

CONTACT

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



Greater Kansas City

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Inside:

Topic	Page
United Nations Tribute	1
President's Message	2
Americas Regional Meeting	3
Int'l Student Hosting	3
New Partner: Colombia	4
Military Committee Update	4
Membership Report	5
Calendar	6

GKCPTP CO-SPONSORS UNITED NATIONS TRIBUTE

The first United Nations (U.N.) peacekeeping operation, commissioned during President Truman's administration, monitored the armistice ending the 1948 war between the new State of Israel and its neighbors. The second, also during the Truman administration, observed the peace between the newly independent states of India and Pakistan. For more than 60 years, the United Nations has dedicated itself to peacekeeping operations. It is fitting that this tribute to U.N. peacekeepers took place in Truman's hometown of Independence.

The ceremony began with a wreath-laying to honor those that gave their life in the line of duty. Nearly 100 names of the fallen were read at the U.N. Peace Plaza, on the grounds of the Community of Christ Church.

Ambassador James McLay, New Zealand's permanent representative to the United Nations, discussed U.N. peacekeeping and the "responsibility to protect," the principle that holds in the event of genocide or mass killings in a nation whose government is unable or unwilling to halt the violence, the international community has the responsibility to do so. Ambassador McLay compared and contrasted the recent U.N. efforts in Libya to the efforts in Rwanda in the mid-nineties.

Ambassador McLay's presentation was followed by a roundtable discussion on U.N. peacekeeping featuring international military officers with peacekeeping experience. The participating officers are students at the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. The panelists were: Major Simukoko of Zambia, Major Roy of Canada, Major Renahan of Canada, Major Mikkelsen of New Zealand, and Captain Cissoko of Mali.

This program was sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Library & Museum, the Harry S. Truman Center for Governmental Affairs (UMKC), the United Nations Association of Greater Kansas City and Greater Kansas City People to People.

Thank you for supporting the international officers at this event!



Rose Thorsky with her officer from New Zealand

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Dear Friends,

I feel very honored to serve as president of this valuable organization. The bar has been set very high due to the leadership of past president, Pat Burnett and former board members. I shall strive to continue to provide such leadership with the

expectation that our organization will continue to thrive and grow. In this effort, Pat's experience and knowledge will be invaluable. The achievements of any organization are also strongly dependent on the efforts of individual members and I know that I will be able to depend on you to continue those efforts.

Our mission statement is:

"Our mission, as citizen ambassadors, is to promote international understanding and friendship through educational, humanitarian, and cultural 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."

Whether it's international military student sponsorship, hosting a college student, events or programs, or membership recruitment, these are just a few of the ways we direct our efforts to adhere to our mission.

I am pleased to announce that GKCPTP is the 2011 recipient of People to People International's James T. Doty Memorial Award and also the Chapter Membership Award. The James T. Doty Memorial Award is presented to a PTPI chapter that has made a contribution to international friendship and understanding through innovative and unique programming. We will receive both awards at the gala dinner during PTPI's Board of Trustees Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on September 10.

We recently had our annual board retreat and set a full agenda for the year. As I noted above, the success and growth of our chapter is due to the efforts of many people. We are always looking for additional volunteers to enlarge our efforts. You can join one of our committees, or volunteer to help with one of our events or projects. If you would like to volunteer, let us know.

In closing, I want to remind you that "you can make a difference."

Regards,

Renee Stevenson, President

DOTY MEMORIAL AWARD

The Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People is the 2011 recipient of People to People International's James T. Doty Memorial Award and Chapter Membership Award. The awards will be presented at the Awards Gala Dinner during PTPI's Board of Trustees Meeting in Brussels, Belgium.

Several reasons for our nomination, noted in the submission, included:

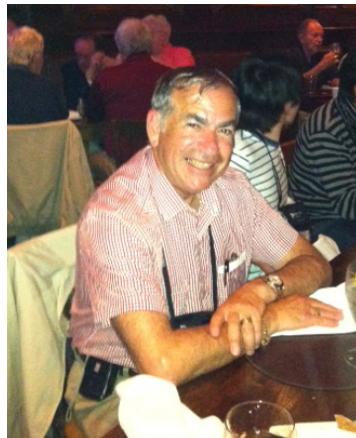
- Our chapter hosted a unique program at the Kansas City Plaza Library, which featured Elizabeth Bettina, author of "It Happened in Italy, Untold Stories of How the People of Italy Defied the Horrors of the Holocaust." The auditorium was at capacity and standing room only.
- Chapter members sponsor approximately 150 international officers each year who attend the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.
- We offer "Know Your World" programs that provide opportunities for international officers attending the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College to share information about the culture and history of their home country.
- In addition, chapter members are informed about current events and/or projects through frequent emails and newsletters.

