

europaean senate

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National Senator Conference 2016
in Bad Homburg
Germany



Bad Homburg the beautiful spa town
with the 'champagne air' near Frankfurt am Main
is the host of the 2016 National Senator Conference
from April 28th until May 1st, 2016.



Beside the official programme with the delegates' meeting
the conference team is organising a programme for the
long weekend to show the guests the places of interest
and beautiful sights of Bad Homburg but also to give
enough space for talks and get-to-togethers

For more details visit
www.seko16.de

You will find the registration form on the website as well as
continuously updated information about the conference

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June 15th – 18th 2016
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Your weekend starts on the Friday night at the **Dancing Man
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JCI Southampton who will be hosting the evening with us.

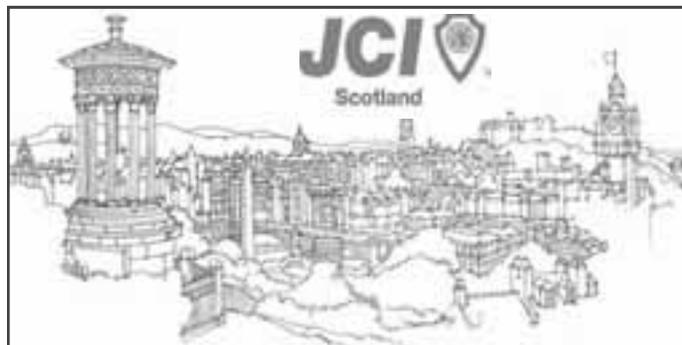
Saturday sees an amazing tour of the well known **Bombay
Sapphire Distillery**, so gin lovers, miss at your peril. After a
hearty lunch, a blue badge walk around the Southampton walls
and into the dungeons with warm you up for the spectacular
dinner to be held at the prestigious **Royal Southampton
Yacht Club**.

To wipe away any cobwebs or hangovers, Sunday morning sees a
lovely walk around the Brockenhurst in the New Forest before
you head home.

All booking details are on the Senate web site
www.britishsenate.org.uk and your hosts, senators and past
presidents of JCI Southampton, Tim & Tina Richardson and Julia
Lea look forward to welcoming you to a fabulous weekend.

Book now to avoid disappointment as the coast is proving
popular that weekend with Portsmouth hosting the America's
cup.

For booking queries, please contact Julia Lea on +44 7703 298511
or email julia@jklea.co.uk



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Dinner only tickets - £60

Get in touch:

For more information, email us at
conference2016@jciedinburgh.org.uk

Get In Touch

Letters to the Editor

We are always pleased to receive 'Letters' from JCI Senators and their families with your news, views, activities or just something you want to share with your fellow Senators.

Please send your letters or other contributions for the magazine to the editor, Peter Browning #49104, The Coach House, Woodhouse Lane, Marchwiell, Wrexham, Wales, LL13 0ST +44 1978 365 451 peter.browning@virgin.net

Births, Significant Events & Obituaries

If you have had a significant event in your life we would be very pleased to hear about it. Likewise we would like to hear from you about the deaths, engagements, marriages, births and significant birthdays of your fellow Senators. Please send details and photos to the editor at peter.browning@virgin.net

Photographs

We are always looking for interesting photographs of Senators at work, rest & play so please send them to the editor at peter.browning@virgin.net

To maintain the high quality print of the magazine we need high resolution pictures so please try to send us images taken with a high number of pixels and send them as an image file attachment.

Change of Address

If you have moved or changed any of your contact details please let us know by contacting Penny Gill #61930, the Database Manager by email at database@britishsenate.org.uk or phoning +44 7765 242 517

The 'European Senate' magazine is editorially independent and encourages debate on matters affecting JCI Senators. Views expressed are those of the individual writers and not necessarily those of the editors, the British JCI Senate or the ASE

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Welcome

Peter Browning #49104

A Happy New Year to all our readers – a little later than I had planned. This is because by the copy date I did had not received enough material to make it sensible to produce a magazine without some chasing to get more material and thankfully several Senators answer that call so you again have a good sized magazine.

You may not realise it but chasing material is one of the biggest tasks I have as editor and if you would like to do your small part in helping the magazine get out then all you have to do is send me photographs and/or articles without being asked!

