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*A Newsletter for the Members of
People to People International - Arizona Chapter
November 2007*



People to People International- Arizona
Chapter
P.O. Box 27793
Tempe, AZ 85285-7793

AZ Board Members

President: Margaret DuBois

Treasurer: Ruth Allen

Recording Secretary: Annette Petzel

Public Relations: Cindy McParland

Student Travel Leader: Diane Davis

Grants & Scholarships: Tracy Justinak

Student Group President: TBA

Special Projects:

Yefim Toybin, Grace Wright, Annette Petzel,
Yolanda McDonald, Todd McParland

Visit our web site www.ptpiaaz.org for photos ,
travel journal entries featured in this newsletter,
and for more information on the Arizona chapter
activities and events offered.



*'07 Student Ambassador leaders Stephanie,
Brian, and Diane with homestay host in China.*

President's Message

Dear Members,

This Fall, it was wonderful to meet with the Student Ambassador delegation leaders as they prepare to take students all over the world in 2008. Our Arizona Chapter is happy to present them with small honorariums each year for the work they are doing with the students. I encouraged these leaders to apply for a chapter grant that would assist them with projects that would further our mission of Peace through Understanding. The ideas for these projects is open to their creativity. Some possibilities might be international fairs or interactive programs with students in other People to People chapters around the world.

Our outreach to other Arizona international organizations has continued to provide us all with many resources. We are very happy to have been able to share with you many excellent speaker programs through these connections. Most recently we have forwarded to you information on Ambassador level speakers provided by the Boomerz organization. If you want to learn more about the work this wonderful group is doing, visit their web site: www.boomerzaz.com.

Recently, I received word that I have been elected to the People to People International Board of Trustees. I will do my best to see that Arizona's chapter continues to grow and provide our members with many meaningful international opportunities.

Sincerely,

Margaret DuBois
PTPI-AZ Chapter President

Looking Back at 2007



Chapter Sponsored Travel

The PTPI/AZ chapter sponsored a mixed age delegation visiting Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary. Eight travelers visited the three countries staying with chapter families and experiencing their cultures and traditions. The group visited the capital cities of each country and were able to participate in several interesting regional activities. Board members, Ruth Allen and Tracy Justinak led the delegation May 26 thru June 15. A memorable experience was had by all. For more details see the traveler's essays in this newsletter and on our web site ptpiaaz.org.



Arizona chapter members '07 Poland visit

Your 2008 membership form is enclosed. Please send your dues by check to the enclosed address in January!

Student Ambassador Travel Program

People to People Student Ambassadors Travel oversees for 2-3 weeks during the summer to learn, share, and represent their communities and schools.

From the Great Wall of China to Sternberk, Czech Republic, Student Ambassadors experience unparalleled opportunities for personal growth through an enriching program of educational and cultural interaction. By becoming a Student Ambassador, participants gain:

- Appreciation for the world in which they live
- Build their self-confidence
- Enrich their education through learning in the global classroom
- Develop increased levels of maturity and independence

Student Ambassador delegations of 30-40 students are led by experienced educators during this dynamic and exciting program. The People to People Student Ambassador Program provides students a world of international opportunities. We offer a travel experience that's fun and educational. www.studentambassadors.org

Diane Davis is our board member liaison to the Student Ambassador program and we truly appreciate all she does to keep us connected; and her guidance with the families as they raise money for their children's trips.

All of the local delegation leaders are members of our Arizona Chapter and we hope to see more of them during the year.

Travel Scholarships and Fund Raising

For individuals who wish to raise money for their travel experience, our AZ chapter can assist you. Due to the generosity of our membership and the hard work of our leadership delegates, fund raising opportunities and scholarships are available. Several members have successfully applied and received money for travel. See details on our web site ptpi.org or contact board member **Tracy Justinak** for details. Don't delay. Make your travel destination a reality!

Arizona Chapter visits Japanese Chapters

Through a joint venture project with Creighton School District in Phoenix and the Arizona chapter of PTPI 12 students and 4 district staff were able to experience Japan on a very personal basis. Mrs. Ruriko Nakajima, PTPI Board of Directors and Ms. Margaret DuBois, President of PTPI Arizona have coordinated this wonderful cultural exchange.

