

# Newsletter

for People to People Europe

December, 1997

## Dear Friends,

As the year comes to an end the last of the activities for People to People in Europe will be reported. Along with chapter reports, there is a report from the three day long Board meeting in Berlin in this issue of the Newsletter. At the PTPI Board of Trustees' meeting in Washington DC in September PTPE had eight members were present. Yet more than ten young European members were present at the Youth Conference held in parallel to the Trustees' meeting. We of course look forward to the young members join our chapters and attracting more friends for theirs as we will increase our outreach effort in 1998.

On behalf of the Board I would like to say thanks to all chapter officials and members and wish you all a successful 1998.

Lars Poignant,  
Secretary PTP Europe

## PTP Europe Board meeting in Berlin

In mid November PTP Europe had a three day Board meeting. The five person board was assisted by Peter Whitby, Regina Wälti, Hans-Dieter Robel and Claudia von Ellerts. The meeting resulted in quite a few commitment from the attendees. For the next six months a task plan with 27 items was compiled. In addition two new committees were formed – Chapter Development and Bylaws. Chapter development was discussed in length as the meeting found it important to not only initiate new chapters, but also help existing ones. During the meeting it was also decided to produce a set of documents to assist the Board and whole organisation in long term planning. The meeting minutes have been sent to all chapter presidents. Below is a summary of the meeting.

### **New committees: Chapter development and By-laws**

For increased chapter development a new committee was created with chapter advisers – *Chapter development committee*. The committee will keep in contact with chapters to communicate ideas, contacts and basic PTP values. Example of tasks for the new committee:

- Help new and existing chapters through a mentor system
- Make sure the chapter have documents and information
- Determine the standing of PTPE chapters
- Assist in chapter chartering
- Promote regional conference
- Ask non dues paying chapter to pay the fee and/or indicate whether they want to stay as a member chapter.

The committee will contact all chapters before March 1. Chairperson for the new chapter is Hans-Dieter Robel, Berlin.

A *Bylaws' committee* was formed to facilitate update of the bylaws. Ruth Weber was appointed as chairperson.

### **Resource Development**

The outline for a *PTPE Fund* could work was discussed. It was decided that:

- The Resource Development committee will recommend for approval *objects* for funding from PTPE fund. The committee should also formulate rules for contributing money to the European fund by defining how much different activities would contribute. 5 USD was suggested as a possible amount for each event.
- Funds will be available for all members of PTP Europe.
- The use of the money will be decided by the PTPE Board.
- Funds should be given no earlier than at the World Wide Conference in Chester (October 1998).

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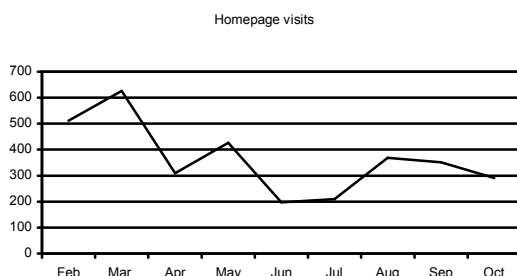


## Committee reports

### PR committee

Since November there is a *PTPE brochure* for all chapters. It describes PTP in Europe and is aimed for presenting the organisation for new members, organisations, guests or host families. Many thanks to develop the brochure and special thanks to Marek Sadowski, who helped printing the brochure in Gliwice. The brochure has already been distributed to some chapters. It will be available free of charge for all chapters. Please contact Lars Poignant.

Since February 1st the PTP Europe *Internet Homepage* has been visited 3383 times Justyna Dziurma reports. The homepage is open for all chapters to have information included.



Number of visits to the PTP Europe Homepage since February

Currently the PR committee discusses if and how to introduce a *discussion list*, which would be open to both members and non member. Many organisations have discussion lists on various topics. A "discussion list" is something like the main square of the city,

where people come, can listen and talk. Still access to Internet is required in order to join the discussion.

### Resource Development

The PTP Europe and PTPI fundraising campaign move on. *Olga Ganzen* and *Daniel Schaubacher* reported to the PTPI Resource Development committee last month. Here are some abstracts;

PTP Europe shall identify *contact people* in each country for resource development before February 1, 1998. These people together with Resource Development Committee will try to establish regional (Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Central Europe) training programs and they will help in regional fund-raising network.

