

CONTACT

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



October 2009, Volume 3, Issue 5

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CZECH & SLOVAK SALUTE!

A Midwest Salute
to Czech & Slovak
Independence
Nov. 6-7

See page 8 for more information. A great opportunity for those sponsoring international officers, or anyone interested in history and international culture!

A PERFECT AMERICAN PICNIC

Sunshine and perfect temperatures greeted family and friends on August 16th at the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead picnic. On the verge of being cancelled due to early morning thunderstorms, the weather cleared late morning, just in time to host the second-annual GKCPTP, Lansing/Leavenworth and Ft. Leavenworth gathering for the 2009-2010 international military officers (IMS). More than 300 sponsors, officers and children poured into the Overland Park, KS facility, ready for an afternoon of food, fun and friendship.

Attendees socialized with each other around the catered barbeque lunch. Following chicken, slaw and wonderfully typical American picnic foods, families and sponsors scattered to enjoy the expanse of the farmstead at their own pace. There was plenty to experience with the animals, fishing, pony rides, milking barns, an Indian encampment and old-fashioned cow milking.

Some enterprising children also found the ice cream stand and were able to convince parents (and sponsors) that a second dessert was acceptable that day. The entire day provided the perfect opportunity for international fun, with a distinctly American flavor.

Co-sponsored by Operational International (Leavenworth-Lansing sponsor organization) and GKCPTP, this now annual event is a dynamic opportunity to gather together our IMS families, along with their sponsors from the metropolitan area.

The GKCPTP planning committee is grateful to Operation International and Ft. Leavenworth for helping to make this event a smashing success.



Guests line up for the wonderful, American-style picnic lunch.



Members Nelson and Paulette Markel enjoy time with MAJ Anton Wijeyesekera of Sri Lanka, his wife, Pavithra and son, Binon.

GKCPTP'S REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN

Revised 7/21/09

Each year at a retreat, your board looks at the chapter vision and mission statement to determine if we are "on track." As a measuring stick of progress, we set targets and goals for our chapter. The following strategic plan is representative of the this year's focus.

Vision Statement:

Our vision is to be recognized as a leading citizen diplomacy force that promotes understanding, goodwill, and friendship among the citizens of Greater Kansas City, the United States, and peoples of other countries and diverse cultures. We further strive to become recognized as the premier People To People International chapter in the United States.

Mission Statement:

N Our mission, as citizen ambassadors, is to promote international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural and humanitarian activities involving a broad range of direct contacts, exchange of ideas and experiences among the people of Greater Kansas City and peoples of different countries and diverse cultures that will help to build an enduring world peace.

Fundamental Beliefs:

- We believe that universal values and aspirations are revealed through greater understanding and respect between individuals and peoples and that if people can better understand other cultures they are more tolerant and accepting of differences.
- We believe international educational and cultural exchanges among people, especially among youth, further ensure long-term friendship and understanding and contribute to peace.
- We believe that individual citizen ambassadors can make a difference; that they can often be more effective than governments in promoting human relationships and building world peace.
- We believe that direct contacts and exchanges among individuals of differing cultures not only help build peace through understanding and tolerance, but are also fun and enriching.
- We believe that humanitarian assistance to peoples of other countries, and those of other countries that come to the U.S., also helps contribute to building peace.
- We value a culturally diverse membership in the Greater Kansas City People To People Chapter.
- We value transparency in Chapter operations, integrity and honesty in our dealings with members and others.

Motto: "Peace Through Understanding"

Tag Line: "You can make a difference"

Targets and Goals:

- Increase chapter membership by a net 15% each year.
- Maintain our relationship and joint programs with Park University's Student Chapter of PTPI and work to establish additional student chapters.
- Put in-place the organizational structure required to support a larger, more involved, organization by 2009-10.
- Entice at least 33% of the members who are active in the sponsor program to become more involved with other chapter programs and events by 2011.
- Develop additional programs and/or recurring events that have significant value propositions and drawing power that entice prospective members to join us and encourage present members to retain their memberships.
- Establish a program by 2010-11 to develop future leaders for the chapter.
- Develop a comprehensive plan by the end of FY 2010 to enhance our external communication with targeted constituencies.
- Maintain a \$20,000 cash reserve separated into two (2) accounts of \$10,000. One account would be a "contingency" account and the other would be an "event" account to allow for payment of up-front charges required to host events, etc.
- Develop "Sister Chapter" relationships with international chapters by 2011.
- Develop a chapter recognition program consistent with our vision and mission by December 2009.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."

