



ILLINOIS

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September 2017

2017 Fall IL IFYE Meeting

The Fall Meeting of the IL IFYE Association will be on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at Aerie's Lodging; 800 Timber Ridge Drive; Grafton IL 62037 on the Mississippi River. **The Business Meeting will be at 2:00 PM.** Lunch will be at Aerie's at 12 o'clock noon.

Because the Resort needs the luncheon number by September 15th, you must send an email to: wachtel1945@gmail.com by 5 pm September 14, 2017 if you will be attending the luncheon. (Call 217-341-1402 if you don't have access to email.)

Payment for luncheon should be made by September 28, 2017 using the form elsewhere in this newsletter.

Because this is a holiday weekend (Columbus Day) there is a 2-night minimum at the resort. Several have made reservations for Friday and Saturday nights. If you haven't made your reservation to stay there, call 618-786-8439 and make your reservation. The rooms reserved are under the block "IL IFYE Group" until September 15th. The Rate we have is \$149 per night. Their web site is: <http://www.aeriesview.com>

A group evening meal is planned at a local restaurant for 6 pm Saturday night. The place to be decided later. Again please use the form elsewhere to indicate you intentions.

This will be a **FUN WEEKEND WITH IFYE FRIENDS!** If you don't stay at the resort you are welcome to join us for socializing on Friday and Saturday nights or any part of the weekend.



2017 Illinois Outbounds

The States 4H exchange program (<https://www.states4hexchange.org>)

Illinois had six outbound participants and two chaperones this year. The Board and membership agreed that each of the six outbound States 4-Hers and the two chaperones should receive \$100.00 each from the Illinois IFYE Association fund. A total of \$800 was withdrawn from the fund. The Board and membership, also, made the recommendation that \$75.00 be distributed to each of the six outbound participants from the Ray Woodis Fund. The U of I Foundation agreed with this recommendation and distributed the additional funds.

Japan / Caroline Ahrends (Logan County) – 8 week Nihongo

Japan / Jack Kastor (Kendall County)

Costa Rica / Cassandra Cook (Macon County)

Costa Rica / Reece Haney (McLean County)

Finland / Olivia Runne (Winnebago County)

Korea / Hannah Davis (Champaign County)

Japan/ Danielle Dittmer

Japan/ Vivian Mather

IFYE program

Illinois had one outbound IFYE, Joe Ahrends, went to Germany for three months.

2017 Thank you notes:

Dear Illinois IFYE Association

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to my summer language exchange! I really appreciate your help, and I am very excited to represent our country and our club this summer. Thanks again.

Hannah Davis

To The Illinois IFYE

Thank you all very much for your donation to my trip to Finland! Your help is making my hope of traveling abroad a reality and without you – all – it wouldn't be possible. Thank you for this opportunity!!!

Olivia Runne

Dear IL IFYE

Thank you for your financial contribution for my future. Your kindness is the reason I am able to experience my dream of traveling and learning about other cultures. Understand that your generosity is greatly appreciated; I thank God for you, and what you have invested in my future. Thank you. Sincerely,
Reece Haney

Greetings Members

I realize it is customary for the recipient of your grants/donations to send you a "thank you" note; however, in this case, I am sending it on behalf of all the parents whose children were able to experience THE trip of a lifetime, thanks to your generosity and support.

So from the entire Kastor family of Oswego, IL –THANK YOU!! Jack will NEVER forget his time in Japan this summer!! All the best,
Andrea Kastor (Brian Kastor)

Dear IL IFYE

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$100 for all the outbound travelers. I will be going to Japan for 2 months and I'm so excited to learn the culture and the language. Sincerely,
Caroline Ahrends

From a 2017 Host Family

Can a family raising three young children in the middle of the US be globally-minded? With the help of IFYE, the answer is a resounding "yes"! Our family lived in Asia for the last five years and one of the goals for our family upon returning to the US was to keep our children connected to the global community. We were excited when we learned about the need for host families for the IFYE program. Poppy, a young woman from Wales, joined our family for a month. We enjoyed showing her what a suburban family summer is like. There were trips to the library (and discussions about famous Welsh authors), the pool, local museums, walks around the neighborhood, and family vacations. We spent a weekend visiting our rural hometown for a 4th of July celebration straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting. Poppy was dressed for the holiday appropriately in a USA t-shirt from Target, which is an important part of the suburban family experience. We cooked together and treated Poppy to the midwestern delicacy of Tater Tot Casserole. We learned together...did you know that you can toast sweet potatoes in the toaster?! And, we laughed together, which helped Poppy survive her first Illinois "Heat Advisory!" Our family looks forward to staying in contact with our "Welsh daughter."

