



## Newsletter for the Members of People to People International - Arizona Chapter

August, 2009

### **President's Message**

PTPI-AZ Chapter  
P.O. Box 27793  
Tempe, AZ, 85285

#### *AZ Board Members*

**President** - Margaret DuBois  
**Vice President & Secretary** -  
Annette Petzel  
**Acting/interim Secretary & Scholarship Chair** -  
Tracy Justinak  
**Treasurer & Membership** -  
Ruth Allen  
**Student Ambassador Liaison & Fund Raising Coordinator** -  
Diane Davis  
**Public Relations** -  
Tatiana Shcherbinina  
**Program Coordinators:**  
Reyn DuBois  
Yolanda McDonald  
Yefim Toybin  
Grace Wright  
Dave Appleton



Dear Members,

Please forgive us for not getting a newsletter out last fall. Unfortunately, we lost our person that did our newsletter and it has taken time to find a replacement. However, we have not stopped doing wonderful things in the chapter.



Our biggest accomplishment was having our proposal to host the 2010 World Wide Conference chosen! So, please mark your calendars to attend this fantastic event. People to People members from all over the world will be here to participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> World Wide Conference from September 30 – October 3, 2010. To register and learn more about this event visit <http://www.ptpi.org/programs/WorldwideConferences.aspx>.

We are very pleased to introduce you to two new board members: Tatiana Shcherbinina and Dave Appleton. Introductory articles follow regarding their backgrounds and how they came to PTPI.

We've had a very productive hosting program this year. We were privileged to host Russian delegates through the Open World Program in October 08 and members of the Ogaki, Japan chapter in March 09. See our articles on these programs in this newsletter.

Our primary goal for this year is to encourage you to be a more active member of our chapter. We need your advice regarding events you would like to see us provide that would interest you. Please contact us via our [www.ptpiaaz.org](http://www.ptpiaaz.org) website.

Happy vacation travels and staying cool!  
Margaret DuBois



## Russian leaders in communications examine Open Governance in a Democratic Society.

Four Russian leading press secretaries and governmental media specialists participated in the “Open World Program” from October 24 to November 1 2008. They examined a wide range of topics such as Economic Development, Interagency Cooperation, Women in Business Politics and Journalism, Immigration Issues, Role of Public Opinion in Government, Election Campaigns and the Election Process.

“People to People Arizona” hosted the delegation for Open World. Managed by the Independent Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress, Open World enables emerging Eurasian political and civic leaders to work with their U.S. counterparts and experience American-style democracy at the local level.

While in the Phoenix Metropolitan area the delegates met with media representatives, government agencies and business leaders in order to learn more about the American democratic process, cultural and business practices.





# ARIZONA CHAPTER AND OGAKI, JAPAN CHAPTER STUDENT EXCHANGE



Several years ago, our Arizona Chapter joined with the Creighton School District's Jr. Ambassador Program to establish an ongoing student exchange with Japan. Our first exchange was with the Kikugawa Chapter. Kikugawa was not able to continue an ongoing exchange, so we were very excited when the Ogaki Chapter said they wanted to join with us. In November 2008, twelve students and three leaders were able to visit Tokyo and Ogaki. They had wonderful experiences and enjoyed fantastic Japanese hospitality, scenery and landmarks. Upon return, planning began for hosting them in March 2009. It was great to show them our beautiful desert, the Grand Canyon and the mountains of Northern Arizona. One of the exchange students was an Arizona Navajo girl. She was curious to see why people thought her people had come from Asia. She was fascinated with how similar many Japanese looked to her people. Mr. Ito, President and Mrs. Tokida, Secretary of the Ogaki Chapter are wonderful partners and we hope our relationship with them will last a very long time.



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# Jordan ~ 2009



## Global Peace Initiative



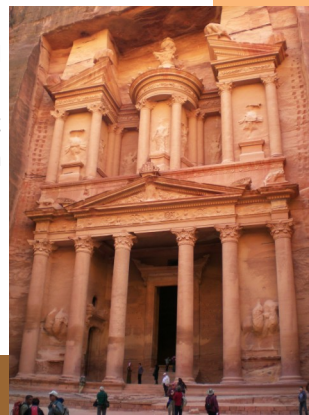
When I was 17 I traveled to Europe as a PTPI Junior Ambassador, an amazing experience. I'd never traveled with PTPI again, thinking their tours were only for students. As an adult I joined the Arizona chapter of PTPI as a board member and that's when I realized there were PTPI tours for everyone and I finally decided to take one.