The Resource Development Committee will create a *handbook for fund-raising*, including information about funds that available, tips and explanations on writing winning proposal, list of contacts.

### Youth committee

Miriam Troxler, Youth Co-ordinator, currently compiles a list of all youth programs in Europe. She also would like to get in contact with youth co-ordinators from all PTPE chapters for program development and/or to serve on the youth committee. Please contact Miriam for chapter updates.

## PTP Europe Board members

The PTP Europe Board consists of five members, who are all elected on a two year term. In 1998, there will be no elections. Yet the organisation currently seeks a replacement for Lars Poignant, as he now is a staff person of PTPI.

*Olga Ganzen*, president, comes from Estonia and is president of PTP Tallinn. She was elected in Gliwice 1997. Prior she was Youth Co-ordinator/Youth Committee chairperson. Olga works within the travel industry, but seeks opportunities to set up an international centre in Tallinn.

*Lars Poignant*, secretary, Sweden, was elected in first in Tallinn 1995 and re-elected in Gliwice in 1997. He has been a long time active member and currently pres-



ident in the Stockholm chapter. Lars has worked as business consultant, but is now staff person of PTP International.

*Ruth Weber*, treasurer, Luzern Switzerland, was elected in first in Tallinn 1995 and re-elected in Gliwice 1997. Ruth is president of the Luzern chapter. She works as a controller of a local company in the Luzern area.

*Miriam Troxler*, youth co-ordinator, Luzern Switzerland, was elected in Gliwice 1997. She attended the PTP International youth conference in Washington DC and looks forward to promote youth programs and expand the youth committee work. Miriam will soon finish her law studies.

*Justyna Dziurma*, PR officer, Gliwice Poland, was elected in Pécs Hungary 1996. Justyna maintains the PTPE Internet homepage. Justyna is also an active choir singer and led during the summer of 1997 a 80 person musical tour. Justyna works and studies at the Sicilian Technical University in Gliwice.

### 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.

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## How We Do It

### Pre-Departure Orientations Before cross-cultural Experience

During the European conference in Gliwice I suggested to set up partnership between Youth for Understanding International Exchange--Ukraine (YFU Ukraine) and People to People International. I envisioned one of the aspects of this partnership to be the exchange of information and experience between PTP and YFU. I plan to start with this short essay a series of articles "How We Do It" where I will share the YFU experience in conducting non-profit projects and other related activities. I hope to start an exchange of ideas on how different aspects of our work is handled. Using predominantly my YFU experiences in this article means only that I have been with People to People for a short time and have not accumulated a whole lot of experience in PTP programming. In no way I would like to impose YFU policies or imply YFU superiority in conducting student exchanges. I just wanted to share my knowledge with all of you.

*With best wishes, Andrew Shipilov  
President PTP Crimea*

The past decade showed increasing growth in numbers of PTP members who participate in such programs as the Homestay, Student Ambassadors, Artistic Ambassadors, Meet Americans, Missions for Understanding etc. These programs are aimed at meeting and interacting with people from other countries and teaching about different cultures back home. But just setting these aims and trying to achieve them is not enough.

One of the most important things is teaching participants ways to achieve these aims. Doing so, PTP will not only increase success of the exchange programs, but also will enlarge the pool of well-trained people with cross-cultural experience who may later become invaluable human resource for activities on both international and national levels. Some chapter members after being taught ways to succeed in new cultures (and actually succeeding in them) may become trainers themselves, thus passing hands-on experience onto other people.

YFU has a lot of knowledge in conducting long and short-term exchanges and pays a lot of attention to training students before they go on a program. One of the key parts in this training is the Pre-Departure orientation made before students leave for a new country.

