayor and explore the possibility of becoming Montgomery's second Sister City. Nine months later, a larger delegation accompanied County Executive Leggett who signed a Sister City agreement with the City of Gondar

on September 27, 2012.

Gondar is known as the "Camelot of Africa" because of its extraordinary 17th and 18th century castles and churches. For centuries, the Ethiopian emperors favored temporary camps over fixed capitals, but Emperor Fasilides founded Gondar in 1635 and it remained the capital of Ethiopia for more than two centuries. Each emperor built a castle in the royal enclosure, and the remains of these castles stand today at the edge of Gondar's center city. The architecture of today's downtown is heavily influenced by the Italian occupation of the 1930s and early 40s. The University of Gondar houses Ethiopia's main medical faculty. While Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity

Gondar is known as
the "Camelot of Africa."

is the dominant religion, Gondar once was home to a large number of Ethiopian Jews.

With health care falling far short of demand, the main focus of the Gondar committee has been to collect and ship essential medical equipment to the Gondar Health Center. Montgomery College has developed a partnership with the University of Gondar. The



Members of the Montgomery delegation during a September 2012 visit to Fasil Ghebbi, site of the castles of Ethiopia's Emperors

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committee is collaborating with Gondar Development in North America group to raise money for scholarships for students from surrounding rural areas who attend Gondar University. The committee donated 20 computers to the Hibret Elementary School during the 2012 visit. The committee supports MCESA's "Books for Africa" project to ship books to Gondar University and surrounding high schools. Hungry for Music provides support for the Miracle Art & Modeling School.

The Gondar committee continues to showcase the Ethiopian culture at high visibility county events including Montgomery County's World of Montgomery Festival, Ethiopian Festival, and Pan African Cultural Festival.

County Councilmember Craig Rice is scheduled to lead a mission trip to Gondar in January of 2019.

For more information about how you can get involved, please contact sistercities@montgomerycountymd.gov.



Deputy Mayor Getinet Amare and County Executive Ike Leggett after signing Sister City agreement in City of Gondar, Ethiopia on September 27, 2012



FAST FACTS

COUNTRY	Ethiopia (population 102,400,000)
REGION	Amhara
FOUNDED	1635
POPULATION	323,900
AREA	15.55 square miles
ELEVATION	6,998 feet
PRIMARY LANGUAGE	Amharic
PRIMARY RELIGIONS	Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity and Muslim
CURRENCY	Birr
TIME ZONE	Eastern African Time (EAT) (UTC+3)
ECONOMY	Trade center for agricultural products, textiles, jewelry, copperware, and leatherwork



Xi'an China

The Northwestern Chinese American Association of Greater Washington (NCAAGW) has been the key partner in establishing Montgomery County's third Sister City. In 2012, NCAAGW's Nan Qiao and Sabrina Hsu accompanied Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Tom Street, County Director of Special Projects Lily Qi, and Shannon Yang on a trip to China that explored the potential of a Sister City with Xi'an. One year later, County Executive Leggett led a large delegation to Xi'an where he signed a Letter of Intent on September 20, 2013. The formal Sister City agreement with Xi'an was signed in 2014.

Best known as the home of the Terracotta Warriors (a World Heritage Site with thousands of sculpted soldiers buried with China's first Emperor to protect him in his afterlife), Xi'an is a major educational and high technology hub in the northwest of China. Now the capital of Shaanxi Province, Emperors ruled China from Xi'an for one thousand years through several of the country's most important dynasties. As the eastern terminus of the Silk Road, the people of Xi'an traded goods and ideas with travelers from diverse cultures across the globe.

