



# IFYE NEWS

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of the  
IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.  
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## IFYE Strategic Planning for 2020-2023

*Carolyn Seymour Hansen*

This summer we sent a survey to more than 1900 of our membership asking for your input on a variety of items so that we could be better prepared to develop a meaningful strategic plan for IFYE USA. We thank the more than 200 of you who responded and shared your thoughts. Every comment was forwarded to every member of the Board and your comments were shared throughout our September meeting. We believe it is important to share with you some of what we learned.

When asked if the motto “Peace through Understanding” is still relevant, 96.3% of you said yes. Similarly, 93.2% thought that conducting international programs and cross-cultural education was still relevant. However, you were also concerned that there are many programs that “compete” for participants.

When asked about a separate values statement, you were pretty well split, 52.5% yes and 47.5% said no. We did not develop a separate values statement, but we did work on twelve (12) guiding principles. These are found on page 6.

The vast majority of you thought cultural immersion is an important part of the IFYE experience. Interestingly, 40.2% felt the rural background of IFYE was important/very important; 37.4% were indifferent; 9.6% felt it was not important; and 12.8% thought it was least important. Quite a few IFYEs from the 60s – 90s felt it was not or least important.

We were not surprised to learn that 93.2% of you felt that flexibility was important/very important; 97.2% believed that developing self-reliance was important/very important; and 98.1% shared that adaptability was important/very important; 97.8% felt the program developed self-confidence.

Finally, when asked if IFYE is meeting the needs of today’s young adults by offering international experiences, 84.5% said yes. Of those answering, almost unanimously, the IFYEs from 1990 – present day said that yes, IFYE meets or has met their needs.

There is a lot more data from the survey, especially with your comments that tell the IFYE story.

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## A Twist on Sustainability

*Ken Gordon*

Many commodity organizations have checkoff programs. A checkoff is legislated through Congress to allow a small amount of money to be collected at the first point of sale of a commodity. Each checkoff is designed to improve the market for farmers who sell a specific commodity. There is even a mango checkoff – Who knew?

IFYE focused efforts early this year on the soybean checkoff. The United Soybean Board (USB) issued a request for proposals around soybean meal, soybean oil, and sustainability. IFYE chose to pursue sustainability. When most people think of sustainability in agriculture, thoughts tend to focus on production of crops, and how sustainably those crops are grown. However, IFYE took a different approach.

IFYE’s thoughts centered around the sustainability of the USB’s leadership pipeline. The IFYE opportunity for USB was presented as a foundational experiential learning opportunity for future leaders of the soybean industry. For the USB proposal, IFYE added additional in-country contacts with the U.S. Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) and the United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC), with possible trips to experience soybean processing. Research shows that living with host families to embrace the cultural experience is the most important component of leadership development. IFYE, of course, includes this vital component.

According to (Kok-Yee Ng, Linn VanDyne, and Soon Ang - 2009) *Advances in Global Leadership*, “To maximize experiential learning for leadership development, organizations can encourage their leaders to get involved



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Victoria Warren  
Association Board  
President

## President’s Message

Greetings, IFYE friends!

Here we are, almost at the end of 2020. I pray you are all staying safe and well despite the pandemic, the fires, the hurricanes, and the social unrest. I venture to guess that every one of us knows someone who has been affected by at least one of these. However, I also believe we have not lost hope that our country and our world will be better when we come out on the other side of them. As Maya Angelou said, “I’ve learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go

on, and it will be better tomorrow.”

Despite the need to cancel the program this year, as you have heard more than once, your IFYE board and staff have been busy planning and making good on past plans. In this newsletter:

- Alan Lambert is sharing our plans and hopes for the IFYE program in 2021.
- Ken Gordon is sharing our progress, plans, and hopes for funding for the program.
- Carolyn Seymour Hansen is sharing the results of the survey many of you answered this summer and the steps we have taken and are taking based on that survey.

So, what is left for me to share? Well, in the October IFYE Update, I promised you that the fall/winter IFYE NEWS would share all twelve (12) Guiding Principles of the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. developed by the Board at our September meeting. Guess what? Those are found on page 6. Remember that these were developed based on the input you gave us in the summer survey, so these are *our* guiding principles (as in the “royal we”). These principles not only define what we believe but will help us to focus our efforts in the years to come. If ever something we do seems contrary to these guiding principles, please let a member of the Board know!

The IFYE Association also now has two new committees;

1. The ad hoc Membership Committee (which may eventually be a new standing committee). This committee will study all things “membership” and recommend necessary changes to make membership relevant to the diversity of those who are “IFYE” in all its forms! Carolyn Seymour Hansen is the chair. Read more about the committee in her article on page 4.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



*Whatever language(s) you speak, holidays you celebrate, or wherever your travels may take you – we wish you all a safe and beautiful holiday season!*

2. The standing Website Sub-Committee (under the umbrella of the Marketing and Resource Development Committee). This committee will focus solely on the IFYE website. Its responsibilities will be to oversee the website and make sure all information is current, interesting, accurate, etc. The Chair and members are not appointed yet, so if you are interested, please let me know.

