A Message From Neva Barker and Kristen Mallory  
Co-Presidents, 2016-17

French critic, journalist and novelist, Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, said "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose," or “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” Whether you say it in French or English, I must respectfully disagree.

In my short time on the CFIS Board, there have been many changes and many things are not the same at all. Some changes have been challenging with the need to regretfully adapt to new circumstances, and some changes have resulted in something completely different, with outcomes to be celebrated, even as we mourn the loss of a cherished tradition. The new Host Family Reunion Dinner, held for the first time this year as a replacement of the Welcome Picnic, is one example of such a change.

The Welcome Picnic has been a long-standing event, as the official welcome to the larger community beyond the walls of I-Place, to the seven campuses of the Claremont Colleges and to the City of Claremont and the surrounding area. It was the culminating event of the host family experience. But as we have discussed previously, in addition to the pressure of a continually growing number of international students arriving in Claremont, the colleges have reformatted their orientation programs, with staggered arrival dates for the different campuses and overnight trips to allow the new students to bond with their peers. This meant that the international student groups from two of the colleges had to miss the Welcome Picnic altogether. The Special Events Committee attempted to correct for this with a superhero effort, and coordinated two picnics on separate dates, resulting in an attendance number that exceeded expectations, but at a cost that exceeded the CFIS budget as well.

Again, the Special Events Committee brainstormed for an alternate way to celebrate the host families for their contributions and came up with a new event. Since the calendar is plagued with competing events in the first couple of weeks of the semester, a dinner was planned for a Sunday evening a few weeks later, when students tend to be free of classes and freer from most of their other commitments. This meant that the international student groups from two of the colleges had to miss the Welcome Picnic altogether. The Special Events Committee attempted to correct for this with a superhero effort, and coordinated two picnics on separate dates, resulting in an attendance number that exceeded expectations, but at a cost that exceeded the CFIS budget as well.

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I think CFIS can claim a great success for this event although it was not “better” than the Welcome Picnic, it was different. The reunion did not function smoothly as a “Welcome to Claremont” event (and we will work on that) as students had already settled in somewhat. Some students did have to leave early due to a conflicting event, but there was still time to share a meal. It did work well as a time to hopefully strengthen the relationships formed during the homestay experience. At my table, and it appeared to be true around the room, people were having lively and engaged conversations. Students and families seemed to linger longer over dinner and many were reluctant to have the evening end. We look forward to this becoming a newly cherished tradition each year.

A huge thank you is due to Joan Gerard and Beth Harnett and the entire Special Events crew for the stellar arrangements and for the abundant desserts provided by our volunteer bakers! Merci, and Viva la Réunion!
The CFIS board will soon be sending an email to members thanking them for their support, and to asking them to both renew their membership and consider making an annual contribution to CFIS. Membership contributions are the primary source of funding upon which the CFIS budget is built, and provide support for many events and programs that CFIS sponsors throughout the year, including the Welcome Picnic(s), student emergency loan programs, the Fall Gala, the Holiday Party, and much, much more.

An important revision in the CFIS By-laws, approved at the June 2016 Annual Meeting, concerns CFIS membership. If you hosted an international student in your home at the start of the semester, or, brought food to a CFIS event, or, offered an international student hospitality that made their transition here easier, you are AUTOMATICALLY a member of CFIS. Dues will no longer be expected to determine membership, but CFIS will still rely upon contributions from members to carry out its mission.

CFIS will now also ask members to complete a Membership Form to provide current contact information to CFIS. CFIS will attach an electronic copy of the Membership Form to the Membership Renewal email going out soon.

Thanks for everyone’s patience as we go through these transitions. We appreciate you all as members! Please let us know if there are any questions.

Maureen McCluney and Lorie Strobel, Membership Committee

In Memoriam

Anne Davenport
Volunteer and financial supporter

Kay Faranda
John’s mother who entertained scores of his host students in her Newport Beach home

Bill Andrus
Pomona professor who worked the festival every year

Hal Harter
Host family for many, many years and El Roble teacher

Members of the Board 2016-2017

Officers
Co-Presidents: Neva Barker, Kristen Mallory
Vice-President: Katya Fairbanks
Secretary: Catherine D’Emilio
Treasurer: Todd Sasaki
Nominating Committee: Claudia Lennear & John Faranda

