Greetings - Fellow Ambassadors of Peace

The year 2020 marks an extraordinary change in our society and our world. Many trends we have seen developing e.g. online shopping, video conferencing, working from home, have accelerated at an amazing pace. We must learn to adapt or perish. Doing it the old way, the comfortable way, only leads to extinction. I am proud to say Norfolk Sister City Association is morphing to adapt to this new world. In fact, in the words of hockey great Wayne Gretzky we are skating to where the puck is going.

Just last week our Board of Directors had an amazing Strategic Planning session. Considering COVID-19 we had a split event, with some Board members gathering in an open-air setting and others on ZOOM. The success we achieved was certainly due to the impressive respect shown to all ideas in a manner of great cooperation, collegiality, and camaraderie. Because of that, the brainstorming flowed smoothly and freely. I am especially grateful to our facilitator, Dr. Joe Bouchard who guided us through a challenging discussion about our future. It was also a real treat to have Mike Willits, the Program Manager from the Slover Library, there to make sure all the technology worked smoothly.

October 4th would have been our Annual International Luncheon, but like so many events it was canceled. The luncheon is also the setting for our auction. We adapted to make it an online event. It was more successful than we dared to hope.

The greatness of any non-profit organization is contingent on the dedication of its board’s members. Based on what I saw at our planning session we have a very bright future.
SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES 2020 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE WINNERS

Sister Cities International is proud to announce the winners and finalists of the 2020 Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS). For over three decades, the Young Artists and Authors Showcase has given youth from around the globe the opportunity to express their vision for a more unified, peaceful world through original artwork and literature.

The 2020 Showcase encouraged youth to submit entries inspired by the theme “One World: Out of Many, We Are One.” Inspired by the theme, young artists, and authors shared their vision of unity and expressed how recognizing the world’s oneness allows them and their communities to flourish. “Since its inception, youth have been submitting their inspiring artwork to the Young Artists and Author Showcase for 32 years. Every year, we are increasingly in awe of the youth’s work as they never cease to show perspective and insight. This year’s entries are especially creative and expressive, exemplifying the theme in ways we never would have thought. We’re excited to share the next generation’s work with the world on our website” said Leroy Allala, Sister Cities International President and CEO.

The 2020 Young Artists Showcase (U.S.) Grand Prize winner is Rose Linn from Lexington, KY for her artwork titled “We Are All One.” Finalists include Amber Lee of Santa Clarita, CA; Ava Hardin of Wilmette, IL; Penelope Choi of Columbia, MD; Natalie Eden of Norfolk, VA; and Eike Mussig Contreras of Scottsdale, AZ.

The 2020 Young Artists Showcase (Photography) Grand Prize winner is Carolyn Ervin from Norfolk, VA for her work titled “Bridge to the Future”.

The Grand Prize winners will each receive a $1,000 cash prize. In past years, Sister Cities International has sent the artwork on tour to several cities across the U.S. However, due to the pandemic, this year it will not be possible to do so. This year’s winners and finalists will have their work showcased on the Sister Cities International website, making it accessible for many to appreciate the artwork.
During this uncertain time, many travel plans have been cancelled.

It is the perfect chance to add some international flair to your dinner tonight with Dias Niki Olive Oil by Norfolk Sister Cities. You will feel like you are in Greece but will experience the best staycation dinner you ever had. This product is from Ancient Olympia, Ilia, Greece, and is made from fresh, cold-pressed Koroneiki olives. You will taste the goodness with every bite!

Norfolk’s Sister Cities is the only distributor of this amazing, special edition Olive Oil. Get yours today and start your dream staycation! Thanksgiving is just around the corner – spice up the dinner table with a bottle of Dias Niki Olive Oil.

Need a great holiday gift? Give the gift of olive oil -
$25 for a half liter bottle
or
$35 for a liter bottle!
For more information please visit us at https://www.norfolksistercities.org/

NSCA BOARD SETS A PATH FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS
Despite the challenges posed by COVID 19, we had seven Board members in person and seven more via Zoom devote four hours of a beautiful Saturday afternoon on September 26 to the important work of drafting a new strategic plan to guide us through the next five years. There will be several more sessions to complete the process. We are indebted to Dr. Joe Bouchard for graciously donating his professional services as our facilitator. Thanks are also extended to Michael Willits at the Slover Library for serving as our AV guru.
July—September New & Renewals

Donna Bausch
Linda McCluney
Larry Baucom
Ann Kirk Mendes
Hague Plastic Surgery
The Honorable Henry Morgan
Ed Kellam
Manfred Schwarz and Ann Schwarz Miller
Terri Kirchner
Armstead & Widget Williams