



# NEWSLETTER

## June 2017

European IFYE Alumni



*Discovering the Isle of Skye*

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## Greetings from the Board

Dear IFYE-friends,  
If everyone was an IFYE - an ultimate society?

How should the world look like if everyone had had to be in the IFYE programme? Had we seen war and hate like we do today?

I don't think so. The programme start to prevent war and hate. I think that we IFYE's have learned to show consideration and love to other persons and nations. We have to think about how we can give the rest of the world some of the IFYE-spirit.

How can we with our experience change the world? In Sweden it have started a group (I wish it was by the Swedish IFYE, but it wasn't) on Facebook, there people voluntarily every day go into FB-conversations with hate and change the conversation to a more loving and tolerant tone. It's a brilliant move if you ask me. So think about what we can do, with our experience of the IFYE-spirit, to change the world so we see more love. An IFYE world - a ultimate society!

I will also say thank you for I have had the opportunity to be elected as president for the last two years, it have been fun, I have learned a lot and met so many amazing people. If you want me for two more years I'm up for reelection. I will specially say thanks to the wonderful board I work with, you make it easy for me.

See you all in Swiss!

Best regards

Your president,

Anna Persson

IFYE from Sweden to Scotland 1991

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# 59th European IFYE Conference



We got almost 230 registrations! Thank you so much, we're so excited :-)

You should get an email with the packing list and the possibility to sign in for your favourite tours and workshops. If not, please contact us as soon as possible. Everybody who doesn't choose something, will be added to the tour and workshop where's space!

Maybe you want to learn some swiss german words, or even french because we're in the french speaking part in Switzerland, please:

| english                    | swiss german            | french                                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Hello                      | Grüezi                  | Bonjour                                  |
| Bye                        | Tschüss                 | Au revoir                                |
| How much is it?            | Wiä tüür isch das?      | Qu'est-ce que ça coûte?                  |
| What's your name?          | Wiä heissisch du?       | Quel est votre nom?                      |
| My name is ...             | Min Namä isch ...       | Mon nom est                              |
| Can i have a beer, please? | Chani bitte es Bier ha? | Puis-je avoir une bière s'il vous plaît? |
| cupboard                   | Chuchichäschtli         | armoire de cuisine                       |

We're so happy to see you soon and hopefully we'll have a wonderful, interesting week together!

Lovely IFYE greetings  
Doris, Sonja, Nadia

conference2017@ifye.ch  
www.conference2017.ch

# 11th World IFYE Conference 9-18 September 2018



A highlight of 2018 could be “Cruisin’ with IFYE” at the 11th World IFYE Conference! The conference will be aboard a 7-day Alaskan cruise which will depart from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on 9th of September and arrive in Seward (Anchorage), Alaska on 16th of September, 2018.

The cruise will feature many of the traditional components of a World IFYE Conference, but you will be aboard the Holland America ms Noordam, sailing past a breathtaking coastline where you will have a chance to see all of Alaska’s natural wonders – from calving glaciers to breaching humpback whales.

**Registration for the conference and cruise booking:** Registration will be available online in June 2017. The registration fee for the World IFYE Conference will be minimal because most of the expenses will be included in the cost of the cruise. There is a variety of staterooms and suites available on the ms Noordam so you will be able to find one which fits your budget. Most cabins will be comfortable for two people. Some cabins can accommodate three or four people comfortably. It will be important to register early to make sure you get your first choice. A cruise informational flyer highlighting the cabin types and basic cost will be available soon on the IFYE website.

**Meet and Greet Pre-Conference Activity:** An event will be held on the evening of 8 September in Vancouver, for people who wish to participate in a Meet and Greet Pre-Conference activity.

**Website:** Check the IFYE website (<http://ifyeusa.org>) after 1 June 2017 for updated conference details and online-only registration for both the conference and cruise.

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# Project 60th Anniversary update

*written by Dorothy Wilson (IFYE from England to the USA in 1967)*



The Swiss mountain “walk” in 1985

The sub-committee working on the project to commemorate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018 is making steady progress.

All the official documents stretching back to 1958, most of the Conference reports and a good many photographs have been digitalised. Now we need to concentrate on the material for that booklet, which will be presented in Northern Ireland in 2018. Researching that material has been a fascinating exercise, which has evoked so many memories.

Some of those memories are sad because, inevitably, with the passage of so many years, we have lost some good friends. Some of those of those played important roles in the development of our organisation. We owe them a great deal.

But other memories are simply funny – even if they did not seem so at the time.

There was the fishing trip in Sweden when nearly all the IFYES were sea-sick. And who

really enjoyed the “walk” up the mountain in Switzerland with snow on the ground and hail in the air?

