

PCF Update

The Newsletter of the Peace Child Foundation



UNICEF Director James Grant greets PC representatives of four nations at the World Summit for Children at the United Nations. Grant presented the youths' five-point proposal to the gathered world leaders.

Spring/Summer Edition 1991

For information and an application for the 1992 exchanges, call 1-800-275-PCF-1

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From the Board Chair and the Executive Director

While Peace Child's **history** is most often told by recounting the large and often miraculous successes of the foundation, its **impact** can be seen in less chronicled stories. The United Nations Peace Day Concert, the Minneapolis-Moscow Space Bridge, the first US-Soviet exchange, City at Peace's Congressional performance, and many more provide a full roster for any organization, let alone one which is just entering its adolescence. The founders should certainly look with great pride at how much has been done and how far the message has spread since Bernard Benson wrote his book, and since Davids Gordon and Woollcombe along with Rosey Simonds created the performances in London and Washington that gave rise to this foundation.

Yet, as one reads through the foundation's history, these are not the stories that most discuss as our finest moments. Those occasions are the ones marked by the individual successes of "our kids" as they've moved beyond our exchanges. When Soviet tour alumna **Katie Christie** can, seemingly single-handedly, bring together chil-



At the international Peace Child gathering in the Netherlands, (from left) Mark Sklarow, PCF Executive Director; Ilene Cummings, PC/Toronto President; Lucia Effros, PCF Board Chair; and her husband Steve Effros, PCF Counsel.

"Few of us will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against an injustice, that sends forth one tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, these ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance"—Robert F. Kennedy

dren across Miami to look beyond race and physical handicaps . . . when PC alumna **Esther Cilveti** applies the lessons of the heart and the head from her month in the USSR to a crusade to change the path of destruction and hatred in our cities . . . when Soviet tour alumnus and youth representative to the Board **Rick Staropoli** itches at the chance to volunteer six months of his life as an intern somewhere to help the message spread farther . . . when **Tony Smith** of Washington, D.C. undergoes an incredible metamorphosis from an uninvolved, alienated teen with little hope or dreams for his future to a dynamic, committed, involved student at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts through his involvement in City at Peace . . . when Herndon's **Melissa Berkemier** can create a community-wide recycling effort . . . or when Polish-Lithuanian **Marek Kovalevsky**, an alumnus of the 1988 Poland Exchange, can create his own version of City at Peace in Vilnius to unite Polish, Lithuanian, and Russian youths that gains the attention of world leaders, we see that we have created, over the last ten years, hundreds of ripples of hope for a better world. PC International President David Woollcombe likes to say that Peace Child is all about saving the planet. If so, we are doing it one child, one heart, at a time, then turning them loose. . . .

As Peace Child explores a direction for its second decade we need to consider the importance of continuing what we do best: helping young people to grow emotionally, develop intellectually, and explore their visions of a healthy and peaceful planet through local, national, and international projects in the arts. However, we can clearly see the need to go beyond these programs . . . to prepare

our graduates for leadership roles: in our cities, in international affairs, in the arts. Thus, our new leadership forum this summer, which seeks to combine traditional Peace Child activities with two new avenues: teaching leadership skills: from organization and team building, to communications and decision-making and to promote a greater understanding of international and environmental affairs through seminars with world leaders. We hope this is just another in many innovations to aid these incredible young people as each seeks to make their hopes and dreams . . . and those of Peace Child . . . come true.

There is a fresh and exciting spirit in the PC office as the staff begins to develop programs for our tenth year and beyond. We are looking for continued opportunities in our cities and towns . . . and in our elementary school playgrounds. We are committed to projects that take our passionate beliefs for a cleaner environment, for better global relations, and for better relations between Americans of diverse social, ethnic and economic backgrounds from the stage to the daily lives of people everywhere. And we are dedicated to an expansion of our international exchanges to include increasing numbers of youths in poorer regions of our planet: Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Rim, and Central America. And there is the knowledge that in meeting our goals we will bring about the dreams and objectives of this organization the way we always have . . . one child at a time, sending out a ripple that, joined with others will change the world.

Mark Sklarow
Lucia Effros

1991 International Performing Arts Exchanges

PROGRAM UPDATE

Dramatic experiences on three continents gave 350 Peace Child participants the unparalleled opportunity to explore friendships, cultures, music, and citizen diplomacy as members of international exchanges last summer. All told, they performed their own expressions for peace and cultural understanding before thousands in live audiences and communicated their vision further through media coverage in the host nations of Japan, England, the Soviet Union, and several communities in the United States.

For the Americans travelling to Soviet cities, the exchange allowed for the amazing opportunity to contrast the political tensions, economic crises, and republics in conflict as seen through the American media, with the real-life opportunity to interact with Soviet youth. Additionally the chance to live in homestays for short periods, find common ground in hopes, dreams, and desires for relations between these two countries. . . . and hear those views echoed through the appreciative responses of audience members made the experience even more incredible.