Wow! This is my last message for the IFYE NEWS as President of the IFYE Association of the USA. It has been an interesting two years. Now that it is almost time to pass the IFYE Peace Pipe to Jan Dennis Wood, I hope you will indulge me in a few special quotes. These speak to me of what an IFYE experience has done for us and will keep doing for others, as we keep it living, growing, and improving:

- “For a clever man, different cultures, different lives, different attitudes, different dreams, different of everything are a good teacher! You only take the things you already know from somebody or something like you!” Mehmet Murat ildan (Turkish writer)
- “Understanding languages and other cultures builds bridges. It is the fastest way to bring the world closer together and to Truth. Through understanding, people will be able to see their similarities before differences.” Suzy Kassem (U.S. writer)
- “My feeling about seeing the world is that it’s going to change you necessarily, just the very fact of being out there and meeting people from different cultures and different ways of life.” Ewan McGregor (Scottish actor)
- “I always encourage people to get out there, travel the world, see new things, experience new people, experience new food, experience new culture. What happens is that [it] helps you to grow and be your best self.” Karamo Brown (U.S. TV host)
- “Keep your language. Love its sounds, its modulation, its rhythm. But try to march together with men of different languages, remote from your own, who wish like you for a more just and human world.” Hélder Câmara (Brazilian Archbishop)

Finally, think about what *you* might do for other IFYEs and host families, past, present and future, to keep cross-cultural contact and education through host family living strong and vibrant: “The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy.” Kalu Ndukwe Kalu (Nigerian-born U.S. political scientist)

We believe our motto of “Peace through Understanding” is still relevant! Since the end of World War II and the many years of the Cold War, our country and our world has, perhaps, not needed it more!

**Did you know** you can make recurring donations automatically to IFYE? Just visit the [IFYE website](#) and select Ways to Give. Click on the link that says “Make a Donation.” Select from the choices or type in any amount you wish to contribute. Enter the credit card you’d like to use and continue to fill out the form, selecting “Yes” to the question, “Make this a monthly payment;” submit. It’s that easy.

## Opening Doors for IFYE

If you truly believe, as I do, in the transformative power of IFYE, now is the time to help open doors for IFYE to grow. There are many doors to unlock for IFYE, doors to more countries, doors to greater awareness, and doors to more stable financing. Think about the doors you can open for IFYE.



*Ken Gordon  
Executive Director*

IFYE is growing, and so is the need to expand our country connections. If you went to or lived/live in a country that we do not currently have established relations with, and have connections to an organization there with which we may partner, please reach out to Alan Lambert, our National Program Director, to possibly open that door. He can be reached via email at [alanelambert@gmail.com](mailto:alanelambert@gmail.com).

IFYE's financial stability is an ongoing effort. Our financial position was stabilized from those who committed to support our Organizational Capacity Campaign, but that campaign ends this year. I thank all those who made contributions through this program. These contributions have helped IFYE open doors.

Doors with the USDA Cooperative Extension System were again opened after the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing with USDA last year. We've opened doors with some of our land-grant universities and developed a template they can use as a guide to extend academic credit to those students who choose to pursue an IFYE experience. Doors are opening with commodity associations and boards. As we submit more proposals, like the one approved by the United Soybean Board (*starting on page 1 and continuing below*), to other checkoff boards and receive other approvals, our numbers of IFYEs and funding will increase.

Although IFYE may have been slowed by the pandemic of 2020, IFYE has continued working diligently to grow and improve the program and the Association through multiple efforts and outreach. Many foundations, corporations, and government agencies have been contacted. Early efforts with foundations that historically provided funding for IFYE were not fruitful because they have changed their direction for financial support over the years. Those who have shifted to support other causes are the familiar names such as the Ford and Kellogg Foundations. But we won't give up.

You all know the story of Chicken Little. The IFYE sky is not falling. We won't let our sky fall. We are continuing to surface funding partners whose mission aligns with IFYE. We are building relationships, calling potential financial partners, participating in meetings, both in-person and virtual. We're knocking on doors, and some are opening for IFYE. We will continue knocking and opening doors to grow the program and our Association.

If you think of a door you can open to an organization, foundation, corporation, or government agency, please contact me at [kgordon@ifyeusa.org](mailto:kgordon@ifyeusa.org) to share your knowledge. You may unlock a door for greater support and growth.

*A Twist on Sustainability  
Continued from Page 1*



in the host culture in several ways." One of the ways depicted in literature for leaders to internalize a new culture is to facilitate interdependence with local citizens. The IFYE program embraces this concept of leadership through host family living.

Various studies have been conducted that look at the dynamics of leadership and how in-depth international experiences can enhance an organization's growth and sustainability. IFYE currently is largely supported by those who have been through the program. This fact supports the idea that those individuals who have lived internationally bring an enhanced view of the importance of a global experience.

According to Markman et al. (2015) in "Why People with Multicultural Experience Are More Creative," he believes persons who have immersed themselves in another culture have the openness and cognitive flexibility to make organizations more creative. He goes on to say that "most creative people have two things in common: They are willing to consider alternatives to the way things are currently done, and they see objects, people, and situations

from multiple perspectives." Being immersed in a culture, Markman believes, increases your overall openness to new experiences and you begin to realize that everything in the world can be viewed in various ways.

The IFYE proposal was a creative approach to looking at sustainability. By providing a positive impact on future leaders, IFYE is delivering a foundation for those leaders to broaden their perspective and bring creative thinking to the broad sectors within agriculture.

Taking this unusual approach resulted in a grant from the USB for \$124,110 for IFYE to implement an enhanced international program for USB's up-and-coming leaders. These funds will be held by the USB Board as IFYE implements the program. Costs incurred will be billed back against this total as the program progresses. You can read the [news release posted](#) on the IFYE website to learn more. There are more than 20 different commodity checkoff research and promotion boards. There are checkoffs for corn, peanuts, beef, pork, and more. Other checkoff boards may benefit from an opportunity similar to the IFYE soybean experience. Work will continue to reach out to other checkoff boards to determine if similar experiences may be an opportunity to enhance their leadership development.

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The rest of the data and the comments will help guide us as we continue to plan for the future and will be used as we tell the IFYE story to potential funders, partners, participants, and host families.

One important outcome of the meeting was the realization that we need to study the definitions of alumni, membership, membership benefits, and member engagement. To that end, an ad hoc committee was formed to conduct some research and develop those definitions and benefits.

We will conduct a couple of different focus groups on how to engage our younger alumni as well as those of us who have recently retired and may have more time to give to the organization. Members of the ad hoc committee are Alicia Acken, Cindy Barnett, Pat Eisenmann Donahue, Kate Garrity, Bob Jenkins, Michelle Stork, and Sheri Swackhamer. Carolyn Seymour Hansen will lead the group. If you are interested in joining this team who will be looking at “all things membership,” please contact Carolyn ([carolynsh7480@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsh7480@gmail.com)) at your earliest convenience.

Guided by the survey results, your Board of Directors developed four goals for the organization and twelve guiding principles. These will help us as we make decisions on program, policy, membership, marketing, and finance.

#### 2020 – 2023 Strategic Goals for IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

- 🌀 **Finance:** Maintain stable financing sufficient to achieve a vibrant program and continued growth of the organization.
- 🌀 **Membership:** Grow a membership that is sustainable and inclusive, with multiple stakeholders.
- 🌀 **Marketing:** Inform and promote the purpose and value of IFYE for program and organizational growth.
- 🌀 **Program:** Grow and enrich the IFYE program with multiple stakeholders.

#### The ad hoc Membership Committee

We are a member-based organization; yet, we do not have a membership committee to address the issues that fall in the areas of membership recruitment, member benefit packages, and other various categories. We thought that was a gap that needs filling. To that end, we have established this ad hoc committee and we are beginning our work.

We will have several informative, interesting, and exciting announcements to make about “The IFYE Family” toward the end of January, first of February. Please keep a lookout in your inbox and mailbox (depending on electronic accessibility) for some really cool information.

While this is an ad hoc committee at present, it may become a full committee at some point in time. If you are interested in helping, or have questions, comments or concerns, please let Committee Chair, Carolyn Seymour Hansen know at [carolynsh7480@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsh7480@gmail.com).



Alan Lambert  
National IFYE Program  
Director

## Building Resiliency

I have used this space in the past to share with you the IFYE program’s progress and new initiatives and will continue to do so. 2020 has affected everyone in its unrelenting list of challenges, but so many of you have answered in a variety of positive ways – offering your knowledge, insights, enthusiasm, visions, and financial support.

The challenges that 2020 has afforded us have left no corner untouched, but I am beginning to refer to 2020 as the year we build resiliency – through our efforts to reach out to universities through academic credit opportunities for IFYE participants, partnering with commodity groups to provide IFYE experiences for their “up and coming leaders”, and expanding the number of participating countries despite the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all growing our ability to handle change and adapt to unknown circumstances. You may have certainly done things this year that you never imagined, and they may have changed you.

This is not easy. There are instances when we don’t know the right answer; there is only a best answer at the time. Sometimes, despite all the planning that goes into something, it still doesn’t work. However, we are forging ahead with plans for a successful 2021 IFYE program. Our participating countries have agreed that it will be much easier to plan for 2021, and then potentially suspend the program in February, March, or April 2021, instead of waiting until then to decide to go forward.

I have received seven (7) IFYE applications for 2021 thus far, including two (2) from last year’s applicants. The Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Virtual Leaders Conference was held November 11-14. IFYE was part of two roundtable discussions and exhibited at a “virtual booth” during AFA’s Virtual Opportunity Career Fair. IFYE received interest from 30 attendees and presented information about IFYE via Zoom to seven individuals. All individuals will receive prompt follow-up.

As always, please contact me with any questions and suggestions. – [alanelambert@gmail.com](mailto:alanelambert@gmail.com)

*Check out our Facebook page and other social media - There are some great articles/postings/photos from our Digital Media Committee and recent returning IFYEs.*

*Read comments/posts left by other program alumni recently or in years past - how do they compare? What differences might have occurred over the years?*

*Just go to our website ([ifyeusa.org](http://ifyeusa.org)) and click on the Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram icon at the bottom right of the home page.*

## Santa Lucia Day

Ruth (Benson) Drummond  
(Montana to Sweden 1953)

Still giving presentations and sharing her IFYE experience, Ruth has lived for the past six years at West Park Village (a senior living residence) in Billings, Montana. She says, "I'm happy to have the chance to contribute to the IFYE Assn. My experience as a delegate to Sweden in 1953 was one of the greatest experiences of my lifetime." She also commented that, "I was especially happy to get Sweden as my exchange place because my parents were both immigrants from Sweden." (Ed.)

Living with six different farm families in various parts of Sweden, I was able to share some of my life in Montana with them. I also enjoyed sharing my experiences in Sweden with thousands of Montana people after I returned from my trip.

Over the past six years, I have enjoyed telling the residents here at West Park Village about Sweden and the celebration of Santa Lucia Day at this time of year. These presentations all started when there was a search for programs for a ladies' tea each month. When December was about to come, I suggested a Swedish coffee and to tell about my IFYE experience, something about the country using a large map, and some of the customs in Sweden like Santa Lucia Day which is pretty much the start of their Christmas and the start of the days getting longer.

Since I started this presentation, I have been asked to repeat it each year and there have been 60 to 70 people attending. My presentation has usually been an afternoon coffee here with about 70 people. Then, the coordinators would serve Swedish Rice Pudding topped with lingonberries and a Swedish ginger cookie on the side which I made.



(Left) I am wearing the same Swedish outfit that I wore at most of my IFYE talks (back here in Montana upon my return home). My daughter, Donna, is wearing the National Swedish outfit and she helped with putting all the designs on the map of Sweden as I told about them. (Right)



(Left) I also try to include an employee and maybe some of the employee's children. If children are not available, I may include children who are visiting as seen below.

Santa Lucia Day is observed this year on Sunday, December 13. This is quite a celebration in schools, churches, and even in Stockholm. It's celebrated in our country at many Lutheran churches.



As we approach Santa Lucia Day this year, I do not see how I can do a presentation considering our present guidelines for social distancing at my residence. However, I will use my Swedish decorations in the hallway and maybe they would even let me display some of these decorations in the lobby.

As to the IFYE international exchanges, I so hope the exchanges will get back in order next year.

## Sharing Thanksgiving in Costa Rica

What was one of your holiday memories in your host country or perhaps as shared with others from another country as a host family for a day or several weeks or longer?



Here we find two 2018 IFYEs to Costa Rica (Laura Jensen [Front] and Jennifer Moran [2nd from left]) celebrating Thanksgiving with two other Americans, two Canadians, and one Costa Rican while in their host country.



## **Guiding Principles of the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.**

- 1) We seek to encourage and provide lifelong learning and opportunities for adventure through quality and innovative program leadership.
- 2) We believe that cultural immersion through a two-way exchange is the foundation of our program to promote international understanding and global awareness.
- 3) We believe that multiple host family stays enhance life skills development and global citizenship.
- 4) We believe our collective experiences as IFYEs, host families, and friends make us family who care about each other and give us an appreciation of the world-wide definitions of family.
- 5) We believe in developing global citizenship through cultural inclusiveness, diversity, knowledge, and openness to advance global awareness and world peace!
- 6) We believe the IFYE experience provides the participant with leadership development opportunities which will enhance his/her capacity to have a major positive impact as a citizen of the USA and the world.
- 7) We embrace unique cultural circumstances which push participants to greater personal awareness and growth.
- 8) We embrace and celebrate the inherent uniqueness of every human being within our global community.
- 9) We value honesty, integrity, and trust as essentials of teamwork, personal relationships, and leadership.
- 10) We believe stakeholder involvement is critical to the development and growth of the program and organization.
- 11) We value the connection between agricultural-based learning opportunities and how they impact the world.
- 12) We value individual ownership and commitment to the success of the IFYE program.

We will include the above twelve Guiding Principles on our website in the near future. During 2021, we also plan to feature one Guiding Principle each month on our website.

We hope you will see that the foundational cornerstones of our organization are still embodied in the current work and direction of the organization.

As always, please direct questions or concerns to any one of the Board members (Contact information for all Board members is found at <https://ifyeusa.org/about/board.html>.) We are here to listen to and learn from you as we guide our organization and the IFYE program forward.

## **IFYE Annual Giving is in Full Swing**

In August, the IFYE Annual Giving Campaign kicked off with a letter to all IFYE alumni. Early response has been encouraging but we are behind. We are not quite halfway to our \$50,000 goal. Time is running out because our IFYE campaign will end December 31, 2020.

In this issue of the IFYE NEWS, we have highlighted much of the work that has been done this past year to keep our program vibrant and growing. We talked about finalizing a template for land-grant universities to use so collegians can receive credit for the IFYE experience. We shared more in-depth information on the grant we received from the United Soybean Board, and we introduced our guiding principles as developed at our annual in-person IFYE Board meeting. Now is your opportunity to support IFYE and the great work we continue to do.

The National Annual Giving Tuesday event is December 1 this year. Remember that date, so when you hear about Giving Tuesday on TV or radio, think of sending a tax-deductible contribution to IFYE.

IFYE giving totals for 2020 will recognize donors by level of giving.

Bronze: \$10 - \$99     Platinum: \$1000 - \$4999  
Silver: \$100 - \$499     Diamond: \$5000 and above  
Gold: \$500 - \$999

Platinum and Diamond levels will include a life membership.

Please send checks payable to:  
IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

Mail to:  
Pat Hutsell, Assoc. Treasurer  
3670 N Bayou Hills Road  
Parker, CO 80134-5111

Or visit the IFYE Website to contribute online at: <https://ifyeusa.org> and click on the Ways to Give link to make your contribution. Please write "Annual Giving Campaign" in the additional comments section or in the memo section of the check you send.

Thank You for Supporting IFYE

## **2021 National IFYE Conference**

**Location:** Radisson Hotel, Branson, Missouri

**Dates:** Thursday, September 23 through Sunday, September 26, 2021

**Reunions:** Rooms for a meal and sharing time are booked for both the 1970 and 1971 groups for Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>. One chair of each group should contact Vicky (Victoria) Warren for arrangements. [Victoria1984.vw@gmail.com](mailto:Victoria1984.vw@gmail.com)

**Sleeping rooms:** Are offered at the same rate as they were for the canceled 2020 conference. Cost per room for double occupancy will be \$123.25, tax included. This rate will be honored for three days prior to and three days following conference dates. More details early in 2021.

**Virtual business meeting and possibly other components:** May be available; more information to follow in early 2021.



## Memorable Events in Taiwan and Since Returning Home

Amaris Daniels

(Florida to Taiwan and Thailand 2019)

### Taking Part in a Tea Competition (Taiwan)

Tea in the morning, tea in the noonday, tea at night. Oolong tea, white tea, black tea, green tea. Tea for you and me.