I am surprised that several organisers have not taken up the offer of a free mono advert but I am not going to chase them!

What I have received is a reaction to my 'leader' on 'What Way the Future?' which pleases me greatly as I believe it is something that all Senators who are active internationally should have a view about, whatever that view is. I was also very pleased to hear that the ASE board meeting in Edinburgh spent a considerable part of their meeting on the topic and I know that the topic is something that is being discussed by the Canadian Senate and the British Senate. I would be interested to know if other National Senate organisations are also talking about the situation and have come to any views on where we should be going.

What has become apparent to me is that very few Senators are aware of the agreement made between JCI and the Senate Joint Boards on Senators' Expectations so I have published a copy of that agreement on pages 24 & 25.

You may not be aware but the Canadian Senate have been so concerned about what Senators attending WC in Québec will get that they have been considering various

options. They were so concerned that there was not going to be a suitable Pre-Tour for Senators that they had started to organise one themselves and I had received something for this magazine to promote it. However just before I had to go to press they made an agreement with the COC that rather than have two competing short Pre-Tours that they would come together and have just one. Unfortunately as we go to press we do not have any details of it. There is also a week long Pre-Tour being organised (see p8) by the same people who organised what I am told was an excellent Pre-Tour for Kanazawa.

While I am very pleased that the COC and the Canadian Senate are now talking and hopefully are going to produce something of value for Senators attending I am very disappointed that it is happening so late in the day. Most Senators

travelling internationally want to get their travel plans organised well in advance so that they can take advantage of cheap flights and early registration fees. So not only do the conference and congress organisers have to deliver value to Senators but they also have to have their plans and particularly dates published 1 year in advance.

I hope you keep on writing to me on this topic (and others) and that there will be more to report on the topic in the next issue which will be put together after the EC in Tampere.

I look forward to having Senate FUN with many of you at the ASE Spring Meeting and SEKO in Bad Homburg.

Slainte Mhath

Peter Browning
JCI Senator #49104



subscribe on line at www.britishsenate.org.uk/magazine

Deadline Dates

Please write to us about any topic you want - send interesting stories and pictures by the Copy

Dates which are:-
27th June 2016

17th October 2016

23rd January 2017

Send material to peter.browning@virgin.net

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Time Travel in Japan

Lynne de la Cour

Japan has changed a lot since I last visited 25 years ago. One of the first things I noticed was the warm welcome I received when visiting “the Ladies”. Yes, the toilet seats are heated!!! Last time there were very few proper (Western) toilets. Over the next two weeks there were to be many other pleasant surprises. For the end of October the weather was very warm (20-25 degrees C); a lot of signs are now written in English; and, due to an excellent exchange rate, most things were a lot cheaper than in the UK.

Our JCI Pre Tour was a week of extensive train travel around Honshu, the largest of the four main islands of Japan. Unusually, our tour had two guides - Travel Time’s Eriks Lagzdins and fellow Latvian Kaspars Bernans. This meant that most days we had a choice of where to visit, and every night the two groups came together to stay in the same hotel. Whichever trips we chose, it really was a “whistle stop” tour with little time for eating or sleeping!

Jonathan Nicholson #62400 and I had flown with Turkish Airlines from London Gatwick, landing 17 hours later at Kansai Osaka. After two hours to clear customs and immigration, we offloaded our large suitcases to be delivered to the Congress hotel, taking just hand luggage on our week long Pre Tour. Two train rides later, we arrived at our hotel in Kobe, where Eriks and Kaspers hosted a get-together with ume shu (a sweet plum wine) for the group. It was after midnight when we collapsed into bed, and the tour we’d chosen for the following day left at 7.15am!

The first day was long but enjoyable, travelling South-West along the coast to four very different

locations (Himeji, Okayama, Hiroshima and Miyajima) before returning to Kobe at 10pm. The newly renovated Himeji Castle is the largest original construction castle in Japan; and the view from the top was worth the climb up a lot of steep steps. After a quick walk around Okayama’s Korakuen Gardens (one of the three most famous gardens in Japan) we continued on to Hiroshima where we explored Peace Island and its museum. Finally, the highlight of my day was our visit to Miyajima Island where we arrived by boat at sunset to be greeted by free roaming deer. We strolled along the shore under a full moon to see the torii of Itsukushima Shrine at high tide - absolutely perfect.

