



Our Mission

is to bring together people of diverse national origins to foster intercultural understanding, to promote awareness of our roles as citizens in the wider global community, and to facilitate partnerships and resources that enrich the vitality and diversity of the Centre Region.

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 Amruta Inamdar, Program Coordinator
 Varada Vaidya, Program Coordinator
 Vanda Hurnyi Mikóné, Volunteer

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Global Connections is a nonprofit organization supported by the Centre County United Way, Penn State's Global Programs, and members of the community.

Global Connections is a secular organization that does not promote, endorse, nor is allied with any religion or religious organization.

Centre County
 United Way

United
 Way



Connections

A Global Connections Publication

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International Children's Festival 2013!

Global Connections' 2013 International Children's Festival, held in collaboration with Penn State's Global Programs, again brought some 500 kids and their families together to experience the music, dance, games and crafts of other countries with people from those countries. In the auditorium of the South Building of State High School, attendees took in performances such as traditional Thai dance, Bengali song and American Hip-Hop. In the cafeteria, activities varied from making Chilean rain sticks or learning Egyptian hieroglyphics to crafting Guatemalan worry dolls, playing a Filipino stick jumping game or learning to use chopsticks for a chopsticks challenge. More than 23 countries as well as a variety of community organizations were represented. Festival-goers also enjoyed judging an international dessert competition — voting the Malaysian dish the winner— and bidding in the silent auction.



Around the World at Lunch Hour



Eunice Hockenberry, Minerva Gomez & Sarai Torres helped Noelia Torres bring Mexican cuisine and culture to very appreciative members of the Centre County community.



Vanda Hurnyi-Mikóné serves up her Diós-Mákos Beigli and Somlói Galuska desserts at the March Hungarian lunch.

Global Connections' Cultural lunches in early 2013 took attendees around the world, from **Mexico** on February 20th, to **Hungary** on March 13th and finally, to **Iran** on April 17th. Roughly 100 guests were treated to the culture and cuisine of each country, prepared by volunteers Noelia Torres, Eunice Hockenberry, Minerva Gomez, Sarai Torres (Mexico), Vanda Hurnyi-Mikóné, Istvan Miko & Katalin Böröczky (Hungary) and Tamra Fatemi-Badi, Hamideh Etemadnia & friends (Iran).



It takes MANY villages to make a GC lunch — In addition to the supervisory volunteer from the country of focus, every lunch involves volunteers from around the world. Here are volunteers who helped to bring together the March Hungarian lunch. Top from left: Tamra Fatemi (GC Staff -USA), Xiaojie Liu, Xu Wang and Wei Wang (China), Kata Boroczky and Vanda Hurnyi-Mikóné (Hungary), Noelia Torres (Mexico). (Bottom left: Anupama Haleshappa Ratnamma (India), Donna Hamao-Langdon (USA), Sharon Xiangyou Shen (China/USA), and Rajanigandha Mohanta (India). (Not pictured: Istvan Miko (Hungary), Julie Fernsler (USA), Andy Deans (USA), Denise Goodman (USA) and Mairi Sim (Scotland).

While GC's Cultural Lunches give community members the opportunity to experience authentic international cuisine and to learn more about another culture/country from an actual person of that country, the program is also an engaging and empowering experience for the volunteer — an experience which can give the volunteer a regained a sense of pride in themselves and their culture, putting them in the position of teaching others, and providing a way to “give back” to their new community. After leading a recent Cultural Lunch, Vanda Hurnyi-Mikóné said, “Being able to share my culture with the community was an incredible experience for me. I’m happy that people learned more about Hungary. And after feeling for so long that I was not needed here, it gave me a sense of real accomplishment, pride of myself and of my country, and sense of purpose. It is a really good feeling.”

Thank you, American Association of University Women (AAUW) State College Branch, for a 2013-2014 grant to help bring Cultural Lunches to the community and give more international women this enriching opportunity!



Passport on a Plate: A Silk Road Odyssey

The 2013 Passport on a Plate: Silk Road Odyssey was an evening of sumptuous fare from the cuisine of countries along the ancient silk trade route, jaw-dropping entertainment by Nai Yi Zhao of the New York Chinese Opera Society who performed Magic of Changing Faces, gorgeous table décor by 19 local artists and designers, and an exciting silent auction. Thanks to our wonderful attendees, volunteer local chefs, 35 volunteer international wait staff, donations by local artists and community members, and an incredible Dinner Committee, the evening raised nearly \$30,000 for Global Connections.



