



IFYE NEWS

The Official Publication of the International
Four-H Youth Exchange Association of the USA

February 2012

Viking Ships, Swamp Soccer, Etc.

Sarah Northrup

(CO-Estonia&Switzerland-2011)

What do Viking ships, alpine barns, swamp soccer, and hitch-hiking have in common? Actually, not much ... except that they have all been part of my IFYE experience!

A university student, I left my native Colorado in June 2011 to begin a 6-month, two-country IFYE journey. What a ride it has been! The people I've met, the places I've been, and the experiences I've had are almost unbelievable! Unless, of course, you've been an IFYE before; and then, you know that anything is possible!

My adventure began in Estonia, situated just across the Baltic Sea from Finland. Estonia may be small (there are only 1 million Estonians total) but it is a little country with a big heart. While in Estonia, I had the opportunity to stay with seven different host families in different regions throughout the country. While in *Estland* (as the natives call it). I did everything from beach camping during the white nights of summer, to walking in a parade for the National Song Festival. I even completed a 200 km bike ride through the country with a local 4H club. Oh, and of course, there was hard work in there as well!

Sharing Some Memories

I have so many memories from Estonia that I treasure and I'd like to share a few of my favorites with you.

One cannot spend much time in Estonia without participating in a sauna party. Like their Baltic neighbors, Estonia has a strong and enduring sauna tradition. Sauna is a way to bring friends together for food, laughter and extreme heat! While native Estonians claim it is excellent for one's health, as a sauna newcomer, I was concerned that I might spontaneously combust in the over 200°F temperatures. Everyone had a good laugh when, after only a few minutes, I ran from the sauna and took refuge in a nearby lake. I eventually toughened up after a few months. By the time I left Estonia, I could sauna like a native. Almost everyone in Estonia has a sauna built into their home or in an outdoor building close by. For a truly authentic sauna, all you need is freshly smoked fish, birch branches for purifying the skin, a few cans of quality beer or cider, and - of course - good friends to share in the event!



These boats are all built by hand, using techniques that are hundreds of years old! One of my host fathers was a master builder in a local shipbuilding organization. This photo was taken at the launch of their most recent project.



Wearing traditional clothing to walk in the parade at the 2011 National Song Festival in Tallinn, Estonia

Life in Estonia has not been easy and the country is still recovering from more than 50 years of occupation by the former Soviet Union. It was fascinating to hear peoples' stories about the "Russian Times" and what life was like behind the Iron Curtain. That said, I have never met people that treasure their freedom as much as the Estonians.

Their love of their traditions, language, and land was truly inspiring. Every two years in Tallinn (the capital city), Estonians celebrate their independence with a National Song Festival. Song festivals have long been a tradition in Estonia. However, they have taken on an even more significant role in Estonian life since the collapse of the Soviet Union. While many countries had to fight to gain their independence from the Soviet regime, the Estonians chose to use their voices instead of weapons. In what is

now referred to as a "Singing Revolution", the Estonian people banded together and held illegal singing festivals to protest Russian occupation. At these festivals, the people sang national songs that had been banned by the Soviet Government. Now, twenty years later, the country still joins together to sing these same songs in celebration of the freedom they went so long without. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to participate in the National Song Festival this year as an IFYE. To witness Estonian people gather to sing and celebrate their country, was truly awe-inspiring and I am so grateful I was able to participate in the event.

Peace, Love and IFYE

After six incredible months in Europe as an IFYE delegate, I returned home to the United States just in time for Christmas. Now, as part of the Colorado IFYE program, I will travel around the state and speak about my experiences as an IFYE over the next four months. I look forward to sharing my stories with my fellow Coloradoans.

I cannot say thank you enough times to all my wonderful host families who took the time to teach and share their lives with me. Through IFYE I have been challenged, I have learned, and I will be forever changed. For all of this, I am so grateful. Until next time: peace, love and IFYE!

P.S. If anyone would like more information about the IFYE program or would like to hear more about my experiences, please do not hesitate to contact me! (northups@rams.colostate.edu)



Digging potatoes by hand is a lot of work, but is a great opportunity for all the family to get together (Parnu, Estonia)

IFYE ASSOCIATION
2012 Board of Directors

Region A
Trudy Peterson (IA-Finland-1966)
810 Massachusetts Ave NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 547-7969
archivesthp@aol.com
John H. Wells - Secretary
(OH-Thailand-1968)
14318 Woodcrest Dr.
Rockville, MD 20853-2333
(301) 871-7818
jhwells01@earthlink.net
Norma Wu - Treasurer
(CT Taiwan-1965)
12 Wheeler Lane
Acton, MA 01720-4910
(978) 263-8118
normawu@aol.com

Region B
Ken Jones (GA-Italy-1986)
1238 University Dr. NE
Atlanta, GA 30306-2505
(404) 876-9322
kenchrisjones@yahoo.com
Cathy Kunkel-Mains (KY-India-1965)
13127 Madison Pike
Morning View, KY 41063-8768
(859) 512-9882
cakuma50@insightbb.com
Stephen Mullen (MA-Brazil-1969)
248 Hwy 481
Mansfield, LA 71052
(225) 936-8406
smullen@agctr.lsu.edu

Region C
Alan Lambert - President
(SD-W Germany-1980)
600 S. Kiwanis Ave. #315
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
(605) 366-6107
alanelambert@gmail.com
Dean Bloch (WI-Germany-1984)
605 Cardinal Ave
Rockland WI 54653
(608) 486-2966
bloch.dean@yahoo.com
Richard Wagner - Vice President
(IL-Korea-1965)
4994 Skyline Drive
Heyworth, IL 61745
(309) 473-2308
rgwagner@juno.com

Region D
Shirley Coulson (IA-Sri Lanka-1979)
15700 Bridgeview Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99516-7504
(907) 348-6099
coulsons@gci.net
W. Robert Doster (OH-Portugal-1957)
23360 W. Arrow Dr.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
(623) 386-2383
wdoster@cox.net
Art Tenbrink (CA-Brazil-1970)
4165 Mirador Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94566-7429
(925) 462-2588
artwritenow@gmail.com



Personal Reflection & Goal Setting

Alan Lambert, IFYE Association President

that a more dedicated effort is needed. We have created a compensated position for an individual to contact potential members. The potential benefit is thousands of dollars in added membership dues with a minimum of expense.

