



# THE DELEGATION NEWS

May 2017

## THE DELEGATION FOR FRIENDSHIP AMONG WOMEN

[www.friendshipamongwomen.org](http://www.friendshipamongwomen.org)

members password: women67

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### MISSION STATEMENT

***"The Delegation for Friendship Among Women is a non-political organization that nurtures friendship between women from the U.S. and other countries and seeks nuanced understanding of women's work and lives throughout the world.***

***The Delegation accomplishes its mission primarily by self-funded study trips to countries where formal relations with the U.S. are often in transition. Delegates meet with a variety of notable women with whom we exchange ideas and solutions, as well as links to relevant resources. Upon returning to the United States, Delegation members continue the purposeful dialogue with the women abroad and share knowledge and insights with other U.S. citizens through speeches and articles."***

## 1. FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings Delegates,

It is with great honor that I announce that I have accepted the position as President to complete the term of President Beth Fluke who is resigning due to personal reasons. I thank Beth for the excellent manner in which she has led our delegation. Her efforts in planning our extremely successful trip to Mongolia in September 2016 included new innovative ideas such as linking our delegates with like-minded counterparts in Mongolia creating opportunities for continuing friendships and professional relationships that link our two countries. There were so many great experiences such as being hosted at the Presidential estate by the First Lady of Mongolia and starting our trip with a wonderful reception hosted by the American Embassy where we met with professional women leaders allowing us to meet those with whom we'd only been communicating with from across the world at the beginning of the trip. This was a trip of a life time experience that most participants were able to experience with the optional extension to participate at the Eagle Festival. Thank you, Beth for your extensive efforts at organizing this exceptional and successful trip for our group. As part of our ongoing exchange of ideas and supportive efforts, we are encouraging financial donations to The Blue Lake Water Project to provide clean water. Please consider extending a helping hand in this effort (described later in the newsletter).

Excitement is mounting as we are planning our 50th anniversary celebration which will be scheduled to coincide with the dates of our board retreat business meeting February 8-11 2018 in Scottsdale, AZ . We will keep you updated on the date, location and details and hope that delegates and their guest will join us in this special occasion with special honoree, Mary Pomeroy, a founding member in 1967. Remember how wonderful the weather is in Phoenix in February!

The board has also finalized our destination for our next delegation trip. We are looking forward to going to the country of Georgia with an optional extension to Armenia. The Trip Planning Committee is led by Holly Jobe and Diane Dunning. Please see their informative article in this newsletter. We learned through our experience in Mongolia innovative ways to become more participatory with professional women and organizations as we go forward.

We also working on ways to involve more delegates in participation with the Delegation ongoing activities especially in various committees such as planning and communications. I am now stepping down as newsletter editor to assume the presidency to complete Beth Fluke's term. Susan McCraw-Helms has graciously agreed to become editor. She will have the assistance of Desi Lewis who will format the final product for the editor to distribute. We also will have a Facebook page which will be constructed and subsequently kept updated by Delegate Caroline Olstad. Thanks to you both for volunteering your skills. Please don't hesitate to send updates for our newsletter and Facebook page. We so appreciate delegates who are able to offer to assist the delegation with their experience and expertise.

Looking forward to traveling with delegates again in the future and expanding our friendship with exceptional accomplished women across the world,

Dr. Cathi Smith  
President  
Dr.CathleenSmith@gmail.com

## 2. A NOTE FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENT

April 25, 2017

Dear Delegates

Springtime greetings to you from Philadelphia. Today, on my morning walk in the woods, I reflected on how the world has changed since I joined the Delegation 20 years ago. One of the most encouraging developments has been the increased opportunity for women, in many countries, to receive an education. With an education, women have become professionals, moving into a previously male-dominated culture, enabling women to participate in shaping their world.

With women around the world moving into professional roles, the mission of the Delegation has become even more important as we reach across borders and oceans to develop friendships with like-minded women. As the Delegation mission is to create friendship in countries "that formal relations with the United States has often been in transition," making our connections is even more vital.