For Soviet and Chinese travellers, American cities in the Northwest and the Southeast became gateways to understanding about the American economic and political systems and American culture. The Japanese city of Hiroshima opened its doors for the second straight year to international delegates from Australia, the Philippines, South Korea, as well as the US and the USSR. In Taunton, England, young people from sixteen countries came together in a show attended by members of the Royal Family.

In the end, the common lesson of all programs was that of friendship. As Kiev delegation leader Terese Metz, a Seattle teacher, indicated: "The tears shed at the camp, at the train stations, and at the airport told us everything."



U.S.-Soviet exchange participants from 1990 Kiev tour.

A few program highlights. . .

In the Byelorussian cities of Brest and Minsk the young people spent much time focusing on Chernobyl for, as tour leader Vicki Lewin noted, "it was impossible to be in this region



without seeing and feeling the devastation of this nuclear disaster." The tour received front page news coverage with its combination of traditional folk dance, and a modern day exploration of better relations between the government and people of the US and the Soviet Union.

Closer to Moscow, in Narofominsk, Russia, the entire group was housed together at a guest house of the Ministry of Transportation . . . where ministry officials bring their families for vacation each summer. Although the group saw shortages of goods during their orientation in Moscow, at the guest house they were offered four

PCF Exchanges Earn "Seal of Approval"

A new symbol will be joining the familiar Peace Child logo on much of our printed material, beginning with this issue. The CSIET seal represents the "accreditation" of PCF exchanges as meeting the stringent requirements of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel, an independent group which investigates nearly 100 exchange organizations each year.

The recognition will enable PCF greater access to school and youth groups who look to CSIET for their recommendations. Each year, CSIET publishes a book which describes its approved programs which sits on counselor desks in virtually every high school in America. PCF will appear in the September 1991 edition. Carrying the CSIET seal on our brochure will guarantee parents that we are committed to meeting the organization's standards in a dozen areas including finance, promotion, education, housing and feeding, safety, insurance, and more.

CSIET approval does not come easily. The PCF staff estimates that over 400 pages of documents, handbooks, question responses, evaluations, and accounting reviews were submitted, as well as the conducting, by CSIET, of interviews with some past participants. PCF will occupy a unique place at CSIET as we represent the only exchange program using the arts as a tool for cultural understanding.

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bountiful meals a day, leading to a number of interesting discussions with their Soviet hosts. In addition to theater performances, the group sang at a children's hospital in Sakolniki Park, at a nearby record factory, and in Gorky Park.

In the industrial city of **Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine** the initial welcome was one that participants will surely

never forget . . . mobbed by television and newspaper reporters the PCF delegates were offered the traditional Soviet greeting of folk songs, dances, and bread.

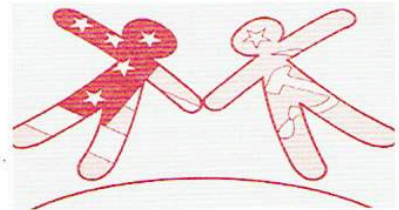
The **Oregon, USA** Tour actually began in 1989 with a local production of Peace Child involving 100 children from 13 schools. No one expected that a year later the group would be welcoming 15 young people from the

Tatar Republic, creating from scratch a show in *eight days*, backed by the PC/Lincoln County chorus.

The **Imagine** program, sponsored by the Trollwood Performing Arts School in **Fargo, North Dakota**, in affiliation with Peace Child, brought together Chinese, Soviet and American youths in a project that will continue in 1991 with a similar group



Soviet and American exchange participants pose in front of a World War II museum in Dnepropetrovsk.



performing in the capital cities of all three nations.

Hiroshima, Japan brought together young people from 5 nations for an intense program that featured homestays for the young participants, after a week at the Hiroshima Youth Hostel. American participant Sylvia Slater was so moved by the experience that

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Exchange Program Delegates to be Better Prepared

Two interns from George Mason University have been working for months to create new orientation packets for international PC Exchange delegates that will emphasize critical components of the PC experience. Heather Geraghty and Elizabeth Rose began their project after seeing what they viewed as a dichotomy in the PC experience. On one hand, the young people involved have close, intense, and exciting experiences cross-culturally. On the other hand, too often the young people indicated that they felt ill pre-

pared to handle some of the more delicate or involved issues that developed due to cultural differences; the conflicts that naturally arise when young people are sharing an intense experience, and communication difficulties that are common to any exchange program. Thus, the idea for the new packets, which will highlight communication, culture, and conflict resolution were born. In addition to the pre-exchange information packets and student questionnaires, their project will focus on the re-entry needs of delegates, as well as their families.



US participants met with Congressional representatives prior to departure for briefings and discussions on foreign policy and the environment.

Exchanges continued from page 4

she is now studying Asian studies in Dallas.

