A Message from the Chair

By Al Fullenkamp

We are off to another great year here at Kettering Sister Cities. First of all, a big thanks to our previous Chair (for the past several years), Emily Zimmer, for leading us through a very successful time. Fortunately, she remains an active Board member who will be helping to lead this year’s Student Exchange traveling to Steyr, Austria.

We are also off to a wonderful start again this year with a very well attended Annual Meeting in March at Mamma DiSalvo’s restaurant. We have a very busy year planned beginning with the City Block Party on June 11 at Lincoln Park Civic Commons from 6 to 8 p.m.

Please come out and see the many things the City and Kettering Sister Cities have to offer.

Then, mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 20 and come out to Spass Nacht (the Austrian Festival) which is our major fundraiser. This will take place at Lincoln Park Civic Commons from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Net proceeds from this fundraiser help us to defray the costs of students wishing to travel to Steyr, Austria and, in off years, to assist in hosting/entertaining students from Steyr visiting our City. This Student Exchange is in its 43rd consecutive year. Our students will be traveling to Germany and Austria, leaving in late June, and will be traveling for about two and a half weeks and on June 11 at Lincoln Park Civic Commons from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Kettering Sister Cities Celebrating 50 Years

By Joyce Conner

It was on March 28, 1967, that Kettering City Council passed an ordinance signed by Mayor R. J. Haverstick establishing the Kettering Sister Cities Committee. The duty of the committee was “to study, formulate and develop plans for an active cultural exchange between the City of Kettering and a foreign city to be adopted.”

The members proceeded cautiously to identify a city which would attract the interest, support and stir the imagination of the people of Kettering. After four years of diligent work, the committee made a recommendation and City Council selected Steyr, Austria as our Sister City. It was made official when Mayor Charles Horn and Councilmember Gerald Busch met with Burgermeister Josef Fellinger in Steyr in October 1971. This pairing was so successful that in February 1978, Kettering, England was officially invited to be our second Sister City.

During the early years, the Sister Cities Committee established the Sister Cities Association to help with fundraising events and support various projects and activities, many of which are continuing today. The first float in the Holiday at Home parade was built in 1971 and won the Queen’s Award. The first Spass Nacht was held in 1975 at Town and Country Shopping Center. The pen pal program was initiated in the schools as well as essay contests and art exhibits. There were Austrian dinners and English teas that promoted cultural understanding of our Sister Cities.

In 1972 the Sister Cities Committee received an award for Best Overall Program from Sister Cities International, the first of many prestigious awards received over the years for outstanding projects and exemplary leadership.

A delegation from Steyr, led by Burgermeister Franz Weiss, visited Kettering in 1975 and was blessed with hosting a Gala Dinner and Dance. In 1976 Mayor Horn led a delegation of 42 Kettering citizens for a wonderful visit to Steyr. Later visits to Kettering, England were also initiated. Groups from Steyr and Kettering, England were hosted by local families when they visited here. There are numerous examples of long-standing friendships fostered by the exchanges.

Sister Cities Executive Committee 2017

The first Student Exchange was in 1976 when Frau Anneliese Clar and Tony Hofer accompanied 10 students from Steyr who visited Kettering and stayed with host families. Then in 1977, Al Laughrey chaperoned 14 Kettering students to Steyr. Their experience was invaluable and the student exchanges have been continuous for 42 years—a true testament to the success of the program.

Professional work exchanges and teacher exchanges were initiated in later years. The Kettering Civic Band, the Kettering Children’s Choir and the Kettering Youth Ballet have performed in both Sister Cities. Our guests like to visit during Holiday at Home weekend and participate in all of the festivities, especially the parade. A popular event and enriching experience was the New York Theatre Tour when members of Kettering, England joined us.

A membership drive was held in 1977 to promote and sustain Sister Cities programs and activities. This is the first time dues were established. The campaign was very successful and 170 citizens became sustaining members of the Kettering Sister Cities Association. Some of them have continued their support every year since.

