



# IFYE NEWS

The Official Publication  
of the  
IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

September 2014



Dear Fellow IFYEs,

As September draws to a close, the evolution of the IFYE Program continues. In August, Peter Filocamo, the IFYE Executive Director, submitted his resignation and it was accepted. The IFYE Board has chosen to move forward by employing one of our own as Director of Development. Art Deisher, 1971 IFYE to the United Kingdom, will serve in this new position. With the acceptance of this new

position, Art has decided to take a leave of absence from the IFYE Board of Directors. His position of Associate Treasurer will now be held by Mike Coates. The Associate Treasurer receives and deposits all income for the IFYE Association. *Please send all membership payments and donations to Mike Coates at 4193 Riverview Rd., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52411-7943. You may reach him by phone at 1-319-560-8400. We welcome both of these gentlemen to their new positions and thank them in advance for their dedication to IFYE.*

The new Director of Development is charged with membership development and fundraising. The goal is to explore gifting opportunities with old friends as well as new while building cash reserves to sustain the organization through the next couple of years. The next step will be to provide a solid financial base for IFYE to operate in the future. This includes creating a multi-million dollar reserve from which dividends can be used to fund the program and insure the IFYE Program for generations to come.

Make plans now to attend the National IFYE Conference in Atlanta from June 18-21, 2015!!! One of the voids that the resignation of the Executive Director created was oversight and coordination of the 2015 IFYE Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. However, in true IFYE form, several IFYEs have stepped forward to assist in this project. Jim Morgan from Maine and Shelbie Smith from Kansas are two professional event planners who will be doing the overall planning for the event. Bob Ellis and Ken Jones from the Atlanta area will be our "hosts" in the Great State of Georgia. Alan Lambert, National Program Director will take the lead in planning the Orientation for both inbounds and outbounds in conjunction with the National IFYE Conference. This conference team will, no doubt, conduct a successful conference in 2015.

Others who might like to join the conference team can email me through the IFYE website.

Speaking of the IFYE Website, the new website is up and running. Thanks to Keith Ferris for his many hours, days and nights of work to make this transition. You can now make your donations, pay membership, register for IFYE Conference (well, you soon will be able to do that), look up other IFYEs, etc., all through the new website. The site contains areas, called portals, that are only accessible by members. Life and Annual paid members can see and communicate about IFYE business confidentially. I would be remiss if I didn't say that this is the initial new website. In the coming months there will be more pictures, color and excitement on the website - it is still undergoing a major facelift. Keep checking it out!! The website is: <http://ifyeusa.org>. There will be articles from recently returned IFYEs, news about new State IFYE Coordinators and new State IFYE Associations being formed—or restarted!!

*Note: Keith indicates that 2015 conference registration is planned to be available online by Jan 1, 2015.*

There are lots of exciting things happening in IFYE!! In 2014, along with existing participating states, Indiana was able to send and receive IFYEs for the first time in years. Additionally, Ohio received and Illinois sent participants this year. More states will be joining them in the near future. We are growing and selecting high-quality applicants that have made this program positively stand out over the years. Please continue to check out the website, as well as to read the IFYE Bulletins and IFYE Newsletters. You may provide input to the Board through the website or call any Board Member directly. We want to hear from you, gather your ideas and suggestions while continuing to work with you to make IFYE even better.

Soon, the 2015 crop of IFYEs will be submitting their applications, interviewing, and completing the selection process. Please consider volunteering in your state to participate. It is a great way to connect with old friends and make new ones. These new IFYEs bring forth great enthusiasm, experiences, and excitement. The delegates at the 2014 Conference were extremely impressed with the Anniversary stories from those IFYEs of 1964 and 1963. Little did they know that they were off to make some of those same type of memories and experiences in other parts of the world. This is the gift we are giving to future generations--we are now paying it forward. That's what it's all about.

Sincerely,  
Betty Jo Smith-Roberts, President  
IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

## IFYE Has a New Website

Keith Ferris, Vice President

The IFYE Association Board is excited about the new look of our website and we encourage you to visit the site often to keep up-to-date on IFYE information. The address to get on the site is the same as before <http://ifyeusa.org>.

The new interim website was activated August 28, 2014. We have begun work on the design of the custom website. This will give the website a different look than it has today.

If you are a life member or have paid your 2014 membership, you can access the "Paid Member" area of the website. If you have an email address registered with IFYE, you should have received an email on August 28, 2014 from IFYE giving you information on how to access the "Paid Member" area of the website. *Email addresses that bounced are in the process of being corrected. Upon confirmation of corrected address, the individual will receive the missed email.*

If you are a life member or have paid your 2014 membership and need sign-in information to access the "Paid Member" area of the website, please

- go to the IFYE website, <http://ifyeusa.org>
- click on "About Us" in the top bar,
- then click on "Contact Us" and send us a message.

We will respond to you by email with your personal sign-in information.

The "Paid Member" area gives you one-stop access to IFYE Association information such as discounts for annual conferences, Board Bulletins, Association Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures. You can also update your personal information to include change of address, phone number, and email address. This will assist the Association in keeping your information in the IFYE database current and accurate.

