



# ILLINOIS

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2026-2028**

**September 2026**

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## Fall IL IFYE Meeting

The Fall IL IFYE Meeting will be held the weekend of September 25 to 27

### Friday, September 25, 2026

|         |                                                                                                                                                           |                                                         |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 3:00 PM | Anderson Japanese Gardens<br>318 Spring Creek Road<br>Rockford, Illinois 61107<br><a href="https://andersongardens.org/">https://andersongardens.org/</a> | Self-Guided Tour<br>Adults: \$15.00<br>Seniors: \$14.00 |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6:00 PM | Dinner at Franchesco's Ristorante<br><a href="https://francescosrestaurants.com/">https://francescosrestaurants.com/</a><br>7128 Spring Creek Road<br>Rockford, Illinois 61107 |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Evening – Fellowship at Mark and Anita Ramage Home  
2366 Arnold Avenue  
Rockford IL 61108

### Saturday, September 26, 2026

|          |                                                                    |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 AM | Meeting (at Stockholm Inn) – Reserved for 25 people – 2-hour limit |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:00 AM | Brunch/Lunch at Stockholm Inn Swedish Restaurant (Order off menu)<br><a href="https://www.stockholminn.com/">https://www.stockholminn.com/</a><br>2420 Charles Street<br>Rockford, IL 61108 |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Saturday Afternoon Excursion Opportunities:

Outdoor Venue  
Edwards Apple Orchard West  
8218 Cemetery Road  
Winnebago, IL 61088  
<https://www.edwardsorchardwest.com/>  
[www.historicattractionsmuseum.com](http://www.historicattractionsmuseum.com)

Indoor Venue  
Historic Attractions  
13825 Metric Road  
Roscoe, IL 61073

Adults: \$28.00. Groups of 10 or more \$22 per person

6:00 PM Dinner at Machine Shed Restaurant [www.machineshed.com/rockford/](http://www.machineshed.com/rockford/)  
7475 East State Street

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7475 East State Street  
Rockford, IL 61108

Evening – Fellowship at Mark and Anita Ramage Home: 2366 Arnold Avenue, Rockford IL.

### **Sunday September 27, 2026**

9:00 AM Alpine Lutheran Church (Service) <https://www.alpinelutheran.com/>  
5001 Forest View Avenue  
Rockford, IL 61108

10:30 AM Brunch at Cracker Barrel (order off menu)  
730 North Lyford Road  
Rockford, IL 61107

### **Lodging accommodations with commentary breakfast**

Hampton Inn  
615 Clark Drive  
(I-39 & I-90, Exit 15)  
Rockford, Illinois 61107  
(815) 229-0404  
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/rkfilhx-hampton-rockford/>

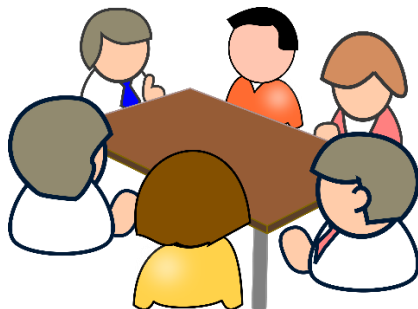
There is no special rate for IFYE, but a suggested lodging to have our group together.

### **Registration:**

Please send Mark and Anita the following information by **September 21<sup>st</sup>**.

- \*\*Attendance at Japanese Gardens Friday
- \*\*Attendance at Friday Dinner
- \*\*Attendance at Saturday Meeting & Lunch
- \*\*Attendance at Saturday night Dinner

TEXT Mark: 815-865-9049 or Anita: 815-329-4723. Email: [rumage90@gmail.com](mailto:rumage90@gmail.com)



# 2027 IFYE Conference

Save the Date!! National IFYE Conference: June 23rd - 26th, 2027 Crossroads of Culture – IFYE in the Heart of it All Sheraton Inn Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio Lad Harrison, Conference Chairman. On Thursday we have three exciting educational tours lined up for you to choose from:

Tour 1: You will visit the Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center and The Ohio State University Ag Technical College. Lunch is at Ma Yoder's Kitchen buffet in the middle of Amish Country. Next, we head to Behault Cyclorama to learn about Amish/Mennonite Heritage, a visit to an Amish one-room schoolhouse and Amish-built barn. We will top it off with a trip to Lehman's Hardware before finishing at Varian Orchards for dinner.

Tour 2: It's not Sunday night football but on Thursday you will visit the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton along with a trip to the National First Ladies Museum and the MAPS Air Museum before finishing your day at Varian Orchards for dinner.

Tour 3: Cleveland is where Rock & Roll started and this tour will give you six hours to divide among the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland Science Center, where you can see the Apollo 11 capsule, and The Walter Mather Maritime Museum before finishing your day at Varian Orchards for dinner. See you in Ohio!



