

30 Year ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024



Aachen | Coyoacán | Ivano-Frankivsk
Reims | San Miguel



Book Designed By: Alexandra Alepohoritis - alepohap@gmail.com

30th Anniversary Celebration
of the
Arlington Sister City Association
and its Partnership with its Sister City
Aachen, Germany

Friday, April 12, 2024



TOP OF THE TOWN

1400 14th Street North, Arlington, Virginia

6:00pm to 9:00pm

Cocktail Reception | 6:00pm

Program | 6:30pm

Dinner | 7:00pm





2023-2024
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Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire Arlington Sister City Association (“ASCA”), we are pleased to welcome you to tonight’s celebration, marking not only 30 years of ASCA’s existence, but also 30 years of the association’s first Sister City partnership with Aachen, Germany.

It is hard to believe that 30 years have gone by since that first group of Arlington citizens approached the County to initiate a Sister City agreement in 1993. Since then, ASCA has added four additional Sister Cities to its family: Coyoacán, Mexico in 1995 (in emeritus status); Reims, France in 2005; San Miguel, El Salvador in 2008; and, Ivano-Frankivsk in 2011.

Through the dedication and hard work of a continuous flow of predominantly volunteers, ASCA has produced and participated in events, student exchanges, and professional development activities that have enlightened participants, created long-lasting friendships and memories, as well as raised the profile of Arlington both locally and abroad. As Sister Cities International has stated, President Eisenhower’s vision in establishing the Sister City concept was to create a network that would be a champion for peace and prosperity by fostering and facilitating bonds between people from different communities around the world. Indeed, ASCA has worked hard to encourage cultural understanding and build connections (from government and business to education, culture, and the arts) with our counterparts globally through our programming. It is our hope that we can count on you to continue on this worthwhile journey of fulfilling our mission.

We would like to thank each of you for your support and contributions now and throughout our history. Together, we forge forward to the next chapter of ASCA’s history.

Daphne Lathouras
Chair, Board of Directors

Anastasia Orfanoudis
Executive Director



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April 12, 2024

Congratulations to the Arlington Sister City Association as well as to our friends in Aachen, Germany, our first Sister City, on this 30th anniversary! This organization and our relationships between all our cities – Aachen, Ivano-Frankivsk, Reims, and San Miguel have grown over the past 30 years through student exchanges, official visits, unofficial visits, mutual support for our first responders, and more.

It has been such a pleasure over the years to hear from students and their families about how much the student exchange has meant to them and taught them. In recent years Aachen and Arlington fire departments have traded techniques that have helped both departments keep our communities safer. For 30 years, Arlington County Board members have had the honor and privilege of attending the Karlspreis ceremony.

My visits to Aachen for the Karlspreis and to Reims as well for the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI and the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII are among my most memorable experiences as a Board member. WWI and WWII are still very real memories for our friends in Europe and these ceremonies made me understand a little more about my grandfather’s experiences there in WWI, and our current ties coming out of WWII. To be in the room in May 2023 when Volodymyr Zelensky received the Karlspreis award is something I will never forget.

All our Sister Cities’ relationships make us realize in a way that classes and books cannot, how closely tied we are with our friends around the world. The work of Sister Cities and the relationships it creates is more important than ever as the world becomes closer and problems more shared. Relationships help leverage resources for solutions to mutual problems. In a time when the world is closer than ever, but divisions abound everywhere, Sister Cities is more and more important.

Thank you to all who have helped build ASCA over the years and who are working to make ASCA stronger. Happy 30th Anniversary!

Sincerely,



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April 12, 2024

ASCA's 30-year journey is both a reason to celebrate one of Arlington's oldest resident-founded and sustained non-profit organizations and Arlington as a community.

Bringing people together, enabling human-to-human, community-to-community contact, and fostering mutual understanding and meaningful exchange across borders, cultures, and languages is an extraordinary accomplishment for which we can't be thankful enough to the hundreds of volunteer members who, over three decades, have supported, and continue to support ASCA today.

A commonly used metaphor to describe ASCA's mission is that of a bridge. Indeed, ASCA is a "Bridge of People" and of experiences that open minds, influence lives, and form the foundations for lifelong friendships.

The very idea of Sister Cities sprang out of the belief that peace and international collaboration should not be the exclusive domain of governments. ASCA's 30th anniversary invites us to reflect on how truly forward-thinking and transformational the reframing of "international relations" as "People's Relations" has been. I am proud that such a "Bridge of People" is a foundational asset of our community in Arlington.