Treasurer Duties Separation Installed

The Association's liability insurance carrier has recommended that we separate the treasurer's duties to provide a layer of checks and balances. Norma Wu, the new treasurer, will continue to perform all the duties with the exception of making deposits. Art Deisher, the Association's Treasurer for the past three years, has graciously volunteered to continue as the recipient address for Association dues and donations. This will enable the Association to also retain the same bank, checks, etc. His experience will continue to be a benefit to the Association Board.

IFYE Promotional Events

The Association has been presented with some great opportunities in the next few months for a tremendous amount of IFYE exposure. We have always desired more chances to promote our exchange program and especially "What Makes IFYE Unique" to outside audiences. The IFYE experience is, indeed, unlike many other exchange programs. Be certain to read more about these events in the Reposition Committee report on page 5.

2014 National IFYE Conference

There will not be a 2013 USA IFYE Conference, as the next World IFYE Conference will be held in 2013 in Thailand. Preparations for a 2014 USA Conference are in the beginning stages. See the information about the Region D planning meeting on page 11. We have a great history of volunteerism. Let's put our expertise to use.

Website Continues to be Updated and Expanded - <http://WWW.IFYEUSA.ORG>

With the advances in electronic technology, we will be using the website as an additional means of communicating with you on a more frequent basis. More news about the website will be coming in the future.

We are attempting to lay the groundwork for an evolving and invigorated IFYE Association. The potential for developing an organization that will continue for decades is challenging, but 2012 no doubt will be a landmark year in that process.

Many of us use the beginning of each new year as a time of personal reflection and goal setting for the upcoming year. That is true of the IFYE Association as well. I am reminded of the famous Napoleon Hill quote, "Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve." The IFYE Association has many exciting changes occurring in several areas.

2010 & 2011 IFYEs Able to Receive Free Conference Registration

An IFYE alumnus has offered a generous incentive to newly returned 2010 and 2011 IFYEs to attend the 2012 IFYE Conference in Omaha, NE. The donor will pay for their registration fee to attend! This will provide additional encouragement for younger IFYE alumni to attend a conference and develop the lifelong friendships and enthusiasm that many of us already enjoy.

Register for the 2012 Nebraska Conference Now

The 2012 Nebraska IFYE Conference planning committee has put together a phenomenal program. Plan on taking a **summer vacation** to see your IFYE friends in Omaha, NE, **July 24-28, 2012**. Take advantage of the **early registration discounts** and send in your form (on page 7) as soon as you can.

Membership Development Contract Signed

The Association Board has approved a plan to hopefully increase the number of annual dues paying members. This will enable us to become more financially stable, grow our support base and number of participants.

The number of members contributing financially has tripled since 2008. This is not due to happenstance, but through a determined effort using print and electronic technology. Volunteer board members are the primary contact with states. However, to grow substantially, the Board has realized

Ex-officio Members of the Board of Directors

Immediate Past President
Connie Harms Fukudome
(KS-Netherlands-1971)
29 Otis Street, Unit F #108
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 945-7369
cfukudome@gmail.com

President, IFYE Foundation
Norman C. Bauer
(MI-Turkey-1957)
111 Woodland Trail
Anna, IL 62906-3906
(618) 833-3228
nbauer36@gmail.com

Financial Advisor
Roger L. McCoy
(MO-New Zealand-1968)
7017 T. Gabbert Drive
Pleasant Valley, MO 64068
(816) 415-9085
r.mccoy69@sbcglobal.net

Editor, IFYE NEWS
Virginia Warner
(PA-New Zealand-1971)
PO Box 2332
Carson City, NV 89702
(775) 772-1706
vwarner@sbcglobal.net

Advisor
Art Deisher
(OH-United Kingdom-1971)
3912 County Rd 130
Bellefontaine, OH 43311-9359
(937) 599-2559
adeisher@centurylink.net

Treasurer and Budget Change

Norma Wu, 2012 Treasurer

Thanks, Art

As the calendar turned to 2012, the IFYE Association Board bid farewell to our Treasurer for the last three years. Many, many thanks to Art Deisher for his work re-energizing and revitalizing the IFYE membership. Thanks to his due diligence, I am in receipt of a well-organized, well-run treasury. As Art stated in the December 2011 IFYE NEWS, we still need to increase our paying membership, *as annual dues make up much of our annual operating budget*. Art and I are working together for a smooth transition.

About Me

In 1965, I was a six-month IFYE to Taiwan from Connecticut. I gave over a hundred presentations around our state.

Teaching fifth grade and working on my Master's at the University of Connecticut kept me busy. During the same time period, I also met and married my husband – Jung-ming, an engineering student from Taiwan. As a stay-at-home mom, I started an in-home business laying out circuit boards for another company. In 1986, I formed Ways Unlimited (<http://www.waysunlimited.com>), an electronics design firm.

Association Finances

2011 - The 2011 expenses were around \$27,000. Additional revenue was also received from two estates that specifically designated the IFYE Association as beneficiaries. *These funds will be used in 2012 for operating and program expansion purposes.*

For the third consecutive year under Art, annual membership numbers have increased: (2009) 160; (2010) 244; (2011) 271 with a few additional 2011 dues payments arriving after the books closed for 2011. In addition, our lifetime membership currently totals 1252.

2012 - The 2012 budget is \$48,560.

- One third of the budget will be utilized by the Association, through the Reposition Committee. They will send representatives to the Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference in February and the National Collegiate

4-H Conference in Nevada in April. (*See the Reposition Committee article for details on page 5.*)

- Approximately one quarter of this budget is allocated for the layout, printing and postage expenses for the four 2012 IFYE NEWS issues.
- The remaining 42% of the budget will support insurances, membership development, website upgrading, MailChimp expenses, and various Board-related expenses.