Thank you, Kim Harms for successfully initiating a Delegation recruiting program. We happily welcome this new infusion of so many enthusiastic Delegates!

As the Delegation is moving on, I have resigned as president, but not as a Delegate. I plan to stay in touch with my many Delegation friends, and I wish the Delegation a wealth of exciting experiences to come!

In gratitude,

Beth Fluke  
Past President

## 3. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Lucky Hazelip	San Juan Cosala, Jal, Mexico
Marilyn Kaff	Carbondale, Kansas
Flora (Pete) Kubitz	Scottsdale, Arizona
Trudy Slade	Media, Pennsylvania
Barb Teaford	Elkton, Maryland
Alison Townley	Shipton-Under-Wynchwood, Oxon, OX76DQ
Vera Krymskaya	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## 4. DELEGATION SETS SIGHTS ON GEORGIA AND ARMENIA FOR FALL 2018 TRIP

The Delegation for Friendship Board has selected Georgia as the next trip destination for the fall of 2018. Georgia is located on the Black sea in the Caucus mountains region of Eurasia. An optional post-delegation trip to Armenia will be also included in the planning.

Former Board President, Beth Fluke and Board Member Diane Dunning met with Tamar Tchelidze at the Georgian embassy in Washington DC, who was very enthusiastic and helpful in making the decision to visit Georgia.

As with other former USSR states, Georgia has transitioned to a more democratic political system and capitalist economy, and is looking to develop friendships in the U.S. Many people speak English and there are a number of women leaders with whom the Delegation can meet.

With its unique position between Europe and Asia, Georgia has a rich history with the oldest human remains (1.8 million years old) found outside of Africa in Dmanisi, Georgia. They also claim to be the inventors of wine about 6000 years ago and the trip is planned to coincide with the harvest festival. Tbilisi, the capital, has a rich history and vibrant modern orientation.

Specific dates and trip information will be available late fall in a Delegation newsletter. Until then, you may be interested in viewing some of the many videos about Georgia on Youtube. Here is a short overview recommended by Tamar: Aerial view of Georgia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdmLmWY2ck4>

If you have ideas or colleagues you know in Georgia, please contact the co-trip planners below:  
Holly Jobe - [holly.jobe@gmail.com](mailto:holly.jobe@gmail.com)  
Diane Dunning - [dianedunning@gmail.com](mailto:dianedunning@gmail.com)

We look forward to offering this trip to Delegation members!



**Diane Dunning, Tamar Tchelidze, MD, Counselor, Health, Science & Education and Beth Fluke at the Georgian Embassy in Washington, DC.**



**Tbilisi, Georgia**

## 5. RETREAT AND 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mark Your Calendars! February 1, 2018 – The Delegation for Friendship Among Women will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner in Scottsdale Arizona. Details coming...watch for the next newsletter

## 6. DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

We realize that not every delegate is able to accompany the delegation on any particular trip, but, we offer a great opportunity to make a difference in the many lives affected in countries we visit by making a donation. We are currently focusing on Books for Africa in Rwanda expanding libraries and providing libraries to Goshora school. Additionally, we are assisting The Blue Water Lake Project in Mongolia promoting environmental efforts. These contributions allow you to participate in our efforts. Since the delegation is a 503C nonprofit organization, you can not only share your generosity but you will receive a receipt that documents tax deductibility. We encourage everyone to join in and help make deeply needed improvements in Rwanda and Mongolia.

To donate, please send a check made out to The Delegation for Friendship Among Women commenting on the check which project you wish as a recipient.

It should be mailed to: The Delegation c/o Mary Pomeroy  
18926 Latigo Lane  
Rio Verde, AZ 85263

You will receive a receipt for tax purposes. Thanks for your help!!

### ***Blue Water Lake, NGO River Conservation Project***

#### **Holly Jobe**

During our trip to Mongolia, we had the opportunity to meet Oyuntsetseg Tseveddamba, sister of one of our hosts on the trip, (Oyungerel Tseveddamba (Oyuna). She created a non-profit environmental organization in northern Mongolia to engage public involvement and develop projects to conserve the precious little water there is in Mongolia.