The Kettering Sister Cities Committee appreciates the Board Chairs who gave of their time and talent to pave the way for 50 years of outstanding achievements.
Kettering Mayor & Council

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Kettering Sister Cities Committee
Kettering Government Center
3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering, OH 45429
www.sistercities.com

2018 Events Calendar

Fourth Monday Monthly
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 14
5:45 – 8:30 p.m.

Monday, June 11
6 – 8 p.m.
7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 20
5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 4
6 – 10 p.m.

Thursday, August 2
through Saturday, August 4
June 30 – July 17

Monday, September 3
Labor Day

TBD

Sister Cities Committee Meeting
Locations Upon Availability

Annual Sister Cities Dinner Meeting
Mama DiSalvo’s

Kettering Community Block Party
Lincoln Park Civic Commons
Kettering Civic Band Concert

Kettering’s Go 4th! Celebration
Children’s Activities, Festival Food,
Live Entertainment and the Biggest and
Best Fireworks in the Region
Delco Park

International Sister Cities Conference
Aurora, Colorado

Kettering Youth Visit Steyr

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

Pub Night
Celebration of our Relationship
with Kettering, England

A Message from the Chair
(continued from page 1)

half weeks helping to share our culture
and bring back a multitude of experiences
to share with all of us.

As we approach fall, we again will
be joining in Holiday at Home with
participation in the parade; and please
stop by our booth at the Arts and Crafts
show at Lincoln Park for support, pretzels
and cool refreshments.

Later in the fall, we will focus more to
our other Sister City, Kettering, England,
with Pub Night; the date is to yet be
determined. We will have a Board member
visiting Kettering, England this June to
reinvigorate our relationship with them.

We also will be focusing on membership
this year and will have applications
available at all of our events. We hope
you, our present members, will be our
advocates in increasing membership and
ask interested friends to join in an effort
to spread opportunities for our community
youth to experience our worldwide effort
in bringing us all closer together.
Continuous Sustaining Members from 1977

Carl and Roberta Beyer
Gerald and Irene Busch
Julie Gilmore
Robert and Judith Hadley
Edward and Elke Hatch
Marty Hibbs
Jean Judge
Joe and Pat Mastbaum
Dinah Miller
Correne Moran
Thomas and Marilou Smith
Richard and Constance Thomas

Committee Chairpersons 1967 – 2017

1980  Helen M. Drummond  1999 – 2000  John Rininger
1981  Correne Patterson  2001  Phyllis Worthman
1983  Correne Patterson  2004  Sue Dabbel
1985  David Abbot  2007 – 2008  Gary Busch
1986  Patricia Mastbaum  2009 – 2011  Robert Van Leeuwen
1987  Walter Pettit  2012 – 2013  Paul Fleitz
1988  Paul Doty  2014 – 2017  Emily Zimmer
1989  Janet Nieckamp Bolton  2018  Al Fullekamp
1990 – 1991  Helen Smith

Thank You to Our Patrons!

Allen, Will and Kim  Hatch, Edward and Elke
Baker, Earl and Sherry  Heffner, Margie
Barber, John and Susan  Hoge, Franz and Margaret
Bayless, George and Charlene  Hohnhorst, Lynda
Beyer, Carl and Roberta  Hovey, Pete and Jane
Bolton, James and Janet  Judge, Jean
Brandt, Michael and Maria  Kettering Moraine Oakwood
Busch, Gary and Susan  Chamber of Commerce
Busch, Gerald and Irene  Laughrey, John
Conner, Joyce  Lautar, Bill and Julie
Dailey, Michael and Brynne  Lawless, Bill and Jackie
Fullekamp, Albert and Sue  Magnuson, Sheila
Hadley, Robert and Judith  Mastbaum, Joe and Pat
Hartmann, Richard and Mona
Meers, Bill and Mary Lou
Miller, Dinah
Moran, Correne
Murphy, Barbara
Nieckamp, David
Nordin, Carol
Pokorski, Joseph and Linda
Rathweg, Andrew and Courtney
Schneider, Carl and Judy
Shaw, Brian
Webb, Ashley and Emily
Wittman, Robert and Robin
Zimmer, Robert and Emily
Kettering Sister Cities 50th Anniversary Celebration
By Joyce Conner

