



# Newsletter



Greater Phoenix, Arizona Chapter (GPAC)  
Summer 2010

## Inside This Issue

- 1 Mark Your Calendars
- 1-2 Educational/Humanitarian Initiative 2010 to Peru
- 3 New Board Members
- 4 Scholarship Recipients
- Operation International Children
- 5 Youth Group
- 6 Where Are They NOW?
- 7 Meet the Diplomat Program
- 8 PTPI 19<sup>th</sup> Worldwide Conference
- 9 Upcoming Travel Opportunities

## Letter from the President

The dog days of summer are here but the Greater Phoenix PTPI is not sitting in the shade. We have been very busy in many areas. We have welcomed several new Board of Directors members who are highlighted in this newsletter and we are actively preparing for the PTPI 19<sup>th</sup> Worldwide Conference which will be held in Scottsdale from September 29 until October 3, 2010. We are very proud to be hosting this Convention in Scottsdale.



Dave Appleton,  
PTPI GPAC President

For those of you who are internet savvy, you will enjoy checking out our new website at [www.ptpiaaz.org](http://www.ptpiaaz.org).

We are also making plans for three sponsored trips in the summer of 2011: Italy/Greece, The Baltic States and Russia. All members are welcome to participate in these trips. Ya'll join us!

Dave Appleton

## Educational/Humanitarian Initiative 2010



School in Urubamba, Peru where delegates brought breakfast and gifts for the students



Peruvian mother, child and teddy bear



## In Peru by Pat Clark

For years I have been tempted by the wonderful travel opportunities offered by PTPI International, so when the Educational and Humanitarian Initiative to Peru was presented, I decided now was the time. I had been fascinated by Peru and the Land of the Incas since studying South America in college. This tour included many of the areas I have wanted to see and a unique opportunity to interact with the Peruvians.

We visited many famous sites including Cusco, Machu Picchu, the Nazca Lines and the Ballestas Islands. The group also toured a commercial farm, had textile and pottery demonstrations and even attended a Peruvian cooking class (I ate more than I cooked). One of the highlights for me was while visiting the Incan ruins at Sacsayhuaman a Shaman performed a blessing ceremony for our group.

Because the mission of the trip was educational and humanitarian we were treated to lunch with the Cusco Lions Club who sponsor a children's lunch program and provide medical and dental care. PTPI International presented the Lions Club with a donation to continue their important program. We also visited a rural school in Cacchiccata where we gave the children breakfast, school supplies and a new computer printer. In Lima we went to the US Embassy and heard from embassy personnel about their mission in Peru. Besides promoting trade agreements between the US and Peru, the embassy is involved in finding alternatives to coca cultivation and supporting Peruvian cultural preservation. We also were able to attend a dinner with members of the Lima PTPI Chapter a few of whom plan to be at the September Worldwide Conference.

Each day of our trip was filled with wonderful experiences including first rate accommodations and incredibly knowledgeable tour guides. I made many new friends among my fellow delegates and hope to see them again in future adventures. Someday, I hope you all have a chance to take a similar trip.

## New Board Members



### **PAT CLARK**

Retired as a consultant from a failure analysis laboratory, Pat is a resident of Mesa, AZ. She not only works part time at The Arizona Museum of Natural History, but is also involved with All-Star Kids Tutoring, Arizona Quest for Kids, and a homebound program through the Mesa Public Library. One of her hobbies is blacksmithing. She is a board member and the librarian for the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association. Pat became involved with PTPI through a friend and has hosted teenagers from Italy and a public official from Russia. She recently went on a PTPI Humanitarian trip to Peru and previously was a delegate on an adult trip to several eastern European countries organized by the PTPI Greater Phoenix Arizona Chapter (GPAC).

### **JOAN WARD**



Chairperson for Hospice of the Valley Tea & Fashion Show May 2010. Volunteer at HOV White Dove Thrift Shoppe, Treasurer of Union Jack Chapter of Daughters of the British Empire, Social Chairperson for Who's Who Married, Her personal activities include: Teaching cooking classes, Gardening, Renovating older homes and Traveling. Her Past positions: Speech Language Pathologist at Phoenix Regional Medical Center Private Practice SLP, Fashion Department Manager-Hudson Bay Company, Credit Manager with Sears, Teller Supervisor-Bank of Nova Scotia. Joan holds an M.S. in Communication Disorders, a B. A. in Fine Arts, along with a two year culinary certificate.



