

# GLOBAL CONCEPTS

G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

<[www.kcglobalconcepts.org](http://www.kcglobalconcepts.org)>

Volume 35, No.3, Fall 2016



## REFLECTIONS ON OUR CUBAN EXPERIENCE

.....Manny Pedram

On July 1, 2016, Sara and I, with a group of 23 civic leaders and educators, after a long delay in Miami, boarded a charter plane for Havana, arriving in Cuba after a one-hour trip. The trip was arranged by the National Association for Multicultural Education, following President Obama's December 2014 announcement to restore relations and lift the 50-year embargo with Cuba. There was no red carpet from our plane to the airport terminal, no long lines of Cubans to greet our arrival waving the American flag to celebrate America's approval for Cuba to join the community of



nations. During our eight day stay, we had no fear of violence, the people were kind and receptive, and we enjoyed our interactions with Cubans from many walks of life. We were eager to see how such a small nation so close to a giant



America, had survived after half a century of the trade



embargo. Trade limitation has had its impact—some architectural structures badly needed repair, but the old Spanish multicolor houses still appeared to be well preserved. There were limitations of what we consider comfort, use of central air-conditioning, new digital televisions, and programming. McDonalds, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and Starbucks were nowhere to be seen, since the U.S. Congress has yet to officially lift the embargo to open the natural flow of trade between the U.S. and



Cuba. But human ingenuity, self-preservation, and determination of the people were apparent. Classic cars were in abundance at the airport and public roadways, since Castro has forbidden their export, and they are preserved for everyday use. Although the socialistic system has provided good public transportation, education, and health care for the general public, one sees many bicycle-driven mini-taxis.

revolution, and Abraham Lincoln are often seen together, as well as the national hero and liberator, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, and of course, Fidel and Raul



Castro. We had the opportunity to visit a number of Cuban cultural museums to directly experience the history of Cuba's struggle to be free from Spanish domination and exploitation as well as the American interest to purchase or take control of the Island. The excursions to Playa Giron, the Bay of Pigs Invasion Museum, as well as the Museum of the Revolution, are must-see venues to learn about the failed CIA sponsored event to overthrow Castro.

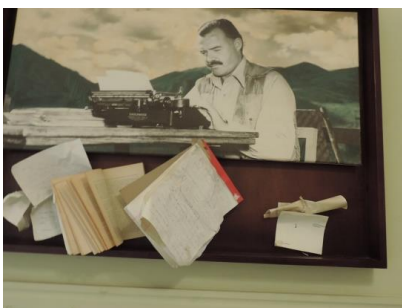


We explored the historical Plaza Vieja of old Havana, and enjoyed Cienfuegos, recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage City as a 19th century example of early urban planning. In Trinidad, sugar plantations and the history of slavery are interconnected. The watch tower, where overseers observed slaves working in the fields, remains solid. I accepted the challenge, paid \$2 Cuban dollars, and joined a few other team members to climb the narrow steps of the 150 foot tower to the top.

Our schedule was flexible to allow us to visit the Cuban second-home of Ernest

Hemingway at the Hotel Ambos Mundos in Havana.

One cannot travel to Cuba without noticing how essential art and music are in the lives of the Cuban



people. The Spanish music, salsa, cha-cha, and other artistic activities and programs are all intertwined, from school through adulthood, of the Cuban people and are immensely appreciated and enjoyed!



## 9th Biennial Kansas City Conference—Activism for Human Rights — From Issues to Action!

UMKC Student Union.

<<http://tickets.cto.umkc.edu/search/activism>>

The 9th Biennial Conference steering committee invites you to participate in a day of pertinent panel discussions on urgent international issues. Morning: 1) Immigration and Refugees, 2) Human Trafficking and Slavery. Afternoon: 3) CEDAW (International) and Cities for CEDAW movement; 4) The Political Economy of Gender and Justice. Also included in your \$50 registration fee are a Continental Breakfast, Luncheon with Keynote Speaker, (Kurstin Phelps, Tahirih Justice Center, Washington, DC), cultural entertainment, and networking opportunities!

Registration Deadline: September 30.

Questions? <[info@kcglobalconcepts.org](mailto:info@kcglobalconcepts.org)>

---

**Save the Date!**

## 10th Annual Peace Builder Awards Luncheon

January 21, 2017—11:30-1:30, Grand Street Cafe

Nominations Guidelines at <[www.kcglobalconcepts.org](http://www.kcglobalconcepts.org)>

Deadline: December 10, 2016

## GLOBAL CONCEPTS

### Newsletter of Global And Multicultural Education Center

(G.A.M.E.) A non-profit organization.

3009 Holmes Street Kansas City, MO USA 64109-1435

(816) 753-2372

[www.kcglobalconcepts.org](http://www.kcglobalconcepts.org)

#### Board of Directors:

President: Paula Coyote Schaaf

Vice-President: Godlove Tebe

Secretary: Jesse Schaaf

Treasurer: Bette Tate-Beaver

V. Pres. Programs: Marlena Boggs

#### At Large:

Gail Forstater

Edna Tebe

Director: Sara Pedram

Newsletter Editor: Matthew Westra

Honorary Chair: Charles B. Wheeler, M.D.

Founder, Director Emeritus: Manny Pedram

### Join the World: Become a member of G.A.M.E.!

The strength of any organization depends upon the level of support and financial resources provided by its members and friends. G.A.M.E. is no exception. Take Action--Join us Today!

---

#### Membership Form:

Student..... \$15.00 \_\_\_\_

Individual..... \$20.00 \_\_\_\_

Family ..... \$30.00 \_\_\_\_

Organization/School...\$50.00 \_\_\_\_

Patron..... \$100.00 \_\_\_\_

Life Membership.. \$1,000.00 \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to contribute an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for educational use of the organization.

Your membership and contributions are tax exempt. We thank you for your support!

**Mission Statement:** G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity.