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Message from OMEP-USA President

Jean Simpson, Ph. D

The OMEP conference is coming along very well. There is still much to do, but many tasks have begun. The assembly and conference venue is the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC which is close to the National Zoo. All of us who have seen the Omni agree that it is a wonderful conference site. The planning team for the July event is hoping for 1000 full registrations of early childhood colleagues and educators from across the world to attend the conference. They will be coming from across the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia Pacific, and Latin America. Additionally presidents of OMEP National Chapters from around the world will be with us. This world event was last held in the USA over 20 years ago.

Public releases which describe and invite colleagues are available if OMEP members have contacts they would like to share information with. Guest speakers have been contacted. We have some confirmations and we are waiting to hear from others. Below is a list of confirmed speakers (alphabetically ordered) .

- Marion Wright Edelman JD, Founder & President of the Children's Defense Fund
- Dr. Gaby Fujimoto, International Consultant
- Dr. Jacqueline Jones, President, Foundation for Child Development
- Dr. Brenda Jones-Harden, Associate Professor, University of Maryland College Park
- Dr. James E. Lyons, President, University of the District of Columbia
- Dr. Valora Washington, CEO, Council for Professional Recognition
- Dr. Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Courtney Sale Ross Professor of Globalization and Education at New York University

Editor's note

Please send your story
to

**Dong Hwa Donna
Choi, Ph.D**

Associate Professor
Park University
Kansas City, MO

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Exhibitors' information is posted on the website and exhibitors can easily register for the conference. An Ad form is also on the website and can be downloaded. Encourage colleagues to take an ad to promote their institutions, consulting or just wish OMEP-USA regards for hosting the conference. An attractive conference banner has been developed. It can be sent to conference promoters and publications to promote the conference. Support from the ExCO has been outstanding. We continue to receive guidance, clarification and suggestions to make this the best conference OMEO has had. Please reach out to professional colleagues by sending the one-pager and the conference brochure to them. This will be an excellent way to help promote the conference. The one-pager is located on the website.

Programmatically there are many highlights such as workshops, poster sessions, featured sessions and keynote speakers. The proposal review team is getting a head start by reviewing some of the proposals. The National Association for the Education of Young Children has offered to host a reception on the office roof, for the World OMEP presidents on Tuesday evening . There will be EduTours available on Wednesday morning, to over 25 early childhood centers across the Washington DC metropolitan area, along with the PlayDaze being held at the Washington National Cathedral. In the evening there will be an opening keynote speaker followed by the opening reception. Thursday evening is the conference banquet on the "Spirit of Washington" cruise ship and Friday evening the University of the District of Columbia will be performing "Jazz under the Stars" concert on their grounds.

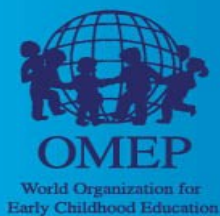
Partners who have committed to assist us or provide sponsorship in some way include the Council for Professional Recognition, the University of the District of Columbia, Exchange Magazine, ACEI, NAEYC, Crayola, Kaplan Educational Supplies, Foundation for Child Development, Community Playthings, International Child Art Foundation, and many others who have not revealed themselves to us. Stay tuned to the website because it is constantly being updated with the latest news, accomplishments and programs of OMEP-USA. Many thanks to the Board of Directors of OMEP-USA who are working so diligently, in many different ways, to support this upcoming event. Remember to keep watching the website at www.omep-usa.org.



Join us for the 67th
**OMEP World Assembly
and
International Conference**

July 27- August 1, 2015

Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. USA



*“Early Childhood
Pathways to
Sustainability”*

REGISTER TODAY AT
www.omep-usa.org

For more information contact:
OWC2015Coordinators@omep-usa.org

OMEP Regional Vice President's Report

Judith T. Wagner, Ph. D

World OMEP Deputy President

Vice President for North America and Caribbean

WORLD ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE OUTREACH: I have been busy spreading the word about the 2015 World Assembly and Conference to OMEP members and friends in Canada and Haiti. I'm hoping to see a big article about it in the OMEP-Canada winter newsletter to be published very soon. It would be wonderful for our OMEP-USA members with friends and acquaintances in Canada and Haiti to reach out to them with personal emails or notes to encourage them to join us in Washington DC, July 27 – August 1.

