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INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WISCONSIN TO HOST ANNUAL WORLD CITIZEN CELEBRATION DINNER

MILWAUKEE, WIS. —The International Institute of Wisconsin (IIW), an organization dedicated to the promotion of international cooperation, understanding, and a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural perspective, will host its annual World Citizen Celebration dinner on Sat., April 25.

The event will be held at the Women's Club of Wisconsin, 813 E. Kilbourn Ave. in Milwaukee, with a reception and silent auction at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m., and program at 9:00 p.m.

The 2015 event will salute those that have played a leadership role in shaping the IIW and its commitment to the local and global communities. The following people will be recognized at the event:

- Sister Edna Lonergan, President of the St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care: World Citizen Award
- Christiana Attere and Liliane McFarlane, Community Volunteers: World Citizen Award
- Jack Douthitt, Bonsai Artist: Expressive Cultural Heritage Award
- Milwaukee Public Television (MPTV): Corporate Citizens Award

Sister Lonergan graduated from Mount Mary University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy and later earned her Master of Science degree in Aging from North Texas State University. Eight years after graduating from Mount Mary, she founded the St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care to provide community-based health and educational services for children and frail adults and to serve as a resource and support for caregivers. The Center and Sister Lonergan have received numerous accolades throughout the years, including the prestigious Intergenerational Shared Site Best Practices Award from Generations United in Washington, D.C. in 2008 and 2009. She's been actively involved in the Milwaukee community for more than three decades as chair of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging. Sister Lonergan has also taken on several national and international initiatives focused on the needs of aging adults.

Attere and McFarlane, a mother-daughter duo, has a long history of connecting diverse cultures and communities in multiple locations. Born in Cameroon, Attere has traveled extensively in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. She spent 20 years in Nairobi, Kenya where she formed the West

African Women's Association, which is still in existence and was the predecessor to the Milwaukee African Women's Association, which she co-founded in 2008. She actively volunteers with Milwaukee community organizations that span cultural and socio-economic borders and acts as a mentor to young Cameroonian woman and other newcomers to Milwaukee.

McFarlane is a grant manager at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and is a former president of the Milwaukee African Women's Association. Her passion for creating opportunity in Africa through textiles and her desire to see Africans working for Africa is the catalyst for her business and charitable work. In the fall of 2014, she brought together partners from multiple Milwaukee community groups and agencies for the *Fighting Ebola, Saving Lives: Our Global Community is in this Together* campaign. Over four months, this diverse group collected 10,000 disease prevention items donations to send to Sierra Leone, with \$5,000 sent to Liberia.

Douthitt had always been an admirer of plants. His 46-year practice of Bonsai began when he stumbled upon a Bonsai club in Chicago. His background in architecture and enthusiasm for horticulture translated into what has become a life-long practice. As Douthitt describes it, "Bonsai has two sides: artistic and horticultural. The combination of these spheres makes Bonsai a craft."

While the specific practice of Bonsai in the United States was inherited from Japan, the craft itself has many origins. As Douthitt explains, "Ancient Egyptians grew trees in pots and placed them alongside roads; medicine men from all over the world would grow their own most valuable plants."

As a member of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society, Douthitt is dedicated not only to preserving and encouraging Bonsai novices, but is also to the development of an American tradition of Bonsai.

Public television seeks out programming that accurately reflects challenges and opportunities faced by the global community. MPTV's purpose is to produce, acquire, and schedule content that furthers cultural appreciation, international understanding, and social responsibility. To fulfill its purpose, MPTV schedules programming that covers international events, including BBC World News; International Focus, a production of the UW-Milwaukee Institute of World Affairs; Religion & Ethics Newsweekly; The PBS Newshour; Frontline; and Independent Lens.

Toward its mission of fostering cultural awareness, MPTV broadcasts series that focus on international travel such as Rick Steves' Europe, Smart Travels, Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope, and Burt Wolf: Travels & Traditions. MPTV also airs cooking programs aimed at increasing appreciation for international cuisines, including Mexico – One Plate at a Time with Rick Bayless, Martin Yan's Taste of Vietnam, New Scandinavian Cooking, Healthful Indian Flavors with Alamelu, and Ciao Italia.

MPTV also produces its own specials focusing on international issues and culture including the recent Storia Italiana Milwaukee, Folk Fair Celebration, A Bridge To Vietnam and Memorializing Kosciuszko.

The station regularly hosts international journalists through the U.S. State Department and the International Institute of Wisconsin.

The keynote address will be made by Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Diplomat in Residence at Arizona State University and former ambassador to the Philippines.

In his current role, Thomas is responsible for the State Department's recruitment efforts in the Southwest and is an adjunct faculty member teaching an international relations course in the School of Global and Political Studies. He is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister. Prior to serving as the ambassador to the Philippines, he was Director General of the Foreign Service and Director for Human Resources of the U.S. State Department. He also served as a Special Assistant to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Executive Secretary of the Department.

Ambassador Thomas joined the Foreign Service in 1984, and served as U.S. ambassador to Bangladesh from 2003 to 2005. He also served in the White House as the Director for South Asia at the National Security Council from 2001 to 2002. His other postings include New Delhi, India; Harare, Zimbabwe; Kaduna, Nigeria; and Lima, Peru. He is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross, and he holds an honorary doctorate in Philosophy from the Loyola University of Maryland.

The cost of the World Citizen Celebration dinner is \$95 per person, or \$800 for a table of eight, with \$45 of the amount tax deductible per person. Proceeds from the event will be used to support IIW children's workshops and the Education Day Cultural Program that is held at the annual Holiday Folk Fair *International*. For more information and/or to make a reservation, call 414-225-6220, ext. 103.

The IIW initiates, coordinates, and sponsors a variety of activities and programs appropriate to the fulfillment of its purpose, including immigration and social services, refugee resettlement, citizen diplomacy, and interpretation and translation. In addition, the IIW produces the annual Holiday Folk Fair *International*, with the 2015 event to be held Fri., Nov. 20 – Sun., Nov. 22 at the State Fair Park Exposition Center.

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