Having had the opportunity to interact with dozens of ASCA Members and with students, families, and individuals who participated in ASCA's programs, I bear witness to how their dedication and involvement with ASCA has changed and enriched their lives and how, in consequence, it has changed and enriched Arlington. As an immigrant, I can clearly appreciate how ASCA's work has deepened our ability to understand, value, sustain, and grow diversity here at home.

As we look to the future, I am convinced that our "Bridge of People" will become broader and stronger and will continue opening new horizons for Arlingtonians. ASCA is living proof that no matter the ubiquitousness and reach of modern communications technology or global economic connectivity, nothing compares to the quality, lasting value, and experience of direct human encounters.

Here is to ASCA's next 30 years! With appreciation and gratitude,



A warm welcome as we gather to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Arlington-Aachen Sister City Partnership. With honor, it is with the greatest pleasure that we congratulate the County Board, County Manager's Office, Arlington Public Schools (APS), County and APS school employees, Directors of Arlington Sister City Association (ASCA), the members of ASCA, Arlington and Aachen citizens, current and former volunteers and friends of our two cities on the thirty-year association of government relationships, exchanges, and friendships.

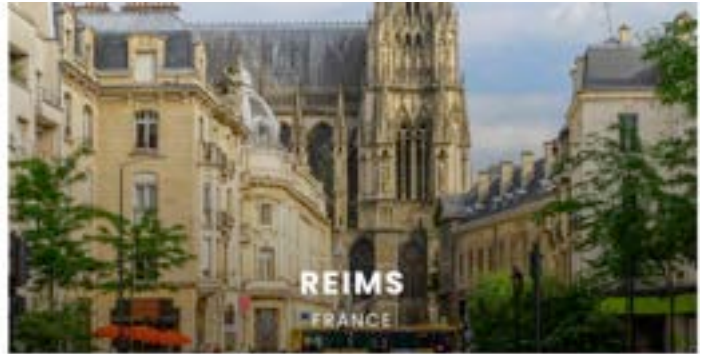
When President Dwight Eisenhower established Sister Cities in 1956 to propose a people-to-people, citizen diplomacy initiative to create and strengthen partnerships between communities in the United States and abroad internationally, it was unclear how the vision would be realized. Through countless hours and hundreds of volunteers on both sides of the Atlantic, the Arlington-Aachen committees have dedicated a great deal of time, passion, commitment, and hard work to bring the two communities together, forming lifelong friendships.

Together, we have supported exchanges and discussions between the two governments on public works, sustainability, firefighter best practices, and other challenges that the cities of Arlington and Aachen face today. Shared learned knowledge has also help developed relationships with regional organizations including the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. Friends of Ludwig forum, Arlington Arts Center and local artists have shared arts and culture with programs. Exhibitions, and exchanges for visual and performing arts. Elementary and high school exchanges have provided opportunities to experience life and culture from a student point of view and show how a sister city partnership can enrich the lives of citizens across generations within our communities. We will continue to strengthen and deepen the sister city relationship through four key pillars: government, economic development, arts, culture and education.

As the people of each city grow closer together, may our experiences and exchanges make both our cities better places in which to live. May we also reach out beyond this relationship to help bring others into a union of greater cultural awareness, acceptance and tolerance. We wish both our cities, Arlington and Aachen, and Arlington Sister City Association and the Aachen Board a continued close and fruitful relationship for another 30 years and beyond.

Hanna Eun
Aachen Sister City President

What is **ASCA?**



Connecting Arlington to the World

Established in 1993, the Arlington Sister City Association ("ASCA") is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Arlington County, Virginia. ASCA supports and coordinates activities of its five Sister City Committees that work with their counterparts in Aachen, Germany; Coyoacán, Mexico {in emeritus status}; Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine; Reims, France; and, San Miguel, El Salvador.

ASCA works to enhance and promote Arlington's international profile, as well as to foster productive exchanges through arts and cultural partnerships, business development, educational and professional exchanges, and government relationships. ASCA helps Arlington citizens form long-lasting partnerships and friendships with the people of its Sister Cities (and beyond!) through its many activities and programs.

The Four Sister Cities



Aachen

GERMANY

Aachen: A City to Fall in Love With

The most important historical period of Aachen started with the takeover of the government by Charlemagne in 768 AD. The imperial palace, located next to the hot water springs, soon became Charlemagne's permanent residence, and so developed into a spiritual and cultural center. As the economic development of Aachen proceeded, the town became more and more prosperous, and this has persisted to the present day. Charlemagne was buried in the Cathedral of Aachen in 814. (The Cathedral is Germany's first UNESCO World Heritage site.) Two hundred years later he was canonized, which resulted in a flow of pilgrims wishing to visit and see Charlemagne's tomb and the relics he gathered during his life. The relics are exhibited to the public every seven years. The Aachen Cathedral and its treasury are considered to be the principal ecclesiastical treasury north of the Alps. Aachen is now home to the Charlemagne Prize for politicians who advance European unity.