In March of this year I flew to New York and joined a group of adult delegates on a tour to Jordan, covering Amman, Petra, Aqaba, Kerak, the Wadi Rum desert and the Dead Sea. This was a PTPI Peace Initiative tour so we were not just tourists, we planted friendship trees in a big public park outside the city center of Amman, we helped at the Jofeh School for disabled students, participated in a peace walk through the city of Amman and also had the opportunity to interact with Peace Camp delegates-a truly amazing group of kids from all over the world. We visited many interesting and Holy sites such as Mount Nebo, the River Jordan, Crusader Castle, Tomb of the Prophet Noah, Amman's Citadel to see the dead Sea Scrolls and so much more. Camels, Bedouin and tombs, Petra was worth the trip in itself, a full day of exploring this most amazing place. The highlight of which was the famous Treasury.

This was total immersion in Jordanian history, culture and it's people. I found Jordan to be a wonderful country, it's people warm and friendly. We met Royalty, local dignitaries, politicians, religious leaders, Bedouin, students and everyday folks. I had a great time, met so many people and made many lasting friends.

To take a PTPI tour is to embrace the journey of education, all things cultural and humanitarian, a chance to get to know people from all over the world, a chance to help spread peace and understanding. A PTPI tour is a growth experience, even for adults, something different. I invite you to join the journey and help be the change.

Tracy Justinak  
PTPI-AZ board member



# SWITZERLAND~USA TOUR 2009

July 23rd - July 28th, 2009 Arizona



GOSPELTRAIN is a seminar which is held by a Swiss organization in charge of the development of teachers' knowledge and continued education. The objective of the tour is to learn and witness an authentic gospel experience as it unfolds in the family home, choir rehearsals, workshops, morning worship services and concerts.

My family had an honor to host on behalf of People to People International (PTPI), Arizona Chapter one of the prominent members of the group - Roger Trottman, the "Gospel Train" Choir Director and conductor. Mr. Trottman is a music teacher at a secondary school in Switzerland. He has been to the U.S. before, about three years ago on the same mission with several people. At this time, the group consisted of about thirty people. All of them were teachers and, most of them, musical instructors.

The schedule for the group was very tight: two or three concerts a day in Phoenix, Tucson and Prescott. In addition, they were taken on a tour in around Sedona.

Seminar was a great success and wonderful learning experience for awesome people from Europe; they enjoyed the stay with local families and outstanding performances at several local churches. Roger has also learned a lot about our local PTPI organization and said that he would try to join one of the PTPI's chapters in Switzerland.

And the last but not the least. I have also learned very many things about educational system in Switzerland. This truly historic and unforgettable visit to our beautiful state of Arizona has not just been an important educational and musical event; it has also advanced Peace through Understanding.

Yefim Toybin, PTPI-AZ Chapter Board Member



Roger Trottman

*Dear PTPI-AZ Board,*

*Thank you for the opportunity to share our life with Gospeltrain. Our family was blessed by the Swiss Choir of Gospeltrain along with the many participating Arizona State Wide Churches that we visited. This experience opened our world to new possibilities within the global community of sharing life styles, hopes/dreams, and cultures. Without the People to People invitation to volunteer as a host family, we would not have made the heart to heart friendship with Samuel and Isabella Dossegger that we now have. We have a life long connection that would not have been possible without People to People.*



*Thanks,  
Vicki Bergstrom, PTPI-AZ Chapter Member*

We would like  
To THANK YOU

Kent & Teresa  
Miller

Kiana Sears

Vicki Bergstrom

Yefim Toybin

For Hosting  
Members of the  
Swiss Choir!

# NEW BOARD MEMBERS



## DAVID ROSS APPLETON

Born in St. Louis, MO and raised in rural Southern Illinois, I attended Brandeis University in Boston for undergraduate studies and graduated magna cum laude with a degree in political science. I attended Northwestern University Law School in Chicago and, after obtaining my Juris Doctor degree, I practiced criminal defense law for five years with a prominent criminal defense firm in downtown Chicago.

