



Doncaster Visit Arrival  
Dinner



Mayor Saffo & Donna Flake  
International Citizen Award



Peace through Music Concert  
Suzuki Violinists

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Sister Cities Association of Wilmington

North Carolina

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

## 2023 Financial Statement (unaudited)

Fund Balance 12/31/22	\$14,805
<b>REVENUE</b>	
Memberships	\$ 925
Grants (Public Support)	\$ 1,000
Contributions	\$ 429
Miscellaneous	\$ 20
Special Events	\$ 535
Net increase in cash	\$ 2,909
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Administration	\$ 937
Grants/Stipends	\$ 650
Special Events	\$ 893
Total expenditures	\$ 2,481
Net increase/decrease in cash	\$ 427
Fund Balance 12/31/23	\$ 15,233

*Special thanks to our donors, board, and volunteers for their contributions*

<b>Neal Anderson</b>	<b>Phillip Hanna</b>	<b>Clark Spencer</b>
<b>Jon Ball</b>	<b>Margaret Haynes</b>	<b>Becky Spivey</b>
<b>Councillor Nigel Ball</b>	<b>Justin Hoke</b>	<b>Sabrina Terry</b>
<b>Luis Barragan</b>	<b>Lorena Holiday</b>	<b>St. Mary's Church</b>
<b>Clifford Barnett</b>	<b>Linda Hippo</b>	<b>Ken Shefsiek</b>
<b>Jim Blair</b>	<b>Joseph Hou</b>	<b>Scott Simmons</b>
<b>Kimberly Brumsey</b>	<b>Kim Hufham</b>	<b>Justin Sosne</b>
<b>Larry Cahoon</b>	<b>Annie Jewel</b>	<b>Justin Swan</b>
<b>Stevie Cairns</b>	<b>Julia Walker Jewel</b>	<b>Suzuki Violinists</b>
<b>Marilyn Cantarella</b>	<b>Colin Jeynes</b>	<b>Szechuan 132</b>
<b>Terry &amp; Lynette Chipp</b>	<b>Mayor Ros Jones</b>	<b>Tracey Varga</b>
<b>Cape Fear Chorale</b>	<b>Dylan Lee</b>	<b>Chip Vogt</b>
<b>Spencer Clark</b>	<b>Ning Luo</b>	<b>Luke Waddell</b>
<b>Dan Cookinham</b>	<b>Ellen Kaplin</b>	<b>Linda Ann Webb</b>
<b>Tracy Corle</b>	<b>Kevin Moo</b>	<b>Elizabeth White</b>
<b>Ingrid Corbi</b>	<b>Winifred Meiser</b>	<b>Otis White</b>
<b>Katie Crosby</b>	<b>Aubrey Parsley</b>	<b>Michael Wilhelm</b>
<b>Rev. T. Davis</b>	<b>Deborah Phillips</b>	<b>Wilm. Rail Museum</b>
<b>Nedka Dineva</b>	<b>Vanessa Rieker</b>	<b>Cape Fear Museum</b>
<b>Chris Dungworth</b>	<b>Charlie Rivenbark</b>	<b>Leslie Morton</b>
<b>Qian Fan</b>	<b>Roy Robuck</b>	
<b>Shane Fernando</b>	<b>Bill Saffo</b>	
<b>Barbara Gallagher</b>	<b>Seabird Restaurant</b>	
<b>Mary Gheen</b>	<b>Laurel Senick</b>	
<b>Dawn Grant</b>	<b>George Schell</b>	
<b>Liz &amp; Howard Johnson</b>	<b>Suzanne Smith</b>	
<b>Karly Lohan</b>	<b>Kevin Spears</b>	

## ***SNAPSHOT OF 2023***

Dear Members and Friends:

We continue to create and strengthen Sister City relations in an effort to increase global cooperation and promote opportunities for international partnerships among citizens, businesses, schools, and organizations.

The visit to Doncaster finally took place after several postponements due to a pandemic and the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The outcome was a renewed commitment for our cities to work together going forward with an emphasis on our cultural heritage along with youth centered programming. We did resume our traditional Lunar New Year's dinner and held a special program on reducing our carbon footprint with specialists representing the US and the UK discussing wind, nuclear and battery storage options. We recognized a local citizen, Donna Bunting Flake, for her outstanding contributions to Moldova, a sister country with the state of North Carolina. Donna's efforts while focused in the medical education space evolved as circumstances changed following the invasion of Ukraine. Direct aid was sent to families who were hosting refugees at the outset of the war. In the fall we brought the Peace Concert back to Saint Mary's and delivered an outstanding program which was dedicated to one of the founders of this program, Lorraine Westermarck, who passed away shortly after the last concert. Donations from the concert were directed to the medical clinic in Honduras where the former pastor of St. Mary's is now devoting his time and caring to families in need of critical health services.

We are pleased to announce a return to an in-person Annual Meeting this year with a special guest for the unveiling of the Billy Fiske Memorial Photograph, a gift to the City of Wilmington by the South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum, former RAF headquarters where the Battle of Britain in 1940 was held back. We are also in the process of planning a delegation to Barbados to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the twinning with Bridgetown. We hope you will join us at one or more events in 2024.

If you believe in our mission created from the vision of President Eisenhower, we need your help. First, by being a dues-paying member; second, by attending events; third, by volunteering to work on projects, and finally and most importantly, by advancing citizen diplomacy by engaging with others at home and abroad. Finally, I wish to thank my fellow board members for their time, efforts, and support as we began the process of returning to live events and international travel.

Marilyn Cantarella, President

**CELEBRATED** Lunar New Year to highlight Chinese culture with Sister City members and guests at Szechuan 132. The dinner is celebrated family style featuring traditional foods.

**HOSTED A PANEL DISCUSSION** on reducing our carbon footprint at City Hall with a focus on renewables, battery storage and nuclear energy options. Panelists included: Southeastern Wind Coalition, Banks Group Ltd. (Sheffield UK), UK Trade Office based in Raleigh, NC, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (headquartered in Wilmington, NC). Larry Cahoon, UNCW professor in Marine Sciences facilitated the discussion.

**DONCASTER VISIT** designed to renew our commitment to the partnership with a focus on cultural heritage, the tourism economy, and global learning opportunities for middle and high school students. A new work group was formed to collaborate on joint projects going forward. Old friendships were renewed and new friendships were created through the visit.

**HONORED A LOCAL CITIZEN** for her contributions to international diplomacy by aiding the citizens of Moldova, a sister country with North Carolina since 1999. The partnership's original emphasis was on civil emergency operations, expansion of markets, and scientific and academic exchanges which has expanded its reach and focus over time. Donna Bunting Flake, a Wilmington resident and Rotarian, had been assisting Moldova with updated materials for the university's medical library for years but quickly shifted her focus after they were overwhelmed with Ukrainian refugee families to provide humanitarian aid.

**SISTER CITIES PEACE THROUGH MUSIC CONCERT** returned to the Basilica of St. Mary. The program was dedicated to the memory of Lorraine Westermarck, who helped pioneer this Sister Cities Program and was a devoted educator, musician and volunteer for decades in the Wilmington community. This year's concert had over 70 performers participating and included music written by artists representing many different cultures.

**PROMOTED OUR SISTER CITIES** by participating in the University of North Carolina International Festival.

**HOSTED** a luncheon for international filmmakers representing England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Canada, and Iran during the Cucalorus International Film Festival. A Sister Cities Mini grant provided support to allow high school students to participate in the Global Perspectives programming.