

CONTACT

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



September 2008, Volume 2, Issue 4

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Photos from Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead, Aug. 10, more on p. 4



OKTOBERFEST – SUNDAY, OCT. 5

Oktoberfest Sunday, Oct. 5 2 to 5 p.m.

Join us on Sunday, October 5th, from 2-5 p.m. at the home of GKCPTP's members Craig and Nila Cleaves to welcome new members and guests, and renew friendships. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert, a lawn chair, and feel free to bring your favorite foreign beer. GKCPTP will provide brats and soft drinks. \$5 for members, no charge for guests. Invite prospective members!

Craig and Nila Cleaves
13404 Woodland
Kansas City, MO 64146

naninila@att.net
816.942.1820

RSVP by Sept. 29. For more information and directions, contact Candice McField at 913.271.4474 or cmcfield@yahoo.com.

PROGRAMMING NEWS

Candice McField

Summer has come and gone and so has our first program for the 2008-09 year. I am delighted to say that we are off to a great start and I am looking forward to the upcoming programs we are now planning. I must first thank Theresa Osredker for leading our programs the last two years. Theresa has resigned from the board to pursue a new career in the health industry. This fall she is attending Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The entire chapter thanks Theresa for her hard work and dedication given to our chapter. I certainly have big shoes to fill.

At the board retreat we identified our theme for the year, "Embracing a Borderless World," and listed below are objectives built around this theme:

- Increase interaction among our members.
- Establish two recurring events.
- Transition from planning programs to break-even to making a slight profit in order to increase our cash reserves to \$20,000 (part of our strategic plan/goals).

Successful Kick-off Event

We had the pleasure of hosting the annual GKCPTP, Leavenworth/Lansing and Ft. Leavenworth kick-off event for the 2008-09 International Military Students (IMS).

(continued on page 4)

NEW CHAPTER WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Nelson Markel

The board of directors recently approved moving forward with a plan to upgrade our chapter website. Our current site has been in existence for more than 10 years and is due for a face-lift. A committee was formed with a mandate to investigate a minimum of three website service companies. The research eventually included seven companies: Godaddy, Yahoo, Neon, IPStorm, Volusion, Wild Apricot and Vieth Consulting. The committee recommended moving forward with IPStorm.

The chapter is fortunate to have a very capable member who is willing to take on the task of building the website. Gabrielle Reilly brings a lot of talent and experience in this area. She will be working with the committee to develop the layout,

 graphics and site content.

Once completed, the new site will offer numerous, attractive features to enhance our visitors' experience.

- Logical, easy navigation
- Event calendar

- List of standing committees
- Event registration
- E-commerce capability
- Gift shop for flags, t-shirts and more



We are particularly enthused about online event registration and e-commerce. Together, they will allow members to register for an event or renew their membership, and pay for it right there — on the website. In addition, the new graphics will make it a lot more inviting and attractive.

We expect to have the website up and running sometime in the 4th quarter. We're excited and sincerely hope you will be pleased with the results.

CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Time
Sep 26	Fall Food Fair (invitation only), Class 08-2*	Frontier Conf. Center, Ft. Leavenworth	6:00 p.m.
Oct 3-4	Americas Region Meeting - PTPI	Various locations in KC	-
Oct. 5	Oktoberfest GKCPTP event	Cleaves home	2-5 p.m.
Oct 15	KYW Trinidad and Tobago	Lewis & Clark Center, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
Oct 26	OISS Halloween Costume Party (for OISS members/sponsors)	Hunt Lodge	2:00 p.m.
Nov 14	Fall Food Fair (invitation only) Class 09-1*	Frontier Conf. Center, Ft. Leavenworth	6:00 p.m.
Nov 20	KYW Jordan	Lewis & Clark Center, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
Nov 23	OISS Thanksgiving Dinner (for OISS members/sponsors)	Riverfront	4:00 p.m.
Dec 3	Sponsor appreciation ceremony, Class 08-2*		6:30 p.m.
Dec 4	Holiday Dinner-Dance (invitation only), Class 08-2*	Frontier Conf. Center, Ft. Leavenworth	6:30 p.m.
Dec 11	Badge ceremony, Class 08-2*	Lewis & Clark Center, Ft. Leavenworth	10:00 a.m.
Dec 12	Graduation, Class 08-2*	Lewis & Clark Center, Ft. Leavenworth	10:00 a.m.
Dec 17	KYW Malaysia	Lewis & Clark Center, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
Dec 19	Holiday Dinner-Dance (invitation only), Class 09-1*	Frontier Conf. Center, Ft. Leavenworth	6:30 p.m.

* Class 08-2 graduates Dec 2008; Class 09-1 graduates Jun 2009; Class 09-2 graduates Dec 2009

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Getting to Know You...



