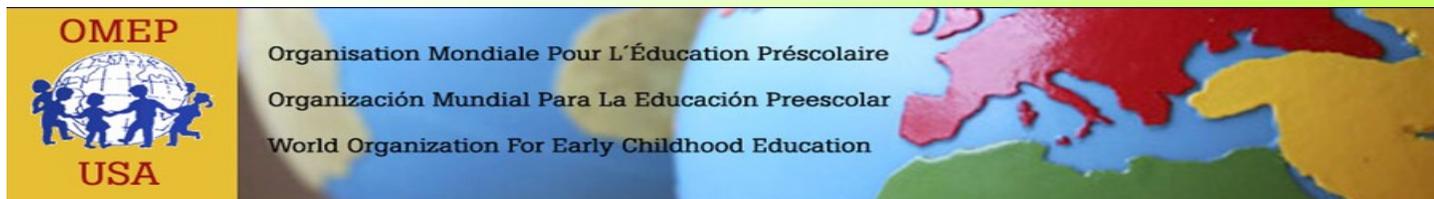


Spring 2016

# OMEPE-USA NEWSLETTER



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## Message from OMEPE-USA President

**Jean Simpson, Ph. D**

Happy New Year to All!

Last year, 2015 was a very exciting year for OMEPE-USA. With a very successful conference behind us, our board is moving forward with initiatives for 2016 and 2017. Some of the highlights are an increase in membership from all areas of the country, Collaborations with World Forum, Continued presence at international conferences, Planned attendance at the World Conference in Seoul, service project in a developing country and a 2017 OMEPE-USA conference in Atlanta. Here, I will share some of the plans for direct service in Jamaica during the summer of 2016. This service project will be a pilot of many others we hope to provide in the coming years. A small cadre of early childhood educators who are interested in giving their time and talents toward this project will be able to. Fine details will be provided in April in a separate notice to all OMEPE-USA members. Plans are already in place for the 2017 OMEPE-USA forum in Atlanta, Georgia. Rosemary Burton and Ebony Cray-Jones are the co-chairs. They are busy planning and capturing this exciting event. More concrete information along with a save the date will be announced soon.

Other announcements:

- First Regional Call of the new year...Wednesday, January 27th
- Gwen Coe Scholarship Applications are open. Be sure to encourage your students to apply for this scholarship.

### Editor's note

Please send your story  
to

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

Professor

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# OMEP Regional Vice President's Report

**Judith T. Wagner, Ph. D**

World OMEP Deputy President

Vice President for North America and Caribbean

Report from the 2105 World Assembly and Conference: It was good to see members of OMEP-Canada, OMEP-Haiti, and OMEP-USA together in Washington, DC for the World Assembly and Conference. During the World Assembly we held our annual Regional Meeting. We focused on these three important agenda items (1) how to grow membership in all three OMEP national committees in our region; (2) how to communicate more frequently and effectively with one another, both individually and as national committees; and (3) how to engage our national committees and members more actively in OMEP projects and advocacy efforts. I will devote the remainder of this brief report to #3.

National Committee Participation in UN-related Activities: The 2014 World Assembly decided that all national committees should participate actively and visibly in the following UN-related events each fall: International Day of Peace on September 21, Global Handwashing Day on or about October 15, and Universal Children's Day on November 20(the anniversary of Convention on the Rights of the Child). The 2015 World Assembly reaffirmed this commitment.

Here is a photograph from my school's celebration of International Day of Peace. (The local newspaper clipping is attached.)



*Together with the collegiate chapter of OMEP, OMEP Whittier College, the children from preschool through 8th grade at The Broadoaks Laboratory Demonstration School hosted a campus wide event to mark the day. College students and professors joined in a huge Circle of Peace in the Commons area on campus. We all sang A Song of Peace (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxidrVmwnU>) and then two children from each class, first grade and up, spoke briefly on the theme of “What Peace Means to Me.” Both to prepare for the event and as follow-up, teachers read stories about peace and talked with the children about how they can be peacemakers at school, at home, and in their neighborhoods. Our goal is that this celebration of peace not be a one-day-a-year event, but rather a deeply engrained part of our daily lives together.*

The next big day will be in October, Global Handwashing Day. You can find some terrific ideas on several websites, such as

- <http://globalhandwashing.org/resources/more-than-just-a-day-ideas-for-promoting-handwashing-all-year/>
- [http://www.who.int/gpsc/events/2008/Global\\_Handwashing\\_Day\\_Planners\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.who.int/gpsc/events/2008/Global_Handwashing_Day_Planners_Guide.pdf)
- <http://www.cdc.gov/features/globalhandwashing/>

You can also find several good hand washing activity videos on You Tube and, of course, more ideas on the World OMEP website. Some of the suggestions are for older children, but they are easy to adapt for preschoolers and children in the primary grades.