It was another 7.15am start when the group left Kobe for the Japanese Alps. The four hour journey gave us plenty of photo opportunities as our train passed some splendid mountain scenery on the way to Takayama. On arrival there we had a lovely walk around the well preserved historic area with its wooden houses, and even saw a building with the JCI sign! The area is famous for its Hida beef, which Hulda Sigfusdottir #67591, Jonathan and I enjoyed at an excellent lunch. The group then travelled to Gero for our overnight stay at Bosenkan Ryokan, where we had traditional Japanese style rooms. Here we could change into Yukata pyjamas and all relax over a long kaiseki dinner. After a few drinks some of us even had a go at Karaoke and then enjoyed the all-night Onsen hot spring baths.

A leisurely Japanese style breakfast was a welcome start before leaving for Tokyo. We had a brief stop at Gifu to see a huge papier mâché Buddha, and then re-joined the Shinkansen (bullet train) to Nagoya and on to Tokyo for the next two nights. As you



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New Views Through Old Glasses

Ole Jacob Raad #8552

Can older Senators be valuable to younger Senators?

As Senators we know that we can inspire Jaycees by telling about our benefits from having been active in JCI. And we shall not underestimate the value of simple things we can do to inspire them and – by showing genuine interest in them - make them feel important and thus motivate them for increased effort.

However, what surprised me once was how a Senior Senator like me can be a source of inspiration to younger Senators! At the EC in Turku in 2008 I attend a Senate function, and during my mingling, I ask some new friends if I may sit down at their table. I might, so I do. They just have to ask me a few questions about my benefits and experiences from having been a Jaycee since 1964, and they obviously push the right button. After some twenty minutes I rise to leave and excuse myself for my ego trip, realizing that even if I might be good at times, I am might probably be best in small portions. But, oh no! They urge me to sit down again and relate more of my benefits from being a jaycee and Senator, and, of course, I do...

After the conference I receive an envelope by snail mail with a following handwritten letter. As I haven't asked for the writer's permission to publish this, I prefer to call him RG. I have copied the letter as it was written:

"dear ole, sir.

it was a great pleasure to make your acquaintance at the senate luncheon of the EC2008 in turku last week.

thank you for your time spent at our table talking with us. you impressed me already in maastricht last year with your speech & I told you that.

this time it was even more impressive to hear some of your JCI & work stories. it was not only the stories that fascinated me but this special JCI spirit that I could feel. thank you for that.

I hope to see you again soon – next year at the EC2009 in budapest. wish you all the best

yours sincerely

XXX
#XXXXX

This letter taught me a lot that I feel worthwhile passing on to other "Senior Senators".

One thing is that RG's message comes clearly through even if he doesn't use capital letters. If this makes you think that RG is a simple-minded person, I can add that he sent me some samples of work he had done, and then it was my turn to admire him as a very resourceful person.

Another thing is that his message is written on paper and can be scanned, stored and used as documentation, in contrast to the messages people exchange today on Facebook and other social media, which is a good thing because most of them are not worthwhile storing.

The third thought that came to my mind was that this is the last handwritten message I have received so far, dated "Vienna 13.6.2008", - seven years ago. I will keep it in my files, as it might be the last handwritten letter I will ever receive.

*Ole Jacob Raad
JCI Senator #8552
ole.jacob@raads.no*

I still receive snail mail occasionally and it is most welcome however when it is long and for the magazine I prefer it to be typed rather than hand written as I can then use OCR to scan it rather than having to two finger type it all myself! Editor





European Senators Golf Club



SAVE THE DATE

August 25-28th, 2016

26th European Senators Golf Championship Mont Garni • Belgium

JCI



Registration: www.esgc.info or e-mail: r vb_1950@hotmail.com

26 – 30 October

Toronto to Quebec Pre-Tour

Following discussions the Canadian Senate and the COC have decided to amalgamate their separate pre tours.

Arrive in Toronto on Tuesday 25th in time to start the tour on Wednesday morning. The tour will make its way to Quebec in time for registration & the Opening Ceremony on Sunday.

Details are still being finalised but to find out more, please contact Blaine Evans – blaine.ryerson@gmail.com or the COC