



## JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

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### Hello Everyone and Happy New Year!

2015 has begun and we are excited to get back to work on our upcoming projects. We are grateful to the individuals and organizations who have already partnered with us for this year. If you haven't had a chance to renew your membership or make a donation, please do so today by [clicking here](#). It will only take a minute! Your support is valuable to the success of future training programs!

With continued collaboration with Advisory Board Member James Liu, we are developing several projects for Chinese professionals. The Elder Health Care Program will provide a detailed overview of managing and operating elder care facilities, and providing thorough health screenings. We are partnering with COSI to host STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) summer camps for Chinese youth.

Building on the success of the previous year, Collins Awosika is assisting us in hosting several delegations from Nigeria. Taking into consideration the interests of Nigerian professionals, we are developing programs on Local Government Management, Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, and Federal Government Management. We are also planning a Nigerian youth Summer Camp at several sites including the King Arts Complex. Finally, with the help of our Libyan contact, Ali Elfourteia, we hope to host a delegation including the Chief Justice for a week of relationship building.

We will also continue hosting individual professionals through our Global Partners Program. The Global Partners Program helps to facilitate the process between international professionals and their respective U.S. organizations and companies through pre-arranged practical training programs. For more information, [click here](#).

Once again, Happy New Year! I am excited to lead our organization again this year with your support and to put our plans to action!

Sincerely,

Mark Poepelman, Executive Director

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*Happy Holidays from  
your friends at CIP!*



## “THE QUILT STORY” BY ANJANAA CHATTOPADHYAY

I stood outside the Deaf Initiative's Keepsake Theme Quilts Center in Columbus on a mildly cold September morning. I was one of several delegates of the second annual India Youth Advocacy Program hosted by the Columbus International Program (CIP). It was an intensive three week curriculum filled with organization visits and interesting cultural interactions. When I saw the name Keepsake Theme Quilts Center on our list, I was immediately interested because India also has a living tradition of quilt making craft dating back 4,000 years.

Keepsake Theme Quilts (KTQ) was established to provide employment opportunities to deaf individuals and guide them towards financial independence, personal success and self fulfillment. KTQ is free from the communication barriers deaf jobseekers generally face: for example, every employee of KTQ is fluent in sign language. It was heartening to see a staff ordering pizza online for lunch.



*Anjanaa (right) with staff member at KTQ*

We were taken around the different departments of this unique, personalized quilt making center. We saw one such quilt in the making where T-shirts of various members of a family were cut into equal sized pieces waiting to be set, bound and stitched into a beautiful Memory Quilt. There was another one spread on the table where T-shirt logos were being tacked and pinned onto soft flannel fabric. The whole spread was then to be machine stitched and made ready for a lady who ordered it for her little grand daughter's birthday present.

Keepsake Theme Quilts took me on a mental tour of the quilt making culture in our country. The craft of quilt making, primarily a Women's craft all over the world, has been practiced by millions of women to provide others warmth against the cold harsh winters. In India, different states have different varieties of quilt - Koudis of Karnataka, Kanthas of Bengal and Odissa, Sujnis of Bihar, Ledras of Jharkhand, Gudris of Rajasthan, the Goa quilts to name a few. Contrary to quilts made in other parts of the world, Indian quilts are always made from used, old, discarded clothes. Old saris (women's wear) and dhotis and lungis (men's wear) are joined together in layers by simply running stitches along the edges first and then all across the body. Minimum three to four (more for heavier and warmer varieties) saris are placed one upon another, stitched together and the colorful sari borders are used to encase it. Traditionally, the thread used for stitching is taken from the sari itself. Thus started the first recycled art of the world.

It is unfortunate that some quilting genres are already dying. Not much is done to preserve this folk art form and it is the NGOs across India who are taking whatever initiative to save this cultural heritage through revitalization movements. The disappearance of quilt making has also led to depriving society of its benefits. The concentration and contemplation that goes into the harmonization of color, design and execution of each quilt is similar to that of a spiritual exercise and thus has therapeutic effect on its maker.

Through this program, I came to realize that in the West, Deafness (with a capital D) is perceived as a social identity which cuts across religious, class and national barriers. People talk of Deaf culture and pride. In India, deafness (with a lower case d) is still perceived as a medical condition and weakness. Much needs to be done to change the mindset of people and include the Deaf into mainstream society. I am sincerely grateful to CIP for the India Youth Advocacy Program. I not only gained valuable experiences like KTQ through it but also insight into my own culture.

