

# PERSPECTIVAS de PAZ

Vol. 26, No. 4 Pennsylvania's First International Student Exchange Program - Winter, 2015

*God created  
man in  
His own image;  
then man went  
and returned  
the compliment.*

Voltaire

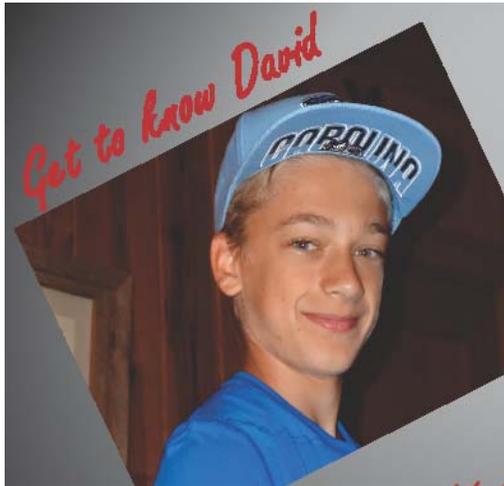
## WELCOME NEW AMBASSADORS

Virginia Orru of  
Italy to Florida

David Holzbach of  
Germany to Hawaii



Host sis Hannah went to Rome to see Virginia's home & family from Christmas to New Years. Both sisters & friend welcome them, then shop!



David is our last student for AY 2015. His passion is golf and he recently celebrated a birthday this December.

*Exchange  
Students are  
really Angels  
from Heaven  
and that's  
why we love  
them so much!*

*Right?*



*Sí, Claro*



Host family Tretter, armed with saws, tackled a large Christmas tree to plant in their living room!

Prior to that, our exchange student Adrian Cortez of Mexico and his host brother Case are seen here armed on the first day of Buck hunting season in search of Christmas dinner.



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## Here Are Some Dates to Remember...

**Black History Month** is observed in February and honors the contributions of African-Americans to our history and culture. We recognize early abolitionists like Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth as well as modern civil rights leaders Dr. Martin Luther King and Medgar Evers. In our government, we recognize the first African-American U.S. Secretary of State: Gen. Colin Powell, 2001–2005. The first black female Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, 2005—. While we cannot list all the [Famous Firsts by African Americans](#) here, you can find more detail on website <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhmfirsts.html>

**Feb. 2 ~ Ground Hog Day** Latin Americans & Asians aren't familiar with this day because it's of little importance to people living in warm climates. However, it is very important to North Americans to hear from an amazing rodent whose name is *Punxsutawney Phil* - a ground-hog who lives in Punxsutawney, PA. Every year, Phil sticks his head out of the ground where he lives. If it is cloudy and he does not see his shadow, he happily comes out to play and celebrate the early arrival of spring. But, if it's sunny he sees his shadow, is frightened, and ducks back into his hole, preparing for six more weeks of winter. Now as you experience icy winter weather, you know why we anxiously await Phil's annual prediction.



**Feb. 3, 1870~** 15th Amendment grants blacks the right to vote.

**Feb. 6 ~ Birthday of 40th U.S. President: Ronald Reagan** Ended the Cold War. “*Mr. Gorbachov: Tear down this wall!*”.

**Feb. 12, 1809 ~ BIRTHDAY of ABRAHAM LINCOLN:** The 16th President of the United States contested the secession of the Southern States to preserve the Union in the American Civil War (1860-64). He emancipated all slaves by proclamation in 1863. During the war years Frederick Douglass, rose from slavery to newspaper publisher and abolitionist leader to trusted advisor to Lincoln. In 1876, Lincoln's monument was dedicated in Washington, DC, designed, built and paid for by freed slaves under Douglass's guiding direction.



**Feb. 12, 1909~** National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded by a group of concerned black and white citizens in New York City.

**Feb 14 ~ St. Valentine's Day:** Love is divine.

**Feb 16 ~ Lithuanian Independence Day** 1918 Schuylkill County, home of PEACE, has largest number of immigrants in nation!

**Feb 13-17 ~ Carnival:** Pre-Lenten Season street party week in Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador, Panama, and Venezuela.

