



October 2018 Newsletter

From the desk of Kay Sargent

“Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.”
-Albert Einstein

Sister Cities Members & Supporters,

It has been a very busy three months! We had an excellent turn out for our 16th Annual Edward T. Houlihan Halfway to St. Patrick's Day. Mary Parlanti's stew was delicious as always and we enjoyed Liam's Fancy Irish Music and the Irish dancers from McTeggart and Bluegrass Ceili Academy.



Our Deauville TA's have started their school year and are having a great time getting to know the city. Elizabeth Whitlock's first post is on our blog, and we encourage you to read all about her adventures. She and Andrew Coburn have sent lots of updates and photos which you can see on our Facebook page.

Our delegation returned from Shinhidaka a few weeks ago where we celebrated the 30th anniversary of our twinning. We had many wonderful experiences, including being a part of their fall festival. It was a pleasure to meet the new Mayor, Katsuyuki Ohno, and to visit with friends and colleagues. We now look forward to welcoming a delegation from Shinhidaka to Lexington over the 4th of July.

Our Newmarket Academy exchange students, along with their Headmaster Nick Froy, just departed this week after a 10 day stay in Lexington. They enjoyed many activities and we hope left with great memories. A special thank you to all the host families and Godolphin's Jonabell Farm for a successful visit.

Our applications for 2019's exchange programs are on our website. We are very excited to begin reviewing applications and beginning interviews in the coming months. We encourage you to share the applications with your friends and spread the word!

Also on our website are the applications for the Youth Artists and Young Authors Showcases. This year's theme is "Global Citizens: Resilient Communities." We are also looking forward to seeing the submissions for the Young Photographers Showcase. We hope for several entries from the many young creative students of Lexington.

Lastly, Danville will host the Kentucky Sister Cities state meeting this week. It's always educational and fun to catch up and network with other cities to see what's going on in their programs.

I wish you very happy and healthy holidays.

From the desk of Ali Brewsaugh



It's such a surreal moment for me as I introduce myself as Lexington Sister Cities' new Assistant to the Director.

For those of you who don't know, I was introduced to Sister Cities in 2014 when I applied for the teaching assistantship in Deauville, France. I was lucky enough to be chosen, and I enjoyed a life-changing year in Deauville.

Upon returning to the United States, I attended Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce and earned my Master's Degree. After finishing my master's, I began to look for a job in which I could use my French skills. Of course, I contacted Kay. So, four years later, I am working with Sister Cities again!

There is so much to report from these last few months! Halfway to St. Patrick's Day was a great success and we would like to thank all who were involved. The Newmarket, England students visited us at the end of October and were able to take part in activities at Locust Trace AgriScience School, a tour of Toyota, and a trip to Boyd's Orchard. We have just had a delegation return from Japan, after celebrating our 30th anniversary with Shinhidaka. Also, our applications for summer programs are on the website, and we hope that you will spread the word about these amazing programs!

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Do you have friends that are interested in joining Lexington Sister Cities? Have them become a member today! Share our membership brochure with them and encourage them to become part of the journey to promoting peace.

You can find our membership brochure on our website, or contact Kay or Alexandra to send you one.

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16th Annual Halfway to St. Patrick's Day

What a fantastic night for Lexington Sister Cities! Guests came from all over (even Virginia) to our 16th Annual Edward T. Houlihan Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser. O'Neill's Irish Pub was kind enough to host us in our celebration. Mary Parlanti made her famous Irish stew and brown bread. Liam's Fancy Irish Music, McTeggart's Irish Dancers and Bluegrass Ceili Academy Dancers provided the entertainment. Our silent auction was made up of a plethora of items including baskets of merchandise from local breweries, handmade afghans, and Lexington Philharmonic tickets.



30th Anniversary Shinhidaka Trip

In late September a group of delegates from Lexington Sister Cities took a trip to Shinhidaka, Japan to celebrate our 30th anniversary. The new Mayor welcomed the group with dinner and dancing. Events included a "Koto Experience" with ancient instruments, art museums, and a visit to the Jounji Temple. Taking part in the fall festival was especially exciting. In addition to Shinhidaka, the group enjoyed visits to Tokyo, Hakodate, Yokohama and Kamakura. We are looking forward to another wonderful 30 years of friendship!

This October, Lexington Sister Cities welcomed our Newmarket exchange students, along with their headmaster Nick Froy. During the visit, they were able to go to school with their counterparts, visit North American Racing Academy, Locust Trace AgriScience Center, Toyota, the Kentucky Horse Park, Boyd's Orchard, Bluegrass Biztown, Living Arts & Science Center, and the Kentucky State Capitol. In addition, Jonabell Farm hosted the group at Keeneland for the races. We are excited to continue our exchange with Newmarket, England in 2019.



