



# NEWSLETTER

**November 2018**

European IFYE Alumni



*World IFYE Conference – Alaska, USA*

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## Greetings from the Board

Hi everyone,

It's in the middle of autumn and yesterday we had the first snow of the year, not that it stayed but still. I'm still preoccupied with the experiences I made during my trip to Canada and Alaska. I travel for the opportunity to see and learn more about the world. To challenge my preconceptions and thoughts about our ways of living. This trip really let me see, how good the life in Sweden and most places in Europe is.



This world conference had very little of the usual IFYE-spirit, I missed the chance to learn more about another country as we usually do during those gatherings. But I got other experiences out of it. The sceneries were amazing and so was the company.

I am now on my fourth year as president and I decided to not stand up for a new election next year. It's time for a new voice and I will start to plan the conference in Sweden together with my Swedish IFYE-friends.

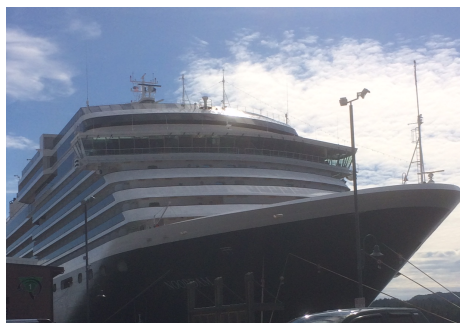
So I will beg you all to start thinking about who could possibly our next president.

All the best,

Anna Persson  
President of European IFYE  
Alumni Association  
IFYE from Sweden to Scotland

## IFYE World Conference 2018 - Alaska, USA

*written by Anna Persson (President of European IFYE Alumni Association, IFYE from Sweden to Scotland 1991)*



First, a world conference is nothing like a European conference. In the middle of September, 270 people from all over the world meet up in Vancouver for boarding m/s Noordam. In the afternoon we had a welcome reception and after that dinner.

The first day we stayed on the ship, some of us started the morning with a little feeling of seasickness. But after some hours we were feeling well again and the rest of the tour was great. An opening ceremony was held. In the afternoon we decided to try the Afternoon Tea onboard. To say the least, it was nothing like the one we got to enjoy in Northern Ireland. In the evening we had the first gala dinner. Every night was a three course dinner.



On Tuesday we made our first stop in Ketchikan, a nice little town known for Creek Street, the red light district during the gold rush. We also saw so much salmon on the way up the river, it seemed like the river was boiling. On the boat we met again for some entertainment led by Anna and Matti. Wednesday we ended up in Juneau and took the local bus to the glacier Mendelhall. Up there we had a great experience meeting black bear in the wood. A little bit scary but exciting. The entire trip was full of sightings that were just too great to explain.



On Thursday, the ship stopped in Skagway, a wonderful little town in the western style. In the afternoon we took the train to White Pass. It was a spectacular trip.



On Friday, we went to Glacier Bay, a National trust park. We saw the glacier calving, which is a magnificent thing to see, but at same time it is so sad. Pool party in the afternoon: we have had worse Fridays.

Saturday we stayed onboard again all day. I took 9 laps around the boat for Charity. In the afternoon, the farewell party and another gala party took place.

On the 16th, we got off the boat after a fabulous week. A different week!





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## Feedback about the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet

*written by Kathleen Stewart (IFYE from Scotland to USA 1951)*

Sandy and I wish to thank all those who very generously gave of their time to produce the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet. It brought back many happy memories of fellow IFYEs and the wonderful times at the conferences.



Sandy and I met as two of the Scots IFYEs to USA in 1951 and for us, it took 12 days in a cargo ship to get there! Many of our era have now sadly gone, either passed away or in poor health. Our other two Scots Archie Fleming and Watson Peat died many years ago.

It was a great loss when Ruedi Mumenthaler, the great communicator passed away. Vreny, his widow and Louis Rerolle have gone under our radar to illness. We are thankful to still have Kari Tavaila in Finland with whom we are always in touch, and also many much younger IFYEs to us in our 90s.

