



IFYE NEWS

An Official Publication
of the
IFYE® Association of the USA, Inc.

Spring/Summer Issue
Published May 29, 2026

Established as International Farm Youth Exchange® in 1948



Rebecca “Becca” Pratt named National IFYE Program Director

The IFYE Association Board of Directors approved the selection of Rebecca “Becca” Pratt as the new National IFYE Program Director at the February 26, 2026, Board of Directors’ meeting.

Becca has a strong passion for travel and truly enjoys learning about and experiencing different cultures. In line

with this passion, she participated in the IFYE program in 2022 to Norway and Thailand, as well as in 2024 to Chile.

As the National Program Director, Becca’s responsibilities will include:

- working with State Coordinators and State Contacts to recruit IFYE Representatives to our host country partners and supporting state partners hosting Inbound IFYEs,
- overseeing the vetting of host families in coordination with our state partners,
- leading the orientation of our inbound and outbound IFYEs as well as the debriefing of our USA Outbound IFYEs, and
- working in liaison with our partner country coordinators to coordinate a two-way exchange of Inbound and Outbound IFYEs

Post-college experiences with agriculture and IFYE

Rebecca (Becca) Pratt graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural and Consumer Economics and a minor in Chemistry. After graduation, she worked as a Marketing Manager for a fertilizer and chemical company. Since then, she has been working on the family farm with her father.

Since returning from her IFYE experience in Chile, Rebecca has remained active nationally with IFYE by serving on our Association’s Orientation Committee, supporting and contributing ideas for outgoing and incoming delegates. She has also served as Alumni Communications Committee Chair to strengthen alumni engagement through our Association publications, such as IFYE NEWS, IFYE Update, and IFYEs in Touch.

Welcome, Becca, in helping us promote and further the IFYE program.

2026 Outbound/Inbound IFYE Representatives

Rebecca Pratt, National Program Director
rpratt@ifyeusa.org

We will soon be welcoming four inbound representatives from Kenya, Germany, Taiwan, and Thailand who will be hosted in a total of seven states this summer. The home countries of the Inbound representatives and their hosting states are as follows: Kenya to Nebraska; Germany to Colorado and Wyoming; Taiwan to Illinois and Indiana; and Thailand to Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Although final decisions are in still in process for hosting partners of the Outbounds, we are also thrilled to have four outbound representatives representing the United States in 2026. They are as follows: Joshua Francis (Georgia to Thailand); Natalie Calfo (Ohio to Germany); and BaiLee McMillan (Nebraska to Switzerland). Chiara Cutts (California) is awaiting her country partner assignment.

Orientation is also right around the corner taking place June 3rd to June 8th followed by the Inbound and Outbound representatives traveling to host countries and states on June 8th. Throughout the week of orientation, participants will take part in sightseeing, fun activities, team-building sessions, and many more opportunities designed to help them make the most of their IFYE experiences. Outbound representative debriefing is being planned for mid-August. Further details can be found on our IFYE [website](#).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rebecca Pratt Named National IFYE Program Director
2026 Outbound/Inbound Program Update (<i>Rebecca Pratt</i>)
In Pursuit of Happiness (<i>Carolyn Hansen</i>)
“Freedom Sings USA” Honors Norm Bauer and other Veterans
Why Ghana? Why Not? (<i>Mary Crave</i>)
From IFYE to Atlanta: ... (<i>Michael Conger</i>)
Memories Revisited on a Wintery Day (<i>Caroline Nelson Blich</i>)
Farm Bill Update (<i>Jan Wood</i>)
Endowment Fund (<i>Judiann McNulty/Marty Orris</i>)
Donation Form
In Memoriam



Carolyn Hansen
IFYE Association President
chansen@ifyeusa.org

“In Pursuit of Happiness ...”

This phrase from the United States Declaration of Independence means so much to many of us and, for each of us, it holds a personal definition. Let me share a few things I am happy about.

Farm Bill language passing the House

The House of Representative approved the language in the Farm Bill that IFYE submitted, and it is now on its way to the Senate. I am so happy that Jan Dennis Wood has persevered for five years to see this through. Once it

passes the Senate, then we’ll need to apply for grants and funding.

2025 Annual Giving Campaign

I am not only happy but thrilled that the 2025 Annual Giving Campaign surpassed the goal of \$100,000. Many thanks to Lad Harrison, ’72 IFYE from Ohio to South Korea, for his most generous gift of \$25,000 in honor of the late Beatrice “Bea” Cleveland, the long-term Associate Director of Ohio 4-H and IFYE Coordinator for the state.

