

Holiday greetings provide a good peg for the start of a pen pal program. About a thousand Vallejo, California high school students penned personal messages inviting correspondence together with their names and addresses on a Christmas greeting card with a printed text in Norwegian and English. The cards were airmailed in bulk to the principal of the Trondheim, Norway secondary school who had them passed out by classroom teachers just before Christmas.

Adults in sister cities, too, exchange ideas through correspondence, though in smaller numbers. Service and social clubs are often the vehicle used to take up contact. Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, and Civitans all are active internationally. Professional and hobby interests provide a point of departure for member correspondence. The Portland, Oregon, and Sapporo, Japan Rotary Clubs exchanged membership lists and paired members according to professional classification. Starting out as "assigned correspondents" as a club project, individual correspondents soon became fast pen friends. Doctors, lawyers, and judges have been reported as corresponding in professionally-stimulating sister city exchanges that are of mutual benefits to the individuals involved.

Community participation in correspondence can be stepped up on occasion by having visitors to Sister City booths at trade fairs and other local events sign greeting card forms inviting correspondence. At a Seattle international trade fair some 4000 cards were signed and sent in bulk to Kobe for distribution at the bi-national center which acts as a kind of headquarters for the affiliation. On the Seattle side the project identified many local citizens unknown to the committee who were interested in sister city activities.

The exchange of newsletters, committee meeting reports, newspaper articles and Sister City brochures in bulk mailings to the counterpart committee as discussed elsewhere in this handbook have also served as a catalyst in eliciting correspondence.

