

= PEOPLE TO PEOPLE EUROPE =

March, 2000

Dear friends,

The new season has just started and there are plenty of good programs from European chapters. For now the main event is the May Annual meeting in Lucerne, to which it is still possible to register. Still, both before and after Lucerne there are international programs: in Albania and in Berlin.

For the first time is the Student Ambassador Program offered to young PTP members to two of the programs: European Discovery and Cultures of Europe. These high quality programs are available for both members and non-members.

During the summer there are already a few programs scheduled: PTP Soccer Festival in the UK, a week-long program in Hungary and possibly a very interesting trip: Mongolia in August. For the fall there is the World Wide Conference with post conference program to New Zealand.

I think there is a lot to look forward to. Let's meet in Lucerne for a start.

Lars Poignant

PTP Europe Annual Conference - Lucerne

Conference updates

Miriam Casas-Troxler from Lucerne tells us that the planning is going fine and that some 60 participants had registered as of last week and more seem to come. Please notice that there is a Conference fund available for participants. It is still possible to seek assistance from the fund. Deadline for registration is March 31.

Program homepage:

http://members.tripod.de/European_Conference/

Elections

At the meeting there will be elections to the Board. Currently there is no President. Nominations can be submitted to the Board.

Amendment of Bylaws

There is a proposal to amend the current bylaws. Detailed information has been sent to all chapter presidents. The suggested amendments are a result of discussions with PTP Denmark. At a recent Board meeting the Board decided to recommend to the Annual meeting to change the bylaws according to the suggestion.

Next conference

PTP Europe looks for a new candidate location for next year's Annual Conference. The date and place will be decided upon in Lucerne in May. The conference is usually in May each year. Organising a conference offers a good chance to get good PR for the chapter within People to People and in the local community. The conference usually takes place in May. The last years the following chapters have hosted the event.

Previous conferences

1982	Brussels, Belgium
1984	Salzburg, Austria
1985	Ravenna, Italy
1986	Edinburgh, Scotland
1987	Poitier, France
1989	Interlaken, Switzerland
1991	Herning, Denmark
1993	Grangemouth, Scotland
1994	Hilversum, the Netherlands
1995	Tallinn, Estonia
1996	Pécs, Hungary
1997	Gliwice, Poland
1998	Chester, England
1999	Berlin, Germany
2000	Lucerne, Switzerland
2001	

Content in this issue

PTP Europe Annual Conference - Lucerne	1
Student Ambassador Programs	2
PTP Collegiate and Professional Studies Program	2
People to People Updates	3
Coming events	4
Chapter Reports	6
Addresses - PTP Europe Board	10
PTP Publications Schedule	10



Student Ambassador Programs

Programs for young European students: European Discovery and Cultures of Europe

For the summer 2000 Ambassador Programs International offers through its agent PDM in Vienna its Student Ambassador Programs to European participants. This program has been run for many years – and successfully.

The program is open for all participants in the ages 13 – 17 years. For this year both PDM and PTP would like to see that it gets good attention and participation.

- The program is an excellent opportunity to learn about different countries, cities and cultures for the participants as it offers a well-prepared tour through parts of Europe along with 30-40 others in the same age. English is spoken all the time.
- The program is very good PR for People to People as the group will meet many people on the way.
- The program is a very good example of international understanding.

There are two programs: *European Discovery* and *Cultures of Europe*. Application forms have been sent to all chapters. PTP members are encouraged to share this information with members, schools and other organisation.

People to People supports international exchanges and encourage local members to seek support from PTP Matching Grant program. Please contact your local chapter or People to People.

European Discovery

Rome – Florence – Venice – Carinthia – Vienna – Youth Camp – Tyrol – Salzburg – Zürich – Paris

13 Departures between: June 27 and July 7.

Cultures of Europe

Madrid – Toledo – Sevilla – Barcelona – Sete – Ancecy – Chamonix – Geneva – Homestay – Freiburg – Paris – Paris – Paris

26 Departures between June 7 and July 18.

Program and price

The programs are offered in both directions and in the European Discovery participants can also take part in only part of the program. The price is Price 1310 Euro, which includes accommodation in three or four star hotels, three days homestay/youth camp, every day full board including one soft drink per meal, any cultural and entertainment events, educational meetings, all entrance and transportation fees, city tours and local guides such as 24 hour care of American teacher leaders and an English speaking travel manager.