OMEP'S AT THE UN: OMEP continues to work diligently with other organizations around the world to ensure that young children are a visible priority in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2015-2030. This is crucial because the SDGs will drive global spending and program priorities for the next 15 years. They will replace, or more accurately, build upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2000-2015, which have, in fact, brought significant improvements to children in many parts of the world. For example, during the last 15 years, many countries have reported impressive decreases in infant mortality rates, as well as improvements in child survival beyond the 5th birthday. Many countries have also reported dramatic increases in the number of children, especially girls, attending primary school. You can find more information about the background for the SDGs at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>. The specific SDG Goals and Targets can be found at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal>.

OMEP has been focusing most of our attention to Goal 4, especially 4.2. Goal 4 reads: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all. Section 4.2 reads: By 2030 ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education. Along with other organizations we have been stressing the importance of a holistic approach to early education, rather than a narrower view of early childhood education and care simply as preparation for "real" school and as a way to teach life skills for success later in life.

It is important for OMEP member throughout our region to encourage their UN representatives, as well as other high-level policy makers and those who influence them, to remember that children have a right to develop to their full potential and a right to education. It is also good to remind them that scientific data from many fields, including economics, consistently support early childhood development as one of the wisest, if not *the* wisest, investment any society can make. The World OMEP website regularly posts position papers and information about how to participate in advocacy relating to these post-2015 goals. Let's all raise our voices, write letters, send information to local media now while we can still have some influence on the final version of the SDGs which will be voted on by the UN General Assembly in September.

OMEP EVENT AT THE UN: Under the leadership of OMEP's Main Representative at the United Nations, Dr. Maria Pia Belloni, OMEP and the UN Committee on Migration continue to provide information about the needs of young children living in refugee camps by producing position papers and hosting meetings and events. For example, on February 4, OMEP was a co-sponsor of a Side Event during the 53rd meeting of the Commission on Social Development. The title of the event was *Giving Childhood Back to Children in Refugee Camps*. The event was very well attended. Among the participants was Anne-Christine Eriksson, Deputy Director of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. The program and a summary of Director Eriksson's comments can be found on the World OMEP Website (<http://www.worldomep.org/en/>). During the event, OMEP and several other organizations became co-sponsors of a series of recommendations developed by the Committee on Migration regarding the treatment, care, and education of children in refugee camps. These recommendations can also be found on the World OMEP Website (<http://www.worldomep.org/en/>). Wishing all OMEP members and friends a quick start to a beautiful spring.

OMEP Website & Facebook

The OMEP-USA website has a new look and is available for you to obtain information. Even though the website is evolving, you will find important links, history and events of interest to the student of professional with international interests.

The website address is: <http://www.omep-usa.org>

Join OMEP- USA on Facebook : [omep-usa page](#).

Twitter : [OMEP_USA](#)

Post some information, share a thought or a picture.

Take advantage of this great media opportunity.

The History of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education [OMEP]

Dr. Blythe F. Hinitz

Distinguished Professor of Elementary and Early Childhood Education

The College of New Jersey

The World Organization for Early Childhood Education (WOECE – OMEP) began as an idea in conversations at a September 1945 conference in Zurich, Switzerland called to “discuss what could be done to help destitute and war-stricken children of Europe” (Roberts, 1988, p.1). A meeting between Lady Marjory Allen of Hurtwood, Chairman of the British Nursery School Association, and Alva Myrdal of Sweden in Stockholm in 1946 led to an Introductory Meeting in England a few weeks later which decided to form an international organization in the field of pre-school education. The second preparatory meeting, held in Paris in November 1946, was attended by representatives from ten countries, including Dr. Howard Wilson (USA), Deputy Executive Secretary of UNESCO. The new organization, named the World Council of Early Childhood Education, was chaired by Alva Myrdal. Lady Allen of Hurtwood became the Vice Chairman. Dr. George Stoddard (Iowa Child Welfare Research Station) represented the USA at the next meeting in December 1946. He said that, “unless something is done to children, they will not grow up to become citizens contributing to world peace and security.” He believed that “fundamental education should start earlier than at six years - the usual age for school entrance” (Roberts, 1988, p. 6). Another agenda item was a discussion about the lack of international cooperation in the early education field.