Kara McClintock, Host Family, 2017

2017 Inbounds Left September 5th

IL IFYE Association sponsored Poppy Lewis, from Wales, and Matthias Steiner, from Austria. They arrived in Illinois on June 19th, spending their first seven days at Sue Herren's house. The day after their arrival was Matthias's birthday. Poppy and Sue sang 'Happy Birthday' at breakfast with a candle in his roll. They were troupers, participating in morning water aerobics in the neighborhood pool. The ladies enjoyed meeting them and are still asking about their wellbeing. They toured the St. Louis Zoo where they got to pet the manta rays. They had lunch on the hill at Forest Park and viewed the Monet at the St. Louis Art Museum. They rode to the top of the Arch, toured Anheuser-Busch, and visited Ball Park Village. Their last evening, they went to an outdoor concert at Eckert's and met up with Dale and Crystal Yonker.

At the crack of dawn on June 25th, Matthias caught Amtrak to Chicago and then a train out to Elgin to

spend his first three weeks at the home of Beth and Bob **Gehrke's** home, in Elgin, IL where they farm about 2000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. He arrived during hay baling season. On July 18th, Matthias went to the home of Terry and Lloyd **Goebbert** in Hampshire, IL for the next four weeks of his stay. They own and operate Goebbert's Farm and Garden Center in South Barrington. In July, the store becomes a fresh produce stand with home grown vegetables and fruit. He arrived in time to harvest fresh veggies and fruits. On August 13th, Matthias went to Monee, IL to spend his final three with Vivian and Jay **Mather** (and their daughter and two sons) who live on a "hobby" farm of five acres with cows, chickens and dogs.

Poppy was driven to Springfield on June 25th to meet her first family and spend the afternoon at the Lincoln museum. She spent her first four weeks with Kara and Jamie **McClintock** (and their three daughters) to experience life in the rural town of Washington, IL. The McClintock's had recently returned from living in China for five year. On July 23rd, Poppy headed to the dairy farm of Annie and Ken

Schwoerer (and their four daughters and a son) in Bloomington, IL for four weeks. The farm also has about 120 egg laying chickens and 320 acres of grain. On August 20th, Poppy head up to the **Goebbert's** farm for two weeks.

Matthias left for home on September 1st from Chicago. Poppy returned to Sue Herren's home on September 3rd. Poppy met Hope Heslop and her friend Meiko from Japan on Labor day. Poppy returned home September 5th.

Tax exempt giving to IL IFYE Association Fund

On March 28, 2017, the **Illinois IFYE Association Fund** went live! Contributions to our fund can now be made by anyone via the Internet web-page for 4-H giving on-line through the University of Illinois 4-H Foundation. Funds will be used in accordance with the Illinois IFYE (formerly known as International Farm Youth Exchange) Association's goal to further "Peace Through Understanding", the IFYE motto.

If you would like to contribute to the Illinois IFYE Association Fund, it can be found at <http://4hfoundation.illinois.edu/content/illinois-ifye-association-hugh-wetzel-travel-award>

European IFYE Conferences

The 2017 European IFYE Conference was held at Foundation Le Camp Vaumarcus, Switzerland overlooking Lake Neuchatel July 15-22. Those from Illinois attending were: Dale & Crystal Yonker; Anita & Eff Embree; Helen Obernagel and Larry Wachtel. Mary K. Munson, IL IFYE Member from Kansas also attended.

The 60th European IFYE Conference will be held July 21-28, 2018 at Greenmount College, Northern Ireland which is about 20 miles from Belfast. More information will be available soon on the European IFYE Alumni Web page.

11th World IFYE Conference



IL IFYE News

11th World IFYE
Conference will be
September 8-16, 2018 in
North America. You will

cruise from Vancouver, British Columbia to Seward Alaska via Holland American Line ms Noordam. The conference begins with optional event at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel on September 8, 2018. This will include 50th Anniversary for 1968 IFYE's and a Meet and Greet for all IFYE's prior to departure on September 9th, 2018. Registration is now open, just go to the IFYE web site: www.ifyeusa.org and check "News & Conferences".

Jo Ann Knuppel Block, 78, of Canton IL passed away on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at her residence. Jo Ann was an IFYE to New Zealand in 1966. The Funeral was Thursday, May 11, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Canton. Memorials may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church or Fulton County 4-H.

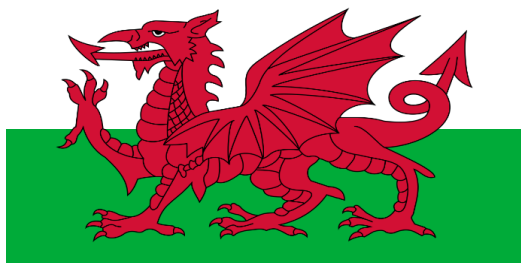
Email Address, Please!

