



THE DELEGATION NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2017

THE DELEGATION FOR FRIENDSHIP AMONG WOMEN

www.friendshipamongwomen.org

members password: women67

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."

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings Delegates,

As we look forward to fall and toward 2018, I am hoping that 2017 has brought you happiness and health.

I was deeply saddened to recently learn of the passing of long-time delegate and benefactor Artie Lee Hinds who died in May of this year. It was a joy for me to meet and get to know Artie Lee on our Delegation trip to Cuba in 2002. What an extraordinary life she lived and what an accomplished woman. Her complete obituary and a very nice note we received from her daughter is included in this newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE!!! SATURDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 10, 2018, SCOTTSDALE, AZ

Excitement is building as we anticipate our 50th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the Delegation for Friendship Among Women in 1967. Board members Jill Christiansen, Diane Dunning and Carolyn Moats lead the celebration planning committee. Full details will be available in the winter newsletter. The event will coincide with the weekend of our board business retreat in Rio Verde, Arizona. The date of the Anniversary event will be Saturday, February 10, 2018, in the evening, at Desert Mountain Golf Club in North Scottsdale. Bringing a guest will be welcome as we recognize that many delegates who plan to attend would like to bring a guest to share and enjoy the beautiful Phoenix weather in February. Members and guests will be welcome not only to attend the event but also to attend and participate in some of the many activities that occur during that time of the year in the Phoenix area. It's a great chance to meet delegates from around the country and reunite with those who you've met on previous trips. Our very special honoree will be Mary Pomeroy. Mary, who is now in her early 90's, will be attending. For numerous years over the past 50 years, in advance of our trips, Mary visited our destination country and met with persons who could assist in setting up pertinent meetings with women leaders. She basically did the trip planning for the delegates. Currently, a biographical book of Mary, a lot of which also documents the history and experiences of the Delegation, is being completed for publication. More specific information regarding the 50th anniversary event will be available in our winter newsletter. When final plans are confirmed all delegates will receive an invitation with details. For now, look at your calendars and save the date.

Vice President, Holly Jobe, and board member, Diane Dunning, are heading the planning committee for our next Delegation trip which is planned for Fall 2018. Our destination will be Georgia with an optional extension to Armenia. We will meet with women leaders representing a diverse variety of interests, including organizations that are nongovernmental and governmental, educational, medical, environmental and those who are working with a variety of women's issues. There will be lots more information to follow as plans evolve and finalize.

I want to thank both Delegates Caroline Olstad (caroline.e.olstad@gmail.com) and Susan McCraw Helms (smccrawhelms@cox.net) for their contributions with communication for our group. Caroline has designed our Facebook page and has it up and running (The Delegation For Friendship Among Women), and Susan has assumed editor position of our newsletter including this Fall 2017 edition. Please send any updates you have from prior trips or news you wish to share pertinent to our group to them for inclusion. Thanks also to delegate and board member Patti Kenyon for her continuing update and maintenance of our website. www.friendshipamongwomen.com.

If any delegates have contacts, information or articles that may be helpful to planning our trip to Georgia or Armenia please share with our trip planning leaders, Diane Dunning (dianedunning@gmail.com) or Holly Jobe (holly.job@gmail.com).

Enjoy the rest of your summer days and enjoy this Fall 2017 Newsletter.

Appreciatively,

Cathi Smith M.D., President
The Delegation for Friendship Among Women
Dr.CathleenSmith@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Delegation very happily welcomes its newest members. These women continue to add depth and experience to the organization.

- **CARLA RUFF, San Francisco, California:** Carla is involved with an agency which helps older women/widows with their finances and well-being.
- **CARLIE POTTS-WILEY, Blair, Nebraska:** Carlie is an Iraq war veteran and is currently a police officer and detective.
- **BARBARA TEAFORD, Naples, Florida:** Barbara is a businesswoman and founded a bank in Philadelphia. She is presently a partner in a real-estate company.
- **FLORA (Pete) KUBITZ, Scottsdale, Arizona:** Flora is a business executive, specializing in turnaround situations. She is also now the Chief Executive Officer for a program of luxury resort properties.
- **LUCILLE HALL HAZLIP, San Juan Cosala, JAL, Mexico:** Lucille runs a publishing business for medical textbooks.
- **ANNE BISANZ HANNAHAN, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA:** Anne is a retired psychologist and registered nurse with more than forty years of experience working with people affected by serious illness. She has started a non-profit, Growing Community Roots, to provide water, sanitation and gardens to Kenyan school children

PROFILES

This section is an attempt to help all of us to get to know each other a bit better. In each issue of the Newsletter, I hope to include a profile of a Member of the Delegation and a past or present Board Member.



