Message from the Chair
By Al Fullenkamp

2019 was a good year for Kettering Sister Cities from beginning to end, and 2020 appears to be even a better year! To recap what has happened throughout 2019, see the articles in this newsletter. For 2020, however, I will give you a bit of a preview.

The big item for 2020 will be the start of the celebration of our 50th anniversary of the Kettering Sister Cities Association with Steyr, Austria as our sister city. To celebrate this milestone, there will be articles looking back at our history; a planned adult trip, along with the youth trip to Steyr, Austria (see article) to celebrate the 50th anniversary in Steyr; and as always, our many signature events such as our Annual Meeting, the Kettering Block Party Spass Nacht (our 45th consecutive annual Spass Nacht), Holiday at Home booth and Pub Night.

It is not too early to encourage any youth (ages 16 to 20) to contact us regarding next year’s visit to Europe culminating with a stay in Steyr to celebrate our 50th anniversary as a sister city with Steyr, Austria. For more information, please contact Emily Zimmer at emilyzimmer@gmail.com or as always, don’t hesitate to contact me with a question; I will forward it along to the appropriate person.

We would like to boost our membership, both business and individual, in 2020. If you know of someone or a business who would like to expand their horizons and would like to help “build people-to-people relationships, based on youth and adult exchange visits, and social and cultural gatherings with our sister cities,” then Kettering Sister Cities is the right choice! For more information regarding membership, please see the membership application form located in this newsletter.

Steyr Youth Exchange

By Emily Zimmer

This past summer’s visit by youth from our sister city Steyr, Austria, was another wonderful experience. This marks the forty-third consecutive exchange by youth from this Kettering/Steyr exchange. It was a very warm time of year here in Kettering, which required numerous “Pool Parties” to keep cooled off. It was interesting to see the students greet their counterparts at the airport; because of social media, they had been chatting for several weeks prior to the visit and had already begun their friendships. Prior to their arrival in Kettering, the Steyr youth stopped in Washington, D.C. to see a few American sites. After their departure, they spent time in New York City before traveling back to Austria.

The Steyr youth arrived on July 3 and stayed for two weeks before departing on July 17. While here, the group participated in a bike tour of Dayton, with stops at Riverscapes, 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 at a Dragon’s game. Other activities included a Kettering Police Station tour, formal welcome at a Kettering City Council meeting, a picnic at Polen Farm, a King’s Island trip and much more.

A list of this year’s Steyr exchange participants and their host students/families follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Hosts</th>
<th>Austrian Exchange Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Melistrup</td>
<td>Johannes Mayr</td>
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<td>Amelie Kava</td>
<td>David Klaus-Sternwieser</td>
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<td>Abby and Ellie Duwel</td>
<td>Marlene Gerstnauer</td>
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<td>Mary Kate Fleisher</td>
<td>Letizia Perndl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sofia Brandt</td>
<td>Marie Schiller and</td>
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<td>Mark Feiner</td>
<td>Florentina Herpel</td>
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<td>Kaely Beam</td>
<td>Daniel Krieger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily and Rob Zimmer</td>
<td>Jakob Pelham and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe and Carren Yuppa</td>
<td>Erik Fitzga</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lukas and Jakob Hein</td>
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Austrian Chaperones

Edda Wiesmayer, Erich Kargl
Attention High School Students!

We are now in the planning stages of the 2020 Youth Exchange and want you to join us! American students will travel to Steyr, Austria and much more in July 2020.

Please email emilyczimmer@gmail.com for applications and information.

Sister Cities Board Members

By Al Fullenkamp

Thank You!

We thank the following board members who retired during the year:

• Mark Schweikhart

City of Kettering

Kettering Mayor & Council

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Bill Lautar, Vice Mayor, At Large
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Kettering Home Page: www.ketteringoh.org

Kettering Sister Cities Committee

Kettering Government Center
3600 Shroyer Road
Kettering, OH 45429

www.sistercities.com

Kettering Sister Cities

Kettering Sister Cities Executive Committee 2019

If you would like to participate or have ideas to share, we would like to hear from you! Please write or contact:

• Kettering City Council Office at 937-296-2416
• Albert Fullenkamp, Chairperson at 937-293-6263
• Ed Hatch, Steyr, Austria Subcommittee at 937-298-6124
• Janet Bolton, Kettering, England Subcommittee at 937-305-1997