**Oyuntsetseg Tseveddamba**



**Blue Water Lake Logo**

Her organization Blue Water Lake's mission is to help local communities understand their surrounding environment and contemporary social and political issues and worldwide concerns that affect their environment; to promote effective means of protecting the environment, especially water; and to educate all ages of population on environmental issues and assist the communities to handle and overcome pressing challenges of their environment based on their local resources.

She works in Khuvsgul province in Northern Mongolia near the Siberian border, the source of most of the water in the country, with a focus is to preserve the Delgermuren and Shishged watershed areas. The most polluted area of the rivers is the fifteen km near Muren, the provincial capital. There are about 72,700 residents and about 1.2 million livestock in the watershed area.



**Delgermuren river south of Muren**

Sources of pollution are unpaved roads, unauthorized washing of cars in the river, picnicking and leaving trash, lack of sanitary facilities, pollution from a 100-year-old town dump site, and dumping of winter coal refuse.



**People wash their cars even though it is against the rules and cars leak liquid oil waste in the water**



**Picnicking along the river, leaving trash**



**More Picnic trash**



**Waste comes to river from Muren's nearly 100 year old dumpsite**

Oyuntsetseg's proposal has two components. She is asking for support to improve conditions along the river and to develop a program for high school students to participate in environmental responsibility. Improvements include reducing pollution by erecting additional concrete barriers another two km along the river to deter cars getting close to the river, creating a specific parking area for cars, installing a picnic table with shade cover, installing an eco-toilet and hiring activists to monitor the most vulnerable areas. The proposed budget for this component of the project is \$2760.



**Proposal to add more concrete protection markers to prevent cars from getting to the river's edge.**



**Add an eco-toilet for visitors to use. One was previously built and it was destroyed by vandals who probably didn't understand its function.**

The second component of the project is an education program involving high school students in creating a public service campaign to raise awareness throughout the community about the need to care for their river. This project is expected to cost about \$1857.

Detailed information is located on the Delegation website [www.friendshipamongwomen.org](http://www.friendshipamongwomen.org) in two power point presentations Oyuntsetseg sent.

The total for the two projects is \$4617. It is amazing what they expect to accomplish with relatively little money. I hope that we can fulfill this project through tax deductible contributions from delegates. If you are interested in contributing, please send a check with Blue Water Lake NGO on the memo line to:

The Delegation c/o Mary Pomeroy  
18926 Latigo Lane  
Rio Verde, AZ 85263

Jill Christiansen, Delegation treasurer, will be sending a tax receipt for to you for this donation.

**IMPORTANT DEADLINE!**

One of our new delegates, Barbara Teaford, will be visiting Oyuna in Mongolia and has generously offered to carry the funds. She leaves in June, so we have little time to send contributions. Thank you for getting a check in the mail no later than June 5.

Blue Water Lake contact : [gotsbar@yahoo.com](mailto:gotsbar@yahoo.com) (Oyuntsetseg Tseveddamba),



## 7. CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

[www.friendshipamongwomen.org](http://www.friendshipamongwomen.org)  
member password: women67

Patti Kenyon has done an excellent job keeping it updated and inclusive. Check it out to see interesting history over the past decades including countries we've visited, friendships we've made and photos from the many delegation trips and accomplishments.

## 8. WE'RE GONNA BE ON FACEBOOK SOON!!!

Caroline Olstad has volunteered to set up a new group for the Delegation on Facebook. Look for Facebook News in the future including information about group access and postings.

