

GKCPTP “Contact” Newsletter

September 2011

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Sunday at Deanna Rose Farmstead: RSVP by 9/9/11

An Invitation from the Sponsor Coordinators of Greater Kansas City People to People & the International Military Student Division of Fort Leavenworth to spend the day at beautiful Deanna Rose Farmstead.

Sunday, September 18, 2011

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

13800 Switzer Rd.

Overland Park, KS 66221

The Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead, established in 1978, was designed to depict a 1900s Kansas farm. This beautiful and diverse park provides a fun, safe and educational environment that cultivates an appreciation of farm life, wildlife and Kansas heritage. New this year are Vic’s General Store and Alex & Emily’s Ice Cream Parlor. For a map and more info, go to www.opkansas.org.

COST: \$15 for anyone over 11 \$8 for kids 4-11 Free for kids under 4

Your ticket price includes admission to the Farmstead, some children's activities plus great food and beverages. Lunch buffet opens at 1:30 PM. After lunch, there will be ample time to enjoy the Farmstead at your leisure. Please invite family and friends who might be potential GKCPTP members and IMS sponsors!

Please RSVP including payment by Friday, 09-09-11

Register and pay by credit/debit card online at www.gkcptp.org (click on events)
OR mail your check to: GKCPTP c/o Jane Kohl Waggoner, PO Box 16134, Shawnee, KS 66203 816-289-6358

Board News/Updates

Leadership Change

For personal reasons, chapter president Renee Stevenson, resigned her position effective September 2, 2011. We appreciate Renee's contributions to the organization and wish her the best.

We are pleased to announce that 1st vp, Karen Haber, has agreed to fill the vacated role of president in accordance with our bylaws. Karen has all the necessary skills to make this a seamless transition. Congratulations, Karen!

PTPI Awards and Recognition

Doty Memorial Award

Our chapter is the 2011 recipient of PTPI's James T. Doty Memorial Award and Chapter Membership Award. Our Chapter received this award for our Lift A Spirit program with the Jewish Vocational Service. 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.

Our efforts will be recognized at the Awards Gala Dinner during PTPI's Board of Trustees Meeting in Brussels, Belgium. This program will take place at The Hotel,

Brussels on Saturday, September 10, 2011, and Inga Barringer will accept the award on behalf of our chapter.

2011 World Citizen of the Year Award

Our Chapter is receiving the 2011 World Citizen of the Year award! President Jay Sjerven and the Board of Directors of the United Nations Association of Greater Kansas City, has selected the Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International as the 2011 recipient. In view of GKCPTP's long history of fostering international understanding, it will not surprise you to learn that the selection by the committee was unanimous.

The award will be presented at the Mayor's UN Day Dinner on November 1st, 2011. The event, to be held at the InterContinental Hotel, will feature remarks by Kansas City Mayor Sly James and an address by Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. This award belongs to the entire membership; please join us in the celebration. You can attend by making your reservation at <http://una-kc.org/>.

Museum Tour

Recently, Dan Karp, a GKCPTP board member and Nelson Atkins Museum docent, provided a guided tour of the Monet exhibit. It was fabulous. It was so successful that tours of other exhibits will follow.

Membership Report, Sept 2011

We encourage all members to get involved in the activities of our chapter and to invite those who might be interesting in joining. There are many opportunities, such as the recent guided tour of Monet's Water Lilies at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and Know Your World-Slovak Republic at Fort Leavenworth. The upcoming event at Deanna Rose Farmstead would be a great way to show off our chapter's interactions with the international military students and their families. Come join the fun! We have 165 membership units as of August 26, 2011.

Please contact Karen Haber at karen@kchaber.com or 816-741-9518 with questions or other membership information.

We appreciate those who have recently joined GKCPTP and those who have introduced them to our great organization.

New member(s):

Mr. Alassane Fall
Matt & Colleen Lecount
Larry & Dorinda Nicholson
Randy & Jackie Stevens
David & Leticia Tyrrell
Tim & Donna Urban
Jason & Carla Williams

Recruited by:

Inga Barringer
Derek Hedin
Paulette & Nelson Markel
Toni Cracraft/Int'l Visitors Council of KC
David & Bonnie de la Fuente/Terry Smitka
Sharon Valasek/Renee Stevenson
Inga Barringer

Int'l Student Host Program

- Are you ready to hear a fresh young perspective about other cultures and other lifestyles?
- Are you looking to make new friendships all around the world and/or mentor a student?

If so, this new GKCPTP International Student Host Program is for you! Hosting allows you to welcome an international student from a local university into your home for dinners and social events, join you for holidays and other activities around KC metro area. Being a host does NOT mean that a student(s) will live with you. It means that you will meet 5-12 times per year, etc., similar to the IMS sponsor program, or follow-up via email and phone.

GKCPTP and UMKC have formed a partnership to host international college students that are coming from a variety of different countries this year. They range in age and education between freshmen in undergraduate program, or graduate students and fellows, and those who are coming for their PhDs or on Fulbright scholarship. They all speak English and will be studying in Kansas City between one and four years. Later on, the program is planning to extend to other universities and colleges in the area.