Program homepage:

<http://ptp-europe.webjump.com/files/ambassador.htm>

PTP Collegiate and Professional Studies Program

In the last issue of the Newsletter the PTP Collegiate programs were listed in detail. These programs are available for all members and non-members. It is good to notice the interest for the program. Below is a summary of the programs. Please don't hesitate to contact your local chapter for more information or PTP International.

For the Theatre Program in London (March 25) 17 people will participate. The ages of the participants range from 19 to 76 years old! About half plan to earn academic credit through the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Each year People to People offers academic programs in various fields. The programs include seminars and study visits within each field. They are led by experts and are open not only to students, but also to any one interested. Each course usually leaves time for tourist visits and some include PTP homestays. The programs have traditionally been aimed for US participants, but PTP welcomes European participants.

Program homepage: www.ptpi.org/studyabroad/

Course and location	Time
Spring Break Seminar: The London Theatre Scene	March 25 - April 1
Comparative Democracy: Germany – Czech Republic – Poland	June 11 - 24
Comparative Education: Brussels – Maastricht – Amsterdam	June 17 – 25
Early Care and Education: London	July 9 – 19
International Business I, II, II	
I. The Heart of Europe: Amsterdam- Brussels-Paris	May 28 – June 11
II. The British Perspective: London	June 11 – 25
III. The Heart of Europe: Amsterdam- Brussels-Paris	May 28 – June 11
The British Perspective: London	June 11 – 25
International Politics: Brussels – Amsterdam – Maastricht – Paris	May 27 – June 10
South Africa: A Nation in Transition	June 9 – 24
The Relevance of Managed Care in International Settings: London – Amsterdam – Munich	July 2 – 16
Sweden and Denmark: Health Care and Social Services	June 11-29

People to People Updates

American Institute on Political & Economical Systems

In July PTP members may attend a three-week course on Political and Economic Systems. Information was shared to most chapters in early March, as the deadline is March 15. We hope that some members will be accepted to this unique chance of a good program and scholarship.

Merchandise

People to People International offers a series of merchandise items. Most of them are produced by Buffalo Inc. in Washington. The items can be purchased directly from Buffalo. In order to facilitate the order for individuals and chapters and to minimize the cost for shipment, chapters are however encouraged ordering items from PTP Europe before April 20. These will be delivered at the PTP Annual Meeting in Lucerne. The European chapters have received order forms.

Buffalo Inc. produces among other things travel wear (shirts) and travel wear (bags, mugs). These are high quality products available in a variety of sizes.

Since last year *PTP Europe* sells a Musical CD (Sound of Europe). It contains pieces of music from different chapters in Europe. Part of the revenue goes to PTP Europe programs. We have recently ordered a new batch to meet the high demand of these very good pieces of music. The CD is an excellent item to use for local fundraising or as gifts. Discounts are given orders of more than 10 copies.

PTP International supplies chapters with various materials. Available are the PTP Banner, a wall clock and a patch.

Through the *PTP Kansas City Chapter* chapters may order small replicas of international flags with stands.

PTP Merchandise homepage: <http://ptp-europe.webjump.com/files/merchandise.htm>.

Artistic program

For the coming months we hope to improve the artistic programs. Through the initiative of Annick Debien (Angoulême) two programs are being worked on. First it is a program together with a youth group: "*Vision of Europe through Art*". The youth participation originates from the PTP Youth Study Session in Budapest last December and include among others Marianna Drozdova (Tartu). The second program is to include a PTP participation at the *Annual Festival of Cartoonists* in Angoulême, France. As a first step the programs will be discussed in Lucerne in May and some artistic work displayed.

Homepage update and chapter inquiry

Along with this issue of the newsletter each chapter president has received material to include on the PTP International homepage. Within a few months we hope to have a listing of all chapters and programs. PTP International supplies with homepage space and staff time to update the information. All the chapters need to do is to tell what to include and when it needs to be changed.

In parallel to the material for the homepage, PTP also seeks information on the current standing of the chapters for 1998 and 1999. This is important to have in the files in order to facilitate contacts and promote programs.

