

## **GOLDEN 50-YEAR REUNION – JUNE 27, 2009**

Twenty-three people joined together on Saturday, 27 June 2009, to celebrate the Golden 50-Year Reunion of the 1959 UN Pilgrimage Group from CA, NV and UT (Tour Group 5). The celebrants included 12 **Pilgrims<sup>A</sup>**, 2 **Leaders<sup>B</sup>** from the UN Pilgrimage Staff in New York City, 1 **Leader<sup>C</sup>** of the current California UN Pilgrimage Delegation, and 8 family members; all are listed below:

**Anna Beth<sup>A</sup>** (Nygaard) Alexander, **Kay<sup>\*</sup>** (Pudge) Barnes, **Ann<sup>\*</sup>** (Creighton) & Tom Bateman, **Tom<sup>\*</sup>** & Lee Fernandez, **Mary<sup>\*</sup>** (Johnson) & Don Forth, **Roger<sup>\*</sup>** & Ildi Holdstock, **Diane<sup>\*</sup>** (Judge) & Bruce Kennedy, **Roy King<sup>C</sup>**, **Marilyn<sup>\*</sup>** (Moore) Loss, **Susan<sup>\*</sup>** (Ormsbee) & Michael Murphy, **Pat<sup>B</sup>** (Barnard) Player, **Kareen<sup>\*</sup>** (Hanson) Sheffield, **Don<sup>B</sup>** & Darlene Smith, **John<sup>\*</sup>** Weinstein, **Carlos<sup>\*</sup>** & son, Juan Carlos Ynostroza.

Some travelled long distances to attend: Anna Beth Alexander drove from Broomfield CO; Roger & Ildi Holdstock drove from Vancouver BC; Ann & Tom Bateman drove from Philomath OR, Roy King flew from Los Angeles; Marilyn Loss flew from Great Bend KS; and John Weinstein flew from Houston TX.

This Golden Reunion was held at Tom & Lee Fernandez's home in Redwood City, CA as a casual Open House from noon until 10 pm. Their home is located along the Redwood Shores Lagoon on the San Francisco Bay Peninsula. Co-Hosts were Lee & Tom Fernandez and Kay Barnes. Marilyn Loss assisted with hosting on this day. Appetizers and drinks were served in the afternoon, followed by a buffet dinner in the early evening.

Kay Barnes greeted celebrants upon arrival with their name tags which helped immensely. Most of the day was spent getting acquainted and reacquainted, catching up on the past 25 to 50 years; and sharing memories and memorabilia (pictures, scrapbooks) from the Pilgrimage. People shared thoughts about their life experiences, and stories about their families, careers, travels and special interests. Four draft copies of this 50-Year Reunion book were available for those present to review the biographies and pictures of other Pilgrims, especially those not able to attend. Roger Holdstock brought his guitar to lead and inspire great singing (as on the Pilgrimage), but we never got around to that part of the event. This suggests we need another reunion in the not too distant future.

During the visitations, people took time to remember and honor our three Pilgrims and four Leaders who have passed away: Pilgrims Judy Toyias Anthony, Gayle Kubler Code, Aleene Mamath Yacoub; and Leaders Carl Reitz, Geneva Lewis, and Vivian & Jerry Kara. Surely their spirits were powerfully present as we recalled fond memories of each of them.

The evening activities shifted to an informal program. Tom & Ann Bateman presented a slide show of Ann's pictures from the 1959 Pilgrimage. This inspired lots of discussion as we recalled the people, places, times and ambience captured in those pictures from 50 years ago.

Don Smith, Assistant Director of the 1959 UN Pilgrimage For Youth, described his experiences as a very active Odd Fellow for over 60 years and a view of the UN Pilgrimage from the very busy NYC Headquarters staff during the 7 weeks of that summer. Pat Player, also on the UN Pilgrimage NYC staff, agreed with Don's remarks and added how the NYC staff worked very long hours 6.5 days per week for 7 weeks as about 120 new Pilgrims arrived each week for their one week tour.

Roy King, also a life-long active Odd Fellow, shared his experiences during the 1970s as a UN Pilgrimage Tour Leader and during the past 5 years as Co-Chair of the California UN Pilgrimage Delegation. Today, many of the

same places are visited in New York City and Washington DC, but (1) the Pilgrimage is no longer competitive, (2) delegates pay their own expenses, (3) cross-country travel is now by airplane, not train nor bus, and (4) the length of the Pilgrimage has been shortened from 3.5 to 2.5 weeks. Roy made a sincere request for all willing Pilgrims to share their memorabilia and pictures with him as he continues to build an archive for the UN Pilgrimage For Youth. He will safely handle, copy and return all material shared.

John Weinstein initiated a thoughtful discussion asking Pilgrims how they believe the UN Pilgrimage impacted their lives and careers. He shared some personal experiences, including studying with Henry Kissinger at Harvard and his keen interest in international issues as a result of the Pilgrimage. Others shared their thoughts as well; common themes were how the Pilgrimage opened their minds to a much broader world full of opportunities, and instilled self-confidence in them especially from the speaking.