Lady Allen of Hurtwood



Alva Myrdal [Nobel Peace
Laureate 1982]

A third preparatory meeting was held in Denmark in August 1947, followed by the First Conference of the World Council of Early Childhood Education held at Charles University in Prague in August 1948. The theme of the founding Congress: Childhood and the World Community, was discussed by educators from five continents, including Hazel Gabbard of the USA, “who pointed out the tremendous variation in American institutions for pre-school education,” and Dr. Frances Ilg (USA), who chaired the plenary session (Roberts, 1988, p. 13, 17). There was an emphasis on the concept of positive mental health and supporting children who had experienced trauma during World War II. Working groups “directed toward forming ‘a strong, systematic and international’ organization” discussed a constitution and recommendations for future action. The resolution recommending the setting up of a permanent organization was accepted. Other recommendations included: “in offering aid and advice to countries, the World Council should exercise the greatest discretion in interpreting their needs and wishes” and “cultures, customs and traditions of every country should be deeply respected” (Roberts, 1988, p. 16-17). Alva Myrdal was elected the first Chairman. The name change to WOECE took place at the second World Congress, held in Paris in 1949 with representatives of 33 countries, where Lady Allen became Chairman. There are currently 72 OMEP National Committees around the world. A core part of this international nongovernmental organization, which unites people of different races, creeds and political opinions is the “aim to secure better education and care of children ages (birth to eight)” (50 Years OMEP in Documents, 1998, panel 4).

The 1954 World Congress, held in Copenhagen, had a theme that remains pertinent today: The Selection and Training of Pre-School Teachers. Eleven countries, including the USA were represented at the meeting. The first World Congress held in the United States took place in Washington, DC in 1968, with the theme: The Rights of the Child – The Realization of His Potential. The English keynote, on the realization of the child’s potential, was given by Dr. Mary Langmuir Essex of the UK. Dr. Essex spoke about “more effective ways of working for children, including closing the gap between what we know can and should be done and doing something realistic about it” (Misurcova & Roberts, 1998, p. 29). The French keynote, by Dr. E. Roger Lapointe of the Université de Montréal, Canada, focused on the Charter of the Child’s Rights and the Human Rights Charter, which indicated that a child was a person. The speech discussed acceptable aims, including the respect which the adult should give to the child, and equality of opportunity irrespective of the child’s race, religion, or social economic status (Misurcova & Roberts, 1998, p. 31-32). Among the featured sessions was a panel on Planning for the Culturally Deprived Child presented by Mr. Jule Sugarman (Head Start) and Dr. Robert Egbert (Follow Through). The second World Congress to be held in the USA took place in Flagstaff, Arizona in 1992. At that meeting, World President Eva Balke was presented with a beautiful necklace by a group of American Indian tribes of Arizona. She determined that this necklace would be the “badge of office” of the OMEP World President from that day forward. The World President, Dr. Maggie Koong is the current custodian of the necklace. OMEP has consultative status with UNESCO, UNICEF, ECOSOC and the Council of Europe. It is an international forum for the “sharing of knowledge, ideas and values that would lead to recognition of the importance of the early childhood years.” It is a place “for making personal contacts that develop into understanding, trust and long – term relationships (50 Years OMEP in Docu-

The fundamental principles agreed upon in Denmark in 1947 form the basis for the work of OMEP to the present day. They are:

- To promote a general understanding of the importance to world peace, the child and the home, of the early formative years.
- To advance the widespread development of nursery education in all countries.
- To formulate progressive standards in regard to educational practice, healthcare, qualification of teachers, buildings, gardens and equipment.
- To bring together representatives from voluntary associations and public agencies interested in early childhood education. (Misurcova & Roberts, 1998, p. 1).

