



*Friends of the International Center,
at UC San Diego*

Newsletter

Volume XLII, No. 5

January 2015

President's Message

Several international visitors shared with me that what they most enjoy about America's December holiday season is that the people they encounter in their daily lives behave more like the people they meet every day through the Friends: welcoming, family-oriented, and happy. It is high praise to confirm our success in retaining the holiday spirit year-round, and I thank everyone who participates for doing his/her part to generate this feel-good spirit!

Special thanks is due Dean **Kirk Simmons** and our holiday lunch committee, our Friends Dinner Social team, our Wednesday Coffee team, our hospitality-at-home hosts, and all of our volunteers for their efforts to make the Holiday Season an enjoyable one not only for our international visitors, but for our members as well.

It is my hope that among your new year's resolutions you have included continuing, or increasing, your participation with the Friends. You are wanted! Each of you brings your own perspective about life and a unique personal story that our participants are anxious to hear.

Many international visitors have little opportunity for exposure to the broader fabric of America life. As you can imagine, even with the Internet, much of their image of our country is shaped by what they see in movies, videos, etc. Our visitors come with a desire to learn about life outside UC San Diego; they want to learn about navigating the subways of New York City and life on a farm, where to eat out, what exhibits to see, or where to travel within the United States. In short, they seek information from you and not just the Internet.

We continue to expand our offerings to meet rising demand: in October 2014, we launched a second English conversation table (meets every Friday), and beginning this month we will offer a second cooking class (4th Thursday / month). Thank you to our volunteers for your willingness to jump in: **Cindy Tozer, Ellen Scott, Thespine Kavoulakis, Michelle Brown, Keiko Hirai, Padma Dolma, and Tashu Malik!**

Keep in mind that the Friends is receptive to new ideas and to finding ways to put our volunteer's talents to good use, so please do not be shy.

Happy New Year!

Katya Newmark
presFIC@ucsd.edu



Some of Japan's Less Visited Places

—by *Chris Wills*

This year's Chinese New Year scholarship dinner follows a tradition that has become established over the years. In addition to all the wonderful Chinese food, we will explore some little-known aspects of Asian culture. This year's exploration involves the complex and ancient world of Japan, which my wife, **Liz Fong Wills**, and I visited in the spring of 2014.

We will take you on a journey to parts of Japan that are a little bit



off the beaten track. We know of course that many of you have visited Japan, and that some of you have lived there. But we think that this itinerary is sufficiently unusual that it will intrigue you. Here are some of the highlights.

We will start on the far northern island of Hokkaido, where in the early spring ice floes still cover the seas that surround the remote Shiretoko peninsula. We will watch as red-crowned cranes dance in the farmers' fields. Later, on the way to the wilder parts of the mountains that bisect the island of Honshu we will glimpse Mount Fuji, framed in cherry blossoms and reflected in the still waters of Lake Kawaguchi. We will visit Matsumoto Castle, the medieval Crow Castle that has been preserved since the sixteenth century, at a time when it is ablaze in cherry blossoms.

Additionally, we will see the famous snow monkeys, *Macaca fuscata*, as they relax in natural Jacuzzi pools. We will explore the ancient town of Takayama, and join its Spring Festival. The participants pull 250-year-old floats, many of which are surmounted by complex sets of working puppets, through the streets. In Kyoto

we will walk through miles of orange torii gates, and wander down the Philosopher's Path at the height of Japan's springtime. And we will observe Ai and other genius chimpanzees as they solve challenging arithmetic puzzles at Kyoto's Primate Research Center.

We will stay in a monastery on Mount Koya, and take part in a lantern-lit festival that celebrates the birthday of the monasteries' founder Kobo Daishi. We will visit the hypocenter of the atomic explosion at Hiroshima with the daughter of one of the explosion's survivors. And, in the company

of friendly herds of Sika deer, we will watch as the sun sets behind the iconic floating torii gate of Itsukushima. We will end our trip on the rain-soaked and little-visited southern island of Yakushima, where 3,000-year-old cedar trees grow on the heavily forested slopes.