If you want to become a paid member, please pay your 2014, 2015, or your life membership (\*) ... go to "Membership" in the website and fill in the appropriate information. By paying your 2014 membership, you will have current access to the "Paid Member" area.

**(\*) NOTE: The Associations Board has voted:**

**Individual memberships shall be \$30.00 per year beginning January 1, 2015. Couples' memberships and Lifetime memberships will not continue to be offered after December 31, 2014. Please see statement on page 3 from Association April/May 2014 Board Bulletin.**

The website could also use some great IFYE photos. Please send any you may wish to share to Keith Ferris, [kferris@ifyeusa.org](mailto:kferris@ifyeusa.org) in JPEG format.

<b><i>With your help, we will continue to provide international exchange programs, promote cross-cultural education &amp; global awareness</i></b>	
Yes, I want to support the IFYE Association and its mission of "Peace Through Understanding".	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Single - \$25
	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Couple - \$40
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____	<b>DONATE NOW! HELP US SEND MORE YOUTH ON A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!</b>
I have enclosed my check: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Please charge my credit card: <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover	
NAME: _____	EMAIL: _____
SPOUSE: _____	EMAIL: _____
ADDRESS: _____	
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____	
CARD NUMBER: _____ EXP. DATE: _____ / _____ Security Code: _____	
SIGNATURE: _____ PHONE: ( _____ ) _____	
<b>Please pay online OR mail form/payment to: Michael Coates; 4193 Riverview Rd, Cedar Rapids, IA 52411-7943</b>	

## We're Connected ... Are You?

Art Deisher, Director of Development

Apologies to the artist, but you may remember the song lyrics "The head-bone is connected to the neck-bone, the neck-bone is connected to the backbone, the backbone is connected to the hipbone, the hipbone is connected to the thighbone.....", and on and on the song goes.

So it goes with IFYE. We are connected. All the parts of IFYE are interconnected to each other in appropriate ways to make the body of IFYE function.

Think about the components of IFYE: Inbound IFYE's, Outbound IFYE's, Host Families, State IFYE Coordinators, State IFYE Contact Persons, National Program Director, IFYE Alumni and a legion of volunteers.

And think about the structure components that support all those people groups: National IFYE Association, State IFYE Associations, Finance, and Program exchanges to name a few.

So, let me ask you: Which of the IFYE components and the structural components are most important? Each has its specific place and function. One body part can be lost or weak but not without an expense or influencing the success or function of the others.

Over the last 5 years, your IFYE Association Board has made numerous changes to improve the IFYE Program. **Our theory is that, in order to raise financial support, one must be worthy of the right to ask for money.** This has required some changes but, the results to date have supported the efforts of the Board:

1. Participation, measured as paid members, is at an all-time high of **437** annual and **1135** living lifetime members.
2. National orientation has been enhanced and coordinated with National IFYE Conference.
3. Organizational structure has been streamlined to aid in gaining corporate and foundation funding sources.
4. Over \$69,000 was invested in 12 outbound and 38 inbound IFYE exchanges in 2014.
5. Two additional states have restarted IFYE Associations and other states are considering doing so.
6. The National Program Director along with the National IFYE Association is actively coordinating states into a National Program with the goal of increasing outbound numbers in 2015.

### But our challenges are many:

With the strengthening of the IFYE program, some slippage in numbers of outbound participation has occurred as the quality-bar for selection is raised. Stronger criteria in 2015 will assist us

in advancing promotion of the uniqueness of IFYE and its importance to advancing world peace. Doing things right is not always the easiest way, but it produces a credible product with sustaining value.

Improving the program has meant monetary assets have been spent to show what can be done. IT DID WORK. But, now the financial coffers need to be restocked. The financial needs for 2015 include the following as estimates:

- Program exchanges: \$85,000
- Expand National Program director to full time: \$60,000 (\$30,000 increase)
- Development Director \$30,000 (Additional compensation to be paid IF and only if revenue is generated)
- Operational expenses: \$100,000
- Reestablish professional administrative positions: \$100,000.

A detailed 2015 budget is available upon request for IFYE members and potential donors. Please contact Finance Committee Chairperson, Keith Ferris ([FERRISKD@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:FERRISKD@HOTMAIL.COM) or tel: 269-948-0496). Approximately 68% of every donated dollar can be attributed to the IFYE exchange. (While we strive in the future to get this percentage to 90% or more, our current position is not perceived as negative in the funding world for organizations in our position.)

For any organization to function at its best capacity and efficiency, all the parts must do their appropriate share. Right now, the financial arm of IFYE needs the most attention. In the near future, you will be approached with the opportunity to participate to the financial part of the IFYE body of work. It is hoped you will respond positively as IFYE strives to regain its position as the premier cultural exchange program for young adults.

