

**The Marquis
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Patrick Sullivan

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Newsletter

**The Marquis Project
& Worldly Goods Shop**
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May 2010

Marquis Project

Annual General Meeting 2010

On June 2, 2010 at 7:00pm, all members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Marquis Project Annual General Meeting at the River Bank Discovery Centre, 545 Conservation Drive, Brandon, MB (directly South of the Corral Centre and Home Depot, just East of 18th Street North). We have an engaging evening planned including presentations from international guest speakers and the announcement of the Marquis Project Global Citizen Award Winner.

Two guests of honour, all the way from Mwanza, Tanzania, will be joining us for the evening - Mr. Beny Mwenda and Ms. Mary Sayi. As representative of our international partners in Tanzania, the Tanzania Society for Agriculture Education and Extension (TSAEE), it is a special occasion to celebrate a relationship that has improved numerous lives in rural Tanzania thanks to the cooperative support of Marquis Members for over a decade. As part of our seasonal series on climate change, Mr. Mwenda will also provide his insights and perspectives to the relationship and challenges that a warming world presents to those living in rural poverty in Tanzania.

Come out and lend your support as we share in our success of the past year and elect new members to the board of directors to ensure a sustainable future for the Marquis Project!

Nominations to the Board of Directors

Nominees for members to the board of directors are officially being accepted until 4 pm on Saturday, May 29, 2010. Eligible candidates must be a member in good standing and have paid their annual membership in full as of the time of the annual general meeting. A nomination for election to the board of director's must be endorsed by a fellow member in good standing. Nominees will stand for election during the Marquis Project Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2010.

As a member of the board of directors at the Marquis Project you will have a direct say in shaping the future of an organization dedicated to making global connections from the classrooms of Manitoba to the villages of Africa and beyond. This is your opportunity to ensure that Westman continues to make a difference at home and abroad.

MISSION STATEMENT

The MARQUIS PROJECT is a community-centered, non-profit organization committed to the strengthening of international development. It has a two-fold purpose:

- to help educate Manitobans, as to the nature of economic, political, and social issues involved at both the local and global levels; and
- to seek to participate actively in sustainable projects and partnerships aimed at improving the quality of life in small, rural communities in developing countries.



Marquis Upcoming Events:

May 6 - YETII - Youth Educating Themselves on International Issues, 8:30am - 4:30pm @ Brandon University

May 11 - Evening with the Amarak Society, . 7PM @ ACC Adult Collegiate

May 16 - Chakula, a Fundraising Dinner at Chilly Chutney, 6pm

June 2 - Marquis Project AGM, 7pm at the Riverbank Discovery Centre

June 9 - 13 - Off Site Sale and Educational Displays at the Manitoba Summer Fair, located in Towne Square (UCT Pavilion)

MAY - For the month of May, there will be a 35% off sale in worldly goods. Excluding coffee and chocolate

Email: events@marquisproject.com
phone: 727-5675
for more information

Worldly Goods:

Now open Mondays!

Mon to Fri 10 AM to 5 PM

Saturday 10AM to 4 PM

NEWSLETTER

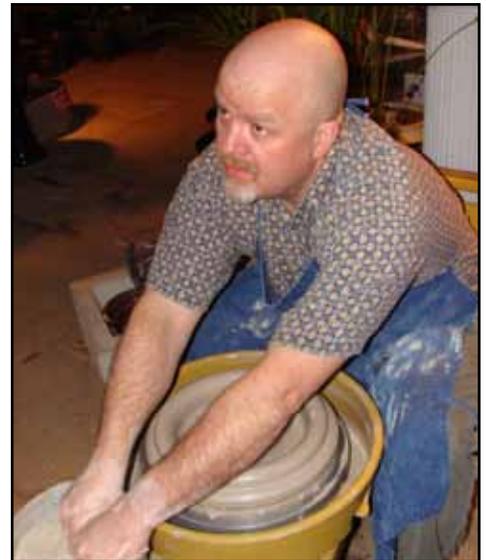
“Flavours of Fair Trade” A Great Success

