



## GREATER PHILADELPHIA AREA DOCENT CONSORTIUM

### **GPADC Fall Meeting**

**Pearl S. Buck International Foundation**

**Tuesday, October 29, 2024**

### **Welcome**

Monica Gondek, GPADC Chair, welcomed thirty participants from member organizations to the GPADC Fall meeting. She thanked the staff of the Pearl S. Buck International Foundation for hosting this event.

### **Program**

Stephanie Saveriano, Director of International Programs, Pearl S. Buck International.

Stephanie introduced us to the mission and programs of Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI), a humanitarian organization with a focus on children. Their mission is to provide educational and economic opportunities as well as access to health care to children and their families and to foster the appreciation of other cultures. To date, two million children and their families have been helped. These programs operate in China, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. The PSBI also has partnerships with programs in Kenya, Cambodia and the United States.

*Samantha Freise*, Museum Curator, Pearl S. Buck International.

Samantha began with a brief biography of Buck. The daughter of American missionaries, Buck spent the first forty years of her life in China and Chinese was her first language. Although she and her family formed many close attachments to people in China, they were forced to leave by increasingly violent threat against foreigners. These experiences spurred her lifelong desire to aid children in Asia, particularly those of mixed race, and gave her personal experience of the pains of discrimination. A prolific writer of novels, plays and short stories, Buck won the Pulitzer Prize in 1932 and the Nobel for Literature in 1938. Her writings highlight social justice issues related to gender, ethnicity, class, age or religion. In the United States, she founded the first

adoption agency for biracial children. Buck had one biological daughter with her first husband and adopted 6 more with her second husband.

With a grant from the Barra Foundation, the PSBI created their "Taking Action Tour" which focuses on the social justice issues to which Buck devoted her life.

### **Round Table Discussion**

Participants were given prompts to discuss with their table mates and then asked to summarize their thoughts for the group. The questions were:

1. Share an experience when a social justice issue arose during one of your tours. How did you navigate that experience? Do you think cultural institutions are a good place to address these things?
2. Have you found your audiences to be receptive to considering social justice topics?

### **Business Meeting**

Monica requested a voice vote to confirm the election of GPADC officers for the 2025-2027 period. The following candidates were unanimously confirmed:

- Monica Gondek, Chair
- Leah Smith, Vice Chair
- Robin Margent, Treasurer

Monica also asked for volunteers to serve as Members at Large on the GPADC Steering Committee.

### **Tours**

PSBI docents led fascinating tours of the historic house and its artifacts.

Meeting Adjourned 1:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
*Rebecca Butterfield,*

Member at Large