

THE DELEGATION NEWS

January 2016

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."

Letter from President Beth Fluke:

Dear Delegates,

In October, the Delegation officers and board members were hosted at the home of Mary Mattson Kenworthy in historic Redding, Connecticut for our annual retreat. It was an opportunity to welcome new board members Holly Jobe and Kim Harms. We also showed our appreciation honoring retiring board member and Past President Linda Hoeschler and board member Sylvia Sabo. After five years of successful hard work, Cathi Smith has stepped down as President but remains on the board as Past President. Current Board Members are: Mary Mattson Kenworthy(Redding, CT), Patricia Kenyon(Sunnyvale, CA), Dr. Kim Harms(Bloomington, MN), Dr. Carolyn Moats(Traverse City, MI), and Dr. Cathleen Smith(Fountain Hills, AZ).

Officers Elections were held and the results are:

President: Beth Fluke Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Vice President: Holly Jobe Flourtown, Pennsylvania

Second Vice President: Carol Heen Minneapolis, Minnesota

Secretary-Treasurer Jill Christiansen La Grange, Illinois

The retreat was an opportunity for the Board to review the Delegation history and consider our mission in today's world. When the Delegation was founded in 1967, the

world seemed larger. Travel and communication with other parts of the world was far more difficult than it is today. The Delegation for Friendship Among Women was a relevant organization bringing women together, creating harmony and establishing friendships between women around the world. We asked the difficult question, how are we and our mission relevant in today's world?

The obvious answer is that friendship is the key to peace and understanding. This is even more relevant today as we see women in many countries move into positions of leadership enabling change to occur. In 1967 friendship often encompassed discussions on domestic topics whereas today women share broader ideas in their discussions including technology and leadership. We realize that by using the Internet, delegates are able to interact and connect with women working in fields and experience similar to their own including education, health care, the arts, environmental issues, social issues, business and politics. These interactions in advance of our trips can result in cultivating meaningful friendships enhancing our sharing during our encounters. The final result would be a strong supportive web of contacts and connections upon our return.

At the retreat we selected our next destination and Mongolia was chosen. Mongolia fits the criteria of our mission statement very well. It is a country still creating itself since the withdrawal of the Soviet Union in the early 1990's. Politically and strategically it is in the awkward position of being a large land mass, very rich in minerals and sandwiched between two other very large countries (Russia and China) pressing its borders. The Mongolian people have historically been primarily nomadic herders. Overgrazing has forced substantial migration to the capital city Ulaanbaatar where men and women are learning new skills. Many International businesses have established a presence there in recent times. We are quite confident that our friendship will be welcomed and appreciated.

Finally, I'd like to share a personal note about my take away on our last Delegation trip to Rwanda a year ago. On all trips, I return grateful for our home. In Rwanda I was in awe of the remarkable recovery the people have made following the barbaric genocide in 1994. The resilience of the Rwandan women demonstrates that it is possible to make and hold peace around the world when women are given leadership responsibilities and positions.

I hope you will consider joining us in September 2016 on our trip to Mongolia. If you are unable to join us, please consider sharing any contacts you may have with Mongolia. Thank you for being a Delegate and your continued interest.

**Very truly yours,
Beth Fluke, President
bethfluke@hotmail.com**

MONGOLIA SEPT 6 - 17, 2016: DELEGATION BUSINESS TRIP

www.DiscoverMongolia.mn

Here is Beth's Generalized Itinerary for Delegation Business Trip:
(Specific itinerary will be released soon as Beth is working with Travel Company and with Mongolian Embassy in Washington D.C.)

Arrival: Ulaanbaatar, Tuesday, September 6, 2016 (note: travelers make their own International airline arrangements)
All will be met at the airport and transferred to the Shangri-La Hotel www.shangri-la.com

September 7-9 and 13-17 in Ulaanbaatar:

The schedule for the time in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar is being developed. Here are some tentative plans:

A briefing at the USA Embassy and meeting with our host the Democratic Women's Federation.