Programs & Events:

- Elementary School Family Exchange Program
- High School Exchange Program
- High School Homestay Program
- Professional Exchanges
- Firefighter Exchanges
- Karlspreis



Reims

FRANCE

Reims: Live Sparkling Moments

Reims is a city of the Champagne-Ardenne region of northern France, located 89 miles east-northeast of Paris. It was originally founded during the period of the Roman Empire. Reims played a very important role in French history, as it was the place where the kings of France were crowned. The most famous and cherished of these events was the coronation of Charles VII in the company of Joan of Arc. Thus, the Cathedral of Reims (damaged by the Germans during the First World War but restored since) played the same role in France as Westminster Abbey did in England. It was there that the Holy Ampulla (Sainte Ampoule) containing the Saint Chrême (chrism) was kept, which was said to have been brought by a white dove (the Holy Spirit) at the baptism of Clovis in 496, and was used for the anointing – the most important part of the coronation of French kings. The largest city in the region, Reims is often considered the capital of Champagne, an old province of France, world-famous for its sparkling wine (Champagne).

Programs & Events:

- High School Exchange Program
- Historic Events
- Educational Programming
- Arts & Culture Exchanges



San Miguel

EL SALVADOR

San Miguel: Capital of the East

San Miguel is the second most important and populous city in El Salvador and an important center for the coffee, textile, and chemical industry of El Salvador. Known as the “Capitol of the East” of El Salvador, San Miguel is located at the foot of the San Miguel and Chinameca volcanoes. San Miguel is a road, rail, and trade center on the Pan-American Highway and it serves the surrounding agricultural region, where coffee, livestock, sisal, grain, sugarcane, and cotton are produced. The city, formerly the center of an indigo trade, includes among its industries cotton milling, vegetable-oil and sisal processing, tanning, and the manufacture of musical instruments, handicrafts, and pharmaceuticals. The many Spanish colonial buildings located here include a cathedral (18th century), Santo Domingo and Chinameca churches, and several monasteries. San Miguel, founded in 1530, was badly damaged by an earthquake in 1917; but, was rebuilt and has since become one of the largest cities of El Salvador.

Programs & Events:

Carnival Miss Sister City
English Language Program
Educational Programs
Legal Fair



Ivano-Frankivsk

UKRAINE

Ivano-Frankivsk: Gateway to the Carpathians

Ivano-Frankivsk is the capital of Ivano-Frankivsk region, in western Ukraine. Situated on the Bystrytsia River, it is a rail junction and industrial center situated in a fertile agricultural zone of the Carpathian foothills. The city has diverse light industries such as woodworking, machinery and furniture making, and food processing. Previously named Stanislav, Ivano-Frankivsk was founded as a Ukrainian settlement in 1662 as the Polish town of Stanis & Istrok. Despite Tatar and Turkish raids, it flourished as a trade center in the 17th and 18th centuries and became the bishopric of the Ukrainian Catholic Uniate Church in 1850. Stanislav became part of Austria in 1772, Poland in 1919, and the Soviet Union in 1945. The city and oblast were renamed in 1962 in honor of the Ukrainian poet and writer Ivan Franko. Ivano-Frankivsk began with Rynok (Market) Square and the town hall. In a slightly modified form, they are preserved to this day. Its further development reflected the urban planning ideas of the Baroque era about the “perfect town,” embodied in the planning of its central part, its streets and churches.

Programs & Events:

High School Exchange
Educational Programs
Film Festivals
Professional Exchanges

ASCA In Photos





Educational exchanges



Arlington-Reims Sister City Agreement Signing Ceremony, 2004



THE SHANAHAN/SALSBURG FAMILY
Congratulates the Arlington Sister City Association
on its 30th Anniversary!



AACHEN CATHEDRAL

Thanks for 30 years of
promoting international
understanding and
friendship!

**HAPPY 30TH
ANNIVERSARY, ASCA!**

It's been an honor to contribute to
such a remarkable organization.

Over the years, I've had the pleasure
of connecting with wonderful people,
engaging in enriching educational
events, and fostering meaningful
cultural exchanges, such as facilitating
high school semesters in Arlington
for students from our sister cities and
participating in a memorable Aachen
Family Exchange in 2011.

Here's to ASCA's ongoing success in
uniting our sister cities for many
more years to come.

— **DAPHNE LATHOURAS** —

Luis Paredes-Ubillus

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of connecting our community to the world!

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