My host family in Taipei was very enjoyable. They lived in a very nice apartment 10 minutes from the Taipei Zoo, three minutes from the family tea business and from two 7-Elevens. The bus came just across the street and you could be downtown in half an hour.

It was this sweet family that introduced me to an unforgettable experience. The day they picked me up, my host mom informed me that I would participate in a Tea Making Competition. I did not think much of it until the competition came a week later. Suddenly, I found myself at a facility with many Young Farmers, an association promoting agriculture for Taiwan's youth, along with many experienced farmers.

There were leaves, so many leaves. Rack after rack lined the edge of the facility holding these large, flat, bamboo baskets. In the middle of the building was a huge, square, red carpet. On the right side, opposite of the racks, were many large machines. Then, there was a stage and beautiful banner announcing the competition at the front.



So many lively voices, kind smiles, anticipation-filled eyes, and agriculturalists wearing green shirts. As soon as the competition started, I found myself holding one of those bamboo baskets full of green leaves that greatly resembled those of typical household shrubs. (see left.)

I had no idea what I was doing. So, I watched, learned, and got hands-on advice from the experts.

Some rules when it comes to drying tea:

- Do not use scented soap or lotion because it will leave a bad taste on the tea leaves.
- Go watch the experts, or old guys. They are highly proficient and hilarious, too.
- Just ask when you need help.
- Be patient and have fun.

Oh, the contest lasts for 24 straight hours

Here is how the contest went. (The tea leaves had been recently handpicked; so, we began with the drying process):

1. Gently, we hand turned the leaves every 30 minutes or so, or when the scent became strong. This happened for about 5 hours. The leaves appeared withered.
2. We took turns placing them in a green heating drum that continued the drying process.
3. Inspected the leaves for broken, overdried or stem. (I left a lot of stems in mine.)

4. Time to curl the leaves. Put the leaves in a cloth pouch (which resembled women's tights), tightened the loose ends and wrapped them around a long, cylindrical piece of wooden stick.
5. Rolled and retightened. This happened for at least three hours! Great time for chatting.
6. Okay, break time! Time to eat, talk, nap, and play.
7. Next tumble-dry the tea leaves, inspect and pick more stems.
8. We weighed, stored, and labeled the tea exactly 24 hours from the time the contest started.

A few days later, a professional tea tasting judge gave the scores on all the products. I did not win the competition, but I surely enjoyed the contest. It was a time I will not forget.

### Peanuts - Some Good Eatin! (Taiwan)

I'll bet you didn't know peanuts don't grow on a tree. ... I guess it is a good thing I didn't have money on that bet because you probably did know that.

While staying with my host family just outside of Hualien City, Taiwan, we visited a local peanut field. There were many people out gathering peanuts, which was something I had never done before.

As it turns out, they were gathering what the peanut harvester had left behind. The harvester was two times the size of an average pickup truck and was powered by one person. Up and down the field it went, sucking in everything, collecting the best, and leaving the rest.

My host family and I joined in the peanut picking and made a good time out of it. I observed how the plant grew and which parts sprouted the nuts. I discovered which peanuts were good to keep and which to leave behind. Quickly, I learned that I was the slowest peanut picker and made it a competition to see who could fill their bag the most in the time given. Soon, I had dirty pants and hands, a little sweat and large grin. I did not win the competition.



My host family knew the farmers well, so we socialized after collecting our fill of nuts and cleaned up for the ride home. We stopped to see the products of the harvesting machine, which were thousands of peanuts spread out on a clean area of concrete to dry (see left). My host family boiled those same peanuts we gathered before I left [their home]. That was some good eatin'.

### My Recent Participation on PBS

As a recent Tennessee State University (TSU) graduate, I had the grand opportunity to participate in a Nashville Public Television discussion panel as part of PBS' third episode in the "Age of Nature" series [this month on November 5]. I greatly enjoyed the conversation with the other panelist as we shared insights into our own environmental research, personal accounts, and how we see the changes in nature shaping the future.

## Kamala – a Global Citizen in a Small Country

by Nancy William (SPIFYE)

Ray William – Washington to Ceylon/  
Sri Lanka 1968



Ray and Nancy William on 2018 World Conference cruise in Alaska

One day in May 1968, Ray William received a phone call from the Washington State 4-H Leader, Rita Sullivan. She asked a question that would change his life forever. “Would you like to go to Ceylon?”

Having never heard of this country but having not a moment of hesitation, Ray exclaimed, “Yes!”

He immediately opened the atlas to see where he was going. When he couldn't find “salon,” he called her back. “Can you tell me how to spell it?” Ray asked. That's how his IFYE adventure began. Ray was graduating with a degree in horticulture from Washington State University (WSU) and had requested a tropical country. Ceylon, renamed Sri Lanka in 1974, is 5°N of the Equator. This assignment fulfilled his wildest expectations!

After an orientation in Washington, D.C., Ray and Marilyn Schwab Geiger (IFYE from PA) boarded a flight to London in June, followed by a few more flights. When they landed in Colombo, they agreed that they had landed in paradise.

Young Farmers' Clubs (YFC) served as the IFYE link. As Ceylon is a very small country, Ray and Marilyn were able to return to Kandy between multiple host families. Their liaison was Kamala da Silva, an IFYE from Ceylon to the U.S in 1963. She was the one person who understood their need for R&R - a weekend to eat whatever they wanted and to not be “on display.”

