

Chesapeake Sister Cities

*Chesapeake Sister Cities
Chesapeake, Virginia
Sister Cities Committee of Chesapeake*

Special points of interest:

- Chesapeake and Joinville, Brazil became Sister Cities in 2002
- Joinville is located in the state of Santa Catarina, Brazil which is Virginia's sister state.
- Joinville is host to the largest International Dance Festival.
- Joinville is the home of the only Bolsoi Ballet School outside of Russia.
- Chesapeake is host to 26 Brazilian Business Companies
- Four Chesapeake Schools—Truitt Intermediate, Great Bridge Intermediate and Middle Schools, and Thurgood Marshall Elementary have had pen-pal projects with Joinville

Beverly and Robert Pillers Initiate First Cultural Exchange

Beverly and Robert Pillers ventured to Brazil last August to initiate the first official cultural exchange between the Cities of Chesapeake and Joinville. Their mission was to teach ceramics courses at Casa da Cultura—a municipally-sponsored school offering a wide variety of classes in the arts. The Casa da Cultura complex is a spacious campus consisting of seven building housing offices, classrooms, gallery space, a small auditorium, and a well-equipped kiln room. "It was quite uplifting to enter the campus, especially in the evening, to breathe in all the activity—vocal, instrumental, and ballet classes all in a joyful cacophony" said Beverly Pillers.



Beverly and Robert Pillers with some of their creations

The Pillers' classes were in two general areas: Beverly taught a course in slab pottery formation methods, including the making of simple wood and plaster molds. The first week this course was given to local teachers; the second week to interested advanced students. By targeting the classes to teachers, the Pillars were able to spread the connection further throughout the schools of Joinville.

Robert Pillers taught a course in high temperature glaze calculation. This was essentially a university-level course taught in three 3-hour sessions, in Portuguese, no less. The Pillers feel the classes were particularly successful thanks to their interpreter Susane who is also a ceramics teacher. "Having the opportunity to become acquainted and to interact with the ceramistas of Joinville was an experience we shall always treasure, said the Pillers. "We learned once again that the language of art is indeed universal".

Inside this issue:

Meet Me in St. Louis	2
Y'all Come! Fort Worth Texas	2
Chesapeake Economic Development Joins Sister Cities	2
Books to Brazil	3
Chesapeake & Joinville, Now Share Peace Pole and Friendship	3
Joinville Guests Appear on Local TV	3
Message from the President	4

Mayor Ward Receives State Recognition

Mayor William E. Ward really got a big surprise at the September City Council meeting. The Sister Cities Committee had requested that State Senator Harry Blevins present an official proclamation in honor of the Mayor's efforts and leadership in the creation of our Sister Cities organization.

The proclamation cited Mayor Ward for his creation, dedication and leadership in founding the Chesapeake Sister Cities Association and his many hours devoted to our Sister City relationship with Joinville, Brazil.

The Sister Cities Committee was proud that no one had "spilled the beans" on the surprise recognition.



“Meet Me in ST. LOUIS—2003”

Another exciting SCI Annual Conference was held in July in St. Louis, Missouri. Representing the Chesapeake Sister Committee, Richard Cole reported that there were workshops packed with useful information, receptions at Grant’s Farm and Missouri Botanical Gardens, the return of the closing gala, and many more exciting activities. Specific information about each event can be found on the SCI Web site www.sister.cities.org.

The SCI Annual Conference takes the cooperation and efforts of hundreds of people. The total attendance this year was 547 including 424 U.S. delegates and 123 international. Forty-one states and 25 countries were represented. “The willingness to share information and the sincere dedication of the entire delegation was indeed impressive,” says Richard Cole.



Y’ALL COME! - Fort Worth, Texas—July 14-18, 2004



It’s never too early to plan for upcoming conferences and events. The 2004 SCI Annual Conference will be held in Fort Worth Texas, July 14-18, 2004.

Conference organizers are already requesting descriptions of projects or programs for presentation at the conference. If you are inter-

ested in participating and/or sharing some of Chesapeake’s successes an executive summary (200-250 words) should be submitted to info@fwsistercities.org or fax to 817.212.2655 (attn: SCI Conference). For more information visit the Fort Worth site at www.fwsistercities.org



Chesapeake Economic Development and Sister Cities Join Forces

Two heads are better than one! That is the strategy as Chesapeake Economic Development has joined forces with Creative Solutions, Ltd. to fast track the development of businesses in the State of Santa Catarina and the City of Chesapeake. This “public-private” partnership brings to bear all the resources of the city in conjunction with business and cultural contacts of private companies who have developed business relationships with Brazilian Companies. Carroll Harris, President

of Creative Solutions, Ltd. and founding president of the Chesapeake Sister Cities program, and Warren Harris, Director, Chesapeake Economic Development have designed a business seminar which introduces prospective Brazilian companies to the “nut and bolts,” hands-on information needed to enter into the U.S. Market. Over 120 businesses attended a meeting in



Joinville in August to listen to the concept. The first seminar was held November 11. Attendance included 127 individuals representing 87 Brazilian companies and other business-related interests. This concept is unique in that the business seminar, including the speakers, was conducted for a nominal rate as contrasted to normal conferences which charge expensive registration fees. There are 26 companies in the State of Santa Catarina now doing business through Hampton Roads. The goal is to increase these business partners.

Books to Brazil

To express our commitment to assist in the educational phase of the sister cities relationship with Joinville, Brazil and to show our friendship and goodwill, we have implemented a "Books to Brazil" project. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Omega Chapter, made up of key women educators in Chesapeake initiated a book drive. The books collected were mailed to twelve elementary and junior high schools in Joinville.