Pen Pal

The PTP Penpal program has received great interest the last year. It has been so great, the staff in Kansas City has had a difficult time to manage all requests. Since a few weeks Renin Gilmore works part time with matching requests from chapters and members all over the world. There is currently a backlog, but we hope that it will be resolved no later than the end of April. Chapters are welcome to ask for pen pals through PTP, but for now asked to wait until May. The service is free of charge.

Some chapters take own initiatives. Please read the letter from Sona in Bratislava, a PTP member with plenty of pen pals around the world. Read also what Marek Sadowski from Gliwice writes in the chapter report below on pen pals.

Hello PTP members,

My name is Sona Maëugová. I am a member of PTPI Poprad, Slovakia. Let me, please, introduce my small project to you. Its name is "*Book of Pen friends*". I would like to ask you for help. I am trying to find pen friends for our Slovak pupils and students from all around the world. People who are interested in having someone in another country.

Have you ever thought that your best friend
can become someone you haven't seen yet
living in a country you haven't visited yet
Think about it and let me know, please!

Write your name, address, age, hobbies, and interests, add your photo if you want, send it to me and I will find you someone right for you! My address is: Sona Maëugová, Vajnorská 70, 831 04 Bratislava, Slovakia. Phone/fax: +421 7 44 45 77 97, E-mail address: smacugova@nextra.sk



PTP Mug



PTP Cloisonne Lapel Pin



Flag

Coming events

May 8-12	PTP Albania Annual Meeting
May 12-14	PTP Europe Annual Conference, Lucerne Switzerland
June 9-12	Berlin Youth Meeting
June/July	Student Ambassador Program
August 2 – 7	People to People Soccer Festival
August 2-8	PTP Meets in Hungary
August 7-17	PTP Trip to Mongolia
September	PTP Albania invites to a Youth Meeting
November 8-11	PTPI World Wide Conference, Hong Kong

PTP Albania Annual Meeting (May 8-10)

Albania in the new Millennium and PTPA role in the Albanian Society!

PTP Albania invites to a three-day event as the six chapters gather for their annual meeting. The chapters invite any one to attend. Participants will enjoy days of regional culture and discussions on international programs. Attending the event is among other distinguished guests, Mary Eisenhower Chief Executive Officer of People to People International. Your attendance is highly appreciated at this outstanding event.

Conference details

The conference venue will be the 600 years old castle of Kruja.
Deadline is April 30.

PTP Albania offers free homestay for all delegates. Available is also a range of hotels in Tirana.

For registration and questions, please contact
PTP Albania at: PTP Albania, P.O. BOX 1400,
Tirana, Albania, Tel/Fax: +355 42 343 14, Tel:
+355 42 497 94, E-mail: lsiatr@albnet.net.

Program homepage: <http://ptp-europe.webjump.com/files/albania.htm>

Program

Monday May 8 th	<i>Dinner at Taverna "Tafaj" in Tirana (special guests invited)</i>	
Tuesday May 9 th	Kruja Castle	
AM	<i>Registration at PTPA Conference Hall & PTPA badge</i>	
	<i>Opening Ceremony</i>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PTPA President report on the PTPA activities from the Start 2. Ms Diana Keci PTPA General secretary will report on PTPA activities since its foundation 1998. 3. Report of Chapters activities. Each chapter president will deliver a short speech. 4. Mr. Agim Jakupi Vice-President will report PTPA public relation and its role during the Kosovo Crisis. 5. Youth coordinator will speak about the youth role in the Albanian society. 6. Mary Eisenhower CEO PTPI, Key note speaker. 7. Barbara Capozzi Member Board of Directors PTPI. Greeting message. 	
	<i>Visit at "Kruja Castle".</i>	
PM	<i>Scientific Session</i>	<i>Insight the new millennium PTPA role in the Albanian Society. Albanian Culture and it's relation with other cultures.</i>
	Prof.Dr Hamlet Bezhani	Eisenhower's role in East Europe and Albania
	Ing. Pellumb Male	Albania after 9 year of Democracy.
	Armir Shkurti	Media role in the modern society
	Adrian Pollo	Modern means of communication!
	Loro Sata	Albanian Folklore and the relation with it's neighbours
	<i>Free discussions</i>	
	Transportation back to Tirana, evening free	
Wednesday May 10 th	Sightseeing. Organized visits in Berat, Meet the Kocova chapter, lunch together on the way.	