This orientation may last anywhere from five hours to five days, depending on the length of the program. It is conducted with a group of about twenty participants by the team of two-three tutors. The main goal is to show people that even though the new cultural settings may seem sometimes strange to them, *all cultures are different, but equally logical.*

Such orientations are designed to achieve the following objectives:

- to suggest how students should behave in the new culture;
- to teach students ways to adjust to and learn about a new culture;
- to explain possible difficulties students may encounter during their exchange experience;
- to teach about realities of the new culture;
- to show how students' cross-cultural experience could be used upon return home;

Past experience shows that the participant should develop and express the balance of the following behavioural factors, if he or she wants to succeed during the exchange, especially the long-term one:

- be open-minded and communicable;
- be flexible and adaptable;
- take initiative (be proactive);
- show positive regard for others;

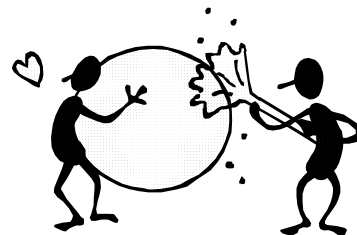
- have a strong sense of self and his/her own culture;
- be tolerant for differences between his/her own culture and the new one;
- have a sense of humour;

During the orientation we try to show participants how they can benefit from developing these factors and incorporating them into their daily behaviour, to become habits upon return home. Only through mastering these elements students will be able to understand another culture, live in it time and appreciate it. We also try to be frank with participants in explaining the problems and difficulties they may face, such as the possible lack of understanding from other people, homesickness and cultural differences.

While training students we also tackle such issues as stereotyping, expectations, prejudices and misconceptions they may experience living in the different cultural settings. This is done mainly through the variety of activities, such as simulation games, team exercises, lectures, seminars and even students' theatrical performances. Once participants become aware of these challenges it will be easier for them to solve associated problems and make the best use of their invaluable experience.

One of the keys to the success of such orientation is maximum participants' involvement during the activities. We use a lot of techniques and exercises from the resources located in the European Youth Centre (EYC), that could be requested by contacting Miriam Troxler.

Of course, it would be incorrect to hope that someone's behaviour could be drastically altered within five hours or even five days. The knowledge students receive during such orientations could be compared to the box of tools that help to build the house. It will be almost impossible to build a house without proper tools, but even the finest tools will not do the job themselves. Only when the workers have the tools, know how to use them and practice using them, the house will be constructed. Once the chapter members of PTP receive the necessary training during their pre-departure orientations, they would be able to enrich themselves and others even more during their participation in the exchange programs.



## Third International Youth Leadership Conference Today's Youth in Leadership

*"New great friends, international learning, and a lot of great new experiences. It was outstanding."*

*"I came into the conference with very little knowledge about PTPI. I didn't realize how much the organization does and how much potential PTPI has to do much more."*

These are just a couple of the comments students had about the 1997 International Youth Leadership Conference. The third youth conference took place in Washington, D.C. from September 24-28 and coincided with the PTPI Board of Trustees meetings. Seventy-six high school students and 13 university students from five countries attended the 4-day conference to learn more about today's youth in leadership, conflict resolution, and media's influence on perceptions of different cultures. The conference program offered the students a combination of keynote addresses, panel discussions, thematic workshops, and non-academic activities.

The favorite keynote address of the conference was a moving account by teenagers Amy Papile and Nicole Ferris, representatives of A School for Iqbal Campaign. The PTPI students were impressed with the Campaign's accomplishments and the dedication to the cause to raise money to build a school for freed child slaves in Pakistan. The students were very moved by Amy and Nicole's message -- that one doesn't need to be a certain age or be in a certain position to be a leader and achieve a goal.

Each conference delegate had the opportunity to focus on one of the two thematic topics offered at the conference -- conflict resolution and media's influence on perceptions of different cultures. Through the workshops, the students enhanced their present skills and personal leadership styles. Each of the workshops allowed the students the chance for hands-on learning.

Because the conference coincided with the PTPI Board of Trustees meetings, the youth and PTPI leadership were able to interact at several opportunities during the conference.

The students enjoyed a reception at the U.S. Department of State and joined the leadership for a networking luncheon, featuring speeches by PTPI youth leaders. The students said that the joint activities were great ways to meet PTPI adult members and to learn more about PTPI and its broad range of programs. Other non-academic activities included a breakfast on Capitol Hill with representatives from Congress and USIA, a day of sightseeing in Washington, D.C., an International Fair hosted by 22 embassies, a cultural program featuring talented artists from Indonesia and the Slovak Republic, and a dance the last night of the conference.

