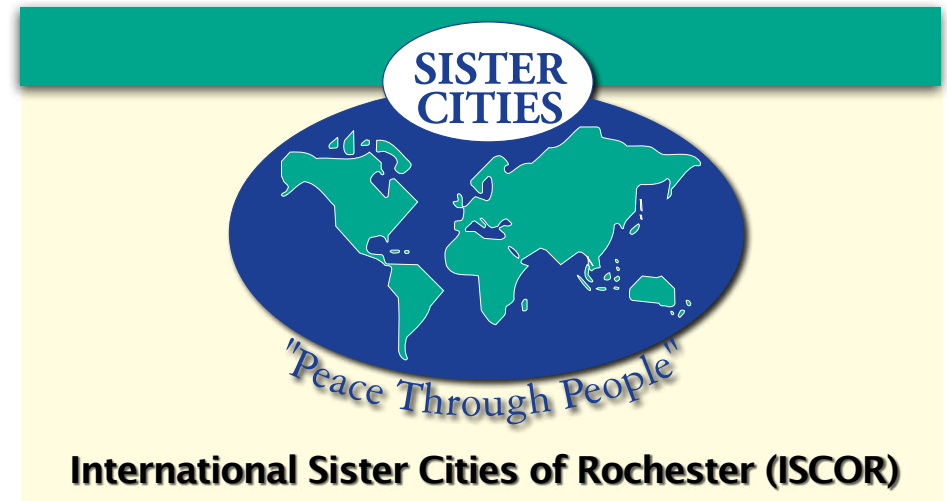




International Sister Cities of Rochester, NY



Bringing the
World
a little
Closer



The United States' Sister Cities Program grew from President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1956 initiative to enlist thousands of volunteer citizens to act as diplomats in a quest for world peace.

President Eisenhower initiated this "people-to-people" program to encourage Americans to communicate with people around the globe and for communities to bond together by engaging in projects that are mutually beneficial.

Given the diversity of ethnic origins of its population, and its strong international business ties, the City of Rochester was one of the first to develop closer ties with its counterparts abroad when Mayor Peter Barry

signed its initial Sister City agreement with Rennes, France, in 1958.

International Sister Cities of Rochester and its sister city committees organize and carry out Rochester's Sister Cities Program. Relying on the support of volunteers from throughout the Rochester region, ISCOR promotes international understanding, cooperation, and development through a variety of dynamic exchanges with its sister cities around the globe. ISCOR supports projects which link the sister cities, and serves as an international gateway for municipal, economic, cultural, educational, medical, and governmental exchanges between Rochester and its sister cities.

The organization is governed by its Board of Trustees and the Mayor serves as the honorary chair. The Board includes the chairpersons of each sister city committee, elected officials, and other individuals who are active in the international arena. International Sister Cities of Rochester is a member of the national organization, Sister Cities International, located in Washington, D.C. ISCOR also cooperates with other sister cities and international organizations of the Rochester region to provide mutual support and leverage resources to benefit our community.

www.cityofrochester.gov/sistercities



Rochester

New York, USA

This culturally and ethnically diverse city of 220,000 is the heart of a five-county region of more than a million people. It was first settled by Europeans in the 1790s on the south shore of Lake Ontario at the Western Door of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Rochester has grown from a wilderness milling settlement at the High Falls of the Genesee River to New York State's third largest city. It is the urban center of the metropolitan area that is the state's second largest economy.



Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony



Erie Canal shipping helped the Flour City of the 1830's become the Flower City of the 1850's, due to the rise of a vast agricultural and ornamental plant seed industry.

Abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass and suffragists like Susan B. Anthony brought it early fame for leadership in social movements.

International corporations such as Bausch & Lomb, General Motors, and Eastman Kodak spurred further growth and established Rochester's parks, colleges and universities, the Eastman School of

Music and Hochstein Music School, research and technology centers.

An international airport and interstate highways place Rochester within a few hours travel to 80% of the United States' major industrial and population centers.

Today's economy encompasses:

- tourism
- wines of the Finger Lakes
- orchards and row crops of the Lake Ontario shore and the Genesee Valley
- research and production in medicine, biotechnology, optics

and imaging, and telecommunications in its urban areas

- higher education at diverse institutions throughout the region.