*[For more information on the India Youth Advocacy Program, click here.](#)*

## WELCOME THE NIGERIA AMBASSADOR TO THE USA

Join us on January 22nd to welcome the Nigerian Ambassador to the USA to Columbus. His Excellency (Prof.) Adebowale Ibidapo Adefuye will present during lunch on Nigeria's Economic Growth, Ebola, and Extremism, and during dinner on Investment Opportunities in Nigeria. Ambassador Adefuye is a conflict and governance specialist with 24 years of experience in international affairs and development, backed by 12 years previous experience in research and teaching. His expertise and experience in diplomacy and conflict resolution has contributed immensely in fostering bilateral relations between the United States and Nigeria, as well as in strengthening the economic ties between both countries under the prevailing legislation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).



*Ambassador Adefuye*

The Lunch is hosted by the Columbus Council of World Affairs (CCWA). The CCWA is our neighbor and a great globally-focused non-profit. We are always glad to partner with them on international events and we invite you to learn more about their mission of "Increasing Global Awareness in the Columbus Region." To RSVP to the lunch, [click here](#). To RSVP to the dinner, please email us at [cipcols@aol.com](mailto:cipcols@aol.com). Additional details on [Page 4](#).

## CALL FOR ARCHIVE MATERIALS

During CIP's 40th Anniversary Celebration earlier this year, our founder, Ruth Schildhouse, announced that The Ohio Historical Society and possibly the Columbus Metropolitan Library have agreed to create an archive to demonstrate CIP's work and dedication over the years. Along with Council of International Programs USA (CIP-USA), our affiliate, we are planning to combine all artifacts and memories into one archive project.



*Ruth and Burt Schildhouse, founders of CIP*

This is a fantastic historical opportunity and we ask for your input to help make this a success. We need everyone who has participated with CIP to share their experiences and memories. Whether you have volunteered at an event, hosted international visiting professionals, or traveled with CIP members, we invite you to send us your stories, letters, or postcards. To continue our legacy and momentum, we will archive and share your experiences with others. Please call our office to make arrangements so that you may submit your memories. Thank you for your participation!



## JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>: "BREAK EVERY CHAIN" HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

**Time** 9:00 AM—2:00 PM

**Location** Summit Road High School 8579 Summit Rd, Bldg 21  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

**RSVP Here** FREE and Open to Everyone

## JANUARY 22<sup>TH</sup>: NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTATION

**Nigeria: Economic Growth, Ebola, and Extremism**

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

**Venue:** COSI, 333 West Broad Street  
Columbus, OH, 43215

**Lunch RSVP Here**

Non-Members with Lunch \$50.00

Non-Members Lecture Only \$30.00

Member/Student with Lunch \$25.00

Member/Student Lecture Only \$15.00

**Dinner: Investment Opportunities in Nigeria Workshop**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, currently FREE, details to come

**RSVP to [cipcols@aol.com](mailto:cipcols@aol.com)**

**Venue:** Hampton Inn & Suites, 4150 Stelzer Road, Columbus, OH 43230

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## FEBRUARY: HELLO ESTONIA! - A PRESENTATION BY KADI ALAKULA

DETAILS TBA

## NEW YEAR'S AROUND THE WORLD!

**In Korea**, on New Year's Eve people place straw scoopers, rakes or sieves on their doors and walls to protect their families from evil spirits in the new year.

**In Poland**, New Year's Eve is known as St. Sylvester's Eve. This name according to legends arose from Pope Sylvester I. According to legend, Pope Sylvester I imprisoned a dragon called Leviathan, who was supposed to escape on the first day of the Year 1000, devour the land and the people, and set fire to the heavens. On New Year's Day, when the world did not come to an end, there was great rejoicing and from then on this day was called St. Sylvester's Eve.

**In Scotland**, on New Year's Day children rise early to make the rounds to their neighbors singing songs. They are given coins, mince pies, apples and other sweets for singing. This must be done by noon or the singers will be called fools.

**In Greece**, January 1st is an important date because it is not only the first day of the New Year but also St. Basil's Day. St Basil was one the forefathers of the Greek Orthodox Church. He is remembered for his kindness and generosity to the poor. He is thought to have died on this date.

**In Pakistan**, New Year is known as Nowrooz or New Day. One of the customs of Nowrooz is the practice of burning piles of wood. The bonfires are a symbol of destroying any remaining evil from the previous year.



Beck Foundation