Establishing the IFYE Association Endowment Fund

I am happy that we are finalizing a policy to establish and govern an IFYE Endowment Fund. This will be one more vehicle for IFYEs and Friends of IFYE to contribute and be assured of the long-term future of our organization. *(Please see the notification of the process of establishing this fund on page 8.)*

2026 Outbound/Inbound IFYEs

I am happy that we have four highly qualified outbound IFYEs who will attend orientation June 3-8. We will also host four inbound IFYEs. Last year we sent only two IFYEs to Chile. This year we’ve doubled that number and they will be going to other countries. You will learn more about our inbound and outbound IFYEs from our National Program Director on page 1.

2027 National IFYE Conference

I am happy to announce the 2027 Annual IFYE Conference will be held in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio (near Cleveland and Akron) at the Sheraton Suites June 23-26.

Please note that the days of the conference have changed from the traditional days to beginning on Wednesday evening and departing on Saturday. The steering committee is working on a fantastic program, and the tours are guaranteed to be of interest to all. Lad Harrison is the chair of the conference. To all Ohio IFYEs, he can use your assistance in planning this event. Please make him happy by volunteering for this event.

New Members of the IFYE Association Board of Directors
I am happy that we have recruited two new IFYEs to the Board of Directors who bring very special talents to it. Hannah Nordby is the chair of the Program Committee. She was a 2018 North Dakota IFYE to Taiwan and Thailand. She has helped with numerous orientations and debriefings. Michael Conger is a 2023 IFYE from Georgia to Germany. As a doctoral student, he is well equipped with his writing skills to lead the Alumni Communication Committee.

These are only a few examples of why we can be happy about IFYE. If asked about IFYE, what would YOU share that shows your happiness about our organization?

On a personal level

On a personal level, there were three losses to the IFYE Association of the USA, that have saddened us ... Pat Eisenmann Donahue, ’71 Ohio IFYE to Botswana lost her husband Dave on February 21. We offer our support to Pat and her family. On Wednesday, April 29, Bev Hornickel, ’70 Illinois IFYE to Panama passed from a heart attack. Our prayers and thoughts go out to her SPIFYE husband, Jim. Bev was a truly engaged IFYE alumna whom we will all miss. The next day, April 30, I lost my SPIFYE husband, Gordon, to Atypical Parkinson’s Disease. The past four years have been difficult; I am pleased that he was able to stay at home for the entire length of his disease. I am so overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and support the Hansen Family has received over the years.

Lifelong support, friendships, and memories

Now here’s the happy part of what I just wrote about ... I can always count on my IFYE brothers and sisters to be there with encouraging words and offers of support. Isn’t it amazing that people whom you met 5 – 55 years ago can offer that kind of support. I happily remember memories with so many of you who read this. We can be happy about the lifelong friendships, experiences and memories each of us shares within the IFYE Family. The impact this organization has upon its members, and loved ones cannot be measured, but are certainly treasured.



“Freedom Sings USA” Honors Norm Bauer (Michigan to Turkey 1957) and four other Anna, Illinois area veterans

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the USA as a nation, many events around the country recognize portions of our history and individuals/groups from that history. Such an event was held April 16-18, 2026, where five Anna, Illinois area veterans were each paired with a songwriter from Nashville, TN to create a song based on their individual military experience.

Norm indicates that the teamwork was amazing. He continues, “The songwriters have done this before, so it was a matter of using words that could be sung to and understood as suggested by the veteran.”

Norm was paired with Wil Nance, a Nashville songwriter. The song was to be three minutes long, so there had to be choices of what information was used. The final words to the song, “Passin’ Gas,” are posted below and include Norm’s Air Force experience of flying KC-135 Stratotankers - refueling planes while in the air or also known as “flying a gas station for fighter jets”.

Free concerts were given Friday and Saturday nights at Davie Inn, a school that Norm’s and Barb’s (IFYE Illinois to Turkey 1957) children attended, now converted to a B&B. On Friday evening, Freedom Sings USA played their songs. The veterans’ songs were featured Saturday evening. Norm’s song was on the lighter side and brought some laughing from the audience. Other veterans honored were involved in the following military engagements: Iraq, Vietnam, South Pacific, and Iwo Jima.

Thank you, Freedom Sings USA, for using your non-profit platform to “foster public appreciation for the sacrifices of veterans.” Also, thanks to all the IFYE alumni and families and all others who have served our country in various ways throughout the years and/or are currently serving.

Freedom Sings USA is a Chattanooga-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing music-arts therapy for veterans and military families.