Directors & Coordinators
Host Family: John Tarin, Barbara Rugeley
Membership: Laurie Strobel, Maureen McCluney
Fund-Raising: Bertil Lindblad
Newsletter Co-Editors: Helen Young, Claudia Lennear, Catherine D’Emilio
Special Events: Joan Gerard, Beth Hartnett
Support Council: Neil Gerard
Conversation Partners: Katya Fairbanks

Members-at-Large
Rita Wodinsky

Community Support Council
Renuka Balakrishnan, Sandra Baldonado, Donna & Dave Bedell, Norma Blissett-Jacob, Laura Bollinger, Deb and John Corey, Frank D’Emilio, Barbara and Vasu Dev, Emily and Michael Fay, Sandra Flores, Carol Gil, Helaine and Steve Goldwater, Betty Hagelbarger, Brenda & John Hill, Anita Hughes, Sue Keith, Pat Lightfoot, Tamara & John Mark Lindvall, Susan Lominska, Charlene Martin, Marc Massoud, Dean McHenry, Swapan & Mitra Nag, Deede and Larry Olson, Claire Oxtoby, Lissa Petersen, Diann Ring, Marguerite Roys, Linda & Herb Scott, Greg Shapton, Judith and David Tanenbaum, Ellen and Marshall Taylor, Edie Young, Cindy Walkenbach

International Place Staff
Director: Jessica Alampay
Administrative Assistant: Sue Kerns
Assistant Director: Chrystal Orozco
Interim Program Coordinator: Jenna Bustamante

Contact Information
I-Place Office: (909) 607-4571; 621-8344
Website: iplace.claremont.edu/community-friend/cfis/
E-mail: cfisclaremont@gmail.com
As the semester is well on its way, we reflect on our opening. Each year we thank and praise our host families. This year is no exception. At our first New International Students and Host Families Reunion Dinner, we were delighted to welcome the 180 in attendance, including new students, host families, college administrators and faculty, and city officials. It was wonderful to see host families and students sitting together and catching up. Students could share news about dorm life, classes, and campus life in general. Community Friends is indebted to this wonderful cadre of families who are so warm and welcoming to our new arrivals.

We also owe a special debt of gratitude to those on the Reunion Dinner Committee for their help purchasing materials; setting up; replenishing trays; providing desserts; and serving. This reunion dinner was a new format and we were thrilled it was a success.

Save the date of **December 4, 2016** for this year's **Holiday Party**. Join us for home-baked goodies, holiday music, a chance to get together with your international students, and a visit from Santa Claus! The Holiday Party will be held from 3:00-5:00 PM at 709 Harvard Ave., Claremont. Hope to see you there.

Joan Gerard,
Special Events Committee

Photos from
Host Family Reunion Dinner
Thanks again to all our host families for supporting international students coming to Claremont in the Fall. We couldn’t do it without you!

Jessica Alampay (5)
Nancy Ambrose (1)
Neva Barker (1)
Liz & Robert Baxt (2)
Dave & Donna Bedell (2)
Eric & Teresa Bernal (1) **
Aaron Whitham & Susan Brinkama (1)
Laura Burt (1)
Corey Calaycay (2)
Catharine Grier & Mark Carlson (1)
Rhosheil Chavez-Uy (2) **
Gladys Choto (1) **
Donna Clarke (1)
Betsey Coffman (1)
Patricia & Tim Corcoran (1)
Deb & John Corey (1)
Frank & Catherine D’Emilio (1)
Carol-Lee Marshall & Ben DeWald (3)
Cass Armstrong & Harold Dyck (1)
Debi Evans (1)
Katya Fairbanks (1)
John Faranda (3)
Jan Wright & Roy Genger (1)
Joan & Neil Gerard (3)
Joanne Gonzalez-Williams (1)
Robin & Mario Gottuso (1)
Yixia Chen & Sharon Guan (1)
Suzanne Hall (1) **
Johanna & John Hardin (1)
Kay & Paul Held (1)
Bryna & Carl Herbold (1)
Brenda & John Hill (1)
Janice & Larry Hoffmann (1)
Malee & Gary Klatt (1) **
Ron Liebeskind-Hadas &
Laura Kotovsky (1) **
Glenn Miya & Steven Llanusa (5)
Sarah Long (1) **
Gwen Lytle (2)
Yvonne Maldonado / Eric Wong (2)
Kristen Mallory (1)
Charlene Martin (2)
Juan & Lynne Matute (1)
Jody Mentzer (2)
Susan Lominska & Jack Mills (1)
Mitra & Swapan Nag (2)
Jill & Ron Nicholas (1)
Mary Nunez (1)
Don Pattison (1)
Kathy & Reed Phelps (1)
Wendy & Ardi Rashidi (1)
Michael & Karen Rosenthal (2)
James Makawa & Laura Rowley (1)
Rita Ruminski (1)
Mark Lauer & Sarah Sarzynski (1)
Linda & Herb Scott (1)
Veronica Speed (1)
Rhonda & Rick Speier (2)
Chris & John St. Clair (1)
Karen & Patrick Tatone (1)
Ellen & Marshall Taylor (4)
Genevieve Troudy (1)
Vicky Verches (2)
Jan Wilmott (2) **
Eric Wong (1)
Helen & Edie Young (2)

