



**EEC Chairman's Letter
30th Ethnic Festival**



Dear Friends of the Ethnic Enrichment Commission,

In just 10 days I hope to see you, your families and friends, once again, at our 30th Annual, "Ethnic Enrichment Festival" in beloved Swope Park, KCMO, August 21, 22 and 23. www.eeckc.org

It has been almost twelve months since we last came together - 35,000 adults and children - to celebrate the beautiful cultural diversity that our wonderful community has to offer. This festival, our most visible form of Outreach Programming, is the Crown Jewel of the many smaller on-going community events we present throughout the year. As you know our festival focuses on Ethnic Foods, Music, Bands, Dance, Crafts and International Children's Activities. It is the largest such festival in our Country, in one park, all at one time!

I would like to THANK a few of the SEVERAL groups and individuals in and outside of our Commission for helping us make this event grander every year:

- Our Commission which is made up of 66 Countries and Native Groups
- EEC Committees who pulls together to create this annual festival
- Metro Kansas City, its Government, Civic and Business Organizations
- Kansas City Parks and Recreation
- Missouri Arts Council
- Neighborhood Tourism Development Fund
- KCUR-89.3FM Public Radio
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of KC
- Time Warner Cable
- KCP&L
- KSMB TV
- Sprint

- Commerce Bank

It is our Commissions, Commissioners and their HUGE labor of LOVE that bring everything together for this event to be so successful. We welcome new Ethnic Communities and Sponsors to join our efforts.

With great respect,
Mel Prezant
EEC Chairman



Ethnic Enrichment Festival

Feel the World Beat in the Heart of America!

August 21, 22, 23, 2009

Swope Park - Meyer Blvd & Swope Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri

Please check our website: www.eeckc.org for more information.

THE REAL MCCOY BY DANNY STANTON



Why do we carry the America flag?

This question has been asked directly and/or indirectly by numerous people of varying ethnicities since I have been a member of the Ethnic Enrichment Commission, representing African Americans. As we are preparing for another festival, perhaps now is a great time to address this issue?

At one of our Diplomatic balls, I was admiring a beautifully outfitted Native American representative while proceeding to line up for the procession. When I introduced myself and my commission, he responded, "Oh, so you're kind of generic." This was not offensive to me, as it was not intended to be; rather it was an enlightenment. I had a similar

experience when I met a nice Asian gentleman at a potluck event at the park prior to a festival, who also inquired about my "generic representation." One other time at a festival, I encountered a not so well-meaning man who was attempting to harass participants at the African American crafts booth by repeatedly asking, "and what country is African American <chuckle, chuckle>?" Finally, I have been approached by two African Americans, one who works with the Parks and Recreation Department and the other, a political figure who have informed me that I am carrying the wrong flag. The latter person, who has protested more than once, further educated me at one of the Memorial Day services that "African Americans don't have a country." I wonder what country she represents politically, as well as the veterans that she is supposed to be honoring at the events.

From the time that we were introduced here, initially as indentured servants prior to the inception of slavery and beyond, we have been instrumental in building and shaping this great country, along with other various ethnic groups. One of the first people recorded in American History books who gave his life in the American Revolution was an African American, Crispus Attucks. The title of this entry is derived from a popular American phrase that is believed to have origin in honor of an African American engineer, inventor Elijah McCoy. His patented invention provided such a vital part for railroad engines that purchasers and investors insisted on "the Real McCoy," rather than substitutes or copy cats.

Indeed, we do have a country; and we carry the American Flag because it represents our country and our heritage. And no, we are not generic; we're the Real McCoy.



Elijah McCoy

*This section is being dedicated to each of the countries we represent. Please look forward to learning more about our **American Indian** culture when you receive our next issue.*

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Mayor's Ethnic Enrichment Commission is a not-for-profit (501 c3) organization.

- Encourages appreciation and understanding of cultural diversity
- Cultural programs by ethnic representatives
- Membership of more than 60 countries and cultures
- Presentations available to schools, businesses, trade and civic organizations
- Honorariums are appreciated

For further information or to contact a particular ethnic group(s) or to coordinate an outreach program, please contact our Outreach Programs Director, Varaluck 'Oay' Slaughter, by emailing rslaug2672@embarqmail.com

Upcoming Schedule of Events:

Thu 8/20/09
11:30 am -1:00 pm

Flavor of India
Restaurant
12112 W. 87th St.
Lenexa, KS

AACC NETWORKING – LUNCH & LEARN: WHO'S HIRING?

Meet with area employers who are hiring! Along with making career connections and business networking. While enjoying the fine Indian cuisine including Tandoori Chicken, Tikka Masaala, Lassi, and more!
\$10 Pay Online through 8/18/09 , \$15 at the door!

Contact: Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City
Sook Park at 913-338-0774, email: sook_park@asianchamberkc.com

Sat 8/29/09
10:00 am -12:00 pm

Plaza Library
Large Room
48th & Main, KCMO

ALL THINGS SCOTTISH: PART 4

This class will give a presentation on Scotland's Great Highland Bagpipe, Scottish Style Drumming and Highland Dancing, and will go through a brief history of the music plus discuss how it is used today.

Convener: Kansas City St. Andrew Society

Class Fee: \$9 Number of Sessions: 1 Limit: 25.

Call UMKC Communiversity, at 816-235-1448 to register.

Sat. 8/ 29/09
7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Tropical Palm
5614 E 87th Street
Kansas City, MO 64132

WEST INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB - 11TH ANNUAL BANQUET

Come and enjoy great West Indian food, entertainment, and door prizes
Semi-Formal Attire - Dress code in effect

Tickets are \$35.00

Contact Keisha Jones at 816-201-2150

Sat 8/29/09
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Rockhurst High School
Rose Theatre
9301 State Line Road
Kansas City, MO

CONCERT FOR GLOBAL PEACE

International Visitors Council of Greater Kansas City is partnering with the UMKC Conservatory to host its first ever Concert for Global Peace featuring Nenad Bach, a world renowned Croatian pop musician who has played with Luciano Pavorotti and at the White House. International musicians from UMKC will also be show-cased.

Individual Ticket - \$30 – UMKC Box Office (816-235-6222)

For more information - http://kcivc.org/concert_for_global_peace

Mon 9/28/09
1:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Deer Creek Golf Club
7000 W. 133rd St.
Overland Park, KS 66209

AACC ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Golf and Networking.

Dinner buffet, tons of fun and give-aways included! Only \$100 per player!!

For sponsorship and/or registration, please contact at 913-338-0774 or email at sook_park@asianchamberkc.com

Website, Media and Publicity Committee:

- Marti Wulandari Wilson (Indonesia)
- Dr. Lillian Pardo (Philippines)
- Dee Nicholson (Hawaii)
- Roxana Candillo (Bolivia)
- Evita Turello (Bolivia)
- Solomon Reta (Ethiopia)

Contact Information: phone: 816-513-7553 email: Ethnic_Enrichment_Commission@KCMO.org
web: <http://www.eeckc.org>