These principles have stood the test of time for 68 years. We, the current members of OMEP, must strive to continue their implementation into the future.

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Note: The author invites all interested OMEP members and early education colleagues to a discussion of re-invigorating the project entitled "History of OMEP," which resulted in the publication of two books detailing the first 22 years of the organization's history, in Washington, DC, in July 2015. With the approval of the World Executive and the World Assembly (hopefully at the 2015 World Congress), this international committee could produce an archive -- based volume or volumes on the work of OMEP from 1972 to 1998 to celebrate its 70th anniversary in 2018.

My Journey in Education

OMEP World Assembly and Conference 2011 Hong Kong

Dr. Asyia Foster

As educators we often spend much time building an understanding of the small part we play in the field of education, honing our skills and becoming experts for the roles we have. As an early childhood educator I understand that my field is vast, spanning many different curricular understandings and global locations. The main connection that exists, is the desire to provide quality care to young children. This idea was ever present during the first OMEP World Assembly and Conference I attended in Hong Kong in the summer of 2011. The conference afforded an opportunity for early childhood practitioners to share current research and project work from their many different regions. Attendees of the conference were able to network and communicate ideas related to quality care and education for young children. The majority of the research projects centered on sustainability and the process of involving children in beneficial practices which impact our world.

The most enjoyable session I attended focused on a university lab school in Thailand where the children engaged in a lengthy project to improve sustainable practices on their campus. Through a process of investigation and planning, the children were able to make a presentation to the university president advocating the use of specific sustainability measures. This enlightening session showed many similarities to current early childhood practices on my own campus.

Attending the OMEP World Conference assisted in enhancing my professionalism and global perspective. We as educators can only benefit from experiences such as these which help to shape and expand our thinking. As we step outside of our small corner of the world, we become part of something much bigger, a global force for quality educational practices. In the process, we often find, while the language and location may be different, the essential goals remain the same.

Park University Initiatives

Service Learning Project at OMEP World Assembly and Conference 2015

Judi Simmons Estes, Ph. D

OMEP members have an opportunity to provide leadership experiences for college students and many do so through forming and maintaining active student OMEP chapters and offering local activities that build an awareness of children's issues worldwide. This summer, OMEP-USA members have a unique opportunity to involve students in the World OMEP Assembly and Conference being held in Washington, DC. This will be the first time since 1992 that the World Assembly and Conference has been held in the U.S. OMEP members, Judi Simmons Estes and Dong Hwa Donna Choi, faculty members in the School for Education at Park University (Parkville, Missouri), co-wrote and received a Faculty Endowment grant to mentor two undergraduate students in building awareness of international education issues. Mentoring will occur during service learning activities before and during the World OMEP Assembly and Conference through submitting a presentation proposal, participating as volunteers and attendees, attending board related meetings, and receiving exposure to fellow OMEP members from other countries. The two students selected to participate in the grant related activities are seniors Jordin Willett and Natalie Motta. These students have also been gifted with student OMEP memberships. Participating in preparations for and attending the World Conference offers numerous professional growth opportunities in developing leadership capacity. Leadership development in turn has the potential of enhancing each students' self-efficacy, civic engagement, character development, academic performance, and personal development. OMEP members, who are faculty members, are encouraged to use the 2015 World Assembly and Conference as a venue to expose students to the activities of

OMEP world-wide in ways consistent with their universities' commitment to global citizenship.



From left to right: Two faculty at Park University, Judi Estes & Dong Hwa Donna Choi and
Two students, Jordin Willett & Natalie Motta

2015 OMEP 67th World Assembly & International Conference

“Early Childhood Pathways to Sustainability”

July 27 – August 1, 2015

The World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) is an international, non-government organization, founded in 1948 to advocate for the education and well-being of children under the age of eight years-old throughout the world. OMEP is currently established in over 70 countries and is represented at worldwide meetings of UNESCO, UNICEF, the European Council, and other international organizations with similar aims. The aim of OMEP is to promote for all children the optimum conditions to ensure their well-being, development, learning and happiness in their families, institutions and communities.