During the conference, five students were elected to the People to People International Youth Committee. The new members of the Youth Committee are Tim Ames (Hoover, AL), Sacha Bice (Fullerton, CA), Vadim Gritsenko (Tallinn, Estonia), Philip Rosengren (Minnetonka, MN), and Katerina Vernitskaja (Tallinn, Estonia).

Over the course of the coming year, the Youth Committee members will be working on a variety of programs to enhance communication to PTPI's youth members and bolster youth involvement in PTPI chapters world-wide. Among the projects that the Youth Committee are currently developing are a youth webpage, an on-line youth newsletter, a global citizenship project, and ideas for developing youth chapters as part of existing PTPI chapters or starting chapters in cities where none currently exist.

*Elizabeth B. Drembus*  
1997 Youth Conference Co-ordinator

### PTP - Updates

#### **New European Trustees - Congratulations**

At the Board of Trustees' meeting in Washington DC four new European Trustees were elected; Otto Burri, Bern, Natalia Kotlyarchuk, Tallinn Estonia, Hans-Dieter Robel, Berlin and Tadeusz Grabowiecki, Gliwice.

#### **Ambassador groups**

For the 1998 *Ambassador groups* chapters are encouraged to consider hosting a group. The groups consist of 30-40 American high-school students, who travel through Europe during the summer. The program is organised by Ambassador Inc. and offers a good opportunity for the students to get to know Europe and European families. For chapters with host families, who have children in high school age, this is often a good experience. The groups stay 4-5 days in each place. For more information, please contact Lars Poignant.

#### **ESL: English as a Second Language**

For the summer 1998 PTP will invite young members to participate in an ESL program. Currently PTP looks for a partner to organise this event on European soil. More information will come. Chapters, who have young (18-25) members interested in participating are asked to please contact Lars Poignant.

#### **Publications**

The next issue of *People Magazine* will be published at the end of February/early March. Chapters are encouraged to submit updated information/photos about programs they

had during 1997. Deadline for materials is in the beginning of January.

#### **PTP Europe seeks an office**

For a long term office PTP Europe co-ordinator Lars Poignant seeks an office in continental Europe. Any suggestions on possible locations are highly appreciated.

#### **New chapter - Eastern Ukraine**

In November a new European chapter was chartered - Lugansk in Eastern Ukraine. Chapter president is Irina Cherednichenko.

#### **International and European Committees**

Both in within PTP Europe and PTP International there are possibilities for interested members to serve on the various committees. In Europe there are five committees. Please contact any chairperson for the European committees. For PTP International chapter presidents and Trustees are invited to serve on the committees. Please contact Regina Wälti.

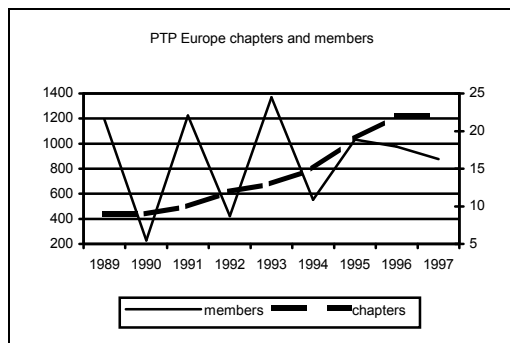
PTPE Committee	Chairperson
Youth	Miriam Troxler
Public Relations	Justyna Dziurma
Resource Development	Olga Ganzen
Chapter Development	Hans-Dieter Robel
Bylaws	Ruth Weber

## Chapter fees

PTP Europe and its board and committees promotes the PTP programs and chapters. The work is done by volunteer work and a PTPI staff person. Personal costs incurred by the board members such as telephone and postage are reimbursed by PTP Europe. Still since the funds for the board is very limited, travelling to meetings are not possible to cover.

The funds are collected from the members chapters – one Swiss franc per person and year. The fees are usually collected at the PTPE annual meeting or at other occasions when chapter representatives meet with board members. This to avoid costly bank transfers. It is also possible for chapters to pay retroactively for previous years. For this purpose the PTPE treasurer has a list of all chapters in Europe and its status.