Sylvia Sabo, Past Board Member, Minneapolis, MN

Sylvia is a retired nurse with a particular interest in breast cancer (a survivor). She travelled with Radiology International to Vietnam and China and brought mammography equipment to teach breast cancer detection. Sylvia has visited Russia, Cuba, and Japan with Peace Links Friendship Program. She helped organize a tutoring program for Somali immigrants in Minneapolis. For years, Sylvia has been active in Congressional Club activities in Washington, DC. Sylvia is seen here during our visit to a family living in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia.

Mary is an impassioned environmentalist, conservationist, and gardener. She currently serves on the advisory boards of the Texas Office of The Environmental Defense Fund in Austin, Texas, The Bamberger Ranch Preserve near Johnson City, Texas, and the Environmental Film Festival in Washington, DC. She has previously served on the advisory board of the Texas office of The Nature Conservancy.



Mary Wallace, Member, Blanco Texas

Mary has been active in local conservation efforts, protecting her family's farm near Blanco by working to establish the first Hill Country Conservation Easement granted to the Nature Conservancy. She then continued to work for subsequent easements granted to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust. Mary is seen in this picture enjoying herself on the Delegation's trip to Mongolia.

RETREAT AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

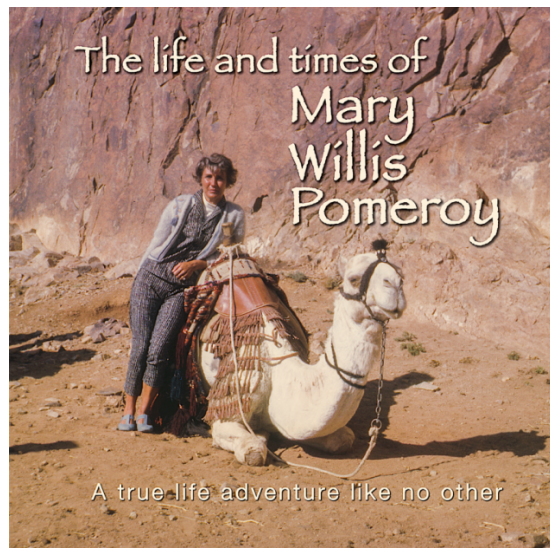
The next Delegation Board Retreat is being planned to coincide with the Delegation's 50th Anniversary Celebration. The Retreat for Board Members will be held on February 9 and 10, 2018, in Rio Verde, Arizona.

The **50th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Saturday evening, February 10, 2018.** All Delegation Members are invited and each member may bring one guest. The Celebration will be held at The Desert Mountain Golf Club in the Sonoran desert of North Scottsdale, Arizona. The Apache Clubhouse, a beautiful room with a private outside patio with a fireplace, has been reserved for the event.

PLEASE MARK THE DATE AND PLAN TO ATTEND!

The Committee members for the Anniversary Celebration are Jill Christiansen, Carolyn Moats, and Diane Dunning. Diane will be sending out an e-mail notice soon about the event, and Carolyn is compiling a list of nearby hotels and optional recreational activities for Sunday. Jill is working on the menu and other details of the dinner. The cost per person for the event will be sent out as soon as the planning committee has a better idea of how many members and guests will be attending. Please watch for further details.

The 50th Anniversary Celebration dinner will also serve as the venue to honor one of the Founding-Members of The Delegation for Friendship Among Women, **Mary Pomeroy**. Mary's book, ***The Life and Times of Mary Willis Pomeroy: A True Life Adventure Like No Other***, will be coming out soon. Mary's life story is exceedingly rich and is intimately wrapped up with the Delegation and its beginnings and history.



DELEGATION'S NEXT TRIP: GEORGIA and ARMENIA, Fall of 2018

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 Dr. Tamar Tchelidze at the Georgian embassy in Washington DC. Ms. Tchelidze 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. The oldest human remains (1.8 million years old) found outside of Africa were found in Dmanisi, Georgia. Georgians also claim to be the inventors of wine about 6000 years ago, and the Delegation's 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 in the winter 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
Diane Dunning - 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