### **ANNETTE FRANKEL**

Working in Airline public relations for 36 years, now retired Annette has participated in the Sky Harbor Air Ambassador program and is a Hospice of the Valley volunteer. She has extensive world travel experience and a life time interest in world affairs and other cultures.

### **ARMANDO BRAS**

Armando has served on numerous boards and commissions in both Wisconsin and Arizona including Milwaukee Global Affairs Institute and recently served as the Director of International Trade & Investment for the Arizona Department of Commerce.



### **MITCHEL ALLEN-RIVERA**

Mitchel Allen-Rivera has been involved with PTPI almost his entire life. He first helped his family host international guests when he was only 6 years old. He has traveled to both Northern and Southern Europe with Greater Phoenix, Arizona Chapter delegations. His involvement with the community includes mentoring a student in the Arizona Quest for Kids Program as well as serving as the Coordinator for the Youth Group of this chapter. Allen-Rivera holds a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University and currently works for the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) attracting business to the valley.



### **ADELE BECKWITH**

A Pacific Northwest resident and graduate of Washington State University, Adele moved to the Valley 17 years ago. With her interests focused on humanitarian efforts through her church and volunteer positions such as Make A Wish Foundation and ASKT (All Star Kids Tutoring), PTPI is a natural next step. She has spent 16 years in financial services and is a Certified Mediator and Certified Transformational Life Coach.



## Scholarship Recipients

*BRYSON BARTELL* (one of this year's Greater Phoenix AZ Chapter (GPAC) scholarship recipients) has been active with his Student Ambassador group. He invited the Mayor of Paradise Valley, Vernon Parker to speak at one of the Student Ambassador meetings. Mayor Parker spoke to the group of Students about never giving up when they are told they 'can't' do something. It is a message that all of us can take to heart.

Bryson worked at a Health Fair hosting a booth of drinks and healthy snacks. He had the sale to raise funds for his trip and to promote People to People. He hopes that other young people will become interested in participating in People to People Programs.

### **SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2010**

Students received a total of \$4000 for travel with the Student Ambassador program. Recipients were Ryan Grady – Tempe; Kelsey Hancock – Gilbert; Bryson Bartell – Phoenix; Alexis Murphy – Mesa; Danicke Van Eck – Phoenix; Whitney Bergstrom - Litchfield Park



Bryson Bartell and Mayor Parker

## Half-Ton of School Supplies Collected for Operation International Children

**DIANE DAVIS – Operation International Children (OIC)**

**Operation International Children** (formerly Operation Iraqi Children) is a grass-roots program founded in early 2004 by actor Gary Sinise and author Laura Hillenbrand. Sinise and Hillenbrand created OIC to give concerned Americans a way to reach out to war-stricken Iraqi children and support American troops in their efforts to assist them.

Since its inception, OIC has delivered nearly 275,000 school supply kits, along with more than half a million toys and thousands of Arabic-language books, shoes, blankets, backpacks and sets of sports equipment, all of which have been distributed to Iraqi and Afghan children by our troops. While we remain committed to our work in Iraq, OIC has expanded its mission, sending school supplies to Afghanistan and other nations, where American troops are distributing them to children in need. In the future, we will continue to broaden our efforts across the world.

Student Ambassadors from all over Arizona collected over 300 school kits, backpacks and stuffed animals, over 1000 lbs, of school supplies. Diane Davis and her husband Bill, spent many hours removing unneeded packaging, putting the school supply kits together, and then packing those into boxes for shipping to Kansas City where they will then be sent overseas and distributed by our servicemen and women.

Thank you **Diane Davis**, Student Ambassador Leaders, and Student Ambassadors! And to Freight Corner, LLC, for giving us a great deal on shipping! Children from around the world will benefit from your generosity.

For more information or to donate go to <http://www.ptpi.org/OIC.aspx>.



Diane Davis and friend loading boxes



Gary Sinise, US soldier & local leaders



OIC/PTPI School kits bring smiles to students' faces



## Youth Group Volunteers

*Mitchel Allen-Rivera*

Pat's Run is a yearly run/walk in memory of Arizona Cardinals' late player Pat Tillman

who passed away in 2004 after being deployed to Iraq. This year's run, April 17, 2010, had the biggest turn-out ever with 29,000+ people signed up to participate. They have separate runs for both adults and children. Adults and students from the PTPI Greater Phoenix, AZ Chapter donated 36 total hours of their time to contribute to the foundation!

On April 24, 2010 students from the Greater Phoenix People to People Chapter participated in the 'Machan Community, Clean and Green' program to help clean our neighboring community.

