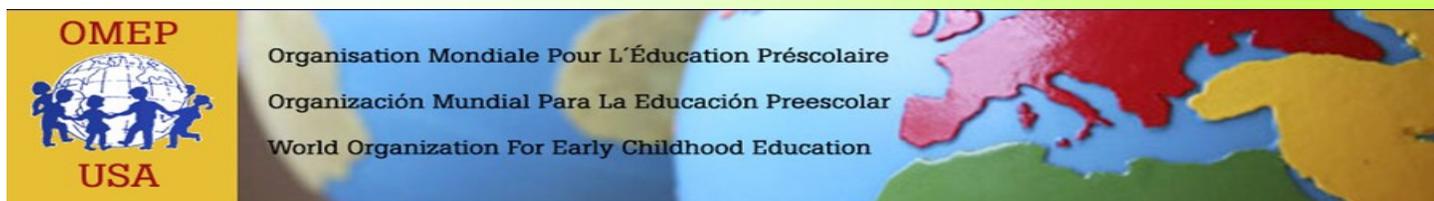


Spring
2017

OMEPE-USA NEWSLETTER



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Message from OMEPE-USA President

Jean Simpson, Ph. D

During the last week of January 2017, I accepted a long term contract with a private parochial school in Virginia. I am the first grade teacher of 24 six and seven year-old children. The children are from many different parts of the world with English being the second language of a third of the class. I find the children delightful. They are all eager learners, very smart and very inquisitive. They are truly in the discovery mode. One of the things I did to assist with a morning routine along with the calendar, day of the week, weather, etc is draw attention to a dying plant that was on a shelf in a dark corner of the classroom. I talked about the plant to the children and pointed out how to determine if the plant was thriving or not. During the assessment, we looked at the flopping leaves and the recessing dry dirt. We viewed a YouTube video on caring for plants and we read a book about worms and how they help plants to grow. During a morning conversation time, we reexamined all of our information and came to the conclusion that we needed to move the plant to a window where it could receive plenty of sunlight, add potting soil or dirt, and a handful of worms. Needless to say, the next day, two children brought in dirt from their yards and another child brought a bunch of earth worms to put into the pot. Over the past two and a half months due to attention and care, the plant is now thriving. The children have named her Rosy; she is read to and talked to a few days a week. When a child is selected to water Rosy or trim her leaves, he is delighted to have a turn. I share this recent experience to remind you how impressive children are. As their teacher, I feel I need to be informative, provide rich stimulation so as to encourage their interest in learning, exploring and discovery. I challenge teachers around the world to incorporate the same kind of

Editor's note

Please send your story
to

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We need to be intentional in how we work with children, in what we say to them and how we say it. We need to guide and explore their interest and questions as they arise and often anticipate what will come next. Children are so open and trusting. They are too precious for us to make mistakes in the process of facilitating their learning. This long term contact ends June 16, 2017 and it is my sincere hope that the 24 first graders will have benefited socially, emotionally, cognitively, and spiritually having had me as their teacher. What a challenge this has been!

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.

OMEP Regional Vice President's Report

Judith T. Wagner, Ph. D

World OMEP Deputy President

Vice President for North America and Caribbean

FIRST OMEP REGIONAL CONFERENCE: The highlight of this year was the wonderful, first-ever conference for our region, hosted by OMEP-USA in Atlanta, Georgia in February. The conference was beautifully organized in every detail. The program included a wide variety of topics and the presentations were consistently of high quality. The food was plentiful and delicious, with meal times and breaks providing opportunities for networking and renewing friendships. On behalf of the World OMEP Executive Committee, I want to congratulate Jean Simpson and her conference committee for taking this important step forward for OMEP in our region

2017 CONFERENCE IN CROATIA: The 2017 World Assembly and Conference in Opatija, Croatia promises to be another remarkable opportunity for us to grow professionally and contribute to OMEP's work on behalf of the world's youngest children. The early bird deadline has passed, but there's still time to register on the conference website at <http://www.omep.hr/registration.html>. The World Assembly will be held June 19 and 20 and the international conference will take place from June 21 – 24., ending about 1:00 PM on Saturday the 24th. The conference program includes interesting keynotes, a fascinating variety of topics in keynote sessions, and e-poster sessions. OMEP-Croatia is one of our newest national committees, having achieved full status only 6 years ago. OMEP-Croatia already has more than 1,000 members! We will surely catch the energy and enthusiasm of this new committee during the conference.

70th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN 2018: In June 2018 World OMEP will return to Prague, the site its first World Assembly and Conference, to celebrate our organization's 70th anniversary. The World Assembly will be held on June 25 and 26, 2018 and the World Conference will take place June 27 – 29. Plans are already well under way for a remarkable celebration, looking backwards at our history and accomplishments and forward to our future as one of the world's oldest and largest international early childhood organizations.

Hoping to see you all in Croatia in June 2017 and in Prague in June 2018!

