A Message from the Chair
By Emily Zimmer

What a busy and wonderful Sister Cities’ summer it has been! We kicked off the season with our annual dinner back in March at El Rancho Grande, and then moved into the summer season starting with our booth at the Kettering Block Party. Spass Nacht was a success this year! Held on June 21, the weather was beautiful, food was hot, and the beer was cold. We had a blast with the new band, The Chardon Polka Band, and dancing with the Liederkranz-Turners. Thankfully, the rain held out until cleanup. This was also the summer that we welcomed the youth of Steyr for our annual exchange. They were here from July 19 – 29 for a fun-filled and culturally awakening visit. To mark the end of summer, we had presence in the Holiday at Home parade and festival and also had our pub night on October 11.

In addition to our activities and fundraisers, the Kettering Sister Cities had great cause for celebration. We were awarded the award for “best overall program” from Sister Cities International (continued on page 2)

Kettering Visits Steyr
By Ed Hatch and Emily Zimmer

Elke and Ed Hatch had the good fortune of visiting our Austrian Sister City friends late in August. Edda and Toni Hofer were wonderful hosts for three nights. Their charming home with luscious garden is located in Bad Hall, a community roughly half way between Steyr and Kremsmünster. (The word “Bad” in German means “bath” or “cure resort.”)

Our first evening, Edda prepared a marvelous dinner of trout, which we enjoyed under a shelter built by Toni in their garden next to a beautiful pool with water lilies. We were invited to join the water lilies in the pool before dinner as Toni and Edda frequently do but decided to save that pleasure for another time. In addition to enjoying the lovely countryside and many small villages in the area, we spent time strolling through Steyr and visiting a flower exhibit at the very imposing and interesting Benedictine monastery in Kremsmünster.

On our final evening, we gathered together with many friends at the Heuriger Seppelhub, known to those who visited Steyr last year. It was a wonderful evening, and I know you, the members of our Sister Cities Association, would have enjoyed it as much as we did, because those present (Mayor Gerald Hackl and his wife, Monika; Anton and Martha Frühstück and their daughter Anna; Renate Hammerschmidt; Christine and Alfred Steiner; Toni and Edda Hofer; Karl-Heinz and Brigitte Wimmer; Ute Wiesmayr and Joe Suttmann; Andrea Hagauer-Riml and her husband and Gabi Geretschläger) are your friends, too. How fortunate we are to have such friends!

In June, Emily, Ashley and Savannah Webb visited with Wolfgang and his daughter, Mariella for coffee and dessert. Savannah visited with Kathrin Arbeithuber who was their exchange student in Summer 2011.
A Message from the Chair
(continued from page 1)

for 2016. We were so honored with the recognition, and it was particularly special, as it was awarded during our 50th anniversary year! This year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of our organization, and we honored the occasion with a catered dinner at Polen Farm during the youth exchange visit. Look for the 50th anniversary newsletter this winter for more information, memories, and history. As always, thanks for your continued support of our organization; we are so proud to have so much to show for all the hard work that has created and sustained such a special organization through the years.

2017 Events Calendar

Fourth Monday Monthly
7:30 p.m.
Sister Cities Committee Meeting
Locations Upon Availability
Annual Sister Cities Dinner Meeting

Monday, March 27
6 – 9 p.m.
Kettering Community Block Party
Lincoln Park Civic Commons
Kettering Civic Band Concert

Wednesday, May 31
6 – 8 p.m.
Spass Nacht – An Austrian Festival
Kettering Sister Cities Fundraiser
Lincoln Park Civic Commons

Wednesday, June 21
5:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Kettering’s Go 4th! Celebration
Children’s Activities, Festival Food,
Live Entertainment and the Biggest and
Best Fireworks in the Region
Delco Park

Tuesday, July 4
6 – 10 p.m.
International Sister Cities Conference
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Thursday, July 13
through Saturday, July 15
Steyr Youth Visit Kettering

Wednesday, July 19 –
Saturday, July 29
Picnic at Polen Farm
Celebrating our Steyr Guests and the
50th Anniversary of
Kettering Sister Cities Committee

Thursday, July 27
Holiday at Home
Family Day, Sister Cities Beer Booth,
Arts & Crafts and Auto Show
Lincoln Park Civic Commons

Monday, September 4
Labor Day

Wednesday, October 11
6 p.m.
Pub Night
Celebration of our Relationship
with Kettering, England

Join us for the Kettering Youth Exchange 2018!

Kettering Sister Cities will be sponsoring a youth trip in July 2018 to visit Steyr, Austria, continuing our youth exchange program with Steyr.

If interested, please email Emily Zimmer at emilyzimmer@gmail.com for more information and to reserve your spot for this exciting adventure!