One of my all-time favorite musicals, *The King and I*, has the following song title lyrics: "Getting to know you, getting to know all about you." This catchy tune conveys a sense of what I find so delightful about our organization. We are getting to know new international friends, but we also are getting to know new members right in our own backyard. It is this spirit of deepening friendship that I would like to have as my focus during my term as president. In tandem with Larry's "Recruit One" theme, we can continue to strengthen numbers and improve membership satisfaction.

So, a little about me. My husband, Dak and I live near Parkville, have two college age sons, Joel and Douglas, attending the University of Kansas and one "exchange" son, Max, attending Park University. We have been members of the chapter for five years. During that time I have served in the following GKCPTP board positions: programs, secretary and most recently membership. It is through a very pressing need by Larry Dolci to care for his daughter that I have assumed the chapter presidency.

I would personally like to thank Larry for his guidance over the past 1 ½ years. He is an excellent leader and has made significant progress in several chapter initiatives. I know that the membership will continue to keep Larry and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

New board members are introduced in other articles within the newsletter, but please take an opportunity to get to know them. A great way to meet these folks is to volunteer for a committee! The talents of our membership are many, and the board welcomes active participation in all areas.

Having moved from membership to this office gives me a distinct advantage of knowing many of the names of members. I look forward to connecting the names to the faces as I get to know YOU! I hope to see many of you at the Oktoberfest event on Sunday, October 5th. I am very honored to work for this organization and for what it stands. As the lyrics say, "It's my cup of tea!"

Pat Burnett

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A MESSAGE FROM LARRY DOLCI

My Resignation

It was with considerable regret that I found it necessary to resign my position as president of the board of directors of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International effective August 1, 2008. This resignation was necessitated by the serious illness of my daughter Nicole who lives in Los Angeles. I have been commuting about every other week between Kansas and Los Angeles since Nicole's became ill and found it impossible to fulfill my duties as President.

The bylaws of GKCPTP provide that an officer vacancy will be filled by appointment by the executive committee of the chapter. The executive committee and the remainder of the board unanimously appointed Pat Burnett, who was vice president for membership to serve out the remainder of my term. Our chapter is fortunate to have Pat available to fill

the president's position. I have had the pleasure of serving on the board with Pat during my two terms as treasurer and during my first year as president. Pat has always shown herself to be a highly capable and motivated board member, who believes strongly in the objectives of People to People, and who has done much to help our chapter to achieve our goals.

Please give Pat the same support and encouragement you gave me during my time as president. Barbara and I will continue to support the objectives of GKCPTP in every way we can, however, the interests of Nicole must come first for us now.

Larry Dolci

JERRY KEITH JOINS THE BOARD

Gerald (Jerry) Keith is the newest member of the Greater Kansas City People to People board of directors. He will be serving a three-year term ending in 2011.

Jerry recently retired from 23 years of service to the Federal Government. He has extensive background in telecommunications, marketing, business development and consulting.

Jerry and Dianne, his wife of 26 years, live in Shawnee, KS. They have three grown children and four very active, teenage grandsons. They are active at Heartland Community Church in Overland Park and have served in leadership for MADD. In addition to keeping up with the grandsons' activities, Jerry enjoys piloting, water sports and sports cars.

Jerry and Dianne have traveled to more than 20 countries extensively for both professional and personal purposes. They are excited about joining PTPI and view it as a perfect fit for them in their retirement.



Jerry Keith

➔ (Programs, continued from page 1)

On August 10, more than 250 sponsors, officers and children attended a picnic-style event at the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead. Upon arrival, attendees had a chance to socialize with each other during the barbeque and listen to festive music. Then everyone had a chance to check out the farmstead at their own pace. Overall, the event was well-received as noted by Mike Brettman's comment, "Thanks GKCPTP, for putting on a great event. The IMS and their families really enjoyed it."

Oktoberfest on October 5

Building upon the momentum from the farmstead, we have scheduled our first recurring event, on Sunday, October 5th, from 2-5 p.m. This is a potluck Oktoberfest appreciation event to welcome new members who have joined during the past year. It will be an excellent opportunity to not only introduce yourself to new members but to catch up with members you have not seen in awhile and truly enhance friendships. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert, a lawn chair, and feel free to bring your favorite foreign beer. Please see your recently mailed invitation or the chapter website for information.

I'm looking forward to an incredible year. If you have any program ideas please contact me, or any member of the board.

Photos: Deanna Rose Farmstead



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A Member's Observation

At the August 10 picnic we took our officer from Afghanistan and his friend, a Cambodian officer from the new class.

They both enjoyed the fishing and caught several small ones. They were surprised the park was free and both expressed how great it would be if their children back home could see what they were seeing and do what they were enjoying. Our officer said, "This is a wonderful place for children and families."