Then there was the bus in the ditch in Germany, a sinking banana boat in Northern Ireland and, just last year, the sled ride in Estonia.

Most of all though the memories are simply special ones. They are about getting to know different cultures, reaching out to other people and developing understanding. They are about enjoying new experiences and trying different things.

But whether sad, funny or simply special the over-arching theme that brings all those memories together can be summed up in one word: friendship.

So, when we present the booklet in 2018 the sub-committee members hope it will be a fitting tribute to the spirit of IFYE and especially to the European Alumni Association, which has provided us with all those special memories and that friendship.

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## Entering the IFYE world as hostfamily

*written by Family Weiss (IFYE hostfamily from Michigan - hosting since 1998)*

In 1998, we learned about the 4-H IFYE program. We did not travel very far or very long back then, so hosting young adults in our home was an excellent way to “travel” through the experiences of others. At the time, I did not realize most host families were former IFYEs. Blissfully unaware, we signed up to become a host family. The IFYE experience has been a blessing to our family.

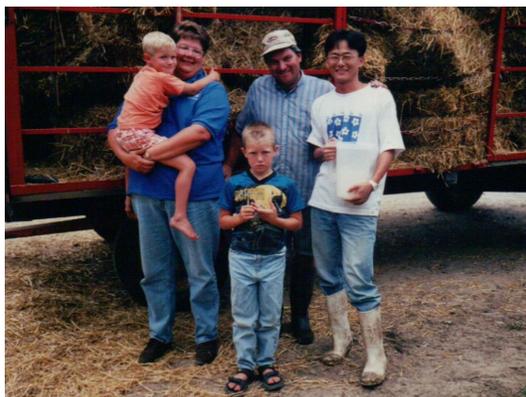


Our first IFYE was Tien Yu, from Taiwan. We picked him up at the Detroit airport. Tien Yu spoke almost no English, and we spoke absolutely no Taiwanese! But, our desire to welcome him and make him feel at home was real. In three weeks, he was quite fluent in American English! Tien Yu is the first of more than thirty young people we’ve hosted each

year since then. He's been back to visit us in 2005 and 2013.

Our own kids have grown up with IFYEs and other guests in our home. Lydia, now 23, was just four years old when Tien Yu came. Scott, our only son, was six in 1998. He has lots of IFYE brothers around the globe! Margie, who just turned 27, works with Roger on our farm. She traveled to Europe in 2012 to visit some of her IFYE brothers and sisters' farms. Each Spring our adult children ask me, "Who is our IFYE this year, Mom?" It's a family tradition we treasure: hosting a fellow farmer from another country.

We've hosted IFYEs from Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, and Northern Ireland. At Christmas time, I send updates of our family and look forward to the dozens of cards and letters from our IFYE kids. I am old-fashioned and love the postal service; now, Facebook, email, and inexpensive phone service let us exchange news more often!



In 2008, we left Margie and Scott in charge of our farm. Lydia went with Roger and I to visit northern Germany and three of our IFYEs: Hendrik Luebben, Suntke Damm, and Thilo Icken. We were guests at the Luebben Easter Fire, a tradition which all three young men had told us about. In the USA, there is no similar tradition, though when we hosted our version of an Easter Fire in 2013, a man in Frankenmuth, MI contacted us because he remembered them when he was a child in Germany in the 1930s. He had moved to the USA after WWII, and he was surprised we knew what an Easter Fire was! So, the IFYE program has helped us meet people in our own community, too.



In 2010, we traveled to Germany to attend Hendrik's wedding. We experienced 'Polter Abend' (is that spelled correctly?). What a fantastic pre-wedding party! And, again, there is no similar US tradition!

Lydia was four when we hosted our first IFYE. Who knows what motivates a child? She studied German in school since she was five. In 2011, she lived with a family in Hannover, Germany; attending Gymnasium through another exchange program. In 2014, she did a baking internship in southern Germany. This spring, she got engaged in a castle in Germany while she and her boyfriend were visiting the site of the Battle of the Bulge! We might have to attempt an Americanized version of Polter Abend as part of her wedding celebrations! *We hope our IFYEs who read this article will celebrate with us January 13, 2018, when Lydia marries Nick Raquepaw. We've got your room ready...Let us know if you need a ride from the airport!*

Neither Roger nor I were IFYEs when we were young. I am encouraging Bettina Heinemann to create a similar program for people who are 50+ and have time and desire to spend time appreciating other cultures in a home immersion experience. Our European travel is focused on visiting IFYE family farms. We learn a lot. In 2011, we purchased a LELY robotic milking system after seeing one in operation at Suzanne Marschall's farm in Switzerland.