SELECTED HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS: Georgia

Basic Population data

Total Population	Ethnic Groups (2014 est.)(CIA)	
4.9 million (increase of <u>-0.05%</u> July 2016 estimate) (CIA) 53.6% urban (2015) (CIA) <u>-0.1%</u> = rate of urbanization (CIA – 2010-2015 estimate)	Georgian (official) = 87.6% Azeri = 6.3% Armenian = 4.5% Other = 2.3% [Russian, Ossetian, Yazidi, Ukranian, Kist Greek]	
Median Age = 38 years (2016 est.) (CIA)	<u>FEMALE</u> 40.7	<u>MALE</u> 35.1
Doctors per 1,000 people (2014) (CIA)	4.78	
Life Expectancy at Birth = 76.2 years (2016 est.) (CIA)	<u>FEMALE</u> 80.6	<u>MALE</u> 72.1
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births = 15.6 (CIA)	<u>FEMALE</u> 13.4	<u>MALE</u> 17.8
Maternal Mortality Rate (2015 est.) (CIA)	36 per 100,000 live births	
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (2010)(CIA)	53.4% of women 15-44 years old	

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 to expand libraries and provide a library for the Goshora School. Additionally, we are assisting The Blue Water Lake Project in Mongolia (see article below). Such contributions allow all Delegation members the opportunity to participate in our efforts. Since the delegation is a 503C nonprofit organization, you can share your generosity while receiving 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, noting on the check which project you wish as a recipient. Donations 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!!

ON THE WEB

Delegation Facebook Page, Caroline Olstad

<https://www.facebook.com/TheDelegationForFriendshipAmongWomen/>

Caroline asks that if you have photos or videos or anything else you would like to share, please send them her way. She also asks that you send any suggestions for other organizations that the Delegation can “like” to her as well. She will be updating the Facebook page periodically. caroline.e.olstad@gmail.com

Delegation Website, Patti Kenyon

www.friendshipamongwomen.org

member password: women67

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.

Video on You Tube, Holly Jobe

I have posted the video that was shown at our final dinner in Mongolia on You Tube.

The link is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUA0V6LzSal> or
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUA0V6LzSal&feature=em-upload_owner#action=share

You will need to copy and paste the link into a browser.

DELEGATION TRIP UPDATES

MONGOLIA



Barbara Teaford, bhteaford@icloud.com

Blue Water Lake, Mongolia, NGO River Conservation Project



In the last newsletter, you might remember that Holly Jobe wrote of the Blue Water Lake River Conservation Project.

Delegates contributed funds to this very worthy cause and Barbara Teaford, a new member of the Delegation, was able to deliver the funds in person. She sent the following:

Oyuna (Oyungerel Tsedevdamba) was so excited to receive the Delegation's gift of funds for the Blue Water Lake Project, 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.

She immediately called her sister, Oyuntsetseg Tsedevdamba, and there were squeals of excitement between the two sisters over the news. I then spoke to Oyuntsetseg myself.

She and Oyuna thank you all very much. I also gave Oyuna the letter that was sent to me for her.

We had a lovely dinner with Oyuna and her husband, Jeff. It was the night of the runoff election for President. Oyuna had worked very hard for the Democratic candidate, and we had just found out that morning that he had won! Oyuna and Jeff

Oyuntsetseg Tsedevdamba

have been protecting a whistleblower against corruption in the current government in their home, facing the police who had been surrounding their home trying to arrest him. It is a very exciting time in Mongolia right now and so good that Oyuna's efforts have paid off.

Thank you (to Beth Fluke) for making the introduction for me with Oyuna. She had such wonderful things to say about all of you in the Delegation with whom she met last year.

Please let the others in the Delegation know of the successful delivery of their gift to Oyuna's sister by way of Oyuna.

Detailed information on the project is located on the Delegation website www.friendshipamongwomen.org in two power point presentations Oyuntsetseg sent.

Blue Water Lake contact: gotsbar@yahoo.com (Oyuntsetseg Tsedevdamba)



Barbara Teaford and Oyungerel Tsedevdamba

Marilyn Kaff, drmkaff@gmail.com

Marilyn is a new member of the Delegation and wrote to say:

I am a newbie to the group. I met several of the delegates on my way to Mongolia last fall (2016) when I spent six weeks in Ulanbataar (UB) working with Autism Mongolia. I have been back to the UB twice since fall to provide support for the preschool that Autism Mongolia runs.

I am a professor in Special Education at Kansas State University. I spend most summers working in a college in Tanzania. I train teachers and conduct screenings for children with Autism and other developmental disabilities.

I live on a farm in northeast Kansas and I am working on my retirement plan.