If you have an email address and have not sent it to me, please do so. This is an easy way to keep you informed between newsletters and of other IFYE News. IL IFYE does not sell or share your email address with other organizations. Email me at: wachtell1945@gmail.com. Thanks in advance.

IL IFYE Dues

Annual dues for the IL IFYE Association are \$7.50 per calendar year. Your 2018 annual dues may be paid anytime now. Any new member who pays dues now will be credited toward the 2018 calendar year. Lifetime dues are \$90.00 and that is also an option. Membership is open to anyone interested in International exchange programs. This includes, but not limited to, those that are participants, those that serve as host for exchangees, those that do volunteer work for International Programs, and those that are friends of the IFYE Program.

Please mail your annual dues of \$7.50 (or lifetime dues of \$90.00) to: Larry L. Wachtel; 15048 N. Haarmann Avenue; Effingham IL 62401. Please include your name, address, phone and email address. Also include your connection to the IFYE Program. (Friend, Participant, Host Family etc.)



Poppy Lewis-IFYE From Wales

I want to thank Illinois IFYE association for enabling me to undergo my trip to the states this summer to spend time with a variety of host families within the Illinois area.

I came to Illinois without any expectations of what I thought the trip would consist of and what I would be doing when I got here. I very much enjoyed my trip in its entirety and felt that my 3 host families had great differences meaning I could have three completely unique experiences during my time here.

I went from living with a family of three young children and a mum and dad in a nice little town, to an old-style family farm out in the country, and then to an agri tourist business out in the suburbs of Barrington with a quick train journey to the city.

Throughout my stay, I can honestly say I couldn't have asked for 3 any nicer and kinder families, who were always willing to help to make me feel welcome and happy, and fulfill anything that I wanted to do while I was here. I was able to learn new things about the country and about myself at every place that I went to and for that I was truly grateful.

I managed to have a great experience on the 4th of July with a fun day at the parade and shown a true family celebration, with fireworks in the night time! Each family made sure that I tried all the different foods that would appear to be in America and not in the UK - E.G, smores, tator tots, biscuits and gravy, and the list goes on. I experienced a true American family farm and learned all about the different crops that are grown here, as well as having the opportunity to visit other dairy farms near the area that were doing things slightly differently. I saw firsthand the great effort that goes into growing, keeping and selling vegetables here in the states and how it compares to the way we do it at home. And of course, seeing an agri tourist business in motion gave me a great opportunity to compare it to what I have within my family business and bring ideas home with me.

While I thoroughly enjoyed living with the families in their everyday life and doing what they do, it was great to be able to go on day trips, whether this would be to visit the local town, go to the county fair or visit the big city. Overall it is impossible to summarize my trip in such a small amount of words as I did get to do so much that developed me as a person and that I will never forget. But I can definitely say it was an amazing 3 months that I wouldn't change and I am very grateful for everyone who helped to make the experience so special.

The home stay experience, By Sue Herren

The home stay experience, as we all know, is unique and the underpinning hallmark of "peace through understanding". This past August I had the great fortune to return to Japan and stay with both of my "host" families, instead of being a tourist. Forty-two years ago, I was in the first delegation from Illinois to Japan staying with my first host family (LABO). Thirty-nine years ago, I started a 'Year in Japan' program with a second host family. Host dad #2, had a stroke a year ago, so it became increasingly important to me to spend some quality time with all four of my host parents.

I was anxious about returning because I wanted to stay in their homes this time, not a hotel, but understood the great favor I was asking, especially as they are all in their 80s. The first couple days after I arrived were really tough. The language barrier... Fitting into their daily routine; making meals, laundry, cleaning house, daily grocery shopping... Eating all the food my host mom prepared and put in front of me... Then there was the eventual boredom that comes from a change in routine and not knowing what to do in with "down time" in someone else's home.... and, the eventual need for some alone time.

As I was moving through all these experiences (again as an adult), I pondered how this experience could help me improve my commitment to the current inbound/outbound IFYE program. I feel better equipped to discuss the eventual ebb and flow of being a host family. I re-experienced cultural differences. For example: Before I left, I stressed over what clothes to pack. I wanted to make sure I took "appropriate" attire. I laugh, the look on my mother's face (#2), when she first saw me let me know I had failed! It became a daily joke, as I tweaked the wardrobe and sought approval - before I left the house so as to not be an embarrassment. Women my age don't wear shorts. They don't wear sleeveless tops. Even if it is 98 degrees and 98% humidity. (smile).