**Feb 18 ~ Ash Wednesday~** Today begin the Season of Lent 2/18-4/2 —for Christians a time of fasting and reflections.

**Feb 22, 1732 ~ Birthday of George Washington** “**The Father of our Country**” As Commanding General of the American Revolutionary Army, led American colonists in their fight for independence from Great Britain. He then served honorably as the first President of the United States.



**Women's History Month** celebrates *founding mothers* like Abigail Adams who managed her husband's business interests in Boston while he traveled on behalf of the Continental Congress, and Betsy Ross who made the first American flag, *abolitionist* author Harriet Beecher Stowe (*Uncle Tom's Cabin*), *suffrage activists* Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, *pilots* Amelia Earhart and Jacqueline Cochran. (Most know Earhart's story, but Cochran (1910-1980) was the first woman who broke the sound barrier.)

**Famous Firsts:** Phyllis Wheatley (1753-1784) the first woman poet **and** the first black to be published in the American colonies; *physician* Elizabeth Blackwell, *cabinet member* Frances Perkins (FDR's secretary of labor), *Senator* Margaret Chase Smith, *astronaut* Sally Ride, *Supreme Court Justice* Sandra Day O'Connor, *Secretary of State* Madeleine Albright, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice—only a few of many who opened up higher education, the professions and other fields to women.

**Mar 3, 1931 ~ The Star Spangled Banner** became the U.S. National Anthem by Act of Congress. The lyrics were written by Francis Scott Key on board a ship during the War of 1812



**March 17 ~ St. Patrick's Day** honors one of the first Christian missionaries to Ireland. In the United States, we recall the Irish who arrived here following the potato famine of 1846, and were limited to low-paying jobs as miners, railroad laborers and domestics. Seeking greater status in their communities, they soon entered law enforcement, politics, and the legal profession. Many have achieved prominence in these careers, almost to the point of dominating those fields in major cities by the earlier part of the 20th century. Celtic music rules the airways and clubs tonight.



**March 21, 1806 ~ Birthday of Benito Juarez:** Mexico's first president. Famous quote: “*Respect of people's rights is the way to peace.*”

**March 23, 1775 ~ Patrick Henry's** speech addressing the American Revolution concluded: “*Is life so dear or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!*”

**March 31 – Deadline** for getting your activity sheets completed and sent to the PEACE office. The trip is a major undertaking and there are so many details to work out: van/bus schedule pick-ups, tours, motel and restaurant reservations for the TOEFL test, etc. **You have one thing to do. Get your Activity Sheets to the office if you want to receive an award.**

*Spiritualism vs Moral Absolutes by Executive Director Richard Page*

More and more you hear of people claiming to be a spiritualist. Conversations with those claiming to be Spiritualist prompted me to finally "Google" the word to see if there was a finite definition of this. Twenty years ago, I interviewed a family professing to believe in the religion called Bahai. They explained it to be non-judgmental acceptance that all mankind is basically good, and no matter how we are raised, there is one God and he can reach everyone in different mediums. I was skeptical but liked them, and they promised to take their Catholic student to Mass. Bahai would prevent them from proselytizing him away from that, so they hosted without incident. Prior to that meeting the phrase New Age religion was in vogue, as well, and it all sounded similar. I went to college in the 1960s when the 'flower-child, hippy movement' known as the Age of Aquarius was born. "If it feels good, do it" was the motto of the 60s. Eastern religions were rising in interest in the West, too. Hindus have many Gods but their attraction is the motto: "Do no harm" - sort of like Christ's admonition: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

The below websites seems to be the most plausible explanation I have heard of all three.

<http://www.cassadaga.org/whatitis.htm>

[http://www.bahai.org/?gclid=CPrG8Zn\\_4r4CFaVQOgodJVQAIg](http://www.bahai.org/?gclid=CPrG8Zn_4r4CFaVQOgodJVQAIg)

<http://carm.org/new-age-what>

Since most believers do not live their faith hourly, but just passively attend public services, at best weekly, and operate ungoverned in 'the world' the other six days, Why is this so important to consider? Well, all but atheists believe in one God. Jews, Christians, and Muslims trace their roots to Abraham. These three believe in moral absolutes but they differ in whether the Messiah has come - or is still to come. Jews, Muslims and Christians all believe in original sin of man since Adam and Eve and await the same messiah. Whereas Jews and Muslims believe he is yet to come the first time, Christian believe he was already here 2000 years ago, taught how to live, performed miracles to show his godly power, was killed and then rose to life to walk among over 500 witnesses, and promised to return again and reign over heaven and earth for 1000 years in plain sight of all before his final judgment. Eastern religions appear to deny original sin; and all of them seem to imagine Jesus to be just another great prophet but not the son of God.

