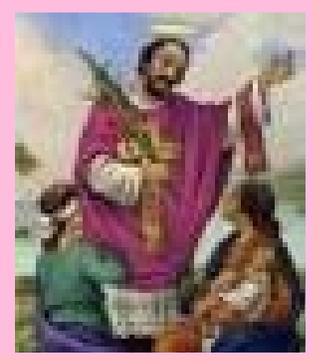


PERSPECTIVAS de PAZ

Vol. 27, No. 4 Pennsylvania's First International Student Exchange Program - Winter, 2016



Saint Valentine of Rome, is a widely recognized third-century Roman saint commemorated on February 14 and associated since the High Middle Ages with a tradition of courtly love.



PA Host Family Matt & Misty Rettger welcome Venezuelan Alejandro Monserratt in Dec. Ale transferred from a Hawaiian military base where he lived his first 3 months in the U.S.

Mike & Alicia Davis have enjoyed Rodrigo Ramirez from Mexico who is doing volunteer work for church & school! Alicia was a host sister 21 years ago in the same school!



Rodrigo's local coordinator Gale Marvin, pictured to the right, submitted the above photos. She and husband Rex were hosting their first exchange student when Alicia was a host sister to the Long family's third exchange student. Gale, our longest serving LC, has hosted 20 students.



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

Right?



Sí, Claro

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ProAmerican Educational And Cultural Exchange

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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. U.S. government's First African-American President Barack Obama 2008-16, Secretary of State General Colin Powell 2001-05, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall 1967-91, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, 2005-08, Senators Hiram Revels 1880 & Edward Brooke 1967 While we cannot list all the Famous Firsts by African Americans here, you can find more detail on website <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/>

Feb. 2 ~ Ground Hog Day Latin Americans & Asians aren't familiar with this day because it's not important to people in warm climates. However, it is very important to North Americans to hear from *Punxsutawney Phil* - a ground-hog living in Punxsutawney, PA. Every year, Phil sticks his head out of the ground where he lives. If it is cloudy and he doesn't 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 if 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 Cold War. "Mr. Gorbachov: Tear down this wall!"



Feb 8 -09 ~ Carnival: Pre-Lenten Season street party week in Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador, Panama, and Venezuela.

Feb 10 ~ Ash Wednesday~ begin the Season of Lent 2/10-3/24 —for Christians a time of fasting & reflections ending Holy Thursday before the day Jesus defeated eternal death as punishment for all sinners.



Feb. 12, 1809 ~ BIRTHDAY of ABRAHAM LINCOLN: The 16th U.S. President contested the secession of the Southern States to preserve the Union in the American Civil War of 1860-64 and emancipated all slaves by proclamation in 1863. Lincoln was so influenced by Scriptures he declared the Sermon on the Mount to contain the essence of all law and justice. With "A house divided against itself cannot stand" Lincoln quoted Mathew 12:25. Receiving a Bible from a delegation of black Americans in 1864 he said "it is the best gift God has given to men. But for it we could not know right from wrong." Read Abraham Lincoln and Religious Freedom's Impact By Christopher Corbett @ <http://blog.libertyinstitute.org/2016/02/abraham-lincoln-exemplar-of-religious.html>



Feb. 12, 1909~ National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded by black and white citizens.

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!

February 14, 1818-February 20, 1895

The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass:



His autobiography (Wordsworth Editions Limited-1996) is an extraordinary literary work as well as an amazing adventure story. Born a slave in 1818 in 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 as he did the discrimination and segregation that rendered emancipation a hollow victory for his race. In 1876, Lincoln's monument was dedicated in Washington, DC, designed, built and paid for by freed slaves under Douglass's guiding direction. He later became Consul General of the United States to Haiti and even lived to open 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've been fortunate to have know good men and women of colour sufficient to help me overcome any inclinations to bigotry that my culture could have bred into me; but none of those experiences brought me *empathy* as did the truly vicarious experiences lived through the pages of this book. This book should be required reading in every school in America ~Richard S. Page

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. Washington was well-known for his godly disposition and fervent prayer life, for instance, when he was famously spotted kneeling in prayer it Valley Forge.



He wrote to Thomas Nelson August 20, 1778: "*The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations.*"

When first inaugurated as President in 1789, he got down on his knees and kissed the Bible, then led the entire House and Senate to an Episcopal church for a 2-hour worship service.

He then served honorably as the first President of the U.S. for two terms, but set a president, declining to remain in office.

His Farewell address, one of the greatest in American History, said about the place of religion in national life: "*Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness.*"

Here Are Some More Dates to Remember...

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.



On March 17th, 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.



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 24 Holy Thursday ~ end of 40 day Lenten Season
March 25 Good Friday ~ the day Our Lord & Savior freely demonstrate His unconditional love for those he created in his image by sacrificing His human adult life to pay the price for our sins by allowing Centurions to nail Him to a crucifix.
March 27 Easter Sunday ~ the day he rose to prove to 500 witnesses that he really is who he said he was by ascending into Heaven, establishing a Church for those who accept his love on faith—demonstrating it in our works.

Why is the word church sometimes capitalized—or not?
The Church means the entire body of believer world-wide.
A church is a building built for believers to gather in together.
 The purpose of Church is to give glory to God by telling the message of the Gospel (good news of Jesus Christ) and fulfilling the great commission by being an example of God's love towards all mankind.
from Turning-Point www.davidjeremiah.org/

God is just and gives mercy, grace & joy. What's that mean?
Justice is giving someone punishment or reward that they deserve.
Mercy is withholding a punishment that someone deserves.
Grace is forgiving a sinner and giving goodness they don't deserve.
Joy is what both the giver and the receiver of grace gain!
from Love Worth Finding www.lwf.org/adrian-rogers

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Christmas, established a day to honor the human birth of our Lord, but the most important day with our creator at the center will be here in six weeks. America's major federal holidays were established to focus attention on the One who blesses us and who we recognize for it. Our Founders gave us the only country giving God credit for establishing rights as inalienable. The Framers pounded those rights into our Bill of Rights, starting with #1. The Pilgrims came here to establish a new land giving Jesus Christ the sole reason for it. Anyone who has read the Mayflower Compact written en route to Plimoth knows it. Founders Day was the forerunner to Thanksgiving established by our first president to give thanks officially to those Pilgrims and the God they sought to worship freely. Our Veterans who put their lives on the line freely to protect those rights are honored on a day in November and in May in a cemetery unlike none in the world. Most hosts and their students are Christian; most who aren't will usually become so.

Happy Birthday

February

2 ~ Pablo Dominguez - Spain
 14 ~ Albert Araiz - Spain
 20 ~ Xavier Ordenez - Ecuador
 21 ~ Zhangtao - China

March

10 ~ Gonzalo Ajenjo - Spain
 16 ~ Tony Wu - China
 23 ~ Gustavo Monserratt - Venezuela
 23 ~ Alejandro Monserratt - Venezuela

A Time To Share

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.

eee

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

WHO ARE YOU AND WHY DON'T WE KNOW?

Do you wonder why some students get in the newsletter and others do not? It's very simple. Some students, moms, dads, reps or counselors send email to let us know the news - but not enough. So, get on line and let me know what's happening in your life!

Our Winter Newsletter has no letters, 2 photos from an LC, a few comments from LC and HQ reports, even though technology makes it easier, faster, and less expensive than back-in-rhe-day. Since we publish digitally we can still edit what is up now. So, please quickly send digital pictures you've taken December- January along with a story of what's in those pictures and what's you've been doing.

Blasts from the Past

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!

Guestbook Entry 1-4-2016:

Hello to all the PEACE Family...already 6 years since I went to Punxsutawney, PA as exchange student...I miss those days. Now I am Engineer and am working in a multinational enterprise. Last year I went back to visit my American Host Family.. and after all this time i can say that PEACE gave me the best experience of my life with the best host family I could have asked for. Thank you to the PEACE Team, for changing my life... and good luck to all the new exchange students. Enjoy every minute of this great experience.

-Monica Rodriguez: Valencia, Carabobo, Venezuela

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

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 offer the most plausible explanations. I have visited all three below sites.

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

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 profit 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 Holy 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 my wife and I 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—The Human Race.

PEACE has always straddled the broad line of American freedom of religion to 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 Satan, 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.**

I never thought I'd See the Day

When PEACE was born, I wanted to do things that my previous program didn't, by setting Christian standards for both student and host. While not all Christians live all what they are taught all the time, if we strive to learn and seek to obey what God wants of us with a Biblical world-and-life view this Godly mission has a better chance of being fulfilled. When Congress created this radically new public policy it was obviously built on a Christian foundation. To prevent a rerun of WWI & WWII, the world was desperate.

Putting our hopes in teenagers instead of adults was radical. Putting hope in families to feed and house a foreign student gratis was also radical. Volunteer coordinators and tuition free school also was radical. Yes, there are costs and full time professionals at all stages are necessary, but the success of the mission proved to be far above anyone's wildest dreams. Independent study abroad was and still is : "pay your way" and it doubles or triples the cost. When people reduce their financial pledge in hosting or schooling, studies have shown that the mission is compromised by it. But while that is a significant issue, it is not even what got me started.