Tom Fernandez thanked Tom and Ann Bateman for the Pilgrimage Slide Show; Don, Pat and Roy for their interesting Pilgrimage remarks; and all who attended, especially those who traveled long distances from outside CA. He thanked all who have contributed biographies and memorabilia for the 1959 UN Pilgrimage Golden Reunion Memory Book. He asked all Pilgrims to remember with gratitude and thanks all of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs who helped make our Pilgrimage trip possible. This includes those lodges that organized contests and sponsored delegates, the UN Pilgrimage staff, and those lodges that provided hospitality along our journey.

Kay Barnes then challenged the group to try answering Ten Trivia Questions about the 1959 UN Pilgrimage For Youth, which are listed below. All answers are in this 50 Year Reunion Memory Book, especially Gayle Kubler's Daily Journal. For help, contact another Pilgrim listed in the Directory at the front of this book..

1. Who sponsored(s) the United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth? For how many years as of 2009?
2. What were the names of our 3 Tour 5 Leaders / Chaperones?
3. What were the names of the 3 adults from California that were on the NYC staff of the UN Pilgrimage for Youth?
4. How many 1959 Pilgrims were on Tour 5? How many women? How many men?
5. What day did we leave on our Pilgrimage? What was our return date?
6. What was the name and nickname of our Tour 5 Greyhound bus driver?
7. Where did we eat breakfast everyday in New York?
8. What musical did you see in New York?
9. Which two Pilgrims won the "best speech" contest in New York City?
10. Who did not ride the train home with us from Chicago? Who departed in Cheyenne WY?

The Pilgrims, Leaders and Guests shared fond good-byes until the next gathering. Kay Barnes offered each a gift packet of cards and envelopes she made especially for this occasion.

**WELCOME TO THE 50 YEAR REUNION OF THE 1959 UN PILGRIMAGE TOUR 5 GROUP**



Co-Host Tom Fernandez & Mary J Forth

*"Celebrate right now, Come On ...."*



UN Reunion Co-Hostesses Kay P Barnes, Marilyn M Loss and Lee Fernandez

***Twelve of the 1959 UN Pilgrims and Two of the NYC Leaders celebrating this Golden Milestone***



***Front Row: Marilyn Loss, Anna Beth Alexander, Susan Murphy***

***Standing: Roger Holdstock, Tom Fernandez, Diane Kennedy, Ann Bateman, Kay Barnes, Mary Forth, Karen Sheffield, John Weinstein, Carlos Ynostroza, Pat Player, Don Smith***



**Roy King, Don Smith, Pat Player, Darlene Smith, and Roger & Ildi Holdstock gettingacquainted**



**Don & Mary Forth and Diane & Bruce Kennedy catching up and sharing memories**



**Ann & Tom Bateman, Kay Barnes, John Weinstein, Mary Forth, Tom Fernandez and Karen Sheffield**

*Such is FRIENDSHIP that through it, we love places and seasons;  
For as bright bodies emit rays at a distance, and flowers drop their sweet leaves on the ground  
around them,  
So friends impart favor even to the places where they dwell ...  
Words cannot express the Joy which a FRIEND imparts.  
by St. John Chrysostom, from Pilgrim Diana Raney Curson*



**Anna Beth Alexander** visiting on the deck



**Roy King** with **Darlene & Don Smith** on the deck



**L to R: Tom Fernandez, Susan Murphy, Roger Holdstock, Carlos Ynostroza, Ildi Holdstock, Mary Forth**



**Diane, Mary and Carlos greeting one another    Karen, Ildi, Marilyn, Susan and John in right background**



**Left to Right: Kay Barnes, John Weinstein, Ildi Holstock, Juan Carlos & Carlos Ynostroza, Karen Sheffield and Susan Murphy**



**Kareen, Tom, Diane, Ann, Mary, Marilyn, Roger, Carlos, Susan, John; (missing Kay and Anna Beth)**



**Susan, Juan Carlos Y, Kay, Ildi, Carlos and Roger sharing and catching up**



**Tom Bateman preparing the slide show, Juan Carlos, Michael & Susan Murphy, Pat Player**



***Dusk on the Redwood Shores Lagoon***



*Bottom Right to Mid Left to Top Right:* Kay Barnes, Marilyn Loss, Diane Kennedy, Mary Forth, Tom Fernandez, Don Smith, Pat Player, Susan Ormsbee, Carlos Ynostroza, Roger Holdstock and John Weinstein



*So long for now, you amazing U.N Pilgrims.  
Please stay in touch with one another often as we  
continue our journeys, gather whenever possible,  
and look forward to the next  
1959 U.N Pilgrimage for Youth Reunion.*

*Thank you Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
and Rebekahs for making our trip possible!*

*In Friendship, Love and Truth,  
Tom Fernandez, Marilyn Loss & Kay Barnes*