The Holy Trinity of God in three persons (not personalities), Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is unique to Christianity. This is one of the greatest mysteries. Ironically, a secular best-selling book called *The Shack*, by Wm. Paul Young, admitted openly to be a work of fiction, does the a better job than organized religion (in this humble scholar's opinion) of making total sense of the trinity as the most logic and completely perfect understanding of God being more than just one Creator - and why. The central character begins with a depressing tragedy, but the story soon gets way better.

Since January 2014 we cancelled our rapidly rising cable bill and subscribed to Dish Satellite at 2/3 the cost. We then discovered that instead of a handful of Sunday network hosted church programs and two religious cable channels we now had a dozen cable channels, of which one hosted *The Shepard's Chapel 24/7* which is a Bible study conducted by an 84 year old scholar and his son. Having been raised Methodist, become a self-proclaimed evangelical in my 20s and then married a Catholic with children, and been an avid reader of apologetics all my life, I had become schooled in the full spectrum of Christendom. I have long believed that while the end times were nearing when Jesus would return and end all speculation of who He is and what He requires of His creation.

PEACE would straddle the broad line of American freedom of religion and avoid offending any who chose to host our children or represent our program abroad, domestically in the field, or in the office. That has not changed.

But the time has come to challenge all of you to read and research for yourselves before time is up, so that you make the right decision. What do I mean by that? Simply put, there is one creator. He, therefore, must not be neutral as we'd like. He expects His children beyond the age of innocence to seek and find His wisdom. Relativism feels good and the great deceiver wants to lead you away from God; but only moral absolutes make sense to a carefully thinking adult mind. Can we find the mind of God? Yes, we can. He wrote us a long letter that is yet to be proven contradictory. It's called *The Holy Bible*. It's published in all languages. It's the best seller of all time—and inexpensive.

**"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself; love is not puffed up; love does not behave rudely; love does not seek its own; love is not provoked; love thinks no evil; love does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth; love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things; Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8).**

Substitute your name for "love" and read it again. How far could you read before gagging? Now substitute "Jesus" and read it out loud again. History affirms that He alone is all this. Understand just how perfect your God is and why only He deserves to be worshipped? Do you now fully understand why He is your best friend and what He expects you to try to be? Make holiness your mission in every thought and deed. You will still sin but less and less. Your reward by the world will be admiration; by the angels rejoicing; by God - eternity.

## A Time To Share

## Richard's Recommended Reading

We are sharing this poem by Ogden Nash with all our exchange students who are enjoying snow for the first time and we hope it won't be their last.

### Winter Morning Poem



Winter is the king of showmen  
Turning tree stumps into snow men  
And houses into birthday cakes  
And spreading sugar over lakes  
Smooth and clean and frosty white  
The world looks good enough to bite  
That's the season to be young  
Catching snowflakes on your tongue  
Snow is snowy when it's snowing  
I'm sorry it's slushy when it's going



### INTERNATIONAL RECIPE



#### Peixe Ensopado from Brazil

(fish stew flavored with coconut)

Great for lent!

Serves 4

#### Ingredients:

Juice of one lime  
1/2 tsp. salt  
Black pepper  
4 fish steaks, haddock  
1 lg. onion, chopped  
1 clove garlic, minced  
8 green olives, sliced  
3 tbsp fresh  
cilantro, chopped  
2 tbsps olive oil  
2 tbsps tomato paste  
1 malagueta pepper,  
chopped (optional)\*  
1/2 cup coconut milk

Prepare a marinade of lime juice, salt and pepper. Marinate the fish for 1 to 3 hours. Sauté the onion, olives and garlic in oil until onion is limp. Mix in cilantro and cook for 1 minute. Add fish and marinade. Simmer 10 to 15 minutes, or until fish is done. Mix in tomato paste, malagueta pepper and coconut milk. Simmer for another 5 minutes. Serve with rice.