Ray and I were exchanging daily aerograms, and he frequently mentioned Kamala's hospitality. He wrote that her name means lotus in Sinhalese and is an endearing name because the Buddha sits in a lotus. If we married, he would like to use her name if we had a daughter. I agreed.

We married in 1969, and when our daughter was born in 1977, we named her Kamala. I sent a birth announcement to Kamala da Silva and other YFC friends.

Fast forward to September 1988 when our family returned to Oregon from Malawi. Ray had been working as a horticulture consultant on a two-year consortium contract with USAID while on sabbatical leave from OSU. We definitely wanted our daughter Kamala William and our exchangee Kamala da Silva to meet. So, we included a visit to Sri Lanka in our itinerary back to the United States. This was not as simple as it might sound!

After going to the YFC Headquarters, we set out with two men in their government jeep. When we arrived at Kamala's house, she was so excited to see her friends that she overlooked us. When she recognized us standing on the porch, she was shocked! Because of mail disruptions during the civil war (1983-2009), she had never received our letter,

and knew nothing about our daughter. What a reunion that was for Ray, and a “re-union” for all of us!

Our story came full circle when Kamala and her husband came to the U.S. in 1991. Others purchased tickets for them, and we gave them AMTRAK tickets from Chicago to Portland, Oregon. They were delighted.

We gave Kamala a very special gift, a small chicken created of Mt. St. Helen's ash. *(When she left the U.S. in 1963, she had taken a box of chicks home. Eventually, she and her family owned the biggest poultry farm in Ceylon. Truly, her IFYE experience had also changed her life.)*

We had an ongoing correspondence with her for about 40 years, and then exchanged email messages with her nephew. About 4 years ago, he told us that Kamala had died. Six prostheses to victims of the atrocities during their country's civil war were donated in her memory. Three were designated for Buddhists (mostly Sinhalese) and three were designated for Hindus (mostly Tamils), the religion of her husband.

Kamala was a global citizen from a small country. We will always hold our relationship with her in our hearts.

~ ~ ~

*What is notable for Ray is that, when he returned to Pullman in December 1968, he was sure that he would never return to his host country of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). He had NO idea that, because of his career, he would have that opportunity. He and I visited in 1975, our family visited in 1988, and he conducted workshops there for a month in 1994. Even last week, one of Ray's former Sri Lankan graduate students at OSU called him from his home in New Brunswick, Canada.*

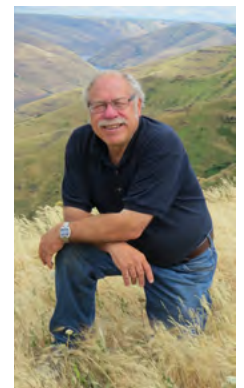
*What better proof that international exchanges do change lives and can provide understanding, insights, and influence well beyond our expectations.*

## A Taste of Elegance

Harlen Persinger

(Iowa to Norway 1970)

*It has been 50 years since I was selected as an (IFYE) International 4-H Youth Exchange delegate from Iowa to Norway. Having the opportunity to participate in this six-month program was the spark that launched my career in photojournalism. During that time frame, April through October, I lived and worked with five farm families in three different counties. My second*



*home was with Aud Tonstad, a widow who had six children, four girls and twin boys, ages 24 to 18. Their cousin, Svein Sturla Tonstad, lived down the street and was always part of each day's activities.*

Continued →



*In the summer of 2019, I returned to the community of Tonstad for the third time since 1970 and was able to meet the entire family again, except for dear Mom, who passed away in 1997. My two host brothers, Olav Magne and Tor Auden still live there, while Sturla, his wife and their children, continue to operate his parent's 84-year old bakery. After hanging out in that quaint shop for a few hours, it's quite evident that his enthusiasm and Norwegian hospitality remain a genuine calling card for this quaint town.*

~ ~ ~

As the first rays of morning light creep across the quaint village of Tonstad, Norway, a faint, but distinct rhythm can be heard coming from the back room of a small business venue along Main Street. A peek inside reveals the synchronized “pat, pat” of creamed colored soft dough being rolled, shaped, weighed and delicately placed into tins or on various size trays before entering a multi-chambered pizza oven set at 350 degrees F.

Prior to dawn, Svein Sturla Tonstad, and a couple of co-workers have already begun their seven-hour stint at the Tonstad Bakeri. Their active day starts by kneading flour or meal, milk and other ingredients together. While each person uses their hands and fingers to make different items along the spongy assembly line, Sturla concentrates on preparing 100 Danish sweet rolls, 100 to 200 14- and 18-inch loaves of bread, plus 300 to 600 smaller bread loaves, fancy cakes, and several batches of sandwich buns.



*Svein Sturla Tonstad is the second generation to own and operate the family bakeri that was initially started by his parents and opened for business in 1936.*

In a couple hours his wife, Borghild, who helps manage this close-knit family enterprise, arrives and calmly monitors the day's agenda before joining in on different aspects of the baking process. She notes that all of their children, Per Sveinung, Siri, Dagny Irene, Ingeborg and Solveig, always pitched in on various chores during their teenage years and often return to help on Saturdays and during the holidays.

“The daily routine of making an assortment of tasty goodies for folks in this valley started with my father, Peder, and his bride, Dagny, 84 years ago. After serving as an apprentice

in Egersund, an hour away, they managed to save 3,000 kroner (\$328) and opened their own shop in a basement near his home,” Sturla says. “At that time, he made four or five different kinds of bread along with cinnamon and other sweet rolls and baked everything on a wood fire oven.”