Students and staff spent 2 days in Tokyo. There they met with members of the Urayasu chapter and their president, Eiichi Otomo. Also assisting the group were people from the town of Midori, who were interesting in learning more about starting a new chapter of PTPI in their area.

Now our chapter is awaiting the visit of 20 Kikugawa students and 5 adults. They will visit Phoenix from March 21st to the 26th, 2008. We are looking forward to hosting our host family partners and showing them the sights of Arizona. We hope they will enjoy their stay as much as we enjoyed ours.

If you are interested in providing a home stay during their visit, please contact:
Margaret DuBois, 602 381-4699.

Looking Ahead at 2008

In an effort to bring more value to our AZ membership, the chapter board would like to have input from the members. We would like to ask our members to consider answering the following survey questions:

- Would you like our chapter to sponsor a trip to a particular destination? If so, where? And when?
- Would you be interested in attending guest speaker events like those co-sponsored by Boomerz?
- Would you like to be contacted by e-mail, postcard, or telephone when an event is upcoming?
- Would you like us to arrange local cultural tours and events in Phoenix?

Please send all your comments and suggestions to Margaret DuBois on the website ptpi.org

or mail us at : **PTPI -AZ Chapter**
P.O. Box 27793
Tempe, AZ 85285-7793

Change of address? email ? Let us know so you can stay informed of AZ events. Thanks!!!

07' Traveler Essays and Experiences

Pecs, Hungary June, 2007

I stepped off the train at Pecs and I was immediately smitten with the place! Not only did it have my favorite color, green, strewn about the entirety of the landscape, but the sky promised to remain dark and stormy for the rest of my stay. That may sound negative to some people, but to each his own; I like stormy skies.

My party and I were met by the local chapter and we immediately shipped off to a party at one of the members' house. There we had a nice goulash dinner, and sang until late into the night.

Taylor and I were hosted by the same family, and one afternoon we relaxed by watching *Eight Legged Freaks* in Hungarian. Amazingly, you could still tell the plot, without understanding a single word.

Our next stop was Veszprem. There we visited the local school where we were treated to a very special demonstration of *If You're Happy and You Know It*, by a group of third graders. We also visited a castle and some Communist era buildings. We enjoyed getting to know our host families but soon were off to our last stop before returning home, Budapest.

In Budapest, most of our days were filled with exploration, museums, Castle Budapest, and many monuments. And a favorite of any who visit this city, the natural hot spring baths. Our last night in Europe was spent at the National Opera. This was a new experience for most of us, but a beautiful one.

Finally I went to bed for the last time, and prepared to go on my journey home and I found myself doing something unusual; I was wishing. To be specific I was wishing that I could fly first class, because coach really stinks after 12 hours. Then again, maybe that's not so unusual.

by: Jason S



Children's celebration with PTPI Sternberk, Czech Republic, May '07



Australia, 2007

Going to Australia changed my life big time! Joining People to People was the best decision I have ever made in my life and I will tell you why. During my trip to Australia I made many friends, learned a lot of differences, cultures, and how to have fun and learn at the same time.

I explored many places, such as, Sydney Opera House, Australia Zoo, Telstra Stadium, Capricorn Caves, Under Water world, Great Barrier Reef, Daydream Island, Farm Stay, Primary School, etc. On my trip I kept a journal and wrote in it every day. Now that my trip is over I read my journal and think back on all the awesome times and how much fun I had exploring a different country. I can't even believe that I have already explored Australia and I am only 13 years old.

The favorite place that I visited would have to be the Great Barrier Reef. The reason why is because I would like to become a marine biologist and study many things in the ocean. I also enjoyed visiting the primary school because I made many Australian friends and I am still in contact with them now. The children there were so nice, intelligent, and caring. I would have to say some of them are the nicest people I have met. One thing I will always remember is that one night my friends and I were walking back to the hotel from a movie we attended and suddenly a wild kangaroo hopped in front of my friend and he screamed.

I have made so many friends I can't even count them. I still e-mail them. I am going on another trip to the Mediterranean in the summer of 2008 and I hope some of my friends will join me there. I have learned a lot about myself and others and I truly enjoy exploring the world and representing our country. I love being a student ambassador.

by: Makayla W. (chapter scholarship recipient)