



MONTGOMERY *Sister Cities*

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE WORLD

CALLING ALL GLOBAL CITIZENS!



ANNUAL MEETING

Connecting Our Community to the World

Montgomery County's edge in the 21st century global marketplace is that we are a talent magnet for people from across the country and around the world. Join us on March 29 as we celebrate the diverse cultures and cuisines that make Montgomery special. To strengthen your cultural competence as a 21st Century Global Citizen, come and learn more about Montgomery's wonderful Sister Cities in Morazán, El Salvador; Gondar, Ethiopia; Xi'an, China; Hyderabad, India and Daejeon, South Korea.

Thursday, March 29, 2018 from 6-8 p.m.

Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza

County Executive Ike Leggett will speak about Sister Cities and its importance to fostering the unique sense of world community that is a hallmark of Montgomery County and recognize special volunteer efforts on behalf of Sister Cities.

For more information, please contact Cynthia Morris at cynthia.morris@montgomerycountymd.gov or visit www.montgomersistercities.org

MISSION OF MONTGOMERY SISTER CITIES, INC.

Montgomery Sister Cities, Inc. 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.

www.montgomersistercities.org

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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Letter from the Board Chair

William B. Nance

We are excited about the upcoming March visit to the US and to Montgomery County by the new Mayor of Gondar, Mr. Tekeba Tebabal Abitew. County Executive Leggett extended a formal invitation to him late last year, and we look forward to welcoming him to the county and to giving him a first-hand introduction to the area. We are also working to re-schedule a previously-planned MSC visit to Ethiopia.

MSC orchestrated a productive trip last fall to South Korea and China, which was a great success. A total of 43 people – including County Executive Leggett – traveled to South Korea, and 37 of those continued to China. During the trip, the County Executive signed a Sister Cities Agreement with Daejeon (South Korea) and renewed the Xi’an Agreement. We expect that a number of lasting relationships will develop from these recent visits that will continue to enhance contacts between communities, businesses and individuals on both sides of the ocean (see coverage elsewhere in this Newsletter).

As has been our experience over the past several years, the Morazán Sister City Committee Annual Fiesta – held in early November of last year – was a great success, raising money that helps to continue funding activities in Morazán. The County Executive and Council Member George Leventhal attended the event, as did candidates standing for election to the County Council.

We hope you will join us at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 29 from 6 to 8 pm at the Silver Spring Civic Building for good food, music and a thoughtful panel discussion on “The Importance of Global Citizenship” led by our County Executive Ike Leggett.

Last, but not least, I am pleased to welcome two new Sister City Board Members: Nancy Goldberg and Dr. Nicholas Arrindell. Welcome aboard!

William B. Nance

NCAAGW Holds Annual Festival

The Northwestern Chinese American Association of Greater Washington (NCAAGW) held its annual Hometown Chinese New Year Festival on January 14th at the Cabin John Middle School in Potomac.

Led by President George Zhou, the festivities were attended by over four hundred who enjoyed delicious cuisine of Northwestern China prepared and donated by local Chinese restaurants while enjoying presentations by many of the area’s leaders. Maryland State Senators Susan Lee, Richard Madaleno, Jr. and William Smith joined Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, Montgomery Councilmen George Leventhal and Roger Berliner and Montgomery County Executive Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Lily Qi were among the many who congratulated NCAAGW for their success in advocating for the culture and heritage of Northwest China.



The highlight of the evening was a performance of Chinese traditional music and dance.

Established in 1997, NCAAGW, a tax-exempt 501 (c)(3), boasts over three thousand members and eight affiliates: Northwestern Performing Arts Troupe, Washington Qin Qiang Opera Club, Taiji Friends Club, Photography Friends Club, Traditional Chinese Drum Club, Young Professional Club and Shaanxi Chamber of Commerce who all host regular practices and gatherings throughout the year.



MONTGOMERY SISTER CITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| William Nance, <i>Chair</i> | Lorna Forde |
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| Nicholas Arrindell | Darwin Romero |
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World of Montgomery Festival



9th Annual **WORLD OF MONTGOMERY** 2017 Festival

The Ninth Annual World of Montgomery Festival was held on Sunday October 15 on the Rockville campus of Montgomery College. More than 7,000 people took advantage of the beautiful fall afternoon to enjoy traditional arts, music, dance, and food from every corner of the globe. Event organizer Elizabeth Gallaresi and the KID Museum realized a vision of providing a unique opportunity for Montgomery residents to experience 21st century global citizenship.



The theme of “Harvest” was showcased in each of the tents representing the countries and cultures of Montgomery County’s Sister Cities in El Salvador, Ethiopia, China, and India. Staffed by the Ethiopian Community Center in Maryland, the tent of Sister City Gondar,

Ethiopia offered activities for all ages. Many of the children gravitated towards the Amharic alphabet by sketching their names on paper while their parents enjoyed fresh brewed Ethiopian coffee. Local artisans featured traditional handmade dresses and paintings. Morazán and Xi’an committee volunteers also offered opportunities for exposure to native languages, food and arts. More than a dozen countries were represented in a “Parade of Nations” featuring musicians and dancers of all ages.

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For information, please contact

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Local Ethiopian Students Contribute to Disaster Relief

The destruction of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria that affected hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life inspired five Ethiopian students in Montgomery County to act. Exhibiting the community spirit and generosity that defines Montgomery County, a group of elementary school students ranging from the ages of 5 to 10 collected a total of \$450 from family and friends at an annual Ethiopian New Year celebration to help children coping with the aftermath of the hurricanes.



County Executive Ike Leggett proudly accepted the funds from the group, expressing his appreciation for their generosity and service.