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Kettering Sister Cities Association wins International Award

Below is a Press Release by Sister Cities International

Kettering Sister Cities Association (KSCA) has won the Sister Cities International (SCI) 2017 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population between 50,001 and 100,000. The SCI Best Overall Program Award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2016 in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

In 2016, KSCA celebrated 40 years of continuous student exchanges by sponsoring both adult and student exchanges to their two sister cities, Kettering, England and Steyr, Austria. This was the first time KSCA sent adults and students to their sister cities at the same time. KSCA also held their annual Austrian festival “Spass Nacht,” where volunteers donated homemade baked goods and sold authentic German cuisine to fundraise for student expenses on exchange trips.

“A particular point of pride for the City of Kettering is our award-winning Kettering Sister Cities Program” said Kettering Mayor Don Patterson. The active support and enthusiasm of KSCA volunteers and youth in strengthening their programs exemplifies the SCI mission to promote peace through the actions of individuals and communities.

SCI’s Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth and Education), and Volunteer of the Year. Award winners were honored at the Lou Wozar Diplomatic Awards Dinner on Saturday, July 15, during SCI’s 61st Annual Conference in Virginia Beach, VA.

Conference events included a Youth Leadership Summit and a U.S.-Russia Mayors’ Summit. The events brought together hundreds of the most influential global leaders in diplomacy, foreign affairs, policy, business, and innovation. Elected and municipal officials, business leaders, youth delegates, and citizen diplomats discussed this year’s theme “Global Communities for World Peace,” building on President Eisenhower’s initial vision of creating a more peaceful world by building global relationships through communities.

Lynda Hohnhorst, Joyce Conner, Janet Bolton accepting award. (Note video above podium showing Spass Nacht.)

For more information, photos and upcoming events, please visit: www.ketteringsistercities.com

Six New Board Members Added to the Sister Cities Committee

By Janet Bolton

We welcome the following new board members added in the past year:
- Susan Barber
- Albert Fullenkamp
- Ed Hatch
- Sheila Magnuson
- Monica Meyer
- Robin Wittman

Award–Winning Kettering Sister Cities

By Joyce Conner

The Kettering Sister Cities Association has been an award-winning organization since its inception, and we are excited and proud that we have won again. We are especially pleased to receive the Sister Cities International award for Best Overall Program for 2017 as we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Kettering Sister Cities.

We first won the Best Overall Program Award in 1972 and have won it five more times.

Awards won by our Kettering Sister Cities Organization are:
- Youth and Educational Award
- Cultural Exchange Award
- Best Youth Award
- Best Single Project Award
- Outstanding Youth Program Award
- Community Awareness Award
- Youth Artist Award
- Youth Artistic Artist Expressions Award
- Leadership Award honoring Mayor Horn, Janet Bolton and Pat Mastbaum
Steyr Youth Exchange

By Emily Zimmer

This summer was our turn to host the Steyr exchange students here in Kettering. We had 14 students and two chaperones travel to the States. They visited Boston and New York City before coming to Kettering on July 19 for a 10-day homestay. During their stay, the group participated in a bike tour of Dayton with stops at Riverscape, Deeds Point, the Wright Brothers’ graves, the University of Dayton, and the historic Oregon District. After the tour, the group met up with their host families for the Dragons Game. Other activities included a Kettering Police station tour, welcome at the city council meeting, Polen Farm 50th Anniversary dinner, Kings Island trip, and much more. A list of this year’s Steyr exchange participants and their host students/families is as follows:

American Host Family  Austrian Exchange Student
Nick Barnes  Eva Rinner
Andrew Barnes  Gina Wieser
Will Bennett and J. T. Maletic  Konstantin Hagauer
Mark Feiner  Victoria Hertl
Katherine Luker and Noah Meyer  Emilie Mayr
Olivia Ralston  Marianne Froehlich
Aidan Robillard  Felix Schulz and Sophie Grumböck
Shawn Steffan  Alma Bachl
Grant Stumpf  Gerwin Fitzga
Sasha Whitaker  Verena Riedler
Madison Wilz  Marlene Sperrer
Jimmy Wittman  Mathias Schiller and Alexander Mikosch

American Chaperones  Austrian Chaperones
Emily and Rob Zimmer  Gaby Geretscbläger
Sue & John Barber  Andrea Hagauer-Riml
Spass Nacht 2017
By Andrew Rathweg

The Kettering Sister Cities Association held Spass Nacht – An Austrian Festival on Wednesday, June 21 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Lincoln Park Civic Commons. This FREE EVENT is open to the public and featured live polka music by The Chardon Polka Band, authentic food, beverages, and a celebration of all things Austrian. Patrons strapped on their lederhosen and brought their family and friends out for a traditional night of fun! Our festival is listed in the Dayton Daily News as one of the ten best ways to “Eat your way through June!” We raised over $5,000 this year from Spass Nacht which will support future youth exchanges with Steyr.
Memories of our First Visit to Steyr in 1972

By Jean Judge

Our first visit to Steyr was truly memorable. My husband, John, and I were planning a trip to Austria and Germany in the fall of 1972 following the signing of the Sister Cities agreement by Steyr and Kettering. We were not familiar with the Sister Cities program at that time, but friends asked us if we might make a stop in Steyr and visit the Mayor as they had received no communication from him since the visit and signing of our two cities as sister cities.