Mark & Wendy Klemick



Mohammed Fatemi, Lefty McIntyre & Tamra Fatemi



Volunteer Pei-Wei Lee



Hugh & Janyce Mose



Jim Dunn, Sharon Shen & Kevin Houser



Dee Frisque & Elaine Jurs



Jack Matson & Elizabeth Goreham



Joy Vincent-Killian & Merrill David



Lida Ouwehand & Ok-Hi Lee



Barbara Minard & Betsy Allen



Vanda Hurnyi-Mikóné & Istvan Miko



Mark Your Calendars for the Passport on a Plate: Home Edition Dinners!

Global Connections' biennial culinary trip around the world —
Passport on a Plate: Home Edition Dinners,
will be held over four consecutive Saturdays,
January 18th & 25th and February 1st and 8th.

These 20+ dinners will be offered in private homes in and around State College, featuring a variety of cuisines from countries all over the globe! If you are interested in hosting a dinner or being one of our international chefs, please contact the Global Connections office for more information.



Thank You, Volunteer of the Year—Pieter Ouwehand!

This spring, we were delighted to recognize Pieter Ouwehand as our *Centre County Council for Human Services—Rose Cologne Volunteer of the Year* for Pieter's outstanding service and support of Global Connections.

Gregarious. Dedicated. Practical. Prodigiously considerate. Extraordinarily generous. A man of integrity. A truly charitable heart. We were delighted to recognize Pieter for his outstanding service and support of Global Connections. As treasurer and board member, committee member, host for Passport on a Plate Dinners, Friendship Program and Conversation Partners, Pieter is a model of commitment and kindness and an inspiration to all who work with him.

Helen Keller wrote, "Many people have the wrong idea of what constitutes real happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose." A sentiment Pieter certainly seems to live by.

We thank Pieter for making Global Connections one of those worthy purposes, and for giving so much of himself to Global Connections and his community — internationals and locals alike.



More International Children's Festival!



Global Connections and Schlow Library

2013 Centre Reads Mexican Fiesta

Global Connections and the Schlow Centre Region Library hosted a lively and colorful Mexican Fiesta on Saturday, March 16th to kick-off



Noelia Torres helps Zalán Mikó and his brother István Mikó become caballeros.

the 2013 Centre County Reads Program which this year featured the book Caramelo by Sandra Cisneros. Caramelo focuses on Mexican and Latin American heritage and families. The Mexican Fiesta, planned and organized by Global Connections volunteer Noelia Torres, offered more than 100 guests an opportunity to see, smell and taste a bit of

Latin America, and gave area children (and adults) a chance to play some Mexican games and make colorful paper flowers. Homemade salsa and chips were donated by the Rey Azteca restaurant and Ms. Torres brewed a delicious Hibiscus iced-tea to round out the festive afternoon!



Eunice Hockenberry helps attendees learn Spanish with a game of Mexican bingo.



Brontë Clingham-David models a sombrero.



Women, Save the Date for the Second Annual

Women's International Night Out!

*The evening of Thursday, November 14th, 2013 —
fun and relaxing international activities — hand-on crafts, henna body painting,
calligraphy, massage, pre-holiday sales, demonstrations, food and drink!
Look for upcoming e-invitations!*

Community Enjoys World Sounds at Noon

Global Connections' *World Sounds at Noon* ninth season of weekly performances ran from May 23rd through June 13th at the Schlow Library. GC's series gave the community the opportunity to enjoy an array of global music and often a new experience in sounds and cultures, including the hearty tones of Welsh vocalist Mari Morgan with piano accompanist Eva Mei Shouse; lively Turkish melodies with impromptu and irrepressible dancing from the audience with Anatolian Fusion; a joyful mix of dance, song and calligraphy demo from China with Xinping Gu, the Happy Valley Chinese School, Hui Li performing a Taiji fan dance, Jun Xu on the Guzheng, and calligraphy demonstration with Kun Han; and the serene classical sounds of India with the group, Raaga.

Are you on our e-mail list for upcoming events? Let us know if you'd like to be!



Raaga's music gives the audience the chance to hear both Carnatic and Hindustani selections.



Mari Morgan, professional singer from Wales, was accompanied on keyboard by PSU student, Eva Mei Shouse.



Xinping Gu, professional vocalist, delighted all with traditional Chinese song.



When Anatolian Fusion plays, you can always expect spontaneous dancing from the audience!



Jun Xu on the Guzheng.



Julia Changyue Ma and Kristine Xinyue Lai of the Happy Valley Chinese School.

Tax Filing Assistance Program Returns!

From Kazakhstan to Germany, China to Argentina, our tax program of 10 volunteer tax advisors and 3 volunteer receptionists along with the GC staff, helped 740 international students and scholars from 53 countries figure out and submit their tax returns over about a one-month period this past tax season.