If you are interested in becoming a part of People to People's adult or youth group Chapter, please feel free to contact Mitchel Allen-Rivera [mallen@ptpiaz.org](mailto:mallen@ptpiaz.org). Please visit our website at [www.ptpiaz.org](http://www.ptpiaz.org) for additional information or join us on Facebook under PTPI Greater Phoenix, Arizona Chapter.

## Youth Group Chapter Delegation to travel to Italy and Greece - Summer 2011

The Youth Group has chosen its destination for the summer of 2011. They will be traveling to Italy and Greece for three weeks, including a homestay in Milan and meeting PTPI Florence Chapter members. These opportunities provide a starting place for lifelong friendships with members from other PTPI Chapters. Delegates will attend monthly meetings and actively participate in the PTPI-AZ Youth Group program prior to travel. If you are interested in being a part of this journey, contact [mallen@ptpiaz.org](mailto:mallen@ptpiaz.org) for more information.



Photo below: GPAC Chapter Delegate on left with four Italian friends in Milan.



## Where Are They NOW?

We have seen many young people over the last 15 years travel with People to People. We are beginning a series to follow up with alumni and see how the experience with PTPI has influenced their lives.

Deanna Dent traveled with the Greater Phoenix, Arizona Chapter to Northern Europe in 2000 when she was 15 years old. Our small delegation traversed Northern Europe from Tallinn, Estonia, to St. Petersburg, Russia and on to Scandinavia. We had the opportunity to stay with families in Estonia, Russia and Denmark. It was a wonderful trip, where we all learned about each other, our hosts and their countries and cultures.

Today Deanna continues to explore the world and make friends, one person at a time. After graduating from Arizona State University with a double major in Journalism and Photography, she decided to expand her international understanding by working in Africa. She is currently teaching English in the Sudan. Upon completion of her work teaching English, she will work with AIDS education as a Peace Corp volunteer as she continues living and working in Africa.

You can follow her adventures and learn more about her by joining us on [Facebook - Ptpi Greater Phoenix](#) or <http://deannadentphotography.wordpress.com/2010/05/01/desaturated-sudan/>.



Deanna and a Sudanese friend



AZ delegates in St. Petersburg 6.24.2000



SUDANESE BRIDE photo by Deanna Dent

If you were influenced by your experiences with People to People or know someone who was, and would like to share their story and answer the question, "Where are they now?" Please contact Adele Beckwith [abeckwith@ptpia.org](mailto:abeckwith@ptpia.org).

## Bulgarian Ambassador to the USA Hosted by Greater Phoenix Arizona Chapter

In November 2009, the Greater Phoenix AZ Chapter hosted Ambassador Latchezar Petkov and his wife Silvia Petkova as part of People to People's Meet the Diplomat program.

Upon their arrival, they were given an overview of the Phoenix area followed by a visit to Channel 5 and a happy hour at McCormick & Schmick's where they met GPAC members.

During their visit, they were the guests of Dave Appleton, GPAC Board President. The weekend Dave and Yefim Toybin gave them a personalized tour of Northern Arizona highlighted by the Grand Canyon, Montezuma's Castle, and Sedona. Upon their return Sunday afternoon they were given a welcoming reception organized by Nadia Milchew of the Bulgarian community and our own board member Yefim Toybin. This reception was open to all PTPA members.



Monday was added to the original program in order to give them some exposure to cultural and economic development prospects of interest. We began the morning with a breakfast at the University

Club arranged by Armando Bras, Director of International Trade and Investment for the Arizona Department of Commerce. Following breakfast, we diverged into two different itineraries to address the Ambassador and his wife's special interests.

Ambassador Petkov was given the opportunity to meet with members of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council facilitated by Mitchel Allen. This was followed by an informative visit to the Salt River Project arranged by their International Specialist, Cheryl Crame. Here we were shown a film giving information on the history and importance of SRP as the main source of water and power in the region's growth. Following the film, we met specialists who provided technical information and answered questions regarding SRP programs.

While Ambassador Petkov was engaged in meetings with GPEC and SRP, Silvia Petkova, an actress and filmmaker, was taken to the Scottsdale Community College School of the Performing Arts and Production School by Margaret DuBois and Annette Frankel. The SCC program was hosted by Therese Tendick, Director of International Education. Later, they visited the Scottsdale Art District, Scottsdale Fashion Square. A happy hour for GPAC members to meet the Ambassador and his wife ended the day.

Members are invited to such events, so remember to allow emails from @ptpia.org on your email settings.