I relocated to Phoenix, AZ in 1983 and have practiced in the areas of criminal and civil litigation since that time. I was on the Board of Directors of the Phoenix Trial Lawyers Association from 1984 until 1998, and served as President from 1989 through 1990.

I have a great interest in international relations and politics and, of course, enjoy traveling to many different countries.

I also have a great affinity for animals. I served on the Board of Directors of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of Arizona and the Arizona Animal Welfare League from 1999 until 2007. And, contrary to the notion that attorneys are “sharks,” I have not eaten any animals since 1995.



## TATIANA SHCHERBININA

Originally from Northern Russia, I came to the US around two years ago. I hold an M.A. in Linguistics, Translation and Interpretation. Currently I work as a freelance Russian-English interpreter/translator and as a contractual court interpreter for the Arizona Trial Courts.

I am a professional member of the American Translator’s Association, the Arizona Court Interpreters Association and the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East-European languages for whom I’ve written papers and made presentations at AATSEEL-AZ Chapter conferences.

I first heard of People to People International when I was hired to interpret for the Russian Delegation in October of 2008. I found this to be such a memorable and rewarding experience that in March of 2009 I joined the Board of People to People International – AZ Chapter as director of Public Relations.

I am looking forward to working with People to People in anticipation of our chapter’s hosting of the annual International conference here in Phoenix 2010.

I love rock-n-roll, cycling and the etymology of words!

**The board was pleased to award scholarships to five Student Ambassadors in 2009. The scholarships totaled \$4200, as three of them were matched by PTPI in Kansas City, MO.**

**Congratulations!**

**Danielle Gentile  
Rebecca Sasnett  
Gentry Evans  
Amanda Rohr  
Gabriella Ortiz**

**Members are invited to apply for both scholarships and grants.**

The local chapter provides ways for students to earn money for their trips. All the needed information on fund raising can be found on line at [www.ptpia.org](http://www.ptpia.org). We invite you to go on line and see if you are interested. You can contact one of the people listed with the different fund raisers or Diane Davis at [dianedavis@qwest.net](mailto:dianedavis@qwest.net) or 602-863-9523.



*This past year has been my most rewarding and memorable one ever. Traveling with People to People has been such a life changing experience for me. Because of this student ambassador program, I have had the opportunity to see the most amazing places. My program traveled to Ireland, Wales, England, Belgium, Netherlands, and France. It is hard to express the impact this has had on me since I returned.*

*In Ireland, we went on a jaunty car ride through the Gap of Dunloe. I have never seen such a beautiful place! Right alongside you are flowing streams and huge, rocky mountains. The water is sparkling from the sunlight and reflecting off of the mountain. All of that plus, you are in a carriage pulled by a horse. On my trip I was instructed to write in a journal each night. A quote from my journal from that day is, "It was an unbelievable, magnificent, and spectacular site!"*

*Another incredible activity that I did was abseiling off of a castle wall in Wales. It was exhilarating! You catch your breath as you first step over the edge, but then you become confident and the excitement grows. I could hear the people on the ground cheering me on. When I reached the ground, I thought, "Wow! I did this!"*

*In England, we went to Warwick Castle. There, we had training in sword combat. The instructors were dressed in medieval clothes and at times you could feel what it must have been like hundreds of years ago at Warwick Castle. It was such a fun experience to walk the halls of the castle and explore the beautiful grounds.*

*I have always dreamed of being in France, eating escargot, and seeing the Eiffel Tower. This trip made that dream come true. The memory that is so clear to me is when we first drove into Paris, far off in the distance, I could see the Eiffel Tower. I will never forget that moment.*

*In addition to these amazing sites, we also saw such famous places as the Louvre, the Tower of London, The London Eye, the beaches of Normandy, the hiding place of Anne Frank, and the Arc de Triomphe. We rode bikes in Amsterdam, took sailing lessons in England, and ate chocolate in Belgium. This was truly the experience of a lifetime.*



*If you are considering joining a People to People program, don't let that opportunity pass you by. I worked very hard all year long in order to participate and it was worth every bit of effort I put into it. My memories will last a lifetime.*

*Best Wishes,  
Gentry Evans*