

# Newsletter

for People to People Europe

May 1996

*Dear friends,*

Last year in Tallinn it was our hope and expectation that many representatives from the European Chapters would attend the coming European Conference in Pécs, Hungary. At that time we considered Pécs a place easy to reach from most Europeans. The reactions we have got on our circular letter made us believe that something has changed in Europe as far as People to People activity is concerned. This positive change- not at least thanks to the efforts of our Board members, who I herewith want to thank for all the voluntary work they have done for People to People Europe during the last year.

Maybe some of you do think that not enough attention has been given to you and your chapter. You are right. But please consider that it is impossible for a few volunteers to look after 30 Chapters in Europe. On the other hand all requests, questions or wishes have been honored or given

attention to by the board as far as I can judge. As I stated already several times, the work has to be done and should start in each individual. The past has taught us that a chapter once established will die very soon without activities and people, who are willing to do a lot of work to initiate and work out plans. It can not be true that anybody expects a board of volunteers to make programs for each individual chapter. Nevertheless I believe that we are on the right track. Finally I want to express my sincere hope and look forward to see all of you on the European Conference in Pécs.



*Huizen in April*

*Jules H. Janssen*

*President People to People Europe*

## **International Project coordinator for Europe**

Ray Russell was recently appointed PTPI International Project Coordinator for Europe. He will be working with the People to People Headquarters in Kansas City and with PtP Europe to develop chapter activities and special projects. Ray also organises internships and academic programs to Germany for PTPI.

In 1971 Ray and his wife Lucy, a musician, came to Europe on a German Academic Exchange Grant

and never left. For the past 15 years Ray has been teaching history and international relations with American universities in Europe, while Lucy has practiced her profession as instructor of harpsichord and music history at the Würzburg, German Conservatory of Music and as a performer. They both look forward to getting to know and cooperating with more PTP members this year.

## **Invitation and welcome to Nitra**

The University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia and local PtP chapter, in close cooperation with the NGO educational institution the Bridges for Education (Buffalo, USA) are preparing the Intensive summer school of English language. The course will be held in Nitra and mostly young people (university and high school students), English teachers and other professionals will participate.

All participants will be divided into small groups (5-8 people) according their language proficiency. It means the basic command of English would be sufficient to join this project.

The university and local PtP chapter would be glad to host several young people from all over the world, who are interested in this type of program and educational activity.

The summer school will start at the beginning of June and will last 20 days. The price per participant, recommended by their local chapters and accepted via PtP will be 350 USD (including full room and board and others needed services). Accommodation will be provided at our University dormitory.

All those seriously interested in this project could ask for an additional information at our University via our e-mail ([kabat@uniag.sk](mailto:kabat@uniag.sk)) or fax: +42 87511-593 (Mrs. G. Palsova).. There is no final deadline, but limited number of places.

Ladislav Kabat

President of the Local PtP Chapter  
Rector, University of Agriculture in Nitra

## People to People is practical experience

*Ellen Hohl has been a member of PTP since 1984, when a neighbor of her asked if she could take care of a Japanese girl for some days. This spring many trips and homestays later she completed her term as president for the Zürich/Ostschweiz chapter. This is some of her thoughts on People to People and what it has given her.*

### **Rethink about your own cultural values**

Since my youngest daughter still was living at home I said I could host a young girl. I was however concerned that I would make "mistakes", since I have only seen Japanese tourists on the central station in Zürich - and then of course all carrying cameras. There were in the beginning some obstacles for the shy girls to talk with each other. Yet, after a short while we all talked about various interesting things in Japan and Switzerland. We also noticed how we were laughing at the same things. The two girls went shopping, toured the countryside with bus and boat and taught each other knitting and cooking. As the time for departure came, our guest didn't want to leave. Instead of visiting the other chapters, she stayed an additional five days.

Since that occasion I have always tried to host guests when there has been groups here. Actually guests may not only teach you things about their origin, but makes you also rethink about yourself and your cultural and historical values. I find this an important aspect of the People to People aim.

### **Animate**

In 1989 I was asked to be the president of our chapter, which was founded a year earlier. I must say that I didn't seek that position since I was quite busy in other organisations, have a minor handicap and that it was a long time since I practiced my English. Yet, I didn't want to let our members down and I thought that the idea of PTP is very good.

The task as a chapter president is, as I see it, to "animate". With this I mean that many people maybe think that they know a lot of others, but still they have not come close enough. They need to be encouraged to get *practical experience*. This of course means that you have to give up your *valuable free time* and instead share it with someone else. The reward however I think can be

seen in the tear-filled eyes at the train station on departure day: from crying and happy smiling.

To inform others about the happenings of PTP is an other important task for the president. This includes not only members, hostfamilies but also the local newspapers as groups visit. In this way you ensure that the name PTP keeps its good image.