The IFYE program is designed for young people to live in a family setting in another country. Our farm is small by American standards, but similar in size to most of our IFYEs' farms in Europe. That said, we know dairy farms are getting bigger in Europe now that

quotas are lifted. When we visited this spring, we could commiserate with European dairy farmers about low milk prices and the challenge to be sustainable in the dairy industry. We hope that your prices, and ours, improve soon.

During our trip in Spring of 2017 we connected with eight of our IFYEs, some in their homes and some at a party Bettina Heinemann hosted. We are proud of our IFYE kids: when you live with us, we come to love you. We wished you the best as you left our home for new adventures. It is wonderful to see you when we travel, too

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## Discovering Skye with the A-team

*written by Sabine Kobler (IFYE from Austria to the Northern Ireland in 2008)*

What do you do when an Ifye contacts you saying they've got itchy feet? Absolutely right - you plan a spontaneous weekend trip together!

And so it happened that three Ifyes - **Adam Ervin** from Northern Irish, **Alison Roberts** from Wales and me (originally from **Austria** but living in the UK) made our way to Scotland to visit **Alan Duncan** on the beautiful Isle of Skye.

We met up at Mary Turner's lovely house near Glasgow on Friday where Alison and me enjoyed Mary's hospitality (and red wine, thanks Mary!). Adam Ervin, having taken the ferry across from NI, joined us with his car the next morning and the three of us started our road trip up North.

Although our ultimate goal was the Isle of Skye we soon realised that the drive up along the Lochs and Glens was an adventure in itself. Scotland's rugged, precipitous peaks amidst the vast desert-like landscape make you forget that you're on Planet Earth - it does look a bit like Mars at times! As an Austrian, it's not like I've never seen mountains before but it's the rough unspoiled beauty in Scotland that makes them unique.



We reached Skye Saturday evening and had until Monday to catch up, have fun and make memories, while packing as many sights and activities as possible into our weekend. As you all know, the sun always shines when Ifyes travel so we enjoyed three marvellous days in the Scottish spring sun.

If you haven't been to Skye yet, you are missing out: its stunning scenery and breathtaking coastline combined with its many distilleries make it impossible to see it all on one weekend.

It's hard to summarise what a wonderful weekend we had – apart from the outstanding natural beauty of Skye we shared Ifye stories, took a nap in the afternoon sun at the coast, cooked lovely meals together and enjoyed the odd drink. Thanks again to Alan and his dogs for sharing their wee house with us!

Of course visiting Ifyes is more than just a holiday so if you'd like to know why we ended up carrying bags of cement across Alan's fields, you will need to ask us at the next conference in Switzerland this summer :-).

See you all there!

Sabine Kobler

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## Incoming/Outgoing Weekend Norway

*written by Benedicte Adeline Waerstad (IFYE from Norway to Jamaica in 2015)*

IFYE incoming/outgoing weekend in Norway was held 24-26. february on a high school close to Stavanger. In addition to the IFYE members, other 4H alumni attended another course about treasuring and running an alumni club, and some younger 4H-mebers attended a course about their exchange to the US this summer, all at the same high school. On friday night there was held several games and people ate as they came at different times. The IFYE course had some get-to-know each other games and let everyone meet each other in that group.



Saturday started early with morning activity where there was a lot of games, and then the different course groups parted from each other. The IFYE's that had traveled last year, or even earlier were placed in groups with outgoing IFYE's that are going out this year to the same or similar countries. Then the outgoing IFYE's had the opportunity to ask specific questions about each country. In addition to this we had some games about cultural differences, and how it is possible to handle this. We went through some themes and issues that could be important for everyone, so that the outgoing IFYE's could think through things that could happen while they are traveling as IFYE's.

This year it was a record on the number of people attending to this course. 12 outgoing attended in addition to three incoming and three more had applied to travel, but could not attend the course. All together 13 people will travel as an IFYE this year, which is one of the highest numbers we have had since IFYE started in Norway. That is something we like very much.

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## Congrats to...



**Neele Hays** (Heinemann)  
*IFYE from Germany to the USA 2011*

Neele and Mike married on 13th May 2017.

## Thomas Lennox

*IFYE from Northern Ireland to Finland 2008*

Thomas and Rebecca to their first daughter Arianna Iris,  
born 16th May 2017



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**Deadline next issue: 15th August 2017**

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### **European IFYE Alumni Association**

web address: [www.ifye.eu](http://www.ifye.eu)

e-mail: [ifye\\_europe@hotmail.com](mailto:ifye_europe@hotmail.com)

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