NCAAGW, serving Chinese Americans

with connections to China's northwestern provinces, is the largest hometown based Chinese American Association in the Washington area. In 2014, NCAAGW members traveled to Xi'an for discussions aimed at coordinating cultural, educational, and economic exchanges and met with Xi'an representatives at the US-China Sister Cities Conference in Washington. On August 12, 2014, under the leadership of President Hui Li, NCAAGW hosted an event at the Rockville Memorial Library with County Executive Leggett

“Go to Shanghai and you will find a 100-year-old China; go to Beijing and you will find a 1,000-year-old China; go to Xi'an and then you will find a 3,000-year-old China.”

to celebrate the formal signing of the Sister City agreement. NCAAGW facilitated ten day trips to Xi'an by teenagers from Montgomery County in July of 2013 and 2014.

Xi'an University professors visited



Xi'an Mayor Shangguan Jiqing hosted a dinner for Montgomery County government, business, and community leaders on October 25, 2017.

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in December of 2014 as part of the university's partnership with Montgomery College's Global Humanities Institute. County Executive Leggett returned to Xi'an in October of 2017 with a delegation that included Councilmember Craig Rice, Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard, and Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) President David Petr. Xi'an Mayor Shangguan Jiqing hosted a dinner for the delegation. College and MCEDC representatives met with their Xi'an counterparts while other delegation members toured the Xi'an Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The Northwestern Chinese American Association showcases the Chinese culture at events around the region with NCAAGW's Power Drum Team performing in the opening ceremony of the 2014 World of Montgomery Festival.

For more information about how you can get involved, please contact sistercities@montgomerycountymd.gov.



Councilmembers Hans Riemer and Roger Berliner with County Executive Ike Leggett, Xi'an Mayor Dong Jun, and Sister Cities International President Mary Kane after signing Letter of Intent in Xi'an on September 20, 2013



FAST FACTS

COUNTRY	..... China (population 1,386,000,000)
PROVINCE	..... Shaanxi Province
FOUNDED	..... c. 1100 BC
POPULATION	..... 12,000,000 (urban)
AREA	..... 319 square miles (urban) 3,854 square miles (sub-provincial city)
ELEVATION	..... 1,329 feet
PRIMARY LANGUAGE	..... Chinese
PRIMARY RELIGIONS	..... Buddhism, Christian, Muslim, and Taoism
CURRENCY	..... Renminbi Yuan (CNY)
TIME ZONE	..... China Standard Time (CST) (UTC+8)
ECONOMY	..... Equipment manufacturing, tourism, technology, and software outsourcing



Hyderabad *India*

Sanjay Rai, Montgomery College's Vice President for Academic Affairs, took the lead in identifying Montgomery County's fourth Sister City. Working closely with Maryland Delegate Aruna Miller and Ram Konda, chair of the Capital Area Telugu Society, Rai led a several month long process that included a survey of Indian community leaders. When the consensus pick was Hyderabad, Konda volunteered to travel there in December of 2013 to discuss the possibility with city leaders.

Eleven months later, County Executive Ike Leggett led a joint Sister City and economic development mission trip to India where he signed a Sister City agreement with the City of Hyderabad on November 14, 2014.

Hyderabad, India's fourth largest city, is the core of a metropolitan region of nearly eight million people. This South Indian city serves as the joint capital of two of India's 29 states – Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. In terms of religion, it is one of India's most diverse cities.

Nearly 65% of the population is Hindu. Hyderabad's 30% Muslim population is double the country's average.

Founded in 1591, the city has a rich history dominated in the seventeenth century by the Qutb Shahi dynasty and before and during British rule by the Nizams, one of the world's richest families. We visited the historic sites of Charminar, the tombs of Qutb Shahi, Golconda Fort, and Mecca Masjid, one of India's largest mosques. Historically known as the City of Pearls, today's

Historically known as the City of Pearls, today's Hyderabad is now often referred to as Cyberabad.

Hyderabad is now often referred to as Cyberabad. It has also become an important center of India's film industry. The cityscape is dominated by Hussain Sagar, one of Asia's largest artificial lakes.

Meetings were held with businesses, and Montgomery College representatives visited the University of Hyderabad. Mirin Phool, president of the Kaur Foundation, connected us



Montgomery College Vice President Sanjay Rai, County Executive Ike Leggett, First Lady Catherine Leggett, Office of Community Partnerships Asian liaison Diane Vu, and Capital Area Telugu Society chair Ram Konda arrive in Hyderabad November 12, 2014

to local Rotary Clubs. Shashi Shrivastav took us to two Ekal schools in the rural villages of Telangana.