Berlin Youth Meeting (June 9-12)

PTP Berlin Youth Committee invites young members to a three-day weekend in June to Berlin. The meeting aims to:

- ◆ Present Berlin as the new German capital,
- ◆ Introduce German and European history,
- ◆ Offer good chances for people from different countries to meet and
- ◆ Offer opportunities for participants to discuss and develop future programs.

Accommodation is in a sports room in the centre of Berlin, allowing the price for the whole event to be no

more than 130 DM. The number of possible participants is limited to 30 and the age group is 18-25.

A detailed invitation has been sent out to all chapters. You may also contact PTP Berlin Youth Committee: Jana Kiesler, Phone home: +49 30 85967404, Fax home: +49 30 85963400, Internet: Kiesler@t-online.de.

Program homepage: <http://ptp-europe.webjump.com/files/berlin.htm>

The details of the program is still being developed but a possible flow will look like this.

	Friday June 9	Saturday June 10	Sunday June 11	Monday June 12
AM	Arrival	<u>Introduction to Berlin</u> Brandenburger Tor Reichstag (Parliament) Questions to the German History (Museum)	<u>The divided Germany and Berlin</u> Eastside Gallery	Walk in historic Schöneberg
PM	Arrival	<u>Germany and Europe</u> Checkpoint Charlie, discussion about the Wall and meeting with eye witnesses	Discussion on youth programs Boat trip on River Spree	Departure
Eve	Presentation of program and participants	Barbecue Disco	Theatre	Departure

People to People Soccer Festival (August 2 – 7)

PTP in Europe has received an invitation to “PTP Soccer Festival”. It is a five-day event in early August for youth in the ages 12-19. It takes place in Sittingbourne between London and Dover in England. The festival is not only a soccer competition with teams from the US and Europe, but also a great opportunity to meet other young people.

Welcome reception

Disco

Awards Presentation Ceremony

Excursions to London

Minimum of four Games

Extension of stay

PTP Europe recommends this program and encourages chapter officials or members to contact local clubs to participate. Please contact PTP Soccer Festival, 27 High Street, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0SD, England. Phone: +44 20 83393739, fax: +44 20 83393735 or PTP Europe. PTP Europe chapters may receive discount on registration fee and accommodation charges.

PTP Meets in Hungary (August 2 – 8)

From PTP in Hungary we have received an invitation for an event in the end of the summer. Mária Lénárt and Balázs Lengyel plan the event. The preliminary program includes one day in Budapest, one day in Pécs and one day in Győr. For the rest of the days, participants will be provided with plenty of alternative programs, from which they will be free to choose. Guides to any chosen programs will be provided.

The program fee is 90 USD. This covers accommodation, 3 meal a day, local transport for six days and transportation to and from Pécs, Budapest and Győr. Accommodation is in Vac, 30 minutes north of Budapest. Application form is not yet ready, but will be sent out. Contact person Balázs Lengyel: othello@matavnet.hu

Program homepage: <http://ptp-europe.webjump.com/files/budapest.htm>

PTP Albania invites to a Youth Meeting (September)

For the later part of the summer PTP Albania plans to invite young members to a meeting. No details are set, but will be published as soon as they are ready.

World Wide Conference – Hong Kong (November 8-11)

PTP will hold its 14th Worldwide Conference in Hong Kong November 8-11. Invitations have been sent out to all chapter presidents. It looks as it will be a worthwhile event.

Program homepage: www.ptpi.org/wwconfer.htm

Hong Kong: Post Conference trip to New Zealand and Australia (November)

PTP Berlin has made preliminary arrangements for an extended trip after the Hong Kong conference. The trip would go to New Zealand and possibly Australia. Through kind assistance with the local chapters in New Zealand there will be homestay and programs prepared. For now the flight price from Berlin is estimated to be 4.500 DM. It would include flights: Berlin – Hong Kong – New Zealand – Australia – Berlin. Already have 10 people registered and more are welcome. Please contact PTP Berlin for more information.