OMEP:

- * Champions children's rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- * Supports research which may influence the conditions in which children live, develop, learn and play. Helps in any undertaking which will improve early childhood education.
- * Carries out projects which contribute to an understanding between peoples and to peace in the world.
- * Champions children's rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- * Supports research which may influence the conditions in which children live, develop, learn and play.
- * Helps in any undertaking which will improve early childhood education.
- * Carries out projects which contribute to an understanding between peoples and to peace in the world.

Conference Host: OMEP-USA, a National Chapter of World OMEP

Conference Dates: July 27 – August 1, 2015

Host City: Washington, DC

Venue: Omni Shoreham Hotel

Estimated Attendance: 1,000

Conference Components: Plenary Sessions and Workshops, Film Festival, Paper and Poster Presentations, Exhibits, Visits to Early Childhood Education Programs

Continents Represented: Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America and the Caribbean

March 2015

Host Leadership:

- * OMEP-USA President: Jean Simpson, Ph.D
- * Co-chairpersons: Edna Ranck, Ed.D & Barbara Ferguson Kamara, MS
- * Program and Logistics Consultant: Earla J. Jones, MS, CMP

Partnership, Vendor and Volunteer opportunities are available.

For Additional Information Contact:

Edna Ranck, Ed. D
202.333.4146 or 202.997.1226 mobile
edna.ranck@verizon.net

Barbara Ferguson Kamara, MS
202-841-9082
barbarakamara@yahoo.com

Advocacy Committee- Children's Rights

We made progress on getting the word out at the Fall Board meeting. All board members present agreed to send a letter to their local newspaper before the spring board meeting about the CRC and the need to make it U.S. law. If the U.S. joined all the other countries that have made the CRC their law, all U.S. children would have the same legal protection. The U.S. would then be able to participate in various international projects to improve conditions for children. If you would spread the word through your local newspaper, I would happily send you a sample letter for ideas as I did for board members. Let me know what you are able to do.

Letters to the President and Your Senators: We need to send letters to President Obama asking him to send the CRC to the Senate urging their approval. Your Senators also need to hear from you on how important it is for them to approve the CRC. You can use this letter now signed by about 120 national organizations (see <http://www.childrightscampaign.org/take-action/ask-the-president/send-him-a-letter-like-ours>) Or contact the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20500. (website <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments> or phone (202) 456-1111.)

Implementation: Children need implementation of these rights in their daily lives. Children, parents, and teachers should understand some of the basic needs of all children. If you interact with children, would you choose one of the child rights and explain it to your children. Include that all children have this same right.

World Congress: The Congress will provide a great opportunity for us to learn the work that other national committees have done to improve conditions for their children since they ratified the CRC.

What suggestions do you have for us to do now and at the conference to accomplish this?

Dodie Sailor, Chair Advocacy Committee

News from Barbara Kamara & Edna Ranck

Co-Chairs
World OMEP Assembly and International Conference

The World OMEP Assembly and International Conference were last held in the United States in Arizona in 1992. Once before that, in 1968, it was held in Washington, DC. The July 2015 event will be the third of 67 World OMEP annual conferences held in the US; we consider it a celebration of early childhood education throughout the world in the United States and expect a strong attendance of persons living in the US. The four plenary sessions being held with an Opening Ceremony, keynote speaker and a welcome reception on Wednesday, July 29; full plenary sessions on Thursday and Friday mornings, July 30 and 31; and a final keynote speaker and Closing Ceremony on August 1 will all highlight key topics of international early education.