In part as a result of the 2014 mission trip to India, Infosys Public Services opened a headquarters and delivery center in Rockville. The new center will drive innovation in healthcare technology and help public sector organizations transform to new processes and IT systems in compliance with government regulations.

India is featured each year in Montgomery County's World of Montgomery Festival.

For more information about how you can get involved, please contact sistercities@montgomerycountymd.gov.



After November 14, 2014 signing of Sister Cities agreement in Hyderabad (from left) Councilmember Ayesha Rubina, Montgomery Sister Cities Board Member Ram Konda, County Councilmember Nancy Floreen, Maryland Delegate Aruna Miller, Mayor Mohammed Majid Hussain, County Executive Ike Leggett, and N.V.S. Reddy, Managing Director of Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited

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FAST FACTS

COUNTRY	India (population 1,339,000,000)
STATE	Telangana
FOUNDED	1591
POPULATION	10,860,000 (metropolis)
AREA	250 square miles (metropolis) 2,700 square miles (metro)
ELEVATION	1,657 feet
PRIMARY LANGUAGES	Telugu and Urdu
PRIMARY RELIGIONS	Hindu and Muslim
CURRENCY	Rupee
TIME ZONE	India Standard Time (IST) (UTC+5:30)
ECONOMY	Information technology, pharmaceuticals, tourism, film, crafts, and apparel



Daejeon South Korea

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett led a delegation of forty County residents to Daejeon, South Korea and Xi'an, China for a Joint Sister Cities and Economic Development Mission Trip from October 20 to 29, 2017. County Executive Leggett signed a Sister City agreement with Daejeon, South Korea Mayor Kwon Sun-Taik on October 23, 2017 making Daejeon Montgomery County's fifth Sister City. Daejeon was a natural pick to become Montgomery County's Sister City in South Korea because the two communities are both renowned as technology hubs and because Daejeon Metropolitan Office of Education had already been working with Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College on a teacher exchange program.

Daejeon is South Korea's fifth largest

city with a population of 1.5 million people. Ninety miles south of the capital of Seoul, Daejeon sits in the west-center of South Korea at the crossroads of the nation's rail lines and roads. With 19 universities and more than 500 research institutions, the research and development city of Daejeon is considered to be the Silicon Valley of South Korea. The highly regarded Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) are located in Daejeon. When the national government decided in the 1980s to relocate some government agencies from the capital of Seoul, Daejeon became one of four administrative hubs. The Daejeon Government Complex hosts twelve national offices, including Customs, Procurement,

Small and Medium Business, and the National Statistical Office.

During the October 2017 mission trip, County Council Education Committee Chair Craig Rice signed Sister School agreements with the school systems in Daejeon on behalf of Montgomery County Public Schools. Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard signed agreements with universities in Daejeon. David Petr, President of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation; Ellie Giles, CEO of WorkSource Montgomery; Sanjay Rai, Montgomery College's Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Montgomery County Assistant CAO Lilly Qi led our delegation of business leaders in talks in Seoul and Daejeon, South Korea. In addition to meetings with business and government officials, delegation members toured cultural and historic sites.

Humans first settled in the area formerly known as Hanbat during the Stone Age. For centuries, Daejeon was a sparsely populated village. This began to change in the early decades of the twentieth century when Daejeon became a key link of the nation's rail system. Much of the city was destroyed in a key 1950 battle during the Korean War. In the late 1980s, Daejeon's growth began to take off when it



Montgomery County Executive Leggett and Daejeon Mayor Kwon Sun-Taik with Montgomery County delegation at October 23, 2017 signing ceremony

became an administrative arm of the national government. The population began to increase significantly. In 1995, it was officially named Daejeon Metropolitan City and in 1997, the Daejeon Government Complex was built.