Twenty percent (20%) of the 2012 budget will exhaust the one-time estate revenues that were mentioned earlier and received in 2011. Therefore, it is important that the Association continue to grow in paid membership numbers. The Association's only **sure annual** revenue sources of operating expenses are the membership dues, donations, and the interest from \$189,500 invested from Life memberships.

We welcome your contributions for 2012

The Finance Committee supports the Association's goals of:

- increasing the number of states sending and receiving IFYEs,
- increasing the number of outbound IFYEs, and if possible,
- partnering with another entity to help sustain IFYE beyond the lifetime of any of us.

Of the 4975 names in our database (alumni and other supporters), 430 are deceased, 1133 are living life members and the remaining are potential dues paying members.

The increased budget for 2012 will allow the Association to work toward actively strengthening and increasing the IFYE program, as well as increasing our sustainability and visibility. If IFYE is to reposition itself with another national organization, increased participation and growth is essential.

As your new Treasurer, I look forward to doing my part to continue this growth. Each annual dues payment strengthens our position.

With a dues/donation solicitation letter coming to you this month (via separate email and with bulk rate newsletters), why not be one of the first to contribute this year. (*Thank you to the 99 who already paid 2012 annual dues in advance during 2011!*)

Let's continue the positive trend in membership growth in 2012!

Association Membership, Contributions & Address Updates

Name: _____ New Address/Information?
 FIRST MI LAST

Maiden Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Program: _____ State Represented: _____ Host Country: _____ Year: _____

Extension Staff: _____ Host Family: _____ Friend of IFYE: _____ Other: _____

E-mail: _____

Prefer mailings via: E-mail _____ Postal _____ Both _____ Remove from mailing list? _____

Annual Membership Dues @ \$25 single/\$40 married couple (calendar year) \$ _____

Life Membership @ \$300 single/\$400 married couple \$ _____

Contributions to IFYE Association General Operational Support * \$ _____

(Contributions are Tax Deductible to the Extent Provided by Law*) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed Thank You! \$ _____

*The IFYE Association is an IRS approved 501(3)(c) non-profit charitable organization.

Please make checks payable to: IFYE Association of the USA
 3912 County Road 130
 Bellefontaine, OH 43311-9359

4-H: Providing Iraqi Youth a Positive Option

Georgene Bender (OH-Poland-1976)

Did you know that in Iraq

- More than 40% of the population is under 14 years of age and many are orphans from the war.
- The median age from UNICEF statistics is 19 years of age.
- The youth dominate the country and their future is Iraq's future.
- There is a movement in the country to focus on the youth.
 - The terrorist enemy wants the youth to learn how to build weapons and shoot ... while ...
 - The people of Iraq have turned to a proven positive youth program – 4-H as the alternative

In 2009, Mary Kerstetter (a USAID worker) was working in the agricultural community. She decided that the program she grew up with (*and later volunteered with*) offered hope and the right direction for the Iraq's youth. She worked to begin 4-H Clubs in the rural area outside of Baghdad. With donated sheep as the first project, and with the help of Extension/4-H staff in the USA, she developed a project book for the youth. Boys and girls gathered together to learn how to run a meeting, give presentations and learn how to take care of sheep.

The program was sponsored by local businesses for meeting space and volunteers. Under the leadership of Baghdad businessman Mohammed Lafta, an Iraqi National Council of 4-H was formed and Mr. Lafta serves as the National 4-H Leader.

In July 2011, the international 4-H community recognized Iraq's 4-H program. Continuously growing, Iraq's 4-H program now has over 60 clubs throughout the country - *in orphanages, rural communities and urban areas*. The national center is in Baghdad, but the program has taken off in Basra and in the Kurdistan region north of Baghdad.

Iraqi 4-H Leaders Visit USA

To nurture the development of 4-H in Iraq, Kerstetter secured a grant for Iraqi 4-H leaders to come to the USA to learn more about 4-H, enhance their skills and help their efforts in Iraq. Although the program was delayed, the trip actually occurred July 16-27, 2011.

In July 2011, nine Iraqi 4-H leaders travelled to the U.S. for a 10-day study tour about our youth programs. It was during this program that I became engaged with this group and served as Florida 4-H host for the group's four-day visit.

The group visited with 4-H leaders, staff and youth in rural DeSoto County where they participated in a 4-H club meeting, poultry and sheep demonstrations and discussions about building a youth program. The passion of the Iraq guests was contagious – they LOVE 4-H and wanted to soak in all the programs and materials our program offered.

Upon the group's return to Iraq, Mr. Lafta had a visit from a member of Al-quida. He was warned that he needed to be teaching the youth about guns, tanks and war. He, and the movement to grow 4-H, had obviously struck a nerve. Yes, a small group of passionate adults were making a difference within 18 months with no government funds or staff. They were not about to give up.



Youth Development Trainers Visit Iraq

I had the opportunity to bring a 'Train the Trainer' Youth Development program to Iraq with other university professors during October 2011.

A grant from USDA's Foreign Agriculture Services (FAS),

(L to R) October 2011 in Erbil - Rusul, Ali, and I teaching Iraqi 4-H college youth focused on providing a foundation of youth development and curriculum for boys and girls in Iraq. A total of 17 leaders from the Ministry of Agriculture, Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Extension staff, Iraqi 4-H program leaders and Non-Government Organizations met in Erbil, Iraq for a five-day training. Two Iraq 4-H young adults served on our training team so they could develop the program after we departed.

The training was held in Erbil, Iraq – considered the historical "Center of Civilization" by most anthropologists. Located in the northern Kurdistan district of Iraq, Erbil is a large urban city that has not had significant security concerns. While checkpoints are in malls, parks and stores, I never felt fearful. People move freely around the city that is a growing blend of old and new.



July 2011 - DeSoto County (FL) 4-H with Iraqi 4-H visitors.

The training focused on the "Essential Elements" of youth development: (a) belonging, (b) mastery, (c) independence and (d) generosity.