Conference Features

Tours to a variety of early childhood programs will be available Wednesday morning, July 29. A spectacular Opening Ceremony, keynote speaker and a welcome reception on Wednesday, July 29 officially open the conference. Plenary sessions will open Thursday and Friday mornings and a final keynote speaker and Closing Ceremony end the conference August 1. Other conference features include workshops, seminars, poster sessions, exhibits and an International Bazaar. President Maggie Koong, Treasurer Nirmala Rao, and the five World OMEP Vice-presidents will all speak during the plenary sessions. The five vice-presidents can be found on the World OMEP website at www.worldomep.org.

The OMEP World Assembly

Representatives from more than 40 countries are expected to arrive in Washington, DC for the July 27 and 28 World Assembly, the official business meeting of those representing the 60 OMEP countries. To attend the World Assembly, you must be approved by the OMEP President of your country. OMEP Presidents have a limited number of people they can approve. Contact OMEP-USA President, Dr. Jean Simpson, to get your name on the list.

Invite your Colleagues

We urge you to contact early childhood colleagues in your state or region to register for the **Assembly and Conference**. Ask them to check out the details of the World OMEP Assembly and International Conference on the OMEP-USA website – www.omep-usa.org/worldconference2015. Your early childhood colleagues need not be members of OMEP; we envision this event to be hosted by America for the world. It is not an OMEP-USA conference, but a World OMEP event.

Conference Media Release

When you receive the press release from the Publicity and Public Relations Committee, co-chaired by Ebony Cray Jones and Dong Hwa Donna Choi, place it on your social media, forward it to colleagues, and to key online and print newspapers and listservs. Get the word out right away!!

What to do while in Washington, DC.

Washington is truly an international city! **Washington, DC** is filled with exciting and memorable places to **visit**; whether you wish to **visit** the Capitol, the monuments or one of the 19 “free” Smithsonian museums and galleries including the National Zoological Park. Your family and spouse will have a memorable time exploring D.C.

Volunteer Before or During the Assembly and Conference

OMEP-USA is a 100 percent volunteer organization. We need your time and talent to ensure a successful World OMEP Assembly and International Conference. Contact Terry Elofson, Interim Region 7 Representative, OMEP-USA, if you want to volunteer before or during the Assembly & Conference: thelofson@gmail.com.

Greetings from Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC) & Representative

Ms. Ebony Cray Jones

On November 20, 2014. The DeKalb County Board of Commissions presented a Proclamation, recognizing OMEP-USA and proclaiming November 20th, DeKalb County Universal Children’s Day. The Proclamation was sponsored by District 3 Commissioner and the Board of Commissions Presiding Officer, Larry Johnson. It details the importance of Universal Children’s Day as a day to recognize and support children’s rights and their needs. We also received a letter of Greeting and Commendation to OMEP from DeKalb County Interim CEO Lee May. There were also several representatives and organizations who came to lend their support and express their gratitude for the work OMEP-USA does on behalf of all children. These organizations understand the importance of recognizing the rights of all children, including the importance of high quality and affordable Early Childhood Education. Each of these organizations serve and work with children and families from various backgrounds no matter their socio-economic status or background. We are very grateful for the work they do and their ongoing commitment to serving children and their families, as well as their presence during this year’s proclamation ceremony. We send our sincere gratitude and thanks to: DeKalb County, GA District 3 Commissioner: Larry Johnson, DeKalb County, GA Interim CEO Lee May and the entire DeKalb County Board of Commissions, DeKalb County; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and Advocacy Coordinator’s: Lauren Jones, Karmell Clair and Jonai McCoy. The Child Development Association and Early Literacy Coach Yehymmy Mora, Bethany Christians Services/B.E.R.E.A.L Program and Program Director; Juanita Goss. Fulton County, GA CASA Community Development Manager; Katina Williams, Congregation Bet Haverim’s Interim Education Director, Ellie McGraw and Designs of Time Creator; Clarence Jones. For more information about Universal Children’s Day, please visit www.omep-usa.org/UCD_1120/ For more information about Region 4 contact Region 4 Representative Ebony Cray Jones.



Ebony and DeKalb County Interim CEO Lee May (R)



Playdaze is coming to Washington, DC for the OMEP 2015 World Assembly & Conference!

