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TEAA Reunion Program -- 2017

Day One – Thursday, August 17, 2017

NOTE! From noon to 4 pm today there is an optional visit to the Islamic Center of Michigan. See Optional Events at the end.

7-9 Welcoming Reception with Dessert Table & Coffee

Come and register, socialize with TEAAers and their significant others, look at the memorabilia and reminisce, hear what others have to say about the optional trip to the Islamic Center in Dearborn in the afternoon (if you didn't go yourself) and revel in a buffet of desserts!

Registration will open at 6 pm and continue through the reception.

Day Two – Friday, August 18, 2017

8 to 9 am Continental Breakfast

9 to 9:15 Greetings and Welcome from Officials of the City of Detroit

9:15 to 11:45 Panel on the Arts in East Africa.

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). 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 (1) Dr. Laura Fair, Associate Professor of African History at MSU who is a historian of Tanzanian urban social, cultural and gender history, and (2) Dr. Kelly Askew, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, who was chair of UM African Studies for many years. 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.

There will be a 30 minute mid-presentation coffee break

- 11:45 to 1 Lunch – on your own
- 1 to 2 Transport to Detroit Institute of the Arts by People Mover and Trolley
- 2 to 4 Detroit Institute of the Arts (a/k/a The DIA)
 Docent Tour of African Art Collection
 Docent Tour of the Diego Rivera Murals
- Everyone will have a chance to go on both tours but not at the same time. These are tours organized and offered by the DIA.
- 4pm+ On Your Own, BUT we end the organized part of the day at the DIA because you are located in a fabulous spot to see more of Detroit's attractions. The DIA itself with its \$8 billion art collection is open until 10 pm this evening. It has good eating facilities; so you can just stay in the building for supper. OR you are also a block from the **35th African World Festival**, a giant street fair that began at 11 am this morning and runs until 11 pm tonight. The Festival stands partially on the grounds of the **Charles Wright Museum of African American History** which will be open until 7 pm and stands across the street from the DIA. Finally, you can go the **Detroit Tigers-LA Dodgers Baseball game** tonight at 7:10 in Comerica Park, accessible by People Mover. Comerica Park has lots of small eating establishments nearby and features Detroit's famous hot dogs. Enjoy!

Day Three, Saturday, August 19, 2017

- 8 to 9 Continental Breakfast
- 9 to 10:15 Panel of East African Students now studying in the Detroit area.
- 10:15-45 Morning Break. Coffee served
- 10:45 to 12 Open Mike for conference attendees – What would you like to say to those gathered here? It's an unusual audience with whom you share important experiences. Examples of subjects you might want to talk to other attendees about: (1) Were you present for Uhuru celebrations in one of the East African countries? Which one? What do you remember? (2) Were you in East Africa when JFK was assassinated? How did you learn about it? What was the reaction of those around you? (3) 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? (4) When you think about your time in East Africa what do you remember? (5) How did going to East Africa make a difference in your life? Immediately? In the long run? (Please limit your remarks to 5 minutes or less to allow many to speak)

- 12 to 1 Lunch – on your own
- 1 to 5 Guided Tour of the City
- 5-6:30 Free Time
- 6:30-7 Cocktail Hour
- 7 to 10 Farewell Dinner

Day Four, Sunday August 20, 2017

- 8:30 to 9:30 Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 to 11 Discussion and Decisions on Windup Procedures for TEAA
- 11 to 12 Additional Open Mike Time (if needed)

NOTE! – There is an Optional Activity – an MLB game – this afternoon. See below.

Optional Additions to the Program .

Pre-Reunion Optional Addition for Day One, Thursday August 17, 2017

Noon to 4 – **Tour of Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan**, 7 miles from Detroit. This tour has been strongly recommended by committee member Ron Stockton (TEA 4C, Machakos), who is now a professor of political science at the University of Michigan, Dearborn. The tour is free and includes lunch.

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 mosque was started in the 1950s by a small group of Arab-Americans, mostly Lebanese Shia. It was in a much smaller facility then. It has grown enormously. It is situated in Dearborn whose population is of approximately 40% Arab (mostly Muslim) heritage. The ICA is known for its welcoming approach to visitors unfamiliar with its history and tradition.

You will have to provide your own transportation to the ICA but if you are arriving on Thursday, you could come directly from the airport.

Post Reunion Optional Addition for Day Four, Sunday, August 20, 2017

1:10 pm to ? The Detroit Tigers play the Los Angeles Dodgers in a major league baseball game at Comerica Park, linked to our hotel by the People Mover; cost about \$35 per ticket.

Are you interested in one or both of the optional activities?

Let Sharon Hartmann know ASAP – sillybeck@ca.rr.com