We used experiential learning with the "Do, Reflect and Apply" concepts. The reflective part was foreign to the group as a teaching style. *They are comfortable with the traditional teacher role of the expert /lecturer and did not see themselves as part of the learning process.* The group was much more comfortable in this new teaching approach by day three.

We also taught 4-H camp songs, team building and get-acquainted activities to use with their 4-Hers. The five-day training also explored the principals of curriculum development for youth development. *It is interesting that Iraqi schools have not developed their own curriculum and have imported their curriculum from Sweden.*

Our participants felt it was important for them to begin to develop their own standards and materials. Our introduction to curriculum development gave them a foundation of the process. Our training team hopes to work with our participants in small projects in 2012.

Spending ten days in Iraq was a unique opportunity and included the following insights:

- The country is dependent on imports with limited production and industry in the country.
- Even the traditional handicrafts of the country had been suppressed. One new government project is training women to sew.
- There is a huge population of orphan youth. Every Iraqi we visited had lost at least one person in the war. It was hard to find anyone that did not have major hardship over the past decade.
- During the Sadaam Régime, people were suppressed to not “think, evaluate or look within” – people walked with heads down and just existed. The creative thinkers and doers just didn’t exist or had been killed. Now, with a new government, the people struggle with what they know and how to move forward.

The Future of 4-H in Iraq

Yet, the Iraqi adults have hope for their youth and many leaders are making it their mission. The passion of our participants was admirable. Despite odds and lack of funds, the country is welcoming 4-H as a program of hope for their youth. In 100+ years, 4-H developed a community of citizens in the US who made a difference in our growth and development from an agrarian society to a world power.

Iraqi clubs are interested in connecting with 4-H clubs in the USA. They have access to the Internet, but mail is not very reliable. The program is run completely on donations or grants. There are no paid staff.

If you are interested in donating to the Iraq 4-H program, please contact: Georgene Bender, South Central Regional Specialized 4-H Agent, Florida 4-H. Email: gmbender@ufl.edu

Spring 2012 Reposition Committee Activities

Art Deisher, Committee Chairman

As we begin the marketing of IFYE, two communications sub-committees were formed. One produced a new IFYE brochure and the other is to generate articles for American Farm Bureau Federation publications. The first news article is to be published soon. The brochure can be viewed at <http://WWW.IFYEUUSA.ORG>. Both committees are chaired by Connie Fukudome.

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) invited the IFYE Association to the 2012 AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) conference from Feb. 17-20 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Nine hundred delegates are expected to attend. The new brochure will be included in each attendees’ welcome packet. Shane Sheridan (2010 IFYE CO to Austria/Switzerland) and Carolyn Gehrke (2010 IFYE IL to Germany) will give presentations on Saturday and Sunday evenings. During YF&R registration, the IFYE Association will host a nearby booth with static and video displays.

The goal of our participation in the YF&R conference is to make IFYE’s existence known and to develop enthusiasm for the IFYE program. AFBF estimates 80% of the attendees are young married

couples, making host family experiences potentially abundant. The expected 180 young single adults are potential IFYE participants. The Association has also been invited to attend the 2012 National Collegiate 4-H Conference in Reno, Nevada from April 12-15. Similar presentations and displays will be utilized. The emphasis for the Collegiate 4-H audience will be more on the outbound experience and less on the host family component.

IFYE alumni must be aware that the AFBF is not in the “partnering” mode with IFYE at this time. Currently, they are actively involved in the McCloy Fellowship two-way exchange program with Germany totaling eight individuals annually. The AFBF has given us a tremendous opportunity to share the IFYE story with their YF&R conference attendees. IFYE’s success at the conference will be measured by the attendees’ reaction to our presence and will have a major impact on any possible linkage or partnering between AFBF and IFYE in the future.

The communications with Washington, D.C. contacts have become more sporadic as the partnering opportunities remain a challenge at best. Alan continues to have occasional talks with them to keep possible doors open.

Wisconsin Celebrates 60 Years of International Exchanges

Dean Bloch (WI-Germany-1984)

Wisconsin IFYE alumni gathered on September 24th, 2011 at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells to commemorate sixty years of sending and receiving people via international exchanges. Over sixty people attended the event with most of them being alumni from Wisconsin. Wisconsin began sending delegates in 1951 with Burton Olson to Norway, Eldora Keske to Austria, and Lois (Linse) Gleiter to Chile.

The day included a luncheon and a program that highlighted each decade since Wisconsin’s inception into the program. Table displays were also set up for each decade to tell their story. A photography contest was coordinated by Harlen Persinger (IA-Norway-1970) and Mark Mastalir (WI-Portugal-1985) to raise funds for scholarships for current 4-Hers to travel internationally.

“After college I was teaching music but was familiar with IFYE through my association with 4-H,” remembers Joy (Swan) Bickford from Montfort who went to New Zealand in 1952. “I can honestly say that living abroad transformed my mind from a quiet farm gal to a world of never-ending knowledge, countless friends and lifelong memories.”

The program literally took off when Verne V. Varney, a state 4-H leader and the “Father of IFYE” in the Badger State, sparked an interest in rural youth exchanges to promote international understanding.

During the 1950’s, Wisconsin sent 29 IFYEs to 25 countries and hosted about 60 delegates from other nations.

Charles Crave from Waterloo - IFYE to Taiwan in 1977 - says, “Seeing the prudent use of agricultural resources on a crowded island like Taiwan and the leadership required to cope with many problems has enhanced my life every day.”



Gifts from families fill the shelves of many IFYE participants. However, the most precious items are the relationships still shared with “brothers and sisters” from our IFYE experiences.

54th National IFYE Conference

July 24-28, 2012 - Omaha, Nebraska

“HEARTLAND HEARTBEAT ... REACHING OUT” is the theme of the 54th National IFYE Conference hosted by Nebraska. The conference will be held at the conveniently located Downtown/Old Market Embassy Suites in Omaha.