Ronda Hawkins

Recently, a small group of OMEP-USA members, along with Linda Kinney and Rich Rairigh from NC Play Alliance, met with Pat Luce, Director of Special Programs, and James Gilroy, Director of Auxiliary Programs at Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School to discuss a 2015 OMEP World Conference, preconference, PlayDaze. We met briefly to discuss the PlayDaze planning details and then we were given a tour of the National Cathedral Elementary School building and campus. We are very excited to be able to offer our 2015 conference attendees the opportunity to see this amazing school, experience a PlayDaze event, learn how to bring PlayDaze back to their hometown, and visit our National Cathedral - all on the morning of July 29, 2015! For more information on PlayDaze go to North Carolina Early Childhood Active Play Alliance Website to download the PlayDaze Planner and to view PlayDaze video clips. PlayDaze celebrates the value of play and is designed to provide diverse play activities, for diverse groups of children, coming from diverse early childhood settings. The goal is to increase physical activity, to challenge each individual to be creative in mind and body, and to share in the joy of discovery and interaction without the need for competition. PlayDaze offers opportunities for supervised unstructured play time.

OMEP MEMBERSHIP

Join and renew your membership in OMEP – USA online at <http://www.omep-usa.org/membership/> Since fall 2014, your membership team has worked on the OMEP website so that you may join, renew, or donate online. You will be pleased to know you may use your own personal credit card or pay through PayPal and receive immediate confirmation of payment to your email! Your email is essential as this is the way your Regional Representatives and the Board will communicate with you about the functions of the organization so please check it frequently. Membership is now on a 12 month revolving basis from the date you joined rather than January to January. Mark on your calendar the month you joined to renew one year later. You will also receive a renewal notice from our membership team sent to your email.

Membership categories are as follows:

- ◆ Regular, Group, or Organization membership with an annual subscription to International Journal of Early Childhood \$ 60.00
- ◆ Retired or Student membership with an annual subscription to International Journal of Early Childhood \$ 45.00
- ◆ Regular, Group, Retired, or Student membership without the journal \$ 40.00

Bronwyn Fees, Ph.D.
Membership Chair
(e) fees@ksu.edu



OMEP

Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire
World Organisation for Early Childhood Education
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar

2015 OMEP 67th World Assembly and International Conference

Early Childhood Pathways to Sustainability

July 27 – August 1, 2015

Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street NW, Washington D.C. USA

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

- Marion Wright Edelman, JD
- Dr. Gaby Fujimoto
- Dr. Brenda Jones-Harden
- Dr. Valora Washington
- Dr. Hirokazu Yoshikawa

Registration Fees

- Early Registration \$425 US
(Includes all conference sessions, Visits to early childhood programs & Transportation, Coffee breaks, Lunches on Thursday & Friday, Opening Reception)
- Full Registration \$485 US
(Includes all items listed under Early Registration)
- Day Rate Registration \$200 US
(Specify Thursday or Friday)
- Student Rate \$250 US
(Please include copy of current student ID)

Housing

- Conference Venue: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street NW, Washington D.C. USA
\$150 US plus tax/night, single or double
- Student Housing: University of DC campus
\$45 US/night, two-bedroom suite with bath

General Information

- No simultaneous translation during concurrent sessions
- Visa: Contact US Embassy or Consulate
- Letter of Invitation: Contact conference Coordinators
Barbara Kamara: barbarakamara@yahoo.com
Edna Ranck: Edna.ranck@verizon.com
Website: <http://www.omep-usa.org>

Important Dates

- Registration Opens: **January 1, 2015**
- Proposal Submission: **February 27, 2015**
- Notification of Proposal Acceptance: **March 13, 2015**
- Early Registration: **March 27, 2015**
- Full Registration: **May 15, 2015**
- World Assembly: **July 27 & 28, 2015**
- EduTours & PlayDaze Activities: **July 29, 2015**
- World Conference: **July 30-August 1, 2015**

Reserve Your Exhibit Booth Now!!!

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