



ETHNIC ENRICHMENT COMMISSION OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

*Cultural Connections*

*July 2009*

### **EEC Chairman's Letter EEC - Commission's Outreach Activity**

Dear Friends of the Ethnic Enrichment Commission,

Part of our 'Mission Statement reads as follows, *"The Commission with membership of over 60 countries continues to foster understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity in the greater Kansas City area."*

The EEC's Outreach activities are the main conduit by which we meet our ever increasing goals. Our major annual projects and programs such as: The Ethnic Enrichment Festival – Diplomatic Ball – Participation in the American Royal Parade – Community Outreach Programming (Schools, Civic, Business and Government) – and our Independent Commission initiatives, all encompass our core efforts to meet this Mission Statement. We hope to have our 'International College Student Initiative' stand alongside our other international efforts during this year, and going forward.

I want to thank our family of Commissions, for their efforts, great and small – truly a labor of love – for making Kansas City's, 'Ethnic Enrichment Commission', a model by which other cities throughout these United States, have fashioned their international 'grass root' activity.

With great respect,  
Mel Prezant  
EEC - Chairman

### **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](mailto:rslaug2672@embarqmail.com)

## THE ALOHA STATE

Hawaii was born from hot lava bursting through a huge crack in the ocean floor creating mountains rising above the waves to form islands. Years of erosion turned hard rock into soil, rain shaped hills and valleys. Winds came and brought birds who dropped seeds and with the rain created trees and flowers. That's the scientific explanation. But, an old Hawaiian legend says one of our gods let down his magic fishhook and pulled up the islands dripping from the sea.

The islands were uninhabited until long double-hulled canoes arrived from Tahiti and the Marquesas using only the stars to guide them. These early Polynesians were isolated from the outside world for thousands of years until discovery by British Captain James Cook in 1778. He named them the Sandwich Islands.

The discovery of the islands brought ships from all over the world and whaling became one of the early industries. Another influence from the outside world was the arrival of Christian missionaries in 1850. The Hawaiian monarchy welcomed the missionaries who taught the Hawaiian people to read. Soon Hawaii became the most literate country in the world. These missionaries established a school, Punahou. Its most famous alumni is President Obama.

Many missionaries left the church to develop sugar and pineapple plantations and imported workers from China, Japan, Korea, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines to work the fields. Today Hawaii's people are a mixture of these cultures with every race being a minority, especially the Hawaiians.

Descendents of the early missionaries formed a plan to overthrow the Hawaiian government and dethroned our last queen. In 1898, Hawaii was made a territory of the United States. On August 21, 1959, Hawaii became our 50<sup>th</sup> state. This year is the 50-year anniversary of statehood.

This island paradise has the world's mildest climate, the highest mountain (measured from below sea level), the wettest spot, the largest ever-flowing volcano and a magic that is hard to resist.

Aloha,  
Dorinda Makanaonalani Nicholson  
Hawaii Commissioner  
[www.gohawaii.com](http://www.gohawaii.com)

**Starting this month, this section is being dedicated to each of the countries we represent. Please look forward to learning more about our African American culture when you receive our next issue.**

***Save the Date!***

**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](http://www.eeckc.org) for more information.

## ***Past Events:***

**Fri 7/3/09**

5:00 pm – 10:00 pm

At McCoy Park  
(24 Hwy. & N. Spring St.,  
Independence



### **ISLAND FRIDAY**

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Non-perishable food items, toiletries, or donations are appreciated to benefit the Salvation Army.

Polynesian Food Plates \$10.00

Schedule of Events:

5-6pm Kid's Tour of the Islands.

6-8:30pm Polynesian Music & Dancing for the family.

8:30-9pm Samoan Fire Knife Dance Competition.

9-10pm Musical Performances by ALO KEY & SPAWNBREEZIE and the BREEZE BAND.

**Sat. 7/ 4/09**

6:30 pm-9:00 pm

Vision Hall  
6320 Manchester Ave.  
Kansas City,MO

### **FUNDRAISING EVENT**

Anioma Association of Greater Kansas City has a fundraising event that includes cultural entertainment, dance and Nigerian dishes/foods.

Cost: \$20.00 or \$25.00 at the door

Raffle tickets also sold for several prizes

## ***Upcoming Schedule of Events:***

**Sat 7/11/09**

8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Swope Park  
Kansas City, MO

### **PARTY IN THE PARK**



Park Play all day and into the night at Party in the Park. In celebration of National Recreation and Parks Month, you can enjoy free or low-cost, family-friendly activities at Swope Park's attractions throughout the day.

Swope Park is the crown jewel of the Kansas City, Missouri park system. At 1,805 acres, it is one of the largest urban parks in the United States and home to many of Kansas City's finest attractions including the Kansas City Zoo, Lakeside Nature Center, Swope Memorial and Heart of America Golf Courses, Kansas City Wizards training facility, Southeast Community Center and Starlight Theatre.

<http://www.kcmo.org/parks.nsf/web/swopeparkday> for more information.

**Sat 7/18/09**

7:30-10:00 pm

Turner-GACA Banquet  
Hall  
512 Bong Avenue,  
Belton, Missouri  
(East of Eagles' Landing  
Golf Course)

**CELEBRATION OF SOMMERFEST**

You, Your Family and Friends are cordially invited to the family-friendly Turner's-German American Citizen's Association.

Children's Play Area & Games all day beginning at 2pm to dusk. Children's price includes all the kid's activities. Games and fun activities all day long, like face painting, balloon artists, and yard inflatables.  
Hula Hoop Contest at 3pm, and Water Balloon Toss at 4pm and 7pm for prizes.

All Day "Wrist Band" Pass.

\$10 per Adult                      \$5 per Child (12 years and under)

\$5 for Military Personnel with valid ID.

German Food a la carte, German Beer & assorted beverages available for purchase. Food served from 1pm to 9pm in the upper lounge area.

**Sun 7/25/09**

3:30 pm

Royals

**JAPAN HERITAGE NIGHT AT THE "K"**

Join us and celebrate "Japan Heritage Night" with the KC Royals Game against the Texas Rangers. Game time 6:10pm

Cultural activities in the Outfield Plaza include performances by Ki-Daiko, KU Japanese student Okinawa Dance Group and Jo Yamanaka and the J-Band from 3:30pm. Many Kid's activities include: miniature golf, the "Little K", batting cages, etc.

Ki-Daiko and KU Dance Group will perform on the field during the pregame events.

Ticket Prices:

View Level Infield:    \$10    (regular price \$16)

Field Plaza:                \$15    (regular price \$26)

Field Box:                    \$18    (regular price \$33)

Tickets can be purchased online by going to: [www.royals.com/japan](http://www.royals.com/japan)  
(a slight extra charge per order will be added).

Or contact Fran Lemery at [flemery@aol.com](mailto:flemery@aol.com) 913-568-9084 to obtain tickets without any fee.

**Website, Media and Publicity Committee:**

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

**Contact Information:**

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