



Newsletter February 2014



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello!

We are excited to welcome two delegations of Libyan judges, one in February and another in March. The Rule of Law Program, in partnership with the Ohio Supreme Court, will provide the delegation with an overview of the American legal system. Over the course of three weeks, the judges will visit courts in Ohio and meet with law enforcement and city officials. The goal of this program is for the judges to use the insights they gain from this training to improve the legal system in Libya.

As we jump into the new year, CIP is very grateful to all those who have renewed their CIP membership. As a member, you have the opportunity to meet with visiting international professionals, attend our monthly cultural events, and enjoy our Annual Taste of Columbus event and 5K Run/Walk at discounted prices. Most importantly, your membership is essential to help us reach our mission of *Promoting International Understanding Through Intercultural Exchange*. If you have not had an opportunity to renew your membership, we will be sending renewal notices in a few weeks. You may also renew your membership online by following [this link](#).

CIP is also proud to share with you that many of our programs are integrated into the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Developed in 2000, the eight goals aim to end poverty by 2015. Many of CIP's projects help accomplish these goals. For example, CIP's current India Youth Advocacy Program (IYAP) works toward the goal of achieving universal primary education by helping improve education for youth with disabilities in India. Also, our Ecotourism Program helps accomplish the goal of ensuring environmental sustainability. We are excited that our programs not only work toward our own mission but also align with the goals of the United Nations.

Over twenty guests braved the cold to enjoy a delicious meal at Mozart's Café last week. Mozart's owners Doris and Anand Saha truly rolled out the red carpet for their CIP guests! Arnett Howard serenaded us and we had the opportunity to enjoy the company of our participants: James Harris from England, Lorena Loaiza from Columbia, and Ken Wafula from Kenya. You may find this hard to believe, but their common comment was how cold Columbus Ohio is! If you missed this opportunity, we hope you can join us for our [upcoming events](#). In addition, if you visit a restaurant that participated in our International Taste of Columbus or has hosted an event, tell the owner you are a CIP member because some participating restaurants provide discounts.

Sincerely,

Mark Poepelman, Executive Director

OPEN WORLD

The Open World Leadership Center administers the Open World program, one of the most effective U.S. exchange programs for countries located in the former Soviet Union. Begun as a pilot program in 1999 and established as a permanent agency in late 2000, the Center conducts the first and only international exchange agency in the U.S. Legislative Branch. The Center has enabled more than 17,000 leaders from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan to meaningfully engage and interact with Members of Congress, Congressional staff, and thousands of other Americans, many of whom are the delegates' direct professional counterparts.

Since its 1999 inception, the Center has awarded grants to 61 organizations headquartered in 25 different states and the District of Columbia. These grantee organizations host delegations themselves or award subgrants to local host organizations. By 2010, almost 800 local host organizations—including universities and community colleges, rotary clubs and other service organizations, sister-city associations, and international visitor councils and other nonprofits in all 50 states and the District of Columbia—had conducted Open World exchanges for the Center. Some 6,500 American families have hosted participants in more than 1,900 communities around the country. CIP has hosted some Open World delegations in the past and looks forward to hosting more in 2014.



LIBYAN RULE OF LAW PROGRAM

The Libyan Rule of Law program is designed to provide an intensive, high-quality, customized group experience that provides an overview of the legal system in the United States. The delegation will consist of a group of esteemed judges from the Libyan Ministry of Justice. Two groups of judges will participate in a three week training program will introduce the delegates to the role of various courts throughout Ohio, law enforcement, and the overall legal process and transparency of the legal system in the United States. The program will also highlight the technological information aspect of court and case management in Ohio. The delegation will have the opportunity to visit multiple courts that use state-of-the-art tools to coordinate case management activities.