Along the way we will encounter astonishing traditional foods, ranging from the plump oysters of Hiroshima Bay to half-billion-year-old relatives of the lobster. And we look forward to hearing from the attendees about their own Japanese experiences. □

A Fundraiser for Friends Scholarships
and Celebration of Chinese New Year
Chinese Banquet
with Illustrated Talk on Japan by Prof. Christopher Wills
Saturday, January 31, 6:30 p.m.



Theresa Song, Clara Wen, Jimmy Chen, Rita Hsia, Peggy Cheong

For a decade, this skilled team of cooks has provided the Friends with a sophisticated meal in celebration of Chinese New Year. For their generosity, **Theresa** (a mortgage broker), **Clara** (a teacher of Chinese cooking), **Jimmy** (a professional chef and caterer), **Rita** (Chef Jimmy's wife who works with him), and **Peggy** (a realtor) were honored with a **Chancellor's Award** that in 2012 recognized the Friends Chinese Ethnic Dinner Program as Organization of the Year. When asked why they—who have no connection to UC San Diego other than their friendship with **Liz Fong Wills**—keep doing this, they modestly reply that they enjoy giving pleasure by showcasing their native cuisine and are proud to support our international scholarship program.

The dinner menu is still in a state of flux, but Ethnic Dinner chair, **Liz Fong Wills**, assures us that by popular demand our banquet is likely to include some signature dishes, such as divinely tender filet mignon, giant prawns in a gourmet sauce specially named for the Friends, eggplant with Thai basil, and longevity noodles. **Chef Jimmy** is sure to come up with other great ideas, but we will have to wait and see how and from what he is going to create a sheep, according to the Chinese zodiac, the symbol of the Year 2015. (2014 being the Year of the Horse, for last year's dinner Chef Jimmy made duck-filled pancakes cut in the shape of a horse!)

New this time will be the availability of a premium wine. The dinner fee (\$50 for Friends, \$60 for their guests, \$25 for UCSD international scholars/students) will continue to include a basic wine, but for those who prefer a better quality wine, there will be an opportunity to purchase a glass of premium wine for \$5. The brainchild of **Elisabeth Marti**, who believes that a gourmet meal demands an

equally good libation, it is yet one more way Friends hope to bring pleasure while raising additional money for our scholarship fund.

Also new will be an additional way of making reservations. You may register online and pay by credit card: FICAsia2015.eventbrite.com or you may continue to pay by check by using the customary reservation form on p.11. Please note that there is no vegetarian option for this meal, and that all reservations must be received by Friday, January 23, 2015. Seating is limited, so please make your reservation promptly.

We look forward to celebrating the Year of the Sheep in your company. Help us make this yet another successful fundraiser for international scholarships. Come meet several of our scholarship recipients and hear directly from them about the importance of Friends awards.

The three beautiful photographs of Japan taken by Prof. **Christopher Wills** and shown on these pages are illustrative of a view of Japan



2015



quite different from the one seen by most tourists. Be sure to join us in the comfortable lecture room of Center Hall for Chris' photographic presentation following the meal.

Wednesday Coffee Schedule

—by Georgina Sham

January 7: This is the first day we're back after the Christmas/New Year hiatus. Starting at 11:00 a.m., we'll have a *baby shower* for **Hanae Kido**, with games, lunch, and more games. You must make a reservation to attend the shower, so that there will be enough food and game pieces.

January 14: *Card making for fun and for special occasions* with **Karen Davis** and **Katya Newmark**. Come and make celebratory, thank-you, and get-well cards with all sorts of embellishments. Cards are always useful!

January 21: *Hawaiian lunch* featuring such popular dishes as Spam musubi, Hawaiian-style macaroni salad, tropical green salad, and haupia (coconut custard) for dessert. As usual, we'll meet in the kitchen at 9:30 a.m. to prepare the meal, which will be served at noon for \$5/person.

January 28: *Jewelry*. **Keiko Hirai** will lead us in making some adorable and colorful beaded earrings.

Also starting January 7, *Mommy/Daddy & Me* will resume its usual weekly schedule of activities for preschoolers.

