



Preliminary Reunion Plans for Khao Lao Newsletter

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Today 22:06

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Once more with attachment and pasted in below:

IVS Reunion in Kansas City, MO: Oct. 16-18, 2009<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

Plan now!

Wherever you served, come join your fellow IVS alums. A block of rooms at the Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza Hotel are reserved at the special rate of \$139 plus tax per night that includes a free full buffet breakfast. Airport shuttles will deliver you to the door and if you drive, \$7.00 per day will be added to your bill if you choose to use the covered, secured parking garage adjoining the hotel. *

The Marriott Plaza is a short, pleasant walk to the Kansas City's famed Country Club Plaza where you can stroll the Brush Creek River Walk with old friends or shop. Also a pleasant walk away is the world renowned Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and its expansive sculpture garden, another great spot for renewing friendships.

Make your reservations by Sept. 1st by calling toll free the Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza Hotel at **1-800-810-3708**. Say you are reserving a room in the International Voluntary Services Reunion block of rooms for the nights you plan to stay. A credit card number or one night advanced deposit will be required to secure a room from the IVS Reunion block. Cancellations must be received 24 hours prior to arrival or 1 night room and tax will be assessed.

The Marriott will honor the same rate if you wish to check early or stay later to take in more of the City's attractions. (The reunion starts Oct. 16th with a Friday evening social, dinner and program, and ends with informal goodbyes at breakfast Sunday, Oct. 18.) If you plan an extra day in KC, remember that although museums are open Sunday afternoons, most are closed Mondays.

Preliminary Program Plans:

- Reunion theme: The IVS Impact on Our Lives
- Updates from selected IVS alums who have continued international/cultural work of note.
- Panel on "Vietnam Then and Now" from volunteers who have been back recently. **Question: Are there Lao volunteers or those from other countries who could make a then-and-now comparison?**
- Readings (short selections from poetry, fiction, and nonfiction that is **nonpolitical** commentary) from writings resulting from IVS experience.
- Sharing of films, slides, photographs and other memorabilia from IVS experience.
- Opportunities for informal visiting.

Excursions in and around Kansas City:

There is more to see and do than can be packed into one Saturday, but below are attractions

http://sftnet.sftnet.org:81/roundcubemail/?_task=mail&_action=print&_uid=1858&_mbox=... 2/5/2009

Information removed by the Vietnam Archive

that will be selected from or that you can do on your own by extending your stay:

- The Truman Library/Museum in Independence: Recently updated. The Director, a historian and former Peace Corps volunteer, has offered to speak with us about the museum and Harry. (Admission \$7 for seniors.) www.trumanlibrary.org.
- The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial: Recently redone with many interactive exhibits. (Seniors - \$7.)
- The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: Outstanding collections, especially oriental. The new Bloch Building (lenses addition designed by Steven Holl Architects received many awards and was featured in *Time* and other major publications. Free admission. www.nelson-atkins.org.
- The Steamboat Arabia Museum: Sunk in the Missouri River in 1856, the Arabia was excavated from a cornfield over a century later and found loaded with frontier life items. Excellent website:
- www.steamboat.com. (group rate - \$10.50.)
- The Jazz Museum, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Shawnee Mission Museum (early boarding school for Native Americans), Wornall House Museum (farm house that served as hospital during Civil War), Sprint Center, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Thomas Hart Benton Home, are other points of interest.
- **You can access information on all the above by following links on visitkc.com. Click on Things to Do, Attractions and then History and Heritage.**

We know all wish to hold down expenses and plan on covering costs to at least two of the above attractions plus bus transportation in the registration fee, yet to be determined. But, to know how to plan transportation and arrange tours, we need to know how many will attend the reunion. **The amount and deadline for registration will be announced following the Feb. 21st planning meeting. Your timely registration will enable us to plan accurately. Please check the MyFamily.com IVS Alumni website for updates. Information will also be sent through the IVS Alumni Link Newsletter.** If you have questions, please contact Phyllis Westover at [REDACTED] or Larry Laverentz at [REDACTED]. Phyllis will be traveling Feb. 12-18 and mid-April to May 23rd, so please contact Larry during these times.

Hope to see you in October in Kansas City!

Reunion Planning Committee:

Tom Fox
Lala Kumar
Larry Laverentz
Willi Meyers
Phyllis Westover, Chair
Larry Woodson