### REMINDER

**From: April/May 2014 Board Bulletin sent to those with email and receiving Board Bulletins**

*Membership*

*Individual memberships shall be \$30.00 per year beginning January 1, 2015.*

*Couples' memberships and Lifetime memberships will not continue to be offered after December 31, 2014.*

## IFYE ASSOCIATION BOARD of DIRECTORS (2014)

### Association Board Officers:

**President:** Betty Jo Smith-Roberts

**Vice President:** Keith Ferris

**Treasurer:** Norma Wu

**Associate Treasurer:** Mike Coates

**Corresponding Secretary:** John Wells

**Recording Secretary:** Connie Fukudome

**Immediate Past President:** Dick Wagner

### Association Board Members:

Gary Heusel

Marj Loyd

Dottie Nelson

Marla Peterson

Lyn Scott

Betty Stephenson

Elaine Watson

Mildred Weidemann

Dale Yonker

## 2014 National IFYE Orientation Combined with National IFYE Conference

Under the capable leadership of Hope (Jorns) Heslop (YDP – IL to Thailand 1981), the Orientation Teaching Team started planning for this year’s event in September 2013. Illinois IFYEs agreed to coordinate and conduct the Inbound (IB)/Outbound (OB) Orientation although held in Sparks, NV in conjunction with the 2014 USA National Conference. This included beginning prior to conference and extending into conference – as well as mixing with alumni, SPIFYEs (Spouses of IFYEs), and other conference attendees. (\*)

Orientation included workshops/seminars on:

- photography and what type of pictures to take,
- overview of all things cross-cultural,
- conquering challenging scenarios
- learning the IFYE international song: “Song of Peace”,
- how to communicate if you do not understand the language,
- ways to notice what the culture of the country or host family might be,
- Get-acquainted mixer/games, etc.

The general theme of these sessions was to take everything in stride and to ask questions in order to learn how best to fit into your host country. The IB/OB really bonded quickly including teaching each other and the committee games from their countries.

Matti Kuykendall (*Orientation Teaching Team*) indicated that, having a couple of days of get-to-know-you games, the inbound and outbound IFYEs were well equipped to tackle the Land of Oz simulation together. The simulation had full participation from the teaching team as they played the role of citizens of Oz, with



*2014 inbound/outbound IFYEs representing 14 countries and Orientation Team at Victoria Square - Sparks, NV (June 2014)*

unique customs unlike any culture today. The IB/OBs were given the task of learning the customs of Oz well enough where they could stay in Oz, much like a new IFYE does upon arrival in their host country.

The 2014 IFYEs also had time to work on their skits, information about their countries, dances, stories, songs, etc. ... which they presented to the other conference attendees at various meals and other scheduled events. ~ “What a delightful group of young people”, says Crystal Yonker!

During the final banquet, the IFYEs from the 1963 and 1964 year group were asked to tell something about their IFYE experience from 50 or 51 years ago. The IB/OB really enjoyed/appreciated/were interested in those comments

Committee members during the year included: Hope Heslop and Crystal Yonker (Co-Chairs), Bev Hornickel, Toni Frank, Jonna Burck, Larry Wachtel, and Paul Rice all of IL, Matti Kuykendall and Karla Funk (KS), and Liz Carlson (NE). Kim Reaman and Ginny Warner (Conference Co-Chairs), and Alan Lambert (National Program Director) provided support, information and coordination. Anna Thornton (WY) joined in to help during the week’s events for orientation.

*Many thanks for the work of the Orientation Teaching Team for conducting this program on "foreign soil"! A special thanks to Larry Wachtel for retrieving lost luggage the next day from the airport. Thanks, also, to the 2014 IFYEs for such overall participation in all events.*

(\*) *NOTE: This combination of conference and orientation was at the request of the 2012 IFYE Assn Board to allow for more participation / knowledge of current year’s participants of Conference attendees as well as to allow the 2014 IFYEs to learn about / from IFYE alumni.)*



*Hope Heslop (l) working with Ming-Yi Wang (Taiwan to SD)*



*L to R: Ross Mair (Scotland to KS) and Jusso Kormulainen (Finland to OH) during orientation session*



*Karla Funk leading a session*

**ATTENDING NATIONAL ORIENTATION (June 18-22, 2014)**

<b>MALES</b>	<b>Origin</b>	<b>Host State/Country</b>	<b>Length of Stay</b>
Lukas Hediger	Switzerland	AK	3 months
Adam Seymour	CO	UK / Switzerland	6 months
Markus Pettinen	Finland	CO / MI	6 months
Rodger Milligan	N. Ireland	CO	3 weeks
David Alleman	Switzerland	CO / IN	3 months
Robert McBride	Scotland	CO	6 weeks
Trey Mallory	ID	Taiwan / Thailand	6 months
Michele Wyler	Switzerland	KS	3 months
Max Steig	Germany	KS	3 months
Ross Mair	Scotland	KS	6 weeks
Lukas Schiefenmair	Austria	KS	6 weeks
Dominique Andrey	Switzerland	MI	3 months
Thomas Aeschbacher	Switzerland	MT	3 months
Robert Brown	N. Ireland	MT	3 months
Gareth Harries	Wales	MT	8 ½ weeks
Ming-Yi Wang	Taiwan	SD	2 months
Jon Hochuli	Switzerland	ID	3 months
Juuso Matias Komulainen	Finland	OH	3 months

