

THE DELEGATE

No. 6

November, 1995

FORUM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BEING FORMED

Following discussions at the Washington DC and Klagenfurt reunions this spring and summer it has been decided to form an official Forum Alumni Association. A working group composed of Catherine Marin (France '59), Curt Cheauré (Austria '70) and Gerry Thompson (Rhodesia '60) met in Verbier, Switzerland, in September to plan for the incorporation of the Association under French law, and for the establishment of a Forum bank account. Since then, Catherine has drafted the statutes for the organization.

At both reunions it was felt that the maintenance of the database, the production of THE DELEGATE, reunion planning etc., were too important to us all to leave to the efforts of one or two people and that a more formal association, which could levy dues to support our efforts, was needed.

In the next issue of THE DELEGATE there will be a sign up sheet included which will provide us with expanded information for a new Directory to be published during 1996. An annual fee of USD30 has been suggested as permitting us to publish and mail THE DELEGATE twice a year to everyone on the list. We took note of the fact that while most people would like to support these efforts financially, in some countries it is impossible to get foreign exchange and so those of us who can should support the effort for those who cannot.

Since we are not, as yet, democratically constituted, we are working in an ad hoc manner for the time being. Once we have a membership list we can proceed to more constitutional ways of running things! The important thing is that we are all in this together!!

In the past few years many ideas have been put forward as to possible ventures that we might undertake as a group, ranging from working with the International Herald Tribune to getting Ted Turner to start a new "Forum" type activity on CNN. With a formal Association we should be able to achieve at least some of these ideas.

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN PARIS!!!

Last year's New Year's Eve party in Paris went so well that Catherine Marin is again planning one for this year. Participation promises to be even wider than in 1994! All are invited (and this is a great time to be in Paris, with the Cézanne exhibition, the lights along the Champs-Elysées, not to mention fine French cuisine!!). There are a couple of hotels near Catherine's home in Suresnes (which is 15 minutes by train from the Gare St Lazare). Basic rooms at the Stella without private facilities cost FFR280. With facilities, FFR320. Slightly more "upmarket" is the Suresnes Ibis at FFR320-405. Or, you can stay "downtown" and share a taxi home from the party. Catherine will provide the food and drinks for the party, and all participants will make a contribution to the cost, so don't be shy!! Call Catherine at +33 1 4772 1215 and let her know you'll be there. She will help you with your hotel reservations. We think we'll be about 20-25 people in all!

We'll also have some time for informal discussions on the Alumni Association!

REUNIONS HELD IN WASHINGTON IN MAY, KLAGENFURT IN AUGUST, ISRAEL IN NOVEMBER

-Washington

About thirty people gathered at the Hyatt in Rosslyn VA for the May reunion. We started Friday evening with cocktails and dinner - a purely social occasion which enabled us to meet each other and in many cases to see old friends for the first time in years. Ghana won hands down as the country with the most representatives - one, Kiddie Ofuately-Kodjoe, having even represented the country when it was still the Gold Coast! 1960 was the year with most delegates present - 6 happy people in all!

On Saturday morning we met to talk "business". A more formal meeting than perhaps happened at Corfu and Klagenfurt, but none the less enjoyable. Jayantha Dhanapala (Sri Lanka '57) used his well-honed chairman's skills to move us along our agenda with ease and with focus - Jayantha had just finished chairing the month-long UN conference on nuclear non-proliferation. Maybe that was easier than chairing a Forum meeting!! As noted elsewhere in this Delegate, we decided that we needed a more formal association, and Gus Nasmith (USA '62) was deputized to represent our thoughts to the Klagenfurt group later in the summer.

Saturday afternoon we went our separate ways to take advantage of what Washington had to offer. A group of homesick Africans headed for the Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian to view the African art. (and to buy books at their shop!). In the early evening we were all guests of Jayantha and Maureen Dhanapala for a reception given in the garden of the residence. We had a chance to meet people from the Washington area as well as members of the Sri Lankan Embassy staff and their families. We were treated to lovely Sri Lankan snacks along with our drinks!!