\*In the US, malagueta peppers are available bottled, not fresh. They are chilis and should be handled carefully because they contain oils that can irritate or burn the skin or eyes.

\*\* Bottled or canned coconut milk

### BET YA DIDN'T KNOW!

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated with parades in many cities in the United States, but the most famous is the one in New York City. The city of Chicago has developed a unique tradition of coloring the river water green for St. Patrick's Day. It started in 1962 when 100 pounds of green vegetable dye was added to its river, enough to keep it green for a week. The tradition has continued, but now, 40 pounds of a green food coloring keep the river green for only a few hours.

### The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass:

(Wordsworth Editions Limited- 1996) is an exceptional literary work as well as an extraordinary adventure story. Born a slave in 1817 Maryland and subjected to the meanest sort of brutality, Frederick Douglass somehow managed to learn to write with the eloquence of a Yale scholar, yet never received a day of formal education because it was *illegal* for a slave to read or write!

After his escape to the free northern states, he became a spellbinding abolitionist orator and successful newspaper publisher, gaining celebrity status even in England and Europe. During the American Civil War he was sought out by President Abraham Lincoln as a personal advisor on race issues and to help enlist the coloured people into the war effort. Following the war, he pursued the issues of equal rights for women as vigorously he did the discrimination and segregation that rendered emancipation a hollow victory for his race. He later became Consul General of the United States to Haiti and even lived to speak at the first World's Fair held in 1893 in Chicago. His life chronicles the central importance of race in American history and spans most social and political events of the 19th century.

As a voracious reader of spiritual, inspirational, motivational, political and historical literature as well as an addict of mysteries, spy novels, and other best-seller adventure stories this yarn matches the best of any of them — and it's all true.

As a white man, I have been fortunate to have know good men and women of colour sufficient to help me overcome any inclinations to bigotry that my culture may have bred in me, but none of those experiences brought me *empathy* as did the truly vicarious experiences lived through the pages of this book.

### 100 YEARS AGO

The average life expectancy in the US was 47 years.

Only 14% of homes in the US had a bathtub. Less had showers.

Only 8% of American homes had a telephone.

A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost \$11.

There were only 8,000 cars in the US, only 144 miles of paved roads, and the speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

### BET YA DIDN'T KNOW!

Coca-Cola was originally green.

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.

The Hawaiian alphabet has 12 letters.

City with the most Rolls Royces per capita: Hong Kong



**Local Coordinators report that Asian kids are fitting in with American Culture**



**Quingyu Li** of China really shows a lot of love and gives her coordinator the biggest hugs. She goes to church twice a week with her host sister and family and really enjoys it. She has grown so much as a person since she arrived!



**Mingpeng Li** of China really loves American Holidays and especially the great food. He is getting straight As in school, too. So I guess good eating leads to good grades!



**WenWen Huang** of China Had a great Christmas, going to Los Angeles for the New Year and going shopping. She enjoyed all the animals at Leona Gibsons



**Xuhie Guo** enjoyed of China enjoyed Christmas Break with decorating the tree with the family and lots of family coming over to visit - very exciting. He's a good kid. The family really likes him!



**Hee Eun Han** of South Korea made Honor Roll at Williamson HS Lawrenceville, PA. Host mom says she smiles and giggles all the time and she and her host sister, Elly, do everything and go everywhere together. She even joined the cheerleading team.



**Dong Yeup Beak of South Korea** plays drums for his church in a music ensemble. H is very lively and engages others well. He is living with the pastor and wife and is easily making friends at school. His essay reads like he is a minister in the making!



**Kewei Lin of China** is doing very well, and likes going to the desert to ride quads with her host family and friends. She also like camping.



**Xiangrong Fu of China** is a happy, positive young lady. She's one of few students invited out by American friends and exchange students from other countries. She enjoyed New Years Eve with a group of girls with fireworks and hot tubbing! They even threw her a birthday party.