PASSIN’ GAS
NORM BAUER and WIL NANCE
04/17/2026
ANNA, ILLINOIS

CHICAGO MIDWAY WHERE THEY’D COME AND GO
I TOOK A LIKIN’ TO AIRPLANES AT JUST EIGHT YEARS OLD
BUILT BALSAM WOOD FIGHTERS WOOD GLUE AND ALL WE’D CRASH ‘EM AND BURN ‘EM IN A WORLD WAR II ROLE

I ENROLLED IN THE ARMY ROTC
BUT THE AIR FORCE IS WHERE I WANTED TO BE
A SENIOR IN COLLEGE TRYIN’ TO GET MY DEGREE
I’D FLY FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

UP IN THE WILD BLUE YONDER WE FLEW
FLYIN’ THOSE PROPS BUT I WAS NO FOOL
THE KC 135’S WERE THE NEW THING
AND MAN THEY WERE FAST

REFUELIN’ THOSE JETS WAS OUR MISSION THAT’S TRUE
A FLYIN’ GAS STATION THAT CAME WITH A CREW
BUT WHEN THEY ALL ASK WHAT IS IT YOU DO
I SAID WE WERE JUST PASSIN’ GAS.

STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND IS WHAT WE WERE
ALERT DUTY TOOK US BACK AND THEN FORTH
IT WAS CLINTON OHIO GOOSE BAY LABRADOR
BOMBERS AND FIGHTERS IS WHAT WE SUPPORT.



(L to R) Daughter Beth Hileman; Son David Bauer; Norm; Son Tim Bauer; Barbara; Martha Webb, City Council; and Wil Nance, songwriter.

Many IFYE alumni have taken to traveling globally since their outbound IFYE program ended to learn more about the country(ies) to which they traveled as an IFYE and/or learning more about other countries and regions of the world. Alumni have also shared their travels online for those of us who are not always able to travel.

Whether as an organizer of such a trip or a traveler on an organized trip, with friends and family, or by oneself, we continue to learn from each other and about the countries and peoples of this world. One example is the recent March trip organized by Mary Crave and joined by three IFYE alumni and other adventurous travelers. Ed.

Why Ghana? Why not?

Mary Crave (mcrave@ifyeusa.org)

IFYE Representative Wisconsin to Sri Lanka, 1980

2026 Photos - Mary Crave, Marj Loyd, and Linda Pursley

Why Ghana? Why not? That's the question some fellow IFYEs get when they are joining one of my tours to Ghana.

We never know where our IFYE experiences will lead us.

One of the many places mine has led me is Ghana where I worked on several programs as an extension education specialist with the University of Wisconsin, National 4-H Council, and USDA. For one project, I worked with my IFYE sister, Mary Simon Leuci, with the University of Missouri Extension.

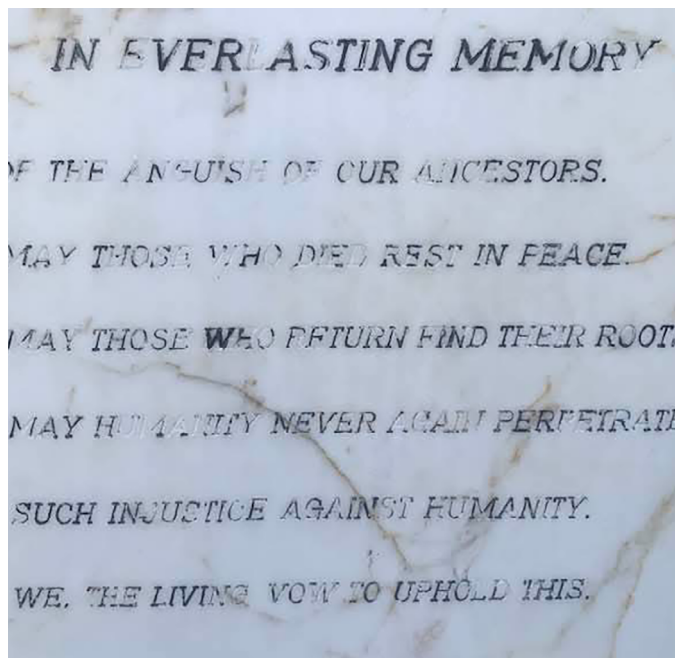
After several trips to the country, friends were asking to tag along. In response, I've organized tours that are a hybrid of IFYE-like and tourist experiences. More than a dozen IFYEs, several 4-H staff and volunteers, and others have said, "Ghana? Why not?"

Along for the fun on my most recent group of 12 travelers this past March – my 32nd trip to Ghana and 62nd to Africa – were three IFYEs: Linda Pursley (Ohio to Greece 1973), Pat Ament Hutsell (Nebraska to Kenya 1972) and Marj Loyd (Kansas to

(Kansas to Israel 1968). We spent two weeks travelling throughout the southern and eastern parts of the country.