January Calendar

Jan. 5: **Resale Shop reopens**, Monday-Friday, 10:00-3:30

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27: **Knit-Along**, 12:00-4:00

Jan. 7, 21: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28: **Gus' Table**, 10:00-Noon

Jan. 8, 22: **International Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00

Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30: **Chat 'n Chew**, 10:00-Noon

Jan. 13: **Board Meeting**, 10:00

Jan. 21: **International Kitchen Lunch**, Noon

Jan. 31: **Ethnic Dinner**, 6:30

Photograph by Carol Smith



From Mumbai to San Diego: A Profile of Friends Recording Secretary Tashu Malik

I was born in Mumbai, the city Americans know best as Bollywood Capital, and then in my early teenage years moved to Delhi, the capital of India. I grew up in a family of four: my dad, mom, and younger sister. Growing up, I was always a learner, curious and full of questions, and in my heart I know that I still am. My favorite topics have always been history and cultures across the globe, and before the age of easy Internet access, books and encyclopedias were the gifts of my choice.

After high school, I chose to study Hospitality Management, full-time for three years at India's premier Hospitality Management and Culinary Institute, IHM-Pusa, while also pursuing my Bachelor of Arts through distance learning from Delhi University.

I started my career with Oberoi Hotels and Resorts in their Banquet Sales Department and gained valuable experience with not just B2B (business to business) and B2C (business to consumer) sales, but also Event Organization. Working with hotels gave me an opportunity to meet people from all walks of life and from all over the world, which was a wonder-

ful experience. Then, I moved to working with a leading private information technology skills institute in the education industry, and for the next five years I worked in areas of marketing and sales, managing profit centers, franchise operations, and sales training.

Along with work, I completed my MBA (Marketing) from the Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad, and also kept my creative side alive by continuing to design clothes for my mother's Indian clothing business.

Somewhere during these years, I met **Sarabjeet Singh**. By the time we decided to get married, he was already preparing to take up a new job in San José, California. We got married and moved to a new country all within the same year. For two years, we lived in the Bay Area, where I studied for a Certificate in Global Studies.

In 2008, my husband's work brought us to San Diego, and we have been here since then. Sarabjeet is a Certified Public Accountant and works for Qualcomm in the Corporate Finance and Accounting Division. In our free time, we love to take road trips and travel together. Our favorite place is Yosemite National Park, and we find ourselves going back repeatedly.

During these years—besides waiting for my work authorization—I have volunteered with READ/San Diego and the California Center of Sustainable Energy. I also rediscovered my talent in culinary arts, something I had no time for when I worked fulltime. I

am now passionate about cooking with health and nutrition in mind, and have taken courses at Mesa Community College to educate myself on aspects of nutrition that I can use to complement my cooking skills.

Last year, I learned about Friends of the International Center through my friend and neighbor, **Doris Sant'Anna**, and started attending Wednesday Coffee sporadically. Soon, I expressed my interest to volunteer for kitchen activities to **Georgina Sham**, and she trusted me to do three events. The first was an Indian Vegan Lunch in January 2014; two nutrition-based cooking classes followed. Occasionally, I lead some of the Wednesday Coffee craft sessions. In September, I enjoyed working with **Katya Newmark** and **Audrey Leriche** on the Friends Dinner Social that featured Indian food and music.

Thanks to **Kristine Kneib**, who encouraged me to take up the role of Friends Recording Secretary, I am now part of this wonderful organization.

I miss working professionally, but on the brighter side, these years have allowed me to have varied experiences, discover new talents, gain new insights, and make new friends. As a child I never imagined living outside India, but my years in the United States have helped me to expand my perspective beyond what was possible if I hadn't moved. And today, I can say I feel at home here as much as I do in India.

Knit-Along

—by Jennie Chin

During the last few months, many of the Knit-Along participants knitted and/or crocheted squares to be put in a blanket. **Mary Woo** put them all together; first crocheting borders around each square and then around the entire blanket itself.

At a recent meeting of the San Diego North Coast Knitters Guild, they gave a presentation on knitting for charity. One of those groups is the **Emilio Nares Foundation** at **Rady's Children's Hospital** here in San Diego. Richard Nares and his wife lost their 2-year-old son to cancer. While they were in the hospital with their son, they realized there was a need for a support network. Their foundation, named after their son, provides informa-



The completed blanket

tion and family support systems to children with cancer.