Sunday we ended up with a brunch at the Hyatt before leaving to go back to our regular occupations all across North America.

People attending were:

Sergio Duarte (Brazil '53)
Judy Perry Holst (Canada '53)
Wentworth (Kiddie) Ofuately-Kodjoe (Gold Coast/Ghana '54)
Alfred (Nini) Bannerman (Ghana '56)
Jayantha Dhanapala (Ceylon/Sri Lanka '57)
Tetteh (Ben) Kofi (Ghana '58)
Joanne Turner Van Der Wee (Canada '60)
Nani Dzidienyo (Ghana '60)
Jona Burgess Hammer (Iceland '60)
Bimal Jain (India '60)
Gerry Bray Thompson (Rhodesia/Zimbabwe '60)
Lynn Baron Henson (USA '60)
Emmanuel (Manoli) Cassimatis (Greece '62)
Gus Nasmith (USA '62)

Washington Reunion, continued:

Catherine Beamish (Canada '67)
Avri Ravid (Israel '68)
Jutta Hennig (Germany '69)
Sherille Ismail (Sri Lanka '71)
Joan Layton (Forum Office staff)

Plus, of course, various family members, "significant others" etc

- Klagenfurt in August

It was with great excitement and high expectations that we all arrived at Klagenfurt Youth Hostel for our reunion organized by Curt Cheauré (Austria '70) in his home province of Carinthia, Austria.

And what a mixed bunch we were!

Eline Loubser - South Africa '54
Daphna Cohen-Mintz - Israel '57
Catherine Marin - France '59
Jordan Arzoglou - Greece '60
Peter Krohn - Germany '60
Regine Berrivin Moretto - France '62
Olli Staistrom - Finland '62
Gus Nasmith - USA '62
Annemarie Meierjohan - Austria '63
Rachel Lev-Pinkus - Israel '64
Monika Kalista - Austria '65
Elisabeth Mossler-Lundberg - Sweden '66
Difie Kusi - Ghana '67
Orit Furman - Israel '70
Bahram Niamir - Iran '70
Melponmeni Korneti - Yugoslavia '70
Curt Cheauré - Austria '70
Paul Pilger - Austria '72

(and as in Washington, various spouses, friends, significant others, children, etc etc!)

Curt had hoped to interest younger people from Eastern Europe to participate and learn about the Forum spirit and peaceful communication: Marin Buric from Zagreb unfortunately had to return on the Tuesday because of his country's call to arms.

The Youth Hostel was ideally situated for our needs: It was close to the city as well as within walking distance of the beautiful Worthersee. Very soon we had a communal spot under old trees on green grass at the lakeside where we had interesting talks in a vacation-like spirit.

One of the concrete things that emerged from the talks was to have a "contact person" in each country to whom all mail could be sent. She or he would then be responsible for making copies and distributing them to all delegates in that country. This way we can save on the mail bill. (See also The Delegate item on the Association...) We have now set this up, and The Delegate will be distributed regionally this time around.

Curt organised several highlights for the week. The first was a formal get-together dinner at the Hotel Sandwirt where some of the group stayed.

Tuesday saw us on a bus touring wonderful Carinthia with its lakes, mountains and historical places as well as Curt's own heimat. We all felt transported back in time - to Forum trips on buses.

And then, some of us, urged on by Catherine's enthusiasm, also went "delegate hunting". We crossed the border of Slovenia, drove to a little

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village near Ljubljana and visited a local café. The young waiter was a little surprised by our mixed group, vehemently looking for a man he had never heard about! But then we were joined by an elderly man who did know "Nikki" (Yugoslavia '68). He told us that he was living in the States, brought us to his mother-in-law and made sure that we left the village with the proper information.

That same evening in Ljubljana some of us also met Gojko's family (Yugoslavia '59). We had vainly tried to talk with him on the phone and were not sure of his address. Now he can't escape us anymore!

It might take some while to trace all the lost delegates that way - but then it's well worth trying each time it's possible and successful!!