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Kettering Sister Cities
Despite the unpredictable, crazy, windy and rainy weather at times, great fun was had by all at the 2019 Kettering Sister Cities booth at the Kettering Block Party held on June 12! Honestly, while I was excited for the challenge, I was a little nervous about chairing this event. However, the can-do attitude and positivity of fellow board members who volunteered made our event a great success. A great big thank you and shout-out to Claudia, Jackie, Joyce, Al, Mike and numerous other board members who helped out at this event. It was a great opportunity to provide Kettering citizens more information about the Sister Cities organization. The temporary tattoos for the children were a resounding hit and wildly popular again; we could not apply them to the kids’ hands fast enough. We owe Claudia a special thank you for stepping in and helping with the tattoos, when board members were getting overwhelmed with multiple little ones in each family wanting tattoos at the same time. Again, despite the unpredictable and chaotic weather, we were delighted with the attendance of the public and their persistence. We actually had so many people interested in our organization and literature, possibly drawn in by the lure of temporary tattoos for the children, that we ran out of informational fliers and newsletters early in the evening. All in all, we cannot say thank you enough to our amazing volunteers and the resilient Kettering community in making this event a resounding success. We will definitely have more fliers next year and more tattoos!
This was a very rough year for the 44th annual Spass Nacht celebration on June 19. (Spass Nacht is always on the third Wednesday of June). The weather did not treat us well, and the rain came as the celebration was about to begin, but that did not stop us from having a good time. Those who braved the weather certainly enjoyed themselves. We did have to cut the night short because of the inclement weather, and it certainly held the crowd size down.

We are looking forward to next year’s Spass Nacht, to be held on June 17, 2020, which will mark our 45th consecutive Spass Nacht celebration. The original Spass Nacht celebrations were held at the Town and Country Shopping Center parking lot before moving to Lincoln Park Civic Commons in the mid-eighties. Spass Nacht is a major fund raising event for Kettering Sister Cities. These funds are used to support youth visits to Steyr or to host Steyr youth on their visits to Kettering.

Kettering once again had a beautiful and successful Holiday at Home, and Kettering Sister Cities was there to share in the celebration. For the sixth consecutive year, Kettering Sister Cities had a beer and pretzel booth. This year we also sold soft drinks and bottled water. The beautiful weather brought out many customers and although we were a bit out of the way, on the far east end near the Fraze concession stand, we had one of our most successful years in sales.

This success will allow us to continue to support our youth program in both assisting youth visiting our sister city Steyr, and also in hosting youth from Steyr as we did this year. (See Youth Article in this issue.) A big thanks goes out to those who volunteered in staffing this year’s booth and a special thanks to Don Timmer for organizing the booth and Andy Niekamp for his supplies and work that he has done every year. We hope to see you next year for a bigger and more successful Holiday at Home.
Three Generations

By Janet Bolton

Two boys in this summer’s Steyr youth group have a lot in common. They are the third generation in their families who have been hosted in Kettering. Both Leo Enzendorfer and Erik Fitzga have grandparents active in Steyr sister cities, mothers who were in Kettering as part of a 6-week work exchange program when they were teenagers and a sibling who was in a recent student exchange.

Leo Enzendorfer, who resides in Vienna, said he was fortunate that he had several family members who helped him prepare for his trip this summer—his grandparents, his mother Christine and his sister Louise. Leo’s mother was part of the work exchange in 1989, working and dressing as Miss Wendy at Wendy’s. Leo, who was hosted by the Kava family, remarked, “This was the best vacation I have ever been on.”

Erik Fitzga’s mother, Astrid, was part of the youth exchange in 1989 and the 6-week work exchange in 1992, working with children at the Kettering Recreation Complex. Erik lives with his family in Salzburg. His uncle, Bernhard Steiner, was in the 1997 youth exchange. After his brother, Gerwin, visited Kettering two years ago, Erik had great hopes that he too could be part of the upcoming exchange. At the end of his stay, Erik stated, “I had a great time, especially with my host family. It was the best two weeks ever!”

The youth were invited to work at Steyr’s annual Stadtfest. As seen in the nearby photo, Erik had great hopes that he too could be part of the upcoming exchange. At the end of his stay, Erik stated, “I had a great time, especially with my host family. It was the best two weeks ever!”

Pub Night 2019

Celebrating 41 Years of Friendship with our Sister City Kettering, England

By Al Fullenkamp

On October 23, Kettering Sister Cities members gathered once again at Archer’s Tavern in Kettering, Ohio, for our annual Pub Night. This year’s annual event celebrates 41 years of friendship with our Sister City Kettering, England. After “Happy Hour,” we enjoyed a great meal of “Shepherd’s Pie” or a great serving of “Fish and Chips” which made us feel a bit British. Once again Mary Lou Meers did a great job with the trivia contest which included questions on the “Brexit” our friends are going through and questions about historical markers, roadways and rivers in or about Kettering, England. This was followed by door prizes which were won by a few lucky members.