In addition to working with the Supreme Court, the Libyan judges will spend time at Courts of Appeals, County Courts, Municipal Courts, and Local Courts. The Libyan delegates will meet with law enforcement officials and city officials that will provide an overview of how the law affects their communities and how they collaborate with members of the legal system. The ultimate goal of the program is for the participants to gain insight into the legal system and practices in the U.S. and use those skills to reform the legal system in Libya.



HEAR A HEART VALENTINE'S DAY FUNDRAISER

Valentine's Day is a time for sharing your love with those close to you. But why should you end there? Why shouldn't you share your love with those across the globe who really need it? To kick-start our India Youth Advocacy Program, we are proud to introduce *Hear a Heart*, an event that will help raise funds for children with hearing impairments in India to receive the educational opportunities they deserve. From February 14th through February 21st, you may make a donation of as little as five dollars to sponsor educational materials and hearing devices that aid in the education of children with hearing impairments in India in need of resources. Share your love with those in need. One hundred percent of donations will be used for the India Youth Advocacy Program and to purchase supplies for children in need.



In India, 25,000 children are born deaf every year. Too often they do not have the availability of funds or resources to help themselves. Due to a negative stigma attached to these children and a lack of schools and services, only one in ten will go to school, and half of those will drop out by the age of thirteen. Education can be difficult even for those that make it past this point. For example, books and stationary for one child for one year costs twenty dollars, and a uniform for school costs twenty five dollars. With a quarter of the population earning less than 40 cents per day, these costs limit educational opportunities and individual growth potential.

Open your heart to the world this Valentine's Day. Make a donation to CIP's *Hear a Heart* event. Each donation will automatically qualify you for a gift card to Shadowbox Live. Winners will be notified by the end of the month. For more information on *Hear a Heart* and the India Youth Advocacy Program, please visit www.cipcolumbus.org/india-youth-advocacy. All donations qualify as charitable contributions for tax purposes.

THE ANNUAL COLUMBUS INTERNATIONAL 5K RUN/WALK



Get reading, get set, go! Mark your calendar and begin planning for our Annual 5K Run/Walk! The Kiwanis Club of Columbus and the Columbus International Program 5K will take place on Saturday, April 26th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. If you made a New Year's resolution to get in shape, this event is for you.

For the more competitive runners, the race will serve as a training event. For the casual runners and walkers, it will be an enjoyable run in a great setting. The race will have an international theme and will feature exhibits from different countries along the race course. Runners will receive an international 'tech' T-shirt as part of their entry.

In partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Columbus, the event will increase awareness of the international community and raise funds for the worldwide elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus. The race will begin and end at Scioto Audubon Metro Park (400 W. Whittier Street, just south of downtown Columbus along the river) and traverse in part, along the scenic Scioto-mile bike path.

Runners and walkers can register on-line through Premier Races to participate. Early registration (prior to April 4th) is \$30.00 per person. A \$10.00 per person discount is available for groups of three or more participants and for CIP members. Registration after April 4th, including day-of registration, is \$35.00 with a \$10.00 discount for students.

To participate in this event, you may sign up online by following this [link](#).

VALENTINE'S DAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE GLOBE

Malaysia

In some regions of Malaysia and Singapore, people celebrate Valentine's Day with oranges. Single women write their phone numbers on oranges and throw them in the closest river or lake with the hope that the man of their dreams might pick one up. Single men then try to collect as many oranges as possible and eat them. The taste of the oranges gives them an indication of their possible love: Sweet represents a joyous love, while sour indicates a bad fate. Fruit vendors often collect the oranges, which are considered a lucky fruit, and resell them at the market—including the phone numbers!

Brazil

Brazilians celebrate the day of love, called *Dia dos Namorados* ("Day of Lovers") on June 12th. On the night before the holiday, women write the names of their crushes on folded-up pieces of paper. Whichever name they pick from the pile on the following day will be the one they marry, or at least choose to go for. On June 12th, Brazilians often exchange chocolates, flowers, and cards. Musical performances are also held throughout cities and towns, bringing together couples and families from all parts of society. Brazilians also celebrate Saint Anthony's Day on June 13th to commemorate the patron saint of marriage.