Major international corporations such as Xerox, Paychex, Paetec, and Barilla are supported by hundreds of vigorous small companies that make international business a vigorous, vital multi-billion dollar component of our economy.

Seven professional sports teams are joined by a host of semi-professional and amateur teams in all major sports. Its golf

courses host professional and international tournaments. Water recreation and winter sports opportunities abound.

Rochester's parks, including five Olmstead parks, its trails, and ski areas provide outdoor recreation year-round.

Thousands of international visitors are drawn to Rochester's annual festivals, including the Lilac Festival, the International Jazz Fest, Cornhill and Clothesline



art festivals, and museums and galleries like the Strong Museum of Play, the International Museum of Photography at the George

Eastman House, the Memorial Art Gallery, and the Rochester Museum & Science Center draw thousands of international visitors.

Learn more about Rochester by visiting these websites:

City of Rochester
www.cityofrochester.gov

Visit Rochester
www.visitrochester.com

International Business Council of Greater Rochester, NY
www.rochesterbiz.com/ibc

Arts and Cultural Council of Rochester
www.artsrochester.org





Rennes

France | 1958

Rennes, located in northwestern France and situated at the confluence of the Vilaine and the Ile Rivers, is the capital of the province of Brittany. It has a population of 216,000. 400,000 people live in its metropolitan area. As a Celtic settlement during the sixth century BC and



Champs Libres, the newest cultural center in Rennes which includes a library, museum and planetarium.

throughout the following centuries, it experienced many settlers and conquerors.

Rennes is an important economic, commercial and administrative center and has evolved into a renowned crossroads for high-tech research, telecommunications, manufacturing, agri-business and electronics. Among the corporations in Rennes are Legris, PSA Peugeot Citroën, Ovest-France, Yves Rocher, Motorola, Groupe Le Duff, France Telecom R&D and Canon.

Rennes has a student population of 60,000, two major universities, many prestigious schools of engineering, and a strong cultural heritage including museums, the Franco-American Institute, an American Consulate, art galleries, theaters, an opera, and a symphony orchestra.

www.rennes-rochester.org

Champs Jacquet Square with timbered buildings dating from the middle ages.



Würzburg

Germany | 1964

Würzburg was settled in the 7th century on the Main River and, today, is the capital of lower Franconia. It has a population of 130,000. It is the northern gateway of the Romantische Strasse which starts in Würzburg, goes through Rothenburg ob der Tauber and ends at Neuschwanstein, King Ludwig's famous castle. This cultural city has a conservatory of music and holds annual Mozart and Bach festivals. The collection of Tilman Riemenschneider carvings is housed in the Mainfranken Museum in the famous Fortress Marienberg towering over the city. One of many tourist attractions is the former Bishop's palace, the Würzburg Residence, with its handcrafted parquet floors and world-renowned ceiling frescoes by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo. Würzburg's well-known products include Franken wine



Fortress Marienberg with Old Main Bridge in the front.

and printing presses made by the world's oldest manufacturer of printing equipment, Koenig & Bauer.

Roentgen discovered the X-ray at the University of Würzburg in 1895.

In addition to a year-long high school exchange program, many cultural,

sports, and citizen-to-citizen exchanges occur, such as the RPYO visit to Würzburg, the Würzburg Cathedral Girls Choir of visit to Rochester, a long-standing exchange between the Irondequoit Youth Soccer Club and Würzburg's Youth Soccer Club. These are examples of events that foster friendship between the two cities.



Würzburg Residence



Caltanissetta

Italy | 1965

With a population of 61,000 people, Caltanissetta is situated at the center of Sicily. Founded in 800 B.C. and dominated by several civilizations, the city and its surroundings are today a unique blend of many cultures, traditions, and folklore that have influenced its development through the centuries.



Borgo S. Rita



Among its artistic treasures are the Siculo-Grecian archeological centers of Sabucina and Gibil-Gabib, the Mineralogy and Sulphur Museum, the Palazzo Moncada, and the Santo Spirito Abbey built by Count Roger in 1151.