On Thursday we were graciously received by the mayor of Klagenfurt, who made us all feel very welcome in his hospitable and tourist-friendly city.

Gus had organized a commemoration meeting which we held at a nearby British war cemetery. It was with a feeling of togetherness that we shared a few moments of silence and lit candles for Forum friends and relatives who had passed away.

Afterwards we embarked on a lovely evening boat trip on the Worthersee, complete with nostalgic music in a magical landscape. Régine, with her infectious laughter and song, even had some of us dancing - much to the displeasure of some of the youngsters!

The next night saw us again on the shores of the Worthersee toasting to peace, health and friendship in our many different languages with Elisabeth singing her toast in a typical Swedish way.

As at the Forum, and again in Corfu, it was hard to say goodbye to old and newly found friends. Let's meet again!!

Monika, in her own words, had a mini-reunion following Klagenfurt! --

Luckily we all did not part immediately otherwise I don't know how I would have survived. But each who left took something from our hearts and an essential part was missing.

Sunday Eline, Annemarie, Catherine, Régine, Monika, Orit and her son Shiran went in two cars over a lovely road to the Attersee in the Austrian lake district where Annemarie's family has a summerhouse, and where Régine found a long lost friend Doris, after 15 years of being out of touch!

Orit and Shiran went back to Salzburg with Monika and made full use of all the cultural activities. Then, after they left, Catherine arrived and the following day Eline, Régine and Annemarie made up a new reunion again, having lunch with Monika at Salzburg's Peter's Keller, which became a baggage storage and meeting place for us. And in Monika's small apartment the next morning Rachel joined the breakfast table via telephone.

Those were the days, my friends.....

(The above was a joint effort by Annemarie, Monika, Catherine and Eline)

FORUM MEMORABILIA, ARCHIVES. ETC. WANTED

Curt Cheauré (Austria '70) has been designated as our Archivist....please send him any Forum materials, photos, lists, etc that you can spare (or copies of those you can't.....)

SONNENBLUMENFELDFESTFOTO needed!!!

Catherine Marin is looking for a picture of the visit to the Sonnenblumenfeldfest during the Klagenfurt reunion....anyone who has one, please send it to her!

SOME MISSING DELEGATES FOUND!!!

There are, as we all know, loads of ways to find people. The simplest is to look people up in the local phone books....but that can get complicated if one can't read the language of the country one is in!! It seems that, for many of us, "delegate hunting" has become something akin to a sport or a passion....anyway, here are a list of names of people that we have recently "found":

FRANCE:

- '58 Françoise Monnier, 56 av du Gen.Koenig, 92200 Neuilly
- '60 Eric Dietlin (Jordan Arzoglou, Greece '60, has his address)
- '64 Brigitte Orcel-Buffet, 7 r.Maitre Jacques, 92100 Boulogne

GHANA:

- '59 Nii T.C. Quao - is a physician in Montreal. Home phone: +1 514 932 4382

NORWAY:

- '54 Gunnar Aasland, Passasj Sjef Ammerudv 54, Oslo
- '60 Knut Sogstad, Rosenborgg 22, Oslo N0356
- '61 Per Seglen, Vaekeroev, N1207 Oslo

Curt Cheauré has a friend who works as an international phone operator, and has been checking old names and addresses. We have several phone numbers of delegates parents, and will pass on the new "real" addresses once we have checked these out!

Sadly, our research does not always end well. We found out that Denis Favier (France '61) and Phalla Kim Tit (Cambodia '60) have died.

FORUM CHILDREN

At the Klagenfurt reunion, Christina Lundberg, daughter of Elisabeth Mossler-Lundberg (Sweden '66) offered to help link any children of former delegates who would be interested by a "Junior Delegate" newsletter....if you have children interested in this, whatever their age, have them contact Christina in England at +44 1932 843600 or by mail: Rowan House, Cavendish Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0JW.

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Judith Mullin Round (UK'66) has moved to:

8 Peak Road,
Clenfield,

Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 0QT.