I am blessed to have had my first IFYE experience. It sent me on a path unknown.... It has brought me joy and understanding throughout my whole life. This trip, I saw four parents, one sister, two brothers, two sisters-in-law three nieces and one nephew. I navigated the trains alone and rekindled a desire to study the language. I have an invitation back for the 2020 Olympics, but would love to return next year. I have promises to have the nieces and nephew sent to me over the next five years. Once again, I was able to have the “home stay” experience, with both my families and I am recommitted to a “knowing” of why IFYE promotes the “home stay” program.



Ways to Donate to IL IFYE Assoc. (tax-exempt) Fund.

Meg Cline, Vice President for Gift Planning and Trust Services, University of Illinois Foundation presented “Ideas for Maximizing Your Charitable Gifts” at the IL IFYE Spring meeting March 4, 2017. She shared various ways of charitable giving for our membership to support our tax-exempt fund.

Meg shared four ways to give:

Bequests (gifts received through a will, trust, or beneficiary designation) are vital for the continued financial support of IFYE. She explained there are few gift requirements for a bequest. If you wish to make a bequest, the language should read as follows to ensure the gift is administered appropriately: *“I give, leave, bequeath (e.g. % of estate, specific dollar amount, residual value) to the University of Illinois Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation located in Urbana, Illinois, to be contributed to the Illinois IFYE Association Fund”.*

Beneficiary designation, or a paid on death (POD)/Transfer on Death (TOD) designation. Bank Accounts, IRA’s, savings bonds, life insurance, donor advised funds, brokerage accounts, and mutual funds all have the ability to assign a beneficiary designation. If you would wish to assign some funds to our fund as a beneficiary the following language is needed:

*University of Illinois Foundation, Tax ID 37-6006007, 1305 W. Greet Street #214, Urbana, IL 61801
FBO: Illinois IFYE Association Fund.*

Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs). This can be a great tool to increase income on low yielding investments (CDs, short-term bonds, etc.) where you do not need to invade principal and you wish to leave assets to fulfill charitable obligations. The minimum age is 60 and the minimum contribution is \$10,000. Interest is paid as a quarterly annuity for the lifetime of the donor and up to one additional beneficiary. Upon the income beneficiaries’ death, the remaining proceeds pass to the University of Illinois Foundation to benefit IFYE.

Charitable IRA Rollover, after you have attained the age of 70 ½, the tax law permits you to make a direct transfer up to \$100,000 annually to a qualified charity. The direct transfer has two main benefits: 1) Any funds transferred to a charity will count towards or cover your required minimum distribution (RMD) for that tax year: and 2) Distributions will not be added to your taxable income. You will not

receive a charitable deduction, but being excluded from income is more advantageous than a deduction. The funds must come directly from the IRA accounts with the check written to: *the University of Illinois Foundation FBO Illinois IFYE Association Fund*.

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to learn more on any one or more of these alternatives at no obligation. Her contact information is mcline@uif.uillinois.edu or (217) 244-1898.



Happiness is Being a Host Family

As an IFYE many years ago, I had the opportunity to learn about and fall in love with another culture and country. The most important part of my exchange was living with host families and experiencing their day-to-day lives. Being an IFYE host family also gives this chance to learn about another culture, and to share our own to someone from another land. This summer my family and I got to share our way of life with Matthias Steiner from Austria. Matthias began learning about life on our farm right away, as we were baling hay when he arrived. He put on his work clothes, took a pair of gloves, and started mowing hay in the barn. There's always plenty of things to do on the farm and in the garden, and Matthias was always willing to help and to try new things. Another enjoyable part of having an IFYE is showing them around the area. Seeing Chicago through the eyes of someone who's never been there is always fun. Matthias is the same age as my children, Carolyn and Wayne, so he spent time hanging out with them and their friends, which included a canoeing trip in Wisconsin - I hear it was an adventure!

The 3 weeks of his stay went by much too quickly and it was hard to say good bye and to pass him on to his next host family - friends of ours who hosted for the first time and enjoyed the experience! Now we are talking about when we can go to Austria so Matthias can show us where he lives.

Have you hosted an IFYE? If yes, maybe it's time to do it again; if no, give it a try! It's fun and a great way to make new friends around the world . Peace Through Understanding.

On Columbus Day,
head straight for a great time!



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IFYE Fall Meeting Registration

Name (s) _____

I/We will attend the luncheon. _____ X \$20.00 = \$_____ Amount enclosed.
(Make checks payable to: IL IFYE Association) Due: Sept. 28, 2017

I/We want to attend the group evening meal in the resort area. No. participating: _____

Mail to: Larry L. Wachtel; 10548 N. Haarmann Avenue; Effingham IL 62401