Today Caltanissetta is the home of the award winning nougat-candy factory, Torronifici Geraci; the Salvatore

Amorelli heather briar pipes, which have become fine collection pieces; and the industry of Amaro Averna, a fine liqueur.



The **Trinacria's** three legs reflect the location of ancient Sicily's major cities; Caltanissetta lies above the snakes of the Medussa's hair.



Holy Week procession at the Cathedral Square



Rehovot

Israel | 1972

Polish Jews founded Rehovot, one of Israel's oldest communities, in 1890, about 20 kilometers southeast of modern Tel Aviv;



Weizman Institute of Science

Yemenite Jews joined them in 1906. In the 1990s its population swelled again, by immigration from the Soviet Union, and by Operation Solomon, an airlift of Ethiopian Jews from Africa. Today this inland city of 140,000 is city of culture, science, and agriculture. The symbols on the City's flag are the orange,



representing its citrus groves; the microscope, for research; and the book, representing education and scholarship.

The first president of Israel, Chaim Weizman, and his wife are buried on the grounds of the Weizman Institute of Science, which he founded in 1934 for the study and advancement of science and technology. Today the internationally-known institute is home of some 2500 scientists and students. Rehovot's

growing Kaplan Medical Center treats more than 120,000 people from the surrounding areas, welcoming some 6,000 babies annually. The Hebrew University has based its Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot. Other noted Israelis have called Rehovot home, including Abba Eban, former foreign minister and representative to the United Nations, and S.Y. Agnon, Nobel Laureate for Literature.



Hebrew University



Kraków

Poland | 1973

Beautifully situated in the basin of Vistula River, Kraków is a city rich in history and culture. It developed at the junction of major trade routes sometime before the year 956. It became the Royal Capital of Poland in 1038 and retained the honor for 500 years. The Wawel Cathedral is a major tourist attraction in this city of 750,000. The Cathedral houses the remains of Poland's monarchs and dignitaries, including



Jagiellonian University, one of the oldest universities in Europe.

Polish patriot and American Revolutionary War hero Tadeusz

Kościuszko. UNESCO has designated Kraków's historic city center as a World Heritage site.

Traditionally a major economic, trade, and cultural center, Kraków is the site of the Jagiellonian University, one of the oldest universities in Europe. Founded in 1364, the University attracts students from all over the world. Its alumni include Mikołaj Kopernik (Copernicus) and Karol Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II).



Ulica Floriańska (Florian Street) with the view of St. Mary's Church.



Bamako

Mali | 1975

Bamako, the capital of the Republic of Mali, which once prospered as one of three of the greatest black-ruled kingdoms in West Africa, was founded in the year 1640. Built on the banks of the Niger River, Bamako derives its name



A Bozo girl from Bamako. The Bozo are a West African ethnic group located predominantly along the Niger River in Mali.

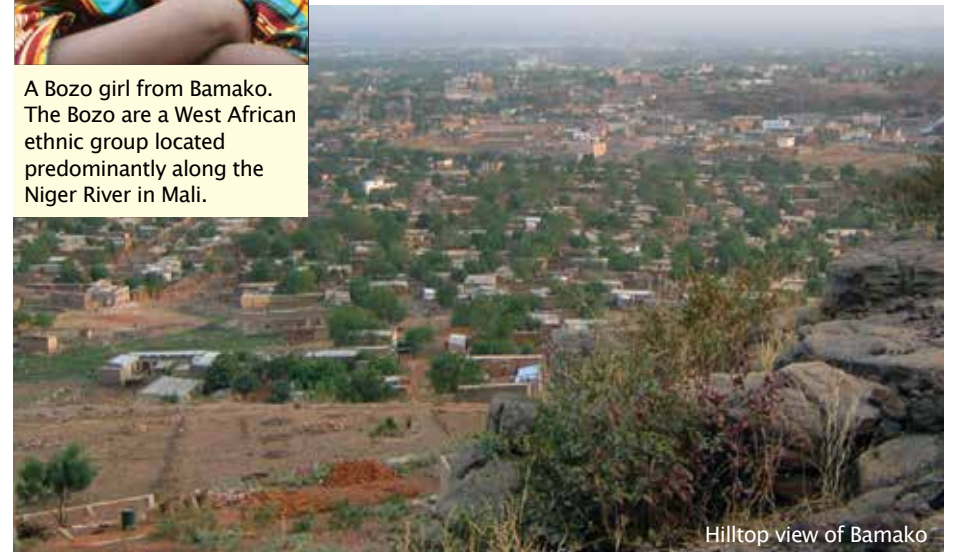
from "Bama" and "Ko," meaning alligator and river. Its population of one million plus includes diversity of ethnic groups. Its largest is that of the Bambara people. Although French is the official language, the Bambara language is the one most commonly spoken.