~ Eleanor Roosevelt
Voice of America broadcast
(11 November 1951)

Our chapter provides many opportunities for its members to foster peace through its various programs. YOU are making a differ-

ence in promoting understanding by participating in the IMSD sponsor program, contributing to Operation International Children (OIC-formerly Operation Iraqi Children) or PTPI's Global Landmine mission, mentoring a student chapter, donating to the Jewish Vocation Services, or simply raising your awareness through educational mediums such as the new PTPI book club or Know Your World programs.

Our programs committee has been very active in working to increase the number and diversity of our gatherings. Candice McField and Jane Kohl Waggoner co-chair this busy committee. They and their team deserve credit for the outstanding event at the Deanna Rose Farmstead and at the recent happy hour gathering. Watch for upcoming information on a combined event with the Czech and Slovak consulates and the Czech/Slovak Club of Kansas City.

People to People International (PTPI) is launching a new campaign to help community chapters recruit new members. The top 5 individual recruiters worldwide will receive a complimentary registration to PTPI's 19th Worldwide Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, in the fall of 2010. In addition, a \$250.00 award will be given to the chapter recruiting the most new members. Our own chapter is awarding a free year's membership to the top recruiter. You will find the GKCPTP brochure online at gkcptp.org. Membership chairperson, Karen Haber will be glad to assist and may be reached at Karen@kchaber.com.

Membership renewals are just around the corner! Due to rising costs of membership at PTPI, the board has recommended a \$5.00 increase for all chapter members. We are offering an incentive to all chapter members to renew prior to December 1 at the current price. I am sure that you will agree that an additional \$5.00 is small when compared to the value one receives from the association with GKCPTP.

September 11th was a day that forever changed our world. It is ironic that 53 years ago, on that same date, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established People to People International to promote world peace. GKCPTP believes in and works toward lasting peace. Please continue the wonderful acts, large and small, that move us in that direction.

Warm regards,

Pat

GKCPTP HAPPY HOUR - SEPTEMBER 3

Candice McField

If you've ever wondered who some of those names are on the GKCPTP roster or who those interesting-looking folks were at a past event, then you should have been at the happy hour, September 3, at the Westport Flea Market. It was a time to relax without a schedule, agenda or speaker. It was a time to share stories, ideas and just fellowship. The 30 attendees were appreciative of the opportunity to finally meet others from the chapter and hold in-depth conversations.

One of GKCPTP's strategic goals is to provide ways for members to get to know each other better. A series of casual get-togethers is one of the solutions for reaching that strategic objective. The next get-together will be announced via Yahoo Groups. Watch for this announcement!



New member Melanie McLaughlin joins Gabrielle Reilly, Gary Lofstrom, Sharon Valasek, and Karen and Chuck Haber at GKCPTP's happy hour, held at the Westport Flea Market restaurant.



Event co-chairs Jane Kohl Waggoner and Candice McField share a quiet moment with Terry Smitka.

Photos from Deanna Rose Farmstead picnic



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND RENEWALS

Karen Haber

As of September 30, GKCPTP's membership is 152 member units. That includes 6 new members and one renewal since July 31.

Membership renewals for 2010 are coming up very soon! Due to rising costs, the board has approved a \$5 increase for our three main categories—student, single/individual, and family. The changes are as follows:

Student (High school or undergraduate)	\$15 (rate prior to increase: \$10)
Single/Individual	\$30 (rate prior to increase: \$25)
Family (2 or more members in the same household)	\$45 (rate prior to increase: \$40)

Renewal notices will be sent out at the end of October and are due upon receipt. If you wish to save the \$5, payments received by December 1 will be accepted at the 2009 prices.