### **Certificate of Appreciation**

As president I have only had good experiences. It maybe has been difficult at times, but it has all worked out - with help from chapter members. A chapter is only as good as its members.

A chapter benefits if you can get people of different ages. For some to take full part in an exchange you need however to be of some age. The too young cannot understand and appreciate the homestay arrangements. The same thing with too large groups.

People to People will live on. We need however not only people that have good ideas, but also able to turn them into reality. In today's society there is a risk of alienation, which needs to be stopped.

Both through hosting guests and trips to other countries I have made friendship with many people. I value this very high and don't want to trade it for anything - and Akiko still writes now and then.

A special occasion was for me in March this year as I received the "Certificate of Appreciation for valuable contributions to the cause of international understanding" from PTP International by President William Jarvis.

A special thanks to all members and hostfamilies. And to everybody I would like to invite you to Switzerland and Zürich.

*Ellen Hohl  
Gossau, Switzerland*

### **Newsletter for PTP Europe**

Any written contribution is highly appreciated. The Newsletter is distributed to each national chapter. It may be redistributed within the chapters to members and non members.

**Editor: Lars Poignant, Skolvägen 6, 121 32 Enskededalen, Sweden**

**+46 8 648 5412 (home tel. & fax)**

**+46 8 713 44 81 (office)**

**Internet: [Lars\\_Poignant@mail.amsinc.com](mailto:Lars_Poignant@mail.amsinc.com)**

### **People to People - what is it and how do I become a member?**

People to People is a non profit organisation founded in 1956. It consists of chapters in different countries, which all are very independent. They all however try to promote understanding of different cultures and countries through exchange of ideas and experiences directly among people.

## European conference in Pécs, Hungary 30 May - 2 June

At this moment there are some 50 participants registered for the conference in Pécs from various European countries. There could be room for more. For those that still have not registered and want to come, there is still room for a few. Please get in contact with Corinne Farid.

The conference is for all of PtP Europe and a forum for getting ideas and starting new projects. Any thoughts on the present or future structure of the organisation could be discussed. There have been already some suggestions on what we will discuss such as coordination of homestay groups, youth and chapter development. At the conference we will also decide about next year's conference. Tadeusz

Grabowiecki suggests that we come to Gliwice, Poland (see below).

Last year PtP Denmark decided to leave PtP Europe. This was very sad. Maybe it is time to try to get all chapters of Europe into PtP Europe.

Ruth Weber, our treasure lets us know that the membership fee, 1 Swiss franc per member, should be paid to our bank account: Swiss Bank Corporation, Bärenplatz 8, 3001 Bern, People to People Europe, 90-214 7780. To make money transfer easier, the fee could also be paid at the conference in Pécs directly to Ruth.

## Next year's European conference - proposal from Gliwice, Poland

Tadeusz Grabowiecki invites the European chapters for the annual conference 1997. The conference would be held at the Silesian Technical University, which has good facilities.

The university hotel can accommodate up to 90 participants at the price (university sponsored) from 8 to 16 USD per night. More participants can be accommodated with families, at a student hostel and in hotels. There are small conference rooms in the university hotel (up to 40 people) while there is a number of lecture rooms at the university for up to 350 people. Gliwice is very conveniently located. It can be easily reached by road, rail and air.

We can offer an interesting tourist program, including;

1. Sightseeing of Gliwice, one of the oldest Polish cities (over 700 years old) with the old zinc and

silver mine, rowing a boat on the underground river of Black Trout adit, visit to working coal mine and medieval Wieliczka salt mine etc.

2. Religious monuments of the region (up to 70 km from Gliwice):
  - CzOmagastochowa, a spiritual capital of Poland and the most popular pilgrimage place in Central Europe
  - Visit to Auschwitz and Birkenau, Nazis concentration camps (50 km from Gliwice)
3. Krakow (110 km east of Gliwice) with royal castle, old city, medieval university (second oldest in Central Europe), former Jewish district and innumerable medieval and Renaissance monuments.

### Coming events

May 31	European Conference in <b>Pécs, Hungary</b>
June 7	26th Anniversary, <b>Brussels, Belgium</b>
June 22	40th Anniversary Commemorative Dinner, <b>Kansas City, USA</b>
June 23 - 24	The Road to Peace: A PtP Retrospective Seminar, Abilene, <b>Kansas, USA</b>
September 25-28	Worldwide Conference, <b>California, USA</b>

### Internet

Both PtP Europe and PtP International have websites. In Europe Dr Tadeusz Grabowiecki and Justyna Dziurma maintains the homepage on a server at the Silesian Technical University in Gliwice, Poland.