The Marquis Project hosted an engaging and intimate evening at The Green Spot on Saturday, March 27 from 7pm-11pm. The purpose of “Flavours of Fair Trade” was to bring together individuals with intentions of peace for people and the planet, while raising money for our overseas and local projects. The event featured a wine tasting, sponsored by Manitoba Liquor Control Commission, of various Fair Trade red and white wines. Speaker, Ian Hussey, a PhD student from York University, spoke about the philosophy and policy behind Fair Trade certification. Thanks to Manitoba Council for International Cooperation for collaborating with The Marquis Project to bring Ian to Brandon. Following Ian’s address, a captivating and interactive Capoeira performance was delivered by the local group Omulu Capoeira Guanabara, led by Monitor Espiga. Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art, which combines elements of music, dance, acrobatics, attacks, and counterattacks in a flowing “jogo” or game. For more information about Capoeira and Brandon or Shoal Lake classes please visit www.familia-omulu-guanabara.com. At 9 o’clock an expression of global sustainability took place with the observance of Earth Hour, as the lights went off and guests were submerged in candlelight. Paintings,

Right: Jeff Bettle, of The Old Church Pottery & Gift, demonstrates throwing pottery at ‘Flavours of Fair Trade’.

Below: capoeira performers from the group Omulu Capoeira Guanabara.

graphic art, music, pottery, and a garden arbour were part of the mini art exhibit of pieces donated by local artisans. The art pieces showcased at the “Flavours of Fair Trade” event were auctioned off as part of The Marquis Project’s Fundraising efforts for the evening. Jeff Bettle, of The Old Church Pottery and Gift Shop, charmed guests with his interactive (and humorous) pottery throwing demonstration throughout the evening. Thank you so much to all those who came out and supported the “Flavours of Fair Trade” fundraiser. Deep appreciation is also expressed to all of the artists who donated pieces and time, volunteers who helped make the event run smoothly, the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission, The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation, the Omulu Capoeira Guanabara group, and The Green Spot for hosting the event.



The Marquis Project Presents YETII: “Market for Change”

The Marquis Project is once again hosting our annual Youth Educating Themselves on International Issues (YETII) Conference on Thursday, May 6th, 2010 at Brandon University. The theme of this year’s conference is “Market for Change: Poverty and Climate Change”. YETII 2010, “Market for Change” is funded by Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.

The purpose of this conference is to stimulate youth on topics of climate change and poverty, while equipping them with practical and

creative skills to make change in their own lives, their communities and schools, as well as the world at large. The conference, which runs from 8:50 am-4:30 pm, will host Keynote speaker Curt Hull, project manager of Climate Change Connection. Workshops aim to mobilize students toward sustainable development and social justice through community initiatives and media. Workshops include: “Nature’s Meals”- a guide to wild edibles in Manitoba; “Travel without Impact”-

Community Bike Projects and Mechanics; “Zine Making”; and “Journalism”. The day will also feature a student guided planning session for attendees to organize what they have learnt during the day into a cohesive plan to take back and implement in their school community.

For more information on “YETII 2010: Market for Change” please contact The Marquis Project Educators at (204) 727-5675, or by email at events@marquisproject.com.

The Amarok Society: Community Development through Education

The Munro family of the Amarok Society returns to Brandon on May 11 with a presentation about their “Mothers of Intention” program. Their program is a unique blend of empowerment and education that takes women from the slums of Dhaka—most of them illiterate beggars and manual labourers—and teaches them reading, writing, math, conflict resolution, nutrition, and parenting skills. Most important of all, it teaches them to be teachers, to meet the ultimate goal of the Amarok society—the education of Dhaka’s children.

The Munro’s presentations are an eclectic and fascinating mix of information about Bangladesh and about their program, readings from GEM’s book, “South Asian Adventures with the Active Poor” and a visual presentation of their son Asian’s stunning photography. There will also be a special focus in the Brandon session on how literacy is used to empower women and some

of the strategies that enable women with little education themselves to teach their children.

The Munros, who live in Bella Coola, British Columbia when not in Bangladesh, are on a cross-country tour to promote GEM’s book, which brings to life many of the characters of the slums in which they lived and worked, and to raise awareness about conditions in Bangladesh.

