



People to People Sheboygan

February 2025

Meeting and Program - 2/13

5:30 Social, 6:30 dinner, 7:15 program

Please join us for our next People to People meeting and program at the Elks Club on February 13.

The menu for this evening will be beef tips, mashed potatoes, sweet peas and carrots, dinner rolls and salad. Dessert will be provided by Stacie and Thom Nicla.

The cost of the dinner is \$21.00 per person. Please mail your checks before the deadline of Feb 1st. Make checks out to People to People Sheboygan and mail them to Rich Miesfeld at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083. **You may also pay using PayPal.** Just enter @PTPISheboygan and inform Rich who is sending the money. Please add a bit more to cover the 3% that PayPal charges.

Have you paid your dues for 2025? If not, please send a check to Rich Miesfeld for \$35/family or \$25/single membership.

The board meets at 5:00 at the Elks Club, prior to the social period. Board members please contact Bob Quasius at 920-698-0451 if you cannot attend.

Coming Events - Elks Club

Mar 13, 2025 Dinner meeting

Apr 10, 2025 Dinner meeting

May 8, 2025 Dinner meeting

February Program Speaker

Please welcome our program speaker, Victoria Koss. She will be presenting about her experience in Malawi. Here is a sneak-peek of her program.

“Traveling in Africa last year, I experienced life in rural Malawi that you won’t read about in tourist books.



Thatched-roof huts without water, electricity, bathrooms or mattresses. Scorching heat. Hungry kids. Lack of western medical care. Women walking for miles carrying water on their heads and babies on their backs, frequently without shoes. Men riding old bicycles stacked high with firewood and produce. Children sitting on the ground with 90



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other students in semi-enclosed classrooms without desks or books.

Shocked by this culture of hunger and need, I was embarrassed by the affluence that I am accustomed to and overwhelmed by a desire to listen to God's word to me.

I didn't recognize the joy of simplicity that I found in Malawi until after I had returned home. Since then, my personal mission in Malawi has filled my heart. I look forward to sharing that with you as I anticipate my next visit to that beautiful country with my son, Anthony Van Asten."



News from the Mayor's International Committee (MIC)

by Lisa Solgado, Co-Vice Chair of MIC

MIC is hosting 8 students and 3-5 adults for a delegation from Sheboygan's Sister City, Tsubame Japan, from Thursday July 31st through August 6th, 2025.

The students' ages are between 13-16 and MIC is looking for host families with students around those ages.

MIC will plan an itinerary. There will most likely be family time on their arrival date of Thursday, July 31 and again on Sunday, August 3. They will be leaving on August 6, tentatively spending the day in Chicago. MIC will assist in host family preparation and student contact coordination.

If you know of a family that might be interested, please have them contact Lisa Solgado, 920-445-9333, or provide Lisa their contact information and she would be happy to contact them.





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Passing the Newsletter Torch

Submitted by Bev Altman

As symbolic as the ancient Greek torch races, I have graciously accepted the role of PTP Newsletter Editor from Ann Keckonen. **THANK YOU** Ann for your many years of dedication in this role to the organization.

As I transition into this role, the newsletter will take some transformations. I welcome any suggestions as we journey together to keep the flame alive! As a former board member, I have come full circle showing my gratitude to this wonderful organization. My husband, Mike, and I have had ties to the chapter since 2006.

Both of our children had been involved with People to People from 2005 through 2010.

Our daughter, Rachel, participated in the first, pilot PTP Sheboygan Chapter middle school exchange program in 2010, with Steffi Adams.



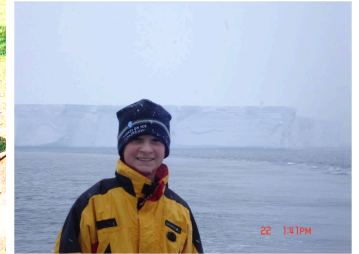
She also participated in her first PTPI Student Ambassador program to Hawaii in 2007.



Our son, Eric, participated in three PTPI Student Ambassador programs:



Australia (2005)



Antarctica (2006)



South Africa (2010)

He also attended five PTPI Global Youth Forums in Chicago, Denver, Atlanta, Kansas City, and Washington DC from 2006-2010 attending with members from the Sheboygan Chapter.



Eric managed to travel to all seven continents by the time he was 22 (not all through PTP). A feat that is only accomplished by 0.02% of people!



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Unique German Valentine's Day Customs

Valentine's Day Markets

In some German cities, you can find Valentine's Day markets similar to the famous Christmas markets. These markets are filled with stalls selling handcrafted gifts, heart-shaped decorations, and delicious treats. They offer a unique way to shop for Valentine's Day gifts and experience the festive atmosphere.

Pig Figurines and Gifts

A quirky German tradition involves the gifting of pig figurines or pictures. Pigs are considered a symbol of luck and lust in Germany, making them a fitting, albeit unconventional, Valentine's Day gift.

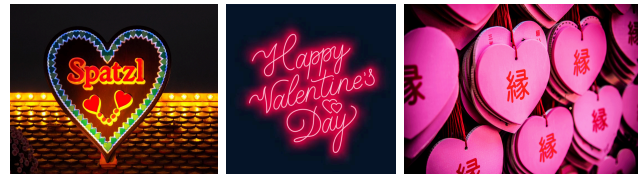
Valentine's Trees

In some parts of Germany, it's a custom to plant a tree or decorate trees with lights and hearts during Valentine's Day. This tradition symbolizes growth and the enduring nature of love.

Other Parts of the World

Japan has a fascinating tradition surrounding the celebration of love. There the tradition is for women to give sweet treats to the men in their lives. It is the quality of these treats that indicates the giver's true feelings for the receiver. One month later, on March 14th, men are given the opportunity to do the same on what is known there as White Day.

In **Italy**, Valentine's Day, called "La Festa degli Innamorati" (the Feast of Lovers), is celebrated with romantic dinners, exchanging flowers, chocolates (especially Baci Perugina), love letters, and a popular tradition of attaching padlocks to bridges as a symbol of everlasting love, often done in Verona, the city of Romeo and Juliet; couples typically throw away the key after locking the padlock.



PTP This newsletter is produced for associates of People to People Sheboygan. Newsletter items should be submitted by the 15th of the month to baltman88@gmail.com