Our blanket was donated to this group and was to be raffled off (no monies involved) at their holiday party. Sincere thanks to our women from around the world who created this lovely piece.

We also have a number of leftover squares that will be turned into smaller blankets and donated to other worthy causes in the near future.

A Remembrance

It was with great sadness that I learned of **Hilda Wynans'** passing. I send my deepest condolences to Hilda's family, friends, and to all of my former colleagues and the Friends of the International Center who had the pleasure of knowing Hilda. When I arrived at UC San Diego in January 2007, Hilda was one of the first people I met. Hilda and **Marie Perroud** were responsible for our very successful and delicious weekly Friday Café. They were also responsible for overseeing and engaging the Friday Café volunteers. Hilda was a tremendously hard worker, extremely responsible, and dedicated. She knew that the Café provided not only food but also a wonderful international social opportunity, and she enjoyed talking with guests and volunteers. I always enjoyed our conversations. Hilda had a terrific, intelligent sense of humor, a twinkle in her eye, and often made me smile—and laugh. She was a compassionate friend and colleague and will be deeply missed.

Lynn C. Anderson

Former Dean of International Education & Director of the International Center

Membership News

If you have not already met them, please welcome to our organization: **Michelle Brown**, who has quickly become an active volunteer in Friday's Chat 'n Chew, as well as **Penny & Dale Winkelman**, who have been seen at several of our events.

On November 14, we lost **Sallye Krause**, for many years an integral member of the Friends and an especially devoted member of our Scholarship Committee. Sallye had been battling different health issues for some time, but throughout remained optimistic about her recovery. **Larry** and she continued to attend Friends events, as late as the October 25 Iranian Dinner. When I spoke to Sallye shortly before the Friends November Scholarship Committee meeting, she apologized for not being able to participate, but said she would sure try to make the March meeting. We chatted about a former scholarship recipient, **Jeff Le**, we both had befriended, and Sallye said that she had enjoyed reading about him in the *Newsletter*.

The Krauses have been most supportive of the University; an endowed chair in Korean Studies bears their names. The Friends of the International Center was the beneficiary of a significant contribution earmarked to improvements to the International Center's kitchen, in the knowledge that many of Friends activities take place there. We extend our love to Larry and the family.

At about the same time, we learned of the death of **Hilda Wynans**. Hilda was a welcoming face at Wednesday Coffee, served as co-chair (with **Nancy Homeyer**) of our Host Family program from 1999 until the program's demise in 2008, and was a regular volunteer in the Resale Shop, often working with **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** as shift partner. In reality, Hilda could be found wherever help was needed, a trait perhaps developed through her training as a nurse. For her special contributions to the International Center, Hilda was named Friends Member of the Year in 2000, as well as Host Family of the Year in 2001. I for one will miss the opportunity to speak Dutch with her. Our condolences go to Hilda's son, **Emile**.

Also in November, we lost yet a third Friends member: **Victor Engleman**. Vic came to San Diego to assume a position at SAIC, where, as a distinguished scientist, he pursued environmental research. He and his wife, **Louise** (who has taught many of our Cooking in America classes) regularly attended Friends Ethnic and Annual Dinners, until the end, when a fall prevented Vic from accompanying Louise to the Iranian dinner. We send our sincere sympathy to Louise, to their two sons, and to the extended family.

Ruth Newmark



Kneeling: Jean Selzer, Caroline Molino, Danya Costello, Alicia Boutonnet
Middle Row: Katya Newmark, Mary Woo, Jennie Chin, Audrey Leriche, Richard Chim
Back Row: Darang Candra, Susan Burke, Payam Aghsae

Celebrate the Warmth of the Season

—by Audrey Leriche

The warmth of friendship and the spirit of the season made our SoCal Winter Wonderland-themed Friends Dinner Social a most delightful and joyful holiday kick off. There was no chill in the air on Saturday, November 22; nonetheless, the International Center was decorated in white and blue to create the illusion of a cold and festive winter. For the first time in our Friends Dinner Social program, we lined up rectangular tables to create a family-style atmosphere. By hanging a few frosted white balls, placing white and blue frosted bottles around the tables and adding lavish sprinklings of snowflake confetti, we created a bit of winter magic.