## 9. DELEGATION TRIP FOLLOW UPS

### RWANDA

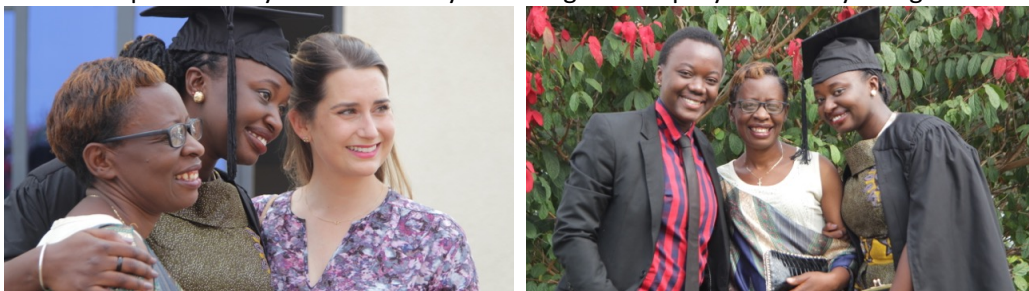
**Holly Jobe**  
**Akilah Institute for Women – Kigali, Rwanda**

Akilah Institute for Women celebrated graduation on January 27! My mentee, Marie Aimee Umuhoza was salutatorian for her class! I am so proud of her accomplishment and her continued focus on a career path. She is now employed in her Information Technology field at the Radisson Blu Hotel as an IT Officer and is considering going back to university to pursue her bachelor's degree.



Over the last year she has overcome the sudden death of her beloved father and is now facing a forced move from the home she and her family have enjoyed her entire life. Their home and neighborhood is being razed for a new highway.

Please keep this family and others in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate their challenge.



**Aimee and Akilah Founder Elizabeth Dearborn Hughes   Marie Aimee with her mother and brother**

**Cathi Smith**  
**Akilah School Kigali Rwanda**



My mentee is Ornella Igiraneza and she is from Burundi. She transferred to the Kigali, Rwanda school during the Burundi political uprising when the Akilah School in Burundi closed. She left behind her widowed mother and younger siblings and was understandably under a lot of emotional turmoil. I am proud to say this wonderful young lady will be graduating from Akilah in November and plans on going into banking in Rwanda where there are more opportunities professionally.

**Jo Van Tiehl**

My mentee did graduate from Akilah Institute which I learned from Julian, the former director, who is now working in her home country of Uganda.

**Linda Hoeschler**

I have been working with Fred de Sam Lazaro who does "[Under-told Stories](#)" for the PBS News hour to cover Rwanda projects that have turned out well. He and I are planning to meet with the Ambassador in DC to learn of potential successful projects for Fred to cover. On his last trip to East Africa, I urged Fred to meet with some of our contacts at Akilah and he was very impressed; he plans to do a story about their work within the year.

I've also continued work with Ceeya and Chip Bolman's [Team Heart](#) project [www.TeamHeart.org](http://www.TeamHeart.org). There has been progress with getting a hospital built while they continue to do surgery.

**MONGOLIA**

**Young Women for Change – Mongolia**

**Holly Jobe**

We visited with the Young Women for Change leadership when we were in Mongolia last year. They are doing amazing work to raise consciousness of young Mongolian women in a sexist society with domestic violence. We were impressed with their successful performance of The Vagina Monologues, art installation to honor the beauty of many types of women's bodies and the classes they provide young women.

We recently received an update from that they have launched their English language website: [womenforchangemn.com](http://womenforchangemn.com).

"We're pleased that our English-speaking friends will be able to learn more about what we do and who we are. Take a look, and please share [womenforchangemn.com](http://womenforchangemn.com) with your networks. We're always looking to make new connections with other passionate, likeminded people and organizations."

As we begin 2017, I would like to take a moment to reflect on and share with you some of Women for Change's achievements from the last twelve months. You can read more about these memorable moments on our website, which include:

- Organizing a **civil society election observation project** and training over 200 young people to observe and assist at 100 polling stations across Ulaanbaatar.
- Developing the **13 Challenges of Women lives** workshop series, which invited women to explore and share their experiences of gender based harassment.
- Celebrating the graduation of 21 women from our 2nd **Professional Women's Leadership Program**.
- Creating change through the **Behind Closed Doors** policy advocacy campaign that called for a comprehensive legal framework to combat domestic violence in Mongolia. [https://www.facebook.com/pg/women4changemongolia/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/women4changemongolia/videos/?ref=page_internal)
- And last but not least - our **6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, where we celebrated six years of working from grassroots to policy level for women's equality in Mongolia!