**FEMALES**

Henna-Riikka Korhonen	Finland	AK	3 months
Kara Harders	CO	Finland / Germany	6 months
Mina Frames	Norway	CO	3 months
Rhianne Powell	Wales	CO	2 weeks
Gwawr Thomas	Wales	CO	2 weeks
Bryony Berry	Devon Co.(UK)	CO	2 months
Emma Englin	Sweden	CO / OH	6 months
Agnes Baumschlager	Austria	CO	6 weeks
Petra Nilsson	Sweden	KS	2 months
I-Ju Huang	Taiwan	MT	2 months
Frida Breen	Norway	MT	6 weeks
Kim Taylor	Scotland	MT	2 months
Monika Fries	Switzerland	NE	3 months
Jessica Braxton	VA	Finland	3 months
Eliza Seibert	VA	Sweden	6 months
Elisa Annika Kellelaki	Finland	VA	2 months
Piaa Evelina Hettinen	Finland	VA	2 months
Han-Yu Yen	Taiwan	KS	3 months
Meng-Ying Tsai	Taiwan	CO	2 months
Weng-Yi Chang	Taiwan	ID	2 months
Elizabeth Roller	IN	Finland / Austria	6 months
Natasha Fetzner	IL	Austria / Estonia	6 months
Cornelia Bruckner	Austria	MT	3 weeks
Minyoung Kim	S. Korea	WY	2 months

**LEFT USA BEFORE ORIENTATION DATES**

Monica Mitchell	MT	UK / Greece	6 months
Amber Bucknell	ID	UK	2 months

**DUE TO LATER ARRIVAL, DIDN'T ATTEND ORIENTATION**

Caren von Kieckenbusch	Germany	MT / CO	6 months
Evangelina Topouzi	Greece	CO	6 weeks
Aivi Ulp	Estonia	CT	2 months
Triantafyllos Anestidis	Greece	KS	5 weeks
Carys Vaughn (F)	Wales	KS	5 weeks
Teresa Baumgartner	Austria	MT	5 ½ weeks
Tanja Weiss	Austria	MT	5 ½ weeks
Hubertus Kleuter	Germany	SD	2 ½ months
Anna Saroglou	Greece	VA	7 weeks
Lisa Winkler	Austria	VA	6 weeks
Julia Potzlberger	Austria	VA	2 months

*One of my favorite quotes by Dr. Seuss is "sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."*

*Amber Bucknell  
2014 (ID to UK)*

*I only hope that in the future I will be able to host an exchangee, and give them just as good of a time as my host families did for me. I had several great moments that turned into priceless memories, and I will cherish them forever!*



*Jessica Braxton (VA to Finland) - at National IFYE Conference Opening Ceremony during the "Parade of Country Flags"*



*Trey Mallory (Center Back) with Taiwanese friends. He currently is in Thailand on the second half of his IFYE program.*

## My Journey in Alaska

Henna Korhonen (Finland to Alaska)

My journey in Alaska has been amazing and full of surprises. Surprises have come from gorgeous nature, amazing people, and opportunities I have had.

I didn't have any expectations about what the IFYE program was except that it was a cultural exchange which involved living with host families. I have lived with four different host families and every time it has been nice to meet all new people and be part of their family. Being a part of a different culture is eye-opening and every day I learned something new. Three of my families have farms and I have helped them with planting, fertilizing, picking, and selling. I have learned so much about peonies and vegetable farming.

I'm definitely a city girl and I've lived always in downtown areas so farming has been a new thing for me. But, I'm positive and motivated!



My 21st birthday - August 12 - with Henna seated in center. L to R: Wayne and Patricia Floyd, Katie Beck, Ray and Sue Tauriainen.

I have also experienced 4-H in different ways. I had an opportunity to go 4-H camp with amazing kids and youth. Everyone got so excited about Finnish culture that I decided to teach them how to bake traditional Finnish desserts in their 4-H club. One camper said that baking traditional Finnish desserts was so much fun since they got to mix ingredients with their hands.

I visited the Eureka Homestead 4-H. The kids were so excited to meet me and learn things I wanted to teach them about Finland. I taught them games and gave some of them traditional Finnish candy. Others received photos and we baked cinnamon buns together. I don't think I have ever used such fresh eggs and goat's milk when I baked before. I love baking so it has been natural to bake with host families, too.

I'm glad that my families have had time to take me to see what Alaska has to offer. While staying in the Fairbanks region, we made a trip to Denali National Park and we saw all kind

of animals like caribou, bears, moose, and Dall sheep. The day was clear so we got to see Mt. McKinley. I have taken a bath at Manley Hot Springs while watching grapes hanging from the roof. See more about Dall Sheep at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=sheephunting.main>



Moose on the road to Kenai River

After leaving Fairbanks, I traveled down to the Kenai Peninsula region. I had the pleasure of experiencing a traditional American wedding, several birthday parties, and a boat float trip in the Kenai River.