Universal Children’s Day will follow soon afterwards on November 20. Here are a couple of sites to help you with your planning:

- <http://www.cute-calendar.com/event/universal-childrens-day/10562-world.html>
- <http://www.un.org/en/events/childrenday/>
- <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/universal-childrens-day>

It would be wonderful if we could proclaim next year that all three countries in our region — Canada, Haiti, and the United States — did indeed mark all of the fall 2016 UN-related fall events. National Committee Participation in OMEP Projects: All national committee presidents will soon receive a letter from World OMEP asking them to help us document each country’s participation in one of OMEP’s flagship projects, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in early years. We’ll be asking for brief reports on ESD work in each country, whether it is scholarly research, practical work with young children, development of materials and activities, or incorporating ESD into teacher education. We really look forward to learning more about ESD work in the US. With all good wishes to all OMEP-USA members and friends for a productive rewarding, and happy fall.

# Next Generation

Amber Eriksson

This year's World Assembly and Conference in Washington D.C. was a time of great excitement for OMEP's Next Generation, an initiative that aims to connect and empower OMEP's next generation of advocates from across the globe. The week was filled with discussion, collaboration, networking and lots of fun! The highlight of our time together was perhaps the Next Generation collaborative working lunch which attracted students and young professionals representing nearly a dozen states across the U.S., as well as Norway, and Sweden. Also present were three members of the OMEP-USA Board, Ebony Cray, Terry Elofson and Jamilah Jor'dan, whose presence and words of inspiration contributed tremendously to the positive energy and outcomes of that meeting. Together we discussed what attracted members to OMEP in the first place, what they are hoping to gain from their time as an OMEP member and what the organization might do in order to retain members after student memberships expire. In addition, the group came up with an action plan to submit proclamations to local and state governments asking for support in defending the rights of the youngest children. Below are some the highlights of the conversations of that week:

Next Generation members want to learn more about the workings of OMEP on a macro level (many did not know exactly what it is that OMEP does or how the organization runs), as well as opportunities to observe and participate in planning and engaging in higher level events. Members expressed the desire to become involved with the organizing and implementing of hands on projects and initiatives. Members seek a sense of camaraderie and connectedness across the organization, as well as the opportunity for mentorship and collaboration with veteran OMEP members.

To help reach this goal, we have created the Next Generation Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OMEPNextGen/>) and are in the process of creating a networking system that would allow Next Generation members to connect with veteran members in order to facilitate collaboration on research and advocacy initiatives, professional networking, and mentorship. Anyone interested in becoming a part of this network should email Amber Eriksson with their contact information, professional and academic interests and specialties and a brief description of their experience as it related to Early Childhood Development and Education. *(To be continued on page 6)*

# Exploring Media Technologies in a Global Context

**Dr. Judi Simmons Estes**

Carol Darcy, OMEP-USA, organized a ninety-minute FILMedia Session for the OMEP World Conference, July 30th, 2015. The session was well attended with over fifty participants. Given that we are living in a multi-media world. Not only is technology rapidly changing, it is, and is predicted to continue impacting people's lives throughout the world as the 21st century unfolds. There has never been a more challenging time for early childhood educators to be “media literate” which includes being: a) aware and informed about the issues, pros and cons, surrounding media, b) dedicated to advocating for appropriate use, and c) confident about optimizing media technologies as tools to support and sustain learning.

During the FILMedia session, facilitated by Judi Simmons Estes, OMEP-USA, Region 5, presenters shared their personal interests and quests to develop and utilize media technologies as tools to enhance learning for children and/or adults. Presenters and topics included the following:

Supporting Learning in the Age of FILMedia: Innovative Practices. Judith A. Colbert, OMEP-Canada discussed the use of multi-media to support an understanding of how people learn and explore the context for innovation in education. She also discussed how FILMedia can enhance learning opportunities through the review of “10 Steps for the Effective Use of Media” is presented.

Jake’s Masterpiece, A Musical Tale: Kay Starkey, OMEP-USA, Region 7, shared her video; by nature children believe in magic and their imaginations are full of fanciful creations. In “Jake’s Masterpiece,” a young boy goes out in nature, using his imagination and a stick his mother said was magic, to create his own musical masterpiece. From beginning to end, children are spellbound by the use of Jake’s magical stick. “Jake’s Masterpiece” provides both a visual and a musical tool, for teachers of young children, to introduce musical sounds and terminology.