Dr. Marilyn Kaff

Holly Jobe, holly.jobe@gmail.com

Our dear friend, Oyungerel Tsedevdamba (Oyuna), has given us permission to reprint (below) her article, "*MONGOLIAN ACTIVIST: WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?*", which was published in the

Summer 2017 edition of THE CARTER/MONDALE LETTER, Volume 12, Issue 1. We can all thank **Sylvia Sabo** for helping Oyuna make the connection with the Carter Center.

Mongolian Activist: What Are Human Rights?

By Oyungerel Tsedevdamba

Oyungerel Tsedevdamba, a former minister of the Mongolian government, now speaks actively on issues of human rights. She is co-writing with her husband, Jeffrey Falt, the second book in a series about the Stalinist purges against Buddhist lamas and nomadic herders. The first book in the series, "The Green Eyed Lama," published in 2008, became the longest-standing bestseller in Mongolia and is expected to be published in French by Grasset et Fasquelle this year.

It is the first day of winter of 1976. Almost all the people of my town wear their winter coats today. And it is a very cold day, especially when we have to stay outside most of the day.

I am lined up in a long parade — official parade of October holiday. I am in fourth grade, or 10 years old, and my classmates are one to two years older than me and grown enough to demonstrate outside. I am excited. My feet are getting cold at minus 20 C, and my mouth and eyebrows are frosted already. Still, we don't know when exactly our class will pass by the podium where big leaders stand and we shout out our "hoorays."

While waiting for our turn to pass by the central square of our town, Muren, we play, run, and chase each other and do simple silly things. Meanwhile, we wonder why Nov. 7 is celebrated as an October holiday, and why Russia's Red Revolution of 1917 is a big holiday for Mongolia.

No one, not even teachers, knows or tells the answers to our curious questions, but everybody above age 12 of our town with 30,000 inhabitants is just obliged to appear on this holiday. That is why this is such a long line to reach to the main square. If not, there will be a big punishment. Fear and October holiday come always together. For us children, we will be "marked" on our personal journals recorded by the school. Having "a mark" on the personal journal might mean anything: losing our chances to go to university someday, losing our chance to have a job, having our parents kicked out of their jobs, or something else that we can't imagine. In general, it is assumed by everybody that it would be the worst thing to not appear at political events like October holiday.

Bigger children of our school have bigger challenges. They have to hold huge red flags and gigantic hand-drawn portraits of Lenin, Marx, and Engels. I see flag-holding guys placing their freezing hands on their mouth once in a while. Teachers and pioneer advisors have to appear in good-looking outfits, and therefore, their feet get cold first of all. We see many of our schoolchildren and grownups stepping in place as if to rhythmic beats just because their feet are freezing.

As to our classmates, we all hold little red flowers, and half of the flowers and flags break down before we even see the edge of the central square. Boys tickle girls with the flags and girls knock them back with flowers. Teachers scold us for not keeping the flags and flowers in order, but we can't help playing with them on squeaky snowy traffic on our way to a communist parade.

“Children, now line up for the parade, it is our turn soon,” my class instructor, Chuluunhuu, a young woman with a soft voice and weak health, coughs and shouts as loud as she can. She calls us name by name trying to stop her undisciplined students. Some kids lose their mittens and some hide someone else’s hat. We yell at each other, trying to help the teacher arrange our class for the parade.

After a messy reorganization, we somehow make a logical line and a square out of our 35 children of the class. We try hard not to break the square we just formed, and it is so hard to concentrate on the line as some boys poke the girls’ rears or kick our butts while pretending to walk like soldiers.

Anyway, our hard-to-discipline class of 35 young pioneers walks onto the Davaadorj Square, which becomes one of the key places for Mongolia’s democracy history in 14 years.

“May the greatest revolution of October prosper eternally! Hooray!” the loud convincing voice commands through the central radio amplifier standing on the main square.

“Hooray!” we follow. Boys giggle at the girls’ first-ever hoorays in our lives.

“Here is your mother, Oyungerel” someone pokes.

I look at the main podium where the leaders of our Huvsgul Province are standing and waving at us. There are almost 30 men and one woman. The only woman leader standing there and waving at us is my mother. She is tall and beautiful. She wears a snow-white headscarf and a black coat with white fur collar. She looks sharp and distinct from all the men standing next to her. I have a big smile and wave at her proudly.

“Let the world imperialism led by the United States of America be destroyed! Hooray!” the radio yells.

“Hooray!” I wave to my mother while keeping my steps straight for the square-making parade.

The two hoorays and the walk by the podium are the culmination of our October holiday celebration. Soon, we run toward the school at our fastest and give away our flowers and flags to be free to go home. Our little contribution to world communism is done.