PtP Europe:

<http://www.polsl.gliwice.pl/ngo/index.html>

PtP International: <http://www.ptp.org/>

### Junior Ambassador Program

Each year the Junior Ambassador Program lets American high school students visit Europe. In 1996 there will be over 120 groups coming with 35 students in each. Most groups go to the British Isles, but quite a few to Denmark. Other countries are France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Sweden and the Netherlands. The groups travel for 21 days mainly in June and July.

## National and Chapter Reports

### **Belarus**

Oleg Gotalski reports that members from the chapter will go to Germany and the Netherlands in late April. Special thanks have been extended to Marianne Borth, Hans Dieter Robel and Jules Jansen for their time and care in order to among other things get documents for the trip.

### **Belgium**

The Belgian Chapter in Brussels invites you to the 26th anniversary dinner dance on Friday June 7 at Hilton "Plein Ciel". Price: 1950 BF for members and 2100 for non members. Deadline June 6. Please contact Mrs Denise Maurice.

### **England**

From Chester it is reported that two or three fund raising activities will take place this year. This in order to extend the participation in the world wide work of PTP.

### **Estonia**

Olga Ganzen reports on several projects. First we want to congratulate Elana Doroleeva from Tallinn, who received scholarship to attend the 1996 Worldwide Conference In California for her project on Annual Youth Conflict Resolution Conference.

Together with PTPI, the chapter plans to set up a "Centre for Social and International Studies" in Estonia. The primary objective is the cohancement of international tolerance and understanding through education and cooperative exchanges.

The "Democracy School" continues. It just had a workshop in Sillamae for teachers, who will go to Denmark in June for additional seminars.

Every Thursday the "Travel Club for Teenagers" meet. There are different lectures, meetings with artists, musicians, historians and others. They discuss the possibility to organise a series of conferences on conflict resolution.

### **Germany**

From **Marburg/Frankfurt** Gerd Neumann reports that they plan trips for senior citizens. This will be both for outgoing and incoming groups.

From **Berlin** Guido Arnold lets us know that they will have incoming guests from Sursee, Switzerland, New Zealand and visit Haderslev, Denmark. In the fall there is a trip planed for the Far East. Other planed activities is a mixed Danish-German youth exchange with Delaware, US. Berlin also has two sister chapters: Tallinn and Sursee and hopes to build up contacts with Milano, Italy and Israel. This means closer cooperation concerning special programs and exchanges in general.

The chapter also plans to organise a Conference on Germany in Berlin.

### **Italy**

In late July a large group of little league baseball consisting of four teams and will tour Rome, Milan, Rimini, Florence and Venice. The visit is organised by PtP Sports.

### **Poland**

In May a group will visit the chapter in Berlin. The intention is to host guests from Berlin in the beginning of October. A special project is to let the Academic Musical Ensemble of the Silesian technical University (choir and orchestra) give concerts in various countries. The first stop will be 10 days in Estonia in August. Later on in Germany and maybe a trip to USA next year. Justyna Dziurma knows more.

Tadeusz Grabowiecki reports that in May the chapter will host six people from AUDEM (Alliance of Universities for Democracy, an association of American and European Universities) including Dave Hake - president of AUDEM and vice-president of the Smoky Mountains PtP chapter. At the occasion Ray Russell will officially grant Gliwice chapter with a charter. PTPI and AUDEM organise a study tour to Central Europe. The purpose of the Study-Tour is to enhance the role of higher education, promoting common moral and social values by strengthening US and Central European AUDEM/PTPI relationship. The study tour will also include Slovakia, Hungary and Romania.

Gliwice chapter offered to prepare the Polish part of the so called Baltic Trip organized by Olga Ganzen.

### **Romania**

Bogdan Turlui reports that the City of Roman chapter now has 28 members. Last year a few members visited three American chapters; Chicago, Dallas and St Louis.

### **Russia**

The **Moscow** chapter will, as one of the co-sponsors of the International Children's Book Fair and the International Fair of Children in Moscow in September, arrange a special exposition of non-traditional children's books. Moreover, the chapter is setting up a number of special prizes for children books and announced a series of projects that can open new avenues in the field of publishing books for children. For more information, please contact Dr. Edward Ivanian.

The young chapter of **Sochi**, Russia has already shown remarkable activity. Three programs have been launched; the *Junior Achievement Program*

for high school students who want to expand their knowledge within applied economics, the *Itinerary Exchange Program*, which provides cultural exchange visits in Sochi and the *Sochi Artistic Program* for young musicians. Olga Demidova hopes to come to Pécs to tell us more.

### Scotland

It has been a quiet year for PtP Grangemouth, with only one group homestay arranged, James Reid reports. Eight members of Grangemouth's twin town of La Porte, Indiana (USA) were taken on a personally guided tour of Scotland by Bill Hodgson, the president, with a short homestay at the end of the tour.