OMEPT North American Regional Conference 2017

The first OMEPT North American Regional Conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia February 20-22, 2017. OMEPT North America includes Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States. The theme was Sustainability at Its Best: Case Studies from Around the World. An opening reception was held the evening of February 20th, including a tribute to Dr. Asa Hilliard, Jr. III. Dr. Hilliard (1933-2007) was an African American professor of educational psychology who studied and taught about indigenous ancient African history, culture, education and society. He was the Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Urban Education at Georgia State University with joint appointments in the Department of Educational Policy Studies and the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education. Dr. Hilliard's wife, Patsy Jo Hilliard, and some family members were in attendance. There were a total of thirty-one presentations provided by university professors, undergraduate and doctoral students, and practitioners actively working with children and families, collectively presenting on a variety of topics related to the conference theme. Presentations included representation from the United States, Canada, Ghana, Korea, Belize, Kenya, Hungary, and Jamaica. See more highlights on the OMEPT-USA website: The next OMEPT North American Regional Conference will be held in Austin, Texas in 2019.

Continued from page 5... Comments about the conference;

- Great conference – Love OMEPT!!
- Having access to the program ahead of time on the website would have been helpful!
- Please provide a description of the session in the program
- Most of the sessions were really great. I would appreciate knowing which sessions were intended to “sell” a product. Snacks and meals were really good.
- I would have loved to have a contact list of participants and abstracts for all presentations. I know conference travel is expensive BUT this conference was an EXCELLENT experience and I will continue to hold membership.
- Program did not indicate where breakfast or lunch were being served
- No sign to indicate registration
- Best conference I have attended in years
- I also enjoyed the 45 minute session. I realize that is challenging as a presenter but it forced me to speak only to the most important. I would have like a few minutes to change spaces from session to session. I hope you will offer another conference next year!

OMEF North American Regional Conference 2017 Reflection & Evaluation

Please rate your overall satisfaction from 5-1: 5=most satisfied & 1=most unsatisfied

Logistics

The information on the Website	5(26.%)	4(27%)	3(29%)	2(9%)	1(9%)	N/A
The Registration Process	5(43%)	4(39%)	3(15%)	2(3%)	1(0)	N/A
The Pre-Conference Communications	5(38%)	4(26%)	3(29%)	2(9%)	1(7%)	N/A
The Conference Hotel Location and Services	5(88%)	4(12%)	3(0)	2(0)	1(0)	N/A

Conference Program and Events

The Conference Program & Schedule	5(53%)	4(32%)	3(15%)	2(0)	1(0)	N/A
The Exhibition	5(26%)	4(29%)	3(26%)	2(6%)	1(3%)	N/A(10%)
Tribute to Dr. Hilliard	5(56%)	4(29%)	3(14%)	2(0)	1(0)	N/A(3%)
Reception	5(62%)	4(14%)	3(18%)	2(0)	1(0)	N/A(6%)

Presentations

The Opening & Closing Ceremonies	5(56%)	4(26%)	3(6%)	2(0)	1(0)	N/A(12%)
The General Sessions	5(50%)	4(29%)	3(6%)	2(6%)	1(0)	N/A(9%)
The Concurrent Sessions	5(71%)	4(26%)	3(0)	2(3%)	1(0)	N/A

Demographic Data (Please check all that apply to you)

Reside in the US & The Caribbean (30)

NGO Personnel (1)

Government (circle) International, National, Regional, Province/State, Municipal(2)

Reside outside the US (circle) Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America (2)

Education/Research (13)

Preschool/Kindergarten/Child care Providers (8)

ECE business operation & services(2)

UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

Dodie Sailor

Advocacy- OMEP and Universal Children's Day

Dear OMEP Members and Friends

Now is the time to begin planning for an OMEP Universal Children's Day Celebration. With so many children suffering in the world today, we need to reach out to all children. We remain the only country that has not signed the CRC, so our children do not have the benefits of these international rights being part of U.S. law. Many children and parents do not even know about children's rights and how crucial these rights are for their healthy growth and development. Let's Tell Them!

What Can We DO?

Student chapters can incorporate children's rights into their activities. They can visit schools or after school programs sharing ideas for activities involving basic rights such as the right to play, the right to have your own friends, and the right to speak up especially when it affects you. As you know, there are many rights from which to choose. Take advantage of everyday activities and talk about the right or rights involved. By November 20, children and teachers will be ready for a meaningful Universal Children's Day or week.

ECE courses can include appropriate information about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. I did this at Fullerton College in CA and Blythe Hinitz has mentioned including information in appropriate classes at her institution also. More information is available.

Send letters to the editor about UCD Nov. 20 as some of you have done in the past or on other issues such as Refugee Children (Art.22) that World OMEP supports, in their current resolution. Bullying is another challenge.

Put UCD-CRC on the fall calendar, in newsletters, and on posters -for schools, preschools, ECE college classes, and children's organizations such as scouting, after school programs and libraries.

Possible OMEP sponsored Calendar Project with other ECE Organizations and Businesses.

Will your organization or company publish a 2018 calendar or a fall newsletter?

If so, will it have Universal Children's Day on Nov. 20.?

**Mark your calendars to attend
the 69th World Assembly &
International Conference
in
Croatia, Opatija**



69th World Assembly and International Conference

19 – 24 June 2017 Croatia, Opatija

Early Childhood Relationships: The Foundation for a Sustainable Future

Las relaciones en la infancia temprana: la base para un futuro sostenible

Les relations de petite enfance: la fondation d'un avenir durable