## Inbound IFYE From Taiwan

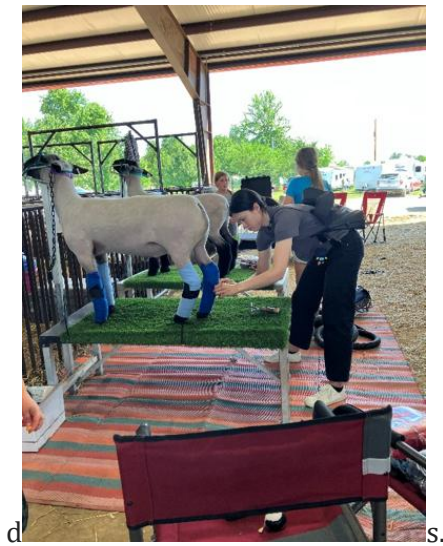
Hope and John Heslop hosted Christy (Li, Yi-Ting) from Taiwan tw. She was the USA/Illinois 2026 IFYE delegate. The Heslop's were the second of three families to host her. Christy was welcomed on July 1st, meeting at a local Thai restaurant with local IFYE's.

During her stay we found Christy to be very quiet and unassuming. She was quite willing to take part in everything we did, instinctively joining us in every aspect of our lives

Professionally, Christy works with 4-H in Taiwan. Participating in 4-H activities here in Illinois was her goal. 4-H Projects and Livestock Shows were taking place locally. Participating in judging Arts and Crafts in both St. Clair and Madison counties expanded Christy's sense of how 4-H works in Illinois as well as exposing her to many different projects.

Christy emulated the 4-H motto "Learn by doing". We mela family at the Clinton County Livestock fair who were preparing sheep for the evening show. Christy started asking questions about preparations. Next thing, Christy was helping them wrap the legs of their sheep to keep them clean and ready. It was fun to see this family takeaway Champion and Grand Champaign Awards.

We attended one more 4-H livestock show which was in Monroe County. Once Christy had a look at the schedule of events, she used her translator to choose Showmanship. These 4-Hers had to show their cow first, pig second, and sheep last



Besides the usual 4-H and IFYE activities that took place during her time with us, we kept Christy busy exploring the usual and unusual attractions in the St. Louis metropolitan area that piqued her interests (The Arch, City Museum, Skyview Drive-in and Cahokia Mounds to name a few)

We were indeed grateful to the IFYE's who shared special interests with her during her stay with us. We ended her visit with a journey along Route 66 to meet with her 3rd and final host family.

Hope & John



## Email Address Please

I have tried to send this Newsletter to those that I have email addresses electronically. I sent paper copy only to those that don't have an email address on file with me. Postage is now 82 cents per newsletter. Please send me your email address. [wachtell1945@gmail.com](mailto:wachtell1945@gmail.com) If you have received both paper copy and an electronic copy, please let me know. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

# Condolences

Bev Hornickel, 1970 IFYE to Panama died on April 29, 2026 at her home in Normal IL. Bev had just completed her term as IL IFYE President on April 25 at the annual meeting of IL IFYE.

Gorden Hanson died April 30, 2026, in Minier IL. Gorden was the husband of Carolyn Hansen, National IFYE President and IL IFYE coordinator.

Our sincere sympathy to the families of Bev and Gordon.



## A Bit of IL IFYE History

In the early years of IL IFYE Association, the IFYE Newsletter was written and sent out by the IFYE president. This was possible because the presidents had a connection to the local Extension Office or Office that had a mimeograph machine. Mike Coats became president in 1976 and wasn't sure how he was going to print and distribute the Newsletter. As, Vice President I agreed to write the Newsletter for Mike. Then in 1977 I was president and wrote the Newsletter. Now it is 2026-50 years later and I am still writing the IL IFYE Newsletter!

## 14th World IFYE Conference

### New Zealand's South Island in 2028

Location: Ashburton, New Zealand

Accommodations: In Methven, Mid Canterbury

Time: Around the second week in March 2028

Airport: Christchurch International

## From Fall 1961 IL IFYE Newsletter

### 1961 IL IFYE Delegates:

|                |                 |               |                         |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Margaret Allen | Tazewell County | Netherlands   | March 30 to November 22 |
| Walt Griffith  | Knox County     | Sweden        | March 30 to November 22 |
| Jean Rushton   | Kendall County  | England/Wales | March 30 to November 22 |
| Judith Sanders | Bond County     | Columbia      | June 18 to December 15  |
| John Martin    | Clay County     | Ceylon        | October 5 to May (?)    |
| Dalel Black    | Kankakee County | Jordan        | October 5 to Fall 1962  |