

CONTACT

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



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3RD ANNUAL DEANNA ROSE FARMSTEAD EVENT

Sunday, September 19, 2010

It will be an afternoon of fun for the entire family beginning with a wonderful lunch buffet. The remainder of the day will be spent exploring the farmstead's many activities including a petting zoo, fishing, milking demonstration and much more.

This event is open to international military students and their families, all of their sponsors and invited guests. Sign-up details will be forthcoming.



Activities at the Farmstead include a petting zoo, fishing, cow milking demonstration, and much more.

We hope for a huge turnout! Last year over 400 guests enjoyed this event. Please make plans to meet your officer/family and invite potential members to share in the fun, too! Mark your calendar NOW!

 Community Chapters
People to People International

Ethnic Enrichment Festival—Volunteers Needed

GKCPTP will participate in the Ethnic Enrichment Festival at Swope Park on the weekend of August 20, 21 and 22. Please help staff our booth by working a 1-2 hour shift. Contact Irina Kobzeva at irina_vk@hotmail.com. Help us spread the word about our terrific organization by volunteering!

ATTEND PTPI WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE

People to People International is delighted to announce that the daughters of former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa will join us in Scottsdale, Arizona for PTPI's 19th Worldwide Conference! The conference is entitled, "The Symposium on Peace and Conflict" and will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona, September 29 – October 3, 2010. President Mandela's daughters look forward to accepting the 2010 Eisenhower Medallion Award on their father's behalf.

By acting quickly you could be eligible to win a one-hour spa treatment at the FireSky Resort and Spa! The first 100 people to register will be placed in the raffle drawing. Need other reasons to register? Celebrate the accomplishments of our volunteers at PTPI's annual Awards Ceremony and Luncheon with special guest Cindy McCain. Be inspired by the message of keynote speaker, Andrew C. Revkin, former environmental journalist for The New York Times. Learn more about preserving our world with the elimination of landmines from The HALO Trust. Participate in a hands-on community service project with a visit to either the Justa Center or St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.

Come and enjoy the ambiance of the Southwest! To register online visit the conference web page or www.ptpi.org. For questions, contact Karen Hoch at karenh@ptpi.org or Cindy Baugh at chapters@ptpi.org.

It Happened in Italy

by Sonia Eichenwald

On Thursday evening, June 3, at the Plaza Library, nearly 200 people gathered to hear author Elizabeth Bettina tell of her findings and experiences in putting together her book "It Happened in Italy." It is the virtually unknown story of refugees who fled the Holocaust throughout Europe and ended up in internment camps in Italy, thereby escaping the horrors of the concentration camps in Germany and Poland. In February 2010, I read the book and had the opportunity to meet Elizabeth. It struck me almost immediately that GKCPTP could be instrumental in sharing this story with the people of Kansas City.

Sharing this story was of very special interest to me because I am the daughter of Holocaust survivors who fled Vienna, Austria in 1939 and spent the rest of the war years in internment Italy. My parents met and were married in one of these internment camps, and I was born in Rome in 1946 after the war. Their story, like the ones of other survivors mentioned in the book, illustrates that even in horrific times, people on a one-to-one basis and through the organized kindness of many, can defy the politics and dictates of tyrants.

Although my immediate family members lost nearly all of their worldly possessions, their home and their liberty, their memories of the war years were of the goodness of the Italian people, and the warm friendships that they were able to forge with other refugees in the camps. These friendships lasted a lifetime and continued here in the Kansas City area.



From Left to right: author Elizabeth Bettina, Henry Winkler, John Bergl, Evelyn Bergl, Sonia Eichenwald

Unfortunately, my parents died here in the Kansas City area in 1962 and in 1989. However, sharing the stage on June 3 as survivors were my uncle Henry Winkler and our lifelong family friends from the camps in Italy, John and Evelyn Bergl. They all contributed to Ms. Bettina's presentation.