City Council Meeting

The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Kettering Sister Cities Committee was kicked off at a Kettering City Council meeting. Mayor Donald Patterson issued a Proclamation congratulating Kettering Sister Cities for 50 years of promoting cultural understanding with our Sister Cities abroad. It was accepted by Dr. Darrell Apt, a member of the first Sister Cities Committee in 1967 and by Emily Zimmer, Chair of the 2017 Sister Cities Committee.

Also at the meeting, Janet Bolton, Lynda Hohnhorst and Joyce Conner presented Mayor Patterson the prestigious award Kettering Sister Cities received from Sister Cities International. This award was for the Best Overall Program for cities of Kettering's size.

Then Mayor Patterson welcomed 14 students from Steyr, Austria to Kettering. The chaperones from Steyr, Gaby Geretschlager and Andrea Haugauer-Riml, brought greetings from Mayor Hackl. This was the 41st Student Exchange between Kettering and Steyr. The host families were thanked for opening their homes to the students. This is how people-to-people relationships are built.

Gala Celebration at Polen Farm

As guests arrived at Polen Farm last summer, they saw that the upstairs room in the barn had been transformed into a beautiful dining room with glittering lights and lovely flowers. The Sister Cities Committee had invited members who were involved in the early years and they were greeted enthusiastically by current members. Excitement was in the air and the room was filled with conversation and laughter. More than a hundred guests of all ages enjoyed the festivities, including a fabulous buffet of delicious food and beverages.

The Committee was honored that all five mayors who have been supportive of Kettering Sister Cities through the years were present. They were Mayors Charles Horn, Gerald Busch, Richard Hartmann, Marilou Smith and Donald Patterson.

During the program, tribute was paid to those who have been loyal members of the Kettering Sister Cities Association for 40 continuous years. They gave of their time to initiate programs that would create interest in the Sister Cities program.

Recognition was given to those who were Committee Chairs over the 50 years. Their leadership continued the tradition of excellence of the Kettering Sister Cities.

The Steyr guests, dressed in Austrian attire, presented an entertaining slide show of their activities. The youth from Kettering and the youth from Steyr had become good friends as they shared common interests and activities. It showed that the mission of Sister Cities International to promote peace begins at the local level, one person at a time.
Anniversary Celebration
Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Lincoln Park Civic Commons
695 Lincoln Park Boulevard
Kettering, Ohio

5:30pm to 9:30pm
Free Admission!

Event supports the Youth Exchange Program to Steyr, Austria.

Food & Beverages


Music at 6 p.m. - Lawn chairs welcome - Family Friendly - 50 / 50 Raffle - Balloon Animals!

Free Pretzel!

Present this flyer at Spass Nacht and get 2 pretzels for the price of 1!

Visit the Pretzel Booth to redeem coupon
Annual Dinner Meeting
By Lynda Hohnhorst

Upon arrival at Mamma DiSalvo’s on March 14, guests were greeted with bruschetta (some said it was the best they had ever eaten) while socializing. A cash bar was also available. After everyone was seated, a salad and freshly baked warm bread was served. A buffet followed with both meat lasagna and fettuccine alfredo. Fancy cookies topped off the delicious meal.

Chairman Albert Fullenkamp welcomed everyone and introduced Mayor Patterson, Council members, former Mayor Gerald Busch, the three newly appointed Board Members and asked other Board Members to stand. A short business meeting was then held with information about upcoming activities. Emily Zimmer, former chairperson, introduced Joe Yuppa who will be her co-chaperone for this year’s student trip to Steyr. Door prizes were then given. Albert thanked those on the committee who made the event possible—Janet Bolton, Sue Fullenkamp, Lynda Hohnhorst and Sherry Baker who took pictures. As the evening ended, many lingered, chatting with old friends and getting to know new ones.
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