Since we were planning our own itinerary, it was no problem, and we thought it might be interesting. We did, however, ask that they not make an appointment for a specific date as we were pretty flexible at that point. They provided us with two names for contact on our arrival—Mayor Josef Fellinger and Dr. Haslauer.

We arrived in Steyr late Sunday evening; so, of course, we could not contact the mayor’s office, and we called Dr. Haslauer. He and his wife were out of town for the weekend but were expected soon; they would contact us at the hotel as soon as they arrived, and indeed, they did. They arrived at our hotel about 10 p.m. We became friends immediately, and they stayed and visited with us until about 2 a.m.

On Monday morning, we went to the Mayor’s office and they were very surprised! They had expected us on Friday (obviously a breakdown in communication somewhere). Mayor Fellinger spoke no English, and the translator he had lined up for Friday was not available.

After much scampering around between offices and numerous phone calls, they brought in Anneliese Clar. She was working for the city at the time and had been employed by the U.S. Army in Steyr during the occupation. She was charming, and her English was excellent. Thereafter, she became the official translator for Sister Cities and a dear friend for many, many years. She, more than any other person, made our relationship with Steyr a strong and vibrant organization. Anneliese always said, “My life really was different after your visit.” It really was a happy accident that she became the interpreter, and she loved it!

After a visit with Mayor Fellinger, Anneliese and Dr. Volker Lutz (also employed by the city) toured Steyr with us. We met at the hotel for a delightful lunch with the Mayor. We found they were much interested in continuing the Sister City relationship.

This had been our mission for the visit. We exchanged warm good-byes, feeling we had just been with good friends that we would definitely see again. We then went off to finish our vacation.

We have returned to Steyr numerous times since that first visit 45 years ago. When we were anywhere near, we always planned some time to visit our Austrian friends. I still correspond with several of them. I have lots of fond memories and am grateful that the Sister Cities program made this all possible.

Annual Dinner—Wunderbar Fiesta

By Lynda Hohnhorst

Colorful place mats, miniature sombreros, and confetti decorated the tables at El Rancho Grande for the Annual Dinner held on March 27. Everyone who attended had a good time drinking margaritas or their preferred drink and eating their choice of combo meal. A “Wunderbar” Fiesta enjoyed by all!

During dinner, a DVD ran continuously with pictures from Steyr taken during the adult and student 2016 trip celebrating 40 years of exchanges. Arrangements were made to show the video by Bill Meers and Ed Hatch—thank you, guys!

A brief meeting was held after dinner by Chairperson Emily Zimmer who spoke about upcoming events such as Spass Nacht and the 50th celebration of the Kettering Sister Cities Association at Polen Farm when the Steyr students are visiting in July. After the business meeting, door prizes were then given.

A big thank you to the committee, consisting of Mary Lou Meers, Janet Bolton, and Sherry Baker who solicited the door prizes.

Death of John Riningers

John Riningers joined. Later they hosted and/or visited overseas seven times. In 1999, they traveled to Steyr, Austria, and Kettering, UK, visiting friends in both locations.

John was the council liaison for Sister Cities for many years and later served as chairperson of the board. Having visited Gulf Shores, AL, for many years, they built a home and moved to Foley, AL, in 2003. After the death of his wife, Norma, in 2014, he moved to St. Leonards. John is survived by his three daughters (Susan, Julie and Joan), four grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and his sister, Jane Rininger.
Holiday at Home

By Emily Zimmer

This was the third year for the Kettering Sister Cities beer and pretzel booth at the Holiday at Home festival. The booth has been a nice fundraising addition which supports the youth exchange and other Sister Cities’ programs. This year, as last year, we sold Marchele’s pretzels, which we sold out of both days! On tap were Miller Lite, Leinenkugel Oktoberfest, and Leinenkugel Harvest Patch Shandy. We also had water for purchase. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it a success, and special thanks to Rob Zimmer for his coordination. Thanks also to our patrons for coming out and supporting the Sister Cities! We plan to be there again next year, in front of the Fraze concessions by the amphitheater entrance.

The Kettering Sister Cities was represented again this year in the Holiday at Home parade. Board members marched in traditional costume or rode in classic cars, convertibles, and even a British taxi cab. Thanks to Kevin Kelly for driving his classic cab to honor our sister city, Kettering, England!
### Kettering, Ohio, Sister Cities Newsletter

**www.ketteringsistercities.com**

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