A big thank you to all.

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## Autumn meet-up of the Norwegian IFYE-Alumni Association

*written by: Ida Kristin Kihle Gravermoen (IFYE from Norway to Austria 2013)*

*translated by: Benedicte Adeline T. Karijord Wærstad (IFYE from Norway to Jamaica 2015)*

This year's autumn meet-up with NIFYEA (Norwegian association of IFYE-alumni's) took place in Hamar September 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. We were 11 Norwegian IFYE-alumni's and two incoming IFYE's, from USA and Switzerland, who had looked forward to this weekend. Usual tradition is to reminisce about our own exchange time, share experiences and tell the incoming IFYE's all about Norway. We spent the weekend at a hotel in the town centre and on Friday evening we enjoyed pizza.

The goal with having Hamar as a location, was to test out the place and some of the activities that will be offered during next year's European IFYE conference (August 12<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> at Toneheim folk high school). Saturday started with a lovely hotel breakfast. Then the day's programme started with walking to the famous diving tower at the Kiøgen place. The diving tower is famous for costing a lot when it was built, actually a lot more than what was planned. The total cost varies from 25 to 28 million Norwegian kroner (2,59-2,90 million euros), dependent on the sources.



From there we went to the cathedral at the Domkirkeodden place. We had a quiz with a twist, and that was well received. When the museum guide greeted us, it begun pouring outside, so it fitted well to listen to the history of the place indoors. Today the cathedral is preserved under a fine glass roof. It was a beautiful experience. After a lovely lunch and an apple cake, we divided into two groups taking part in different activities. The conference committee for next year's conference went back to the hotel to plan, and the others were supposed to go to either a climbing park or an aquavit-distillery. (Aquavit is a Scandinavian liquor based on potatoes.) It was still pouring, so we decided that everyone should go to the aquavit-distillery 'Atlungstad distillery'. Here we got to hear about the history of the distillery, and some of us chose to taste some of the precious drops that are still being produced there. It was exciting to see all the equipment needed to make the aquavit. After a while the sun came back out, and it became a lovely evening. We enjoyed a three-course dinner and talked for many hours.

At Sunday, it was time for the annual meeting. It was completed in god style, and we ended it all with raffle sales. Before the trip home we enjoyed soup at one of the local cafes in the street. We all agreed that this, once again was a pleasant autumn meet-up.




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## News from the Roving IFYEs

### Small peak into Lady Mary's Diary

*written by Cristina Kaska (IFYE from Estonia to Switzerland 1998 and USA 2010)*

#### November 7th

Dear diary,

Autumn falls so hard on everything around here. How am I supposed to survive in such a place with nothing but cold, sticky, muddy darkness creeping in at 4 pm already.



Do I even want to know what December might bring? I mean - Winter Is Coming. Can't help but wonder if this is why Estonians dig out their Christmas decorations already in the middle of October - to cheer their shaded world up a bit and capture every glimpse of light.

## November 12th

Dear diary,

Estonians keep saying that their ancestors came from The Urals. A long way to travel on foot for sure, but when on the road already, what's a few more steps!? But no, a bunch of them stopped here and also made it here by the looks of it. To me, it would have seemed a mission impossible, but for them a piece of cake. That must say something big about the people, right!?

However, some folk split and decided not to be stopped by the bonnie banks of the Baltic Sea and travelled further south, towards a kinder climate, or perhaps simply in search of better wine? Hmmm, I believe I would have joined that group! They call themselves Hungarians now. Good people to call friends and neighbours!

Come to think of it, Estonians have quite a snug place here because it is also said that a third part of the original crowd had a mind of their own and travelled up north to build up Finland. Is that the land of polar bears? Or was it flying reindeer? Well, also good to have as friends and neighbours. SO much to discover at the Finnish conference! Can't wait!