We are in the process of setting up meetings with administrator, schools, a University, hospital, clinic, religious institution, an orphanage and other organizations.

The Mongolian Embassy is arranging meetings with women in government. We will meet with women in business to discuss the national economic climate and foreign investment.

There are numerous NGO active in Ulaanbaatar. Some are Mongolian and some are International. We are developing meetings with both.

Besides meeting with women and organizations we will get to know Ulaanbaatar starting with a tour of the city. This includes visiting the Genghis Khan Square and the ger (Mongolian for yurt) district at the outskirts of the capital. Other days we will visit cultural highlights in the city such as Narantuul which is Mongolia's largest market, The National History Museum (an excellent overview of Mongolia's history), Zanabazzar Museum of Fine Arts (the leading museum of sacred and traditional art, The Gandan monastery and Bogd Gegeen Winter Palace.

Our evening activities will vary. Some evenings will be spent with meetings with interesting speakers who would come to our hotel. Other evenings we will enjoy theater, music and dance. We hope to have one or two evening receptions.

One evening we may go to the Hustai National Park. There we will meet with the park official for an overview of conservation in Mongolia and the park's successful reintroduction of the critically endangered Przewalski's horses. In the evening head out onto the steppe to see the horses and then spend the night in a ger.

September 9 - 13, 2016: Fly to the Gobi

We will stay in a ger camp. These are comfortable gers designed for Westerners with heat and comfortable beds. There is a central lodge where we will dine.

In the Gobi we will meet with local administrators and women to learn how nomadic life is or is not surviving. We will find out how education and health issues are resolved. We will see how they are faring economically and meet with the agricultural administrator.

There are also several activity options in the Gobi such as hiking, camel riding, horseback riding, and just relaxing would be an option too. There are also many magnificent photo opportunities there. We will also drive to the legendary Flaming Cliffs, named for the red-orange sandstone that glows brilliantly at sunrise and sunset. The cliffs are rich with fossils; the first dinosaur nest eggs were found here in 1923.

Optional Extension to the Altai Kazakh Eagle Festival Sept. 17-21

Fly to Western Mongolia, Ulgii on September 17, 2016

Visit the Festival on Sept 18 and 19.

Visit local herder family and petroglyphs on Sept. 20

Fly back to Ulaanbaatar on Sept. 21.

Mongolia Reading and Viewing suggestions:

Documentary: The Eagle Hunters of Mongolia (on You Tube)

Documentary: Mongolia (one hour on You Tube) -[all the background you want to know about Mongolia in just an hour-Cathi](#)

Movie: Mongol: The Rise of Genghis Khan -["I watched several movies regarding Genghis Khan but](#)

this was the best: true story of his childhood, even his time as a slave and how he grew up to be the warrior leader of the largest Empire on Earth"-Cathi (Netflix)

Movie: The Cave of the Yellow Dog (Netflix) - "Wonderfully touching Mongolian movie with English subtitles filmed on location in Mongolia with an actual Nomadic family starring; I watched it twice" - Cathi

Documentary: Gobi Women's Song done by Sas Carey (available for rent on Amazon Prime)

Book: Reindeer Herders in My Heart by author Sas Carey - [Autobiographical journey of this American nurse's yearly travels to provide medical care to Nomads in far outreaches of Mongolia and to learn and utilize traditional Mongolian healing from Shamans especially one named Gosta](#) - Cathi

Movie: The Horse Boy -"Documentary of an American couple who take their severely autistic son to Mongolia due to his ability to connect with horses and to receive nontraditional healing by Shaman Gosta" - Cathi

Book: Hearing Birds Fly by author Louisa Waugh

Book: The Secret History of the Mongol Queens: How the Daughters of Genghis Khan Rescued his Empire by author Jack Weatherford

50th Anniversary News

The Delegation will be 50 years old in 2017. Mary Pomeroy is one of our founders and still serves on our Board of Directors. In her honor and to document the history of the Delegation a book is being written about her 50 years of adventures and interesting places she has been and women she has met through the years with the Delegation. It is slated to be completed in 2017. If you have pictures, anecdotes or memories you would like to share please send to:

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FOLLOW UP on RWANDA TRIP JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2015

The trip to Rwanda was a huge success and continues to evolve as Rwandan relationships with the Delegation and its members go forward. As a group the Delegation in conjunction with Books with Africa and the Eric Harms Memorial Library Project were able to **donate 22,000 books and 10+ computers to the Imbuto Foundation** in Kigali which is headed by First Lady of Rwanda Mrs. Jeannette Kagame. www.lmbuto.com;
www.booksforafrica.com

The Akilah Institute in Kigali is a college that empowers young women for success in careers and leadership

roles. They had campuses in Rwanda and Burundi. Recent unrest resulted in the Burundi campus closing but 40 students were able to be transferred to the Rwanda campus. The school focuses on growing industries in East Africa today: information systems, entrepreneurship and hospitality management. When we visited the Akilah Institute in January 2015 we were able to establish mentor/mentee relationships with several of the students there. We each continue to support their educational and emotional needs.

Recently we did a fundraising activity Delegation wide and fortuitously overlapped a dollar for dollar match day with Books with Africa and Eric Harms Memorial Library doubling our individual donations. A generous donation by a delegate enabled a library of computers for Akilah Institute. With the additional match day funding more computers will be delivered to Akilah. www.akilahinstitute.org

Holly Jobe

As part of a national fundraising USA tour two Akilah students were accepted as student representatives for the school. One of them, Aimee, is the mentee of mentor and Delegation Vice President Holly Jobe who was able to travel to the Akilah event in New York City and meet Akilah founder Elizabeth Dearborn Hughes. Holly then invited Aimee and the accompanying student, Rose, to spend a weekend with Holly in Philadelphia also enabled them to speak at Beth Fluke's granddaughters high school in Philadelphia which helps support Akilah institute. Holly was also able to host a Tea for friends with the Akilah students and raised over \$1500 for the school.

Holly additionally has spoken to several groups. She and Beth Fluke did a presentation May 1, 2015 at Holly's church and another presentation in Maine in July. The presentations led to sending sewing notions to the sewing cooperative Ineza (all women survivors of the 1994 Genocide) and a commission to make 20 vests out of their wonderful African prints. Dr. Mardge Cohen, a Chicago physician, started the sewing cooperative as a spin off from the AIDS/HIV clinic she oversees as her patients were surviving on their medications and needed income for their families. Thus Ineza was started.

www.manosdemadres.org

Beth Fluke

Beth continues to mentor her mentee at the Akilah Institute and arranged for the two Akilah students who came to the United States this past fall to go to Beth's granddaughters school in Philadelphia to meet with and speak to the students. The school has continued to support Akilah for the past several years.

Dr. Kim Harms

Kim founded the Eric Harms Memorial Library Project in honor of her son and continues to work hard to be able to continue to work in conjunction with Books for Africa (she is not only on our Board of directors but on theirs) to provide multiple libraries of book collections throughout Rwanda. Her latest library besides working with the Delegation for computers for Akilah is the Rosamund Carr Imbabazi preschool where the children will enjoy preschool appropriate books. www.imbabazi.org (To read the amazing story of American Rosamund Carr life in Rwanda get her biography "Land of a Thousand Hills")

Kim's latest project is working with two young dental therapists to create a sustainable method to connect the graduates of Rwanda's Dental School to the patients who so desperately need care. She has a donation of \$10,000 available and hopes that a bank can use this as security for a loan to help young dental professionals at a reduced interest rate. They also have a backup plan to ask existing NGO's to manage the loan and require free dental care for the people in their care in lieu of interest. The plan is to continue to perpetuate the loan forward as it is paid off. They have two motivated young professionals who are also using their own money to supplement the loan.

One of these young men, Fabrice, whom we met when we were in Rwanda has worked with Team Heart www.teamheart.org to help educate the heart valve replacement patients and the those who care for them about the importance of maintaining dental health to avoid infecting their precious new heart valves most of which were needed due to lack of antibiotics as children for strep infections.