Individual bowls of Snow Summit Soup (leek-potato soup) with its Cheesy Snowboards (Parmesan crostini) were waiting on the tables, ready for our guests to enjoy. To emphasize the spirit of a family gathering, there also were bowls of Winter Crunch Salad to pass around, and water pitchers with a cute “Melted Ice” tag.

We were soon treated to a winter coat fashion show by some very chic Resale Shop volunteers: **Alicia Boutonnet, Justine Desan, Caroline Molino, and Reika Watanabe**, with guidance from **Marion Spors**.

Then it was time to open the buffet for our hearty main dish, Kaleifornia Stew, consisting of kale, beans, tomatoes, and chicken-apple sausage, served with Death Valley Veggies (roasted root vegetables seasoned with rosemary and garlic). Our feast ended with delicious slices of S’mores Pie (rich chocolate ganache on a graham cracker crust, with a gooey marshmallow topping). And in keeping with the menu that began with a squirrel’s hoard, guests received a stash of peanuts to take home.

Guests could enjoy their dessert while listening to an outstanding performance by The Beat, a UCSD a cappella group. Seventeen student performers sang in front of an appreciative audience, of which a significant number confessed that this was their first experience with a cappella music.

By then the audience was in such a good mood that many lingered. We took the opportunity to ask guests two questions: “What are you grateful for?” and “What is



Decorating the tables were snowy bottles spray-painted by Audrey Leriche, Jean Selzer, and Katya Newmark with tags reading “Happy Holidays from the Friends of the International Center” made by Karen Davis



Pekka and Elisa Postila from Finland admirably complied with the suggestion to dress in white and blue



Reika Watanabe models a beautiful winter coat

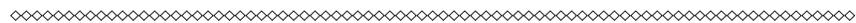


Our guests were seated communal style, which facilitated conversation

your best holiday memory?" Various speakers shared their thoughts. It was heartwarming to hear several express their gratitude to the Friends for their outstanding contribution to everyone's life; others spoke of their delight in witnessing international friendships; some spoke simply of their gratitude for being alive. Many were thankful not to live in Buffalo, which at the time was buried under ever-mounting feet of snow!

For the second time in a row, the Friends Dinner Social was sold out. We welcomed many newcomers along with many loyal and supportive guests. This is much to be grateful for, but most of all I am grateful for the wonderful team of volunteers who worked hard to pull together such a successful event: my partner **Katya Newmark**, **Jean Selzer**, **Richard Chi Yung Chim**, **Darang Candra**, **Payam Aghsaee**, **Susan Burke**, **Mary Woo**, **Jennie Chin**, **Alicia Boutonnet**, **Caroline Molino**, **Karen Davis**, **Ruth Newmark**, **Danya Costello**, **Sascha Duttke**, **Nancy Homeyer**, **Bill Homeyer**, **Justin Costello**, and **Dagmar Bocakova**.

Please join us on February 7 for our next Friends Dinner Social celebrating global friendship. The theme of the dinner will pay tribute to the diversity of our community and serve as recognition of all the delicious food to be found on each continent. To emphasize our friendship theme, we will once again organize a photo booth session and provide some outrageous accessories, so that everyone will leave the dinner with a fun photograph. Seats are limited to 80—so, make your reservation soon!



The Meaning of Friends Hospitality

Dear Katya,

I'm really happy I got to know the Friends of the International Center, and am so glad the people there are always welcoming!

I'm happy that the September Friends Dinner Social went so successfully, and I thank you, **Katya**, then **Audrey** and **Tashu**, and every others, to have included me as one of the table setting volunteers, even though I was there only for three hours. How I wish I could have stayed there through the entire time, so I could have helped out more in the kitchen, and had the delicious Indian dinner together with you!

Your photos and e-mails reminded me of all the excitement I felt. I felt so honored to be able to work with the world best people! I'm so thankful you gave me that occasion.

