

The Whole World is....

One World

One World is a publication of Cultural Crossroads, Inc.

Vol. 3, No. 1

Spring, 2006

YOUTH LEADER CALLS FOR COMMUNICATION



“With a compass of knowledge and a roadmap of tolerance, we are armed for the Cultural Crossroads.”

LaTricia Davis, Commissioner on the Kansas City Commission on Violent Crime spoke at the March 6, 2006 meeting of Cultural Crossroads held at the Plaza Library. Ms. Davis shared her experience working with young people of high school and college age. She said that during a recent workshop three major influences were identified by these individuals as methods to curb violence: Parental – children want input and influence; Tolerance – recognizing differences in culture, sexual orientation or anything that sets someone apart; Communication – open discussion of diversity without fear of retribution tempered by courtesy.

In 2005, six homicides in Kansas City were identified as hate crimes. “Even one hate crime is a tragedy,” said Ms. Davis. “Because someone went out of their way to harm another

person just because of their ignorance or ethnicity.” She stressed the idea that ignorance is simply a lack of knowledge about certain aspects of other cultures.

Davis advocates open communication. Her theory is, if someone is hesitant to broach a subject, to start by explaining that you have no intent to offend the other person, but your goal is an understanding of the culture or attitude. This approach was clearly demonstrated as the attendees explored feelings and opinions through the question-and-answer session that followed her talk.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Cultural Crossroads has some exciting programs on schedule for 2006, with opportunities for YOU to get involved with children and families in the community:

Sat. April 8, 2 pm *Hello, World*
Grandview Library

Fri, May 19, 6 pm Global Fashions Show
First Baptist – OPKS

Sat, June 24, 2 pm *Hello, World*
Red Bridge Library

Also, see Page 3 for festival information!

Update: Our website is still under construction.
Keep checking www.culturalcrossroads-kc.org!

"THE PIPES, THE PIPES ARE CALLING...." -- ALL OVER THE WORLD!

by Louise Baggett

When bagpipes are mentioned, the first thought that comes to many minds is the Scottish bagpipe. Actually, many countries of the world have their own version of bagpipes.

The need for music beyond the human voice brought forth the making of sound from items in nature. Many forms of drums were made from hollow logs or skin stretched across a framework of crude sticks. Whistles and flutes were made from hollowed-out tree branches. With an inherent need for rhythm, music and body movement, came dance.

The origin of bagpipes appears to be lost, but at some point it was discovered that by using an animal skin or stomach and attaching a whistle or flute to the only opening, the air from the bag could be squeezed to blow the whistle or flute. This had a double value: it provided sound, but used far less effort. As explorers moved throughout the known world, the idea traveled and many more areas of the world developed their own form of the bagpipe – some simple, some very elaborate.

They could easily be heard and were usually played outdoors and were used extensively to



play for dances. Often, groups of pipers use different levels of sound, plus the drone pipe, which in most bagpipes carries one note throughout the music, creating more volume. The drone pipe

sound has a hypnotizing effect which adds to the fascination of the bagpipe worldwide.

The idea of a bagpipe spread through all of Europe to North Africa, each country having its own idea. Various forms of bagpipes are used widely in North Africa and at the same time they appear in Scandinavia and France. There are too many to mention, but the Italian *Zapagna* is probably the only survivor of the elaborate use of double wide flaring bells on their chanters and

also their use of double reeds like an oboe or bassoon. In Italy, the shepherds would come down from the mountain at Christmas time and play for the celebration of the holidays. Although often drums accompany bagpipes, sometimes in northern Italy the bagpipe music was accompanied by stamping of heavy boots in rhythm.



The Celtic *Uilleann* pipe has a lighter, sweeter sound. In the Balkan countries, bagpipes such as Macedonian *Gajda* (alt. *gaida*), Bulgarian and Greek

Gajdas are included in music for dance groups, and, in Spain, Galician music is played on the *gaita galega*.

The Turkish bagpipe is called a *Dulum* and also accompanies folk dances. There is another form of Turkish music that does not use a bag at all – the musician learns circular breathing. This involves a method of filling his cheeks with air, breathing in through his nose, while pushing the air out through a horn which is held between his lips. This is very difficult to learn but man has always reached for new challenges. Many Turks use this method.