Mongolia (August 7 – 17)

PTP in Europe plans a trip to visit the chapter in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. In order to determine the interest there is a preliminary plan. We expect some 10-12 participants, even though more are of course more than welcome. For the sake of continued planning chapters and members are asked to indicate any interest. Please respond to PTP Europe before May 1st.

PTP Mongolia offers homestay for 2 – 3 days during stay in Ulaanbaatar. Hotels range from 40-300 DEM.

The costs are not defined yet, but would include among other (DEM): Group ticket of eight from Berlin 1550, homestay fee: 100, Accommodation (hotel): 40-300. In addition, there will be costs for visa and for trips in Mongolia. A detailed program with costs will be made available.

Mongolia has a lot to show. There are both places worth visiting in the capital Ulaanbaatar as well as various regions in the country. Together with PTP Mongolia we currently work on defining a program for the visit. It may consist of some of the following parts.

- Bodgo Khan Palace
- Dinosariu museum
- Krakorum (two days)
- Mongolian national concert or show
- Visit Mongolians National University and meet several professors and students.
- Visit to a Gandan (monastery)
- Meeting and discussion with members of Mongolian PTP
- Visit hospital and meet doctors and discuss
- Discussion with business people
- Outdoor program; horse or camel riding
- Visit to Gobi
- Ondor-Dov Mandshire
- Tevely

Chapter Reports

New Chapter – Constanta, Romania

A new chapter has been formed in Romania. We welcome the chapter members. This is what Daria Simionescu and Ioana Chesnoiu write about Constanta and their activities.

Constanta

Constanta is the oldest city of Romania, situated on the Black Sea coast. Its history dates back in ancient times, two thousand years ago, when the ancient Greek colony was named Tomis and it was a prosperous commercial town. Later, it became part of the Roman Empire. The Latin poet Ovid was banished to this place and he wrote some of his poems here. In modern times, Constanta is a naval and cultural centre, and its university bears the name of the Latin poet. It is also Romania's most important port and tourist attraction on the Black

Sea. The many public beaches and thriving nightlife make it ideal for tourists during the summer.

Forming a chapter

A group of young people in this city decided that it is important for the youth to get involved in the problems of the community. A friend from America told us that there was an organization, PTPI, which promoted the cooperation between people of various nationalities. She gave us the website and we visited it. It was impressive, and we decided to join the club. All of us are still in high school, except for some who are at university. We set up a meeting and established our objectives and mainly our priorities. We meet regularly to see how things develop.

Activities so far and planned programs

During Christmas break we organized a donation for the local orphanages, consisting in used clothes and toys we rounded up from our homes. Since some of us have relatives at retirement homes, we thought it would be nice to try and entertain some of the people there. We brought them small gifts and talked with them for a while, thinking that they would enjoy the company.

For the spring break we plan to organize a poetry-reading night, where our aspiring young writers and poets can read their literary creations.

We also plan a trip to France for interested young people in our city. We appreciate any ideas, help, or information from anyone interested in organizing a project with our chapter.

We hope to have more such activities in the future, though time is essential for our study, and we have to prioritize. Hopefully in the summer, when our final exams are over, we will be able to devote more time to communal activities.

Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

In the beginning of November we had a visit of Mr. Trusty with his wife from Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. We visited Matej Bell University in Banska Bystrica, Faculty of economy, discussed about education process, teaching system, history and contemporary development of university, etc.

We also met with the Head of British Council education centre in Banska Bystrica Mrs. Fruhwald. She explained the aim, establishment of this educational centre. It is supported by British Embassy in Slovakia, providing special educational courses, lectures mainly for teachers of English language in the middle Slovakia.

Sona Cernáková

Interlaken, Switzerland

On February 24, our Annual Meeting was held in a youth hostel near Interlaken. We elected two new board members, discussed the program for the coming summer and enjoyed a delicious spaghetti dinner.

In May, our chapter will be represented at the European Conference in Lucerne.

In July a group of 8 young people from the Interlaken chapter will go to America for three weeks. They have applied for homestays in three different US chapters and are looking forward to meeting their american host families.

Later in July and in August, our chapter will be happy to host two large US youth groups and several individuals.