As I once might have told you, my husband is working for a small local start-up company with just a few U.S. coworkers, so we are not affiliated with UCSD. With our two young children, I wouldn't have been able to meet such a lot of nice international people, and wouldn't have had a place I hope to come to regularly.

Mariko Usui

Quotable

☞ As always, a wonderful time. Thanks for making it all happen, over and over again. It is always a treat.—*Karen Davis*

☞ It was a fun event and delicious food. It was a real success. I hope to get more involved in the Friends group next year when I stop working.—*Penny Winkelman*

☞ International Center is family for me. It is my place to turn to and I always feel welcome.—*Luciana Wiecheteck Pedroni*

☞ Thank you so much for the photos. It was a pleasure to be there and take part!—*Natalie Ania*.

☞ It is such a pleasure to work with each and every one of you and I love learning a little bit about everyone's country. And **Katya**, you deserve the prize for your relentless devotion to the international community *everywhere!* I'm so proud to be a part of the great team that is the Friends of the International Center.—*Susan Burke*

☞ The food was delicious, the decorations simple and tasteful, the company fantastic, and **Katya** and **Audrey** are a terrific team! I look forward to FDS #7; put me down for cooking!—*Jean Selzer*

Make Your Reservation

Friends Dinner Social #7

TIME: Saturday, February 7, 6 pm

PLACE: International Center

COST: \$15 (Friends)
\$20 (Community)
\$10 UCSD international students/scholars

HOW: Send check payable to:
Friends of the International Center
or use credit card:
<http://figlobalfriends.eventbrite.com>

WHAT: Include names of all guests

FOOD: International medley

FUN: Photo booth

THEME: Global friendship

DETAILS: icfriends.ucsd.edu

DEADLINE: Monday, February 2

Photographs by Katya Newmark



Marion Spors and Satomi Shobukawa

Resale Shop

During the last week before Thanksgiving, UC San Diego observed International Education Week, an annual nationwide celebration. Many of our Resale Shop volunteers participated in our campus' first International Fashion Festival that took place on Wednesday, November 19, representing not only our Resale Shop but, first and foremost, their native country and cultural background by showcasing some unique outfits that were handpicked by the Shop's coordinator, **Marion Spors**, from our special garment trunks.

Shop participants were: **Padma Dolma** and **Arti Sharma**, representing India; **Alicia Boutonnet**, **Justine Desan**, and **Audrey Leriche**, representing three regions of France; **Natalie Ania** for England, **Satomi Shobukawa** for Japan, and **Natasha Giusti** for the United States.

Cheering on the Shop volunteers, President **Katya Newmark** commented: "You all looked divine and so confident. It made me feel very proud of the small part the Friends plays in allowing you an



International Fashion Festival

opportunity to announce to the world that YOU are here! You rock!"

The Shop looked festive during the December holiday season, but as of this writing it is too early to report on the success of our German-style Christmas market scheduled for December 17-19.

Please note that the Resale Shop will be closed from Saturday, December 20 through Sunday, January 4, 2015.

New Cooking Classes

—by Jennie Chin



At Holiday time, many of us are invited over to friends and colleagues and may be asked to bring something. In keeping with this challenge, our planned menu for the December International Cooking Experience class was how to make appetizers.

Many of our participants have been asking for more cooking classes; their wish has been granted. Beginning in January 2015 on the 4th Thursday of each month, **Keiko Hirai** (from Japan) and **Tashu Malik** (from India) will be leading a second cooking class. Class size will be limited in most situations to about 15 people. The current cooking class is always full and we have had a waiting list for several of the sessions.