It was a wonderful and relaxing evening shared with good friends. We had a nice turnout and all were very thankful for the great effort put forward by those who organized the dinner.

We would like to thank Mary Lou Meers, Janet Bolton, Bloom Beloved and Alex Ignatiou for their hard work.

We will follow the events in Kettering, England over the next year as they are going through a governmental reorganization which may change their government but not our friendship with them.
As members of the Executive Board of Kettering Sister Cities, Sue and I were able to attend the annual Sister Cities International Conference in Houston, Texas from July 17 – 19, 2019. Yes, Houston in July is very warm; however, those same dates back here in Kettering were just as warm this year. The conference was held at the ideal location at the ideal time in that we were in Houston during the 50th anniversary of man landing on the moon. This theme carried throughout the conference.

The opening ceremonies followed past protocol and began with the Youth Parade of Nations. The opening ceremony speaker was Kathleen Kennedy Townsend who, at the ceremony, was awarded the Dwight D. Eisenhower Peace Prize by Sister Cities International. We had the great opportunity to shake hands with her before the ceremony and presentation.

The Mayor’s Welcome Reception was held in the Houston Convention Center and was attended by employees and astronauts from the Johnson Space Center. Sue and I also had the chance to view and inspect a spacesuit and a lunar vehicle up close.

The conference itself was good but was certainly directed toward a business perspective. China and Mexico were well represented. One had to look carefully to find sessions which were more directed to the way we prioritize and operate our sister city organization. We met and talked with several cities interested in starting youth exchange programs. The most beneficial session was a roundtable session which highlighted social media use, developing local relationships with other groups in your community, other small cities programs, free resources for non-profits (“Free Resources for Non-Profits” email aflullen@aol.com for links) and youth exchanges, among other items.

The U.S. Department of State was present in offering information coinciding with a thought-provoking talk from Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (whose objective is to spur economic development at the local level and strengthen ties through citizen diplomacy). Ms. Royce also reported on a trip and project to Monrovia, Liberia, which is the sister city of Dayton, Ohio.

The most beneficial part of the conference was the opportunity to network with other representatives. There were many people in attendance who had questions regarding youth visits where we were able to provide information and obtain information from many others.

Overall, it was a good conference but as with any conference, there were areas we wish were highlighted more.
Upcoming Adult Trip to Steyr, Austria

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary with our Austrian Sister City

By Ed Hatch

All are welcome but space is limited! (Space is limited to 20 participants.) Here is your opportunity to travel the world and help celebrate our 50th anniversary as a sister city with Steyr, Austria.

Dates for the trip will be July 12 through July 25, 2020, of which July 16 to the 20 will be in Steyr. Participants will make their own travel arrangements to and from Europe. (Assistance is available for those who wish to use a travel agent.)

The trip will be a total of 12 nights in Europe: 3 in Vienna; 4 in Steyr; 2 in Salzburg; 1 near Oberammergau; Ludwig’s Castle Neuschwanstein; and 2 in Munich. Participants may extend their stays in Europe both before and after by adjusting their travel and hotel arrangements. Participants will have the option of staying with a Steyr family during their time in Steyr or in a hotel.

We will be traveling by the same private charter bus from Vienna to Steyr, Steyr to Salzburg, Salzburg to Munich and visiting sites between these cities that can only be visited easily by private charter bus. We expect to stay in older historic hotels in Vienna, Salzburg and Munich which was done during the trip in 2016. In addition to enjoying the sites of Vienna, Steyr, Salzburg and Munich, we will be visiting among other sites, the Abbey of Melk, Oberammergau, Ludwig’s Castles of Neuschwanstein, Hohenschwangau and Linderhof, and the Wieskirche.

Estimated costs in addition to travel to and from Europe:

Accommodations: 8-12 nights (depending upon whether one stays with a family or in a hotel in Steyr; single rooms around $150 per night, double is about $100 per person per night.

Meals: Breakfast is included in the price of a room in all hotels; lunch and dinner are the responsibility of each participant.

Admissions: Admissions are optional and will be at the participant’s cost.

Travel by Private Charter Bus: Cost will be shared by the participants and depends upon the number of participants. We hope to keep this cost at $300 or less per participant.

Travel to and from airports will be at the participant’s cost.

The possibility of participating in this program as well as attending the Oberammergau Passion Play is the responsibility of each participant.

Participants are required to be members of the Kettering Sister Cities Association. Annual membership fees are $10 per individual, $15 per Family or $30 to be a Patron.

For additional information, please contact Ed Hatch at 937-298-6124 or edward.hatch@gmail.com.
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