



**MEDIA ALERT**

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## **Mansfeld Middle School Teams Up with Gerda Weissmann Klein and Citizenship Counts for a Centennial Celebration Featuring Arizona's Past, Present, and Future**

**WHO:** Mansfeld Middle School, Citizenship Counts, and special guests Gerda Weissmann Klein and Paul Eckstein, are teaming up to co-host an official Arizona Centennial Event that will commemorate Arizona's rich history and celebrate the citizens who embody its diverse culture and growth. The event will feature a celebration of past, present and future Arizonans. The Mansfeld Middle School students recently completed the Citizenship Counts curriculum based on teaching students their rights and responsibilities as citizens, highlighting the privilege and duty of civic engagement. During the event, Mansfeld Middle School students will share ideas and ways that they plan to give back to their community and help build a better future for Arizona. In addition to the students' presentation, Gerda Weissman Klein, Citizenship Counts Founder, 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient and proud naturalized citizen, will speak about cherishing citizenship and giving back to Arizona. Special guest Paul Eckstein will deliver remarks about the Arizona Constitutional Convention, some of Arizona's founding citizens, and their contributions to the state of Arizona.

On January 27, 2012, Citizenship Counts Board Member Diane Eckstein and her husband, John, began a cross-country journey with their dog, Kipp, walking and biking 3,500 miles, to promote engaged citizenship, awareness of the naturalization process, and to raise funds to advance Citizenship Counts' efforts. *A Journey that Counts: Promoting Citizenship Education from Sea to Shining Sea* is traveling across America and participating in celebrations of citizenship, such as the one at Mansfeld Middle School, in several communities across the country. *A Journey that Counts: Promoting Citizenship Education from Sea to Shining Sea* will travel through the following cities: San Diego, CA; Phoenix AZ; Tucson, AZ; Las Cruces, NM; Austin, TX; College Station, TX; Dallas, TX; Memphis, TN; Indianapolis, IN; Chicago, IL; Pittsburgh, PA; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, PA; and New York City, NY.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 14th, 2012 at 1:15p.m.

**WHERE:** Mansfeld Middle School 1300 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Tucson, AZ 85719

**WHY:** Citizenship Counts was founded by Gerda Weissmann Klein as her way of giving back to her adopted country. "To perpetuate the miracle that is America," says Klein, "we must teach our children about its rich history as a nation of immigrants who chose this country and have given meaning to its ideals." The Ecksteins' inspirations for their upcoming journey are Klein's life and the work of Citizenship Counts. "We are proud to be Americans," the Ecksteins say, "and hope that our *Journey* will inspire and educate young people to be good, participating citizens."

### **About Citizenship Counts**

Citizenship Counts is a national, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization, whose mission is to **educate** today's youth on the tenets of citizenship, encourage them to **appreciate** their rights and responsibilities as Americans, and give them an opportunity to **celebrate** their citizenship by hosting a naturalization ceremony or participating in a service-learning project. Additional details about the *Journey* can also be found on Facebook (CitizenshipCounts) and Twitter (@CitizenshipCnts). [www.citizenshipcounts.org](http://www.citizenshipcounts.org)

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