With the assistance of the Chesapeake Sister Cities Committee and the Friends of the Chesapeake Public Library, 120 books

were collected. The three-year-old preschool class of Great Bridge Presbyterian School became involved in the book project as well. The children selected a book of their choice and brought it to be sent to an elementary school. Books entitled *The Bear's Birthday Party*, *Mickey Mouse*, *Curious George*, *My New School and Manners* were brought by the children to be mailed to Brazil. Also packaged were many educational books donated by the educators entitled *If You Were a Writer*, *Simple*



Science, Land Masses, and The Wildlife Encyclopedia.

A second shipment of mathematics books and math manipulative was mailed to Joinville. The books will be evaluated by a teacher in Brazil regarding their usefulness. If they are appropriate, additional sets will be shipped.

Thank you Delta Kappa Gamma for your leadership.

"All in all, we were reminded how we are all part of the family of man and our bond grew stronger."

Chesapeake & Joinville Now Share Peace Poles and Friendship

On April 24, 2003, the official Peace Pole linking Chesapeake and Joinville, Brazil was official dedicated at Chesapeake City Hall. Carroll Harris, then President of the Sister Cities Committee welcome citizens of both cities. Ms. Heidi Moore, of Rejoince Lutheran Church gave the Invocation. Mayor William E. Ward and the Honorable Marco Antonio Tebaldi, Mayor of Joinville, Santa

Catarina, Brazil both spoke on the significance of the Peace Pole Dedication. Margaret Johnson offered the vocal tribute with "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

A Peace Pole is a hand-crafted monument that displays the message and Prayer "May Peace Prevail on Earth" on each of its four sides. When you plant a Peace Pole in your community, you are linking with people all over the world who have planted

their poles in the same spirit of peace. There are more than 200,000 Peace Poles around the world

This Peace Pole is dedicated as a symbol of the bond of friendship between the citizens of Chesapeake and our sister city, Joinville, Brazil. The Sister Cities Committee gifted an identical pole to Joinville as a symbol of our commitment to each other.



At The Joinville Peace Pole sent by the Sister Cities of Chesapeake



Peace Pole dedication in Chesapeake

Joinville Guests Appear on Local TV

Our visitors had a busy schedule when they were here in Chesapeake last spring. Besides all the cultural events and official duties and tours, some of the delegation made an appearance on our local television channel TV48. Margit Olsen and Romy Dunzinger appeared as guests on the "That Other Show" program and discussed our recent visit to Joinville during the fabulous International Dance Festival. The

festival is the largest in South America. This gave one of the shows' hosts, who is the Fine Arts Coordinator for the City, a chance to discuss culture similarities and differences between our two cities.

It was not surprising to find that the arts are a common link to understanding between all people of the world. Even though there were Portuguese translators, it was often unnecessary when the universal language of

the arts is spoken.

Mayor Marco Antonio Tebaldi was a guest on another show that dealt with the movers and shakers in our city. Chesapeake citizens had the opportunity to learn from him what impressed him about our city government and structure. Their council meetings are not open to the public and have over 20 council members.



Margit Olsen, Randy Harrison— Show Host, and Romy Dunzinger



Mayor Tebaldi & Romy Dunzinger, Joinville being prepared by WCTV 48 host Sid Oman and Elena Peterman 48 Staff.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Chesapeake Sister Cities Committee, Inc. is a volunteer organization, which is linked globally to create opportunities for the Citizens of Chesapeake to promote lasting friendships through a variety of programs.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Sister Cities concept began in 1956 as a people-to-people program involving individuals and community organizations in personal diplomacy. Since then, over 1,065 U.S. cities have been linked with 1,688 foreign cities in 117 nations. The Sister City Program allows the individual and the community to participate on local, national, and international levels to make an impact on our ever-changing world. Exchanges range from education, culture, medicine, municipal training, and business to sports. The key to the success of a Sister Cities program is the public-private partnership between locally elected officials and volunteers. It is this partnership that allows the entire community to support and participate in the program.



Message From the President Cheryl Johnson-Stokes

"The nicest thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time"

Anonymous

It's hard to believe that three years have gone by since I first joined Sister Cities. In that time, I have had the opportunity to work with some pretty incredible people. It's been a whirlwind experience – but one that I have thoroughly enjoyed.

The future was initially all the members of Sister Cities had to hold onto, and it was approached one day at a time. Under the persistent leadership of Mayor Ward, and with the support of a great cast of well-organized and dedicated members, Sister Cities of Chesapeake began to make it move to a new horizon. Not only was the future clearly identified, it rocked. The quiet journey which started in the late 1990's, moved from "when, where, who and how," to the signing of the official agreement with our first Sister City, Joinville, Brazil in 2002, - truly a fantastic choice for a partner. Many milestones have marked the way since that time. Several delegations have traveled to and from Joinville and Chesapeake, representing other areas of businesses, educational institutions, cultural aspects, governments, and individual/community interests. Peace Poles were placed in both cities and children have written to pen pals. General goodwill has been established.

My hope as the second president of Sister Cities, following Captain Carroll Harris, is to continue to the fine progress already made by not getting in the way. In addition; implementing the key initiatives for the next two years, which primarily focus on but are not limited to: Fundraising, Membership Drives and Committee Development are uppermost in my mind.

I am excited about our future! Please join us in our journey.

Cheryl