Regina Wälti

Estonia

PTP Estonia finished the 11-month project with Phare in Global Citizenship and continues the same program with Latvian Multicultural Centre.

On February 5-6 a first group of 46 pupils from the several Tallinn High schools were in Riga and led two seminars in Global Citizenship in the Classical Gymnasium, where Latvian and non-Latvian children study. PTP Estonia members told about the PTPI history and traditions and commented a 16 minute long. PTPI videotape. In addition the group had a party and visited historical places, museums and Aqualand together.

A second group of 46 Estonian pupils from two Narva high schools was in Riga on March 4-5 with the same program.

The third group from the other PTP chapters and schools will go to Latvia in April.

A fourth group will be for teachers in civic from different Estonian schools, who will run a workshops in civic and Global Citizenship in Riga Classical Gymnasium.

After these visits to Riga we will receive guests from Riga.

In the operative plan for spring and summer 2000 PTP Estonia has:

- Youth conference "No Drag" in Tartu, April 7-9 in the end of the visit of the High schools and universities students from Finland, who will stay in Estonia from 2 till 9 of April (the group from Estonia - Eesti Noored NGO and PTP Estonia - was in Finland last summer, August 8-15).
- Voru PTP chapter trip to Prague and meeting with local PTP chapter, April-May.
- Participation in the PTP Europe conference in Lucerne, May 12-14.
- Participation in the Berlin Youth meeting, June 10-12.
- Tallinn PTP chapter will host a group (15-17 members) from PTP Arizona, June 20-24.
- Traditional Summer Youth Summit, in Narva-Joesuu, July.
- Kohtla-Järve chapter will host High School students from Helsinki, Finland, July.
- Several PTP Estonia chapters will host foreign students, who will work in EstYES NGO summer camps in Estonia, June-August.
- PTP Estonia 10-days trip to Finland, Sweden and Norway, July-August.

Ruta Pels

Albania

It's a great chance that not many people on earth have! Being a member of PTPI.

For all of you, who don't know me, I shall introduce myself. My name is Genci Mucaj and I am from Albania southern Europe. I have been involved in PTPI since September 1998, when I participated in PTPI worldwide Conference in Chester England! I knew nothing about PTPI until then. I was fascinated by the great power of friendship among PTPI members and delighted to meet new people

I don't want to bother you telling the story of how we set up our six chapters in Albania soon after we got back home, but let me tell you we are surrendered by wonderful people dedicated to PTPI goals here.

In PTP Albania (PTPA) we often meet and discuss the possibilities of working together and indeed we are doing a lot, and we are happy! From November 1998 when we founded the first PTPA chapters until this moment you are reading my letter, we have actively participated in several events that PTPI and PTPE have organized! We look forward to further our relations with other chapters worldwide.

Well dear friends, I want to tell you a very important fact and unforgettable experience I had in a homestay program in Albany and Buffalo in the state of New York.

Through the very good assistance from PTPI Headquarters (Ines Dahne-Steuber) contacts were prepared prior to my visit.

I exchanged several messages via E-mail with my host families and I could feel the charm and readiness they had to host me (never seen before) in their family. I was certainly anxious meeting people of completely different cultures and traditions. You never know what they would look like! What would I look like!

My first visit was with the Fullers family in Albany chapter. Albany is very much like north of my country, green, mountain like and lakes! I received a warm welcome in Saratoga. It felt like home! In 5 minutes we became friends as if we had known each other for ages! That's the beauty of PTPI I thought. You meet people from all over the world and you became friends and share the same view!

The Albany chapter and their President Mrs. Charlene Ellies had organized a welcome dinner with the members of Albany chapter. We were over 20 people at the dinner. People that I met for the first time in my life. It was such a great atmosphere. We had dinner and talked about PTPI/PTPA and asked questions to each other. They were interested in Albania and I did my best to give them a full view about my country and PTPA.

I was most impressed by the Student Ambassadors at the dinner. Some of them had traveled to Australia and New Zealand.

A very important moment was when I was invited to talk to 150 students at Corinth Middle School in Saratoga Albany NY. I couldn't believe the interest they showed about PTPI and Albania where I came from.