Applications and Programs



High School Student Exchanges

Our high school student exchange applications have been on our website since September and sent to the schools. Students are being offered the opportunities to go to Deauville, France; County Kildare, Ireland; Shinjuku, Japan; and Newmarket, England. All applications are due on November 9th. We're looking forward to another great year of exchanges in 2019.

"The exchange helped me find my niche in the world."

- Grace Taylor, Deauville Exchange



University Programs

Our university program applications have been released as well! This year we are offering the Caen Scholarship, Deauville Internship, and Deauville Teaching Assistantship. These applications are due on January 14th. Last summer's Deauville intern, Dealla Samadi, shared some pictures and a short letter about her experience. There is also a recent post on our blog from one of our teaching assistants, Elizabeth Whitlock, about her time in Deauville so far.



Pictures from our Deauville TA's

About her students, Elizabeth says, "The kids are so sweet, and are one of the most rewarding parts of this experience."



From Deauville Intern Dealla Samadi

This summer I lived in Deauville, France as part of the Lexington Sister Cities Deauville Internship Program. For eight wonderful weeks, I worked as an intern for the exhibit "Artistes en Normandie" in a small museum called "Point de Vu." During the time, I had two main responsibilities: surveillance and tours. With the help of my colleagues, I helped protect the exhibit by ensuring visitors did not touch the artwork or the walls or use flash photography. I also gave daily tours of the exhibit in English and French.

I made special relationships during my time in Deauville. An aging couple who were formerly bakers, hosted me during my stay. They helped me discover Normandy and Deauville, and I even got to meet some of their friends. By the end of my two months, they call me their adoptive granddaughter and they were my adoptive grandparents. By living with them I learned everything and more about the French culture.

When I entered college, I hadn't even planned on continuing to study French. I thought it would be impossible to pursue my passion for the French language and culture alongside the demanding course load of biology and neuroscience. With the help of the University of Kentucky's French Department and Lexington Sister Cities program, I enriched my undergraduate studies with the beauty of travel and world discovery. I am so thankful to have had this opportunity.

Young Authors and Artists Showcases

Calling all creative minds! Youth Authors and Artists Showcases applications are out! This year's theme is "Global Citizens: Resilient Communities." Sister Cities is looking for original artwork or writing that embodies this theme and the idea of diplomacy on which we base our organization. A Young Photographers Showcase application is also available on our website. The winning art will be on display at Central Bank from March 15th through April 26th. Please share this opportunity with others!



#GIVINGTUESDAY™
November 27, 2018



Kroger Community Rewards

It's almost that time of year: Thanksgiving! Closely followed by Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and Giving Tuesday. Lexington Sister Cities will be participating in giving Tuesday again this year. Donations can be given to Sister Cities on Giving Tuesday through the website givingtuesday.org. Your donations will go directly to our student scholarship fund. Mark your calendars

Buying a gift card for someone? Bluegrass Hospitality Group's Charitable Giving Program now gives 20% of the proceeds from any online gift card purchase to the charity of your choice. When you buy your gift card, do it through Give BHG! Select the value of the gift card, then select Lexington Sister Cities Programs. Visit givebhg.com today to make your purchase and contribute to Lexington Sister Cities!

For several years we have been mentioning our Kroger community rewards program. Have you registered your Kroger Plus Card? You can find simple instructions on our website about giving to Lexington Sister Cities just by using your Kroger Plus Card when shopping! If you have already registered, don't forget that we have a new NPO number: BF603. Thank you for your support!



Save the Date!

The 7th Annual Sister Cities Golf Scramble will be held on June 3, 2019 at Connemara Golf Course.

Lexington Sister Cities Youth Committee

Lexington Sister Cities' Youth Committee is hard at work this fall to promote our student exchange programs. They held a promotional event for the Deauville Student Exchange in October at The Bell House, where they served crepes and other French snacks while answering questions. They continue to come up with new ideas to improve the program. The committee meets at least once a month with Youth Coordinator Sarah Martin and Assistant to the Director Ali Brewsaugh. The committee members will also take part in orientations for the students who plan to take part in the exchanges in 2019.



Kentucky League of Cities



Ali represented Sister Cities International and was bombarded with questions from interested cities. She explained the concept of Sister Cities and passed out informational material. Also, she publicized the Kentucky Sister Cities State Meeting which is being held in Danville.