

OMEP-USNC NEWS^{IN} BRIEF

*United States National Committee of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education
Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire ♦ Organización Mundial Para La Educación Prescolar*

World Organization for Early Childhood Education

January 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Inaugural enthusiasm has run rampant in Washington, DC! I truly hope it continues to fuel the many changes that need to take place and also strengthen the national characteristics that have endured these past centuries. Enjoy these great days of new leadership and let's make and take opportunities to remind the new administration about the ratification needed for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). We know they are interested in considering it, along with other treaties now in limbo. – Edna Ranck



NAEYC OMEP PRESENTATIONS-2009:

Proposals for NAEYC presentations were due before midnight on Tuesday, 20 January. One of the OMEP submissions was the proposal for the "OMEP-USNC on Thursday," the afternoon session usually scheduled at 2:00pm. This year's event explores the juxtaposition of children, art & creativity, and peace. The title is "For Children in a More Peaceful World: Global Education and Opportunities for Creative Development." Edna Ranck will moderate a remarkable panel composed of John Surr, Ashfaq Ishaq, and Judith Wagner. Dr. Ishaq is founding president and CEO of the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF, www.icafo.org) here in Washington. He is interested in finding ways for ICAF to include younger children and to move into early childhood education. This venture is the second step in the process. Edna was on a panel he moderated at the World Cultural Economic Forum for the State of Louisiana last October that was also connected to The Aspen Institute. You will hear more about this effort as time goes on.



Also submitted was this year's proposal for the OMEP Film Festival at NAEYC: This year the festival title, "Reel Children: Think Globally, Act Locally." This 2-day festival is a potpourri of media experiences designed to inspire and energize the early childhood education community attending.

Film footage will be shown from three areas of emphasis:

1. media literacy & commercial film
2. teacher education and research
3. advocacy and leadership development

Participants will be encouraged to view...reflect...synthesize...and share:

- how messages are presented and the impact on us as we see and hear images;
- how we can use film to enhance our work with children and families;
- how we are connected with others working with children, wherever we live.

This year's features will be:

- * Film clips from the Chicago Children's International Film Festival
- * Panel of children's media experts lead by OMEP member Diane Levin, author of *So Sexy, So Soon*, discuss the commercialization of children in film both here and abroad.
- * Authentic international films used in teacher education in other countries
- * Conversation with Reel Fathers Film Festival Coordinator, Allan Shedlin, and OMEP-US President Edna Ranck about the portrayal of fathers in commercial film.

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CONFERENCES TO CONSIDER:

Long before NAEYC in November, however, many other opportunities are available to explore global early education topics; this list is only a selection:

ACEI: Two exciting events are scheduled for OMEP at ACEI to be held in Chicago on 18-21 March. One is the long-standing OMEP Breakfast @ ACEI held on Friday morning. Maggie Koong, the World OMEP treasurer, will be our speaker this year. Many of you met Maggie in Dallas and know how dynamic her presentations are. The other is in response to an invitation from a long-time OMEP and ACEI member, Professor Helen Botnarescue, Co-chair of the Retired/Heritage Committee Special Session. Gwen Coe, Lenore Wineberg, Lita Haddal and Edna Ranck will speak about various aspects of OMEP-USNC throughout its history. We will talk about its projects and productions, its long list of energetic presidents, and how our National Committee works with colleagues under the World OMEP umbrella. Visit www.acei.org to read more about the ACEI conference.

McCormick Tribune Center for Early Childhood Leadership & National-Louis University: This Leadership Connections conference will convene in Chicago on 14-16 May 2009.

World Forum on Early Childhood Education: The eighth World Forum will convene in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 16-19 June. Visit www.childcareexchange.com for details about registration and taking part in the planning for the event. Please note this exciting news! *Not only is USNC a Strategic Partner with Child Care Information Exchange, but also World OMEP is the newest member of the World Forum Foundation's World Alliance!*

National Association for Family Child Care: The 2009 NAFCC conference will be held in Baltimore on 25-27 June. Visit www.nafcc.org for registration details. It is too late to submit a presentation proposal for 2009. Think ahead to 2010!