Many thanks to GKCPTP President Pat Burnett and event Chairperson Jane Kohl and her committee for all their hard work in making this program a reality. It was an event that involved many in the Kansas City community including People to People International, the UNICO National Chapter, the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education and BullySafe USA.

If you missed this event, please stay tuned. Ms. Bettina is now working on a film documentary.

Operation International Children (OIC)

OIC is a worldwide nonprofit with roots right here in Kansas City. Its work on behalf of school children in war-torn countries is critical. Pictures of Dyrk and Kris Dugan (and a friend) taken while packing school supplies with OIC co-founder Gary Sinise at the North Kansas City warehouse are on page 3. He spent time at the warehouse prior to his OIC benefit concert at the Uptown with his group, the LT Dan Band, on April 25. Mr. Sinise donates much of his time away from his TV work to supporting our service members and their families, as well as the children who live in areas ravaged by war.

The Need For School Supplies Is Critical

Help OIC provide school supplies for children in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places where U.S. troops are stationed! Donate supplies directly to the OIC Warehouse by calling or emailing Kresha Scott: OICwarehouse@ptpi.org – 816-241-7321.

The list of supplies follows:

- One pair of blunt-end scissors
- One 12-inch ruler with metric markings
- 12 new pencils with erasers
- One small pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- One box of colored pencils (Crayons melt in the desert heat!)
- One package of notebook paper
- One composition book
- Three folders with inside pockets
- One zippered pencil bag

Pack only the listed supplies in a 2-gallon sized zipper seal plastic bag.

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And...Finally, Everyone's Welcome To Volunteer At OIC

With Operation International Children in the spotlight this month, it's a good opportunity to remind our membership that groups are welcome to volunteer at the OIC Warehouse in North Kansas City. These two young and exhausted Brownies spent the better part of a day packing school supplies for children in need around the world. The young woman on the left is Anabelle Nitz, daughter of members Joel and Kim Nitz.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

~ Elizabeth Andrew

Dear Members,

The summer months have been racing along! In addition to saying good-byes to our 10-1 IMS officers, we have welcomed the 11-1 class. We had a terrific joint program at the Kansas City Public Library that you will read about elsewhere in the newsletter. GKCPTP will have an information booth at the Ethnic Enrichment Festival and we are in full-swing preparing for the 3rd Annual Deanna Rose Farmstead event. Each of these events could always use more volunteers!

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I also want to share some news about very important work accomplished at the committee level over the past few months. Much of this "behind the scenes" work provides the necessary framework and structure for the many activities of our organization. An entirely new board manual has been assembled to assist new board members with pertinent information regarding policies and procedures. Our membership committee has created and distributed a new membership directory and developed a beautiful new brochure. A marketing committee has been formed and is putting together a packet of information for potential corporate sponsorships. The viability of a chapter-partner program with another international chapter is being assessed and the governance committee is developing criteria for the GKCPTP Travel Scholarship as voted on at the annual membership meeting. Phew...it is an amazing amount of work in a short time, and I want to thank all chapter members that participated in these works.

Operation International Children (OIC) is in need of school supply donations! This program, supported by PTPI, is a unique humanitarian effort that helps coalition troops bring school supplies to children in areas all over the world served by American troops. As we are purchasing "back to school" supplies for our own children, grab some extras to donate to OIC.

PTPI's *Symposium on Peace and Conflict* is Sep. 29-Oct. 3. This international conference is being held in Scottsdale, AZ! It is a wonderful opportunity to network with other chapters and learn more about the worldwide scope of PTPI. I look forward to attending and hope to see other chapter members there as well. It will be a great privilege to accept the PTPI 2010 award for "Best Chapter Website" at the conference!! You will remember that last year our chapter won the award in the best chapter newsletter!

I want to take a moment to give a warm welcome to all of our new members. I look forward to meeting you! I invite you to participate in any of the many opportunities that our chapter provides.