In addition, I was a volunteer judge at the Kenai Peninsula Fair in Ninilchik and I was able to watch the 4-Hers auction off their animals at the Junior Market Livestock (JML) Auction.

I like being in a different culture and using English. All kind of new habits bring a smile to my face. In Finland, we usually don't compliment total strangers' clothes or hair so it was very nice to hear compliments on my dress by total strangers.

*The IFYE program has given me so many new experiences and I'm so glad for spending my summer in "The Last Frontier". I could have never imagined how much I would learn about Alaskan culture. Weather isn't always the best but always being around new things and amazing people warms me so much that I will return one day.*



Float trip on Kenai River - Counterclockwise: Wayne Floyd, Henna, Julia and Liam Floyd and Anna Beale.

## Beef Show at the Upper Peninsula State Fair

*Dominique Andrey (Switzerland to Michigan)*

"It's the Fair week, the best week of the year!" - This is what my host family answers me on the question for the plans of the next week.

Right now (*August*), I'm at my second family, the Buechlers, located in Daggett in the Upper Peninsula. On their farm, they grow mainly Christmas trees but have some horses and chickens.

My host sister Hannah told me a lot about the Fair and how she showed animals during her time as a 4-H. For me, this was new. In Switzerland, we don't have anything similar so I was really excited about this experience. On the way to the UP State Fair in Escanaba, Hannah explained everything about the difference classes, the judge,



*Dominique with host sister Hannah eating ice cream*

ing, and criteria for winning a prize. As Hannah said, there are two different shows: showmanship and market.

Before the show started, we went to the beef barn where we met Josh and Beau. About a week ago, these two guys showed me their beef farm and invited me to see them at the Fair. Right now they were busy preparing their beef for the show: From washing over, brushing the hair, even using black painting spray ... they apply every trick for the perfect look of their animals. "But, the hardest part was to practice with my steer," Josh told me. "I walked miles with him for gaining him muscles and preparing for showmanship. But, I loved it!"

At the showing, I was impressed by seeing all the kids with their steers. They were proud to show off. Some of them appeared to be well prepared and being one team with their animals; with others, you could think that the steer was leading the kid. But all seemed to have fun. When Josh and Beau entered the arena, I was really excited on how they were doing. They slowly walked around, their view always on the judge trying to make no mistake.

At the presentation of the results Beau got the second place in his class and Josh the fourth place. We all went home with a smile on our faces, the 4-H kids because of their prizes and me because of this new great IFYE experience at the Fair.

## My IFYE Exchange in Virginia

*Piia Hentinnen (Finland to Virginia)*

My one big dream has been to live in USA and see that country ... and ... My other big dream came true in this trip. I have always wanted to help other people and do charity work. I had the honor to help R & M Stables in Appalachian Teen Challenge horse show in Bluefield City Park July 12-13, 2014. Competition collected money for Appalachian Teen Challenge program for people between 12-35 having overcome life-controlling problems (<http://teenchallengecares.org/>). It felt so good to be one weekend there and I also went to the show with "Rhapsody in Blue". I definitely will be back next year in this show.

Home is always home in Finland but I left my heart in USA and I will be back.



*Adrienne (left) teaching Piia (R) how to drive a cart!*

## The IFYE Exchange Program:

*Alumni needed to help recruit applicants 19 years and older!*

So -- Would you rather take a bite of a triple-fudge dark chocolate frosted brownie with white chocolate shavings, or merely read the recipe? Or -- Would you rather dive into the clearest, coolest waters on a hot summer day, or just read a book about swimming?

As IFYEs, you took the action steps above. We now need you to take action steps once again. As the world becomes a more global community, the need for individuals to develop an awareness and appreciation for other cultures is more important now than ever.

As IFYEs, you believe that involvement in the program has made a positive impact on your lives. You describe your experiences as "life changing" and "a growth experience". Additionally, you have positively affected others. You believe your family, friends, and community are more aware of global events as a result of your participation.

Since you are one of those IFYE alumni who had a life-changing experience and believe that "Peace through Understanding" is still relevant, please help us recruit applicants 19 years of age or older.

Please distribute IFYE brochures or other materials (provided by IFYE National Program Director, Alan Lambert, [alanelambert@gmail.com](mailto:alanelambert@gmail.com)) at civic clubs, 4-H clubs, collegiate 4-H, FFA clubs, student unions of colleges and universities, county or state fairs, etc. in your area.

Alan can provide marketing articles / press releases for your use with appropriate publications in your area. Please notify Alan of the publications you contact, and then send a copy of the printed article to him. The IFYE Board of Directors thanks you for your help.