Linda shared, "The small group of adventurous travelers combined with Mary's experience and her local connections and our local guides, made it special ... and I am not a 'tour person.' We hiked to a waterfall and a rainforest canopy, and visited the [UNESCO Elmina slave castle](#), but highlights also included things tourists don't see or do, such as visiting schools, health care facilities, a 4-H club and students' homes, browsing traditional markets, pounding fufu (a dough-like staple made from cassava), discussing tribal marriage practices with the local chief, and learning about the work of NGOs who support women and rescue trafficked children."

Marj Loyd added, "Mary planned a very educational, interesting itinerary for our visit to Ghana. We visited the Center for Plant Medicine Research, the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG), 4-H Clubs, schools, health clinics, and had chances to visit with many people who gave us insight into Ghana. One stop that was most impactful to me was Elmina, a fortress from which 10-12 million people were sent as slaves to the New World for over 400 years."



IN EVERLASTING MEMORY

Of the anguish of our ancestors
May those who died rest in peace
May those who return find their roots
May humanity never again perpetrate
Such injustice against humanity
We the living vow to uphold this

Posted at Elmina Castle

Pat Ament Hutsell indicated that, "Visiting Ghana as a former Kenyan IFYE was a deeply impactful experience. While the warmth and friendliness of the people was consistently enjoyed by our group, creating meaningful cultural connections, we also confronted the realities of



(L to R) Papa, our guide, his 10-year-old daughter, and me while touring the school for the deaf where Papa's daughter is a student.

poverty. The contrast between vibrant cultural experiences and the developing infrastructure are eye-opening, offering a view of the country's diversity, and inspiring one to live humbly and generously. Let's never forget our human responsibilities to others."

Why Ghana? As IFYEs, we were spoiled, seeing and doing things we couldn't do as ordinary travelers. My work in Ghana has opened similar doors and it's been fun to explore and learn with IFYEs who appreciate local life. My IFYE experience in Sri Lanka has also led me back to neighboring India, where I'm also coordinating custom tours.

If you'd like to inquire about upcoming trips beginning in February 2027, email Mary at mcrave@ifyeusa.org. Ed.]



(Top) 4-H Club - 4-H clubs in Ghana are school-based and usually focus on income-generating projects. It was too early in the season for this club's school garden, but members of the club said their pledge for us. In return, our group recited the US 4-H pledge.

(Bottom) Village Chief (L) when meeting with our group where we discussed marriage practices.

*(Top) At the health clinic we visited, woman with a one-week-old infant.
(Bottom) Group members visited the homes of students in the school where our guide's children are students.*



From IFYE to Atlanta: A Continued Journey of Growth and Impact

Michael Conger, Chair
Alumni Communication
Committee.
(mconger@ifyeusa.org)

In Fall 2023, I had the opportunity to travel to Germany as an alum of the IFYE program—an experience that broadened my perspective, strengthened my adaptability, and deepened my commitment to service and global understanding.

Since then, my journey has continued to evolve in meaningful ways. In the summer of 2024, I earned my Master of Public Administration, further solidifying my commitment to public service and systems-level impact. Building on that foundation, I am now pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration, where my research focuses on advancing outcomes for underserved communities - particularly youth with “lived experience” in foster care.

In Spring 2025, I relocated to Atlanta, embracing new opportunities in both my professional and academic life. I currently serve in Development at Carrie Steele-Pitts Home, where I work to build partnerships, secure resources, and elevate the impact on youth served across Georgia.

I also remain actively engaged with IFYE, now serving on the Board as the Alumni Communications Committee Chair. It’s an honor to give back to a program that played such a formative role in my journey and to help strengthen connections among alumni nationwide.

Looking back, my time with IFYE helped lay the foundation for where I am today. It challenged me to step outside of my comfort zone, engage with new cultures, and think more broadly about leadership and service. Those lessons continue to shape how I approach my work and my studies.

As I continue this journey, I remain grateful for the experiences that have guided me - and excited for the impact still ahead.

And I want to extend an invitation especially to recent IFYE alumni.

IFYE doesn’t have to end when your exchange does. There are so many ways to stay involved whether that’s supporting your state program, serving as a State Contact or Coordinator, joining a national committee, or even stepping into Board leadership.

We also need alumni who are willing to help grow IFYE - by recruiting future participants, sharing your story, or even serving as or helping identify host families for incoming delegates.

If IFYE shaped your journey in any way, I encourage you to think about how you can help shape it for someone else.

If you’re interested in getting involved or just want to learn more, I’d love to connect with you.