** First-time New Host Family
“Sharings” from Host Families  
And Conversation Partners

By Ahlene and David Welsh

We lived in Japan for 3 years (1968-1971) courtesy of the US Air Force. While there, we took two semesters of college level Japanese on the base that was run by the University of Maryland and learned to speak well enough to get around, and have been back to Japan several times.

We have other connections to Japan because our sister-in-law is Japanese, and her family and one of our nephews lives there. Over the years we have hosted many Japanese students for different programs, as well as undergraduate and graduate students coming to Claremont. This year Asami Ohashi and Yuki Oki, whose husbands are graduate students, are coming once a week to practice their English which is much better than our Japanese. It is interesting and helps us brush up on our skills a little. We did the same with two other wives, Keiko Kuroda and Junko Sunada, for the last two years.

Neil and Joan Gerard like to keep in touch with all their international “sons and daughters.” They recently hosted a social, fun gathering of the Pomona College students that they have hosted during the past four years.

| 2016-17 Countries Represented Across The Claremont Colleges - Country of Citizenship |
|---------------------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Argentina                       | Greece | Pakistan |
| Aruba                           | Haiti  | Panama  |
| Australia                       | Honduras | Peru    |
| Austria                         | Hungary | Philippines |
| Azerbaijan                      | Iceland | Poland  |
| Bahamas                         | India  | Qatar   |
| Bahrain                         | Indonesia | Russia |
| Belarus                         | Iran   | Rwanda   |
| Botswana                        | Iraq   | Saudi Arabia |
| Brazil                          | Ireland | Serbia  |
| Bulgaria                        | Israel  | Singapore |
| Cambodia                        | Italy   | Slovenia |
| Cameroon                        | Jamaica | South Korea |
| Canada                          | Japan   | Spain   |
| Chile                           | Jordan  | Sudan   |
| China                           | Kenya   | Sweden  |
| China(Hong Kong)                | Kosovo  | Switzerland |
| Colombia                        | Lebanon | Taiwan  |
| Cote D'Ivoire                   | Libya   | Tanzania |
| Democratic                     | Luxembourg | Thailand |
| Republic of the Congo           | Malaysia | Turkey |
| Congo                           | Mauritius | Turkmenistan |
| Denmark                         | Mexico  | UAE     |
| Ecuador                         | Montenegro | Uganda |
| Egypt                           | Morocco | Ukraine |
| Estonia                         | Myanmar | United Kingdom |
| Ethiopia                        | Nepal   | Uzbekistan |
| Finland                         | Netherlands | Venezuela |
| France                          | New Zealand | Vietnam |
| Germany                         | Nigeria | Zambia  |
| Ghana                           | Oman    | Zimbabwe |
UNITED NATIONS DAY
HONORED AT POMONA COLLEGE
By Claudia Lennear

On Oct 20, 2016 countries, states, and cities worldwide celebrated the 69th anniversary of the United Nations. Globally known as UN Day, the event occurred on every continent, in every time zone on planet Earth. In many cases the media paid attention by means of television news, newspaper headlines, and radio programs.

In Claremont, many community members, faculty, administrators, and students, who support the UN, gathered for dinner at the Blue Room of Frank Dining Hall on the Pomona College campus to acknowledge the Organization. The program consisted of an introduction by Charlene Martin, Program Chair of the United Nations Association Pomona Chapter and a well-informed panel of visiting professors and lecturers who discussed the topic of the Refugee Crisis in the Middle East and Africa and its impact on European countries. Two UNA international student interns, who study at the Claremont Colleges, led the audience in recitation of the UN Charter’s Preamble. The student team then reiterated the UN’s sustainable development goals as a reminder of the Organization’s future direction to correct the many societal ills that continue throughout the world.

