

Sister Cities of Columbia, IL Newsletter

Volume XXII Issue 2 Spring 2013

Host & Ticket Purchase Meeting for ALL Members – Apr. 4

The time is rapidly approaching when the 47 visitors from Gedern will arrive for their official visit to Columbia (May 10 – 20, 2013). The board and committee members have been hard at work for the past year planning the events to make their stay with us enjoyable and memorable. We invite you, our members, to attend as many of the scheduled events* as you are interested in. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our friends from Gedern! [*Because of limited space, the Rock City Event is limited to guests and their hosts only.]

Attached is a detailed itinerary of the events for each day of their visit. A meeting is scheduled for **Thurs. Apr. 4 at the Columbia City Hall at 7 pm** to 1. update the hosts on any changes and 2. sell event tickets to **all members**. Bring the completed individual reservation forms for each event with you to this meeting when you purchase your tickets. You may also mail them with payment to Barb Miller. Tickets need to be purchased by April 30.

We would like to issue a special invitation to all members and their friends to join us at the **20th Anniversary Celebration on May 18th at Turner Hall**. The original partnership agreement between Columbia and Gedern was signed on May 8, 1993 in Columbia.

Now, 20 years later, we will celebrate with a wonderful buffet dinner, a short program to recognize this milestone and then dancing to the music of the Smash Band.

Spring Dinner Meeting – April 18

Before the busy time of May arrives for the adult visit, we will welcome the student exchange visit for 3 weeks in April. We are delighted that their visit overlaps with our **Spring Membership Dinner Meeting on April 18 at the American Legion Hall**. The 25 students from the Gesamtschule of our sister city Gedern, Germany will be our special guests, along with their teachers Andreas Heuser (and his wife Christine) and Maria Krahl-Mogk. The highlight of our program for this evening will be several interesting and informative presentations by the German students.

See the attached flyer for exact details and reservation slip. The reservation slip with payment can be handed in at the meeting on April 4 or mailed to Barb Miller by April 11. Please invite friends to join you as we enjoy a fun evening with the German students and your Sister City friends.

Upcoming Stammtisch

Tues. June 11 – Boccardi's Ristorante
117 S. Main St. 6:30 pm
Mon. July 22 – Who Dat's (private party)
123 S. Main St. 6:30 pm

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New Lifetime Members

We are pleased to report that several of our members have elected to become lifetime members! Thank you to Liz Durako, Carol Jean Faust, Mark Roessler and Christa and Joe Maul. We appreciate your dedicated support of Sister Cities!

In Memoriam

We remember Marian Schlemmer who passed away on March 1, 2013 at the age of 87. Marian was active in the early days of Sister Cities and enjoyed taking part in visit activities both here and in Gedern. We offer our sympathies to her family.

Student Exchange Visit

The 25 high school students from the Gesamtschule of Gedern, Germany will be here in Columbia from Apr. 1 -22, 2013 as part of the student exchange program. The 1st student exchange took place in the spring of 1993. Alternating exchanges have occurred almost every year since then. This is the 11th student exchange visit from Gedern. They have been accompanied each and every time by their teacher Andreas Heuser who has been hosted each and every time by Marge Drexler and her late husband George. The students will be attending classes at Columbia High School as well as go on field trips to local sights. They will all get an opportunity to experience American culture by living with a host family here in Columbia. The German students work diligently all year long to prepare for this

trip. A large component of their preparation is the research for and development of the presentations they prepare. Each student selects a topic pertaining to some aspect of German culture or society and then works with a partner to write the script **in English**. The script is then developed into a power point presentation. The students rehearse the oral presentation of their programs so that they feel confident presenting it in English. While the German students are in Columbia, they visit many classrooms, not only at the High School, but also Parkview, Eagleview, Middle School and Immaculate Conception to make their presentations. It is a wonderful way for the youth of our community to meet these students and learn something about the German culture from the German students themselves.

We are so fortunate to be able to bring some of these presentations to you, our members, at our Spring Membership meeting!

Web Site

Check us out online:

www.columbiasistercities.com

Follow us and post comments on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/columbiasistercities.

Affiliations

Sister Cities of Columbia, IL is a member of Sister Cities International and Illinois Sister Cities Association.

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618-281-7864. Please send us your e-mail address so we can send updates and reminders via e-mail.

Dues for 2013

Please use the handy form below to renew your membership for 2013. *To see if your membership is current, please check for the year on your address label.* Thank you for your support of Sister Cities!

Annual Membership

___ Individual_____ \$ 5
___ Family_____ 10
___ Business_____ 25

Lifetime Membership

___ Individual_____ 50
___ Family_____ 100
___ Business_____ 250

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

e-mail_____

Today's date_____

Please make your check payable to:

Sister Cities of Columbia, IL and mail to:

Sister Cities of Columbia, IL

208 S Rapp St. P.O. Box 467

Columbia, IL 62236

Newsletter Committee

Our Newsletter Committee: Barb Miller,
Tom and Ingrid Soraghan. Questions and
comments are welcome! Please contact
Ingrid at jrbill1@htc.net or phone/fax at