A humungous thank you to our amazing volunteer tax advisors Bob Bernlohr, John Diercks, Reinhard Graetzer, Gordon Hamilton, Bob Malcom, Laura Smith, Bill Scheuchenzuber, Mimi St Clair, Bob Minard and Marcia Patterson, and to our volunteer tax receptionists, Vanda Hurnyi-Mikóné, Janis Nickerson and Noelia Torres, and to Reinhard for helping with preparation.

*We can always use more help,
no experience is necessary and we'll train you!
Contact us if you might be interested in becoming a
volunteer for the Tax Assistance Program
for spring 2014!*



Bob Bernlohr (left) explains the tax forms to an international student.

Volunteer Conversation Partners and Friendship Hosts Greatly Needed!

Start a friendship that lasts throughout the year (or lifetime!) by becoming a Conversation Partner or International Friendship Program volunteer.

Internationals often face a lengthy wait list as their numbers exceed that of our American volunteers. Through our **Conversation Partners** program, applicants practice their conversational English one-on-one. No foreign language experience is needed to volunteer, as you meet with your partner to chat in English.

The **International Friendship Program** matches people for cultural exchange and friendship— friends get together to share a meal, attend an event, or include each other once or twice a month in whatever they might be doing anyway. **No housing is involved**, and the experience is mutually beneficial as you and your new international friend(s) learn about each other's cultures. In addition to the many internationals we have on our waiting list, a huge number of brand new people have recently arrived!



Department of Aging Collaboration

Helps GC Reach More English Language Learners

This past year we began working with Experience Works — the Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) with the PA Dept of Aging. Employed through Experience Works, ESL tutor, Liisa Scheltz, works one-to-one and in small groups with Global Connections' English language learners. Since matching adult learners with much younger tutors can be awkward, having a mature adult to work with other adults is particularly helpful, and allows us to take more people off the wait list and get them on their way to better communication. Hasan Qadabas from Turkey writes, "The conversation classes have helped me improve both my speaking skills and pronunciation. Moreover, it was a great opportunity for me to learn a lot about American culture, life in America and American people. Otherwise, since I was not a student at Penn State, but my wife was, I would not have much opportunity for that. Therefore, I am so glad that I joined this program and I would like to thank both dear Liisa and all the Global Connections staff again for this opportunity."



Liisa Schelze and adult English language learners, Mehmet Tank and Hasan Qadabas, both from Turkey.

If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world.

- Francis Bacon

Make Your Own World Bigger—

Join the International Friendship Program



New friends in GC's **International Friendship Program** enjoyed each other's offerings at the spring IFP potluck, one of a few *group* events in the program. Have you thought of joining? We are always in great need of local "hosts" (no housing is involved). It just means inviting your new international friend, perhaps a couple of times a month, to join you in something you might already be doing — share a meal, go apple picking, attend a sports event, just meet for coffee. You'll quickly see, the enrichment is mutual! ***Join now, in time to be matched before the September IFP Welcome Picnic!***

Register online at our new website at www.gc-cc.org!

THANK YOU
TO ALL WHO GAVE
THROUGH

Centre
gives



Through the Centre Foundation's special event, Centre Gives — a 36-hour online donation event which took place from 6 a.m. on May 22 to 6 p.m. on May 23 —Global Connections' supporters raised \$5,373.69 in extra funding for Global Connections!

Thank you for directly supporting programs that teach English to newcomers, bring international speakers into area schools, train local businesses to better work with people from other cultures, bring cultural events into the community, and much much more.

Your donations go far in bringing our community together across cultures!

Thank you, Centre Foundation!
And thank you, supporters!



Continuing Partnership to Address Violence

Against International Women

While GC recently partnered with the Centre County Women's Resource Center in a STOP ARRA grant to address violence against international women and is a member of the Centre County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force, we continue to collaborate with the Centre County Women's Resource Center to address issues of domestic and sexual violence within the international and immigrant resident communities of Centre County. Now, through our collaboration with the 2013 OVW Transitional Housing Assistance for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Grant, GC will continue the partnership created in the recent STOP ARRA grant — furthering community support and outreach to the often marginalized population of internationals in our community who need assistance.