- **Epply Airfield** is about five minutes from the Embassy Suites with free shuttle service available. If traveling by car or camper, there is easy access from I-29 and I-80.
- Omaha, “Gateway to the West”, is the largest city in Nebraska and is a major center of tourist activity. Check out the many cultural and historical things to do in and around the city as well as major shopping businesses and centers.

LODGING

- **HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** To make your reservations, contact the Old Market Embassy Suites at 402-346-9000. For the \$119 per night rate. Our Group Name is International 4-H and Group Code is **M14** (M as in Mary, I as in Igloo and the number 4.)
- **CAMPING** - Those traveling via camper need to check out **Mahoney State Park** near Ashland, Nebraska. Only a 1/2 hour drive from Omaha, the Park offers a number of hard paved spots for campers to pitch a tent or park their RV beneath the trees, with electrical hookups, restrooms, showers, a laundry facility, and even wireless Internet. For those who want to experience the outdoors, but have the conveniences of home, there are 51 cabins available for rent.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - Send Conference registration form, available on line at www.ifyeusa.org under IFYE Conferences or in Nov/Dec 2011 issue of IFYE NEWS (Pg 11), to:
National IFYE Conference
Attn: Boni Edwards
PO Box 507
North Platte, NE 69101

KEYNOTE SPEAKER for the Conference will be **Dean Jacobs**, a native of Nebraska, who left a secure job with corporate America to pursue a dream: a dream to travel around the world and to understand the world we share. Four years of exploring in over 50 countries have exposed Dean to the goodness of humanity and the magnificence of the natural beauty of places in the world as he seeks to understand the cultures, history and natural wonders of the world. Currently he is traveling the Amazon River regions. You can follow his journey at <http://deanjacobs.org>.

WORKSHOPS The Conference will feature workshops that will have something for everyone. They will include:

- You don't have to be Sherlock Holmes to unlock the mysteries of your family's past! Learn in the **FAMILY HISTORY DETECTIVES** workshop what it takes to successfully seek out ancestors in your family tree. You might learn that you have a famous or infamous ancestor hiding among the branches! We'll look at how to get started on your detective search into your family's genealogy using some basic tools. We'll also talk about how to use the internet to seek out “long lost cousins” and other interesting family finds. Come learn how to put your detective skills to work.
- **21 IRREFUTABLE LAWS OF LEADERSHIP** workshop will help you find out if you are born a leader or if leadership qualities are learned? The objective of the workshop is to enhance the leadership characteristics you were born with and to develop the leadership skills you may be lacking.
- The workshop, **HOW TO THINK LIKE THE GREAT LEONARDO DA VINCI**, is the discussion of the Seven DaVinci Principles. These principles are drawn from an extensive study of the man and his methods. The good news is that Leonardo's principles will probably be intuitively obvious to you. Group participation will be part of this workshop.

- The Mongolian 4-H Youth Organization was started in 2009. It was organized through the libraries with an emphasis on reading. Last summer almost 500 4-H members participated



- in a summer reading program which culminated in a public exhibition of puppetry, plays, music, art and craft exhibits, history outlines, journals – all depicting a favorite story read by the 4-H member. In this workshop, **MONGOLIAN PROJECT**, you will learn more about the Mongolian 4-H program as well as to complete a service project by making a bookmark, book bag, etc. which will be donated to Mongolian 4-H members.
- Wanting to travel? **TRAVEL VARIETIES**, a roundtable, will help you gain new insights through group participation exploring a variety of travels.
- **WHAT'S COOKIN' in NEBRASKA?** Showcasing Nebraska foods, this workshop will give you the opportunity to sample several products, and talk to the producers about their unique product. Cooking demonstrations as time and space allow.
- Lastly, there will be a workshop, entitled “**RAINWATER GARDEN**”.

Remember to bring your props for the “**IFYE'S GOT TALENT**” program on opening night. We will have fun and laughter as the participants share their talents for “judges” and are awarded “Nebraska Treasures.”

SERVICE PROJECTS

- The service project at the **Open Door Mission** will have conference participants sorting and packaging clothing. Clean, used clothing and blankets may be brought for donation to the Mission.
- **Mongolia Project** – also featured in a workshop – see above under workshops

TOURS - The tours will provide something for everyone.

- **Monkey Around With Us.** Visit the Henry Doorly Zoo. A day at the zoo is yours! Included in the admission is a ride on the train, tram, carousel, skyari, IMAX and lunch. A free shuttle is available to return to the Embassy when you want.
- **Heartland Agriculture.** This tour includes visiting the Mead feed lots, Omaha Mounted Patrol Unit, a hay processing plant for small animals, a combine plant, and lunch at Ashland Parkers BBQ Restaurant buffet.
- **Trail to Rails.** Take a walk across the longest pedestrian bridge over the Missouri River and then visit the Union Pacific Museum. Lunch will be at Rick's Boneyard.
- **Strategic Brother Tour.** Visit the Strategic Air & Space Museum and tour Boys Town. Eat lunch at Boys Town.

RESERVATIONS

- **HOTEL:** We advise making hotel reservations soon, as there is a limited number of rooms available for \$119 per night. Additional rooms may be available at a significant rate increase. To make your reservations, contact the Embassy at 402-346-9000. Our Group Name is International 4-H and Group Code is **M14** (M as in Mary, I as in Igloo and the number 4.)
- **CONFERENCE:** Send Conference registration form, available online at www.ifyeusa.org/conferences or in Nov/Dec 2011 and Feb 2012 IFYE NEWS (online or hardcopy), to National IFYE Conference Attn: Boni Edwards, PO Box 507, North Platte, NE 69101.

For additional conference information or questions, contact Barb Batie 308-325-2247 (cell) 308-324-2541 (home) email bbatie@atcjet.net or on facebook @Barb Batie.



2012 National IFYE Conference
July 24—July 28, 2012
Embassy Suites
555 S 10th St., Omaha, NE

Conference Registration

(please use separate sheet for each conference registrant)

First Name: _____ Nickname for Badge: _____ Last Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Country: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please list my information in the Conference Attendees' Directory Yes or No Your IFYE Region (circle one) A B C D

I will / will not participate in "IFYE's Got Talent (Tuesday evening). Title or Type of Talent _____
 (Items needed—if any) _____

Tell us about your 4-H International involvement:

Name of Program: _____
 Year: _____
 Home State/Country: _____
 Host State/ Country: _____
 ___ Host Family
 ___ Friend of 4-H
 ___ Other: _____

All Conference attendees are expected to be members in good standing of the IFYE Association of the USA in order to participate in the Annual Meeting.