Bamako has beautifully and harmoniously integrated both the "modern" and the "old" as part of its present day culture, and has thus retained much of its traditional lifestyle

and architecture. The economy includes agriculture and industry, with some of its primary products deriving from



cotton, fish, ground nuts, livestock, and handicrafts. Although there is much economic deprivation, Bamako retains a rich history and an abundance of cultural wealth.



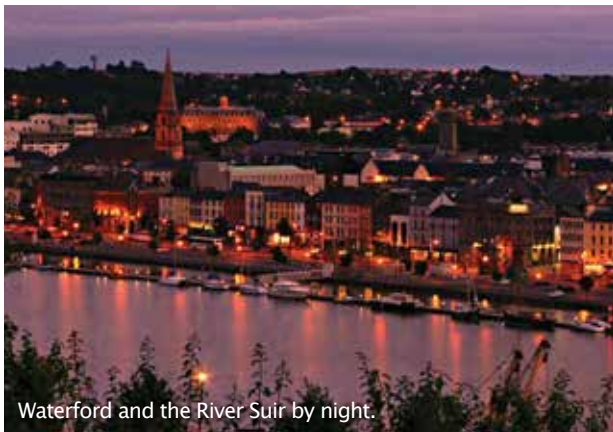
Hilltop view of Bamako



Waterford

Ireland | 1983

Waterford, Ireland, became Rochester's seventh sister city in 1983. The city of 50,000 is located on the River Suir in southeastern Ireland. Settled by the Norsemen in the 9th century, the city was devastated by the forces of Oliver Cromwell in 1650. Dominated by Reginald's Tower, a Viking fortress erected in 1003 and now housing a civic museum, modern Waterford is a leading industrial city and seaport which is world famous for its superb



Waterford and the River Suir by night.

Waterford crystal. One of Rochester's leading manufacturers, Bausch and Lomb, has a plant in Waterford.

The city's rich cultural life features the Theater Royal and the Garter Lane Arts Center, and is climaxed each September by the International Festival of Light Opera.

For two decades golfers of Waterford and Rochester have held an annual golf tournament to raise funds for charities in the two cities, totaling nearly \$500,000 by 2009.

Viking era Reginald's Tower and statue of Waterford son, Thomas Francis Meagher, fighter for Irish independence and American Civil war commander of New York's "Irish Brigade."



Velikiy Novgorod

Russia | 1990

One of the oldest cities in Russia, Novgorod was founded in 859 A.D. Located on Lake Ilmen, between Moscow and St. Petersburg, the city is similar to Rochester in geography, in the



St. Nicholas Cathedral, Novgorod

presence of numerous high technology industries, and in the attention given to the education and health of its citizens.