<u>Welcome New Members!!!</u>	<u>Recruited by...</u>
LaDonna Gooden and Dan Cranshaw	Jim Malouff
Bill and Dianne Ryan	Larry and Fran Denton
Vern and Brenda Otte	Jack and Errett Schmid
Don and Barbara Gerhard	Alan and Pam Felton
Melanie McLaughlin	Crystal Pace and Gabrielle Reilly
Donna and Mark Koontz	PTPI
Jerry Roue & Dondi Dix	PTPI

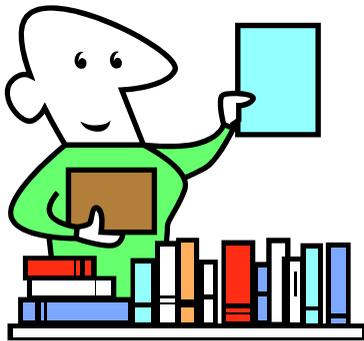
Contact Newsletter GKCPTP

NEWS FROM PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INTERNATIONAL

Jill Helsel

PTPI'S GLOBAL BOOK CLUB...AND MORE

If you haven't signed up to participate in PTPI's Global Book Club, now is your chance! I strongly encourage all chapters to participate in this unique learning experience to gain insight about important international issues and to bridge cultural gaps within your own community.



There are many ways that chapter members can become involved. Chapters can create their own individual PTPI Book Club or chapter members can read along individually and post thoughts on the PTPI Blog. The first book, announced October 1, 2009, is "Reading Lolita in Tehran: A

Memoir in Books" by Azar Nafisi.

Register today to receive our quarterly book choices from PTPI's President & CEO Mary Jean Eisenhower. You will also receive information about how to organize your own book club, as well as sample discussion questions for each book. To register and to learn more about how to start a PTPI Book Club within your chapter, click here! If you have any questions, contact Jill Helsel at chapters@ptpi.org or Paige Leitnaker at classroom@ptpi.org.

PTPI MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE!

Have you visited PTPI's Global Store? A variety of PTPI merchandise is now available for purchase. Minimum order quantities will apply. Chapter members can place individual orders or your chapter can combine your orders into one to save on shipping costs. For more information on available products, shipping costs or to make a purchase, visit PTPI's Global Store today! Please feel free to contact Jill Helsel at chapters@ptpi.org if you have any questions.



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Available Items:

- Computer Backpacks
- Luggage Straps
- Spiral Notebooks
- Polo Shirts
- Adult & Youth Hoodies
- Organic Natural T-shirts

Quiz

DO YOU KNOW YOUR WORLD?

Each semester, a few select students from the International Military Student (IMS) Division at Ft. Leavenworth are given an opportunity to tell the general public about their country through the Know Your World Series. These presentations combine cultural, geographical, historical and political perspectives of each country. For the academic year 2009-10, the presentations will be held at 3:30pm Wednesdays in the Lewis and Clark auditorium. GKCPTP members and sponsors, U.S. Army students, their families, and the general public at large can learn about the broad world right in their own back yard. The events are free and include a country-oriented reception following each presentation. Below is a list of this year's presentations!

Can you identify which countries are presenting for each date? Answers are on the bottom of page 7!

September 16



October 14



November 18



December 16



January 20



February 17



SPONSORSHIP ACROSS THE WORLD

The following email note appeared in last month's People to People International newsletter. Its impact is important, so we're reprinting it here, with permission from the author. As sponsors, we seldom see how our friendship extends beyond the international family living in Leavenworth.

However, this email highlights the importance that our special connections also have on extended families back home. This note, from the mother of Major Ali Iqbal of Pakistan, praises the sponsors for wrapping their arms around her children.