## The Chimney Pot

Avril Herdman, 1989 IFYE - Northern Ireland to USA

E-mail: [avrilherdman@outlook.com](mailto:avrilherdman@outlook.com)

Twenty five years ago this year, I was chosen to represent the Young Farmer's Clubs of Ulster in the United States. My exchange trip was to Massachusetts and Wisconsin. Staying in East Falmouth (Massachusetts) with the McCarthy family, I was taken to 'Old Sturbridge Village,' a living museum. This was a village made up of houses taken from all over New England and set up as a village to show the styles and history of the new world.

I walked around the village speaking to the staff members who were dressed in costume from the past. When I went into the minister's house, the lady downstairs, dressed as a housekeeper, was making cookies. Upstairs a man, dressed as the minister, was writing his sermon. I said "Hello," and he started to chat. He asked where I was from and I said "the UK." He said, "No, you're from Ireland," and I said, "Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom." He asked, "Whereabouts?" and I said, "About 20 miles from Belfast, a small village you wouldn't have heard of." "North, south, east or west," he said. I said, "Half way between Lurgan and Lisburn." He then listed the villages between the two towns: Dollingstown, Maralin, Moira, Maghaberry, and the Maze.

After several more questions, he told me that he had been in Lurgan, a town approximately five miles away, during the Second World War and had stayed in Brownlow House. The Americans soldiers while at camp drank powdered milk, and when he and his friend had free time, they walked to Moira to a farm and got a drink of milk and some homemade bread or cake. He said they walked along the train line or if it was really wet, took the train. I asked him where the farm was, and he explained that it was on the right between the train station and the local public house.

It was the farm where I was born and raised. My Grandmother had always talked very favourably about two Yanks coming for milk and homemade bread, and bringing candy. Little did I know that I would have the chance to meet one of them in the future. He talked and talked about my father and his sisters, about bringing them candy. All they would say is "That's not candy, that's chocolate!" During their stay in Northern Ireland, the Americans became regular visitors to my family home, even spending Christmas Day with the family.



*Brownlow House*

He spoke with great fondness of his stay in Brownlow House. He explained that he had stayed in room 3B, sharing the room with five other men. He related how they could open the windows and using some wooden steps, access the roof. Brownlow House is a sandstone

manor house with beautiful barley twist chimney pots. During their stay, the soldiers recorded their names on one of the chimneys.

During September 2004, Brownlow House was open to the public for the European Heritage open weekend. I went to visit. After viewing several rooms and looking at the staircase, we were escorted upstairs to look at the work being done to repair the roof. We were taken through room 3B and up the wooden steps out onto the roof. There high on the chimney pot was a list of names and the top name was the one I was looking for.

The architect showing us around complained that the 'Americans' defaced the chimney pot by carving their names into them. "Look at this one," he said, "completely destroyed." He pointed at the list of names. I said, "I know the top name." I told them the story that my Grandmother had told us, and I explained how I had met the retired soldier on my exchange trip. I explained how the American had told me about the list of names, and how he had recorded his friends movements on the chimney. I asked what they were going to do with the pot when they took it down. "I would love to have it and I'm sure the old soldier would love to have it, too." The architect said, "If he wants it, he can have it, if he arranges for it to be shipped."

After several phone calls, e-mails, faxes and a small payment, the chimney pot was shipped to Pennsylvania. The soldier had had a stroke about eight months before, so I was unable to talk to him. The arrangements were made with his son. Three weeks later I received a phone call from the soldier's son saying that sadly his father had passed away. He said his father received the chimney pot on a Tuesday and had proudly shown it to everyone in the retirement village. He had passed away the following Friday. His son said that he felt like his father had a new lease of life when the chimney pot arrived. Although he had lost his speech with the stroke, his eyes shone when they opened the crate. When he ran his fingers over the names, he cried. Sadly, he wasn't able to tell his family all the stories that he had told me.

*It's such a very small world. The people we meet all leave little dints, and all these dints shape us into the people we become. The friendship between my Grandmother and those two young men changed shape over the years. I am so glad I had the chance to meet him, too.*

July 2014

Shared by Deryl Waldren with permission of Avril Herdman for use in this IFYE NEWS.



## That IFYE Experience is only the Beginning!

Anita Hakkila Smiley (CT to Finland -1956)

A six-month IFYE experience was a pivotal point in my life, although at the time I had no inkling of the profound impact it would have. Even though I grew up in a Finnish household (both parents emigrated from Finland and Finnish was spoken at home), Finland was a distant land, and relatives there were names with no faces. Six months as an IFYE in Finland changed all that and Finland suddenly became a place I wanted to share with anyone who would listen.

Thirty years later, in 1986, I pursued a dream to really share Finland by planning a two-week tour. It didn't take much to convince me that I should do it again—and again—and again. Twenty tours later (my 20<sup>th</sup> Finland tour was from July 11-25, 2014), I've realized that dream of sharing Finland with over 500 travelers from all parts of the United States and a few from Canada. The tours have been unique in that my itineraries vary each year, always including home visits and personal touches reminiscent of the IFYE experience. Relatives and friends in Finland have helped me pursue my dream.