Life at WAKO HOIKUEN, Day Nursery, Chiba, Japan: Growing Children's Mind and Body through Application and Respecting of Nature and Culture and KENYA: Dialogue about Practice at Koinonia Academy to Better Life of Children and their Families were videos presented by Mari Mori, Ed.D. OMEP-Japan

The Magic of PlayDaze; Ronda Hawkins, OMEP-USA Region 4. Short films that capture the value of providing children with the opportunity to explore while playing outdoors, were presented and discussed in relation to how media coverage captures the images and used them to inspire early educators to see the value in PlayDaze, a community based program.

- 2012 PlayDaze Video Southern Pines: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbkJKDapzik>  
7.12 minutes
- 2013 PlayDaze Video Southern Pines: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p4P5BLEeD>
- Interview with Primary School Principal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8NjhjtryPko>  
2.27 minutes
- Interview with Park Directors: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4dScBtlFhQ&feature=youtu.be>  
1.47 seconds

The Childhood, The Sustainability and The Child's Play; Maria Aparecida Salmaze, President, OMEP-Brazil. The film invited audiences to question and contemplate the educative processes, play and intentionally planned experiences that make possible and foster young children's attitudes about sustainability and their sense of humanity. The underlying assumption addressed "Only an educational revolution will allow significant short and long impact".

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwKs16C063Y&feature=youtu.be>

*(Continued from page 4)*

Smaller regional chapters for Next Generation members to "graduate" into after leaving their student chapters so they still feel connected and involved. This would also open access to individuals in the outside community who may not be a part of a college or university. For example, Donna Aki-lah Wright and I are in the process of establishing a New York metropolitan-area chapter that would be open to students and young professionals across the area. The motivation was palpable as the meeting came to a close and the inspiration continued to grow throughout the remainder of the week. Support and encouragement came from every direction: from OMEP-USA President Jean Simpson and the rest of the U.S. Board, from Maggie Koong, OMEP World President and Judith Wagner, Deputy World President, from representatives of numerous National Committees and last but certainly not least, from the Next Generation members themselves. We are excited to continue building the Next Generation initiative and to see all that we can accomplish in furthering the mission of OMEP. Many thanks to the greater OMEP community for your continued guidance and motivation. We are

## UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

Dear OMEP Friends

IT IS NOT TOO LATE ..TO PROMOTE UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY  
And TO WRITE TO PRES. OBAMA AND YOUR SENATORS ABOUT THE CRC

It is so important that our organization be a part of helping children by supporting the celebration of *Universal Children's Day*. This is a global and domestic concern. It is an opportunity to reach parents, children, and all adults about valuing children but also knowing more about the rights and needs of all children articulated in the global Children's Rights Treaty called the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. You will also be promoting the CRC

As a starter you can download Ebony Cray's poster from our OMEP web site to be placed in the libraries, classrooms, churches, and all agencies working with children. Some activities are on the web site [www.childrightscampaign.org](http://www.childrightscampaign.org). The celebration could be a part of existing activities- stories, music, discussion, games, etc.

You might look at churches since most of their national officers signed the letter last year to Pres. Obama asking for the CRC be sent to the U.S. Senate for ratification. The UCC has asked their churches in the So CA and Nevada conference to support and celebrate Universal Children's Day.

Example: The children of the UCC Congregational Church of Fullerton with its new minister are planning the church service on Nov. 22, celebrating children and Universal Children's Day. They will focus on a few of the Rights or Needs of all Children in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It will be fun to see what they do!

Please put a brief article in your local newspaper, write to Pres. Obama urging him to send the CRC to the Senate for approval, and write to your Senators. Let me know if you want a sample newspaper message.

I look forward to your response. Thank you.

Dodie Sailor, Advocacy Chair

# 2016 OMEP

68<sup>th</sup> World Assembly and International Conference

July 4(Mon) - July 8(Fri), 2016/ Ewha Womans University, SEOUL, KOREA



## Keynote Speakers

Sharon Lynn Kagan



Teachers College, Columbia University  
Yale University's Child Study Center

Samuel L. Odom



University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Arjen Wals



Wageningen University, Netherlands  
University of Gothenburg, Sweden  
UNESCO Chair

Maria Carided Araujo



Lead Economist, Social Protection and Health Division,  
Inter-American Development Bank

## Registration Fees

Type	Deadline	Amount (USD)
Early Bird	31 March, 2016	\$400
Regular Rate	30 June, 2016	\$520
Student Rate (With Valid ID)	30 June, 2016	\$250
One Day	30 June, 2016	\$200
On-Site	6 July, 2016	\$600

*See you in Seoul, Korea this summer!!*

## 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.