With 19 universities and more than 500 research institutions, the research and development city of Daejeon is considered to be the Silicon Valley of South Korea.

In addition to visiting research institutions and universities and participating in economic development conferences, the delegation attended a cultural performance, visited Gongsanseong Fortress (the mountain fortress that served the royal palace of the Baekje Kingdom for the sixty-four years of the Ungjin Period 475-538 CE), and visited the Daejeon National Cemetery.

South Korea is featured each year in Montgomery County's World of Montgomery Festival.

For more information about how you can get involved, please contact sistercities@montgomerycountymd.gov.



Left to right: Craig Rice, Ike Leggett, DeRionne Pollard, David Petr

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FAST FACTS

COUNTRYSouth Korea (population 49,000,000)
REGION Hoseo
POPULATION1,512,000
AREA	.....208 square miles
ELEVATION	..... 236 feet
PRIMARY LANGUAGES	.....Korean
PRIMARY RELIGIONS	.....Christianity, Buddhism, and indigenous religions
CURRENCY	..... South Korean Won (KRW)
TIME ZONE	..... Korean Standard (KTS) (UTC+9)
ECONOMY	.....electronics and telecommunications





Morazán, El Salvador



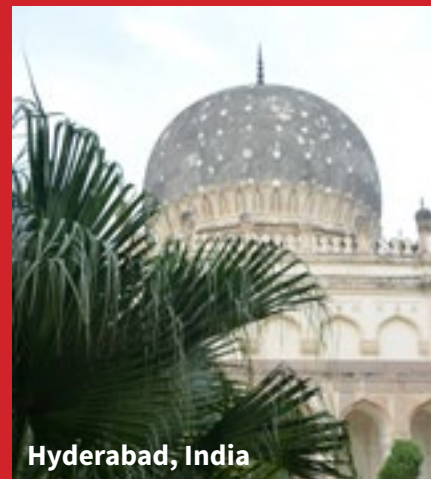
Xi'an, China



Gondar, Ethiopia



Deajeon, South Korea



Hyderabad, India



Xi'an, China

Rockville Sister City Corporation

The Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit service organization was founded in 1986 to facilitate and maintain Rockville's Sister City relationships. Rockville celebrated its 60th Anniversary with Pinneberg, Germany in 2017 and looks forward to its 10th Anniversary with its Friendly Relations City, Jiaxing, China, in 2019.



Rockville Hometown Holidays

2018 was a busy year for the Rockville Sister City Corporation. In January, RSCC sponsored German exchange student, Milena Koch, who started her semester at Richard Montgomery High School. In February, Lena Ousvatova, an intern with the City of Pinneberg, began her apprenticeship with the City of Rockville. A well-attended welcome reception was held at Rockville's historic Glenview Mansion in March for Milena and Lena. In April, the RSCC and the Rockville Yilan City Corporation (RYCC) conducted a Meet and Greet for the purposes of exploring the possibility of a Yilan City (Taiwan)

Sister City relationship with the City of Rockville.

In May, several Rockville Sister City Directors and Members assisted in the presentation of one of Rockville's historic homes as part of Peerless Rockville's 2018 Homes Tour. May also saw RSCC's participation in Richard Montgomery High School's Annual Student Awards Ceremony, where three students were recognized for their contribution to RSCC with scholarship stipends. May was also the month when the RYCC hosted the first Annual Taiwan Bubble Tea Festival in Rockville Town Square with over 1,000 in attendance.

RSCC sponsored a Jiaxing "Reunion" Dinner in May to honor Rockville's nine year Friendly Relations Agreement with Jiaxing, China. The Rockville Sister City Corporation participated in Rockville's Hometown Holidays and Memorial Day Parade. RSCC helped the Frederick Sister Cities Association celebrate the 1,150 year founding of its Sister City, Schifferstadt, Germany at Frederick's Schifferstadt Architectural Museum in May as well.