Kim will be meeting with Ambassador Matilda Mukantabana at the Rwandan Embassy in Washington D.C. this month regarding all these issues.

Linda Hoeschler:

Linda continues to provide numerous contributions to the Delegation and as f/u to the Rwanda trip and will be meeting again with Ambassador Matilda Mukantabana. She and Kim will be going together to discuss projects. Linda was instrumental in connecting Delegate Ceeya Bolman of Team Heart with the Ambassador to work on a project to build a cardiac hospital in Kigali.

Sylvia Sabo:

Sylvia and her husband retired Congressman Martin Sabo met in March 2015 with former American Ambassador to Rwanda (1990-1993) Mr. Robert Flaten and his wife. He lives in Northfields, MN and attended St. Olaf college as did Sylvia. They had an interesting chat. Sylvia continues to support her student at Akilah. She and Judy Tiede who was a Delegate on the Rwandan trip also gave presentations during a two day conference at their church.

Patti Kenyon:

Patti continues to mentor her student at Akilah and continues to diligently use her amazing computer knowledge to keep our website updated on EVERYTHING we do and EVERYWHERE we go.

Maureen Hoeschler:

Maureen enjoys sharing the highlights of the trip to Rwanda with many acquaintances who are most enthusiastic about extending help through their own resources. She has been in contact with her mentee who enjoyed her internship last summer working at the Akagera Game Lodge, Eastern Providence, in different positions in her field of hospitality. She is now back in school and they continue to communicate.

Maureen and her husband Jake are supporting a school "City of Joy" for children and adults that is located South of Kigali near the town of Gatagaron. The Joy Christian School hopes to be a training ground and model for many schools in East Africa that will be a reproducible model duplicated in other communities. City of Joy offers training/schooling for young adults and adults in the community to support themselves and their families. The local government has identified sewing, crafts, welding and carpentry as areas that are needed. The first sewing class of 24 students graduated in April 2012 and formed a Sewing Association now renting a store in the nearby town of Nyanza.

www.cityofjoyrwanda.org

Jo Van Tiehl:

Jo continue to be in contact with her mentee. She was able to send a personal donation of a tablet to the Akilah administrator for use by the students. The tablet was kindly delivered in person by Dr. Mardge Cohen who oversees the HIV/AIDS clinic in Kigali and who started the Inez Sewing Cooperative there. Dr. Cohen was impressed with the Akilah Institute and facilitated a teaching opportunity to educate the students on HIV and AIDS. Jo supports her mentee by email contact and donations to assure her continued education until graduation next year.

Mary Mattson Kenworthy:

Although Mary was not able to go to Rwanda with us she made a generous donation to ensure that Akilah Institute would receive a library of computers for use by the students to assist their education. Mary WILL be going to Rwanda this year as she will be accompanying Kim Harms in February.

Cathi Smith:

Cathi wrote an article on the Delegation trip to Rwanda for International Women's Day 2015. When Cathi saw a BBC documentary on the refugee crisis in Burundi and found out the Akilah School had to close because of the unrest and that Akilah was able to bring 40 of the students to the Rwanda campus she contacted Akilah and was able to become a mentor to Burundi student Ornella who is now at the Rwandan campus. This is a difficult time in Ornella's life as her mother and siblings are still in Burundi.

Malia Everette:

Although Malia is not a delegate she has professionally planned several of the past delegation trips and accompanied us to Rwanda. She continues to mentor a student at Akilah Institute and through her travel company AltruVistas has a couple of trips to Rwanda planned for clients that will include several of the organizations with whom we met which should help support these entities.
www.altruvistas.com

Please send us any additional f/u from Rwanda or any other of our past Delegation trips. Newsletters are quarterly and the next will be in April 2016.

Send information, suggestions or feedback to: Delegationfriend@aol.com

Appreciatively your editors,

Cathi Smith

Carolyn Moats