*Hope and Lady Mary making a research about Estonia. What is Estonia and how to prepare for next year's conference in Norway?*

## November 16th

Dear diary,

Anyhow, to survive this muddy month I have come up with a master plan – to spend every available second at the 2018 Black Nights Film Festival starting off in Tallinn today. I can't resist! It's like a call of the wild that makes you howl towards the moon!

All the world wide cinematografic culture served in several cozy movie theatres around the city. Besides, between the screenings there are tons of places to enjoy meals you wouldn't even know to dream of until you find yourself staring at the plate in awe. I'll probably need to order a few new dresses before the next IFYE conference in Norway!

## November 18th

Dear diary

I visited a library today. Why? Simply because I learned that the literacy rate within the population of all Estonians is 99%. That number would strike you as surprising when you see how many people believe in some form of witchcraft here! They have a Wise One in almost every village. A Wise One you wonder? Would you prefer a Witch? Hower not a wicked one but the one to know and heal, be it body or soul.



Learn more about the Roving IFYEs: follow them on facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Roving-IFYEs-799556456832534/>

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## Report of the YFA Reunion in Scotland

*written by Anita Eckerstorfer (IFYE from Austria to Scotland 2007)*

As we could not attend the IFYE Conference in Northern Ireland I had decided to participate at another IFYE event. Therefore I travelled to Scotland and joined the British YFA Reunion which was held in Aberdeen, Scotland from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October.



Friday was a relaxed arrival day. Beside the organisers, I was the first one to arrive and had enough time to talk to old and new friends. We turned back the clock already on Friday as the fancy dress theme was “Roaring 20s”, which was really fabulous and nice to see how a party might have looked like back in 1920.

Saturday was full of nice tours which we could choose upfront. I had decided to visit a fruit farm. They grow different kinds of berries, such as strawberries and raspberries. We were delighted when we heard that we were allowed to taste some – to be honest, some of us didn't really need lunch anymore.



In the afternoon we visited a family business that plays a key role in the Scottish animal feed industry. Other tours were a mix of culture, farming, landscape etc. As I heard only positive feedback, I am sure that all trips were fabulous. In the evening a formal gala dinner followed by a dance with live music had been organised.



Sunday morning started with a religious service and afterwards regional meetings took place which were followed by the AGM. The AGM included topics such as elections, national IFYE and YFA reports, the European and World Conference. Non-members could relax in the spa area of the hotel in the meantime.



Some participants, including me, travelled back already on Sunday. Others could enjoy curling or an indoor trampoline. Some more dance music was organised in the evening.

The weekend has been really nice and enjoyable. Some of the participants were quite known from the European conferences while others were completely new. The spirit however, was the same for everyone. And I hope that especially some of the youngsters will participate soon at one of the European conferences.

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## Conference Almanac 2018

### Feedback from Participants

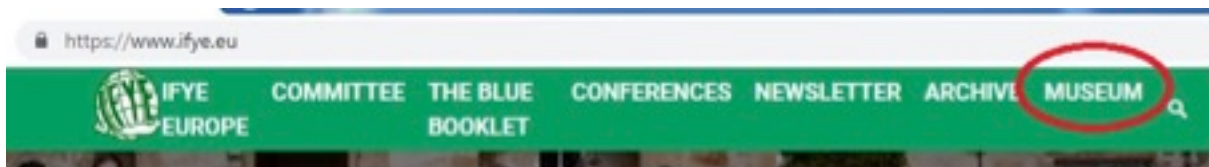
You know when the organising committee have to increase the capacity to over 200 that it will be good week and the Northern Irish did not disappoint.

This was my second IFYE Reunion in Northern Ireland, the first being 12 years ago at the Share Centre. Greenmount College was also an excellent venue. On a few of the mornings I was up early and out for a walk around the grounds before breakfast, a great way to start the day. The venue was very convenient to the International airport, which isn't always the case for many host countries to get when organising a Conference. This was just a 20 minutes flight over from the Isle of Man for me and Linda picked me up at the airport. Having arrived a day early, Greenmount was able to put me and several others up on the Friday evening.