As I come home, everybody else comes home one after one. Our family of eight lives in a ger, Mongolian national dwelling with round structure and felt cover. Our ger is located in downtown Muren, in the yard of the town history museum. Also, our ger doesn’t belong to us. It is a state property built in a state-owned yard. Just a few months before, my mother and father moved to this state-owned place after my mother graduated from a political institute run by the Central Committee of the Mongolian People’s Revolutionary Party — the only permitted party in Mongolia. People call that school the Party University.

When Mother comes home, Father asks her how cold she was. She confesses that she was freezing at the podium, standing there all the time. She takes her beautiful clothing off, puts her cold feet on our father’s belly. We touch Mother’s feet, and they are indeed freezing cold. But she is happy. She did her job all the way from early morning till late afternoon, and she proved her stamina while not showing any of her pain and discomfort on her face. And she was one of the main authors of all the holiday messages because she is the Province Party Principal of the Ideological Department.

The Ideological Department is the main censorship organization making all the public messages, broadcasts, speeches, newspapers, plays, and concerts “politically right.” Until I was 12, I didn’t know why my mother never came home earlier than 8 p.m. Later I understood that she was obliged to look at almost every single detail of all the publications and event papers being held or going on in our province. She also was a speechwriter to almost all the big

chairmen of the province. However wrong or wasteful her job might sound for today's free Mongolians, it required her to be the most educated, the most well-spoken, the best-writing and best-informed woman in town. And she was!

When Mother comes home early like today, we usually get something to celebrate. We laugh together, sing together, and Mother tells us different stories. And the most exciting thing is that Mother is available to translate the Soviet TV to us.

We have only two channels in Mongolia: Mongolian national TV and the Soviet main channel that we called Orbit. We like to watch Orbit to see the outside world. Our main outside world and the farthest exciting place is Moscow. We like to watch how Russians demonstrate on their own October holiday. And we look admiringly at the Kremlin's parade and the squares and squares of army people marching with their weapons in that parade-celebration.

While all these are such a nice and fun thing to watch for us, we don't realize that it is a picture of an actual war — the war that already has a name somewhere in the world. Yes, it is a Cold War scene. How could I know it is a war scene! And how could I know that by hooraying on the main square of our northern Mongolia town, I take my position in that big war as a little enemy of America, about which I know nothing, too.

But somewhere in the world, two leaders confronted by Cold War are discussing how to make peace.

One day in 1980 or so, I have a chance to listen to my mother and father's conversation while watching very important Orbit news! Mother sits attentively in front of our black-and-white TV, recording and watching Soviet news on the meeting of the Soviet and American leaders that took place on a yacht. The news is obviously very interesting to my father, who didn't know Russian, and he keeps impatiently urging my mother to translate every detail of the news.

"What is our side saying?" Dad asks.

"Leonid Brezhnev is saying that we want world peace," Mother translates.

"That's good. What's their side saying?" Dad continues.

"Jimmy Carter is saying that he wants human rights," Mom explains.

"Why don't we give him human rights and live in peace?" Dad asks.

"I don't know exactly what the Americans are asking by this," Mom says.

"They are asking something very easy. Human and Rights." Dad insists, "That should be an easy thing to give."

"I don't know what are human rights," Mom repeats.

"Why don't you know such a simple thing?" Dad insists strongly. "I took care of all our children so that you can study in three universities. With your education you should know about such simple things!"

Mom shakes her head and says, "I wish I knew what Americans mean when they demand human rights."

From Mom and Dad's conversation, one thing becomes clear to me. My mom doesn't know the one thing that is crucial to save the world peace. And with my ambition to save our world, I decide to find out what is "human rights," and I want to tell about it to my mother and father. So, the very next day, I go to all the libraries I know: my school library, my town library, and the province library. I search all their catalogues, all the big books and small books, and I cannot find anything about human rights. My search for human rights stops after 24 hours, and I forget that conversation about human rights for 10 years.

In the spring of 1990, Mongolia's usual dusty wind becomes the wind of change. The democratic movements have announced themselves one after another since Dec. 10, 1989 — the International Human Rights Day! Soon, the new democratic activists start recruiting locals for their organizations.

On one dusty spring day, my usual client, Altangerel, comes to my office of the provincial procurement company. I am not so fond of Altangerel because he complains about our state-owned company way too much, but this time he comes to me with a quiet voice and whisper. Oh, I like secrets, rumors, and whispers!