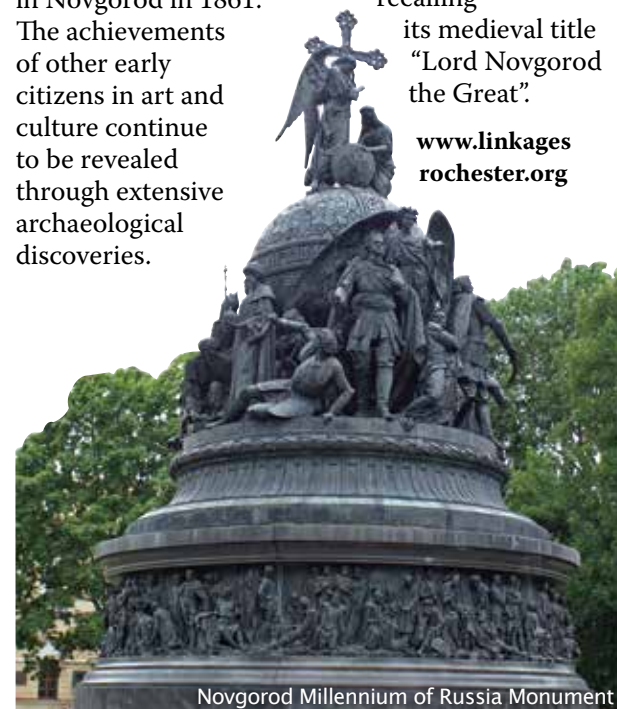
Also like Rochester, Novgorod is bisected by a river, the Volkhov, and is home to more than 200,000 people. Novgorodians are especially proud of their historic institutions that existed long before the



ascendancy of Moscow. Hanseatic League merchants were trading in Novgorod by the 12th century. Composer Anton Arensky was born in Novgorod in 1861. The achievements of other early citizens in art and culture continue to be revealed through extensive archaeological discoveries.

In 1992 UNESCO added its chief monuments to the World Heritage list. In 1998 the city was officially renamed Velikiy Novgorod, recalling its medieval title "Lord Novgorod the Great".

www.linkagesrochester.org



Novgorod Millennium of Russia Monument



Hamamatsu

Japan | 1996

Hamamatsu is both a historic and modern city, located on the coast between Tokyo and Osaka. Settlement dates back to 16,000 BC. Hamamatsu Castle, built in 1570, was once occupied by the Shogun, Iyeyasu Tokugawa. Hamamatsu Town was established in 1888 and became a municipality in 1911.

Covering about 1,500 km², the metropolitan city has a population of about 800,000. Its rich natural environment, encompassing the ocean, lake, rivers, and mountains, enjoys a mild climate.



ACT City, premier event and hotel complex.

Hamamatsu is home to such international corporations as Yamaha, Kawai, Suzuki, and Honda. It is the foremost city in Japan for the production of motorcycles, pianos, electronic

musical instruments, naval oranges, gerberas, and hydroelectric power.

Its universities, museums, parks, and historic sites give it a rich cultural life as well. It houses Japan's only Musical Instrument Museum, with its collection of 3,200 instruments.

The development of ACT City in 1994—a premier event and hotel complex for the promotion of music, art, communications, and technology—enhances its reputation as a “City of Music.”



The famous Kite Festival in May attracts over a million visitors to a competition of teams flying more than 150 room-sized kites, followed by a parade of traditional floats.

Ladies playing music at the opening of the Winged Garden in Hamamatsu



Puerto Plata

Dominican Republic | 1997

Puerto Plata faces the warm beautiful beaches of the Atlantic. Behind it is Mt. Isabel de Torres, a national park and botanical garden, accessible by cable car. At the top is the Christ the Redeemer statue and a breathtaking view of the city and coastline.

The island of Hispaniola was discovered by Christopher Columbus



Carnival

in 1492. Timber from the wreck of the ship “Santa Maria” was used to build the “Nativity Fortress,” which was later destroyed by the natives due to the abuses committed by the Spanish. Columbus resolved to build the town of “La Isabela,” the first European settlement in the New

World, located one hour west of Puerto Plata, today a major tourist attraction.

Puerto Plata's population reaches 160,000. Its major industries involve the processing of agricultural products such as sugar cane, rum, tropical fruits, amber jewelry, and tourism.

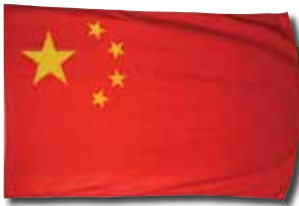


Sugar Cane

Beautiful amber jewelry from the region.



Puerto Plata from the air.



Xianyang

Shaanxi Province, China | 2007

Xianyang is a city of five million, located in Shaanxi Province in north central China. The Wei River, a tributary of the Yellow River, flows through its center. Established more than 3,000 years ago, it was the capital city of the first Chinese emperor.