In July, the Rockville Sister City Corporation welcomed a 19 member delegation from the People's Republic of China at Rockville's historic Glenview Mansion Cottage, in order to discuss Rockville's 61 year Sister City relationship with Pinneberg, Germany and its



Thanksgiving in Pinneberg

nine year relationship with Jiaxing, China. During July and August, the RSCC hosted two lectures featuring renowned author, Liliane Willens. August was also when the Rockville Sister City Corporation participated in the Hagerstown Augustoberfest and sponsored RSCC's annual "Taste of Dim Sum" fundraiser event.

In September, the Rockville Sister City Corporation conducted its annual meeting at City Hall, having doubled its membership from 2017 to more than 230 voting members. In October, RSCC took part in Rockville's annual Rocktoberfest celebration and represented Germany at Montgomery County's World of Montgomery Festival. RSCC President Drew Powell and former Rockville City Clerk Kathleen Conway attended "Thanksgiving in Pinneberg" in Germany in November.



For more information, please visit www.rockvillesistercities.org or email rockvillesistercities@gmail.com.

Global Humanities Institute

Montgomery College's Global Humanities Institute was created in 2012 with the support of a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The NEH Bridging Cultures initiative aims to "engage the power of the humanities to promote understanding and mutual respect for people with diverse histories, cultures, and perspectives within the United States and abroad." The grant enabled Montgomery College to focus on how it teaches the humanities in ways that reflect the complexities of our global society. The College created an interdisciplinary course on Global

Humanities and worked to provide learning opportunities for all within and beyond the classroom while facilitating education abroad for faculty. Gaining expertise beyond the classroom better prepares students and faculty for the global marketplace of the 21st century.

Montgomery College's Global Humanities Institute has worked closely with the Montgomery County Sister Cities program.

Over the past seven years, the GHI has cemented academic connections with partner universities abroad, inaugurating programs that benefit faculty and students' global competencies.

The GHI traveled with faculty and staff to participate in seminars with: Xi'an University, China; Jindal Global University, and Osmania University, India; the University of Central America and University of El Salvador in El Salvador. Thanks to these academic partnerships, Montgomery College students have shared virtual classrooms with students at the University of El Salvador, faculty have benefited from the Seminars Abroad program hosted by Xi'an University, and faculty have formed lasting relationships with their colleagues abroad.

Rita Kranidis, Director of the Global Humanities Institute, credits the Montgomery County Sister Cities program for the success of its global academic partnerships: "There is no doubt in my mind that our academic partnerships in China, India and El Salvador would have been much harder to secure without the endorsement of the Sister Cities program. The County's Sister Cities in these countries are also the Global Humanities Institute's partner sites. The context of Sister Cities helped us connect with administrators who welcomed our presence on their campuses and committed to working with us. The County's global reach and the GHI are strengthened by these important connections. Thank you, Montgomery County Sister Cities!"



At the October 23 opening reception for the exhibit (from left): Karla Silvestre, Montgomery College's Director of Community Engagement; Sanjay Rai, Montgomery College's Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Miguel Ventura, former Governor of Morazán, El Salvador; Vilma Herrera, Counselor for Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of El Salvador; and Rita Kranidis, Program Director of Montgomery College's Global Humanities Institute



WORLD of MONTGOMERY Festival



A fund of the Greater Washington Community Foundation



The annual World of Montgomery Festival celebrates Montgomery County's spectacular diversity with food, entertainment, and cultural enrichment from around the world. The KID Museum, in collaboration with our Sister City partners, provides an authentic introduction to China, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, and South Korea as well as other countries. If you want your child to experience what it means to be a 21st century global citizen, this is the place to be each October. The festival is funded by the generous sponsors of the Fund for Montgomery.

For additional information about Montgomery County's annual World of Montgomery Festival, please log onto www.worldofmontgomery.com.

To become a sponsor, performer, vendor, or participant at the Eleventh Annual World of Montgomery Festival in October of 2019, please contact sistercities@montgomerycountymd.gov.



Performers at the Annual World of Montgomery Festival



MONTGOMERY *Sister Cities*

21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330
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