"Oyuna," he whispers, addressing me warmly, "I trust you, and I would like you to read this paper." He gives me a few pages of writings. "Please read it at home and don't burn or destroy it. We have only a few copies. So, if you like what you have read, please give it to the next trusted person."

"I will, thank you!" I accepted the pages. I like to read such secret leaflets of early democracy days, as they are all very interesting and always contain banned information!

When I come home, I open the papers and read, "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Suddenly, I remember my parents' conversation about Jimmy Carter and Leonid Brezhnev's meeting back in 1979 or 1980!

"Dad!" I call with excitement. My mother is long passed away, and I can share this exciting news only with my dad at this time.

"What happened?" Dad turns around on the sofa where he is napping after his long hard day's work as a mechanic in the local electricity company.

"I found human rights!" I announce.

"What human rights?" Dad places his arms under his head to look at me.

"Remember, you asked about human rights from Mother 10 years ago?" I remind him of that night's talk.

"Oh yes!" Dad remembers, "Tell me what you found about human rights."

At this moment, I read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to my father loudly.

"Everyone has the right to live ...," I start.

"Sounds right." Dad nods. "Continue."

"Everyone has the right to freedom of speech ... freedom of expression ... freedom from torture ... freedom of religion ...," I read.

Each time, Dad nods his head approvingly while looking at the ceiling of our state-owned apartment. When I finish reading, Dad jumps up and says, "They all seem to be natural and right things. Why it has to be so secret?"

At this very moment, I decide to join the democratic forces of our country, and I want to tell everybody about human rights.



RWANDA

The Akilah Institute [www.akilahinstitute.org] is a girls' secondary school in Rwanda where young women are trained for various professions. The Delegation donated a number of computers to the school after the group visited in 2015, and the Delegates on the trip all mentored one or more of Akilah's students.

Linda Hoeschler [lhoeschler@gmail.com] sent this update:

I just got word that Fred de Sam Lazaro from the PBS Newshour was able to get to The Akilah Institute and do a story on it. He was having trouble getting into Rwanda so I put him in touch with the Ambassador's Office to help expedite and clear his way. Fred knew nothing about Akilah before I told him about it—so it's a feather in the cap for the Delegation.

Now there is a television show about Akilah and personal interest segments on the PBS Newshour's, Untold Stories. They generally show them on slower news days and after they've shown on the program, the videos are available to view at PBS.com. I'll let you know when it airs.

From The AKILAH INSTITUTE

Whether they're IT specialists or entrepreneurs, Akilah Institute alumnae are leaders in their workplaces and communities. Check out our alumnae report featurette, **showcasing interviews with our graduates and impact data from our programs!** [www.akilahinstitute.org]

CAMPUS NEWS: We're Moving

After five years in our current campus in Kibagabaga, Kigali, the **Akilah Institute is moving to a new location in Kigali**. The larger campus will fit our rapidly expanding student body and **provide more space for IT labs, our Business Incubation Center, and other activities**. We'll share more details soon. In the meantime, watch some of the amazing memories we've made at our old campus. [www.akilahinstitute.org]

CAMPUS LIFE: A Day In The Life Of A Student

Classes at Akilah start at 8 a.m. For Allen, first up is Management Information Systems. Her class covers topics like how to create a database in Microsoft Access. Her instructor uses business examples so that Allen will know how to apply the classroom lesson in her future workplace. Curious about how students like Allen Ingabire spend their time at Akilah? **Read about her classes, extracurriculars, and leadership opportunities** at the Akilah Institute [www.akilahinstitute.org]!



MEMBER UPDATES



IN MEMORY OF: Artie Lee Hinds, 1925-2017
(Published in Houston Chronicle from May 21 to May 22, 2017)

Artie Lee Page Hinds passed away peacefully at home on Friday, the 19th of May, at the age of 91. She was a loving and caring wife and mother and a gracious Christian lady. She was born on

the 15th of July 1925 and raised in Pasadena, California. She married Jackson C. Hinds Jr. in 1946 and moved to his hometown Houston. They raised three children in Houston. She loved Houston and became actively involved as a civic volunteer and fundraiser..

From the time she was a child she was an achiever. She loved life and kept it full. She attended Pasadena schools, earned a Bachelor of Music at the University of Southern California. She was a professional violinist in the Los Angeles area, playing background music for motion pictures, a member of the Musicians Union (AF of M) locals #47 in Hollywood and #65 in Houston. She was concertmaster of the Pasadena California Symphony and a former member of the Houston Symphony. She was a child actress on radio, Los Angeles Saturday Children's broadcasts. In 1944, she was a Princess in the Queen's Court, Pasadena Tournament of Roses and Rose Bowl.