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## New in the IFYE Archive!

Some of the delegates brought private photos/videos to share and display to the Display-room at the Northern Ireland IFYE Conference. Some of this you can now find in the IFYE Archives under the following link: <https://archive.ifye.eu/> via <https://www.ifye.eu/>



Some highlights:

- \*\*\* 1988: link to a video from Finnish TV showing IFYE World Record
- \*\*\* 2006: link to a video from BBC 1 Northern Ireland
- \*\*\* Take a look at **Pictures**(M Turner Special) including IFYE pictures from many IFYE Conferences
- \*\*\* "Special Albums from 2006 and 2009".
- \*\*\* Some material from 11<sup>th</sup> World IFYE Conference 2018

The IFYE-archives will be updated with IFYE material "from the past" from everyone who wants to contribute. Send a message to Tomas Gunnarsson [tomas@progserv.no](mailto:tomas@progserv.no)

## Invitation to Norway 2019

### Welcome to the European IFYE Conference 2019 in Norway

We would like to invite you to the 61th European IFYE Conference from the **12th to the 18th of August 2019**. The Conference will be held at Toneheim Folkehøgskole (folk high school), situated just outside Hamar, 120 km from Oslo.

We will have a week full of exiting trips and activities. From climbing in trees to swimming in Mjøsa. Or what about a trip to Hilde Hjelt's fantastic garden? We will also get to know Norwegian culture and learn to make and eat Norwegian food, as this is the theme of the week.

Registration has started for the European IFYEs, and from January the IFYEs from the rest of the world can start to register.

Costs: **double room: 5500 NOK single room: 6000 NOK**

More info at: <https://ifye2019.wordpress.com/>

There will also be a pre-meeting at Stiklestad National Cultural Center Verdal 10th-12th of August

More info:

<http://193.213.14.148:8083/ifye19premeeting/Default.htm?fbclid=IwAR1XQk6-F9GQdr47fIQQ1MIBtbY7LJL5ERNhzsRIVbX6rHOpSe1qMvBX8Vo>

If you have any questions, please contact

Anette: anettep76(a)hotmail.com or

Kirsti: kirsti.ro(a)gmail.com

Hope to see you all in Norway next year!





## Invitation to Swiss Ski Weekend

ifye swiss winterweekend

04.-06.01.2019



Klewenalp NW

More information:

<http://www.ifye.ch/aktuell/agenda>

or

[zuberei@bluewin.ch](mailto:zuberei@bluewin.ch)

Registration until 28. December 18

at Marc-André Zuber:

[zuberei@bluewin.ch](mailto:zuberei@bluewin.ch) +41 79 962 11 32



## Invitation to the European Ski Weekend in Saalbach

# European IFYE – Skiweekend in

# 01.03 – 03.03.2019

**ACCOMMODATION**  
[www.jugendpension.com](http://www.jugendpension.com)

Costs of accommodation:  
 € 49.- per person / day including breakfast with private dining room.  
 Accommodation in 3 - 5 bed rooms with shower & WC  
 Location: 600 meters from the lift station - free taxi transfer to the lift

**EVENING PROGRAMME:**  
 EAT A HAT ON FRIDAY  
 MOONLIGHT SLEDGING ON SATURDAY

**Registration:**  
 Simone Hutter  
 e-Mail: [simone\\_hutter@gmx.at](mailto:simone_hutter@gmx.at)  
 Phone: +43 664 4848 370

limited place - first come first serve.

Skitickets and evening programm are separate:  
<https://www.saalbach.com/de/winter/skitickets/hauptsaison>





## Congrats to...



**Rosina Geschaider**  
*IFYE from Austria to Finland 2013*

&

**Gerald**

Rosina and Gerald to their daughter Laura,  
 born 31st August 2018

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**Deadline next issue: 15th March 2019**

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**European IFYE Alumni Association**

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e-mail: [newsletter@ifye.eu](mailto:newsletter@ifye.eu)

IFYE Europe Newsletter - November 2018

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