They enjoyed the Indian story telling and had many questions about Indians and where and when the cowboys fit in. The concept of the one-room school-house with so few students was hard for them to grasp. Even harder was when I told them I had attended a one-room school with 8 students and I was the only girl. They both expressed what a great day it was!

Nila Cleaves

CONDOLENCES

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Pat Burnett

Condolences to Zelma Millman's family:

Zelma Millman died on August 29 at home following a lengthy illness. She was 92. She was born on May 28, 1916, to Theodore and Etta Lawrence. She graduated from Westport High School and later earned a BS degree in psychology at the University of Missouri, where she was a member of Mortar Board and voted to Who's Who in America's Colleges and Universities. She also earned an MS degree in psychology at Northwestern University.

In 1940 she married Daniel S. Millman, a prominent attorney and civic leader, and shared his commitment to the People to People (PTPI) organization, created by President Eisenhower. Mr. Millman headed the first local PTPI chapter (in Kansas City) and later became chairman of the board of trustees and board of directors of PTPI.

Zelma served on the board of trustees of People to People International, as chair of the Kansas City Sister City Committee of Tainan City, Taiwan, R.O.C. (Republic of China), and was also on the boards of the Sister City Association of Kansas City and the Sister City Commission of Kansas City. Zelma was also an early and avid environmentalist, serving for more than 30 years as secretary of the Missouri board of the Nature Conservancy.

For 26 years, she was a docent at the Kansas City Zoo. At the age of 85 she joined Uplift, the local project that feeds the homeless. She was the oldest volunteer and continued until her health deteriorated at 89. She is survived by Lawrence Millman, Cambridge, Mass., and Barbara Millman, Lakewood, Colo.

GKCPTP extends our condolences to Zelma's family.

Welcome Karen Haber, New VP Membership

Karen Haber recently retired from teaching Spanish and French at the high school level. She taught for one year in Cameron, Missouri, and for thirty years in the Park Hill School District in Kansas City, Missouri. She has served on the board of directors of the Bell Road Barn Players (Kansas City's oldest community theater) since 1997. In March, Karen was appointed to the board of governors of Truman State University, Kirksville, by Governor Matt Blunt.



Karen Haber

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Karen and her husband, Chuck, became members of GKCPTP and began sponsoring international officers in 1996-1997. They are currently sponsoring Marco Barahona and his family from Honduras.

Karen and Chuck have two daughters, Erin (and husband Jason) who live in Columbia, MO, and Camille who lives in Kansas City.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New member(s)

Jerry & Dianne Keith
Steven Youngblood
Marty Blackmore
Lois & David Kastner
Rick & Carolyn Katz

Recruiting member(s)

Gabrielle Reilly
Olga Ganzen
Don Fuson
IMSD
IMSD

We added five membership units in September, making a total of 161 member units.

SPONSORSHIP MATTERS

Sharon Valasek

Helpful Reminders for Sponsoring International Military Students (IMS):

International military students and their families participate in the programs of the U.S. Command and General Staff College at the invitation of the US Army. While sponsorship as a member of GKCPTP is managed by our chapter, we ultimately fall under the "command" of the U.S. Army's International military student division (IMSD). Our actions must support the IMS and their family in a manner which brings credit to the sponsorship program. In addition, GKCPTP members are to follow published guidelines based on chapter by-laws and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the mission of GKCPTP.

- Attend sponsor orientation sessions. IMSD representative(s) provide valuable information about the upcoming year at orientation sessions.
- Communicate with your Leavenworth/Lansing and military sponsors. IMSD holds ice breaker sessions shortly after the officers arrive. The ice breaker is a good opportunity to talk about sponsor preferences for attending the IMS/sponsor events (food fairs and holiday dinner/dance) hosted by the Fort.
- Attend only those events which you have an official invitation for. While an informal invitation to an event (e.g., by an IMS or spouse) may be welcomed and even helpful to the officer and his or her spouse, the military's program guidelines must still be observed.

- Respect the law while on post: the military is not as forgiving as the highway patrol. For example, going 5 miles over the speed limit will typically not be overlooked. Do not drive under the influence. Use of mobile phones is not allowed when driving on post.

Occasionally the chapter hears that a few officers have not seen their sponsors most of or all year. Our guideline is that a sponsor should see the officer on an average of about once a month. There are many factors which might make this guideline difficult to follow.

If more than 2 months have passed since your last get together with your IMS, the relationship may be characterized more accurately as one of polite recognition. When sponsors, officers and their families begin to bond early, it helps increase the chances of friendship and greater depth in the relationship. Also, you cannot expect to bond with every officer you sponsor.

