



# MONTGOMERY *Sister Cities*

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE WORLD

## CALLING ALL GLOBAL CITIZENS!



### ANNUAL MEETING

Connecting Our Community to the World

The annual meeting of Montgomery Sister Cities will be held on Thursday 30 March from 6-8 pm at the Silver Spring Civic Building at One Veterans Plaza in Silver Spring.

The evening will feature presentations and refreshments provided by the volunteer committees of our sister cities Morazán, El Salvador; Gondar, Ethiopia; Xi'an, China and Hyderabad, India.

We are especially excited to introduce our future sister city Daejeon, South Korea.

**Thursday, March 30, 2017 from 6-8 p.m.**

**Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza**

County Executive Ike Leggett will speak about Sister Cities and its importance to fostering the unique sense of world community that is a hallmark of Montgomery County and recognize special volunteer efforts on behalf of Sister Cities.

For more information, please contact Cynthia Morris at [cynthia.morris@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:cynthia.morris@montgomerycountymd.gov) or visit [www.montgomerysistercities.org](http://www.montgomerysistercities.org)

#### MISSION OF MONTGOMERY SISTER CITIES, INC.

Montgomery Sister Cities, Inc. was established to connect Montgomery County to the world by encouraging and fostering friendship, partnership, and mutual cooperation through educational, cultural, social, economic, humanitarian, and charitable exchanges between the people of Montgomery County and people from various nations around the world.

[www.montgomerysistercities.org](http://www.montgomerysistercities.org)

#### FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Cynthia Morris, Office of Community Partnerships  
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[cynthia.morris@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:cynthia.morris@montgomerycountymd.gov)

*Newsletter design and production by Text Design, Inc.*



## Letter from the Board Chair

*William B. Nance*

Montgomery Sister Cities continues to make progress, despite setbacks and the loss of our founding president Bill Hudnut. Internal events in Ethiopia led to cancelation of planned events, but there is no loss of enthusiasm for our program. We continue to support Gondar – through donations of over 500 law books, computers, and medical supplies – while we work to re-schedule our visit to the city.

Other programs are progressing well, as described elsewhere in this document – particularly those in Morazán, El Salvador and Xi’an, China. Our Hyderabad, India program got off to a great start – kicked off by a visit there shortly after it began, but has slowed somewhat following municipal elections that brought in new leadership, now being introduced to our Sister City efforts.

Our greatest need remains as it has been from the beginning of our Sister Cities organization – your active and continued support. We are pleased with the support of individual country programs – broad participation in trips we arrange, gifts of your time and monetary support – and invite your continued involvement in sponsored events and country-specific fund-raisers. We also welcome your comments and suggestions for new activities you would like to see Montgomery Sister Cities take on in the future.

The vision of the County Executive to create the Montgomery Sister Cities to showcase the richness of our county while we learn more about and from our partner cities, continues to develop, but it has already established linkages between Montgomery County communities and communities in our Sister Cities that did not exist before. I extend my personal thanks to Bill Hudnut, who was asked by the County Executive in 2009 to bring the vision into reality. Bill played his part well; now we must continue to ensure that the reality – the exchanges of ideas, customs, and practices – touches more and more individuals – both in our county and in our Sister City communities.

William B. Nance

## County Executive Ike Leggett to Lead Delegation to Daejeon, South Korea and Xi’an, China

Mark your calendars for October 20-28 2017 for an exciting Montgomery Sister Cities trip to Daejeon, South Korea and Xi’an, China. In addition to experiencing the culture of these vibrant cities, travelers will have opportunities to explore economic development opportunities.



For more information, please contact Diane Vu at [diane.vu@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:diane.vu@montgomerycountymd.gov) or (240) 777-8320.

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

### Morazán Sister City Committee Annual Fiesta

Friday, November 4 • 6-11 PM

Silver Spring Civic Building  
1 Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring

This special event offers Salvadoran food and other refreshments, a live band and other activities celebrating Salvadoran culture and community.