The panel, which was moderated by Bertil Lindblad, Director of the Office of International Initiatives at Pomona College, frequently impressed the varied audience with discussions of actual experience in connection to the current refugee crisis. Each of the panelists has direct ties to refugee camps acquired as they fled their respective countries before finding their way to the asylum of Europe and finally to the open arms of the United States. Lako Tongun, adjunct professor of international studies at Pitzer College, lives in the U.S. because he escaped the internal strife brought on by the civil war in Sudan. Adib Shaar, visiting professor at Harvey Mudd, is from Syria and spoke of the difficulties of displaced Middle Eastern families and the heartbreak and hardship thousands endure because one or some of their children are now living apart from the family nucleus either in Turkey or other nearby countries. Christina Waggonner, lecturer of the Politics of Europe at Pomona College, discussed the fiscal impact of the refugee situation on the earmarked budgets of many countries of the European Union.

The event was sponsored by the Pomona Chapter of the United Nations Association, along with the Pomona College Office of International Initiatives, and International Place.
Become a Conversation Partner!
By Katya Fairbanks, Coordinator

The CFIS Volunteer English Conversation Partner Program - What is it?
The English conversation partner program of Community Friends of International Students (CFIS) is a program in which international students at the Claremont Colleges sign up at I-Place to be paired with a community member or student to practice speaking English one-on-one once a week for one to two hours.

How does it work?
You sign up with I-Place. Give your name, email, cell phone, and address. The coordinator of the program matches you with an international student who has requested a “conversation partner” and emails you the student’s contact information. You contact the student and you and the international student arrange where to meet 1 to 2 hours/week, usually a coffee shop, the Honnold Library café, I-Place, or somewhere convenient to both of you.

What’s the purpose?
The idea behind this program is that international students will improve their English fluency, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and ability to understand spoken English the more they practice speaking with a native English speaker. These are not "teaching" sessions, but just conversations. This also gives the international students a chance to learn about American culture by asking questions about their observations of interactions in class, on campus, in town, or on TV programs. Even though the international students are all attending college here, some do not have many opportunities to spend 1-2 hours a time speaking with an American. This practice can make a huge difference over time in their spoken English and in their adjustment to life in a new culture.

Why would you volunteer?
The English-speaking "partner" can also learn much about parts of the world they may not know by asking the student about their country, language, customs, and culture. In explaining American culture and behavior to someone from a different country, and comparing it with the international student’s culture, you also learn more about your own, as will the student learn more about his/her own culture by explaining it to you.

Some ideas of topics to discuss are:
How the student is adjusting? Experiencing difficulties?
Is the student having difficulty with anything?
What interests does the student have?
What classes is the student taking?
Talking about each other’s family partner's family
Holidays in both countries; world events; TV programs; music; travel; sports, etc.

Frequently Asked Questions by community members

Should I correct the student when we’re conversing?
A: Generally not - unless the student has requested it or unless you cannot understand something. If you can’t understand, it’s important to ask again, and perhaps correct the pronunciation or vocabulary. If the student has weak speaking skills, correcting will probably stop their train of thought and make them feel more shy about trying to speak. If they keep practicing, they WILL get better! However, if the student specifically asks for corrections, then try to make notes while you are conversing for awhile, and tell the student a few of the problems after they finish speaking.

Should I correct papers the student gives/shows me?
A: This is not a “tutoring” service; it is a chance for the student to practice conversing and asking about American culture or getting to know an American. I would not recommend getting into a habit of editing papers for the student. Every college in Claremont has a writing center (there are 7 writing centers at the 7Cs, and an 8th at the School of Theology) with trained tutors who know how to work with students on their papers and know how to help them learn to recognize and correct their own errors. That said, if you want to help them find minor grammar errors and show them how to correct them, you certainly may. I advise against helping on a regular basis (ie, the student comes to expect it, tells you the writing center schedule is not “convenient” for them) or correcting too much so that the paper/essay/reading response/blog post is no longer in the student’s voice.