The program will take place at The Hotel, Brussels (formerly the Hilton Brussels) on Saturday, September 10, 2011. If you would like to register for the Board of Trustees Meeting, you can register online at www.ptpi.org. If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact Karen Hoch at 816-531-4701 X127 or email karenh@ptpi.org.

Receiving both awards is the result of a lot of hard work and coordination by many people. Congratulations!

GKCPTP HOSTS AMERICAS REGIONAL MEETING

The Americas Regional Meeting was held at the Hotel Phillips here in Kansas City May 12-15. As the host chapter, GKCPTP coordinated with PTPI to provide many of the activities.



Though the conference was focused on the Americas Region, participants came from as far away as Senegal and Mongolia. The conference coincided with the annual board of trustees meeting.

Among the events of the conference were a Welcome Reception at PTPI Headquarters, community service

projects at Operation International Children and Jewish Vocational Services, interactive panel discussion, round-table discussion, Chapter Fair, no host dinners, a closing reception and an optional tour of the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art.

Barb Capozzi was re-elected as secretary of the Americas Region, serving along with Tracy Justinak and Meg Carter. A sample of topics that were covered in discussion groups ranged from use of social media in chapter communications, incorporating international programming, and partnering with other like-minded organizations.



One of the highlights of the conference was the "Know Your World: Czech Republic" luncheon featuring the presentation by Major Jiri Libal and family, as well as the music of Don Lipovac.

From beginning registration to the ending tour of the Nelson Museum, chapter members volunteered in a number of ways to enhance programs. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOST PROGRAM

There are approximately 600,000 international students studying in the United States and approximately 2500+ studying at community colleges, colleges, and universities in the greater Kansas City area. Some will remain in the United States and the metro Kansas City area after graduation and many will return to their home countries. It is difficult to forecast a percentage, however, since these students are generally among the brightest it is safe to assume that many will become leaders in government, business, academia, local and provincial governments, or as community leaders in their local communities both in the U. S. and in their home countries.

Consistent with our mission, there is an opportunity for GKCPTP to engage in direct citizen diplomacy with some of the international students in the greater Kansas City area, introduce them to GKCPTP, and educate them on the value of citizen diplomacy and volunteerism. For those students who stay in the U. S. and in the metro area, it will be of benefit to them and our community. For those who return to their home countries it will be of benefit to the U. S., their local communities and their countries if we can ignite the spark of volunteerism and citizen diplomacy, thereby leveraging the concept.

GKCPTP is in the process of working with UMKC this fall to host about 20 exchange students that will be here

from Western Europe. They all speak English and will be staying for one or two semesters. **We need volunteer host families for these students.** Being a host family does NOT mean that they will live with you. It means that you will meet with them 3-5 times per year, etc., similar to the IMS sponsor program. Please contact Irina Kobzeva at irina_vk@hotmail.com or Paulette Markel @ imua@kc.rr.com to volunteer to host a student or to answer any of your questions. Requirements for families:

- Be a current GKCPTP member in good standing
- Make a commitment for a semester or entire year
- Be willing to accept a student of any age, gender, origin and religious views
- If participating more than one year, be willing to change students every year if necessary
- Be available at least 3-5 times a year to meet with a student (s) and provide transportation to and from events if necessary
- You are not expected to support students financially or shower them with large/costly gifts, however, offering a free meal or covering the cost of a ticket to an event is acceptable.

NEW PARTNER CHAPTER: COLOMBIA

Last year our chapter decided to expand our international involvement and we began our search to become a Partner Chapter with another chapter of PTPI. This provides us with the opportunity to reach out and learn about another country's culture, customs, and way of life as well as about a PTPI chapter in a specified country, its programs/projects, and to share information back and forth about chapter operations, programs etc. We have selected the Bogota, Colombia chapter as our first Partner Chapter. One of the similarities with our chapter is that they have a website in English. Although we are a much larger chapter they meet many of the criteria we established for a Partner Chapter relationship.