**SuAh Lee of Korea** was nominated as student of the month! "This girl is a delight and has worked so hard. I've seen her gain confidence in her understanding and communicating through the English language. She thrives in our home and has jumped in as "one of the gang". She has worked very hard in school and achieved honors this marking period. She is truly a remarkable young woman! " - Patricia Fox, Host Mother

**Happy Birthday  
February**

- 03 ~ Ke Bi, China
- 23 ~ Hee Eun Han Korea
- 25 ~ Irlanda Nava, Mexico
- 27 ~ Jose Villarreal, Mexico

**March**

- 03 ~ Renjie Wei, China
- 08 ~ Dong Baek, Korea
- 19 ~ Robin Dietrich, Germany

**Exchange Students in Hawaii**



**Carolina** of Mexico (L), **Robin** (L), **Daniel**, & **Paulina** of **Germany** are the first PEACE exchange students to be placed in Paradise. **Leon Watson**, their coordinator, came to us last winter as a former AFS representative. These students were placed as part of a collaboration with a new partner called Global Horizons headquartered in Germany. Carolina is a PEACE solo applicant. Paulina came in the second semester of AY 2014. The rest are full year students who arrived this August. All are with host families in towns near Honolulu. Leon is organizing a camping field trip to a remote volcanic island. Anyone interested it the cost is about \$1400 + air.

*Do you wonder why some students get their names in the newsletter and others do not? It's really very simple. Some host students, moms, dads, reps or school counselors send email to let us know the latest news. So, get online or pick up a pen and let me know what's happening in your life!*

### “Dance Like No One Is Watching”

The truth is, there's no better time to be happy than right now. If not now, when?

Your life will always be filled with challenges. It's best to admit this to yourself and decide to be happy anyway. Alfred D Souza said, "For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin - real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way, something to be gotten through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life."

This perspective has helped me to see that there is no way to happiness. Happiness is the way.  
So, treasure every moment that you have. And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time ... and remember that time waits for no one...

So stop waiting until you finish school, until you go back to school, until you lose ten pounds, until you gain ten pounds, until you have kids, until your kids leave the house, until you start work, until you retire, until you get married, until you get divorced, until Friday night, until Sunday morning, until you get a new car or home, until your car or home is paid off, until spring, until summer, until fall, until winter, until you are off welfare, until the first or fifteenth, until your song comes on, until you've had a drink, until you've sobered up, until you die, until you are born again to decide that there is no better time than right now to be happy...

#### Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

Thought for the day :  
Work like you don't need money,  
Love like you've never been hurt,  
And dance like no one's watching

**Author: Crystal Boyd , 1998.**

**From the book: "Midnight Muse."**

© Crystal Boyd (Visit Crystal Boyd website)

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Please note that the first stanza is not written here, and the “Thought for the day:” is not part of Reverend Crystal Boyd's poem, It is an old Irish Proverb. [Click here to read the poem in its entirety.](#)



**Emilia Iglesias** from Ecuador and her hosts, the **Westons** of Santa Fe, New Mexico are enjoying a surprise white Christmas.



For Emy it's her first time to see snow and she appears to like it.

Below, Emy is front and center of her Santa Fe high school dance team performing for a large audience.



Practice makes perfect at rehearsal for the big show.



Exchange Students are welcomed wildly in Santa Fe. They have 16!



HOLA

# Perspectivas de Paz

¿Que paso?

7

## ¿Sabias Que? (Do you know what?)



### A love letter from Mark & Patti Morrissey, proud host parents in Colorado Springs, Colorado of:



**Shannon Xiangrong Fu - China** survived finals week and did very well. she made all A's except for a B in Honors English Lit. We cannot convince her that she is to be highly commended for such an accomplishment at The Vanguard School. I think she must be among

the best of the other 6 exchange students academically.

Basketball continues to dominate her extra curricular time so it is a good thing that she is organized and disciplined to make the best use of her time. Before Christmas Break, Shannon got hit on the head with the basketball during practice so her coach and the athletic director took cautionary measures and had her sit out for a couple of games and advised she see a doctor to clear her of having a concussion. She did not display symptoms of a concussion and consequently did not want to see a doctor. After talking back and forth with our local rep, the school's Athletic Director and JV girls' coach - she was excused from seeing a doctor, and has been fine since.

She's improving her skills and understanding of the game, even though she doesn't get put in the game very much. She doesn't seem to mind sitting on the bench and continues to enjoy friendships with her teammates.

