



ETHNIC ENRICHMENT COMMISSION OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Cultural Connections

June 2009

**Chairman's Introduction to the NEW
'EEC - Community Cultural Connections' Newsletter**

You have finally received our first, of what is to become our monthly 'EEC - Cultural Connections' Newsletter, focusing on Greater Kansas City's, International Community. You have requested and we are providing this look into our wonderful, and diverse LOCAL/GLOBAL area. We will provide our area International activities to our Friends and Neighbors, Civic Organizations, Schools, Business, Local Government and International Associations /Councils.

For the past 30 Years we have been hosting the EEC's annual, Ethnic Enrichment Festival, enjoying at times more than 40,000 guests from here and cities around the country. There is a need for our community to connect with our cultural roots thru celebration of Music, Art, Crafts, Food and Social Interaction. Our World is all around us! It is our pleasure to help you focus on this 'Tapestry of Diversity'; Greater Kansas City has to offer.

I look forward to hearing from you – www.eeckc.org Attn: **Community CC Newsletter**. Please enjoy our listings of: Current and Future Events – International Business Opportunities and Outreach Programs. Send us your ideas and International event schedules – Cultural and Social (Non-Religious and Non-Political) our Media Committee will evaluate your requests for publication. We will expand this forum to accommodate the needs of our community.

Please send us the Names (Organization) and E-mail Addresses of folks you think might like to receive this, 'EEC-Community Cultural Connections' Newsletter.

With great respect;
Mel Prezant - Chairman
Ethnic Enrichment Commission

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 for more information.

Long Lasting Partnership

Melinda Minks

I became aware of the Ethnic Enrichment Commission during 8th Festival. I was the Director of a Community Center and was asked to help with some of the tasks associated with that production. I don't even remember what I did but I was hooked.

The Cultural Arts Division was the unit that worked with the Commission. I don't remember anyone I met during that Festival but do remember how much I enjoyed it and how unique the event was.

As the years passed, I moved up in the department, assuming more responsibility until, after graduating from college (25 years after I started), I was responsible for four sections of the Recreation Division. Pools, Playgrounds, Open Door (the After-School Program) and my favorite, Community Centers all combined had a budget of over \$4 million. Now I had staff that I could use to assist with the Festival and used pool and playground staff to drive golf carts, serving the various booths.

I remember Chet Ellis, the Native American Commissioner, was the Festival Manager one year. We had about 25 booths and had a small ten foot by ten foot booth for beer on one inside portion of the circle and a soft drink booth on the opposite corner of the circle. Then each booth began to sell their own soft drinks and we created a beer garden outside the circle.

We began to improve the overall festival by using a uniform size of platform, putting names and numbers on the back of the booth so cart drivers could tell where they were.

And then came the financial crisis. The Parks and Recreation Department could no longer supply all things that the Festival needed and the Commission stepped up and began to perform some of the tasks that our staff used to do. Then it became a true partnership.

The Festival today represents the best of both Parks and Recreation and the Ethnic Enrichment Commission. Progressive thinking by past and current Festival Managers have brought us into the 21st century. The innovations brought about by Dick Horvatic, our current manager have thrust us into a bold new era despite the sinking economy.

The Ethnic Festival as it is today is, has become one of the premier Festivals in the Midwest. The growth of the Festival is an indicator of the care and enthusiasm of the Commissions and the interest of the citizens of the metropolitan area.

Melinda Minks, Ethnic Liaison - Kansas City, MO Parks and Recreation

2009 ETHNIC ENRICHMENT FESTIVAL OUR 30th ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Our festival's origin dates back to the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration when attention was focused on the city areas rich cultural heritage. A committee was formed, developed and the first Ethnic Enrichment Festival held at the Liberty Memorial, in 1980.

With support of then Mayor Richard Berkley and Councilman Victor Swyden, a resolution was introduced creating the Mayors' Ethnic Enrichment Commission.

Over the years, the Commission has grown over 66 countries and ethnic groups represented and serving up authentic food, crafts, and entertainment. As in the past, our 30th festival will be in beautiful Swope Park at the Pavilion, located just west of Starlight Theater. The dates and times are:

Friday, August 21: 6-10 p.m.

Saturday, August 22: noon – 10 p.m.

Sunday, August 23: noon – 6 p.m.

Last year we had about 40,000 people attend the festival. It is the oldest and largest festival of its kind in the Midwest, has enjoyed many visitors over the last 29 years.

Come join us and “**Feel the World Beat in the Heart of America**”

The admittance fee is \$3.00 for adults and **FREE** to children 12 and under, accompanied by an adult. Parking is **FREE**. This is a family event to include stage entertainment on the half hour on our stage in the shady pavilion.

Forty-two countries will be presented at the festival offering food, crafts, music, dance and fashions. For those interested, there will be a “Beer Garden” offering domestic and imported beers from around the world.

A new feature is the international Youth Booth for your children and grandchildren. They have the opportunity to learn various ethnic activities, create things, learn and sing new songs; hear favorite ethnic stories and more!

Dick Horvatic
2009 Festival Manager

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

Past of Events:

Sat 5/2/09

Blue Valley Public Library
Overland Park, KS

[Asian Heritage Festival](#)

Music, dance, crafts and food. All ages.

Sat 5/2/09

Hillside Youth Group

[Ridge Reservation. "Buffalo Roast"](#)

American Indian - music and dance

Thu. 5/7/09

Lincoln College Preparatory

[International Day](#)

Academy Music and dance

Fri. 5/8/09
Cedar Creek Elem.
Lee's Summit, MO

International Day
Music, dance and cultural box

Sat 5/9/09
KCKCC
Kansas City, KS

The 4th Annual "Wyandotte County Ethnic Festival".
Music, ethnic food, clothing, or other items.