In a recent letter to the IFYE Association, Caroline Nelson Blich (IFYE from Georgia to West Germany 65 years ago) shares some of the memories related to her exchange and also the effects on the lives of each of her four IFYE brothers and sisters to then West Germany. The following article includes excerpts from the letter Caroline has shared with us.

What can you share about how IFYE has been a life-changing experience for you? Whether you are the IFYE representative or natural family member, host family member, friend, or supporter – we’d love to hear even a paragraph or two from you about how the experience has affected your life. We welcome stories (and photos) both recent and over the years. [Ed.]

Memories Revisited on a Wintery Day

Caroline Nelson Blich, Georgia to West Germany 1961

Driving home one day this past winter, the sun was out but the wind was howling and the temperature was stuck at freezing. I was reminded of experiences as an IFYE to West Germany in 1961. Lubeck and Altenbruck, Germany were cold, windy, and damp places in March.

There were five of us selected for the six-month exchange to live and work with host families in West Germany:

“Butch” Haymond Luzadder, West Virginia; Don Siffring, Nebraska; Marcia Rygaard, Kansas; Kathy Harvey, Utah; and me, Georgia.

A memory from my selection interview.

One of my interview questions from a Sociology professor was “What is a Culture Ethnically Centered person?” This was one of the questions that gave me my first migraine!

Sailing to Europe

We sailed from the New York harbor on the SS Maasdam (IV), a Dutch ship. Passing the Statue of Liberty, all IFYEs onboard gathered on deck and began singing “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

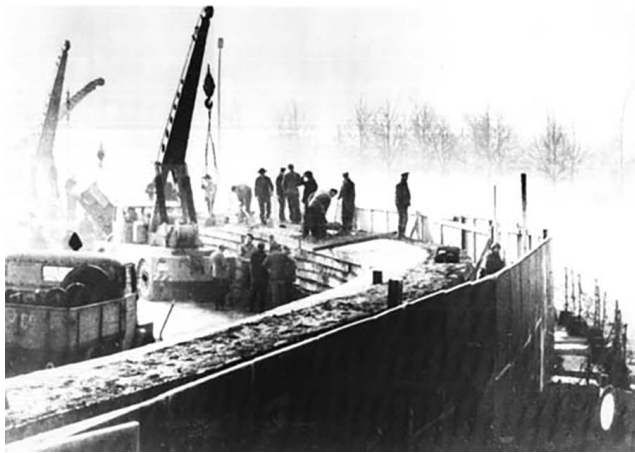


About four miles out to sea, we IFYEs to Germany took to our bunks. To this day, if I smell apples and soda crackers, I am instantly nauseous! March is not a good month to cross the Atlantic!

During meetings with the Secretary of Agriculture back in Washington, D.C., we had not been prepared for a rough crossing; we had been immersed in agricultural facts and figures! At the State Department, meanwhile, our linguist emphasized quotations, slang and colloquialisms.

Memories of the political environment encountered in our host country.

- At my first host family, I was introduced to the word “Immigration.” Eastern Europeans were fleeing the constraints of communism. West German families were taking in families from Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany.
- It had only been 17 years since the end of World War II. Men were needed in every field, especially in agriculture. Butch was sent to West Berlin to work on the sugar beet farms and to gather fields of strawberries.
- We five visited the demarcation border line referred to as the *Inner Grenze*. President Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev were having a “set-to.” Construction of the Berlin Wall officially began on August 13, 1961.



Berlin Wall under Construction - November 1961

- I lived with several host families whose farms were divided with razor wire and patrolling guards. My fifth host father’s farm was divided from his brother. At night, my host father would fill an ammunition box with staples, such as flour, sugar, coffee, tea, and butter. When the search lights crossed the ploughed ground and the guards would take their dogs to walk, he would dig a hole in the pre-arranged spot and bury the things his brother needed.

Other challenges of learning to cope – We all have our own memories of those things we needed to adjust to.

Each new home presented a challenge or two. Often, it was the language barrier. I adjusted with lots of laughter.

- I turned over several milk cans filled with fresh milk.
- I ran from a large rat; I locked ducks in the geese pen; I tried baking a pound cake with goose eggs.
- I had no experience with a Coke stove (a stove using “coke” - a clean-burning, high-temperature coal product).

- I called Don to ask if it was OK to eat a fertilized egg. (A boiled breakfast egg had surprised me with a tiny duckling.)
- I peeled 25 pounds of potatoes instead of one potato for each of five family members.
- *Gummistiefel* are rubber boots, not chewing-gum.
- I drove several cows down the village street and into the local bakery. I did not know the cow with the bell around its neck should be the lead cow and she would not have ambled into an open door.
- A host grandfather (*Opä*) directed me to the wrong weigh station with a load of grapes. (He and the weigh manager got drunk arguing over the dates on kegs of wine. It seemed important to taste wine from each keg!)