The **Yaroslavl, Russia** exchange offered an excellent balance of writing, rehearsal, and excursion time, with performances in 4 Russian cities and opportunities to experience dramatic differences: 16th Century



IMAGINE

churches, the Moscow metro, and a Volga River tour.

A frenzied atmosphere typified the first week of the **Kiev, Ukraine** tour as the group had just eight days in which to write the script, memorize in Russian, learn all the music, choreograph and rehearse before opening. The group stayed in a dorm house close to the theater, with one night spent in host family homes near the tour's conclusion.

The **Mid-Atlantic Tour** was unique, as 3 separate casts in each tour city were integrated into the play, with each city (Roanoke and Charlottesville in Virginia and Charlotte, North Carolina) organizing its own local camp program to prepare for the Soviets' arrival.

In **Tauton, England** the environment became central to the Peace

Child script, as young people from 5 continents offered their visions in what some described as an 'uptown, glitzy performance.'

Camp Artek served as a wonderful and beautiful host for this largest of the Soviet programs, with the 60 participants staying at what is considered to be one of the USSR's finest resort communities. 30 young people took part in programs in the **Greater Chicago** area, and in **Krasnodar** in the other bilateral programs. A highlight of the Chicago program was the participation of Soviet rock star **Kris Kelmi** who wrote "Zamikaya Krug", considered to be the Soviet version of 'We are the World.'



Sightseeing in Hiroshima, Japan: U.S., Soviet and Japanese students take a break from rehearsals.

僕たち
愛と歌でいっぱい!

Hungary, Czechoslovakia Exchanges Introduced Summer of 1991

As part of a two-year expansion of PC International Exchanges in Europe that will ultimately include as many as a dozen countries on the continent each year, PC will send two delegations to the Central European nations of Hungary and Czechoslovakia in August, 1991. The 21 delegates and staff will be able to view first-hand the development of these nations' newly reborn democracies as they explore the issues of international cooperation, freedom, and environmental protection.

Following a common orientation for both groups in Prague, the delegations will head off to either the nearby host city of Olomouc or the 2000 year old Hungarian city of Pecs. Two days of homestays will acquaint the Americans and their peers from throughout Europe with the culture and people of their host nation. The exchange programs will include intensive issue investigation, play writing, language training, and rehearsals, mixed with a healthy dose of touring, cultural activities, and the fun that naturally occurs when young people join together in such a project.

Among the highlights will be the chance for those on the Hungary tour to see a visit by The Pope, a performance in Budapest, and spending some time at the Lake Balaton resort. Their counterparts in Czechoslovakia will reside at a university retreat in the 'Golden Mountains' and will conduct an environmental project in cooperation with their host city.

The two groups will rejoin in Prague for a special performance at the capital castle, where **President Vaclav Havel** is expected to be in attendance.

The outlook in program expansion for the summer of 1992 includes American delegations travelling to eight cities in Western and Central Europe, Soviet programs in 5-8 locations, introduction of the Foundation's first exchanges in Africa, and the expansion in Asia from one to as many as three nations. Look for updates in the next newsletter!

Peace Child continues to combine quality work with a contagious sense of fun.

—United Nations, February 1991



PCF for me was more of a personal growth experience. I learned that I can actually deal with almost anything thrown my way...that I am a separate entity from my town, my family, and my friends. There's nothing like living in another country to put one's self and one's culture in perspective. It was a tremendously broadening experience.

—Angela DePace, Dnepropetrovsk Exchange



My eyes have been opened to a whole new culture—one that's always been there in my history book—one that's now a part of me. I've learned more in one month than I could ever even think about learning in all my years of school.

—Laurie Keith, Artek Exchange





Some people see the world the way it is and some see the world the way they want it to be. We should all act the way our hearts tell us to act . . . for peace, happiness, and love.
 —Katya Salyaging, Moscow USSR, Imagine Program



Since the first time someone came up and asked if I were a Soviet, I have tried to concentrate on similarities, rather than differences, between Soviet and American cultures. We have the same thoughts, concerns, and dreams for a better future.
 —Jason DePierre, Mid-Atlantic Exchange

My highlight was performing Peace Child in front of an incredibly responsive and lively 1,000-person crowd on a warm evening on the Black Sea. The waves crashed against the beach, not far from the amphitheater. After the show the crowd jumped to its feet, ran to the stage, and smothered us with hugs, pins, and flowers. My dream came true and the world suddenly became a little smaller.

—Zach Pitt-Smith, Artek Exchange

It was good for me to understand that aside from 'external' differences, such as language and culture, we all thought in a similar way and our understanding was very much the same. I hope that I can convey to others the necessity of understanding and experiencing another culture.

—David Miller, Minsk Exchange



Peace Child allows children to perform and share their cultures and ideas. With these small steps, they are aiding in the peace process in a unique way. Hopefully with this experience, these children, and those they come in contact with, will grow older and wiser without the prejudice and fear that comes from the unknown.