She is predeceased by her husband, Jackson C. Hinds, Jr. former Chairman and CEO of Entex, Inc. She is survived by her three children, Randy Hinds and wife Marcia of Boerne, Texas, Page Hinds-Athan and husband Harry Athan of Wellington, Florida. Denise Hinds Cartwright and husband Bruce of Houston and her 4 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren: Bruce Link Cartwright Jr. of Orange County California, Jason Andrew Howard and wife, Hilary and children, Cora Rose, Wesley Dean and Helen Olive Howard of Houston; Hinds Scott Howard and wife Eriana and children Rhea Sofia, Luke Hinds, and Alec Jackson Howard of Philadelphia, Mary Liz Howard Eastland and husband Edward Eastland, their sons, Edward Junior, Andrew Scott, and Walker Seaborn Eastland of Hunt, Texas. She is predeceased by her great grandson, John James Eastland. She is also survived by her nieces, Carol Vaughn of Austin and Cindy Sweeney of Michigan and their families.

A magazine article on Artie Lee once said "her distinguished record of service rivals any Nobel laureate." Her goal was never the record, but rather the service. Her resume reflects her tireless efforts as a volunteer. She was a member of the Houston Junior Forum and served as its President. Because of her initiative in building Houston's first Day Center For Senior Citizens she was nominated by Governor Preston Smith and invited by President Richard Nixon to be a Texas delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 1971. The Day Center for Senior Citizens was lauded by the President's Commission on Aging as the finest senior citizen's recreation center in the country.

She was elected to a seven year term with the Board of Directors of the Greater Houston Chamber of Commerce, later the Greater Houston Partnership. She served as chairman of the Civic Affairs Committee for three years and Chairman of the Civic and Cultural Committee for four years. During those years some of the programs included a list of incentives and disincentives for inner city revitalization, the formation of Clean Houston Inc., assistance in leading the Buffalo Bayou Transformation project for implementation of the first flood control improvement demonstration in the Sabine Street vicinity. She later served as Chairman of the Buffalo Bayou Partnership.

She was appointed to the Houston Municipal Art Commission by 7 mayors and served there 35 years. Working closely with her good friend, Pam Ingersoll they initiated a program to restore, preserve and maintain Houston's entire body of city owned works of art, culminating in the complete restoration of the Sam Houston monument in Hermann Park. For this restoration, the Mayor asked her to accept for Houston the first "Monumental Defender Award" from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art and Heritage Preservation. This award was given in 1997 in Washington D.C.

In 1974, she was appointed by Mayor Louie Welch and City Council to the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and served as chairman of the Heritage Committee. The major event planned by this committee was the Harris County Bicentennial Youth Fair at the Astrohall. The fair consisted of exhibits and activities showing American progress in all academic areas. It included the 21 Independent School Districts of Harris County and involved directly and indirectly 500,000 school children. She received the Freedom's Foundation At Valley Forge Award "given for outstanding achievement in bringing about a better understanding of the American way of life"

In 1975 she was asked by the Chamber of Commerce to be the Task Force Chairman of Tranquillity Park, a bicentennial project for the city commemorating the landing on the moon in Mare Tranquillitatis (the Sea of Tranquillity) by Houston Astronauts.

In 1968 she joined the Board of Directors of the Lighthouse for the Blind and was President two years. Their industrial division moved from a deficit operation with limitations in earnings and fringe benefits to a surplus generating industry able to guarantee a minimum wage to all blind workers and an industrially sound fringe benefits package. In 1975, Artie Lee was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Industries for the Blind, a non-profit agency implementing the Javits Wagner O'Day Act for allocating industrial contracts for purchasing products made by blind persons for sale to all agencies of the federal government. This allowed Blind Work Centers across the country to compete for federal contracts. Their Skilcraft line of products is well known in government agencies. In 1999 she was awarded their highest award, the R. B. Irwin award "in grateful recognition for having devoted more than 30 years of volunteer service to blind people throughout the United States." Her experience at the federal level led her to found "Texas Industries for the Blind and Handicapped", she was the incorporating director and Chairman of Texas Industries for the Blind and Handicapped, a non-profit agency organized as mandated under legislation as the Texas Code of Human Resources Chapter 122 to implement a program to purchase products and services produced by persons who are blind and severely handicapped for sale to state agencies and political subdivisions. She served as Chairman of this company for 19 years. When she retired, this corporation initiated the "Artie Lee Hinds Award" as their top award to be presented to the disabled employee of the year.