At one home, my host parents went on vacation and left me to feed and work twelve immigrants all from different countries. None of us spoke the same language.

- We milked the family cows by hand, candled several dozen eggs each day, and hoed beets on forty hectares.
- We ate lots of bread, butter with marmalade and boiled eggs when my meals were a flop!
- When work was finished for the day, we rode bicycles to the high bluffs on the North Sea. The workers shed their clothes and went skinny dipping. It was too cold for this Southerner. I begged off!

I learned to lighten my suitcase when I could not find petrol. I walked many kilometers. The octane did not matter as their Mopeds and automobiles ran on the petrol available. The Volkswagen was the most affordable car.

Communications with my IFYE brothers and sisters

We IFYEs visited each other often. Sometimes, we attended the same church. When our host families took us to village festivals, we discussed major events happening back in the States. Usually, politics were the main topic. In Germany, Chancellor Adenauer was opposing Willy Brandt. President Kennedy visited isolated Berlin.

Questions/discussions about racial issues in the USA

Charlayne Hunter-Gault (civil rights activist and journalist) was the first woman who integrated the University of Georgia the month before I left for Germany. She was a brave young lady. She graduated from the Journalism school with high honors and became an Associated Press reporter covering the anti-apartheid movement-in South Africa.

The South has many authors whose books and poems have lent much light regarding our racial problems in the USA, both then and more recent, including President Carter. The sad thing for me is that slavery inspired such rich subject matter - guilt and heartache we all suffer. The German Holocaust will have similar effects for generations to come.

Kathy and Merrill’s Wedding

Kathy and Merrill (her fiancé) had decided to marry at her last assigned home.

Kathy’s host mom made her wedding dress. Don purchased yellow roses and made her bouquet. Butch stood for Merrill as a U.S. citizen giving permission

for the two to marry in a civil ceremony at the *Bundesministerium*. The mayor of the village married them. Marcia and I were bridesmaids. After the reception dinner, they left for Switzerland for their religious ceremony. We all met back up at Cherbourg, France.

Homeward-bound and afterward

Coming home on the Queen Elizabeth proved to be another “fruit basket turn-over” (total upheaval) as it was another rough crossing!

What did the five of us end up doing after we returned? In 2026, I am the only one still living, but here are some of what the five of us did with our lives after our return..

- Marcia became an RN including working as the only RN on many western Indian reservations.
- Don was a County Extension Agent and State Youth Leader for over 30 years.
- “Butch” Luzadder made a military career including serving in Vietnam
- Kathy finished her Ph.D. after returning from Germany. She was later involved with, and owned, many businesses educating and caring for children
- I represented Contract Interior Designers to Mainland China.

As Linus said to Snoopy, “Sometimes memories sneak out of my eyes and roll down my cheeks.” We five bonded in all the important ways. Each of us had enriched lives. My exchange through IFYE to West Germany was, and is, my life-changing event.

Auf Wiedersehen and Sincerely,
Caroline Nelson, IFYE 1961 to West Germany

Farm Bill Update

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture Passes the 2026 Farm Bill

Jan Wood

On March 3-5, the House Committee on Agriculture held a full committee session to “mark up” the drafted 2026 Farm Bill. After a four-hour session on the 3rd and a fourteen-hour session on the 4th, the Bill was approved in the wee hours of March 5th by the bipartisan group.

A few days prior to the vote, we were asked to supply letters of support and we did. You did! Many, many letters were sent to committee staff and to committee members. *Thank you very, very much.*

On April 30, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026. The International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program (IFYE’s language) remains in the document. We thank everyone who helped make this happen.

Now, we need to continue to press the Senate Ag Committee. At this writing, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry is in the same position it has been for almost three years: “working on it.” As of April 7th, staff contacts on the committee say they are “still awaiting instructions on spending, timing, etc.” They did not provide any estimates of timing.

When the Senate Ag Committee does move forward, we will reach out for your help as another letter campaign will be necessary to influence the final votes in the full Congress.

Forthcoming Establishment of IFYE USA Endowment Fund

Judiann McNulty (jmcnulty@ifyeusa.org) and Marty Orris (mjourris@ifyeusa.org)

The IFYE USA Endowment Fund is in the process of being approved by the IFYE Association Board of Directors. It is to be a designated account for accepting and investing planned (legacy) gifts that have been received by our organization. This fund will be fully invested to produce annual income that may be used by the IFYE USA Board of Directors to supplement annual operating costs. The principal will be left intact to continue growing.