At Ft.. Leavenworth Icebreaker: Back row from left: Kathy Kem (military sponsor) , Maj. Ali Iqbal, Sonia Iqbal (Ali's wife) Bottom from left; Kris Dugan, Dyrk Dugan, and Janis Virant (Leavenworth sponsor)

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Karen Haber

People to People International is sponsoring a membership drive in 2010. The top 5 individual recruiters from around the world for the period of January 1 – July 1, 2010 will receive paid registration for the 2010 Worldwide Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. The chapter with the most new recruits in 2010 will receive a \$250 grant from PTPI in 2011. Our own chapter will reward our top recruiter with free membership for 2011. Get involved and help us bring in new members!

If you have questions or want to recommend a potential new member, please contact me at Karen@kchaber.com or 816-741-9518.

Contact Newsletter GKCPTP

Dear Jackie, Janis, Kris and Dyrk,

Salam and Hello. I'm Ali and Sonia's Ami [means Mom]. I was delighted to see the pictures of the wonderful people who have surrounded my children with such love and care since their arrival in U.S. My husband, Iqbal, joins me to thank you all profusely for the way you've made them feel so much at home and enabled them to settle so quickly.

Our belief is if you do a good deed or any positive action, it comes back to you a thousand fold times. Watch out guys! You should be ready to be bowled over by the multiplied effect of your deeds. The Mom's advice is hold on tight to something close by, we don't want any accidents, do we.

God bless you all,

With friendship and regards,

Nasreen [the Mom]



Welcome at the Airport: From left: Janis Virant, Kris Dugan, Sonia Iqbal, Dyrk Dugan, Maj. Ali Iqbal, Kathy Kem, Jackie Kem. In front: Maj. Iqbal's sons, Shahwaiz and Shameer, ages 5 and 7.

CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Time
10/14/09	Know Your World - Morocco	Lewis/Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
10/30/09	10-1 Fall Food Fair, invitation only	Frontier Conference Center, Ft. Leavenworth	6:00 p.m.
11/03/09	"Invisible Children" documentary. Contact Lisa Silverman at 913.371.7319 with questions	All Souls Unitarian Church, 4501 Walnut, KC, MO 64111	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
11/06/09	Czech & Slovak Velvet Revolution Celebration: food, drink & polka dancing. See page 8.	Sylvester Powell Community Center, Mission, Kansas	6:00 p.m.
11/07/09	Czech & Slovak World War I documentary film event. See page 8.	National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial	6:00 p.m.
11/18/09	Know Your World - Egypt	Lewis/Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
11/20/09	09-2 Sponsor Appreciation	Lewis/Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	7:00 p.m.
12/01/09	Sponsor orientation	Kauffman Foundation 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO	6:00 p.m.
12/04/09	09-2 Holiday Dinner, Invitation Only	Frontier Conference Center, Ft. Leavenworth	6:30 p.m.
12/10/09	09-2 Badge Ceremony	Lewis/Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	10:00 a.m.
12/11/09	10-1 Holiday Dinner Invitation only	Frontier Conference Center, Ft. Leavenworth	6:30 p.m.
12/16/09	Know Your World - Bangladesh	Lewis/Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.

Note: 09-2 Ft. Leavenworth IMS class graduates December, 2009. 10-1 class graduates June, 2010.

GKCPTP YAHOO! GROUP

Don Fuson would like to pass along the following information about the GKCPTP Yahoo Group. Any member wishing to join or change their email may do so by sending an email as shown: To request "add my new/changed email," send a blank email to gkcptp-subscribe@yahoo.com from the new email account.

Alternatively, after you have left an old email address and want to remove it, send a blank email to gkcptp-unsubscribe@yahoo.com from the old account. Remember that key GKCPTP information – including this newsletter – is sent through Yahoo Groups, so you want to make sure that your information is correct.