Due to rising food prices, the cost of class participation will be increasing from \$6.00 to \$8.00 per person starting January 2015. Despite the increase, they still are in keeping with the philosophy of the Friends to offer many free and inexpensive experiences for families of our international scholars to meet and socialize. Our classes are always fun and enjoyable and we get to meet lovely people from around the world.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Dear Friends of the International Center, Several weeks have passed since I have returned from my trip to Tehran, Iran, and I have already forgotten the heat and pollution of the crowded city. What remains more vivid to me is the vibrant bustling of the people: families lining up at 6 a.m. for fresh *sangak* bread baked on hot stones, taxi drivers whipping rosaries around their fingers as they call out fares to passerby, vendors on the metro selling everything from trendy scarves to dishwashing sponges, and crowds of college students sitting alongside ceramic-tiled fountains chucking pistachio shells. It had been six years since I last visited Tehran, and it was startling to see how much the city had undergone aesthetic, political, and cultural changes. Yet one thing remained the same: the hospitability and compassion of the Iranian people was as prevalent as I had always remembered it.

I spent two months of this past summer in Iran as part of my Ph.D. research—a cross-cultural study in developmental psychology of how children learn positive social behaviors, such as sharing and cooperation. I arrived in Tehran with the mentality that I would conduct my research project independently, that I would venture out on my own to find nearly 100 complying children to give me an hour of their day during the summer holiday. This quickly proved to be a difficult undertaking, one that was nearly impossible to accomplish alone. Luckily, I didn't have to—once friends, family members, and the directors of libraries and community centers heard about my research,



they quickly aided me in recruiting children.

At the library, staff members sitting behind the front desk attentively watched the entrance to greet children and encourage them to take part in my project. Teachers ensured that I had tea and sweets to help me work through long testing sessions with restless children. When I had trouble getting a rowdy group of boys to focus, a friend of my cousin's stepped in and offered up his Wi-Fi password as a reward to those who complied. My research project quickly turned into a team effort, and my teammates wanted nothing in return other than to make sure that I collected the data I needed.

In recent decades, Hollywood and Western media have portrayed Iran as a dangerous and forbidden country where the people are uninviting and disfavor Americans. This is an image that is discordant with what I, and many other visitors to Iran, have experienced. The people of Iran are kindhearted and hospitable. I am grateful to the Friends of the International Center for giving me the chance to witness their generosity firsthand. Most importantly, I thank you for the opportunity to share my own image of Iran as a beautiful country rich in history, arts, and compassionate people.

Haleh Yazdi

Hello from Down Under!

I am currently studying abroad at the University of Queensland, and I have had such amazing adventures here so far. I've been in Australia since July and I will be leaving in December, although I wish I could stay longer!

The classes here are so different from back home at UC San Diego and they have a lot of hands-on work. The biology classes take a lot of field trips to do research projects on the material we have covered in lectures.

I just returned from two incredible field trips. One was to Fraser Island for my terrestrial ecology class, where we spent five days on the largest sand island in the world researching the differences in forest types. We learned about all the differences



in lecture, but being able to go out and see these firsthand really solidifies the material in your mind.

Another field trip was to Heron Island in the Great Barrier Reef for my marine ecology course. This trip was truly astounding! We first learned about all the different types of animals and plants we would see, and then spent five days snorkeling and observing them. We also conducted research looking at the coral reef abundance and how various global climate issues have affected the reef. I

am majoring in marine biology, so an experience like this has definitely influenced my education and given me a stronger passion for what I may be doing in my future career.

Being in Australia has given me so many opportunities to experience my education in a new way. I couldn't have done it without the support of my family and friends, and I am greatly appreciative of the scholarships I was awarded to come study at this amazing university.

I'd like to give a huge thank-you to the Friends of the International Center for allowing me such a great opportunity to further my education and experience amazing things here in Australia.

Madison VanWorth

Fall Scholarships

—by Ruth Newmark

In November, the Friends Scholarship Committee traditionally meets to read undergraduate applications, and so we did again this year. As in the Spring, our group (consisting of **Joan Adamo, Gayle Barsamian, Kim Burton, Barbara Fitzsimmons, Gail Fliesbach, Bill Homeyer, Nancy Homeyer, Marjorie Jackson, Katya Newmark, Ruth Newmark, Josephine Randel, and Carol Smith**) was asked to also read and help make the selection for Programs Abroad Scholarships, since there is considerable application overlap for these two types of scholarships. Friends eligibility requirements are a bit more stringent: we require a GPA of 3.3 (vs. 3.0 for PAO) and that the student return to campus in the hope that he/she will encourage others to study abroad as well.