With just 25 members, they have lots of challenges. Yet they are involved in quite a few programs, though mostly humanitarian. A little bit about Bogota. It is the capital of the Republic of Colombia, which borders on Venezuela, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador. It has coastlines on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea and a population of about 45 million. Spanish is the official language and the majority of the people are of the Roman Catholic faith. Most urban centers are in the mountainous (Andes) highlands, but there are also tropical grasslands and Amazon rainforests. Bogotá is the most populous city in the country, with an estimated 7,304,384 inhabitants as of 2009. In terms of land area, Bogotá is the largest city in Colombia, one of the biggest of Latin America. It figures amongst the thirty largest cities of the world and it is the third highest capital city in the world (after La Paz and Quito) at 2,625 meters (8,612 ft) above sea level. With its many universities and libraries, Bogotá has become known as "The Athens of South America." Bogotá owns the largest moorland of the world, which is located in the Sumapaz Locality.

We do have a grand connection to Colombia here in this area, as the President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, is a graduate of KU! Over the years we have sponsored a number of Colombian military officers who have attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and some of our members have connections with people in Colombia.



Our chapter was instrumental in developing Partner Chapter Guidelines for PTPI and a special thank you is due to Jim Malouff for all his efforts, time, guidance and knowledge.

Soon, People to People International will announce a Global Partner Chapter Program in which all PTPI chapters can participate. They will acknowledge our input on the guidelines and name us the Pilot Chapter! We are pleased to have taken the leadership in helping establish this program.

Any members who wish to be involved in this program, please notify me. Also there may be an opportunity for chapter members to visit Bogota in October of this year. More on that in an upcoming newsletter.

Here's hoping that this great new way to reach out will become another road to Peace through Understanding!

Inga Barringer
GKCPTP Contact Person
Bogota Partner Chapter

SPONSOR PREFERENCE/ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

As the 11-01 class of international military students (IMS) departs in June, sponsors will say goodbye and prepare to welcome the new IMS 12-01 class, arriving in June, the majority June 15-17. On behalf of GKCPTP, the military committee thanks you for your support of the sponsor program.

We've just completed assignments and it's a perfect time to see what is working well and what things could improve. While the majority of our sponsors already do a fantastic job with the guidelines below, our goal in sharing the following sponsor preference reminders is to help future assignments go as smoothly as possible:

- Provide six choices of country preferences, from each of the six region/geographic groups.

- Provide your family preferences (e.g., couple, single, family and children or no children).
- A country can be repeated no more than two years consecutively.
- We'll do our best to assign an IMS that matches your preferences, however, there is no guarantee. For example, if multiple sponsors request Brazil as their first choice, then we are unable to meet the request of multiple people.
- Often when given both country and family status choices, they do not coincide so it is helpful to know which is a stronger preference – country or family status. For example, a sponsor may indicate Brazil,

continued on p. 5

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP REPORT MAY 2011

We recently were informed by People to People International (PTPI) of the good news that we will be receiving the Chapter Membership Award at the Awards Gala Dinner in September during the PTPI Board of Trustees Meeting in Brussels, Belgium. We had 37 new members in 2010, and we have 18 new members so far in 2011! Thank you to those of you who have been spreading the word about our chapter and bringing in new members.

There are 186 membership units on record as of May 20, 2011. (A membership unit is an individual, couple, or

family who joins as one membership.) However, only 155 of those are active and paid memberships as of that same date. Renewals of annual dues are past due for 31 members. This organization is dependent on its membership and encourages all who haven't yet paid, to please do so.

Please contact Karen Haber at kchaber.com or 816-741-9518 with questions or other membership information. We appreciate those who have renewed their membership for 2011 and those who have recently joined our great organization.

