



July

Hello everyone and welcome to those who are new to the newsletter! We have our potluck coming up in a couple weeks and some updates for our community. Please enjoy this picture I took when I visited Philly earlier today (crazy, I know) despite the heat! Stay hydrated and well this weekend!





Upcoming: International Potluck




SUMMER INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK

JULY 18
11-2PM
 Sunset Park
 850 McKee St, State College, PA
 FREE




Join us for another international potluck!

Bring yourself and a dish to share!
Does my dish need to be international?
No, foods from around the globe (including the U.S.) are welcome!

We will provide paper products, cutlery, some drinks, and extra entrees to share!
Email wzfl1@psu.edu with any questions

This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact wzfl1@psu.edu in advance of your participation or visit.

Date: July 18

Time: 11-2PM

FREE

Location: Sunset Park - 850 McKee St, State College, PA

Additional food provided will be from The Koop and Chew Chew Bun!

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

CENTRE GIVES EVENT MOVES GLOBAL CONNECTIONS' ENGLISH LANGUAGE LITERACY PROGRAM EVEN CLOSER TO \$50,000.00 GOAL



the Hamer Foundation's "Stretch Pool Funds" are included.

Please keep spreading the word about Global Connections and our English Language Literacy Fund. We help real people from around the world who now live in our community address the very real challenge of learning English.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission. We can't do it without you.

Mid-State Literacy Council: Student Seeking Homestay

A current student in the English Language Learning program recently asked for support finding an American family to live with in or around State College to further immerse himself in the English language and culture. He is from Saudi Arabia and arrived in State College about a year ago to study law at Penn State. He has been a wonderful presence in our classes.

Please reach out gc@gc-cc.org if you are interested in learning more.

Support for Immigrant Families

For several years, Global Connections member Linda Barton has been managing a fund to support needy immigrant families in central Pennsylvania – the ELL, for English Language Learners, Fund. Specifically, she seeks to assist families with children in the State College Area School District. These days, one component of the Fund is ELL-ICE, which seeks to help many of the families affected by the ICE raids. The other branch is the ELL Family Emergency Fund. If you are interested in donating, here are the ways you can make a contribution:

- A personal check made payable to Linda U Barton, mail or deliver to 182 Legion Lane, SC, 16801. Linda asks that the check be payable to her, but note in the memo line ELL Family Emergency Fund or ELL-ICE Fund.
- Cash, delivered to 182 Legion Lane, State College (The mudroom door is always open. It's quite safe to place an envelope on the table in the mudroom.) · PayPal - eslinda@comcast.net
- Venmo - @Linda-Barton (last four of cell "1817")

Thanks for thinking of our vulnerable community.

Seeking Host Families

Global Connections is pleased to assist local international youth exchange organization representatives find host families for the next academic year. Kelle Kersten is a long-standing GC member who has hosted exchange students and placed them in host families and schools in our area. The following is an appeal from Kelle that we hope will persuade you to get involved.

I invite you to consider hosting a high school exchange student for the 2026-2027 school year! Hosting has been such a rewarding and fun experience for my family. We now have six daughters from around the world. We enjoy learning about life in other countries and introducing our students to new foods, holidays, customs, and our community.

Exchange students are 15-18 years old and come from over 60 countries. They generally have good English skills and have their own spending money and health insurance.

Host families are supported by a local coordinator and are asked to provide three daily meals, a place to study, a separate bed, local transportation, and a welcoming home that includes the student as a member of the family.

My highest priority is to find host families for several Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) grant recipients. FLEX is a highly competitive, merit-based exchange program funded by the U.S. Department of State. This program may be paused after the upcoming school year due to federal budget cuts so this may be the only chance for these students to participate. Consider hosting Madina (female) from Kyrgyzstan, Abdulaziz (male) from Uzbekistan, or Buyndorj (male) from Mongolia.

If you have any interest in hosting one of these FLEX students, or a non-grant student, please contact me. I am a local coordinator with Greenheart Exchange and would be happy to answer questions about hosting and help you find the right student for your family.

Kelle Kersten

magicjubilee@yahoo.com

814-355-0850 home

814-470-5625 cell

[Read the Article](#)

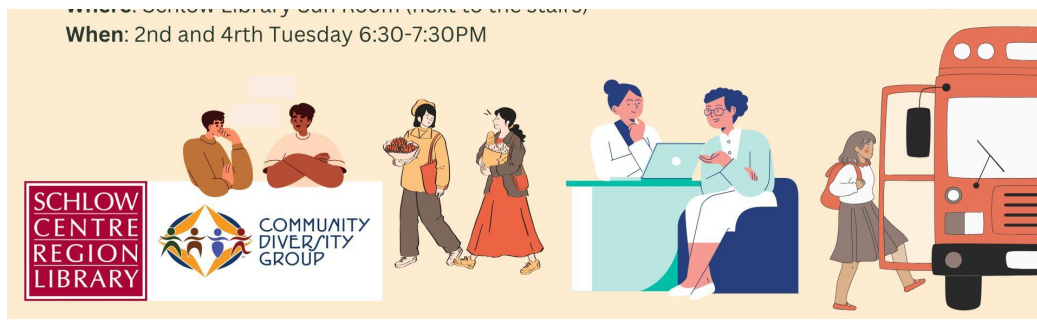
Schlow & Community Diversity Group

ESL Discussion Circle

Practice common scenarios at this informal discussion circle. Talk about books, videos, current events, hobbies, or anything else that interests you. Learn about the many resources that the library offers!

Where: Schlow Library Sun Room (next to the stairs)





[Learn More](#)

Global Connections Resources:

Global Connections Discussion Group

The GC discussion group meets every Wednesday at 11:00 via Zoom to share cultural values and perspectives on a variety of topics. Once a month the group meets in person at a restaurant for social interaction and enjoying a meal.

Please reach out to gc.gc-cc.org to receive the zoom link!

Check out our last lunch together from Mosul Grille below (I got distracted by the food and forgot to take pictures of the lovely people who attended)!

New Resource! Citizenship Test

Our very own Bruce Truitt has created a random question generator from the list of study questions used for the U.S. Citizenship Test. Feel free to share this resource with anyone who may benefit!

Click on the link below to download the information sheet and gain access to the question generator:

[Citizenship Test Study Question Generator](#)

GC Website Announcement

The Global Connections website is getting a facelift this Spring! We are currently in the middle of updating the website.

What does this mean?

You can still access WildApricot and your membership like always. Nothing is changing there! We ARE changing what our WordPress site looks like to hopefully invite in more members and help you stay engaged with our events and programming.

Community & English Resources



[Click here](#) to download the most recent version of our Language, Health, and Community Resources for the State College area.

This document provides comprehensive information in many different languages about institutions, organizations, communications, and resources of interest to international and immigrant citizens in such areas as English language learning, health insurance for children, nutrition assistance for women, infants, and children, and so much more. It will undoubtedly help you or someone you know.

Note: Just opening the document online will not activate all hyperlinks. It must be downloaded and then opened. If you get a pop-up message about updating links, click <No>.

"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?"

- George Eliot

Upcoming In Town:

Secret Planet - Alash Ensemble

Friday, July 17, 2026 at Manny's
7:00 PM 10:30 PM

Alash is a group of master musicians from Tuva, a republic in southern Siberia, known for their deep knowledge and practice of traditional Tuvan throat singing (khöömei).

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Centre County Festival of The Arts

Don't miss the 5
day Arts Fest in
downtown State
College!

July 8-12th

[Click Here for More
Information](#)

This message has been sent to you by Global Connections

If you no longer want to receive these letters, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time