For payment of chapter fees, please contact any of the Board members. Below is a list with status for chapters from 1994. Listed is also the total number of years each chapter has been a paying member of PTPE. Notice that the list is not necessarily the number of chapters and members, but rather those that have paid up to today.



Number of member chapters and members having paid since 1989.

The statistics shows a steady increase in number of chapters, whereas the number of paying chapters members is more difficult to count.

Reported and paying chapters and members					
	1997	1996	1995	1994	years
Belarus	12	12			2
Belgium <sup>1)</sup>		30	30	40	8
Berlin	105	100	110		3
Bern	70	120	*	*	9
Budapest	9	x			2
Bucharest	17	19	10	10	6
Chester	100	80	90	93	6
Denmark			250		4
Estonia	225	218	82	14	6
Finland		10			1
France				20	5
Grangemouth	30	25	30	20	9
Harrogate			22	3	7
Holland		50	50	30	3
Interlaken	20	20			2
Crimea	10				1
Lugansk	10				1
Luzern	60	30	*	*	9
Milan			40	30	6
Moscow			8		1
Omsk	5	5			2
Poland	28	28			2
Poprad	10	23			2
Prague	10				1
Roman		28	18	15	3
Ruzomberok	10				1
St. Petersburg	21	21	17		3
Sochi	8	7			2
Sweden	50	80	100	100	6
Switzerland until 1995			155	178	6
Troitsk	30	30	22		3
Zürich	36	38	*	*	9
<b>total fees</b>		<b>876</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1 033</b>	<b>553</b>
<b>number of members</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>

x dispensed

\* Switzerland was split into several chapters in 1996

<sup>1)</sup> check not cashed yet

## Coming events

### **Chinese dinner in Florida - Far East Artistic Ambassador Project**

PTP Coral Gables will have a unique dinner on February 7 1998 celebrating the Chinese New Year and the 25th anniversary of the opening of China by President Richard Nixon and Cho En Lai. The evening will include the duplication of the 14 course meal served on that occasion, and performances by Chinese acrobats and Chinese classical musicians. The attending members of the local Chinese community will be in traditional costume.

### **PTP Conference for Russian speaking chapters**

In the end of February a PTP conference on PTP will be held for Russian speaking chapters. For more information, please contact Olga Ganzen.

### **Board meeting**

PTP Europe Board will meet on May 1-3 in Luzern, Switzerland. The meeting will be held as an open meeting with invitation to chapters for representation during the meeting. There will be a closed board meeting in the beginning. During the first day/s the non board members will be observers only. The last day will be for committee work and workshops.

### **The Berlin airlift**

In June the Berlin Airlift will be celebrated. Hans-Dieter Robel, Berlin and Bob Ferreira, Coral Gables Florida, have put a lot of effort to make this event happen. The celebrations will start in Frankfurt and end in Berlin with PTP as co-organiser. More information to come.

## Homestay in the US

The U.S. Homestay Program is a cultural interaction experience in which international visitors are offered the opportunity to meet Americans and observe the American way of life. This is done with American families, who take a visitor/visitors into their homes to live and spend time with them for a few days. At the same time American families get the chance to come in contact with people from other nations, thus creating a mutual understanding of each other's culture. Below is a summary of how the homestay program works in the US. It is of course open for all members of PTP. To keep in mind is that the program doesn't work in the same way in Europe, where contacts are to be taken directly with the chapters. The program is an excellent opportunity for summer activities.

For homestay arrangements or questions, please contact Ms. Marge Gasnick, Homestay Co-ordinator, at PTPI in Kansas City.

### **How can I get involved in a Homestay visit?**

Homestay visits are organised through People to People International Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. After receiving your request, the Homestay Co-ordinator will contact Chapter Homestay Co-ordinators around the country. It is the chapter co-ordinator's responsibility to then recruit several member families who would like to have an international visitor in their home for a short homestay (usually 3 -5 days).

### **Who can participate in the Homestay Program?**

Most participants in the Homestay Program are members of a People to People Chapter in their home country. On a limited basis, People to People International arranges homestays for groups representing other organisations or institutions. However, the best way to get involved in the Homestay Program – either as a host or a participant – is to join the PTP Chapter in your country.