This presentation will be of special interest to anyone involved in literacy, EAL, and other education, but will also appeal to anyone who is interested in community development through education and the empowerment of women - or to anyone

who just likes a good story!

Refreshments will accompany an informal Q & A after the session, which will begin at 7pm Tuesday May 11 at Assiniboine Community College Adult Collegiate, 725 Rosser Ave.

The Marquis Project Presents
Amarok Society
Amarok Society gets education to children too poor for school by teaching their mothers to be neighbourhood teachers in the slums of Bangladesh.



Dr. Tanyss & Gem Munro (co-founders of Amarok Society) share their work about:

- teaching literacy through songs
- discovering and building upon community strengths
- using simple technology to engage learners

See videos, photos and listen to true stories from “South Asian Adventures with the Active Poor” by GEM Munro.

7:00 p.m. Tues. May 11th
at the
Assiniboine Community College
Adult Collegiate
725 Rosser Avenue
Home-made refreshments served



The event is free, but donations to Amarok Society (www.amaroksociety.org), a registered Canadian charity, are welcome. For more information, call (204) 727-4794

The Marquis Files

In a 2003 address to the Gulin Institute, Kofi Annan said:

“A combination of famine and Aids is threatening the backbone of Africa – the women who keep African societies going and whose work makes up the economic foundation of rural communities. For decades, we have known that the best way for Africa to thrive is to ensure that its women have the freedom, power and knowledge to make decisions affecting their own lives and those of their families and communities...”

In the United Nations, we have always understood that our work for development depends on building a successful partnership with the African farmer and her husband... Study after study has shown that there is no effective development strategy in which women do not play a central role. When women are fully involved, the benefits can be seen immediately: families are healthier; they are better fed; their income, savings and reinvestment go up. And what is true of families is true of communities and eventually, of whole countries.”

Our partner in Tanzania, the Tanzanian Society for Agricultural Education and Extension has long understood this, and a major portion of their energy is invested in supporting women in social and economic development projects. While

Marquis supported groups using microenterprise to diversify farms with poultry production



Agro-forestry projects and seedling sales

primarily an agricultural organization, TSAEE has recognized that in this agrarian society, better agricultural techniques alone aren't enough to reduce poverty and improve the living conditions of women and families. The time spent on non-productive activities such as collecting wood and fetching water, the balance of power and financial (and other) decision making within the family, and the toll taken in recent years by AIDS, all limit not only the time spent in productive agriculture, but the potential for economic development

of the family, and by extension, of the community and the country as a whole. But in a country with limited resources, development projects are difficult to launch, so TSAEE looks to partners in developed countries for the financial resources for many of its projects. Over the last 10 years, Marquis has assisted TSAEE (often in partnership with other organizations) in a number of projects that have brought HIV and AIDS awareness training, gender equity workshops, microenterprise development, promotion of reforestation and the use of fuel efficient stoves to the women of Tanzania.

In early 2010, several Marquis members including Dinah, Josh, and Judy and her partner Bert, visited Tanzania and were able to see first hand the work that has been done. We met numerous women's groups, including some amazing women who have made tremendous strides in improving their economic and social situation. They are thrilled with the fact that they spend less time collecting firewood and have more time for leisure as well as agricultural and economic pursuits; their mudbrick houses with leak-prone thatched roofs have been replaced by sturdy burnt brick houses with corrugated metal



roofs; homes are equipped with beds, chairs, and sometimes even couches; children are attending secondary school; and the most successful women have won the support of their husbands and become economic partners.

My trusty recorder accompanied me to these communities, so that I could bring you some of the sounds of the village and conversations with these women. I share these with you in the March and April episodes of the Marquis Files.

In March, we travelled with the Marquis Files just a short distance from the TSAEE headquarters in Ukiriguru to the village of Nyamle, where a group of women who call themselves “Kazi ni Moyo” or “Work With Heart” were inspired by the HIV/AIDS awareness training offered by TSAEE, in conjunction with Marquis and other Manitoba groups, to help the children orphaned by AIDS. Regular monthly dues from the group members and a variety of income generation projects and fund-raising strategies make it possible for the children to continue their education and to ease the financial burden of the families that care for them. In a community where stigmas still make the life of people affected by HIV and AIDS difficult, the group also provide social support for the children and their families, and coordinate a peer support program.

