

TEACHERS FOR EAST AFRICA ALUMNI

Reunion Program – August 17-20, 2017

Courtyard Marriott Detroit Downtown Hotel
(“The People Mover Hotel”)
333 E. Jefferson Ave
Detroit MI 48225
313-222-7700

DAY ONE – Thursday, August 17, 2017

PRE-REUNION OPTIONAL EVENT – 24 attendees have registered.

12:15 - 4 **Tour of Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan**, 7 miles from Detroit. This tour was suggested and organized by committee member Ron Stockton (TEA 4C, Machakos), who is now a professor of political science at the University of Michigan, Dearborn. The visit is composed of a guided tour of the extensive site, a panel presentation by young Muslims and a luncheon. Women should wear head coverings. The ICA will also provide scarves for those who forget.

The Islamic Center of America is the largest mosque in the United States. The Muslim presence in the Detroit area goes back well into the 19th Century. The ICA was started in the 1950s by a small group of Arab-Americans, mostly Lebanese Shia. It was in a smaller facility then. It is situated in Dearborn, the population of which is approximately 40% Arab (mostly Muslim) heritage. The ICA is known for its welcoming approach to visitors unfamiliar with its history and tradition.

Following our mosque visit, we can drop off any people interested in visiting the nearby National Arab American Museum, also in Dearborn. The NAAM will be open until 6 p.m. this evening. Admission is \$8. Ron Stockton also recommends this. However, we cannot provide transport back to the hotel following this additional visit. You will have to handle that yourselves. [Lyft/Uber about \$14].

11:30 a.m. Mary Ryan Taras, the conference chair, has arranged round trip transportation for those who registered for the ICA Tour. Those people will meet in the conference hotel lobby **by 11:30 a.m.** Otherwise, you will have to provide your own transportation to and from the ICA unless you have made other specific arrangements with Mary.

FORMAL PROGRAM BEGINS

All program events except the farewell dinner are in Skyline A & B

6 p.m. Cash Bar

7 - 9 p.m. Welcoming Reception with Dessert Table Come, register and socialize with TEAAers and their guests. Look at memorabilia. Reminisce. Hear what others have to say about the optional trip to the Islamic Center in Dearborn this afternoon if you didn't go yourself. If you did, share your impressions. And what about the National Arab American Museum? Revel in a buffet of desserts!

6 - 9 p.m. Registration will open at 6 p.m. and continue through the reception.

DAY TWO – Friday, August 18, 2017

8 - 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)

Registration Continues

9 - 9:15 Greetings and Announcements

- Conference Committee
- TEAA Officers
- Welcome from the Mayor's Office of the City of Detroit

9:15 - 11:45 Panel on the Arts in East Africa. There will be a 30 minute coffee break in the middle of the following presentation.

This presentation has been organized by Dr. Ann Biersteker, Assistant Director of the African Studies Center at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan and daughter of Joe Bierstecker, TEEA6 (Joe was at Kenyatta College and will be present at the reunion; Ann joined him in Kenya right after college graduation and also taught at Kenyatta). Ann's specialty is Swahili Literature and especially the challenges and rewards of translating Swahili poetry. Ann has recruited two other professors to join her. They are Dr. Laura Fair, Associate Professor of African History at Michigan State University who is a historian of Tanzanian urban social, cultural and gender history, and Dr. Kelly Askew, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan and chair of the African Studies Center. This will be a multi-media presentation focused on East African language, music, and dance and will emphasize the works of women writers and singers.

11:45-2:15 Lunch and Transit to the DIA

Both lunch and transit are on your own, but the DIA, our afternoon destination, has a good cafeteria, and below are directions on how to get there on public transportation, including a ride on Detroit's **brand new trolley, the QLINE**, which is free.

Transit Directions

People Mover and QLINE: This route requires the least walking. Get on the People Mover through the station on the 5th floor of our hotel which is Stop 8. Get off at Grand Circus Park, Stop 2, near the Opera House. Board the QLINE at its Stop 3 also in Grand Circus and ride to Stop 8 (Warren) where you get off for the DIA which is on the east side of the tracks (to your right if you face in the direction that the trolley has been traveling). Walk one block north to Farnsworth, turn right for half a block to the DIA entrance. The fare is 75 cents for seniors on the People Mover. Exact change is needed for the PM; tokens and maps are available in stations. The QLINE is free until Labor Day.

QLINE ONLY: Begins with a three block walk. Walk out the front door of the hotel on Jefferson, turn right and walk one block to Woodward. Turn right (N) and walk two blocks to Congress. The QLINE begins there. Ride to Stop 8 (Warren) where you get off for the DIA which is on the east side of the tracks (to your right if you face in the direction that the trolley has been traveling). Walk one block north to Farnsworth, turn right for half a block to the DIA. The QLINE is free until Labor Day.

BY CAR: Drive straight up Woodward to Kirby (just past the DIA, turn right on Kirby then right on John R and there will be a DIA parking lot on the left side of John R. [Uber/Lyft costs about \$8.]

If you arrive early at the DIA, there will be a live dance performance in the Rivera Court beginning at 1:30. It is part of the Detroit City Dance Festival taking place this weekend. Note, that we must meet our docents at 2:15 which means that you must leave early since the performance lasts until 3:30.