The generous bequest of \$95,585.06 from the Eldon “Bud” and Virginia Aupperle Trust serves as seed money for this endowment fund. The following information is also in process of being approved for this fund.

- Additional estate gifts or other large gifts earmarked for the endowment will be added to this fund.
- There is no minimum donation amount to be able to be added into this fund.
- A maximum of 5% of the account balance may be withdrawn annually to help with program expenses.

While our goal is to rebuild the IFYE global exchange so that dozens of young Americans can experience IFYE each year, we acknowledge the many obstacles that may hamper our efforts to sustain the program.

If IFYE USA exchanges cease to exist, then the 5% endowment draw will be used to support 4-H groups who are leading their own short-term international learning experiences. A granting process would guide the distribution of funds to eligible groups. This granting process will be developed if and when it is required. For further details on the approval of this new fund, please check our future publications and our [website](#).



**IFYE® Association
of the USA, Inc.**

Peace Through Understanding

2026 IFYE Postal DONATION FORM

NOTE: If you wish to pay by credit card, please go to <https://ifyeusa.org> and click on "Ways to Give"

Please check the appropriate box(es) for the support you wish to provide to the IFYE Association. Mail the form and completed action(s) that you have selected and check(s) to: **IFYE Association of the USA, Inc., c/o Roger Sherer, Associate Treasurer, PO Box 452, Bluffton, IN 46714-0052**

(If questions, please contact Roger at rsherer@ifyeusa.org or call at 260-273-8188)

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Relationship to IFYE _____

(Program participant (list program), Host Family Member, Friend, spouse, and/or Supporter, etc.)

_____ In Memory Of _____ In Honor Of _____

Acknowledgement Name and Address: _____

I wish to support IFYE with the following donation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500	Other Amount \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD

I have enclosed a check # _____ in the amount of \$ _____ payable to "IFYE Association of the USA".

I am sending stock Donation. *(Consult your Financial Advisor)*

I am sending QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) from my IRA. *(Consult your Financial Advisor)*

Please send me (by email) access information to the IFYE website "Member Login Area".

My email address is: _____

Enclosed is \$20 for the printing and postal mailing of the IFYE Newsletters, Updates, and In-Touch published in 2026.

Please remove me/us from future solicitation for mailings.

Please make my donation anonymous.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of IFYE

01/04/2026

The IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. shall make its services, facilities, and programs available to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin, and the Association shall not in any way discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin.

<https://ifyeusa.org/>

In Memoriam

The passing of the following individuals has come to our attention since publication of the IFYE NEWS (Fall/Winter 2025)
LM = Life Member SPIFYE = Spouse of an IFYE

Matt Alexander (Missouri to Turkey 1959) April 7, 2026

Marjorie J Dunn Area (New York to Panama 1958)

November 21, 2020, LM

John R Aylsworth (Michigan to Greece 1955)

January 12, 2026, LM

Barbara Bierman Batie (Nebraska to W Germany 1980)

December 25, 2025, LM

Florence Papageorge Blosser (Utah to Greece 1957)

June 26, 2019, LM

Cecile J Reapsome Buck (Pennsylvania to Switzerland 1958)

August 6, 2024

Mary Ann Hufflage Campbell (Kentucky to Norway 1956)

February 27, 2014

Dorothy "Dot" Tappan Cofer (Georgia to Scotland 1958)

February 15, 2026

Robert L Cook (South Dakota to Norway 1958)

December 4, 2024

Richard J Cooper (Tennessee to Ireland 1950)

January 17, 2023

David Gail Cowart (Arkansas to Finland 1957)

September 27, 2022, LM

Lois M Taylor Dixon (Kentucky to Ireland 1953)

January 23, 2026

Dave Donahue (SPIFYE to Pat Eisenmann Donahue – YDP

Ohio to Botswana 1972) February 21, 2026

LTC Theodore Erle (T. Erle) Drane (Mississippi to India

1956) March 2, 2021

Donald B Erickson (Wyoming to Argentina 1955)

May 17, 2023

Roger W Fox (California to Pakistan 1959) December 2, 2025

John W Fuquay (North Carolina to Scotland 1955)

December 6, 2025, LM

Sally Ann Gladden (Missouri to W Germany 1959)

July 2, 2023

Carl H Gotsch (Idaho to Egypt 1952) June 12, 2022

Erle C Gross (Montana to Belgium 1953)

November 4, 2020

Gordon Hansen (SPIFYE of Carolyn Seymour Hansen –

YDP - Illinois to The Philippines 1972) April 30, 2026

JoAnne Thomas Havelka (Minnesota to Turkey 1966)