You see whether rich or poor, educated or not, until 9-11, all hosts and students cherished this new kind of family so much that they gave of their time, money and of themselves more than they were asked. Unlike most programs, we created an atmosphere to greatly enhance what the participants received. We recognized and educated them in six newsletters and set high standards to be published. Students were challenged to strive for "student of the month and the year" and forms were sent out in winter for students and hosts to nominate each other for student or host of the year.

Our spring trip also was designed to highly educate students to know the best of our founders and framers, military and civilian leaders, inventors and pioneers — to go far beyond a text book to feel what made America the greatest country in history. Major shopping and amusement parks was out. Sleeping in was out, but dance parties and staying up at night was in. While nervous about sharing a room with a stranger, they quickly learned about other countries and cultures and made deep friends. We also took them to church and housed and fed them first class. The final night awards banquet combined the Oscars with the Olympics in scope and style, crowning at the end a prom style king and queen.

All of the information to fill our newsletter and our database to determine who won participation ribbons, achievement medals, student of the month and year trophies, certificates and plaques for host families and local coordinators and international reps came from handwritten and typed letters stuffed in our mailbox. Sitting around sifting through it all was a joy that brought us to tears.

Then came the internet. Instead of more content with no postage and ease of delivery we got less. As email lost it's novelty, we got even less. More wars, border issues, & economic bubbles, families had less time and interest. Less middle class students & hosts gave us more self-centered participants. Courts and bureaucratic policies undermine traditional values and standardized tests take more time of teachers, students and parents yet education declines. Texting, smart phones, voicemail, and on-line shopping & banking has made everyone more detached and self-absorbed. Less interest in each other lessens news for our newsletter or bothering to fill in an activity sheet to tell what students have done to be recognized.

For the first time ever we have no student or host initiated news for the current newsletter and we have no responses to a mailing last month of nomination and activity forms. If there is no more interest in all of the above then why plan for a trip or awards?

And if you wonder why the black and white photo to the right, we

Notes from phone surveys and LC reports

Loreta Boka of Latvia placed on the coast of Southern California north of Los Angeles, was in the high school play and host mom Kisha Milo went to see her perform.



Xavi Ordonez of Ecuador lives in an eastern PA coal region town. He enjoyed the holidays traveling and meeting new family member of hosts Craig & Pam Rhoades. He made honor roll and loves playing indoor soccer.



Celi Derbez of Monterrey, Mexico live in north-eastern PA with Bradley & Dee Hackett. She has been a cheerleader for the football and basketball teams and made the honor roll.



Pablo Dominguez of Pamplona, Spain lives in Southern CA with Kathy Rough. He's on the honor roll, is in a circus acrobatic program in school and juggled housework while Kathy was sick.



Nattapong Pattarakanjapong of Bangkok Thailand residing with Marty & Diane Bubulka in Eastern PA feels like a son. He calls them Mom and Dad. They take him places, watch movies and eat together. He likes American food and the friendliness of the people. He plans to play soccer.



Betza Damien of Chilpancingo, Mexico lives in Northeastern PA on a dairy farm with Erik & Amy Kneller. She likes her little host sisters, plays card games with them and helps in the kitchen. She is learning the saxophone at school and gets all As. .



Roberto Uribe of Merida Mexico lives with Chris & Tara Evit in Eastern PA. He talks to host grandparents a lot and plays board games. His host parents are really good to him and take him places. He plays video games and watches movies with his siblings. He likes school and is passing all his classes with good grades.



Jose Postigo of Spain feels like part of his host family, Erik & Kimberly Perry. He goes to church weekly. He's the best student speaker. Twin brother Javi lives with Barry & Raphaela Nelson. He loves his host family, too. Both attend the same school by the beach. And both are on the surfing, diving & water polo teams.



Diego Prieto of Chihuahua Mexico lives with Leslie and Peter Russell in New Hampshire who make him feel like a son. They took him to see the Mayflower. He is in boys & girls club, video, and science club. He and host sister watch TV and go to the gym together. He finds us open-minded. He like shopping and the snow.

ask for color ID and personal photos and this is what we get.



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are very happy to announce that we will be increasing our presence on social media!

Specifically, we are revitalizing our **Facebook** page! While we are elated to be increasing communication with all of you in this way, we have some very important guidelines for you to follow to ensure that student privacy and State Department regulations are not compromised.

Pictures:

- Due to State Department regulations, we cannot share photos of our current year students publicly on Facebook (safety first!) so be sure to send us your photos **ONLY** via Facebook Messenger
- Please post photos of places you visit or neat things that you see/experience on Facebook and also share by email for all PEACE Family to enjoy in newsletters.