In April’s program—and that is coming up on April 27th-- we will take you to the home of “Mama Shegela”, one of the Lake Zone’s most successful entrepreneurs to talk with her about how life has changed for her since she became involved in TSAEE’s programs. Then we’ll travel down the long, sometimes impassable road (we had to walk several kilometers, jumping over or wading through puddles to get there) to the village of Magaka, where we shared a sweet potato lunch and talked to several women involved in reforestation and energy efficient stove projects.

You can catch the Marquis Files on the last Tuesday of each month, at noon and 5:00 p.m. on CJ106, Assiniboine Community College’s campus and community radio station. That’s 106.5 FM on the radio, if you live within Brandon. Or, you can catch “The Files” on the internet by going to www.assiniboine.net and clicking the “Listen Live” button on the home page.

If you miss the program and would like to hear it, contact the Marquis Project for a CD or other format audio file.

If you have ideas for future programs, contact Judy; Bartel@westman.wave.ca.



Energy and time efficiency is increased with improved stove technology

A photograph of a woman in a green shirt sitting on a stool, preparing food in a bowl. The bowl contains a yellow mixture with sliced vegetables. There are other bowls and ingredients around her. The background is a simple wooden structure.

THE MARQUIS PROJECT

Join the Marquis Project for an evening of food & friends as Members share in their 2010 travels to Tanzania, Africa.

Chakula

Sunday, May 16th
6:00 pm – Chilly Chutney – 935 Rosser Avenue, Brandon, MB - Cocktails & Dinner
7:30 pm – Marquis Project/Worldly Goods - Dessert & Dialogue
Tickets: \$30*
*(515 of each ticket sold is an eligible charitable donation)
Tickets and Information Available at:
The Marquis Project/Worldly Goods Shop, 912 Rosser Avenue, Brandon, MB
Ph: (204)728-4176 Email: marquisp@mts.net

NOMINATIONS

The Marquis Project Inc. Board of Directors 2010 - 12

Nominations for the Board of Directors of the Marquis Project Inc. are being solicited from the Marquis Project membership. The term of office of a Director is two years.

Nominators and nominees must be full members in good standing of the Project.

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on June 2, 2010.

Nomination Process

Nominations will be received by the Nominations Committee up to 4:00 PM on Saturday, May 29, 2010.

Full members of the Marquis Project may nominate themselves or other person(s) by submitting the form below. In the latter situation, the nominee must sign the nomination form acknowledging that the nominee is willing to accept the nomination and stand for election.

Nomination Form 2010 - 12

I nominate the following full member (please print):

Nominee's name _____

Mailing address: _____

Nominee's phone # : _____ Fax # _____

Nominee's email _____

For the position of Director to the Marquis Project Inc. Board of Directors.

Nominator's Name: _____

Nominator's Address: _____

Nominator's Phone # : _____ Fax # _____

Email _____

Nominator's signature: I _____ affirm that I am a full member in good standing of the Marquis Project Inc.

Nominee's Signature: I _____ accept this nomination for election to the Board of Directors of the Marquis Project

Please complete and return 'nomination forms to the Marquis Office, 912 Rosser Avenue, Brandon, MB. R7A 0L4. The Nomination form in this notice OR a copy from the Marquis Project office may be used to submit the Nomination.

Nominations Deadline: 4:00 PM Saturday May 29, 2010

Worldly Goods Store News

The Marquis Projects Worldly Goods Shop is anticipating the arrival of summer, and is doing a spring cleaning sale! Throughout the month of May the entire store is 35% off. We have an excellent selection of Fair trade and organic coffee and teas, new handmade Tanzanian Baskets, environmental products, handmade crafts and goods, and much more!

The Marquis Project is currently

promoting our:

Hot Beverage Cards:

Buy 9 coffee or teas, and receive the 10th one free.

Wedding Registry:

We have an excellent selection of items for engaged couples to register desired items for their wedding.

Gift Baskets: Gift baskets can be custom



made for any occasion of the year; Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Birthdays, Anniversaries and Christmas.