



MONTGOMERY Sister Cities

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE WORLD



WORLD of MONTGOMERY Festival 2017

Sunday, October 15
Noon-4pm ☀️ Rain or Shine
Montgomery College
51 Mannakee St. Rockville

Live Music ☀️ Cultural Activities ☀️ Performance Stages
Traditional Arts ☀️ Free Activities for the Whole Family



www.worldofmontgomery.com

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.montgomerysistercities.org



Letter from the Board Chair *William B. Nance*

MONTGOMERY SISTER CITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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I am sure that you have – as I have almost daily – reacted to reports of news around the world and wondered if there is some local act that you could take part in that might help make things better. The good news is that there is. Here in Montgomery County we have a rich mixture of backgrounds, cultures and unique experiences that, if shared, could make a world of difference to people in ways we may never imagine – unless, of course, we get involved and actively seek out opportunities to share. Participation in activities of the Montgomery County Sister Cities (MCSC) program is one way to tap into that wealth of local talent, to share it with others, and to broaden your own perspectives in the process.

Over the past several years, MCSC has developed Sister City relationships with communities in cities located in five countries: Morazán in El Salvador, Gondar in Ethiopia, Xi'an in China, Hyderabad in India, and Daejeon in South Korea. One does not need to have cultural ties to communities in these cities, or to have any connections to the five countries so far selected to participate with MCSC, to take an active part in our programs. The country committees for each Sister City organize trips (both to and from Montgomery County) that offer opportunities for local residents to participate, both by traveling, and by interacting with residents of our Sister Cities in ways that will permit professional and cultural growth on both sides of the exchange. You may well find mutual interests in topics and a depth of expertise on specific issues that would remain unexplored but for the programs that are organized with MCSC, and your decision to join in. Moreover, by getting involved early in the process, you will have an opportunity to help mold future programs.

In the coming months, you can get a taste of the variety of cultural interests in the County by attending the World of Montgomery Festival in October (where you can see cultures of our Sister Cities on display, along with many others), joining MCSC trips already planned for visits to South Korea and China (also planned for October), and/or by attending the Morazán Sister City Committee Annual Fiesta and the Ethiopian Festival planned for later in the year.

William B. Nance

Join Us!!!

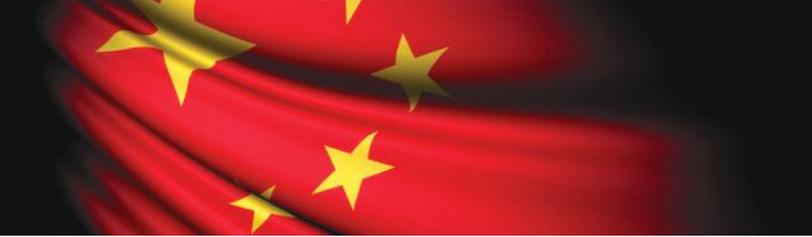
Come celebrate
Salvadoran culture,
community, food and
live music

Morazán Sister City Committee Annual Fiesta

Friday, November 3
6-11pm

Silver Spring Civic Building
1 Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring

nestor.alvarenga@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery Sister Cities Delegation to Travel to Korea and China

Led by County Executive Ike Leggett, friends of Montgomery Sister Cities will travel to Daejeon, South Korea and Xi'an China from the 20th to 28th of October. The trip will reflect the mission of Montgomery Sister Cities to encourage and foster friendship, partnership and cooperation through educational, cultural, social, economic, humanitarian and charitable exchanges between the people of Montgomery and people from nations around the world.

In addition to the cultural, educational and business activities, a highlight of the trip will be the signing of a Sister Cities agreement with Daejeon, South Korea. For more information, visit www.montgomerysistercities.org.



Rockville Sister City Celebrates 60th Anniversary

October marks the 60th anniversary of the Rockville, Maryland and Pinneberg, Germany Sister City relationship. To mark this milestone, on Saturday October 7, the City of Rockville will host "Rocktoberfest," offering a biergarten, German food, two music stages and offerings from numerous commercial vendors. A delegation from Pinneberg and the Pinneberg Indian Summer Tour will be the honored guests at the event.

Drew Powell, President of Rockville Sister City Corporation extends an enthusiastic welcome to everyone to meet and learn more about people from and encourages visits to www.rockvillesistercities.org to learn more.





Sister Cities Holds Annual Meeting

Montgomery Sister Cities held its Annual Meeting on Thursday March 30 at the beautiful Silver Spring Civic Building. Over 100 guests enjoyed food, music and cultural celebrations offered by volunteer committees of sister cities Morazán, El Salvador; Gondar, Ethiopia and Xi'an, China.

Board Chair Bill Nance welcomed guests with a reminder of the mission of Montgomery Sister Cities to connect Montgomery County to the world by encouraging and fostering friendship, partnership, and cooperation through educational, cultural, social, economic, humanitarian, and charitable exchanges between the people of Montgomery County

and people from various nations around the world. County Executive Ike Leggett echoed those remarks along with County Councilman George Levanthal who led the previous year's effort to raise funds for a new neonatal ward at the San Francisco De Goterra Hospital in Morazán.

Sister Cities was especially proud to recognize the generosity of the law firm Shulman Rogers Gandal Pordy and Ecker for their collection of over 500 books for the creation of a law library at the University of Gondar and Kaiser Permanente for their donation in support of the work of the Gondar committee designated by Terrance Dupree.

Guests were invited to join the delegation headed by the County Executive to Daejeon, South Korea and Xi'an China and to reach out to the world through Sister Cities.





Morazán Committee Pursues a Year of Service

Volunteers for the Morazán Committee are especially motivated this year as they reflect on the many service projects they continue to sponsor both in Montgomery County and in Morazán.