What do students want to talk about? Are there resources I can use?
A: In addition, students like to learn new vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and American slang.
You can suggest they keep a notebook and write down new words or idioms they hear people use in their classes, on TV, etc. and bring that to discuss every week. You can also go to the following websites online.
Dave’s ESL Café http://www.eslcafe.com/slang/list.html
Infosquares: http://www.infosquares.com/americanslang/
Wikipedia has a good list of idioms: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_English-language_idioms
NEEDED—YOUR USED BICYCLES

Do you have a bicycle sitting around that you don’t use any more? For several years I have been fixing up donated bikes and loaning them out to international students. Due to attrition, I am down to one bike. If you would like to donate a bike to the cause, don’t worry if your bike is not in great condition. I can repair it. Contact me or I-Place at 909-607-4571, ipoffice@cmc.edu.

Dave Bedell

Electronic News

You may view the CFIS newsletter on the I-Place website at http://iplace.claremont.edu. Click on the link for "Community Friends of International Students.”

If you want to receive the newsletter in print, or prefer not to receive the newsletter at all, please let us know by sending a message to: cfisclaremont@gmail.com
There are lovely works of art installed among the Claremont College campuses, that embody great spirit, enrichment, tenacity, talent, design, and historical connections to global locations far and near. The art tour begins at Frary Hall on the mall at Pomona College. Frary dining hall houses a huge, colorful fresco that was painted by the Mexican artist José Clemente Orozco nearly 87 years ago.

“Prometheus” was commissioned by Pomona College at the behest of student artists and two faculty members who insisted that the campus environment should include examples of some of the extraordinary output of international artists who originated from south of the border. Orozco, in the thirties, was one of three popular Mexican muralists who did work on commission at public institutions throughout the United States as a means to publicize his political agenda. The eldest of the group, which included Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros, Orozco’s life was full of the adventure embodied by many who wanted and sought the social change so desired in the society of Post Revolutionary Mexico. He apprenticed for Venustiano Carranza, one of the leaders of the Revolution whose politics pitted him against Pancho Villa and Zapata. Orozco developed his penchant for painting in his early childhood while observing the sketches and drawing styles of many Jalisco locals. He had also taught art before visiting many cities in North America. Orozco’s artistic expression developed from his political standoff against Villa and Zapata. He sided with the underdog: the impoverished, politically innocent citizens of Mexico, a commonly used political purpose of revolutions and one that can be traced to the Titanomachy, a mythology of ancient Greece and the gods who inhabited Mount Olympus.

Orozco selected a popular Greek myth to convey his artistic message about the existing oppression in his country of origin. Prometheus, one of many sons of Zeus, was arguably the first child in recorded history to be affected by familial dispute, a common occurrence in the news, as his grandfather, Kronos, and his dad, Zeus fought one another for the authority and power of their heavenly domain. Zeus rewarded Prometheus’ loyalty and the once-privileged inhabitant of Mount Olympus held that distinction at least until his father discovered his infidelity. He was duly punished for the “white collar” crime of misappropriated resources. Prometheus, the compassionate well-heeled son of Zeus, was characterized as a thief who stole the abundant natural resource of fire, by his own volition, from the ‘haves’ and gave the booty, by his own accord, to those who ‘have not’. In addition, Prometheus taught common man the most efficient uses of the precious element. This ancient Robin Hood tale inspired Orozco to depict the want of equality and the eradication of abject poverty among the meek in Mexican society during a time of the assertion of civil rights through social change.

Orozco’s mural about the plight of Prometheus is a fresco. Because the medium of fresco painting is rather challenging, the work of Orozco puts one in awe, not only because of the angular style of the figures, the size of the main character, and the deed he is performing, but more so when it is realized that he did this most extraordinary work with only one hand as the other was lost due to a childhood accident.

José Clemente Orozco’s mural “Prometheus” is installed on the north wall inside Frary dining hall on the Pomona College Campus. Observing the massive painting, which is geometrically framed, provides both an intellectual and aesthetic experience for everyone, whether it is a group adventure or an outing for singular reflection. Although it is highly recommended to see this outstanding painting firsthand, please find links below that provide additional depth, breadth, and analysis of this masterpiece.

www.biography.com/people/jos-clemente-orozco-9429586
www.theartstory.org/artist-orozco-jose-clemente.htm
Community Friends of International Students invite you, and all International Students/Scholars at The Claremont Colleges to a

**HOLIDAY RECEPTION**

Sunday, December 4, 2016
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
709 Harvard Avenue, Claremont

Come and participate in a fun and exciting game with a great prize for the student winner!

Join us for home-baked goodies, holiday music, and a visit from Santa Claus!
Host families, please contact your students and plan to attend with your extended family.

For more information contact I-Place at 909-607-4571