Left to right: Dave Appleton, Reyn & Margaret DuBois, Ambassador Petkov, Silvia Petkova, Ruth Allen, Mitchel Allen-Rivera, Yefim Toybin

Learn what the Greater Phoenix Arizona Chapter has done and keep up with events and activities on our website [www.ptpia.org](http://www.ptpia.org)



## PTPI's 19th Worldwide Conference

### Scottsdale, Arizona

### September 29 – October 03, 2010

**People to People International's (PTPI) Worldwide Conference** brings the true spirit of the organization to life. Members and friends from around the world meet face-to-face to learn about each other's cultures, discuss important international issues, hear from high-caliber speakers and be a part of PTPI's humanitarian initiatives. It provides a backdrop for members to network, share ideas and cultivate new friendships. Educational sessions, social events, cultural activities and humanitarian projects are the basic elements of every Worldwide Conference. PTPI's Worldwide Conference is geared for adults 18 years of age and older. To register go to [www.ptpi.org](http://www.ptpi.org).

We are proud to present **Interactive and educational sessions** with:

- **Andrew Revkin**, former environmental journalist for *The New York Times* who in our Opening Ceremony keynote ~ *ONE WORLD: Preserving the Future*
- **Aziz Abu Sarah** and **Kobi Skolnick** who join us from George Mason University and will engage us in a dialogue on global peace
- **Diane Brossart**, president of Valley Forward Association, who will lead a panel discussion on global sustainability along with a panel of experts including **Park Howell**, **Lori Singelton** and **Michael Dalrymple**.
- **Derrick Davis**, five-time world hoop dancer champion, who will provide an introduction to the Native American culture through dance, song and storytelling
- The *Heart of a Humanitarian General Session* will be a fascinating look at two local organizations making a difference on a daily basis. We are excited to have Café Justo and Humane Borders share their approaches to the immigration issue. In addition, we will be given an update on PTPI's Global Landmine Initiative with The HALO Trust.
- **Special Guests will be :** **Cindy McCain** – recipient of PTPI's President's Award, and **Zenani Nosizwe Dlamini & Zindziswa Nobutho Mandela** who will accept PTPI's Eisenhower Medallion award on behalf of their father **President Nelson Mandela**.

### MEMBERS ARE ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND THE AMERICA'S REGION SESSION

Wednesday, September 29, 2010 from 1:30 - 5:00 pm

Please join your region (Americas, Europe, Asia/Pacific, Africa/Middle East) for an afternoon focusing on PTPI's Community Chapter network.

There is no fee to attend this meeting! Your participation is encouraged.



## UPCOMING TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

### Summer of 2011 Baltic Countries Chapter to Chapter Trip

**Join us as we travel to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.** We will have the unique opportunity of being hosted by families in all three countries, while visiting the historical cities of Tallinn and Viljandi, Estonia, Riga, Latvia and Klaipeda, Lithuania. We will also visit Vilnius, Lithuania. This is an exceptional opportunity to make friends with local people, while exploring the beauty and history of these Baltic cities, countryside and shores. Dates are tentatively set for the last two weeks in June of 2011. It is open to members ages 14 through adult. Adults will also be able to extend this travel opportunity and join the land portion of our other planned trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia. If you are interested in being part of this journey contact [ruta1@ptpiaz.org](mailto:ruta1@ptpiaz.org).



### Best of Russia; Historic & Cultural Exploration

#### Moscow and St. Petersburg, June 30 – July 10, 2011.

Join our all inclusive and small group trip to the Russian Federation. See the river panoramic tour of Moscow, Red Square & the Kremlin, St. Basil Cathedral, Peterhof Palace, Peter the Great's summer palace, Hermitage, panoramic tour of St. Petersburg, the vast St. Isaacs Cathedral and much more. **Russia**, the world's largest and perhaps least understood country, definitely deserves the visit of any inquisitive, adventurous person, for a short history- and museum-heavy trip through Moscow and St. Petersburg's cultural treasures. **Moscow**, capital and largest city of Russia, is also the largest metropolitan area in Europe. Historically, it was the capital of the former Soviet Union, Russian Empire, Tsardom of Russia and the Grand Duchy of Moscow. It is the site of the Moscow Kremlin, one of the World Heritage Sites in the city, which serves as the residence of the President of Russia. **Saint Petersburg** is often described as the most Western city of Russia. The Historic Center of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments constitute a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Russia's political and cultural center for 200 years, the city is sometimes referred to in Russia as the northern capital.

For more information contact [ytoybin@ptpiaz.org](mailto:ytoybin@ptpiaz.org).