For more information, please contact [nestor.alvarenga@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:nestor.alvarenga@montgomerycountymd.gov)

## Morazán Committee to Lead Habitat for Humanity Service Trip

Since 2011 Sister Cities Morazán has collaborated with Habitat for Humanity visiting Morazán to build dignified housing for those in need. In the past working with Metro Maryland Habitat we have built 26 new homes. Metro Maryland Habitat is no longer involved but we are going again and looking for a team of 12 dedicated individuals who are willing to get dirty and lend a hand. The delegation dates are July 15 to July 23. The trip cost is \$1495 which includes a donation to Habitat and covers in-country transportation, lodging and meals. Airfare is not included.

Volunteers will work alongside a family in Morazán to build a home. Typical duties include mixing cement and.... **content ended here in the word document.**

### MONTGOMERY SISTER CITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Nance, <i>Chair</i>	Michael Gruenberg
Dianne Smith, <i>Secretary</i>	William Kaschak
Bruce Adams	Ram Konda
Mumin Barre	Nan Qiao
Larry Colbert	Darwin Romero
Tracey-Alexis Dixon	Roman Santillan
Lorna Forde	Clemmie Solomon



## Local Law Firm Leads Law Book Drive for Gondar

Attorney Karl Protil was always proud of the commitment of his firm Shulman Rogers Gandal Pordy and Ecker to community service for Montgomery County. His pride was validated once again after his 2014 trip to Gondar, Ethiopia with the Sister Cities delegation led by County Executive Ike Leggett. While in Gondar, Mr. Protil identified an extraordinary opportunity to help thousands of aspiring law students at Gondar University. "I was amazed by the extent of the need; these students didn't even have textbooks to pursue their studies. I was sure we could help!" Upon his return to Montgomery County, Mr. Protil began a law textbook drive, reaching out to law schools and firms throughout the area. "One of my more memorable experiences was loading up a van with textbooks at University of Maryland in Baltimore! The generosity of colleagues was really inspiring." Over 500 textbooks were collected in anticipation of a second delegation trip in 2016. Unfortunately, political unrest in Ethiopia forced the cancellation of the trip and the books are in storage as the Gondar committee seeks funding for shipping them to Gondar. Mr. Protil is hopeful that will happen soon "The need is greater than ever."



For more information on how you can help, contact Daniel Koroma at [Daniel.koroma@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Daniel.koroma@montgomerycountymd.gov) or all (240) 777-2584.

## Lunar New Year Celebrations Kicks Off Xi'an Committee 2017 Calendar

The multiple Lunar New Year celebrations sponsored by the Northwestern Chinese American Association of Greater Washington (NCAAGW) throughout the region started their new year of service and celebration of tradition and culture.

Citizen workshops and continuing Tai Chi classes are just a sample of plans for 2017.

For more information about the committee, visit [www.ncaagw.org](http://www.ncaagw.org)



# In Memoriam

Montgomery Sister Cities lost its greatest friend and champion with the recent death of Bill Hudnut, our Founding Chairman.

In 2008, Bill was quick to respond to County Executive Ike Leggett's request to lead the effort to make his vision for Montgomery County to establish Sister Cities around the world. He was the clear choice for this task because of his reputation as a world class urban policy guru who had served as minister, Member of Congress and Mayor of both Indianapolis and the Town of Chevy Chase. He got to work quickly, recruiting a diverse and talented board, incorporating Montgomery Sister Cities as a non-profit organization.



It is fitting that a larger than life statue of Bill stands in Hudnut Commons, commissioned in his honor by the city of Indianapolis. His friends here in Montgomery will always remember him that way, and deeply appreciate his years of service building Montgomery Sister Cities.



## Become a Global Citizen: Support Montgomery Sister Cities

For an annual contribution of \$20 or more, you will receive an official Montgomery Sister Cities pin and quarterly email newsletters on our programs and progress. As Montgomery Sister Cities is a 501(c)(3) community nonprofit, your contribution is tax deductible. **Please fill out this form and mail it with your check made payable to "Montgomery Sister Cities" to:**

**Montgomery Sister Cities, c/o Cynthia Morris  
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, MD 20850.**

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