Warm regards,

Pat

www.gkcptp.org

Travels in Central and South America

Leslie Kupka

As last winter's icy weather gripped the Kansas City area, a cruise in the Caribbean seemed like a perfect antidote. From February 15 through 26, the Celebrity carried 4,000 people from all around the world. The cuisine represented this diversity, as did the languages spoken on the ship and in the various ports. For those considering a winter get-away this year, please look at these port highlights:

Grand Cayman

Nestled in the calm, turquoise waters of the western Caribbean, one finds the peaceful British overseas territory, known as the Cayman Islands. We arrived on the shores of the capital city, George Town, on Grand Cayman Island. This picturesque town is known for delicious cuisine and great shopping in the Caribbean. We delighted in a refreshing sea breeze as we enjoyed lunch on a lovely balcony!

Cartagena, Colombia

Cartagena is located on Colombia's northern coast and faces the Caribbean Sea. It is the most visited city in the country and was founded in 1533 as a port. It was a major center of early Spanish settlement in the Americas and continues to be an economic hub as well as a popular tourist destination with great shopping for beautiful emeralds.

We toured the walled city with its tiled roofs, brightly colored buildings, cobblestone streets and flower-filled courtyards, all overlooking the sea. The walking tour took us through ancient fortresses, a monastery, the beautiful Cathedral and military dungeons that now house tourist boutiques.

From the ship, we saw Cartagena's newer areas, Bocagrande and El Laguito, on the peninsula facing the Caribbean where you can find fashionable upscale hotels, restaurants and shops.



Cartagena's Cathedral, with its massive exterior, simple interior and fortress appearance

Colon, Panama

In north central Panama is Colon, the capital of Colon Province, which is also the northern terminus of the Panama Railroad and the Panama Canal. Colon was founded around 1850 by builders of the Panama Railroad but did not boom until the Panama Canal construction began. Some of Colon's main attractions include: Fort San Lorenzo, the Free Zone and the Gatun Locks.

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CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
8/13/2010	Military Order of World Wars, 21st International Military Ball	Marriott Muehlebach Hotel, Call for information: Pat Snyder 913-685-3592	6:30 p.m.
8/20-22/2010	Ethnic Enrichment Festival	Swope Park	Come & volunteer
9/15/2010	Know Your World: Canada	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
9/19/2010	Deanna Rose Farmstead event	13800 Switzer Rd Overland Park, KS 66221-7803	1-5 p.m.
9/24/2010	Fall Food Fair (Class 10-2)	Riverfront Center, Leavenworth, KS	6 p.m.
10/06/2010	Know Your World: Burkina Faso	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
10/21/2010	International Hall of Fame Induction	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	TBD
11/05/2010	Fall Food Fair (Class 11-1)	Riverfront Center, Leavenworth, KS	6 p.m.
11/06/2010	Know Your World: Czech Republic	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.

Note: 10-2 class graduates December, 2010. 11-1 graduates June 2011.

Contact Newsletter GKCTP

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The Gatun Locks visit required climbing up a steep set of steps to a viewing building where there are maps of the Panama Canal, a lock-type canal, approximately 80 kilometers long, that unites the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans at one of the narrowest points of both the Isthmus of Panama and the American continent. On August 15, 1914, the SS Ancon officially inaugurated the Panama Canal. Since opening, there have been more than 970,000 vessels transited through the waterway, with the projected number to hit 1 million by October 2010.

The tour also took us through the homes built for the Americans who managed the operation. As of December 31, 1999, Panama assumed full responsibility for the administration, operation and maintenance of the Panama Canal.

Puerto Limon, Costa Rica

This country's most important port lies about 100 miles east of the capital city of San Jose. It was founded in 1870 as a port city to export bananas and grains from Costa Rica to various parts of the globe. Limon is one of seven provinces in Costa Rica and the only one to be entirely on the Caribbean side of the Continental Divide. Limon consists of thick tropical jungles and sprawling banana plantations bordering the lofty Central Mountains. One of the oldest cities on the continent, Puerto Limon was established in 1502, when Christopher Columbus landed here during the exploration of the New World.