—United States Congressional Record,
 July 1990



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

Meeting in the Netherlands, representatives from ten national Peace Child groups, along with the original founders, explored possibilities for future programs, reviewed each others' domestic initiatives, and formally established **Peace Child International** as "a network of national Peace Child organizations." The November gathering attracted adult and youth representatives from Peace Child groups in Japan, Holland, Canada, Nigeria, Israel, the Soviet Union, United Kingdom, as well as

U.S. FOUNDATION JOINS TEN NATIONS IN CREATING PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL

Nigeria which seeks to bring peace to children from dozens of local tribes in conflict; and a viewing of a short video excerpt of a recent television special featuring Katie Christie and **Peace Child/Miami's City at Peace**.

The North American delegation was represented by Ilene Cummings, Toronto; Rick Staropoli, Rochester; Barbara and Howard Katz (PC/Berman Trust), San Diego; Steve Effros (Counsel), Mark Sklarow and Lucia Effros of the National Foundation.

An international center will be created that will contain an inclusive archive of Peace Child projects from across the world;

International internship opportunities will be created with the hope of attracting PC alumni to serve six to twelve months as ambassadors to develop programs in towns and cities throughout the world;

To coordinate the expansion of Peace Child efforts to other nations, and assist member nations in designing new programs;

Fostering better communications among the national organizations through the creation of a new international newsletter to be written, in large part, by young people from every continent.

A number of specific projects were endorsed by the assembled group, including the creation of a book, **Children and the Environment**, to be written by Peace Child participants across the globe in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Project; the publishing of a **Peace Child Song Book** with music from City at Peace, Peace Child, Earth Child, The Bridge, with support and contributions from US chapters; and the development of new issue-oriented plays.



PCI President David Woollcombe enjoys a light moment with PC/Nigeria representative Ada Amoji.

the United States. All of the original founders were in attendance as well: author Bernard Benson, playwright David Woollcombe, composer David Gordon, producer Rosey Simonds, as well as Eirwen and Michael Harbottle, who served as conference chairs. Written reports were submitted by Peace Child groups in Australia, New Zealand, and Costa Rica.

Among the session's most powerful moments was the opportunity to view the video of an **Israeli-Palestinian Play** (which took a year to prepare under the most challenging of circumstances) following an emotional summary by Israeli representative Yael Drouyanoff of current efforts in that troubled region; an introduction to the efforts of the newly formed group in

In the end, the group reached a number of agreements to better coordinate all international efforts:



Among the representatives to the PCI organizational meeting were (from left) Yael Drouyanoff, PC/Israel; David Gordon, founder; and Michael Colijn, Holland.



International representatives, backed by a chorus from several east coast chapters, present their proposals in front of the United Nations.

200 PC YOUTHS PROMOTE SOLUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CHILDRENS' CRISES AT THE UN

In presentations which gained national television coverage, Peace Child representatives from four nations: Japan, United Kingdom, Soviet Union, and the United States, backed by more than 200 chapter representatives from New York and Pennsylvania, dominated youth presentations at the opening of the first-ever *World Summit for Children* this past September at the **United Nations** in New York.

In the presentation, which preceded by several days the arrival of the world's most powerful Presidents, Monarchs, Prime Ministers and other national rulers, the young people drove home the need to prioritize the child-intense problems of hunger, illiteracy, and war. The day's most powerful moments came when six Peace Child representatives presented a detailed five-point plan to James Grant, the Director of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), who promised to offer the proposal to the gathering world leaders on the PC delegates' behalf.

Among the specific proposals put forth by the Peace Child representatives were the creation of:

- (1) New international laws to offer greater protection to the Earth's environment
- (2) A World Youth Corps where young people from all countries are permitted to volunteer their time to aid people or the environment, in other communities
- (3) An annual state of the planet report *understandable to children*; and
- (4) Creation of the forum or institution necessary to allow childrens' voices to be heard

The proposals were not only presented to Grant, but also included in the group's public performance which included representatives of PCF choruses from York, Rochester, Syracuse, and Ithaca. Also attending the presentation were PCF board member Elizabeth Boyle, and Soviet Peace Fund representative Yuri Alexandr.

The Peace Child youth leaders from Europe, Asia, and North America also took part in follow-up

meetings with a number of United Nations officials, including Dr. Noel Brown, Director of the United Nations Environmental Project. This meeting led to a major cooperative project between the UN and PCF, to create a youth-oriented book on the world's environmental crisis. Those involved in the meetings included, from the USA, Rick Staropoli/PC



Rochester and Kristi Clements/PC York.

The World Summit was also preceded by candlelight vigils in hundreds of communities throughout the world. In the United States these vigils attracted ten of thousands and featured PC choruses in a number of communities including Santa Cruz, Los Angeles, Palo Alto, and Washington, D.C., where the young people performed alongside Chic Streetman, Raul Julia, Valerie Harper, and Jimmy Smits.