If you are unsure about sponsor protocol, contact me at 816-942-2794 or at svalasek@kc.rr.com. I, or another member of the military committee, can assist you. Our goal is to be a helpful resource; we hope to help ensure that sponsorship will be a rewarding international experience for you. Sponsors count on one another to uphold their sponsorship responsibilities. Thank you for doing your part!

PTPI AMERICAS MEETING

Please join CEO/President Mary Jean Eisenhower for People to People International's first-ever Americas Region Meeting! This two-day event will take place in Kansas City, Missouri October 3-4, 2008.

Activities include volunteering at the Operation Iraqi Children (OIC) warehouse; a Welcome Reception at PTPI's World Headquarters; No-Host Dinners with PTPI's Greater Kansas City chapter; and a full day meeting, which includes a leadership session and roundtable discussions.

The meeting fee is only \$25 and includes the OIC humanitarian activity, Welcome Reception, and the meeting/lunch on Saturday!

Some of our chapter members are hosting "no host" dinners on October 4th. "No host" means you accompany assigned guests to dinner at a restaurant. No cooking or house-cleaning required! Please contact Pat Burnett at 816.746.9698 if you can participate.

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PTPI CHANGES PERCEPTIONS

Gene (Jake) Jacobs

One recent evening, Linda and I invited Ethan Steinberg and Mario Lopez, two young men who were serving as summer interns for People to People International, to join us at the welcoming event for international officers attending the US Army Command and General Staff College for the coming academic year. Linda and I were hosting Ethan in a homestay while Mario was staying next door with Bill and Peggy Parolin, also GKCPTP members.

Mario is preparing for his third year of college in Mexico; and unknown to us, this was his first up-close and personal exposure to leaders of armed forces. On the way home, he spoke of his impressions at length and how his preconceptions had been altered.

Mario is a remarkable young man. I asked him if he would put some of his thoughts into writing for an article for "CONTACT," our chapter newsletter. He readily agreed and his remarks are below. I believe his comments reaffirm why so many of us support the IMS program.

NEW INSIGHTS ON THE MILITARY

Mario Lopez

As a 20-year old Mexican and college student, I have always seen war as a threat, a problem in which no one would like to be involved. I have always wondered, "What could someone be thinking that would make him decide to lead a group of people whose main purpose is to disturb others' lives?"

Fortunately, I recently had the opportunity to see this issue from a very different perspective and learn that there is much more to consider when you are forming an opinion about war and its leaders.

During my internship at People to People International headquarters, I had the opportunity to meet outstanding people whose main interest is to spread understanding and knowledge in order to achieve peace. Gene and Linda Jacobs are these kind of people. In their attempt to show me more about American culture and about the world, they helped me to grow as a person and to realize that sometimes things are very different from what you initially think.

I had the opportunity to visit Fort Leavenworth with the Jacobs during a welcoming event held in honor of visiting international officers. At this icebreaker event, the international officers that will spend at least one year in Kansas City receiving military training, meet their sponsors and their host families. While there, I was able to talk to the officers from Mexico, Spain, Poland, Trinidad and Tobago among others. During these small chats, I was also able to meet the officers' families, share in their excitement, as well as their fears.



The Jacobs with PTPI intern Mario Lopez

By the end of the day I had discovered that these people were not the malicious group I had imagined. They were human beings, trying to be better at what they do and giving to their families new opportunities and experiences. I was aware that the war issue was still there, nevertheless, I also realized that if these officers were going to share a whole year together, there were big chances for them to become good friends and then may decide to fight for a change once they were back at home.

The most interesting thing about this program, in which People to People plays a crucial role, is that it offers a unique opportunity for countries in enmity to share the same table during dinner or to visit the same place on a weekend. What I think is going on here is what PTPI fights for; they are helping to achieve peace through the understanding of people, families and officers. These visitors might help to bring peace while they are being trained for the opposite.

I wanted to share my learning and my thoughts on this, first to point out the work People to People is doing, working on a program that may seem far apart from their mission, but that in a way is very much about it. And finally, I decided to write this because I wanted to recognize the excellent job that the Jacobs and many other PTP members are doing to bring about peace through understanding.

I am sure that this experience is just one in a million and that all over the world there are groups of people as committed and hard working as the ones that I met in Kansas City. There is no doubt that we all, together, are going to continue working for the change that People to People has tried to accomplish for the last 53 years.

2008-2009 BOARD MEMBERS

President	Pat Burnett
1st Vice President	Karen Haber
2nd Vice President	Candice McField
Secretary	Nila Cleaves
Treasurer	Gary Lofstrom
Director 2009	Bev Londerholm
Director 2009	Terry Smitka
Director 2009	Tom Waggoner
Director 2010	Alan Felton
Director 2010	Nelson Markel
Director 2010	Vacant
Director 2011	Siew Lau
Director 2011	Gabrielle Reilly
Director 2011	Jerry Keith
Immediate Past President	Larry Dolci