Visit www.hotpipes.com/album.html to hear sound samples of the Sean Folsom CD, *Bagpipes of the World*, which contains cuts from 30 styles of bagpipe. Also, www.rootsworld.com/bagpipes has a link to "Radio Gaita...playing "bagpipe music from around the world."

The bagpipe in some form has survived for over 2,000 years in a great many areas of the world. The almost universal use and long history of the bagpipe is another example of the commonality of the human experience.





Events Around Town

The 6th Annual Harmony Week Luncheon features Felipe Luciano on Friday, March 24, 2006, at Marriott Downtown. Contact taylor@mccjkc.org for reservations.



The International Relations Council is again sponsoring WORLDQUEST TEAM TRIVIA CHALLENGE, on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, from 6-9 pm at UMKC Pierson Auditorium. This is an annual event put on by the IRC to benefit youth and school programs.

Check-in and buffet starts at 6 pm and the game starts at 7 pm. Cost is \$35 per person or \$280 for a table for 8. Reserve space directly with IRS by April 13, 2006, at www.irckc.org or call 816-221-4204.



If you enjoyed “Common Threads – An Exhibition of Textiles” which Cultural Crossroads hosted last spring, you will also enjoy “Flowers, Dragons & Pine Trees” at the Spencer Museum of Art, KU campus in Lawrence, Kansas. The exhibit of Asian textiles will run through May 28.



The “Common Threads” exhibition must have started something....the Kansas City Museum’s “Bold Improvisation” focuses on the African-American quilt as art form through April 2.



Speaking of textiles, see tartans and more at the Kansas City Highland Games on June 9 and 10 at E.H. Young Park in Riverside, MO. See www.kcscottishgames.org for information.

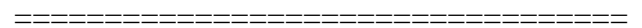
Send information about cultural events to CulturalCrossroads@hotmail.com.

This fall the Friends of Kaw Point Park is hosting a bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition return trip. Cultural Crossroads will sponsor an information booth during the event that will take place September 15, 16, and 17, 2006. **Shall We Gather at the River – The Wyandotte County Ethnic Festival** will include re-enactors, main stage music and dance entertainment, and fireworks.

Cultural Crossroads has also been invited to participate with the Kansas City, Kansas City Vision in their **Artwalks**. These events are held on the first Fridays in March, May, July and October. We expect to have an information booth during at least one of those occasions.

Anyone can help us by donating even as little as an hour to help man these booths. They are a great way to promote our cause and enjoy some great art events at the same time.

If you are available to help during the festivals, email CulturalCrossroads@hotmail.com or call 913-334-7654 and ask for Donna.



Thanks to a great partnership with **Mid-Continent Public Library**, Cultural Crossroads has conducted four programs in various libraries throughout Jackson County, Missouri, reaching almost 100 people of all ages. Past programs have concentrated on the universality and geometry of dance and future programs (see Page One) will teach how people communicate on a personal level.

America is a great place – and we know it!

We are fortunate to live in a country where we have unprecedented freedoms and a rich heritage from all the people of all the cultures that have combined, over the ages and eons of time, to form the unique community that is the United States. Our lives are enriched by Italian food, Jewish kletzmer music, German literature, English common law, Hungarian dance, silks from India and the spiritual philosophy of Japan...all within the framework of a unique rule of law and individual liberties. America would not be the society it is today with all of its many influences.

We now have an opportunity to show pride in that community and proclaim gratitude for being alive in this time and in this place. Cultural Crossroads offers the “American Gratitude” bumper sticker – or use it as a



sign over your desk or in your kitchen or as a sticker for your briefcase or bookbag – anywhere a positive attitude can help improve your outlook! [The words are displayed against a blue sky with white-light sun and a full-color U.S. flag completes the message.]

We are offering them at \$3.00 a piece with special pricing of \$2.00 each for orders of 20 or more (specifically to give an opportunity for church groups and youth groups to acquire at a reduced price and either give them as prizes or resell them for a project). Contact Cultural Crossroads at CulturalCrossroads@hotmail.com or 816-737-5979. They will also be available at all Cultural Crossroads functions.



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