My involvement with "Finnishness" has extended to involvement as a board member of our local Finnish American Heritage Society for over 25 years, including serving as president, and as a board member and national president of the Finlandia Foundation National. As national president for four years, I had the opportunity to travel around the United States and share my PowerPoint presentations of photos taken in Finland. The IFYE experience was a great impetus for getting involved in photography, which continues to be the best way to share the beauty of Finland and its people!

Organizing tours to Finland and sharing experiences have been my way of continuing the IFYE mission of promoting international understanding and at the same time promoting a country that is engrained deep in my heart—**thanks to IFYE.**



Above: 2014 tour group in Raate, Finland

Left: Anita (Hakkila) Smiley



Many thanks to those who supplied photos for this issue of the IFYE NEWS - including Harlen Persinger, Marie Gibson, Diana Jaun, Anita Smiley, Laura Schick, Ruth Trail, 2014 IFYEs, and Deryl Waldren.

## Taiwan - a Gateway to Asia

Trey Mallory (Idaho to Taiwan/Thailand - 2014)

This summer I spent three months in Taiwan and it was amazing.

There is something unique in experiencing a culture unlike anything else in the US. The struggles with language, food, and even the climate all contribute to how amazing the experience is as visitors such as me must work harder to communicate and understand.

While most people would be familiar with things in Europe like beef and dairy production. I had no idea how to cultivate products like tea, rice, and coffee. For all of you that think Europe is the only way to experience the fine art of coffee, you are missing something. Taiwanese take their coffee extremely seriously. Plus, with traditional hospitality, you can almost always expect to be offered at least several cups of different varieties to try. This is also true for tea and many other products as nearly every county and township has a large group of specialties that they will want to introduce you to.

Each host will keep you so busy exploring Taiwan and its culture, that when you are given free time to explore, all you will try to do is upload the pictures and fire off emails back home to tell everyone what you have been up to. Exploring food, agriculture, and daily life is astounding. Everyone you meet will be so warm and welcoming you will feel like you are traveling with your family.

## Finland

Kara Harders (Colorado to Finland and Germany 2014) <http://karaiifye.blogspot.fi/p/welcome.html>

(Finland)

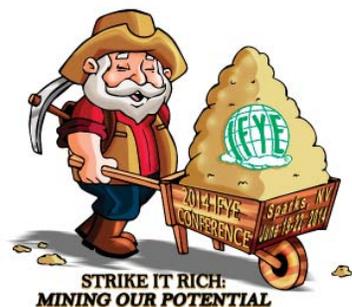
My host brother and sister are not my only host siblings; they are just the last two living at home. I have 10 others; yes, you read that right. There are TWELVE kids in this family. With 40 cows, 12 kids and only two parents I am convinced that my host parents have superpowers of some sort.

As I conclude my visit in the Ilottu home, I have realized many things:

- Porridge is awesome
- Walking to stores is way more fun than I thought.
- Soccer really is a fun sport
- Always have one of these handy cheese/cucumber cutter things.
- Summer cottages are fantastic
- So is the sauna
- Pancakes for dinner are always a good idea
- Listen twice as much as you talk
- Any place can feel like home
- All desserts should have strawberries in them



Kara at the rally races



June 19-22, 2014  
 John Ascuaga's Nugget  
 Sparks, Nevada

“Strike it Rich:  
 Mining Our Potential”

## Strike it Rich: Mining Your Potential

Whether participating in workshops, Association meetings, pre-conference tours, conference service project, chatting with old/new IFYEs and/or meeting up with old/new acquaintances and friends ... conferees at this year's National IFYE Conference had many opportunities to “Strike it Rich”.

### *Pre-Conference Tours of the Area*

Marie Gibson (VA to China 1982) chaired the pre-conference tours. These included: Tour A - visiting nearby Lake Tahoe area and Virginia City, Tour B - learning about Paiutes, Pyramid Lake, and Palomino Valley with wild horse care, and Tour C - Great Basin agriculture.



*Tour B participants having interchange with Paiute storyteller*

### *Conference Service Project*

Turning Point, Inc. of Virginia City, NV co-hosted this section of the conference with IFYE. The \$3200+ raised by the silent and live auctions were split between IFYE Association and Turning Point. Turning Point's portion is to be used for adult training for a global service-learning project – presently set to be used in January 2015 in Guatemala. Deb Loesch-Griffin, along with Rachel Breithaupt, presented a short slideshow of programming they have conducted globally in the past with adult leaders and teens in several countries.



*Friday evening: Laura Schick (Conference Treasurer), Deb Loesch-Griffin and Rachel Breithaupt (both representing Turning Point, Inc), and Lucy W. Bouldin (Friend of IFYE)*

### *Getting to meet / know 2014 IFYEs*

Part of the conference involved learning more about the countries from which the current year's IFYEs are from. Each of the countries represented gave a skit or presentation at some portion of the program – whether a meal or other program section.