Nobel Prize Recipients, Peace Child Representatives Meet to Explore the Planet's Future

Eighty-four children representing 56 different countries gathered in Noordwijk, Holland to share their views of the world's future with each other and 15 Nobel Prize winners, chronicle the entire experience in book and video form, and create an all new Peace Child play. All this in just four days last June.

English served as the common language, although it was impossible not to feel the presence of the entire world at every turn. Peace Child's David Woollcombe and Steve Riffkin took advantage of the tremendous diversity of the group in creating a performance that reflected the common feelings, common visions, and common dreams of the group, while also showcasing the cultural diversity

of the assemblage.

Although a few members of the delegation were experienced PC participants, most were new to Peace Child. However, they quickly took to the PC methodology, spending long hours writing a script, rehearsing scenes, songs, and dance numbers in between plenary sessions of the conference. The group was distinctive in that it seemed to avoid any hint of limitations, rather the young women and men responded exceptionally well regardless of what they were asked to learn, to write, to discuss.

One of the highlights was the performers decision to bring UNICEF Director James Grant onto the stage during the performance, and interview him about a wide range of the

youths' concerns. Many considered this live theater at its best. One Nobel Laureate (in medicine), George Wald from the United States, took part in the performance as well. Wald spent much time with the delegates throughout the four day event.

The ten young people representing the United States and Canada were Anita Jones (PC/Sacramento), April Sweeney (PC/Dallas), Jacole Norton (PC/Los Angeles), Meg Chandler (NJ), Sedar Chappelle (City at Peace, D.C.), Derek Tannis (PC/Ottawa), Michael Hawkins (Ontario), Esther Stringham (Canadian living in Germany), and Margaret Bourdeaux (VA) a member of the Czechoslovakia delegation this summer.

Soviet Partner Develops into Full-Fledged Peace Child Organization

The past year has proven to be one of incredible growth both in terms of numbers of programs and participants for Peace Child/USSR. Entering a partnership with the independent, non-governmental Movement for Understanding has been an exciting development as the group has moved beyond exchanges into one which now coordinates a number of programs both internally and internationally.

This has developed through the work of many, most noticeably Alexandr Shtokalov, director of MFU, Julia Klimova the PC/USSR artistic director, and PC/USA's Steve Riffkin who works about half the year in the USSR.

During the summer of 1990, 16 year old Marek Kovalevsky organized the first program in the USSR dealing exclusively with indigenous national problems. The show focused on the

conflict between Polish, Lithuanian, and Russian children living in the Soviet Republic of Lithuania. The project, presented in the republic's capital of Vilnius, received great support from Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis. The performance was repeated in October in Moscow at the first-ever PC/USSR conference which brought together PC activists from 20 Soviet cities. A similar project in April was designed to bridge the distrust between the Azerbaijani and Armenian people. It was a difficult and personal experience for the participants, with most roadblocks coming from the parents of the participants. Despite the serious difficulties, program director Julia Klimova noted the tremendous strides made in bringing the young people closer together.

This past January, Peace Child USSR was the major contributor toward a Russian television special, hosted by Vladimir Pozner, which was inspired by the Lithuanian project. Pozner led 120 children from all



Ethnic Poles, Lithuanians, and Russians perform "Peace Child in Lithuania" in the republic's capital of Vilnius.

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180 ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCE WITH FOCUS ON CHAPTERS, PROGRAMS, ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

Peace Child's chapter in **Marin County, California**, led by Diana Britting, played gracious host to nearly 200 chapter leaders, chorus members, exchange program alumni, and Peace Child volunteers this past fall in a conference that many felt demonstrated the continued organizational growth and maturity of the Peace Child Foundation. The annual event, which always gives rise to emotional reunions



Board Treasurer, Dr. Jim Laue, of George Mason University's Center for Conflict Resolution at the 1990 National Conference in Marin, California.

of past program participants, was also designed this year to offer support, advice, and valuable tools for chapter fundraising, organization, coordinating local activities, and creating community outreach projects.

Workshops led by both Peace Child experts and professionals from across the country, covered such topics as public relations, team building, community service, local fundraising, building effective volunteer networks, and chapter management. Other sessions offered over the three day conference focused on issue areas and Peace Child programs: environmental action, City at Peace projects, and developing camp programs among them.

Special highlights included a choral performance by **Peace Child/Santa Cruz** which presented both traditional songs and new ones written for the chapter by Miles Long, and a full cast performance of **Earth Child** by **Peace Child/Palo Alto**. This warm, humorous, but tremendously powerful version of the play was so well received by the delegates, it has been adapted by the national office as its elementary-age version of the environmental musical, with the new title, **The Bridge**.