### **How much do I have to pay?**

The fee is \$60 per participant, payable to People to People International. A security deposit of \$100 is required at the time a homestay request is sent to PTP Headquarters. This \$100 is then applied to the group's overall homestay fee. Visiting groups should make their own travel arrangements within the United States and pay their own travel expenses.

### **How many people can be in a visiting group?**

Groups can be as small as 2 people and as big as 20 people. We ask that groups be no larger than 20 people so the host chapters can be sure to find an adequate number of families to host. PTPI normally does not arrange homestays for individuals. Participants may be high school students, college students, adults or families.

### **What is the process of organising a Homestay visit?**

1. Make a written request in English to PTPI Headquarters.
2. These are the deadlines for making a homestay request:

<i>If you want to visit during:</i>	<i>make your request by::</i>
June, July, August	February 1
September, October	April 1
November, December, January	June 1
February, March	September 1
April, May	November 1

3. Participants fill out and send in biography forms. After PTPI receives your homestay request, you will be sent these forms to distribute among the participants. These completed forms must be returned to PTPI at least **eight weeks** before arrival in the U.S.

The biographies are sent to the hosting chapters, who use the information to match families and guests according to the ages and interests of the participants.

Note: if the biography forms are turned in late, people to people cannot guarantee that the requested homestays will take place, even if an agreement had been made previously.

4. Homestay participants purchase short-term insurance policies for travel in the U.S. Every participant in a homestay program must have insurance coverage for medical treatment, medical evacuation and repatriation that is valid for the entire visit in the U.S. The policy you buy should include a translation into English, and all homestay participants must carry their insurance identification card with them at all times. All Homestay Program participants must fill out and submit the Participant Insurance Coverage form.
5. Send in signed medical release forms for participants who are under the age of 21. You will be sent these forms, which allow young people to receive emergency medical treatment if they are injured during their stay in the U.S.
6. Sign and return Homestay Agreement Form. By signing this form you have accepted the homestay rules and fee structure.

### **What do people do during Homestay visits?**

- Meet and interact with American people
- Observe daily life
- Participate in recreational and cultural activities
- Visit historical monuments or other places of interest
- Celebrate American holidays



### 1998 U.S. homestay list

The following are U.S. PTP Chapters that have hosted international visitors. Keep in mind that it can be a time-consuming process to organize an itinerary of 3 homestays within the U.S., so please submit your requests at least 4-6 months in advance of the visit.

U.S. CHAPTER LOCATIONS	AGE PREFERENCE	PARTICIPANT CAPACITY	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Scottsdale/Phoenix, <b>Arizona</b>	adults or students	unlimited	
Golden Gate/San Francisco, <b>California</b>	Students	3	
Inland Empire (Riverside-Palm Springs), <b>California</b>	adults or students	20	October through May is the best time for hosting due to the desert climate.
San Joaquin (Stockton), <b>California</b>	adults or students	25	Does not want Stockton to be the first homestay site because visitors are jetlagged the first two days of the visit. Would like to receive information about the visitors' home country.
Loveland, <b>Colorado</b>	adults or students	50	
Wilmington, <b>Delaware</b>	adults	10	Are interested in hosting groups that would agree, as a reciprocal arrangement, to host a group from Delaware.
Greater Chicago, <b>Illinois</b>	adults and students	20	Chapter has difficulty hosting during the school year. Middle to end of July is the best time to host.
Pleasant Hill, <b>Illinois</b>	adults	15-20	
La Porte, <b>Indiana</b>	adults	20-25	Prefers to host adults, but will host students if the group is not too big. Can only host if the homestay does not coincide with major events.
Oskaloosa, <b>Iowa</b>	adults or students	25	Chapter can host any time except December. Prefers to host over the weekend so guests can join a People to People meeting on Saturdays.
Greater Kansas City, <b>Kansas/Missouri</b>	adults	30	
Ann Arbor, <b>Michigan</b>	adults	5-8	Would like to receive participant information well in advance.
Midland, <b>Michigan</b>	adults	10	The best time for hosting is July.
Sault Sainte Marie, <b>Michigan</b>	adults or students	15-20	
Western Wayne, <b>Michigan</b>	adults	7	
Minneapolis, <b>Minnesota</b>	adults or students	15-20	The best time for hosting is August.
St. Louis, <b>Missouri</b>	adults	20	
Southern Nevada (Las Vegas area)	adults or students	15	
Jersey Shore (Red Bank), <b>New Jersey</b>	adults or students	25	
Albuquerque, <b>New Mexico</b>	adults or students	5	
Susquehanna Valley (Lancaster), <b>Pennsylvania</b>	adults or students	18	Chapter would like to know in advance what the group is interested in doing during the homestay; eg. visit museums, go shopping, etc.
Dallas, <b>Texas</b>	adults or students	10	
Permian Basin (Midland-Odessa), <b>Texas</b>			
San Antonio, <b>Texas</b>	adults or students	15-20 (15 is better for student groups)	Best time to host students is between June 1 and the end of July. Chapter likes to receive the names, addresses and phone numbers of the participants a minimum of 2 months prior to the homestay.
Green Bay, <b>Wisconsin</b>	adults or students	10	
Sheboygan, <b>Wisconsin</b>	adults but is willing to host students	40	The chapter is 60 miles from the closest large airport and they do not want to be responsible for picking up groups at the airport or returning them there. There is a transportation service available to provide airport pick-up and drop-off.