Several comments indicated that this involvement with current year IFYEs rejuvenated some of the motivation for which alum had previously gone themselves. Sharing was enhanced on both sides. It is hoped that this sharing at conferences in the future will be increased. *Note: 2015 orientation will also be held in conjunction with the 2015 National IFYE Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.*



*Kim Taylor and Ross Mair (both from Scotland) demonstrate a Scottish reel as the conferees get ready to participate*

### *Learning about updates with the Association*

Association Board members presented information both during the National Association Annual Meeting and during workshops designed to learn more about updates such as state and national associations becoming more closely aligned, how to prepare planned giving, what is seen as desired in a national conference, and a meeting for state coordinators and others interested in this facet of the Association programming.

### *International Banquet*

*Songs around the World led by Lucy W Bouldin - Friend of IFYE.*

*Learning from 50 year and 51 year alumni (and others) some of the things that they have remembered over the years as important from their experience –*

### *In Conclusion*

A hearty IFYE thank you to all who helped carry out this conference whether committee members or their helpers - As this was a conference basically put on by several states of the Western Region, we thank all those who helped whether at conference or not and whether or not from the Western Region.

A special thank you to Idaho for their donations toward the Hospitality Room!



*(L to R) Kim Reaman (Conference Co-Chair) and Betty Jo Smith Roberts (Association Pres) opening conference with the traditional ringing of our Swiss bell; Dr. Martha Couch, Keynote; "silver" nuggets and sunflowers - part of conference decorations*



*Conferees "wind" around the room at one of the meals!*



*L to R: Anna Thornton (WY), Ray Borton (CA), and Kim Reaman (WY and conference co-chair) working on table floral - Thanks Ray for donation of the gorgeous flowers!*



*Betty Stephenson - joining in a meal-time activity*



*Flo Swanson (L) and Joe Rich (R) join the group viewing silent auction items on Friday evening.*



**1964 IFYEs at Conference**

*L to R: Gary Murphy (IA to New Zealand), Delbert Frericks (SD to Switzerland), Joyce (Calloway) Cannon (IN to India), Jim Milliken (KS to Philippines, and Dixie Mathiesen (WY to Australia)*



**1963 IFYES**

**1963 IFYEs at Conference (Photo to left)**

*L to R: Peg (Chrisman) Lakin (KS to Thailand), Dale Yonker (CO to Turkey), Don Anderson (CA to Germany), Neita (Stout) Frank (NC to Israel), Diana (Duncan) Jaun (CA to Israel), Jack Morse (MI to Mexico), Flo (Schulte) Swanson (IA to Germany), and John Werner (IN to Germany)*

## IN MEMORIAM

**Samuel Carpenter (???) (SC ??? 1952)**  
**David M. Coffey (March 20, 2014)**  
(KY Indonesia 1971)  
**Jack Crowner (February 27, 2014)**  
(MI New Zealand 1953)  
**Paul H. Engle (October 22, 2013)**  
Spouse of Miriam (Booic) Engle  
(OH Israel 1951)  
**Jewell "Judy" M (Ballard) Estill**  
(June 9, 2014) (CA England/Wales 1954)  
**Wilson H. Greenlaw (May 9, 2014)**  
(VA England 1962)  
**Edwin C. Hadlock (June 23, 2014)**  
(NY Colombia 1952)  
**Fern (Johnson) Hunter (January 17, 2014)**  
(UT England 1951) LM  
**David N. Larsen (February 20, 2014)**  
(WA Federation of Rhodesia and  
Nyasaland 1962) LM  
**Ann (Sandifer) Mayhew (October 31, 2012)**  
(KY Israel 1963)  
**James Rabehl (June 4, 2013)**  
(MN India 1954)  
**Rhoda J (Kelly) Reini (March 17, 2013)**  
(MI Greece 1954) LM  
**John Scott (February 10, 2012) Friend**  
of IFYE  
**Donald Sederstrom (April 5, 2014)**  
(MN Sweden 1950)  
**Duain Vierow (April 9, 2014)**  
(MN Netherlands 1967) LM  
LM = Life  
??? = unknown

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## Sweden

*Eliza Seibert*  
(Virginia 2014)  
<https://ifyeseetheworld.wordpress.com/>

To me, the IFYE experience is all about family. While in Sweden, I will have eight host families. I have lived with two host families so far. They have both been amazing. They are so generous and hospitable. They really make you feel like you are part of the family.

It's important to make sure you are always lending a helping hand



*Eliza on the left with my first host family, the Hallstens*

when you can to show your host family how much you appreciate all they are doing for you. From little things like helping cook and doing dishes, to helping with bigger projects. I helped the Hallsten family with some landscaping in their backyard and I helped another family member put together an above ground pool. And then I helped my second host family restock their firewood. My host father and I had a good time jamming out to country music while moving the wood. You never know what kind of work you will be doing. As long as you keep an open mind and work hard, you'll learn something new and hopefully have fun while doing it.



July 19-26, 2014

*L to R ascending: Anna Parker, Deryl Waldren, Crystal Yonker, Dale Yonker, Louis Bordeaux, and Larry Wachtel*

*Missing from photos: Ellen Paine, Layne Allison, Mario Karr, Tiffany Jones, and Carolyn Gehrke*