ANSWERS:KNOW YOUR WORLD QUIZ, FROM PAGE 5

September 16	Pakistan	December 16	Bangladesh
October 14	Morocco	January 20	Nigeria
November 18	Egypt	February 17	Georgia

KNOW YOUR BOARD OFFICERS

President	Pat Burnett
1st Vice President	Karen Haber
2nd Vice President	Candice McField
Treasurer	Siew Lau
Secretary	Kim Nitz
Director (term expiring 2010)	Alan Felton
	Nelson Markel
	Inga Barringer
Director (term expiring 2011)	Alisa Meireis
	Gabrielle Reilly
	Jerry Keith
Director (term expiring 2012)	Dan Karp
	Jim Malouff
	Jane Kohl

CZECH & SLOVAK SALUTE!

A MIDWEST TRIBUTE TO CZECH & SLOVAK INDEPENDENCE

Note: Electronic registration and payment will be available at www.gkcptp.org by October 16. Send checks to Terry Smitka, 1205 Wellington Way, Liberty, MO 64068. Write checks to: Czech & Slovak Club of KC.

The Midwest Consulates of the Czech & Slovak Republics along with People to People International, the Kansas City chapter of People to People International and the Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City invite you to a 20-year salute to The Velvet Revolution. Experience art, history, the revolution and freedom while you enjoy ethnic food, pivo and the Midwest's best polka band.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6



Velvet Revolution Celebration!

This revolution marks the 1989 break away from Soviet communism by the Czech and Slovak citizens, followed shortly by the election of Václav Havel, former dissident, as president in the country's first democratic elections. Let's celebrate 20 years of freedom in style! Enjoy ethnic food, Czechvar beer, wine, authentic polka music and more!

Sylvester Powell Community Center
6200 Martway (north entrance)
Mission, Kansas 66202
6:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Attend the Friday, Nov. 6 Velvet Revolution Celebration (a full evening of dinner and dancing) for just \$40 per adult. The registration fee includes the Saturday, Nov. 7 reception and film at the National WWI Museum. Attendance is limited to approximately 200 people per event. Go to www.gkcptp.org and register now. **RSVP is required by Nov. 2.** Contact Terry Smitka for more information at 816.217.9487 or tsmitka@rwbaird.com. Checks can be sent to Terry Smitka, 1205 Wellington Way, Liberty, MO 64068. Make checks out to: Czech & Slovak Club of KC. If you are unable to attend the Nov. 6 event, you may register for the Nov 7 film event only. The film documentary showing is free and is limited to space available.

Featuring Czechvar beer, courtesy of Anheuser-Busch.



TELL US YOUR STORIES

Joan Barrett

What is the sound of one hand clapping? The Zen masters insist that there are as many answers to this koan as there are individuals who ponder it. But, most of us will answer quickly that the sound of one hand clapping is silence. My response is to say to you, "No more silence!"

This newsletter belongs to all members of Greater Kansas City People to People. Each month, we ask the board to submit articles and information, and they do a marvelous job. But, we also want to hear from you...each and every one of you! You travel, you sponsor international students, and you experience life profoundly. Please tell us about it! You needn't be a world-class author – just put thoughts to paper – and ask for help if you'd like.

Here are some topic starters (I apologize if this sounds too much like a long-forgotten English class):

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7

"Accidental Army: The Amazing True Story of the Czechoslovak Legion"

Amidst the chaos of World War I, a Czech Professor led a fight for freedom that stretched across three continents. Hear the story of movie production from the creators, enjoy food and drink, and view the original 2009 documentary in the wonderful confines of the National World War I Museum at the Liberty Memorial.

National World War I Museum
100 W 26th St. Kansas City, MO 64108, 816-784-1918
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
(A post-movie gathering will be announced at the event.)

1. Tell us about your travels – unique locations, funny situations, meaningful encounters. Include pictures, if you have them!
2. Tell us about a favorite activity with your international officers...or a special holiday...or food! If available, pictures, are greatly appreciated!
3. Ask your international officers to co-write a story with you. What are their impressions of the U.S? What are some of their favorite stories? Oh, and we'd love pictures, too.

A short paragraph? A long article? We don't care as long as you limit your stories to 800 words. Please also understand that a small amount of editing may be necessary – we'll ask permission first. They will be published in the Contact as they arrive, as is appropriate and as space is available. Send your submissions to jrcbarrett@aol.com.