I was asked hundreds of questions, such as: what side of the road do you drive on? What do you eat? How do you dress? What music do you listen to? etc. I think they liked the conversation we had, as I did very much. In the end lots of students would come to me and asked how can I become a PTPI member! Isn't that just great!

I certainly had a great time and found the experience worthwhile and look forward to seeing them again in the near future. That will indeed be an everlasting friendship.

My second homestay was with Barbara Capozzi in Buffalo, recently a Director of PTPI.

As I met Barb and her husband Gino at the airport, I found out about the surprise they had prepared for me. We went to nice a restaurant, where they and their family had gathered to celebrate Christmas. Over 130 family members and friends came in! I could not believe it. Such charming people!

Barb and Gino came from Italian born parents, and they preserve many Italian traditions. I really got along very well. Albanians live very close to Italy and we have lots of common tradition and cultures. I would speak Italian to many of them whom had saved the language.

I the next morning Barb drove me to Niagara Falls. The weather was awful, but I still enjoyed the trip very much. I had seen Niagara Falls only on TV or magazine but not in person! Huge amounts of water were splashing all around. What a beauty, ruined by high buildings and cement! Anyway, my environmentalist attitudes would always find place for complaints!!!

Where does all this treatment come from? I asked Barbara and myself.

Certainly through you. No doubt through you Barbara. I am sure they are wonderful people, they love you and would respect anyone like they did me, yet I was not unknown to them.

We do all this, as we love people Genci. We want to live in peace and harmony with them. That's what PTPI is all about getting to know each other. People are the same wherever they come from.

Dear readers,

I hope you would have the patience to read my report and enjoy it, though I am sure you would it long, Yet I am afraid I have said very little of what I have experienced meeting those people.

A special thank you would go to all of them I met. I would like to let them know that I will never forget them and hope to do the same when they come to Albania.

We at PTP Albania are planing to host a National Meeting in Tirana by mid May 2000 and hope to gather as many people as possible.

Genci Mucaj

Gliwice, Poland

During the annual European Conference in Berlin our chapter established a relationship with La Porte chapter, Indiana represented by LaVicie Runkle, PTP International vice Chairman.

LaVicie suggested that we could make an effort to let children and teachers from Poland and USA become pen friends. Our team found it as a quite interesting idea and made me responsible for the beginning of "pen-pal program". Soon after the conference I got in touch with Bruce R. Johnson, teacher in South Central School in Union Mills, Indiana and Chapter La Porte member. Together, step by step we managed to result in first letter exchange between the group of Junior High School students from Union Mills and our students of Gimnazjum nr 4 in Gliwice. During this time we have had invaluable support from Ms. Anna Walter, member of our Chapter and a teacher at the school mentioned herein before. She's done all necessary labor to promote our action among students and teachers and since now she is responsible for further activities in this field.

Ms. Walter is going to visit South Central School in Union Mills during her short visit in US in May this year. While her stay near La Porte, she would be able to meet the students as well as other members of PTPI Chapter La Porte, especially Bruce Johnson, who was she cooperated with for quite long time, and LaVicie Runkle, the main originator of this activity.

It should be very fruitful visit for both sides. And - of course - all teachers from other countries are welcome to join our "school pen-pal" program. Contact me if you are interested.

Marek Sadowski

Bern

In our February 2000 Newsletter, Cornelia Siegenthaler reports on her participation in the PTP Youth PTP conference, December 5-12, 1999, and the study sessions on democratic rights and values, voluntary service and the importance of youth's contributions to civil society she attended at this PTP conference in Budapest.

David Urech, a high school student living in Bern, gives a detailed, enthusiastic account of his participation last summer in the three week "English as a Second Language" Peace Camp with Bridges for Understanding, in Pulawy, Poland. Young people, 14-18, from Romania and Switzerland have been sponsored by our chapter in the last two years, and we plan to sponsor again this year at least four young people who wish to acquire a mastery of English.

There is also a report in our Newsletter on the January 8, festive theatre presentation "Der Spiesser" in Swiss German dialect at the Rütthubelbad Hotel near Bern. We were twelve people who enjoyed this presentation by "Emmentaler Liebhaber Bühne" and a special celebration with Apero of the 40th year of this local theatre group. These amateur artists have invited PTP for a TV recording of the play in May.