Meeting people like yourselves throughout the years has been a great privilege and source of inspiration. My team and I really value learning from others and hope to find new and innovative ways to collaborate with you in the future.

Zola, Zolzaya Batkhuyag, Co-Founder and Director,  
Women for Change NGO, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Phone: 9901-9993; 9918-6151; 8802-2416;

E-mail: [youngwomenforchange@gmail.com](mailto:youngwomenforchange@gmail.com)

Website: <https://womenforchangemn.com>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/women4changemongolia>

Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/women4changemon>

Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/youngwomforchange/>

Instagram profile: [http://instagram.com/ywc\\_club](http://instagram.com/ywc_club)

*"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."*

— Mahatma Gandhi

## **Tsagaan Sar – Mongolian Lunar New Year Holly Jobe**

The Mongolian Lunar New Year Celebration was celebrated February 27- March 1 and brought in the year of the Fire Rooster. This is one of the most important holidays of the year and is celebrated with dressing in traditional clothing, visiting family and friends, giving gifts and of course feasting! People greet each other with a holiday-specific greeting "Are you living peacefully?" The day before Tsagaan Sar, people clean their homes, settle debts and clear up misunderstandings to start the new year with a clean slate.

Our friend Oyuna Tsedevdamba sent photos of her Tsagaan Sar visits and feast. She said they visited six families and hosted hundreds of people in their home.



## **Mongolia Video Compilation posted!**

The video that was shown at our final dinner in Mongolia is now posted on You Tube.

The link is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUA0V6LzSaI> or [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUA0V6LzSaI&feature=em-upload\\_owner#action=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUA0V6LzSaI&feature=em-upload_owner#action=share)

## **CUBA**

**Linda Hoeschler**

I have been advising various cultural visitors on composers/musicians with whom they might meet.

## **10. MEMBER UPDATES**

### **March 17, 2017 Phoenix Luncheon**

Arizona delegate luncheon March 17, 2017 Tonto Verde Country Club



**Clockwise from left: Jill Christiansen, Cathi Smith, Judy Tiede, Carolyn Moats, Mary Pomeroy, Jan Gruel and Patricia Johnson**

### **April 2017 Phoenix Luncheon delegate get together**

In April Holly Jobe, Vice President visited Arizona. It was an excuse for Arizona delegates to go hiking and have lunch



**Jan Gruel, Holly Jobe and Jill Christiansen hiking on Desert Mountain.**



**Delegation Luncheon in Arizona. Barbara Pritchard, Mary Pomeroy, Susan McCraw-Helms, Jan Gruel, Pete Kubitz, and Carolyn Moats.**



**President Cathi Smith and Vice President Holly Jobe anticipating Elk and Big Horn Sheep sightings in White Mountains, Greer, Arizona after dinner at historic Molly Butler Lodge**

## 11. EDITOR'S SIGN-OFF

I want to take the opportunity to introduce our next newsletter editor, Susan McCraw-Helms delegate from Arizona. I appreciate Susan assuming this position and want to remind you to send updates, recommendations, comments and feedback. We are also starting a Facebook page which will be edited and updated by Caroline Olstad, delegate from Minnesota. Much appreciation to Caroline to this additional innovative communication tool. We will let you know when it is up and running and how to access and contribute to this group Facebook page. Thanks for all the updates I received while compiling the past newsletters. Remember, we'd love to get updates from more delegates, especially to follow up on previous trips but also any personal news you would like to share with your fellow delegates. I look forward to traveling and working with you in the future.

Dr. Cathi Smith, President  
The Delegation for Friendship Among Women  
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[www.friendshipamongwomen.org](http://www.friendshipamongwomen.org)