Registration Fees include all scheduled Conference activities beginning Tuesday evening through Friday's International Banquet. Please place an X next to the appropriate fees in the following chart: (Note: Travel, housing/hotel and parking fees are the responsibility of individual)

Please select one of the following tours, all of which will take place on Thursday during the Conference. (Please select your first and second choice.)

- _____ Monkey Around with Us (*Henry Doorly Zoo*)*
- _____ Heartland Agriculture (*Animal Science, Mead Feed Lots, Ashland Packers & Hay Plant*)
- _____ Trails to Rails (*Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge & Union Pacific Museum*)*
- _____ Strategic Brother Tour (*Strategic Air & Space and Boys Town*)

* walking is a part of this tour

For additional conference information or questions contact:
 Barb Batie 308-324 2541 (home) 308-325-2247 (cell)
 E-mail: bbatie @ atcjet.net facebook @ Barb Batie

For dietary and/or other requests please contact Barb Batie

Registration Type	Fee	X
Postmarked before March 15, 2012	\$340	
Postmarked before June 1, 2012	\$375	
After June 1 and On Site	\$425	
Tuesday, July 24 Only	\$100	
Wednesday, July 25 Only	\$150	
Thursday, July 26 Only	\$150	
Friday, July 27 Only	\$150	
Banquet Only	\$75	
Children (age 5-12) full-time	\$250	
Children per day Wed/Thurs/Fri	\$100/day	
TOTAL		

Hotel Reservations: Conference headquarters will be at the Embassy Suites, Omaha Downtown/Old Market, Omaha, NE FREE shuttle is available from Eppley Airfield. Embassy parking fee will be \$5/night. Conference group rate is \$119 per room per night (1-4 persons per room), plus applicable taxes. Reservations must be made by June 22, 2012 to guarantee rate. Make reservations by calling 402-346-9000. Mention **Group Name: International 4-H and Group Code: MI4** (M as in Mary, I as in Igloo and the Number 4 when making reservations)

Banquet Attire (Friday, July 27, 2012):
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In the event of an emergency during the conference, please indicate a contact person and phone number: _____

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www.ne4hfoundation.org

Click on events.....Select IFYE Conference

Cancellations/Refunds: All refund requests must be made in writing and mailed to the above address. Refunds, less \$75 administrative fee, will be made if cancellation/refund request is postmarked prior to June 15, 2012. Refunds will not be issued after June 15, 2012 except in the case of medical or family emergency. All refund requests are subject to the \$75 administrative fee.

Hi America,

Pirmin Zurfluh, 2011 IFYE – Switzerland to VA

Hi America,

I'm an IFYE who enjoyed being in Virginia for 2 months with the program. I should tell you a little about what happened before the program started.

In August 2010, I came to San Diego and attended a language school for 3 months. After that, I bought a car and drove 7 months by myself around USA and Canada visiting some nice national parks and other beautiful and amazing places. Therefore, I obtained a little bit experience with America. Before I arrived in Virginia, my IFYE state in USA, I went to Colorado Springs and helped build a straw bale building behind Pikes Peak at 10,000 ft. altitude. It was so beautiful there.

One week before I was to arrive in Washington, D.C. for my orientation, I started to drive from Colorado Springs. It was a great drive. After some days, I got to Virginia. I made a stop for a coffee with Wi-Fi and my plan was to camp somewhere 4 hours away from Washington, D.C. Dottie Nelson (organizer for me in Virginia) had sent me an e-mail with the address of the first host family. I looked up Google map to see where my first host family lived. I saw that my first host stay (Staunton) was only 2 or 3 hours before I would arrive in Washington DC. Therefore, I decided to show up and ask to stay a night at their place.

I got the chance to see how much flexible is the family. *You know as an IFYE, we are told that we should be flexible -- not the family.* However, the family was gracious and happy to see me; I was so glad. It was a nice experience for me that I could stay for the night on their beef farm.



June 2011 Orientation: Me (in the middle) with Raphel Kuhrer - Austria, and Laura Nakki - Finland

Orientation - The orientation lasted 3 days. Together with some other inbound IFYEs, I stayed at the home of Barbara Spangler in Arlington. We had a great time touring around in Washington. They told us about the state and about 4-H in Virginia and gave us all the information about the other families

and what we would do in this exchange program.. On Sunday, I drove along Skyline Drive (which is really beautiful) to Staunton.

My first IFYE host family (The Moores) - On the beef farm in Staunton lives Gayle, Lewis and Whitney (23) their daughter. After a day, I felt at home; they are really great people. I helped a little bit on the farm while there for 3 weeks. We went to the fields to make round hay bales for the winter. I got the chance to use the backhoe and turned big compost pile around. That is really fun.

On the first weekend, we went to their other house at the Smith Mountain Lake. I made big eyes as we arrived after 2.5 hours drive. It is a really big house on a beautiful lake. We arrived in the night, so it was already dark; but, I saw on the shore a little boathouse with a boat. I asked Lewis, "Is that your boat?" He said, "Yes, we will play tomorrow - wakeboarding and water-skiing. I got a big smile. So, on the



Water skiing on Smith Mountain Lake

next morning after breakfast, we took everything we needed for wakeboarding to the boat and went out on the lake. I had never seen such a nice morning at so beautiful a place. It is a paradise.

Whitney, who turned 23 on middle July, wished a trip to Busch Gardens in eastern Virginia. People who live in Europe will think when they hear the name that it is a park with bushes, but that is completely wrong. It is a big amusement park with really big roller coaster, like "Europe Park", but a little bit bigger. We had just a great time in the park with the roller coaster.

