

thousands of citizens in the Rochester area can trace their origins to this Sicilian city. In fact, Caltanissetta is the ancestral home of more Rochester families than any other foreign city. In the 1920's through 1940's a community of Caltanissetta immigrants settled in the Jay, Plymouth, and Smith Street area of Rochester's west side, bringing favorite kinds of shops and restaurants to the neighborhood.

The ties between Rochester and Caltanissetta remain strong. During the more than twenty years since this Sister Cities Committee was established, it has been particularly interested in student exchanges and personal visits by official delegations.

Tours from Caltanissetta and Rochester have been popular. In September, 1965, twenty-nine people from Caltanissetta, led by Mayor Cologero Traina, visited Rochester. When they arrived at the Rochester-Monroe County Airport, they were greeted by dozens of relatives. While in Rochester, they toured Eastman Kodak and attended a special mass in Italian at St. Mary's Church. Official tours were also conducted in October, 1967, October, 1972, and September, 1977. The Caltanissetta - Rochester Committee, currently chaired by Louis Gallo, also actively participated in the 1984 Sister Cities Week events. Caltanissetta sent a large delegation of journalists, attorneys, farmers, government officials, and technicians to help Rochester celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary.

Official visits have also been conducted to Sicily. In 1965, 1969, 1976, and 1978 civic leaders and other interested Rochesterians toured Caltanissetta. During the 1965 visit, Mayor Lamb, his wife, and two sons were granted a private audience with Pope Paul VI in Castel Gondolfo, fifteen miles from Rome.

In the future, the committee is hoping to expand its student exchange program and arrange several cultural exhibits.

Rehovot - Rochester Sister Cities Committee

After studying a list of six Israeli cities in 1970, a committee decided to pursue a Sister Cities relationship with Rehovot, because of its research and high technology similarities with Rochester. Two years later, Mayor May led a delegation to Israel to sign the twinning agreement. During that November, 1972 visit, Rochester's mayor met with Golda Meir.

Since that time, the Rehovot - Rochester Sister Cities Committee, currently chaired by Sanford and Sarah Liebschutz, has emphasized personal contacts, as well as educational and cultural exchanges. Numerous visits have occurred between the two cities. On several occasions, Rehovot's mayor traveled to Rochester. For

example, in May, 1978 Mayor Schmucl Rechtman led a delegation to Rochester to attend the dedication of the City Hall. And during Rochester's sesquicentennial celebration, six delegates from Rehovot, including the mayor and city manager, came to Rochester.

Cultural exchange has also figured prominently in the committee's activities. Paintings and other forms of culture from Rehovot have been exhibited in Rochester, and Rehovot dance troupes have performed in Rochester.

Lastly, the committee recognizes the significance of student exchanges. Many of Rochester's and Rehovot's young people have traveled to their Sister City to study. In 1984 alone, the visits of nine exchange students were sponsored. The Jewish Community Federation has, at times, donated money to support this effort. In addition, students from Rehovot's Weitzmann Institute have traveled to the University of Rochester to further their training.

In the years ahead, the Rehovot - Rochester organization plans to expand their personal contacts and exchange programs.

Krakow - Rochester Sister Cities Committee

Agreeing with the belief that Rochester should have a Sister City in Poland, Mayor Lamb, during a 1969 Sister Cities tour, visited Krakow to begin the process of twinning that city with Rochester. The next mayor, Stephen May, continued this plan, writing several notes to Polish ambassadors in Washington, D.C. After the Polish embassy in Washington agreed to the twinning, Mayor May went to Krakow in November, 1972 to complete the details. During the following July, Mayor May and other Rochesterians again traveled to Krakow to sign the Sister Cities charter. Rochester became the first American city to have an Eastern European Sister City.

Since then, the Krakow - Rochester Sister Cities Committee has actively promoted educational and cultural ties. The committee, currently chaired by John Stenlik, is acutely aware of the unique nature of this twinning and is cognizant of the need to remove politics from the Sister Cities connection. They have found Krakow willing to cooperate in many activities and the committee has worked well with the Polish consulate in New York City.

The Krakow - Rochester organization's major ongoing activity is sending two young people to study language and culture in Krakow each summer for six weeks. The committee offers scholarships for the two students, which are financed by fund-raisers and by an endowment. Since the committee members believe that Americans of Polish descent should be aware of their heritage,