China

Many Chinese currently celebrate Valentine's Day with romantic gift exchanges and special dates, but the Chinese have celebrated their own version of Valentine's Day, called the Qixi Festival, for centuries. The Qixi Festival, which means "The Night of Seven," is usually celebrated in early August, on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month. This tradition recalls the tragic love story of two stars, one of them a fairy named Zhinu who married a mortal young man named Niulang. They fell in love at first sight, and when they got married, the Goddess of Heaven became so furious that she created the Milky Way to separate them. On the east side of the Milky Way lies the star Vega, which represents the girl, and on the west side is the young man crying for his wife. The lovers get the chance to see each other just once a year during the Qixi celebration. During this time, many Chinese girls pray to find good husbands and offer fruits to Zhinu, the ancient goddess of love and relationships.

Japan

On February 14th in Japan, girls give the traditional "Giri Choco," obligatory chocolates with no romantic association, to their male friends, colleagues, or even bosses. If they want to show another kind of "affection" they will include a handmade gift in addition to the "Honmei Choco." A month later on March 14th, which is called White Day, males return the gift with chocolates and more.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 13TH

SON Ministries Community Service Event

We have the opportunity to meet with families representing 45 different countries while also providing enrichment activities for their children. Families are welcome.

6:30 PM —8:15 PM

To sign up, contact CIP at

Upper Arlington Lutheran Church at Mill Run

cipcols@aol.com or

3500 Mill Run Drive

(614) 221-0034.

Hilliard, Ohio 43026

FEBRUARY 14TH

Hear a Heart Fundraiser

Anytime between February 14th and February 21st, you may give a monetary gift to contribute to our India Youth Advocacy Program at www.cipcolumbus.org/india-youth-advocacy. Each donation enters you into a drawing for a gift certificate. See [page 3](#) for more details.

12:01 AM on February 14th — 11:59 PM on February 21st

FEBRUARY 27TH

Libyan Cultural Evening

Join us for an informal gathering of new and old friends to learn about the experiences of our Libyan guests as they conclude their visit to Columbus.

6:00 PM— 8:00 PM

Mazah Mediterranean Eatery

1439 Grandview Avenue

Columbus, OH 43212

MARCH 25TH

Bringing the World to You—International Culture Night

Join us for an evening of culture, dance, music, and food with CIP's exchange participants.

7:00 PM —8:00 PM

No Registration required

Grandview Heights Public Library

1685 West First Avenue

April 26TH

The Annual Columbus International 5K Run/Walk

CIP and the Kiwanis Club of Columbus host this annual event to increase awareness of the international community and raise funds for the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus.

REGISTER

9:00 AM

Registration before April 4th is \$30.00

Scioto Audubon Metro Park

\$10.00 per person discount for groups of three or more and for CIP members

400 W. Whittier Street, (just south of downtown along the river)

Registration after April 4th is \$35.00 with a \$10.00 student discount

CURRENT INTERNS

Bethlehem Aderajew

OSU Student, Bachelors in International Studies with minors in General Business and Studio Art

Sonya Afanasyeva

OSU Student, Masters in Public Administration

Melissa Barrett

OSU Student, Bachelors in Anthropology and International Relations with a minor in Professional Writing

Emily Brown

OSU Student, Bachelors in Psychology and International Studies

Brian Lim

OSU Student, Bachelors in International Relations and Diplomacy, Minor in Korean Studies

Melanie Moore

OSU Student, Bachelors in Social Work

Niny Rosso-Reyes

OSU Student, Masters in Social Work

Robby Southers

OSU Student, Bachelors in Political Science and Spanish with a minor in Professional Writing

CIP TRIVIA

When was Open World established as a permanent agency?

One lucky winner will receive

four movie passes to Marcus Theater

Submit your answers by email to

cipcols@aol.com

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!



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