On February 14, several PTP members met at the Bern University, and later at a buffet Dinner at the American Ambassador's residence, with the crew of astronauts who repaired the Space Hubble Telescope last December, among whom is our friend ESA/Swiss astronaut Claude Nicollier.

On February 24, other PTP members and friends visited with expert escorts Swiss painter Cunot Amiet's comprehensive exhibition at the Bern Kunsthhaus, at the invitation of the Swiss-American Society.

Our annual meeting will take place on March 15; PTP veteran member René Maeder will show us slides of the "Walls of Peru".

A good contingent of PTP members from Bern plans to attend the PTP European conference, May 12-14 in Lucerne. Our chapter has contributed to the conference budget; it will arrange for a post conference bus tour and offer homestays.

During the summer months, we will host three groups of approximately 40 each high school Student Ambassadors from the United States, and possibly a group of students from Raleigh, NC. We are offering a 15-day trip to California and Western USA during the fall school holidays, and expect a group of PTP adults from Denmark for homestays in greater Bern as of August 26.

A travel package to the PTP Worldwide Conference, November 8-11 should facilitate a good attendance from Bern and other Swiss chapters in Hong Kong.

Daniel R. Schaubacher,

Lucerne

Regina Wälti has resigned as member of the board of Directors of PTPI. We don't know for how many years she has served as a member of the board. It must be longer than a decade. We want to thank her very cordially for her efforts she put into a good idea. She always has been a very reliable person in every respect for all PTP members. She was right there whenever there was a question, a problem, an idea. She was ready to help whatever was asked for. She also was a very good representative for PTP Europe in

the "American Circle". She was the perfect mediator between the American concept and the European idea. She was - still is - Swiss, nevertheless feels and acts as a European. We thank her for all her efforts and are very happy that she serves the Chapter Interlaken as the president. That way, Regina is still in the "club" and we can work, plan and have fun together. Regina, we hope that we still will see you around. We

thank you once more for all your friendship and work.

in the name of the PtP Switzerland, Chapter Lucerne
as recent member of the Board of Directors, PtP Europe

as a member of the Board of Trustees of PTPI

Ruth Weber

Addresses – PTP Europe Board

PTPE Secretary England	Mr Peter Whitby 88 Lache Lane Chester CH4 7LS	Home: +44 1244679251 Fax office: +44 1244677644
PTPE Treasurer Germany	Mrs Brigitte Kasigkeit Urbanstr 111 10967 Berlin	Home: +49 30 6939979 Fax office: +49 30 69042466 Internet: PTPBerlin@t-online.de
PTPE Youth Coordinator France	Mrs Annick Debien BP 295 10, Rue Ludovic Trarieux 16007 Angouême	Office: +33 545957357 Fax office: +33 545380141
PTPE PR Officer Estonia	Mrs Ruta Pels Karberi 33-76 0038 Tallinn	Home: +372 6355697 Office: +372 6108816 Fax office: +372 6108802 Internet: ptpest@hot.ee

PTP Publications Schedule

Within PTP there are a few publications available. Chapters and members are encouraged to contribute with material. It could for example be reports on passed events and invitations to coming events.

Publication	Audience	Issued	Deadline	Editor
<i>Update</i> Bulletin	PTPI Board of Directors and Staff	Monthly	26 th of each month	PTPI Publications
<i>On Track</i> Bulletin	Directors, Trustees, Chapters	Monthly	9 th of each month	PTPI Publications
Connections Newsletter "Connecting PTPI Members"	PTPI Current Members	3/year	February 26 May 26 August 26	PTPI Publications
<i>Developments</i> Newsletter A Resource Development Newsletter	Current Adult Members	3/year	January 26 April 26 July 26	Development
<i>People</i> Magazine	Current Members	Annually	October 1	PTPI Publications
PTP Europe Newsletter	Chapters and members in Europe	4/year		PTP Europe
PTP Europe Internet chat list	PTP members	Continuos	-	Register at www.polsl.gliwice.pl/ngo/ptpe/index.html

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, Blissestraße 30, 10713 Berlin, Germany.

Phone: +49 30 89360658

Internet: Lars_Poignant@compuserve.com

Fax: +46 8 6599571