Tel: +44 1705 598472.

She would welcome Forum visitors...but please ring first!

- ISRAEL REUNION

(Note: This came via email, and part was garbled! Rather than hold up The Delegate, I patched it together! Gerry)

The Israelis held their second reunion on November 18th, this time at Ashkelon. Not many people attended, since some were abroad, and some ill with the winter flu. Also, the very sad events of the weeks prior to the reunion obviously took their toll. People had a lot of work pending since they had not been in their offices much during those weeks. Two people attended who had not been able to make it last year - Avri Ravid, who had also attended the Washington DC reunion, and who is living in New Jersey, but is spending this semester at Haifa University, and Alon Warburg (Israel '71). Others attending were Daphna Cohen-Mintz ('57) and her husband Tani, Orit Furman ('70), Ruth Belkin ('58) and her husband Mischa and Ami Tal ('52) and his wife Odeda. Odeda is an artist. She painted an exhibition over the last few years dealing with violence. Violence of all kinds. The pictures were large and loud. The exhibition opened on November 4th, at the same time as the rally in Tel Aviv. Some of her friends left the rally and drove to Ashkelon to take part in the opening of the exhibition. They did not know at that time that Rabin had been assassinated. Since the topic of the exhibition was so forceful, it has become a center of activity in Ashkelon, and we too, at our reunion, had the privilege of meeting the artist and hearing first hand how she came about to paint those anti-violence pictures.

Ami was an excellent guide and took us touring around the city on the Mediterranean Sea. We had a lovely gathering at their home, and we hope to continue our small meetings.

Written by Daphna Cohen-Mintz

DELEGATE ITEMS:

Please send any articles for The Delegate, address changes, information about delegates you have found, etc., to:

Gerry Thompson

La Verveine, 215

CH-1936 Verbier

Switzerland

Tel: +41 (026) 31 44 78

Fax: +41 (026) 31 44 48

(Fax is on from 0900-2100 CET)

A PERSONAL COMMENT.....

In September, 1992, I was at Stanford University in conjunction with study abroad programs, and met with Gerhard Casper (Germany '54) who had just taken office as President of Stanford. We reminisced about the Forum (Gerhard had been an alumni fellow in my year, and had suffered agonies escorting 35 not-easily-subdued delegates to Ghana!!) and he said that it was a shame that there was no means of keeping us all in touch. That some of us - he mentioned Johan Holst (Norway '56) - were in very important jobs, and anyway, we all should be able to network and help each other. I stewed about this comment all fall as I travelled around the campuses in the United States. Finally I realised that if someone was to do this, that someone was me!! So I got in touch with the publisher of the International Herald Tribune, Lee Huebner, who willingly agreed to run some free house ads for us. Never, in my wildest dreams, did I think that three years later we would have over 200 names and addresses on our list, and that we would have already held five reunions! (Corfu, Tel Aviv, Washington, Klagenfurt and Tel Aviv again!!). I am thrilled by the development of an alumni association, and

always delighted when we find a lost delegate.

But I think the time has come to go beyond the reunions and the fun! We have the knowledge and the connections to do something really important for the youth of the world, and I think the alumni association will be the vehicle to do this. We cannot approach people like Ted Turner or the IHT unless we have a structure. I hope that all of you will find the time - even a few minutes here and there - to work on this with us.

My husband (who himself has participated in exchange programs) said that there is something truly unique about us forum people. That whenever we meet another delegate, even someone we have never seen before, we act like old friends who have shared a common past, and who understand each other. This is as true of the "Helen Waller years" as of 1962 or the "Bob Huffman years". We have a common point of reference which somehow binds us together. We are not young people anymore. If we are going to do something worthwhile NOW is the time. I hope that those of you out there who have enjoyed getting The Delegate and have perhaps been in touch again with someone from your year but have never come to a reunion nor been any more involved in this project will now join in and make this a terrific joint effort!!

The association will help us define our goals and then be a means to helping us achieve them. Please participate in this work!

Gerry