We need volunteer hosts for these students. Please contact Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic at ishp@gkcptp.org to volunteer to host a student or to answer any of your questions. You can also fill out an application on our website.

Requirements for hosts:

- Be a current GKCTP 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
- 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.

Our mission is to engage in direct citizen diplomacy with some of the international students in the greater Kansas City area, introduce them to GKCTP, 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.

Volunteer to be a citizen diplomat and introduce Kansas City and American family lifestyle to an international Student here in the metro! Become a host!

Sincerely,
Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic

UMKC ROO Fair

GKCTP Chapter was well represented at the UMKC Annual Roo Fair following orientation for the 350 new International students on August 16, 2011. Board member, Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic and volunteers, Jordan Shipley and Leslie Many were able to recruit 28 new international students from China, India and other countries, for the new International Student Host Program!

We are still looking for families to welcome students for dinners and holidays during this coming academic year!

Please contact us at ishp@gkcptp.org for more details! Or fill out the application form online at www.gkcptp.org, under Programs section.

Jewish Vocational Service Sponsorship

Our chapter has chosen to sponsor the Jewish Vocational Service with a household goods drive in the month of September. This means any items of good quality you are no longer using that could help someone with no goods (just arriving immigrants) can be taken to the JVS Center at 1608 Baltimore, KC.MO.64108. If you have larger items you cannot transport please call 816-471-2808 and Steve Lindsay will have them picked up. Home furnishings and winter clothing are greatly needed.

To learn more about this wonderful organization that was established in 1949 to assist Holocaust survivors, refugees and displaced persons go to their website at www.jvskc.org. Any questions please contact GKCPTP Board member Toni Cracraft at 816-471-3900. Please help support this effort and your reward will be a clean garage or basement! Dock assistance is available M/F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Military Committee Report

The first survey results from the Fort for class 12-01 are in and GKCPTP has five (5) poor ratings. These 5 are all due to having little or no contact with the officer. It is critically important that sponsors meet their officer right away upon arrival. If that is not possible, meeting the officer within 7 days after arrival is required. Factual information from experience tells us that establishing the relationship very early is one of the keys to a successful sponsor experience (though it isn't a guarantee).

Our goal is to achieve satisfactory ratings, not for ratings sake but for the overall positive experience both for officers and sponsors. Whether you are a new or experienced sponsor, please contact Sharon Valasek or Sonia Eichenwald if you find it is not feasible to meet initially and then maintain contact once/month. We can either help work through any difficulties or reassign the officer to another sponsor. Please consider what is best for the officer and know that we will not be upset with any sponsor that realizes they need to take a break from sponsoring or that it wasn't their "cup of tea."

Our signature event, a day at the Deanna Rose Farmstead on September 18, is an event where all sponsors (GKCPTP, Leavenworth/Lansing and military) can enjoy time together with their officers. Another primary objective is to introduce our chapter and the sponsorship program to prospective members/sponsors. It is the one time each year that we can invite prospects without concern for space or whether it is allowed (as is the case with some events on Post). I highly encourage you to invite at least one individual, couple or family and introduce them to this

wonderful program. Help keep the program strong by doing your part to ensure we have a sufficient pool of sponsors for future classes. Why not share sponsorship with your friends with whom you already enjoy getting together?

Looking ahead to 12-02, we will begin the sponsor assignment process in October and complete it by early December. A Sponsor Briefing session will be held the first week in December (date to be confirmed within the next 30 days).

Ethnic Enrichment Festival

The Greater Kansas City People to People Chapter was proud to take part in one of the oldest local celebrations of the world hosted here in Kansas City – The Ethnic Enrichment Festival at Swope Park was held August 19-21. For 32 years the festival has been bringing in thousands of local residents and guests from other parts of our country to enjoy over 60 cultures represented through food, music and cultural dance and crafts.

This is an amazing place, where one can enjoy the Brazillian Capoeira dance that involves the traditional elements of ancient fighting, while munching on the delicious authentic Korean Beef, rub shoulders with the natives of Cameroon in their traditional dress while looking at a hand crafted Wooden Egg at the Ukrainian booth. Only one time a year do you get a unique opportunity to have the world cultures come together at one place over one weekend.

For the second year, that GKCPTP chapter has sponsored an informational booth at the Festival in support of this unique event and promoting the mission of the international peace and understanding. Thanks to fourteen of our volunteers who set-up and represented our organization extremely well, we were able to spread awareness of GKCPTP in the local community. During the weekend our booth received quite a few visitors with over 50 of them leaving contact information and many willing to join our mailing list and learn more about the organization. We are hopeful that some of these visitors will join our membership and will participate actively in our chapter activities.

If you wish to help us volunteer at events, such as the Ethnic Enrichment Festival, please contact Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic at irina_vk@hotmail.com. We'd like to thank those of you who have attended and enjoyed the festival, and stopped by our booth. We hope you will not miss this wonderful opportunity to experience the world at your fingertips again next year!