Thu. 5/28/09
Commerce Bank
Kansas City, MO

Asian Pacific Heritage Month
Performance and cultural box

Upcoming Schedule of Events:

Fri 6/5/09
Sat 6/6/09
Sun 6/7/09

FESTA ITALIANA
Come and enjoy Great Italian Food, Italian Wine, Italian Music, and much more. At the FESTA ITALIANA everyone's ITALIAN!!

Zona Rosa
Kansas City MO

Free admission. Newly expanded parking.
Live entertainment all weekend, and featuring Joseph Vincelli, the Viviano Variety show and much more.
Fireworks. Kids area: inflatables and carnival games.

Fri 6/5/09
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Lenexa Community Center
13420 Oak St,
Lenexa, KS 66215

KCAA FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE PARTY
Kansas City Chinese Association will host dance party and everyone is welcome!
Dance, Music, Snacks, Drinks ... Come join us for a fun Friday night!

Ticket: \$5 KCCA Member and Student
\$12 Package (Ticket + KCCA Membership)
\$10 Non-member Party Ticket Only

For more information, please visit
<http://www.kcca-ks.org/main/home.html>

Sat 6/6/09
7:30-10:00 pm

Pierson Hall
the University Center,
UMKC

5000 Rockhill Rd,
Kansas City, MO 64110

GAMELAN GENTA KASTURI - Ensemble OF Blossoming Sound
will present a concert of traditional and modern Balinese Music and Dance with special guests from Bali, Indonesia.

Gamelan is the orchestral musical tradition of Indonesia and involves a large group of metallophones, gongs and drums that perform alone or with dance. Gamelan Genta Kasturi is an eighteen member community ensemble that operates under the auspices of the UMKC Conservatory's Community Music & Dance Academy. More info on Bali and Gamelan can be found at the following website:

http://conservatory.umkc.edu/community_academy/gamelan.aspx.

Free Admission. Suggested donation \$10

Sun 6/7/09

12:00-5:00 pm

800 North 18 St.
Kansas City, Kansas

Annual Social for the Sisters of The Servants of Mary

Come and enjoy good food and Spanish Desserts and meet the sisters and have a good time.

The Social is a family event, and there are children activities.

Free Admission

Sun 6/7/09

3:00 pm

Villa Medici Clubhouse
9550 Ash Street,
Overland Park, KS

RUSSIAN TEA PARTY

Join us for a fun-filled evening of delicious Russian pastry, great art, music and dancing!

Ticket Information:

\$10 per person, \$8 per person for a party of three (3) or more

Children under age 12 are free

Tickets available at "European Delights",

8409 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS or at the door.

Please RSVP by e-mail: russianteakc@yahoo.com or call 816.246.9862

Fri. 6/ 12/09

6:00-11:00 pm

Sat. 6/ 13/09

3:00-11:00 pm

Mike Onka Memorial
Bldg.
11520 E. Putnam
Sugar Creek, MO

SUGAR CREEK SLAVIC FESTIVAL

Join us for a Slavic celebration filled with food, laughter, music and dancing. The 2009 Slavic Festival is coming, June 12th and 13th.

Free parking and shuttles are available throughout the event. For more information about the Sugar Creek Slavic Festival, please visit the website:
<http://www.slavicfest.com/sugarcreek.html>. Na zdravie!

FIESTA FILIPINA

Sat. 6/ 13/09

12:00-8:00 pm

Sun, 6/14/09

12:00-6:00 pm

Filipino Cultural Center
9810 W. 79th St
Overland Park
KS 66210

Delicious Filipino food, bbq, desserts and drinks. Sinag-Tala Dancers and Sampaguita Choir entertainment. Arts and Crafts! Fun and games for kids! Prizes!

Admission : \$ 2 /person.

Children 12 and under free with accompanying adult.

For more information contact Malou Nix: 913-269-4497

Visit our website : <http://filipino-association.org>

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL

Fri. 6/ 12/09

6:00 pm-11:00 pm

Sat. 6/ 13/09

9:00 am-11:00 pm

Sun, 6/14/09

9:00 am-4:00 pm

E.H. Young Park,
Riverside, Missouri

The Kansas City Scottish Highland Games has world-class bagpiping, sanctioned highland dancing and Scottish heavy athletics competitions. **Bring the family** to a wee bit of Scotland in America's heartland!

Come experience the color, sounds and traditions of Scotland, here in greater Kansas City, Missouri!

For more information contact, visit our website : www.kcscottishgames.org

Sat. 6/ 13/09

10:00 am-3:00 pm

Brush Creek & Ward
Parkway
Kansas City, MO

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Come to celebrate the traditions of China at a **FREE** family fun event, the Annual International Dragon Boat Festival and Races, along Brush Creek and Ward Parkway on the Plaza. The festival will feature hands-on art activities for the kids, live music, traditional Chinese dance, and conclude with Dragon Boat Races along Brush Creek.

GERMAN SONGFEST

Sat. 6/ 13/09

Downtown
Cole Camp Park
MO

250 singers will participate, including the Kansas City Liederkrantz singers. Afternoon concert at 1PM

For more information, please call Ilse Brodersen, 816-836-8525

MIDSOMMAR CELEBRATION

Sat. 6/ 20/09

4:00 pm

Hollis Renewal Center
Bonner Springs, KS

For more information, please contact any of the Scandinavian commissioners:
Milan Hanson or Verne Knutson, Norway
Al or MaryAnn Waisanen, Finland
Dean or Barb Larsen, Denmark
Robert Lindwall or Linda Dost, Sweden

Website, Media and Publicity Committee:

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

Contact Information:

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web: <http://www.eeckc.org>