## Chapter reports

### **Chester (John Cowap)**

The Chester chapter truly investigated the US this summer as five members paid a visit to Sheboygan, others went to Lakewood, Colorado. In addition three members; Len and Betty Holland and Peter Whitby attended the Board of Trustees meeting in Washington DC.

In August five Chester Music Scholars gave a concert in Sens (Chester's twin city in France). The concert was very well received by the French audience and local press. They were so overwhelmed that Chester Music Scholars have been invited back to Sens next year. Many thanks to Chistine Edkins (and John) and to Stewart Smith, his helpers and the Music Scholar, in making this venture such a success.

The PTP Chester Board has initiated the idea of producing a booklet with favourite recipes of our Chester members combined with some recipes from our friends in Lakewood. Lakewood have already contacted their members, through their newsletter, asking for recipes.

### **Brussels**

PTP Brussels celebrated its 27th Christmas Dinner dance at the Brussels Hilton. 45 members and friends showed up for the event. Six countries were represented - Belgium, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Malaysia, Colombia and Sweden. Special thanks to Denise Maurice to organise the dinner.

### **Interlaken (Elsi-Maria Shepherd and Regina Wälti)**

In October, we had a very enjoyable visit from the Berlin Chapter. We had several gatherings, and since the weather was beautiful we also could show our guests the wonderful area and the mountains. We became such good friends that we decided to make a return visit next spring.

Also in October, we welcomed a group of 38 guests from the United States (Leader: James Fish). A charming local family opened their large chalet which is occupied by three generations, to show our visitors typical Swiss living. The group also had the chance to taste specialities of the region.

In November, some of us helped an other organisation to accommodate members of a Romanian choir and attended their wonderful concert in an Interlaken church.

Regina Wälti, President of the Interlaken chapter, attended the conferences of the PTPI Board of Directors and Board of Trustees in Washington D.C. and also the conference of the European Board in Berlin.

### **Poprad (Milos Sálus)**

PTP Poprad had a meeting on Friday the 28th of November and officially started its work after being registered as a non-profit organisation.

During the next year our main goal will be international exchanges and international library with access to the Internet.

Earlier this summer 10 young people from Poprad went to England, where they for 12 days experienced live in English families. In October students from England came to Poprad. Both trips were taken as a little experiment, but with very good results. Based on those results we are going to do with different groups several other trips both ways.

In November we had a successful visit of 22 English students. It was just for 2 days, but they had a good time with 20 students from Poprad. We also made some plans for the future.

In February 1998 English students will come to Poprad. In April and July students from Poprad will go to England and in July English students will

come to Poprad as well. And in August young people from Poprad will go to England again.

All trips will be in co-operation with Association for the Czech, Slovak and English friendship in Bridgewater and all trips will have educational character based on intercultural learning. If possible they all will stay with families.