We enjoyed a restful and relaxing Christmas Break attending church Christmas Eve service and spending Christmas Day with family in town. Shannon was introduced to our family's traditions, such as getting a real tree and decorating it; hanging stockings on the fireplace (we got her her own stocking); driving around to see Christmas lights; eating "Chinese" food for Christmas Eve, and exchanging gifts on Christmas morning.

Our extended family included her in a "Secret Santa" gift exchange, so she was able to receive fun gifts as well as have the opportunity to shop and give a gift for one of the cousins. She received a lot of gifts to help her get through the cold winter like socks, slippers, pjs and a robe. Her parents sent a box of Chinese trinkets and souvenirs for her to give away to family and friends.

During break, she got to sleep in late, went shopping several times, saw movies with another friend and other family members.

For New Year's she was invited to spend the night at another exchange student's home and enjoyed bringing in the new year with some of her school friends. We also took her to Denver to experience "Casa Bonita", the restaurant dubbed as "The Mexican Disneyland".

School started again in January and she is in full swing with classes and basketball. Her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday was January 12. She didn't advertise it but somehow other kids heard it was her birthday so she enjoyed cakes and presents from different friends this week. We celebrated as a family that night after basketball practice, eating the traditional "longevity" noodles and "red eggs." given by a Chinese family -- they have been generous with having her over to their house for dinner and sending her home with lots of authentic Chinese food.

The weather here in Colorado has grown considerably colder but she has adjusted to it. Our school has already had a snow day and a few 2 hour delays due to the winter weather. Shannon talks of wanting to go to school next year in a warmer climate, or somewhere by the ocean. I'm sure it is partly due to her missing her warm island home.

As a family, we don't see as much of each other as we'd like, in the evenings and weekends because of the basketball schedule but hope to resume a more sane schedule when it is over in March. Meanwhile, we are continuing to learn how to understand each other's very different cultures and learning how to give one another grace and keep lines of communication open.

### What's not to love?

#### Valentine message from happy student

- I love my host family,
- I love mom's cooking,
- I love family games,
- I love my school,
- I love my teachers,
- I love art class,
- I love my new friends,
- I love the school bus
- I love school lunch
- especially pizza!

## February Twilight

I stood beside a hill  
Smooth with new-laid snow,  
A single star looked out  
From the cold evening glow.

There was no other creature  
That saw what I could see--  
I stood and watched the evening  
star  
As long as it watched me.

-Sara Teasdale

Please Pray for:



Florence 'Terry' Page, VP of PEACE has been anticipating heart surgery and already has an artificial aortic valve for 12 years. During changes in 2 mediation s to try and manage her condition without surgery on a leaking tricuspid valve she contracted both a virus and infection. She is not responding well to a powerful antibiotic plus cough and cold medicine. We ask God to lay his healing hands on Terry and for your prayers for her.

## An Irish Prayer

May God Grant you always...  
A Sunbeam to warm you,  
A Moonbeam to charm you,  
A Sheltering Angel  
so nothing can harm you.  
Laughter to cheer you,  
Faithful friends near you,  
And whenever you pray,  
Heaven to hear you!

## SPRING FIELD TRIP — APRIL 2015 — Final week not yet established

THIS TRIP IS A PRIVILEGE, STUDENTS ON ACADEMIC OR BEHAVIOR PROBATION WILL NOT GO. NOT ALL INTERNATIONAL REPS PRICED THE TRIP INTO YOUR PACKAGE., BUT IF YOUR PARENTS ARE NOW WILLING TO PAY THE COST AND YOU DESERVE TO GO WE CAN WORK YOU IN.

Tour the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg - American's most beautiful statehouse: often compared to the US Capitol ; in Baltimore tour Fort William McHenry in where the Star's Spangled Banner was written and board buoy tenders, cutters, and intercept speedboats at U.S. Coast Guard Station; in Washington DC see major monuments, memorials and museums; the White House; U.S. Supreme Court; the Library of Congress; U.S. Capitol, WWII Marine Memorial and National Cemetery at Arlington VA; Washington's Homestead in Mt. Vernon, Souvenir City; Nights filled with shopping, swimming, dancing, a talent show, final awards banquet! Largest Catholic Basilica on way home, then finishing at Hershey's Chocolate World.