Two special guests from Europe joined the group: Peace Child founder Rosey Simonds and Peace Child/USSR General Director Sasha Shtokolov. Two domestic officials served as conference 'bookends', as the new Executive Director, Mark Sklarow, opened the event with a call to the delegates to depart from the norm, to be an individual, and to seek goals without concern to the reaction of the majority. . . something, he said, children do better than adults, and which he noted has always typified Peace Child participants. At the conference's end it was Board Member Dr. James Laue of the Department of Conflict resolution at George Mason University in Virginia, who spoke seriously and emotionally of the need to apply conflict resolution strategies in one's own life and in one's own community. The professor brought down the house when he concluded his speech by pulling out a ukelele and leading the delegates in a traditional Black spiritual.

Youth delegates had a few serious gatherings where they discussed their frustrations and hopes for new PC opportunities. Discussions centered on a formal role for exchange program alumni in future programs, at the leadership forum, in school/collegiate clubs, and in similar organizations. Delegates were particularly hopeful that their experience and knowledge be used by current and future tour partici-

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pants prior to, and after, their exchange program.

Delegates afforded the 1990 conference high marks in its level of organization, the quality of workshops, and the directions laid out by the staff and participants for the future of the organization. And as the accompanying article indicates (see box), this trend will continue as **Peace Child/Rochester** prepares to welcome delegates next Columbus Day weekend to Northwestern New York, in what promises to be the foundation's largest and most exciting conference ever.

Plans Set For 1991 National Conference

The 1991 National Conference will be hosted by **Peace Child/Rochester** over Columbus Day Weekend, October 11 to 13. The host hotel will be the Batavia Sheraton, located midway between Rochester and Buffalo which will be turned over to Peace Child for three days of seminars, activities, special performances, and time to reacquaint past program participants.

A team of conference organizers, led by Mary Burkweit and Phyllis Breen, have described their plans as family-oriented with a festival-like atmosphere: with activities in art, music, and drama planned specifically for chorus members and younger children, as well as teens and adults. Even the meals served in the hotel will be themed in food and costume to keep the festive atmosphere. Among the highlights is certain to be a group excursion to Niagara Falls, including a boat ride to the base of the Falls, dinner in Canada, and the possibility of a performance in Canada by the entire group.

Chapter President, Cheryl Valvano, is coordinating seminars and workshops and reports to be scouring both Northwestern New York and the nation for experts in a variety of fields including management, conflict resolution, theater arts, the Middle East, as well as other current events and educational topics. A popular part of previous meetings will be brought back and expanded: 1991 program participants will be invited to attend a special reunion party on Friday, October 11, prior to the formal opening of the conference.

The Sheraton offers a number of special amenities that will be available at times throughout the weekend, including an indoor pool, athletic room, and jacuzzi. The hotel will provide transportation from the Buffalo airport at no charge.



As reporters gather, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and religious leader, His Holiness The Dalai Lama, speaks with PC/Ithaca Chapter members.

PC/Ithaca Chorus Performs for the Dalai Lama

For over a year, PC/Ithaca's co-director, Barbara Davidson, worked to involve the local chorus in a visit to central New York by the Dalai Lama, winner of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize. The work paid off as the group of sixty young people sang **I Have Vision** at the official airport welcoming ceremony on March 25, backed up by a chorus of 500 local school children. The Tibetan leader surprised the gathering when he interrupted the ceremony to join the Peace Child representatives and speak with many of the young group members. In addition to the formal welcome provided by the Mayor and the Governor, twelve-year-old Peace Child representative, Alissa Miller, welcomed the Dalai Lama and explained the connection between his teachings of peace, those of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, and the goals of the Peace Child Foundation.

The following article appeared in the *Ithaca Times*, during the Dalai Lama's visit and is reprinted here with the permission of the author, Pamela Monk. March 21, 1991

Arthur C. Clarke, in his book *Childhood's End*, imagined the evolution of the human species into another life form. The change took place in a single generation, leaving the world devoid of children. The effect on the adults was devastating. Without children, there was no future, no reason to build, no call for hope. It was the end of dreams.

There are so many dreams that people have for the children of our world. Among them, strong, persistent and elusive, is the dream of peace. The founders of the Peace Child have decided to start with children in making this dream a reality. Formed in the early '80s, Peace Child is an international organization dedicated to linking conflicting cultures through their children. It began with the production of a musical play whose message illuminated the universal concerns and hopes that unite all people. The success of that musical led to the formation of other groups who used the script as the starting point for plays of their own.

In Ithaca, Peace Child has inspired an ongoing group, coordinated by Barbara Davidson and Gail Sherman. The children meet weekly to sing and write the plays that they perform, but also to discover ways to make the dreams that they share come true. Some participated in a joint Soviet-American tour; many went to the UN to sing at a special performance that linked international choruses through satellite transmission. All of them are looking for ways to live peacefully in a violent world.

The arrival of the Dalai Lama was a major event for them; here is an adult who is recognized throughout the world for his teaching about these very issues with which they struggle. He also represents that rarity, someone

who has dedicated his life to the teaching of peaceful existence in a world that often forces many of us to choose otherwise.