She was a Director of the St Joseph Hospital Foundation and later a Life Director. She was the chairman of the Capital Fund Drive for the Women's Hospital. That Foundation changed its name to Christus Foundation for Health Care. She was the honoree of their Annual Spring Luncheon in 2007 and was presented with their first annual Legacy Award.

In 2011 she was the honoree of the Sheltering Arms Senior Services luncheon where distinguished Pulitzer Prize winner and American political columnist, Charles Krauthammer was the guest speaker.

The University of Houston was a special love of Artie Lee's for many years. She served on the search committee for Chancellor of U of H Downtown, charter member of Board of Visitors, elected to Board of the U of H Foundation, co-chairman of the U of H Excellence Fund Campaign, member of the Board of Development, member of the first committee to renovate and decorate Wortham House. She was presented the Community Leader Award by UHDC Alumni Association.

During her life Artie Lee saw women in America overcome many stereotypes and barriers. She watched her mother go to work in a war industry in the 1940's and Artie Lee was on the leading edge of women accepted in typically all-male symphony orchestras. She was the second woman to ever serve on the Board of the Greater Houston Chamber of Commerce. Her concern for women and women's issues led her to join the Delegation for Friendship Among Women, a national organization recognized by the U.S. State Department receiving briefings from U.S. Embassies in each country. She visited with women of the Republic of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Borneo, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sumatra, Thailand, Singapore, South Africa, Kenya, Abu Dhabi, Jordan, Egypt and Havana Cuba. She was guest of Fatima Bint Mubarek, the wife of the President of the United Arab Emirates, and guest of Susan Mubarek, wife of the President of Egypt. She was a member of the Houston Sister City of Abu Dhabi.

She was a member of Tri-Delta Sorority and served as its alumnae president. In 2002 she was awarded the Community Service Award by the Lady Washington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The City of Houston dedicated an official day as Artie Lee Hinds day three different times in her honor and issued two Proclamations of Appreciation over the years. She was honored as the "Mayor's Proud Partner" by the Houston Clean City Commission in 1988.

Houston and national organizations have repaid Artie Lee many times over with a long list of honors which always pleased and humbled her. She shared with her husband memberships in the River Oaks Country Club, the Cherry Hills Country Club in Denver, Colorado, and Hiwan Golf Club in Evergreen, Colorado. She was loved, respected and admired by all who knew her. She loved her precious community at the church of St. John the Divine.

The family is eternally grateful for the constant care given by Marlene Vyoral, Ivory Deal, and Ofelia Quintanilla. They made her last years fun and exciting.

Friends are cordially invited to gather with the family and share remembrances of Artie from five o'clock in the afternoon until seven o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, the 23rd of May, in the grand foyer of Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering Drive in Houston.

A Memorial Service is to be conducted at eleven o'clock on Wednesday, the 24th of May, and will be held at The Church of St John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd in Houston.

In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions may be directed to the Artie Lee and Jackson Hinds Scholarship Endowment Fund, University of Houston Downtown, One Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002, or Christus Foundation for Health Care, P.O. Box 1919, Houston, Texas 77251, the Houston Junior Forum, P.O. Box 7941, Houston Texas 77270 or St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd, Houston 77019, or [charity of your choice](#).

And from her daughter:

My mother loved to travel and my father did not. The delegation gave her an opportunity to travel with a purpose. She valued the women, the ideals of the group, and the advancement of learning in the regions.

When she could no longer travel, she sponsored talented women to go on the trips. Artie Lee Hinds was proud of her association with The "Delegation" as she called the group. Best wishes for more success around the world.

Denise Hinds Cartwright

Our "Roving" Reporter, Holly Jobe, reports:

A summer coffee was hosted by Cherie Reisenberg at her home in Minnesota. It was a lovely get together and a great time. The group welcomed two new members, Kate and Carol, and hopes are that Julie and Deb will join as well.



Left to Right: Julie Sabo, guest, Cherie Riesenberg, Carol Rueppel, Kate Maurer, Deb deVries, guest, Sylvia Sabo, Judy Teide, Linda Hoeschler

EDITOR'S SIGN-OFF

I would like to personally thank you all for your help with putting this newsletter together – for the suggestions, articles, references, and photos. Your feedback will also be very much appreciated. I would 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 know it helps me begin to know you all better. I look forward to traveling and working with you all in the future.

Susan McCraw Helms, Newsletter Editor
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