Welcome New Members	Recruited by...
Paul and Lori Barnett	Sonia and Howard Eichenwald
Nick and Peggy Bashkiroff	Sonia and Howard Eichenwald
J.J. and XinhXan Bradt	Julie Goodhart/Leon Goodhart
José Orlando Carvajal	Inga Barringer
Bruce and Susan Eveland	IMSD/Leavenworth sponsors
Steven and Joyce Funk	PTPI
Dori Gragg	PTPI
Erik Haberkorn	Bob and Linda Peterson
Darrell and Margie Holland	IMSD/Leavenworth sponsors
Pamela Mason	Paulette Markel
Bob and Kay Moffat	Larry and Barbara Dolci
Rik Moonen and Lekha Sreedhar	Frank and Diane Koranda
Angela Peterson	Park University Chapter of PTPI
Lyle and Jan Pishny	Jane Kohl/Tom Waggoner
Jordan Shipley	Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic
Mike Sigler	Terry Smitka
Mark and Kelli Thomas	Sharon Valasek/Gary Lofstrom
Bob and Sharon Wilson	Nelson and Paulette Markel

continued from p. 5

Macedonia and Benin as country choices and wish to sponsor a family yet all these officers are coming unaccompanied or vice versa.

- Do not assume you will be sponsoring a certain country and begin making plans with other sponsors or establishing a relationship through the current IMS from that country with the new IMS. Again, we cannot guarantee an assignment. Another sponsor may have been waiting patiently (sometimes for several years) for an opportunity to sponsor that particular country.
- The SAMS program is not a sponsor program. It is fine if your IMS is staying for SAMS and you'd like

to stay in touch, however, we still need your participation going forward with future IMS assignments.

- We know that sponsors get the true People to People spirit when they demonstrate flexibility when we ask them to accept an assignment. That flexibility includes not only country and family preferences, also fellow sponsors from the other sponsor organizations.

Thank you for your understanding and thanks again for your support of the sponsor program.

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
6/9	11-01 Badge Ceremony	Lewis & Clark, Eisenhower Auditorium	9:30 a.m.
6/10	11-01 Graduation Ceremony	Main Parade Field, Ft. Leavenworth	8:30 a.m.
6/15	"Know Your World: Southern Sudan"	Lewis & Clark, Eisenhower Auditorium	3:30 p.m.
6/15 - 6/17	Arrival window for most 12-01 IMS and their families	Airport, Fort Leavenworth, etc.	
6/17	Happy Hour	Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery	6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
6/27	12-01 Registration	Informational only. Event restricted to IMS and their families	
7/6	"Know Your World: Lesotho"	Lewis & Clark, Eisenhower Auditorium	3:30 p.m.
7/11 - 7/13	Sponsor Icebreakers	Frontier Conference Center, Ft Leavenworth; sponsors will receive an invitation from the Fort for one of the three nights	6:00 p.m.
7/28	Docent-guided tour of Monet exhibit	Nelson-Atkins Gallery; cost is \$8 per person	5:30 p.m. for social hour, 6:30 p.m. tour
8/8	12-01 Flag Ceremony	Lewis & Clark, Eisenhower Auditorium	TBD
8/12	MOWW Ball	Marriott Muehlebach, Kansas City, MO; \$65 per person	6:30 social hour; 7:15 dinner
8/19-21	Ethnic Enrichment Festival	Swope Park	
8/24	"Know Your World: Slovak Republic"	Lewis & Clark, Eisenhower Auditorium	3:30 p.m.
9/18	Deanna Rose Farmstead Event w/ international military students	Deanna Rose Farmstead, Overland Park, KS	1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
9/23	11-02 Fall Food Fair	Frontier Conference Center, Ft Leavenworth; for invited sponsors	TBD
11/4	12-01 Fall Food Fair	Frontier Conference Center, Ft Leavenworth; for invited sponsors	TBD
11/18	11-02 Holiday Dinner Dance	Frontier Conference Center, Ft Leavenworth; for invited sponsors	TBD
12/2	11-02 Sponsor Recognition	Lewis & Clark, Eisenhower Auditorium	TBD
12/8	11-02 Badge Ceremony	Lewis & Clark, Eisenhower Auditorium	TBD
12/9	12-01 Holiday Dinner Dance	Frontier Conference Center, Ft Leavenworth; for invited sponsors	TBD
12/9	11-02 Graduation	Lewis & Clark, Eisenhower Auditorium	TBD
Oct.	"Guess Who is Coming to Dinner?" w/ focus on new sponsors	Proposed program; details pending	
Nov.	"Circle of Knowledge: Colombia" Partner Chapter	Proposed program; details pending	

Note: 11-01 class graduates June 2011; 11-02 class graduates December 2011; 12-01 class graduates June 2012.