When the Dalai Lama arrived in Ithaca on March 25, the Peace Child chorus was there at the airport to greet him. They sang a song written by David Gordon, originally in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., called "I Have a Vision". In a discussion just before a recent rehearsal, several young PCF representatives discussed some of their feelings about the Peace Child movement and the Dalai Lama. Hands raised eagerly in response to the questions posed. They gave answers that were thoughtful and honest for 8 - 11 year old young people who are old enough to realize the world is compli-



Ithaca school children display home made Tibetan prayer flags as part of their welcome for the Tibetan leader.

cated, but young enough to believe that the complications are challenges, not insurmountable barriers.

Arthur C. Clarke knew what he was writing about. He knew that the existence of children on this planet can bring out the best in the adults of the species. The vision of a better life, the yearning for utopia, the dream of universal understanding, the end of conflict. How many people have said the words, "If not in my lifetime, then for my children's or my children's children." The Peace Children of Ithaca do not want to wait that long. In this, they are joined by the Dalai Lama. Their meeting, however brief, is an embodiment of the ideals they share.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS



CBS News Correspondent Leslie Stahl appeared in a Congressional performance of *City at Peace* with the National Capital Area's C@P group.

Peace Child/Miami presented its second staging of *City at Peace* with a new cast of 110 Black, White and Latino youths. The group is being sponsored by *Informed Families of Dade County* which was awarded a sizeable grant by the *Metro Dade Police Department* to finance the entire project. Last year's *City at Peace* project and its director, 19-year old **Katie Christie**, were featured in a recent nationally syndicated television special. . . .



PC/Los Angeles performs *City at Peace*.

A special welcome to two new chapters: the **National Capital Area** chapter being brought together through the efforts of many long-time Peace Child supporters in and around Washington, D.C., including Board Member **Lib Segal** and **Ricky Payton**. It is an exciting beginning for **Peace Child/Central New Jersey**, being organized by **Lois Nicolai**, Chair of the Princeton Citizen Diplomacy

Committee with the assistance of **Jean Dorgan** a high school Social Studies Department Chair, and Peace Child founder **David Gordon**. The trio have helped implement a seven-school-district-wide inter-departmental program beginning this summer with funding by the state. The program will involve hundreds of young people from the cities of Trenton and Princeton, many smaller towns and rural areas of the state in the project which the three think will combine many of the lessons of Peace Child, *City at Peace* and the foundation's environmental projects. The program will continue through the school year with a final performance that will likely involve hundreds of ethnically diverse students. . . .

The **Los Angeles** chapter is re-organizing with exciting plans for growth in size and activity, led by new president and vice president **Nancy Johnson** and **Jerry Hassen**. Sincere appreciation is sent to past President **Kim Fella** who worked almost full-time on the activities of the group for

peace and understanding, but in taking workshops, as well, including such topics as conflict resolution and mediation. . . .

Two special tours of Soviet performers will allow several chapters to showcase their programs, raise some money, and promote better understanding between the American and Soviet people. The northern California chapters of **Sacramento** and **Palo Alto** will be primary hosts for the west coast tour which will include participation in the **Sacramento Peace Camp** as well as performances in several Bay



PC/Rochester chorus during recent performance.

area cities. Chapters in **York**, **Buffalo**, and **Princeton** will share responsibilities in the east. They will play host to a Soviet dance collective from Georgia, and will perform at **Hershey Park** among other special activities. . . .

Our affiliated group in **Fargo, North Dakota**, **IMAGINE**, is gearing up for a tour that will take participating youths to the capital cities in the U.S., U.S.S.R., and the Peoples Republic of China. . . .

York, Pennsylvania's Chapter is also due for some changes as **Karen King** takes a leave from several years as chapter president and director of the group's hugely successful Peace Camp. **Jim Smoker**, a long-time Peace Child activist, will take over as chapter president. . . .

In **Boston**, PCF has arranged a special tour for inner city youths to travel to the Ukraine for two weeks this summer, led by **Gerald Wright**.

several years. The new officers are being assisted by **Anandi Paganini** of **Peace Child/Santa Cruz** whose exciting successes over the past several years have allowed for the hiring of a part-time Executive Director. . . .