2:15 Meet in the Prentis Court of the DIA for Docent Tours: The Prentis Court is on the first floor of the DIA (near the cafeteria). We will meet our docents here.

2:30 - 3:30 Docent Tour of the African Art Collection

3:30 - 4:30 Docent Tour of the Diego Rivera Murals, a world-famous highlight of the DIA's collection, depicting Detroit Industry in the 1930s.

4:30+ On Your Own ... BUT, we offer a few thoughts:

We ended the organized part of the day at the DIA because you are located in a fabulous spot to see more of Detroit's attractions.

- (1) **The DIA** itself with its \$8 billion art collection is open until 10 pm tonight. You can visit additional galleries or return to spend more time with items you saw earlier. It also has good eating facilities; so you can stay in the building for supper, and the DIA is hosting the **Detroit Dance Festival Choreographers' Showcase** this evening. From 9 to 11 pm, the DIA also holds **Friday Funk Night**, with music and dancing.

OR

- (2) You can walk to **The 35th African World Festival**, a giant street fair that began at 11 am this morning and runs until 11 pm tonight and throughout this weekend. It is a block away from the DIA partially on the grounds of the nearby Wright Museum. It offers African food, entertainment, art, crafts, dancing and music.

OR

- (3) You can go to the nearby **Charles Wright Museum of African American History**. The museum will be open until 7 pm tonight and stands one block to the east of the DIA. Admission to the Wright is reduced to a single charge of \$5 a person for the entire weekend, in support of the African World Festival.

OR

- (4) You can go the **Detroit Tigers-LA Dodgers Baseball game** tonight at 7:10 in Comerica Park, by either QLINE from the DIA or People Mover from the hotel. (From the DIA, get back on the QLINE, get off at Montcalm, (Stop 4). From the hotel, get on the People Mover through the station in the hotel (Stop 8), and get off at Grand Circus (Stop 2). Comerica Park has lots of small eating establishments nearby and features Detroit's famous hot dogs. Enjoy!

DAY THREE, Saturday, August 19, 2017

8 - 9 Continental Breakfast

9 - 10 Panel and Discussion. Kenyans Chi Chi Ng'ang'a and Njoroge Gitomeh, presently resident and studying in Detroit, along with Professor Ann Biersteker, Assistant Director of the African Studies Center at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan will discuss the present situation in Kenya and Tanzania including secondary education and politics.

10 - 10:30 Morning Break. Coffee served

10:30 - 12 Open Mike for Conference Attendees: Please limit your remarks to 5 minutes or less so that we can include as many people as possible.

What would you like to say to those gathered here? It's an unusual audience with whom you have shared important experiences. Possible subjects: (1) Were you present for Uhuru celebrations in any of the East African countries? Which one? What do you remember? How did they compare? (2) How about coup attempts? What happened? (3) Were you in East Africa when JFK was assassinated? How did you learn about it? What was the reaction of those around you? (4) Were you there during the moon landings? Reactions of students and others? (5) Were you there during any of the civil rights demonstrations and the race riots of the 1960's in American cities? Reactions? (6) When you got home, what was the reaction of people you met to the idea that you had just spent two years in East Africa? Were they interested? In what? (7) When you think about your time in East Africa what do you remember? (8) Some of us took children with us to East Africa. What do you think the impact of that experience was on them? (9) Some of those children are here today; what do they have to say about the experience and the impact on their lives? (10) How did going to East Africa make a difference in your life? Immediately? In the long run? Some of us have been dodging this question for years. But we're old enough to make that judgment now, don't you think?

12:30 - 5 Guided Bus Tour of the City Meet our tour bus outside the lobby front door.

Our first stop will be at the well-known **Eastern Market**, where you can wander at will and **buy lunch**. Be back at the bus by 2 p.m. Don't be late!

Our guides are professors who have studied the Detroit area and have prepared this tour just for us. They will show us the positives and the negatives of Detroit in the summer of 2017.

5 - 6:30 Free Time

6:30 - 7 Cocktail Hour (cash bar)

7 - 10 Farewell Dinner in Cascade Room D, main floor

DAY FOUR, Sunday August 20, 2017

7:30 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30 - 10:30 Business Meeting

- Grants Report – Brooks Goddard
- Schools Visitation & Newsletter Report – Ed Schmidt
- Financial Report – Henry Hamburger

Group Discussion & Decision on Windup Procedures for TEAA

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with money in the bank. We decided at our last reunion that from this point onward, the general membership would no longer be meeting in person. In the future, who is empowered to act for us in terms of grants, reimbursements, verification trips, additional funds which may come into the organization and the final wind up of affairs? What is our date for dissolution?

11 - 12 Additional Open Mike Time (if needed)

FORMAL PROGRAM ENDS

Post-Reunion Optional Event for Day Four, Sunday, August 20, 2017

1:10 p.m. The Detroit Tigers play the Los Angeles Dodgers in a major league baseball game at Comerica Park this afternoon. The park is linked to our hotel by the People Mover; get off at Grand Circus, Stop 2. Tickets prices range from \$20 to \$118. FYI the Dodgers presently hold the best win-loss record in baseball . They sent six players to the All Star Game. They might be the best Dodger team ever. And this season they have a chance to be the best team in the history of the sport. For those of you who are familiar with their history, maybe you would like to see them riding high before they swoon in the post-season.