Friday 19th of December we are going to have Christmas meeting, were we are going to invite also people from abroad currently living and working in Poprad. By this meeting we are hoping to start club were this people could regularly meet together and with anybody who would be interested.

### **Budapest (Marianna Hári)**

Two students from the chapter studying history at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, report on international trips. Tímea Seffer, studying history and sociology participated in a program in Prague on We studied political and economic sciences organised by "The Fund for American Studies". This course was very good, I met a lot of interesting people, I learnt a lot of new thing.

Ildikó Fehér went for two weeks in England. I was hosted by Mr and Mrs Mand in Knaresborough and Mr and Mrs Greep in Harrogate. I had a wonderful time with them and I am very grateful to them. I was treated as if I had been a member of the family and they did their best to see me happy there. And they succeeded. England is beautiful but they made my stay there even more unforgettable.

In mid December we had a meeting and planned the following events:

- a party in February
- lectures on the European Integration and other topics at the university
- Culture week in Kecskemét in the last week of August 1998.

### **Zürich (Claudia von Ellerts)**

Chapter Zürich: we had guests from Hungary, Poland and USA and attended the European Conference at Gliwice and the Board meeting at Berlin. For chapter development we met with all three other Swiss chapters, partly with homestay. Lancaster, PA, USA is our sister chapter and we plan some exchanges for next year.

### **Bern (Daniel Schaubacher)**

In its meeting of November 21, the board of the Bern-W. Switzerland PTP Chapter decided to extend a cordial invitation to other PTPI chapters to visit Switzerland on homestays and dinners-at-home. The program of hosting groups of PTPI Student Ambassadors (senior high school students from USA) in Bern, Switzerland will be continued in the Summer 1998.

The Chapter's own program of limited cash grants to Chapters in E. Europe, Russia and Central Asia will likewise be continued on a modest basis. A successful "rejuvenation" and membership drive campaign resulted in the chapter sending three student delegates to the International Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, arranging additional outbound homestays, and enrolling nine new members.

Membership, host families and people interested in PTPI activities have been entered in a new database by Felix Engler, computer expert and Vice President. Otto Burri, a multilingual, veteran travel expert who has gone into early retirement, has been appointed to the PTPI Board of Trustees. He looks forward to share his expertise with PTPI's Ambassador Programs for the present and proposed outgoing Ambassador groups to the USA and ESL (English as a Second Language) programs in Europe and USA. Contacts exist in Geneva with a voluntary, non-profit organisation within the Association Suisse-USA which sends out hundreds of students to the USA each year. The Chapter President, Daniel Schaubacher, gave a talk on PTPI programs at the Alliance of Universities for Democracy 8th conference in Warsaw early in November.

Dear Readers: you are cordially invited to Switzerland - plan a homestay with us next year!

### **Grangemouth (James Reid)**

It was a busy year for Grangemouth Chapter. Our 'summer season' commenced with a homestay visit by Berlin Chapter. As a result of one member's illness we had some last minute re-arrangement of matching hosts and guests. However, all went well and everyone enjoyed themselves. Our President, Bill Hodgson, took the Berlin party on a short 3 day tour of the Scottish Highland before our guests returned to Berlin.

Our next major activity was the part sponsorship of a Hungarian Student, Eva Enyedi, at a summer school course at Edinburgh University. Eva had already been accepted for a 3 week course in Scottish Literature. Grangemouth Chapter sponsored her for her accommodation costs. The experience was enjoyed by both sides and our Chapter may well get involved in such a project again.

At the same time we also hosted a homestay for an American couple, Shawn and Gigi Steadman from St Louis, Missouri, and two Swiss students from Lucerne Chapter. We were also fortunate enough to have a Chapter member who was having a 50th birthday ceilidh, to which we managed to invite our American and Hungarian guests. Both sets of guests thoroughly enjoyed the ceilidh. (ceilidh = party of Scottish dancing and fiddle music)

James & Sandra Reid, also participated in homestays in Switzerland with the Wälti's in Interlaken Chapter and with the Bachmans in Lucerne Chapter. Thanks to all who made this a success.

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