Xianyang has a diverse mix of industry and institutions of art, culture, and higher education. Lying in a region of abundant soft coal heavily used by its industries, it faces serious pollution control challenges that provide an immediate opportunity for technical exchanges with Rochester.

It is served by the international airport of nearby Xian, likewise a former capital and home to the tombs of the famed terra cotta warriors.



Statue of the first Chinese Emperor

Activities have included Xianyang high school students staying in local homes, webcam conferences, and pen-pal relationships. Exchanges are being developed involving local pollution abatement professionals and museum collections.

www.xianyang.gov.cn/channel_1158/



Alytus

Lithuania | 2009

Alytus lies along the Nemunas River in southern Lithuania. An ancient settlement on a major trade route, the city dates from the 14th century, when the fortress on Alytus Hill defended the region from Crusader raids, Alytus has since spread over neighboring hills and valleys, encompassing verdant forests, so that today more than a third of the city of 70,000 is forest reserve and parkland. Vidzgiris forest provides a 452 hectare botanical reservation within the city, featuring rare plants and protected animals.

Foremost of Alytus' many festivals is the three-day Alytus City Festival at summer solstice, featuring music, ballooning, sports, and theatrical performances. Its Bonsai Exhibition is unique in the Baltic States. The biennial festival of contemporary experimental art draws artists from more than 25 countries. Alytus' Festival of Lighting



the Christmas Tree encompasses many events, including Christmas festivities and evenings of Christmas, jazz, and classical music.

Recreation opportunities include hiking, water sports, fishing, birding, and exploring historic and archeological sites.

Alytus' high schools and technical college support its industrial centre, with factories producing refrigerators, chemical products, linen, and clothing.



Festive procession during the Alytus City Days Celebration

Sister Cities

Landmarks, Friendship Committees and Student Exchanges

Rochester's ongoing commitment to its sister cities is evident in several landmarks throughout the city.

Exhibits

Rochester's sister cities have permanent display cases at City Hall. The cases exhibit artifacts and information representative of each sister city in our international family.

Bridge

The Frank and Janet Lamb Sister Cities Bridge spans the Genesee river and honors our sister cities by displaying their country flags. Its name honors former City Councilman and Mayor Frank Lamb and his wife, Janet Lamb, who helped develop both the Rochester and international sister cities programs.

Garden

This riverside garden features decorative shrubbery, seasonal flowers, and national flags.



Pont de Rennes

Crossing the Genesee River gorge in the heart of Rochester's High Falls District, this bridge is named in honor of our first sister city.

Sister Cities Garage

is a large downtown parking garage which is close to City Hall and near County, Federal, and various law offices.

Friendship Committees

Rochester's sister cities relationships are developed and maintained by volunteers from our community.

These Friendship Committees are established to explore sister cities connections with other communities,

to develop programs and activities that can be the basis for long-term, mutually beneficial relationships.

They also consider whether the ISCOR Board of Trustees should recommend that the Rochester City Council adopt the new city in a sister city relationship.

High School Student Exchanges

The Association for Teen-Age Diplomats organizes exchanges with several of Rochester's sister cities. Learn about their programs at www.atad.org.

World at a Glance

Map of Rochester's Sister Cities



- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1) Rochester, New York | 6) Kraków, Poland 1973 | 11) Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic 1997 |
| 2) Rennes, France 1958 | 7) Bamako, Mali 1975 | 12) Xianyang, Shaanxi Province, China 2007 |
| 3) Würzburg, Germany 1964 | 8) Waterford, Ireland 1983 | 13) Alytus, Lithuania 2009 |
| 4) Caltanissetta, Italy 1965 | 9) Velikiy Novgorod, Russia 1990 | |
| 5) Rehovot, Israel 1972 | 10) Hamamatsu, Japan 1996 | |

Contact Us:

For more information about ISCOR, call (585) 428-7045 or visit
www.cityofrochester.gov/sistercities

Or write to:

International Sister Cities of Rochester, NY Inc.

Lovely A. Warren, Mayor
City Hall, 30 Church St., Rm. 308A
Rochester, NY 14614

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