Posts:

- We pride ourselves on being a moral and kind organization, so please refrain from posting any offensive or inappropriate content.
- Please **do not** include geographical or personal contact information when posting on Facebook but do share by email.

Messaging:

- If you are experiencing an issue or need to speak with a PEACE representative, please contact us via email or phone — not Facebook Messenger



Pro-American Educational and Cultural Exchange

PEACE HEADQUARTERS is **THE HUB** of all communication between students, coordinators, int'l. representatives, schools and families because we issue the student visa. Every year we get the pleasure of interacting with each of you via numerous forms of communication, continuing to improve relations and accessibility.

Annually, we publish 6 bi-monthly **newsletters**, the newest of which you are currently reading! We fill our newsletters with inspiration, education, praise of student and host accomplishments, updates and helpful tips and information to make your experience as memorable as possible! Our website duplicates this and adds even more. We take great enjoyment in creating these newsletters and web pages for you and want to maximize your ability to access them and benefit from their content. In 1988 all communication was by phone & mail.

When we started a **website** we began publishing there, too, and more recently began to substitute email pdf copies of newsletters, forms, applications & instructions instead of postal mail. We know that most of you are technologically inclined, so we hope this better meets your needs. We now only send hosts, students, LCs, and schools, hard copy of what cannot be handled by email - or is requested. The digital advantage is not only speed and cost of delivery but that newsletter and website pages are all in **color**— *way nicer for you than B & W!*

We organize three key events each year: Post-arrival & Pre-departure Orientations are the bookends. In the middle for students is a Spring Trip ending in an Awards Banquet. Our goal in planning these events is to unite, educate, praise and bond with our exchange students. We truly cherish these events and do our best to elevate their importance. For the Spring Trip and Awards, activity surveys, nomination letters, and behavioral contracts are requested of you by email in mid-winter. Reinforcement is also posted on our website and in our Newsletters. We hope to no longer need sending event information in the mail.

So, email, phone and our website are critical in our communications. We rely on **active media** to survey, inform, and send documents and on **static media** to reinforce news & notices and provide easy access to forms and procedural instructions. All year, we need to connect with you; so please check voicemail & email daily. **Thank You!** Our work is only rewarding when we can interact with you and we want you to be as up to date with PEACE happenings as possible! But it is time consuming to have to call people to get email addresses corrected when someone changes their address and it bounces back.

If you have not done so recently, please update us any email or phone changes. Call (570) 277-6621 or email paz@peace-inc.org. Put Email Update and your name in the subject line!

- **Your PEACE Headquarters Family**

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:



Our ailing staff of VP Terry who miraculously has survived 15 operations over 50 years; Office Mgr, Dee, who never took a sick day until this week when she spent one day in bed with the flu; Kat who has pain from a sprained ankle, and Director Richard Page who had to have two teeth filled yesterday, but otherwise has his 95 year old mother's invincible genes. And yes, this request is made in jest as it is the first in 26 years we had no serious ailments or injuries to report.

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!

THIS TRIP IS A PRIVILEGE. STUDENTS ON BEHAVIORAL PROBATION OR ACADEMICALLY BELOW AVERAGE IN ANY SUBJECT WILL NOT GO. NOT ALL INTERNATIONAL REPS PRICED THE TRIP INTO YOUR PACKAGE., BUT IF YOUR PARENTS ARE NOW WILLING TO PAY THE COST, WHICH VARIES DEPENDING ON TRANSPORTATION FROM WHERE YOU ARE PLACED, AND YOU DESERVE TO GO WE WILL WORK YOU IN. PICK UP POINTS ARE STILL BEING PLANNED. FINAL NOTIFICATION WILL BE 2-4 WEEKS BEFORE THE TRIP DEPARTURE DATE.

SPRING FIELD TRIP — TENTATIVELY APRIL 16/17 - 20, HOWEVER EXTREME COLD HAS FORCED POSTPONING THE START DATE THE LAST TWO YEARS IN A ROW.

Starting from Harrisburg, PA tour the state capitol - American's most beautiful statehouse - often compared to the US Capitol; in Baltimore tour Fort William McHenry where the Star's Spangled Banner was written; at U.S. Coast Guard Station Baltimore board buoy tenders, intercept speedboats and cutters; in Washington DC see the largest Catholic Basilica, major monuments, memorials, museums, historic houses, the White House, U.S. Supreme Court, Library of Congress, U.S. Capitol; WWII Marine Memorial & National Cemetery at Arlington VA; Washington's Homestead in Mt. Vernon; picnicking on the Potomac River; dining & dancing and a final awards banquet! On the way home shop in a mall and finish at Hershey's Chocolate World tour.