*It takes about two hours to bake a loaf of bread. Borghild Tonstad notes that wheat, oat, rye, and sesame seed are customer favorites, but the store also handles special requests.*

Sturla began learning the trade in 1975 and two years later took over the business. Later, he moved to the present location that contained a hotel garden, an old barn and a small parking lot. To reduce labor requirements, boost efficiency and improve the overall working environment, there was an extensive remodeling project. Everyone is now able to function on one floor and there's also adequate space for 100 customers to remain inside or munch on a pastry in the open air patio. And a couple years ago, Sturla arranged for his daughter, Dagny Irene, to open a clothing/knick-knack shop, named “Bittellille,” on the edge of the property.

“Although I have slowed down, I still enjoy the challenges associated with this profession,” Sturla says. “The most satisfying aspect is sharing a lifelong camaraderie with everyone who has been a part of the bakeri. It's also gratifying to have customers relate how fortunate they are that Tonstad has a merchant like this.”

“We have a tremendous staff, so I'm now able to relax and take off some afternoons and evenings,” he adds. “However, every morning I always put aside a little time for coffee (an inherited tradition among Norwegians), and sample one of my favorite pastries, made to perfection and warm, right out of the oven.”

~ ~ ~

*Harlen's article (above) has been published through American Agricultural Editors' Association (AAEA) in <http://agcommnetwork.com/a-taste-of-elegance/> and after summer 2019 in the European IFYE newsletter. [Ed.]*

## In Memoriam

The passing of the following individuals has come to our attention since publication of the IFYE NEWS (Spring/Summer 2020)

**Darlene Allen** (SPIFYE of C Dean Allen – deceased – August 18, 2006) February 15, 2019

**John L Baker** (Wyoming to Pakistan 1955) June 27, 2019

**Edith Agnes Bauer** (LABO Group Leader – Missouri 1989) February 19, 2019

**Pamela (VanMeter) Berglund** (SPIFYE to Richard Berglund – Ohio to Venezuela 1966 – deceased October 09, 1994) June 19, 2020