Thank You, Contributors to *Passport on a Plate: A Silk Road Odyssey!*

Chefs, In-kind Donors, Table Designers, Auction Donors, Performers, Student Wait Staff and Guests

CHEFS

Craig Hamilton, Event Chef Coordinator, *The Village at Penn State* • William Benedetto, *Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel* • Courtney Confer, *Red Horse Tavern* • Anne Corr • Duke Gastiger, *Spats Café & Speakeasy Restaurant* • *The Greek Restaurant* • Paul Kendeffy, *Zola New World Bistro / The Gamble Mill* • Pam Lear • Justin Leiter, *Red Horse Tavern* • Andrew Monk, *Nittany Lion Inn* • Carol Oliver • Grace Pilato, *Cooking with Grace* • Renee Reed, *The Village at Penn State* • Jaime Stover, *The Village at Penn State*

IN-KIND DONORS

Ramada Inn and Conference Center, Jennifer Brooks-Stahl and Tom Kowalczyk • *Cantore di Castelforte*, Allentown, PA • *The Confucius Institute*, Pennsylvania State University • *U.S. Food Service* • *The Cheese Shoppe* • *East European Market* • *Giant Food Stores (East College Avenue and Northland Center)* • *Hoag's Catering* • *KB Offset Printing* • *Olive Garden* • *Pita Cabana Grille* • *Sam's Club* • *Wal-Mart (Benner Pike)* • *Wegmans* • *Weis Markets (Rolling Ridge, Westerly Parkway and Martin Street)* • Talat Azhar • Alice Clark • Polly Dunn • Cecilia Mills • Grace Pilato • Jayashree Sonti

TABLE DESIGNERS

Kate Baldanza • Allen Baney, *Avant Garden, Inc.* • Ellen Baxter, *Big Kitty Design Studio* • Oi Borden • Carole Brooks • Alice Clark • Kimberly Davis, *Stitch Your Art Out* • Jessica Dolan, *Room to Breathe Home Organizing & Staging* • Staci Egan, *Contempo Artisan Boutique* • Joanie Eyster • Tamra Fatemi-Badi, *InnoGreen USA* • Kimberly Brooks Filkins, *Me Kim Design Studio* • Mary Gage • Suzy Glenn, *Best Event Rental* • Cecelia Godfrey • Robynne Godfrey • Elizabeth Goreham • Laura Lee Hanchar • Sue Moore Hiester • Patricia House, *Vanishing Worlds Safaris, LLC* • Zarina Jakipbayeva • Sitti Khadijah • Mizuho Kawasaki • Hyeseon Kim • Zulfiya Kozhamberdina • Dayoung Lee • Ok-Hi Lee • Jack Matson • Christopher Moore • On-Cho Ng • Saltanat Nigmatova • *Penn State University Kazakhstani Student Association* • Kat Oliva • Lisa Peters, *Epic Settlement* • Vaughn Shirk, *Vaughn Shirk Interior Design* • Nyssa Smith, *KW/Advantage Realty* • Barbara Snow • Jayashree Sonti • Cynthia Spencer • Carol Strauss • Harriet Swanson • Heidi Urbanski, *Heidi Urbanski Jewelry* • Daniel Vaughn, *Daniel Vaughn Designs* • Pat Williams • Wishnobroto

More Passport on a Plate: A Silk Road Odyssey



Connie McIntyre, Jim & Linda Erickson



John Rodgers & Nagesh Sonti



Ruth Kempner & Betty Kirchner



Noelia Torres



Dua'a Al-Khreisha & Elizabeth Goreham



Corey Whitesell & Tamra Fatemi-Badi



The amazing volunteer wait staff and Front-of-House Coordinators, Mike Ditchfield (far left) & Amy Seaton (farthest right).

Register for Global Connections Programs!

Over the last year more than 900 people have used Global Connections' online registration form to sign up for programs such as Conversation Partners, the International Friendship Program, International Speakers Program and Women's Intercultural Book Groups!

If you have registered in the last year, you can update your contact information and program preferences or alert us if you no longer want to be in Global Connections programs by sending us an email at globalconnections@ip.psu.edu. To sign up for additional programs use our online Registration Form, found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/gcregister>.

You can use the update form to:

- Provide us with new contact information
- Update your preferences for programs in which you are currently enrolled
- Sign up for new programs

You can also use this form more than once to update your information as your availability and preferences change. Please bookmark the link.

New to Global Connections?

If you have never registered with Global Connections, or it's been more than year since you've signed up for Global Connections programs, please register for our programs using our online form, found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/gcregister> or via our website www.gc-cc.org with the online registration link.

Interested in ESL classes?

Our free English-as-a-Second-Language classes use a different registration process. Please visit our website at www.gc-cc.org to view a list of our classes for fall. To find out more about any class, please e-mail the individual class teacher. You can register at the class at your first attendance, and you do not register for the ESL classes on-line.

Let us know if you have questions

Email us at globalconnections@ip.psu.edu or stop by our office in 427 Boucke on Penn State's University Park Campus.



*Each friend represents a world in us,
a world possibly not born until they arrive,
and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.*

- Anais Nin