Demeke Seyoum, President of the Upper County Area Ethiopian Community and Chairman of the Abren Enhun Support Association (AESA), contacted the Office of Community Partnerships for advice on organizations providing disaster relief. The group decided on America’s Charities Disaster Recovery Fund recommended by the Center for Disaster Philanthropy (www.disasterphilanthropy.org).



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 fill out 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



Montgomery Sister Cities Welcomes Daejeon, South Korea

County Executive Ike Leggett led a delegation of 40 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. Mr. Leggett signed a Sister City agreement with Daejeon, South Korea Mayor Sun Taik Kwon on October 23. Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard signed agreements with universities in Daejeon and Xi'an. Council Education Committee Chair Craig Rice signed Sister School agreements with the school systems in Daejeon and Xi'an on behalf of Montgomery County Public Schools. David Petr, President and CEO of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation, Ellie Giles, CEO of WorkSource Montgomery and Montgomery County Assistant CAO Lily Qi led our delegation of business leaders in talks in Seoul and Daejeon, South Korea and Xi'an and Shanghai, China. Adventist Health Care Vice President Eunmee Shim visited hospitals in Xi'an and Seoul to start Sister Hospital relationships. In addition to meetings with business and government officials, delegation members toured cultural and historic sites including the Terracotta Warriors World Cultural Heritage Site in Xi'an.

Korea is the third largest country of origin among Asian American residents in Montgomery County. Montgomery County signed its fifth Sister City agreement with Daejeon Metropolitan City in October 2017. More information is available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships/index.html



Meet Montgomery Sister Cities New Board Members

Montgomery Sister Cities is delighted to welcome **Dr. Nicholas Arrindell** and **Nancy Goldberg**.



Dr. Arrindell holds a doctorate from the University of Maryland in the area of comparative and international education. He has been in the field of international education for over twenty five years, gaining unique perspective of major issues and trends facing our world today. As the former Special Assistant to the Provost at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Arrindell was at the forefront of international education and continues to serve on panels and review boards in these areas, including the Fulbright Scholar program.

The recipient of two Fulbright awards, for Germany and India, Dr. Arrindell looks forward to continuing his commitment to their mission to encourage global learning through scholarship and experience, explore global boundaries and exposure while gaining a greater grasp of a world we all share. *"Sister Cities programs are an opportunity to build bonds through promoting trust, sharing common values and campaigning for peace; goals that I value and support."*



Nancy Goldberg is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh who received a Masters Degree from the Johns Hopkins University. She relocated to Montgomery County from Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 2006 where she served on the boards of more than 10 nonprofits organizations, receiving honors for her extensive volunteer work including the Broward County Commission on the Status of Women and the Board of Directors of Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International. She is especially proud of her service as Chairperson for Israel, where was instrumental in creating a Sister City relationship with Haifa, Israel in 2002. *"I look forward to helping to expand our global citizenship through Montgomery Sister Cities."*



Morazán volunteers celebrate at the annual Mora Fest November. Guests enjoyed Salvadoran cuisine prepared by Café Promenade and Los Cobanos Restaurant, while enjoying the music of Sabanero Agrupacion. Funds raised will support the scholarship program for students in Montgomery College and Morazán.



Morazán Committee Co-Chairs Darwin Romero and Yenny Morales.



Rockville and Pinneberg, Germany Celebrate their 60th Sister City Anniversary

by Drew Powell, President, Rockville Sister City Corporation

Rockville and Pinneberg, Germany celebrated their 60th Sister City Anniversary in 2017. In June, a 28 member Delegation, including Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, and Councilmembers Beryl Feinberg and Mark Pierzchala visited Pinneberg for nearly a week of festivities. In October, a 60 member Pinneberg Delegation visited Rockville and enjoyed excursions, which included a visit to Great Falls, MD and a C&O Canal barge ride, dinner at Gordon Biersch, a visit to a U.S. Congressman's Capitol Hill office, a walking tour of Rockville, a Gala Reception and Rockville's first "Rocktoberfest," where citizens of Rockville came out to welcome their Pinneberg family.



Visit us at www.RockvilleSisterCities.org.

Rockville Sister City Corporation

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(L-R) Drew Powell, President, RSCC, Bridget Donnell Newton, Mayor of Rockville, Urte Steinberg, Bürgermeisterin der Stadt Pinneberg and Bernd Hinrichs, Präsident, DAGRP exchange gifts at Mayor's Reception.

National Korean Day Celebration



Local leaders met with the County Executive on January 9th to thank him for his long-time support and to discuss important issues affecting the Korean American community. The meeting was in conjunction with

the 115th anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States on January 13th.

Senator Susan C. Lee; Ms. Young Cheon Kim, President of the Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area; and Mr. In Duk Kim, President of the Korean American Association of the State of Maryland receive Korean Day proclamations from County Executive Ike Leggett.

County Executive Leggett Honors Sister Cities Partner Montgomery College



At the welcoming ceremony of the World of Montgomery Festival on October 15, 2017, County Executive Ike Leggett presented Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard with a replica of the "World

of Montgomery" silk screen print he commissioned as a gift for Montgomery County's Sister Cities.

County Executive Leggett expressed his appreciation to Dr. Pollard and her colleagues at Montgomery College who have been strong partners in our Sister Cities program and whose Rockville campus has become the permanent host of the annual World of Montgomery Festival.

The limited edition print was produced by Washington Grove artist Joseph Craig English in 2014 for the County Executive to present to the Mayor of Hyderabad, India. All five of our Sister Cities have now received the print. The print features The Music Center at Strathmore and represents Montgomery County's diversity through the faces of the musicians of the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras. An orchestra demonstrates the value of people working in concert for common goals, a perfect metaphor for Ike Leggett's brand of community leadership.

Save the Date

World of Montgomery
10th Annual Festival
Sunday October 21, 2018