A view of the banana and pineapple plantations was enjoyable. The tram ride through the rain forest was fascinating with lots of giant plants, beautiful birds and poisonous/colorful frogs! Later a river safari resulted in sighting a Cayman alligator, black monkeys swinging from tree to tree, a green iguana walking on water (the boat scared him), two and three toe sloths and many colorful birds!



Rain forest guide

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Roatan, Honduras

A small island off from the Honduras mainland, Roatan is surrounded by turquoise waters, great for viewing exotic fish, sea mammals and tropical reefs. We toured the island via a cab ride which revealed a variety of sites for sports, dining and beach activities! We selected an outdoor restaurant right on the sunny beach! Back at the port, there were shops to explore!

Cozumel, Mexico

The Mayan ruins at Tulum, on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, sit high on a steep cliff, surrounded by a wall averaging 16 feet high. This allowed this walled city to serve as a defense against invasion. Tulum was first mentioned by Juan Diaz, part of Juan de Grijalva's expedition of 1518. The first description of the ruins was found in publications by John Lloyd Stephens and Frederick Catherwood in 1843 in the book, *Incidents of Travel in Yucatan*.

On the return ferry ride to Cozumel, a storm blew in quickly which resulted in rerouting to a more protected site due to the very high waves! All taxis in Cozumel were hailed and eventually we arrived back to the ship. The ship was detained due to the very high waves until the authorities allowed departure. A good lesson was learned here: always use the ship's land tours, as they are required to delay the ship's departure if tours don't return on time due to any unforeseen events.



Beautiful Roatan, Honduras

An International Perspective of International Sponsorship

Maj Yi-Jin Lee

An Open Letter to the GKCPTP:

I really enjoyed reading the February, 2010 article on the international military students sponsorship program. It provided an interesting insight for me, as an international military officer, as to what it must be like for a potential sponsor deciding whether to take the plunge into the program. I suppose what struck a chord was the realization that just like any international officer about to arrive in the US, many of you would experience the same jitters that come with not knowing what to expect when facing a different culture, and possible language barriers. And it occurred to me that it might be useful for you to hear from one of us, since we are, after all, the primary beneficiaries of this fantastic program.

It was certainly a little intimidating for me and my wife when we first found out that we would be assigned not one, not two, but three sets of sponsors. Would we all get along? Would they have certain expectations of how things should be? Would they be sensitive to our culture, and would we know how to react appropriately in theirs?

Fortunately enough, we discovered that our concerns were vastly overblown. Much of the credit for that must go to our sponsors – our Kansas City sponsors, Gene and Linda Jacobs; our Leavenworth sponsor, Margaret Long; and our military sponsors, Mike and Becky O’Bea – who have done such a superlative job taking care of us and making us feel completely at ease. I suppose part of the reason is that, despite their obvious youth and vibrancy, they have somehow managed to amass more than 50 years of sponsorship experience between them. That experience must have helped them to anticipate our needs, because they did so perfectly despite none of them having sponsored anyone from my country in the past.

I shall not list everything my sponsors have done for us, simply because there are competing demands for print space in your newsletter. But I do want to share a couple of things that we’ve come to really appreciate about our relationship with our sponsors. First, they provided us a window into authentic Kansas/Missouri life that we would not have had access to otherwise. And I’m not just talking about Kansas City barbecue and the Country Club Plaza, wonderful though those are; but also dinner theatres, art fairs, hunting in Leavenworth, grape-harvesting in Basehor, dancing in Tonganoxie, prime rib in Hiawatha; the list goes on. What all these activities have in common is that they are things our sponsors would have done anyways, with or without us, and that they are all activities that we would not have even thought to ask about if not for our sponsors’ suggestions.