The Showmans - After 3 weeks, I drove to the next place to the Showman host family, in Woodstock which is 45 min away from Staunton. Ethel and Geary live a little bit outside of Woodstock on a really nice place. Geary is a building inspector. That is a thing that we don't have in Switzerland and, for me, really interesting. He took me one time to his work to see what he does. It was great because I'm a carpenter and a draftsman, and I do understand a little bit about his work.

Most of the time, I went together with Ethel. She is a great, nice person. I still had my car, and I wanted to sell it to somebody. She helped me a lot to advertise the car in the local newspaper. and sell my car to nice person. Ethel showed me a lot in this 3 weeks. I could write a long story about the things we did, but I should stay short.

The Jones family - The last three weeks, I went to Blackstone to stay with the family Jones. On their 300-cow dairy farm, lives Hugo and Tracey with her son T.R (25) and daughter Coley (31). They are a wonderful family. Laura, IFYE from Finland, was there at the same time. She had arrived at this host family a week before me. At this time, there was a lot going on at the farm.



Driving truck for chopping / harvesting corn with the Jones family

Our first work on the farm was to chop corn. After 3 days work in the shop, we got the John Deere fixed and ready for the field. I had the chance to drive one of their 3 dump trucks all day. I had the whole day a big smile; the last time I drove one was in my Swiss Army time a few years ago. In the first 2 weeks, we cut 250 acre of corn. After that, the silo became full, and we started to combine some corn. T.R. (the son) let me drive this huge vehicle, and I can tell you it is much bigger than my lovely red dump truck.

I loved to help on the farm, but we had time to visit some cool places, too. We visited Busch Gardens and Kings Dominion in these 3 weeks. The roller coaster parks there are great. Did you hear about the earthquake? We were at the same time sitting in an old wood roller coaster. It was a great shaking coaster. I'm glad that nothing bad happened. We also visited Virginia Tech and had a fun time with tubing and hiking in their mountains.

On all places I went, I found a great family; but there is a time that I have to say goodbye. I went back to the first family in Staunton, who drove me after Hurricane Irene to New York City. Now, I sit waiting at the airport JFK for my flight after one day touring New York. It is time to say "goodbye America". It was a wonderful time. Thank you, America.

(Pirmin's article has been condensed from a letter sent on his departure from the USA. The writing has been left in his original style - Editor)

30 Families in 6 Months

Jesa Marsh (MT-UK-2011)

As a recent graduate of Carroll College in Helena, MT, I had the amazing opportunity to spend six months with the Young Farmers Clubs (YFC) in the United Kingdom from June 13 to December 14, 2011. *During my six months in the United Kingdom, I stayed with 30 different families and moved at least once a week, usually on Sunday.*

Scotland – During my five-week stay in Scotland, I spent the first two weeks with 12 other exchangees from: Wales, England, Northern Ireland, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Tazmania.

During my stay in Scotland, I

- attended the Royal Highland Show of Scotland (*an agricultural show similar to our state fairs*)
- toured Edinburgh (the country's capital), the birthplace of famed Scottish poet Robert Burns, the coastal Calzean Castle, a 13th century abbey, and Glamis Castle - the Highlands birthplace of the Queen Mother.
- spent a week in Orkney (*the largest of the Orkney Islands - and a council area of Scotland since 1975*). We arrived by ferry from Thurso - the northernmost town of Scotland. There are no trees on Orkney; yet, there are many Neolithic standing stones and old burial chambers.
- visited a farm that had 800-head dairy milked by robots and an outdoor swine production unit of 20,000 pigs.
- helped milk cows and pregnancy test while in the Borders Federation - near the English border.



With other exchangees on Orkney. I am second from left.

Northern Ireland - After arriving in Belfast, I met up with five exchangees from Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and Norway. We spent a week in each of the six counties of Northern Ireland. Meeting up as a group nearly every day for six weeks, we

- took an open-bus tour of Belfast and Londonderry.
- watched the Apprentice Boys Parade in Londonderry, a tradition by the Orangemen (an elite group of Protestant men) celebrating a battle won between the Protestants and Catholics.
- hiked in the Mourne Mountains and went canoeing
- toured Bushmills Whiskey Distillery, Giant's Causeway, Stormont, and Marble Arches Caves, as well as several cattle and sheep markets

After six weeks with the other exchangees, I developed some very strong friendships. We continue to stay in contact.

Wales - For my six weeks in Wales, I was the only exchangee. Although travelling alone, I had a stellar time. My first host family were Welsh Mountain Sheep farmers. Activities in Wales included:

- hiking Snowdon, the tallest mountain in Wales at 3,553 ft. Although a beautiful mountain, the top was very misty that day.
- attending a horse race with my host family. Every horse I picked literally came in dead last. *Good thing I didn't bet money!*



During lambing

- bucket feeding 40 calves. I was given the afternoon shift so I didn't have to get up too early.
- touring an organic laying hen farm with five chicken sheds housing between 12,000 and 20,000 hens.
- running errands at a cattle market in Ceredigion, as well as receiving Welsh lessons on the same day. Although it might be the most difficult language to grasp and pronounce, I learned to say "hello": *Shwmae (shoe-my)* and "nice to meet you": *Shw di a chi (shoe-dee-a-key)*.
- learning a few steps of traditional Welsh dancing in Anglesey.
- attending the annual YFC Grand Meeting in Pembrokeshire. My host mother also taught me to make Welsh Cakes.
- attending a Mock Wedding held to raise funds for the county YFC. I really enjoyed learning more about the Welsh culture; it is a very unique and proud country.



At the YFC Mock Wedding - I am on the right

Intermission in France

I had a two-week intermission during my time in Wales. Flying to France, I met up with a French friend from college. After touring Paris, we went to *Sainte-Mère-Eglise*, the first French village to be liberated in World War II. We walked Utah Beach - one of the beaches where the Americans landed their ships in Normandy on "D" Day - June 6, 1944. After the first week, I moved to nearby *Saint Lô* to stay with another friend.