At Christmas an outing to an adaptation of HC Andersen's *The Snow Queen* was arranged with 18 members and friends attending. Afterwards, we all adjourned to a local restaurant for 'en hyggelige aften'.

Obituaries: It is with deep regret that the Grangemouth chapter must report the deaths of

three of our members within the last 12 months. Many of you will have some tales or fond memories of these members. Margaret Hutchison (Peggy) 'A weel kent' face in PTP circles. Peggy was or oldest member. A visitor to many countries before travel was fashionable. William Logan (Bill): Many of the attendees of the World conference in Bern may remember Bill as he unfortunately took ill. Rena Mathieson: Another long outstanding member who took part in as many chapter activities as was possible.

### Switzerland

The chapters have been reorganised. The responsibilities of the national chapter have been overtaken by the four local chapters; Bern, Interlaken, Luzern and Zürich. At the annual meeting there were 40 participants enjoying a dinner party with international folklore music and dance.

In the beginning of May a group of 22 people from Estonia will visit all the Swiss chapters.

### Addresses for various chapters

CHAPTER	NAME	STREET	CITY	PHONE	FAX
Belarus/Gomel	Oleg Gotalski	47, Prospect October, Apt 53	Gomel 246029	+375 232 555 511	+375 232 531 051
Belgium/Brussels	Denise Maurice	29, Avenue Minerve, Box 27	1190 Brussels	+32 2 345 6854 h	+32 2 374 9635 f
Czech Republic	Jan Krofta	Kosmova 381-16	400 01 Usti n.L	+42 74(7) 669 24	+42 747 64361
England/Chester	Malcolm White	18 Cranford Court	Chester CH4 7LN	+44 1244 679191	
Estonia/Tallinn	Olga Ganzen	Virmalise 28/30-31	EE0001 Tallinn	+372 2 455 925 o	+372 2 441 955 f/o
Finland/Helsinki	Elsa Kortekansas	Palovartijante 61395	00750 Helsinki		
Germany/Berlin	Guido Arnold	Kopernikusstrasse 24	102 45 Berlin	+49 30 291 83 31	+49 30 294 63 76
Germany/Marburg	Gerd Neumann	Gorlitzer Weg 3	35039 Marburg	+49 6421 201243	+49 6421 201560 f
Hungary/Pécs	Corinne Farid	Avar Utca 33	H 7627 Pécs	+36 72 312 620	+36 72 312 536
Poland/Gliwice	Justyna Dziuła	ul. Akademicka 16	44-100 Gliwice	+48 32 371237 t	+48 32 372175 f
Poland/Gliwice	Tadeusz Grabowiecki	Pszczynska 42a/1	P 44100 Gliwice	+48 32 371 665 o	+48 32 372 225 f
PTP Interantional	Ray Russel	St Gallus Str 11	86459 Deubach	+49 8238 60086 t/f	+49 8238 60151 f
PTP International	PTPI	501 East Armour Boulevard	Kansas City, Missouri 64109	+1 816 531 4701 o	+1 816 561 7502 f
PTP Sports	Rand Milton	80 Cutter Mill Rd	Great Neck, NY. 11021	+1 516 482 3239 t	
Romania/City of Roman	Bogdan Turlui	Strada Bogdan Dragos , bl 5 ap27	5550 Roman	+40 33 722359 h	+40 33 724323 f
Russia/Moscow	Edward Ivanian	2/3 Khlebny Per.	121814 Moscow	+7 095 202 1477 t	+7 095 200 1207 f
Russia/St Petersburg	Natalja Alexeva	55 Schpalernaya	193124 St Petersburg	+7 812 276 1050 o	+7 812 326 6721 o
Russia/Sochi	Olga Demidova	2 Lenin Street, GUFPS, Box 26	354341 Sochi		
Scotland	James Reid	6 Cranshaws Drive, Redding	Falkirk FK2 9UY	+44 1324 712415	+44 1324 712415
Slovakia/Nitra	Ladislav Kabat	Jasna 7	949 01 Nitra	+42 87 511 152 o	+42 87 511 593 f/o
Sweden	Lars Poignant	Skolvägen 6	121 32 Enskededalen	+46 8 648 5412 h	+46 8 648 5412
Switzerl./Luzern	Ruth Weber	Sonnengasse 2	6210 Sursee	+41 41 921 14 56	+41 41 921 14 56
Switzerland/	Ellen Hohl	Grütstraße 2	8625 Gossau ZH	+41 1 935 32 55	
Netherl./Huizen	Jules Janssen	Morsestraat 2	NL 1276 GD Huizen	+31 35 52 54310	+31 35 52 54310 h
Ukraine/Odessa	Kelly Volak	Family Health Center, Sverdlova St 184	Odessa 270039		