Jake & Linda Jacobs, Mike & Becky O’Bea, and MAJ Yi-Jin and May Lee

Another thing we really appreciate is how our sponsors have come to treat us like family. Although to be “treated like family” commonly implies fuzziness, warmth and hospitality – and all of those were certainly in abundance – it also implies familiarity, informality and the comfort from being around those you know and trust. We know our sponsors will always be there for us if we need them, and they don’t constantly see the need to remind us of that fact either, or to fawn over our every perceived need. I wouldn’t trivialize their efforts by saying that our sponsors haven’t gone out of their way for us, because I know they have; but they made us feel like “one of the guys” when we were with them, and for a foreigner, I think there can be no higher compliment.

My intention in writing this letter is not to be prescriptive about what works from the international officers’ perspective, but merely to say thank you to your organization for the marvelous work you’re doing, and to encourage those of you who might be considering the sponsorship program to give it a shot, if only because my wife and I have experienced



The Lees with Leavenworth sponsor, Margaret Long

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first-hand the good it can do. The truth is, every sponsor-IMS relationship is unique, and I know many other international officers who would challenge my claim that I have the best set of sponsors anyone could hope for (they're all wrong, of course!). And while I certainly hope that everyone's experience would be as fulfilling as ours has been, unfortunately that will not be the case. For any number of reasons, sometimes it just doesn't work out. Personalities don't always click, and expectations don't always match up. But I know the vast majority of international officers enjoy hugely rewarding relationships with their sponsors, and are extremely grateful for the time, energy and commitment that you all have put in to be effective ambassadors for your city and country.

To Jake, Linda, Mike, Becky, and Margaret, we thank you for the time that you've so freely given, and for the sincere friendship that you've so graciously extended. And to all of you who make this program possible – whether as sponsors past present and future, or through your support as members of the Greater Kansas City chapter of People to People – we would like to thank you for continuing to make a meaningful difference to lives around the world.

MAJ Yi-Jin Lee

International Military Student from Singapore

CGSC 10-01

Know Your World for 11-01

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTRY FLAG</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>
SEP 15, 2010		CANADA
OCT 6, 2010		BURKINA FASO
NOV 10, 2010		CZECH REP
DEC 15, 2010		SAUDI ARABIA
JAN 27, 2011		KYRGYZSTAN
FEB 16, 2011		BOTSWANA
MAR 9, 2011		SURINAME

Reminders For IMS Sponsors

Gate Passes

If your IMS lives on post, you may obtain a 1-year gate pass. If your IMS lives off-post, you may obtain a 30-day pass. Please let Sharon Valasek know if you would like a pass so she can inform IMSD. IMSD submits the list of sponsors to the Provost Marshall's (vehicle registration) office. It is necessary for IMSD to submit the sponsor names in advance so that when you go to the Provost Marshall's office to apply, your name will appear as "eligible." The vehicle registration office is located at 881 McClellan Avenue, Building number 194 and is open from 7:30 to 4:00 Monday to Friday. You will need to bring a valid driver's license, registration for the car you want the pass for and proof of insurance for that car.

∞ Long Distance Calls

If your IM student lives in Hoge Barracks, please inform him not to make long distance calls from Hoge Barracks by direct dial. This can create high long distance charges. The IMS

might consider purchasing a phone card for that purpose.

Driver's License

If your IMS has a valid driver's license from another state they can drive on it for 90 days before they are required to get a Kansas license.

Online purchases

Please advise your IMS to be VERY CAREFUL when conducting any kind of business online. There are so many scams out in the cyber world.

As always, please contact Sharon Valasek (see below) if you have questions or require information. Thank you for being a sponsor; you make a difference in the impression/experience your IMS has while here in the USA!

Sharon Valasek
svalasek@kc.rr.com
816.213.5847

Operation International Children (more photos)