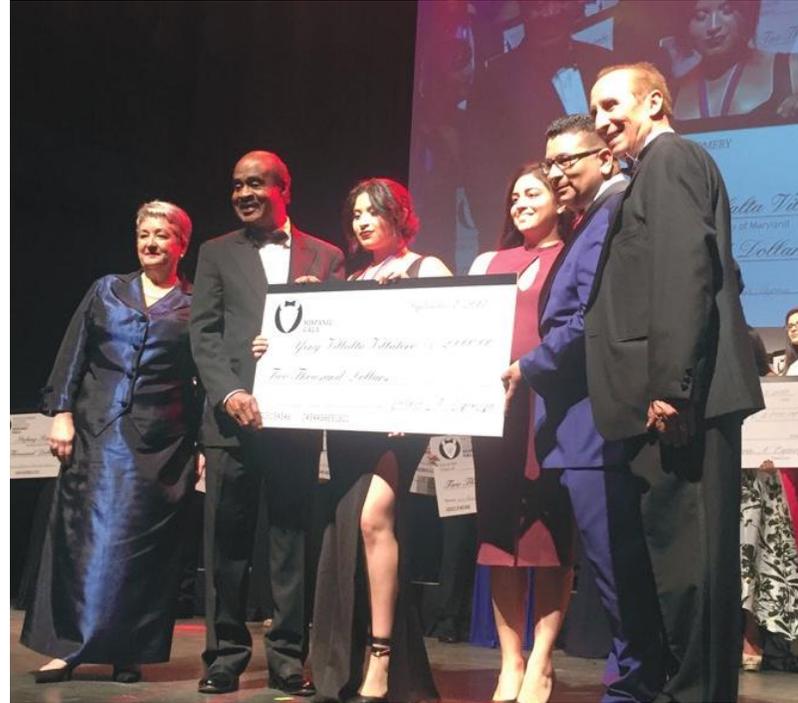
In July, a group led by volunteer John Leary traveled to Morazán for an eight-day collaborative project with Habitat for Humanity where they worked alongside a family to build their new home.

As some volunteers built a house, others led a delegation to Morazán for scholarship ceremony for outstanding students in need of assistance to continue their education. Evelyn Gonzalez presented scholarships to six students while celebrating their accomplishments with their very proud families.

While visiting Morazán, volunteer committee members also met with the staff of the Tin Marin Children's Museum where they are sponsoring field trips for area elementary school students.

Closer to home, the committee were the proud sponsors of a scholarship for University of Maryland Sophomore Yenny Villialta Villatoro who is majoring in Communications.

"We are all so proud and excited of our work, and look forward to building on our efforts!" said Fiesta chairman Darwin Romero. "Our Fiesta brings resources that allow us to continue, so we hope everyone will support us while we "party with a purpose!" For more information visit www.montgomerysistercities.org.





Xi'an Committee Supports Summer Youth Camp

For the last five years, the Northwestern Chinese American Association of Greater Washington (NCAAGW) has assisted the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office (OCAO) of the Xi'an Municipal Government in recruiting 25-30 overseas Chinese youths from the Great Washington Area for the Overseas Chinese Youth "China Roots Trip" (OCYCRT) summer camp. This annual summer camp activity was launched in 1999 by the OCAO of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. This large-scale program boasts tens of thousands of participants and is held in multiple cities in China during the summer vacation to cultivate overseas Chinese youths' understanding of Chinese civilization while stimulating their interest in learning the Chinese language.

This year's camp was held July 19-30 with 100 Chinese youths from all over the world, including 28 from the Greater Washington area. In addition to language classes, campers participated in Chinese culture courses, Chinese dancing and painting, calligraphy, crafts, and martial arts. Field trips to attractions around the city and historical sites were also an important part of the camp program. This year, participants visited the Shaanxi History Museum, Xi'an Ming City Wall, Qin Shi Huang Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum, Huaqing Palace, Huangdi Mausoleum, and many other historical sites in Xi'an and ShannXi province.



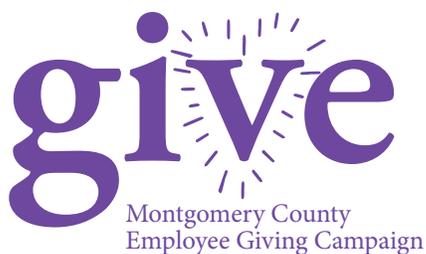
Northern Chinese American Association of Greater Washington Summer Picnic

OCP Director Bruce Adams joined NCAAGW Board members at the annual summer picnic of the Northwestern Chinese American Association of Greater Washington on Sunday August 20 at the Carderock Recreation Area in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. Bruce thanked NCAAGW for its partnership with Montgomery Sister Cities and invited attendees to join the County Executive on his trip to our Sister City Xi'an in October.



Montgomery Sister Cities Presentation to Gondar

On April 29th, Yasin Yimam, Chairman of the Gondar volunteer committee presented Mayor Tekeba Tebabal and people of Gondar, Ethiopia with a painting by artist Craig English of the iconic Strathmore Music Center. Yasin was attending the seventh Ethiopian Urban Forum, hosted by the City of Gondar. More than 12,000 people from 250 Ethiopian cities participated in the weeklong conference exploring best practices in developing and expanding people to people relationships through Sister Cities.



SUPPORT MONTGOMERY SISTER CITIES WITH YOUR EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION!

Please consider designating Montgomery Sister Cities when you make your annual gift to the Montgomery County Employee Giving Campaign at <https://www.pledgefirst.org/montgomerycounty/> We are listed under Special Giving Choices with the Charity Code 27-0272987. Thank you for your support!

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For information, please contact

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