England - While in the other UK countries, I moved to a different county every week. In England, I only stayed in Devon ... spending one week with each of the Devon YFC groups. During my six weeks in Devon, I

- stayed on Dartmoor, a common land on which farmers have a certain amount of rights to graze their animals - a unique landscape covered with heather, ferns, lush green grass, and Dartmoor ponies. I also took part in a foxhunt on the moor. *Fortunately, for the fox, the hounds lost its scent that day!*
- participated in making two barrels of homemade cider, pressing a couple hundred pounds of apples resulting in two barrels worth of cider. *We also tasted a few glasses of last year's product!*
- went caving and celebrated "Bonfire Night" on November 5 - commemorating the failure to blow up the British Parliament.
- took part in a leadership training weekend. When we did the high ropes course, I totally froze at the top. *Although I finished the course without needing anyone to come up and help me, I know that I will never do another course like that.*
- stayed on a massive estate called the Fortescue Estate. My host worked on a New Zealand style dairy on the estate. All the cows get dried off in mid-November and calve around January. We only milked in the morning since I was there during the middle of drying-off the cows. During the rest of the day, we visited such areas as a dairy goat farm and a massive wind farm with 27 wind turbines.
- came down with the flu the last week in Devon.

At the end of my stay in the UK, my parents came to England to travel with me. They loved the United Kingdom, including the roundabouts! I was so happy that I could share a slice of my experience with them. *Although there were a few stressful moments, I truly cherished every moment of my trip and my host families. I am so thankful I had the opportunity to partake in the IFYE program and hope that young people will continue to apply for the experience of a lifetime.*

IFYE FOUNDATION of the USA

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National 4-H Congress

Over Thanksgiving weekend, 980 delegates from 46 states and Puerto Rico gathered in Atlanta to participate in the 90th National 4-H Congress.

IFYE was represented at National 4-H Congress by Carolyn Gehrke (IL-Germany-2010) and Bob Ellis (IN-The Gambia-1971). Carolyn and Bob manned an IFYE booth which promoted both IFYE and the States 4-H Exchange programs. Handouts were given to those interested in international exchange opportunities.

Carolyn spoke to the group on Sunday morning about her IFYE experience and urged those attending to expand themselves by participating in an IFYE exchange.

Delegates who attended National 4-H Congress also had opportunities to learn more about 4-H in Africa by attending workshops presented by Mary Crave (WI-Sri Lanka-1980). Please see IFYE NEWS (May 2011) (<http://ifyeusa.org/news>) for more details concerning this program.

The IFYE Foundation was the major sponsor of the International evening held on Saturday. Featuring foods and music from around the globe, the event is always a highlight for delegates.



In Memoriam

We have received information concerning the passing of the following IFYE alumni and supporters of IFYE.

Although some are not during this year, to the best of our knowledge, they are individuals whose passing has not been noted in the IFYE NEWS to date.

Delores Andol (August 5, 2010)
(MN Travel Seminar 1976)
Stanley M. Coe (March 22, 2004)
(Ambassador AZ Spain 1966)
Floyd L. Cole (November 11, 2010)
(NY Panama 1956)
Frederick Otto Funk (December 01, 2011) (KS India 1953)
Ralph A Hoxie II (August 11, 2011)
(MI India 1966)
Marjatta Lyytikäinen (December 2010) (Finland USA 1954)
Glenn B McClanan (January 26, 2012) (VA Israel 1956) - husband of Reba (Salyers) McClanan (KY Ireland 1959)
Marvin E. Moody (September 16, 2007) (MS Brazil 1956)
Judith (Carlson) Novotny (September 8, 2009) (MN Germany 1962)
Larry G. Paxson (September 25, 2011) (KS India 1970)

Region D Meeting

April 12-15, 2012 - Reno, NV

Region D will host a regional meeting in Reno, Nevada April 13-15, 2012 at the Grand Sierra Resort concurring with the National Collegiate 4-H Conference. Agenda items include: decisions regarding hosting the 2014 National meeting, promoting IFYE with the National Collegiate 4-H delegates, and providing an opportunity to reconnect with IFYE.

Reno is a convenient site for a Region D meeting. As well as having relatively affordable rooms, the Grand Sierra Resort has excellent facilities for those of us that like to use our RVs.

To make reservations for this meeting, please call the **Grand Sierra Resort at 1-800-501-2651** or go to the web site: <http://www.grandsierraresort.com>.

Please indicate your intention to attend by e-mailing to:

wdoster@cox.net

or

sending a postcard to:
Robert Doster
23360 W. Arrow Dr.
Buckeye, AZ 85326

“Opt-in” to MailChimp

Alan Lambert

Over the past year, 1,800 plus of our Association members have helped us minimize publication-related expenses by their willingness to receive IFYE information via email.

To make disseminating information to the membership more efficient, the Association Board approved using a service (MailChimp) that emails **notification** of IFYE newsletters and other information to you via the Internet. If you have not done so, and wish to receive information electronically via the MailChimp option, please go to <http://www.eepurl.com/ciaVr> and complete the brief instructions.

The site will ask you for your email address, first name, and last name. After you have completed the requested action, click on the ‘subscribe’ button. You will receive a confirmation email in your inbox from IFYE LIST. Open that email, and complete the brief instruction. That is all there is to it!

If at any time you wish to cancel, you can opt-out. In any case, the printed and mailed communication is always available, if desired.

Thank You

We thank all of you for your support of the IFYE Association through annual dues, life membership, and/or contributions.

Due to space limitations in this issue, the listing of 2011 annual dues-paying members will be listed in the next issue. Thank you for understanding.

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Kenneth & Jean Keever
Verle Lanier
Ron Martin
Donald Meike
Mary Ann Moon
Susan Morris
Erna O’Brien
Virginia Olson
Ruth Anne Petrak
Mr. Hilary Pomatto
Laura Schick
Donald Schwartz
Judy Scott
Betty Sides
Wanda Stephens
James Stewart
Mary Lou Tenney
Robert & Beverly Ujobagy
Suzanne Wengren
Michael Wengryn
Janet Weston
M. Brooks Whitney
Mark Wilson