Because study abroad has seen a sharp decline over the last few years, we were heartened to find 23 applications before us; however, not only the numbers were up, but so was the diversity of students. We saw a good number of male applicants, many in science fields. Because students are asked to write an essay as part of their application, we learned that three were of the Muslim faith (one each of Afghani, Saudi-Arabian, and Pakistani ancestry), one was black, and one belonged to the Yaqui tribe. Overall, there seemed to be a good representation of colleges, departments, and of destinations that encompassed countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America (no doubt influenced by what is being offered by UC's Education Abroad Program, as all applicants were going on EAP). Students were excited about their approaching adventures and generally presented good reasons for wanting to study abroad.

Between PAO and the Friends, we were able to offer awards to approximately half the number of applicants; nevertheless, these were not—and never are—easy decisions. What is clear is that virtually all students have great financial need, that many come from broken homes, and that, more often than not, the extended family is in difficult straights. Quite frequently the students themselves contribute to the financial welfare of the family. While financial need is an important consideration, Friends scholarships are merit based.

That said, the Committee selected two fine candidates for a 2015 Friends Scholarship: Noble Dwarika and Ralph Torres. Each will receive \$1,500 to be applied towards tuition for their study abroad.

- **Noble Dwarika** is a Warren College Junior, majoring in International Studies/Political Science and minoring in Chinese Studies. He spent the Fall of 2013 on EAP at Beijing Normal University, and in January 2015, he will go to Spain to attend the University of Barcelona. His hopes are to perfect his Spanish language skills, expand his global horizon, and prepare himself for a future career in international law.

- **Ralph Torres** is a Muir College Senior, majoring in Environmental Chemistry with a Marine Science minor, who will head to the University of Otago, where he intends to enroll in joint lab and lecture courses (combined there as opposed to on our campus). Interested in the culture and history of indigenous people, Ralph also hopes to learn how New Zealand's treatment of the Māori compares to the U.S. treatment of Native Americans.



Donations

Around Thanksgiving, Friends received scholarship donations from **Liz & Chris Wills, Nancy & Bill Homeyer**, and, in honor of **Luna Fung**, from **Savio Ly & Patricia Woo** in Pittsburgh. We also received a substantial donation from **Madeleine Rast**, as well as an unexpected gift from the **Coastal Environments, Inc.** that came to us via **Hany Elwany**, the corporation's president and a client of **Elisabeth Marti** who regularly makes Dr. Elwany's travel arrangements.

Additionally, we received yet another very generous gift from **Gail Fliesbach**, who explained: "Having studied abroad more than once myself, having worked at the International Center and with international students who are studying abroad at various institutions, and being a member of the Friends and its Scholarship Committee, it is a 'natural' for me to grant the Friends money for scholarships."

It is this spirit of giving without fanfare that characterizes our many donors. We thank you all, and encourage you to read the grateful comments expressed by several of the beneficiaries in this and other *Newsletter* issues. These comments go far beyond the letters from scholarship recipients, and include, for instance, such warm notes of appreciation as the one written by **Mariko Usui** (see p.7), a participant in our Wednesday Coffee and Friends Dinner Social programs, or by **Luciana Wiecheteck Pedroni**, who writes that our group feels like family to her (Quotable, p.7).

Reservation for Chinese New Year Celebration

Saturday, January 31, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Please complete this form and enclose a check, made payable to the Friends of the International Center. Send to Ethnic Dinner Chair, Friends of the International Center, UCSD International Center 0018, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0018. If you prefer, you may register online and pay by credit card at: FICasia2015.eventbrite.com.

Reservations must be received by Friday, January 23, 2015.

Late reservations will be charged an extra \$5.00, or may be refused.

Name(s): _____

(Please spell out the names of everyone in your party for nametags.)

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E-Mail: _____

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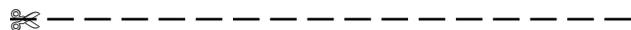
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The Friends of the International Center *Newsletter* is published monthly, September through June. All material submitted must be received in writing by the editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication.

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January 2015



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