International Family Day Care Organisation [sic] Conference: Both Dublin and Cork are the sites for the IFDCO conference on 20-25 July. Visit the website for details: www.ucc.ie.

World OMEP Assembly and International Conference/Workshop: This year's World OMEP events will be held in Lagos, Nigeria, on 3-7 August. For more information about submitting a proposal and attending the conference, visit www.omep-nigeria.org/conference. You can also go to the World OMEP website for information: www.omep-ong.net is the site; click on 2009 World OMEP Assembly.

NAEYC: As you probably know, NAEYC will be held in Washington, DC this year. The dates are Wednesday-Saturday, 18-21 November. Most events will be held in the Walter Washington Convention Center.

Thanks for renewing your membership renewal so promptly. Now think about what you can do as an active and dedicated member of OMEP! Yes, OMEP-USNC can!

For those still dawdling, hurry now to download the 2009 membership form at <http://dpi.wi.gov/ccic/omep.html> and return it with your check to: Jane Ilgen, 751 Cricket Lane, Middleton, WI 53562-5603 E-mail: jilgen@charter.net



MEMBER NEWS:

On January 12, President Edna Ranck started a position at the Washington Child Development Council (WCDC), the CCR&R agency for the District of Columbia. She is Project Director for an initiative designed to increase the number of nationally-accredited child care centers and FCC homes.



GREETINGS FROM JAPAN FOR THE ORIENTAL NEW YEAR - THE YEAR OF THE OX:

Dear colleagues and friends of OMEP-

On behalf of the members of Japan OMEP, I sincerely wish you health and happiness for this new year.

May our hope for protecting the children's rights and meeting their fundamental needs be fulfilled, in spite of the universally weakened economy.

Let us work together for the well-being of children, essential to the prosperity of our world!

-Toshiko KANEDA, president of the Japanese National Committee of OMEP

ESPAÑOL

Querido(a)s colegas y amigo(a)s de la OMEP-

En nombre del Comité Japonés de la OMEP, quisiera presentarles nuestros deseos sinceros de salud y de felicidad para este Nuevo Año.

Que nuestra esperanza de proteger los derechos del niño y de satisfacer sus necesidades fundamentales se cumpla, a pesar de la economía universalmente debilitada.

Trabajamos juntos para el bienestar de los niños, esencial a la prosperidad de nuestro mundo!

-Toshiko KANEDA, presidente del Comité Japonés de la OMEP

FRANÇAIS

Cher(e)s collègues et ami(e)s de l'OMEP Au nom des membres de l'OMEP-

Japon, j'aimerais vous présenter nos vœux sincères de santé et de bonheur pour cette nouvelle année.

Que notre espoir de protéger les droits de l'enfant et de contenter leurs besoins fondamentaux soit comblé, en dépit de l'économie universellement affaiblie.

Travaillons ensemble pour le bien-être des enfants, essentiel à la prospérité de notre monde!

-Toshiko KANEDA, présidente du comité japonais de l'OMEP



ON THAT NOTE, A RECOMMENDED RESOURCE:

Wabi Sabi. By Mark Reibstein, 2008. Illustration Ed Young, 2008. 38 pages. Printed in Singapore. Internet source: www.lb-kids.com ISBN 978-0-316-11825-5

This children's book is about Wabi Sabi, a cat living in the city of Kyoto, Japan, who learns about the Japanese concept of simplicity as she asks various animals she meets about the meaning of her name.

Wabi Sabi is a way of seeing the world that is at the heart of Japanese culture. It finds beauty and harmony in what is simple, imperfect, natural, modest, and mysterious. It can be a little dark, but it is also warm and comfortable. It may best be understood as a feeling, rather than an idea.

Includes many Haiku proverbs in Japanese and English and explanations of Asian cultural relevance. The artwork is created with photographed 3-D paper, painting and textures, with the book opening from the bottom rather than from the side, as is Western tradition.



OPPORTUNITIES:

Are you a stitcher? Could you design an embroidery/needlepoint kit for OMEP? Perhaps from our OMEP logo? This kit could become an item to sell with proceeds going to OMEP-USNC projects fund. Perhaps you have other fundraising ideas. Contact Lita Haddal, Ph.1-608-233-5336 or E-mail litahaddalwithOMEP@gmail.com