**Credon E Bixler** (Pennsylvania to India 1955) June 05, 2020

**Lawrence S Blanchard** (Maine to Argentina 1959) September 09, 2019

**Mary (Wilsie) Brinkerhoff** (Wisconsin to The Philippines 1953) January 15, 2018

**Stanley Davidson** (Cooperative Extension/International) December 14, 2017 LM

**Margaret (Dial) Dawson** (Arkansas to United Kingdom 1950) May 09, 2020 LM

**Clifford G Doke** (Montana to Pakistan 1955) June 08, 2020

**Zachary M Duclos** (Arkansas to Italy 1952) July 02, 2019

**Richard Fleisher** (Cooperative Extension/International – West Virginia) February 10, 2015

**Jack O Hakkila** (Connecticut to Switzerland 1962) September 26, 2020

**Patricia (Horning) Horton** (Oregon to Netherlands 1952) January 16, 2015

**Jean (Maser) Hoshiko** (Colorado SPIFYE to Paul Hoshiko [IFYE] – deceased - January 5, 1996) July 23, 2013 LM

**Betty Lee (Brown) Huff** (West Virginia to Germany 1956) July 23, 2019 LM

**Connie L (Clary) Hutchinson** (Kansas to Ireland/ Northern Ireland 1960) May 13, 2020

**Barton (Bart) J Ingraham** (Michigan to Iran 1969) November 5, 2020

**James R Kahler** (Cooperative Extension/International) May 12, 2020

**Bruce I Keeney** (New York to Dominican Republic 1959) December 09, 2018

**Evelyn (White) Kots** (New York to England/Wales 1953) June 24, 2020

**George H Laffin, Jr** (Washington to Ireland 1968) November 17, 2017

**Amanda (Tumm) Lee** (Wisconsin to Norway 1966) August 21, 2020

**Harry P Light, Jr** (West Virginia to Israel 1952) December 13, 2019

**Urania Belle Linn** (Pennsylvania to Luxembourg 1955) October 19, 2019 LM

**Michael E Madden** (Connecticut to United Kingdom 1982) November 24, 2019

**John V Maloney** (Host Family and father of IFYE) October 12, 2013

**Donna Marie (Campbell) Melber** (South Dakota to Sweden 1960) September 13, 2020 LM

**Alice M (Sharples) Moore** (Ohio to Sweden 1957) December 26, 2019 LM

**Beverly Osterberg** (Vermont to Sweden 1965) March 05, 2020 LM

**Elray L Pedersen** (Utah to Israel 1961) October 23, 2019

**Eunice (Budenbender) Perusic** (Kansas to England 1955) January 23, 2020

**Dale E Pflum** (Indiana to Italy 1964) December 08, 2016

**Jean (Stitle) Ruff** (Ohio to Norway 1953) May 16, 2019 LM

**Annabel Rupel** (Caravan and IFYE Group Leader/ Cooperative Extension) May 13, 2017 LM

**GD and Betty Seymour** (Ohio Host Family) GD – June 3, 2003/Betty – August 3, 2020

**Roy L Shelton, Jr, DMD** (Alabama to Uruguay 1951) April 23, 2014

**Grant A Shrum** (National 4-H Council) July 20, 2020 LM

**Edward W Specht** (Illinois to Poland 1976) November 14, 2020

**Joan (Kumler) Stager** (Illinois to Jamaica 1962) July 3, 2017

**Harry L Stephens** (Kansas to Iran 1963) August 29, 2020

**Julie (Tarum) Tidd** (IFYE Ambassador Kansas to Switzerland 1979)

**George Van Nuys, Jr** (New Jersey to Switzerland 1957) May 14, 2020 LM

**William Waller** (Missouri to Uruguay 1957) July 13, 2017

**Margie Weimar** (Oregon Friend of IFYE) March 04, 2019

**Elwyn (Al) Weiss** (Indiana to Finland 1951) September 22, 2019

**Jack W Wells** (Oregon to Bolivia 1952) Date of Death Unknown LM

**David A Wieckert** (Wisconsin to Sweden 1952) May 17, 2020 LM

**David Youmans** (Idaho to Columbia 1956) September 23, 2020

LM = Life Member of IFYE Assn. of USA  
SPIFYE = Spouse of IFYE

## Iowa 4-H Renews Partnership with IFYE

In recognition of a renewed partnership between Iowa 4-H and IFYE, a two-page article featuring IFYE alumni who are currently living in or are from IA was featured in the Iowa 4-H Foundation Summer 2020 newsletter. Included in this article are photos and quotes from: Wil Groves III (Iowa to Greece 1967), John Bonner (Illinois to Germany 1969), Brenda Allen (Iowa to Norway 1996), Florine Schulte Swanson (Iowa to Germany 1963), and Rhonda Coon (Iowa to the Netherlands 1977).

Check out the following URL for a complete copy of the two-page article (pages 6-7) in the Iowa State 4-H newsletter. [https://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/en/news/fourword\\_newsletters/](https://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/en/news/fourword_newsletters/)

Further information regarding becoming an outbound participant or hosting an inbound participant in 2021 or beyond can be found on our website at [ifyeusa.org](http://ifyeusa.org).





**IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.**  
Peace Through Understanding

**Permission to share my generosity via IFYE's annual donor list**  
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I wish to support IFYE in 2020 with the following:  \$5,000  \$2,500  
 \$1,000  \$750  \$500  \$250  Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- I wish to support IFYE with an annual Membership fee. \$30 for 2020 annual membership
  - If you are a **life member**, you will always be a life member and do not need to pay the \$30 annual Membership.
  - **ALL life and annual members** have access to the Member area on the website.
  - You can be a member with your \$30 annual membership only, but all contributions (by non-life members) above \$30 membership will count as a general donation.

I wish to become a **Life member** \_\_\_\_ \$1000 paid in one sum \_\_\_\_ \$200 paid over each of the next five years

Enclosed is \$20 for the postal mailing of two IFYE NEWS and eight issues of the IFYE UPDATE published during 2020.

**PAYMENT METHOD**

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

I would like to pay the above amount on a payment schedule. Please contact me. Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my credit card: MC\_ Visa \_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_ Amex\_\_\_\_\_ **AMOUNT \$** \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE: \_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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I will pay online at <http://ifyeusa.org>

Please send me (by email) access information to the IFYE website "Paid Membership area".  
**My email address is:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to financially support IFYE at this time. Please discreetly remove me from the *contact for donation* list.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of IFYE**

10/2020

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.

<http://ifyeusa.org>

## How are You a Global Citizen?

IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.  
PO Box 216  
Williamsburg, MA 01096

POSTAGE

According to the Oxfam Organization, "a global citizen is someone who is aware of and understands the wider world – and their place in it. They take an active role in their community and work with others to make our planet more peaceful, sustainable, and fairer." <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/who-we-are/what-is-global-citizenship/>

For our readers (whether program alumni - outbounds, inbounds, or host families - and other program supporters), what are you doing (or have done in the past) to promote global citizenship for yourself and others through your personal and/or work life?

Below are some of the ways that we know of that individuals are involved with global citizenship:

- Keeping up on current events beyond your current environment to be more aware of situations
- Developing partnerships with schools/families/peers/colleagues who live elsewhere
- Becoming a **virtual host family or parent** – Yes, it takes a different aspect of hosting but does allow for communication and perhaps later "homestays." It is becoming more frequent for individuals who (Covid-19 issues or other reasons) are unable to leave their home area but still wish to learn about families and life in other areas of the world. We have found that this is an idea that is increasing in use during 2020 and is evolving into a regular part of learning about other individuals and/or countries.
- Continuing or starting communication with former students you have hosted or with your former host families. Many alumni are still communicating with their host family(ies) since their time on program and many host families do the same. What about you?
- Teaching out of the USA (long term or short term) – perhaps virtual at this time in some cases
- Taking an online class (free or not) being held in another country – a cooking class (such as Cooking in Tuscany or Azerbaijan cooking in the country); architecture; taking a virtual travel tour; art of the world; perhaps a way to increase language skills; farming practices around the world; whatever your interests might be that you can learn more about and/or from another
- Consulting in your area(s) of expertise even if not able to physically be in that particular geographic area at this time
- Sharing information from your area with your host families, families of individuals you have hosted, and others

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Moving? New 911 Address?**  
Send mailing label corrections to IFYE NEWS (return address above) OR  
[vwarner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vwarner@sbcglobal.net)



Visit: <http://ifyeusa.org>

### 10 Aspects of Becoming a Global Citizen

<https://www.kosmosjournal.org/article/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-global-citizen/>

- 1) Recognize the global part of who you are
- 2) Expand your definition of community
- 3) Discover the values of the world community
- 4) Become aware of global policies and programs
- 5) Engage with the organizations that are trying to govern the world
- 6) Participate in an advocacy effort for global change
- 7) Help ensure your country's foreign policy promotes global values
- 8) Participate in organizations working to build world community
- 9) Nurture a lifestyle that supports sustainable global development
- 10) Support world art, music, and culture