May 4, 2025

Ann Ruby Hemken (Iowa to Chile 1953) July 14, 2020

Beverly "Bev" Laesch Hornickel (Illinois to Panama 1970)

April 29, 2026, LM

Samuel W Hunt (Washington to Nepal 1965) April 25, 2026

Carol J Stine Hunter (Iowa to W Germany 1960)

September 18, 2025, LM

David R Hunter (Missouri to Pakistan 1968)

January 10, 2024, LM

Nancy J Kearns Jewett (North Carolina to Israel 1957)

May 13, 2025

Merlyn Johnson (South Dakota to Mexico 1963)

January 7, 2026

Andrew Kasznay, Jr. (Connecticut to The Netherlands 1960)

August 1, 2021, LM

Ruth Ina Johnson Kesinger (Indiana to Belgium

1953) October 12, 2024

Mary Ann Rife Kimmel (Pennsylvania to Scotland 1957)

October 10, 2025, LM

Robert A Knoernschild (Missouri to Japan 1959)

January 11, 2018

Herbert C Lang (Alaska to Sweden 1951) July 20, 2025

Lyda L Cline Lanier (Wisconsin to India 1955)

December 28, 2025, LM

Sue Nichols Lefes (North Carolina to Australia 1951)

December 11, 2024, LM

Joseph Lincoln (Montana to Pakistan 1959) January 2, 2024

Henry "Hank" A McNeel (Colorado to Mexico 1959)

November 15, 2022, LM

Marion Bugbee Mannheim (Maine to Scotland 1953)

July 21, 2024

Barbara Cruikshank Melvin (Ohio to Scotland 1952)

August 27, 2012

David Dunn Merry (South Dakota to Denmark 1960)

August 18, 2025

Rory L Metz (North Dakota to Grenada 1975)

August 24, 2025

Jeffrey P Miller (Ohio to New Zealand 1987) April 4, 2026

Paul H Miller (Ohio to Iraq 1956) January 7, 2025, LM

Paul Naffziger (Illinois to Germany 1956)

November 11, 2024

Betty Neu (Friend of IFYE) August 7, 2024

Eleanor R Pearce (Maryland to Luxembourg 1953)

October 4, 2023

Bill E Perkins (Kansas to Argentina 1955) January 7, 2026

Joanne M Fulbright Pomajevich (Montana to Israel

1957) July 9, 2024

Virgil LeRoy Rayton (Washington to Austria 1957)

February 4, 2024, LM

Donald J Rydrych (Idaho to Austria 1953 - SPIFYE

to Bernice Loy Rydrych - Pennsylvania to Austria 1953

deceased 2014) February 15, 2026, LM

Leonard E Schmiede (Michigan to Pakistan 1958)

August 9, 2021

Charles P Shields (Kentucky to England 1952)

September 13, 2025

Anne L Rettig Snyder (Colorado to Austria 1959)

March 15, 2025, LM

Charles B Sperow (West Virginia to Sweden 1949)

July 5, 2025

Mary Jane Denison Sterrett (Ohio to Finland 1956)

January 11, 2024

Katherine Harvey Stirling (Utah to West Germany 1961)

October 10, 2025

Elizabeth Guice Taylor (North Carolina to Belgium/

Luxembourg 1951) October 22, 2020

Richard F Taylor (Ohio to Greece 1950) July 13, 2018

Owen Thomas III (Virginia to Australia 1955)

August 26, 2024

Paul J Tillotson, DVM (Kansas to Mexico 1951)

December 9, 2019

Jamie Harness Tomek (Ambassador Missouri to Spain

1966) February 28, 2026, LM

Blanche Bushong Trimble (Kentucky to Japan 1958)

June 14, 2022

Samuel Ross Tuckwiller (West Virginia to Argentina 1959)

December 7, 2025

William J Twarogowski (Ohio to Burma[Myanmar]

1957) December 6, 2019

Verne T Unger (California to France 1953) June 5, 1967

Mary Katherine "Kathy" Murphy Wachsmuth (South

Dakota to Turkey 1966) December 3, 2022, LM

Margaret L Mallak Walshe (Minnesota to India 1957)

December 10, 2025, LM

Cynthia P Smith Weiss (New Hampshire to Belgium 1959)

June 13, 2024

Dr. Janet Atkinson Weston (Colorado to Finland 1958)

January 1, 2023, LM

Patricia R Henson Weingart (Connecticut to Taiwan

1957) January 15, 2026

Robert "Bob" Weiss (Illinois to Iran 1957)

February 23, 2026, LM

Dale E Wicke (Nebraska to The Netherlands 1963)

March 8, 2026, LM