Growth is the word in the **Roanoke Valley, Virginia** chapter with 62 young people from 5 school districts now actively involved, not only in performing and bringing their message of

1991 FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Recent Gifts to the National Foundation

Leadership Gifts (Individual donations \$500 to \$25,000)

Cornelia and Craig Biddle
Elizabeth and Steven Keller Bonsey
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William Daniels
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Lucia and Steve Effros
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Gerry Lenfest
George Logan
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Organization/ Foundation Gifts (\$300 or more, including in-kind support)

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MAGIC
Michigan Bell Telephone
One Percent For Peace/Peace
Development Fund
Rotary Club of Huntsville, Canada
Samuel Rubin Foundation
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United Black Fund
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Peace Child Foundation Staff

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Executive Director

Norma Johnson
Director of Program Development

Steven Riffkin
International Artistic Director

Carlo Grossman
National Artistic Director

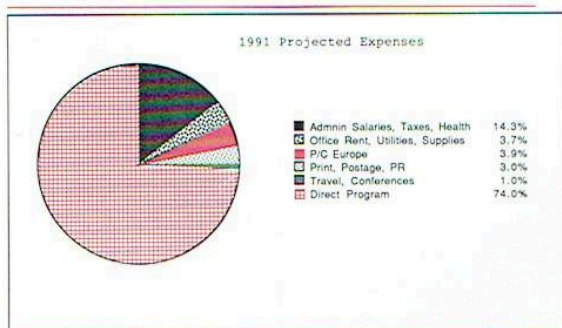
Sally Riddles
Office Manager/Chapter Coordinator

Natalie Johnson
Program Associate

Tim Downey
Development Coordinator

Jackie Johnson
Executive Assistant

Eric Riddles
Office Assistant



BOARD EXPANSION UNDERWAY

Eight individuals were added to the PCF Board of Directors at its May meeting. Included in this number are three community leaders selected for 3 year terms, as well as two newly created positions on the Board for **alumni representatives**. In addition, three new national council representatives took their seats at the Board table.

The Directors named to three year terms include:

From the Department of Justice, PCF is pleased to welcome **Barbara Huie**, who serves as Chief of Planning for the Community Relations Service. Ms. Huie has also worked at HUD in the area of public housing, at the department of Labor in youth service and training and in community affairs in Watts, California.

William McSweeney joins the Board from his position as former senior executive and president of Occidental Petroleum International Corporation. Mr. McSweeney has written a number of books and articles, served several presidents on international affairs commissions, worked in the White House for Lyndon Johnson, and

served as a commissioner at UNESCO, all of which followed a long and respected career as a reporter for Hearst Newspapers.

John Barker serves as senior associate at the National Consumers League, directing that organization's studies in telecommunications policy and telemarketing fraud. Among other past ventures, Mr. Barker served as a special assistant to the Watergate Special Prosecutor, served as Congressional and Public Affairs Director of the U.S. Privacy Protection Commission, and state utilities investigator in Arkansas. Mr. Barker learned of PCF many years ago through his work at the Inglewood Foundation.

The two individuals selected to serve in the newly created position of alumni representative (for two year terms) to the board are Peace Child/L.A. member and alumnus of the 1990 exchange program in Dnepropetrovsk **Michael Valeo**, now attending Brown University, and Peace Child/Miami organizer **Katie Christie**. Katie has been on two Soviet exchanges: as a delegate in 1989 and in 1991 as an artistic

director, and is now staging her second local City at Peace project.

Last October four active chapter leaders were selected to represent the National Council on the Board of Directors, two youths (one year terms) and two adults (two year terms): from Rochester, New York, **Vicki Lewin** and **Rick Staropoli**; from Los Angeles, **Kelly Todd**, and from York, Pennsylvania, **Kimberly Ness**.

Soviet PCO continued from page 10

regions of the troubled nation in intense discussions about national and ethnic conflicts and the future of the union.

In March, the All-Union Peace Child Festival in Kazan attracted 350 delegates. Performances, video presentations, discussions on social and political topics, and reacquaintances marked the 5 day event. Two new directors have joined PC/USSR: **Alexandr Gorkov** and **Mikhail Pavlov** who now work full time for the rapidly growing organization.

City at Peace leads to Permanent Center in Detroit

A City at Peace project, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Detroit, Michigan, has evolved into much more than originally intended, with the dedication earlier this year of **The City at Peace Center** in that troubled city's Northern High neighborhood. Organizers and community leaders were so moved by the original performance and the transforming power of the arts, that the idea was born to create a lasting institution, where the artistic spirit of the diverse groups in the community could be nurtured into full expression. City-wide efforts are now underway, led by actor **Ossie Davis**, to raise sufficient funds to allow the center to permanently meet the incredible potential marked by its inaugural activities.

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Ms. Katie Christie
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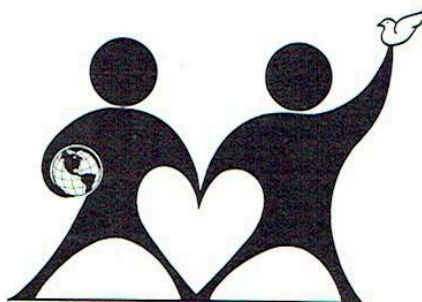
Next Issue:

Cooperative Projects with Youth
Service Agencies
1991 Summer Exchange program
Review
Planned Innovations, New
Programs for the Summer of 1992
PCF Environmental Projects
Update on the Central New Jersey
School Project
City at Peace Activities
Expanded Look at Chapter
Activities

Our New 800 Number
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