



**Friends of Korea**

Dedicated to fostering cultural awareness and  
friendship between Americans and Koreans

## **Annual Report - 2014**

### **Renewed Purpose - Giving Back**

One of the primary topics discussed by the Friends of Korea (FOK) board for the past several years has centered on relevance - how to make the organization a vital and contributing partner to the Korean and Korean-American communities.

The overall mission of promoting friendship and cultural awareness between Americans and Korean is broad, giving room for many opportunities and activities. There has been a robust set of FOK activities over the past several years, including exhibits, talks, picnics, dinner parties, etc. However, there has been a growing sense within the leadership and membership, especially after the conclusion of the eight wonderful revisit trips sponsored in 2009 through 2013, that Friends of Korea should become proactive in a more substantive way. In other words, we needed to find a way to 'give back' to a country and a people that have been so generous and appreciative of former Peace Corps volunteers' past service. After a long discussion about the range of possible philanthropic opportunities, the board approved a new initiative, tentatively named "Giving Back." A board working group will further define the initiative in early 2015 for final review and implementation.

There are so many ways FOK can continue to give back to Korea. The following are just a few examples of what is under consideration: We can support worthy social service organizations here in the US that are addressing the needs of the Korean immigrant population; we can support the educational aspirations of Korean scholars interested in coming to the US to further their education; or we can support young Americans interested in going to Korea to learn more about Korean culture and history.

### **First Grant Announced**

At the Friends of Korea annual meeting in Los Angeles on November 15, 2014, FOK President Nancy Kelly announced that FOK would donate \$2000 to a local Korean American community organization as part of a new board-approved initiative to give back to the Korean community. She requested that Consul General Ambassador Hyun-myung Kim, the Korean Consul General in Los Angeles, identify an organization in the area with a proven record of providing programs in the area of counseling, education, and social services for the Korean-American community. He recommended Korean American Family Services (KFAM).

In recommending KFAM to Friends of Korea, Ambassador Kim remarked: "KFAM's mission is to support and strengthen Korean American families and individuals in the greater Los Angeles area. Since its inception in 1983, KFAM has provided assistance to tens of thousands of Korean Americans, particularly women, children, immigrants and low income families."

Connie Chung Joe, Executive Director of KFAM, told those gathered at the presentation, "It is organizations like Friends of Korea that quietly go about the business of helping to build bridges of understanding between the very different and diverse cultural groups we serve that inspire us to work harder every day. I applaud their dedication. We are so very grateful for the Friends of Korea's generous support of KFAM."

### **Outreach to Korean Consuls Generals**

One of the goals established by the Board of Directors of Friends of Korea in 2013 was to establish connections with the nine Korean consuls generals across the United States. A letter introducing Friends of Korea and outlining our history and mission was sent to all the consuls generals in the summer of 2014. The response was immediate and favorable.

With contact information provided by Friends of Korea, the Korean consulate in Seattle invited all former Peace Corps/Korea volunteers living in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska to attend a formal dinner and a photo exhibit titled "Past, Present and Future Friends of Korea." The dinner, held on June 13, 2014 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, was hosted by the consulate and designed to honor not only Peace Corps volunteers, but Fulbright Scholars, EPIK (English Program in Korea) teachers, and others who lived and worked in Korea in the past. Approximately 100 people attended the event, including three K-1 Peace Corps/Korea volunteers who served in the first PCV group in Korea, arriving in 1966. Speakers included Consul General Moon, Duk-Ho and Greg Caldwell, Honorary Consul in Portland, Oregon, who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Korea in 1971-1973.

Encouraged by the success of the Seattle Peace Corps dinner-photo exhibit in June 2014, Consul General Moon Duk-ho, asked Honorary Consul Caldwell to organize a similar dinner for Peace Corps Korea volunteers in Portland, which was held in early December of 2014. Sixteen of the 24 returned PCVs in the State attended. The volunteers were joined by their spouses, leaders in the Korean American community, and elected officials throughout the state. The sixty-seven guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner at the Multnomah Athletic Club hosted by the Korean Consulate in Seattle. The program included a display of the PCVs personal photos, a Korean violinist playing songs familiar to the volunteers, a video of remembrances about the Peace Corps in Korea, and speeches by three PCVs. It was a memorable evening for those who attended.

On October 28, 2014, the New York Consul General of the Republic of Korea hosted an evening of traditional music and dance and dinner for Friends of Korea members in the greater New York area at the Korean Mission to the United Nations in Manhattan. The evening began with a reception, during which FOK members and New York-based diplomats could mingle. They also

previewed FOK board member David Lassiter's excellent video, "The Korean Transformation and the Peace Corps." Official greetings were offered by Korean Ambassador Son Se-joo and Nancy Kelly, President of FOK.

After a dinner, guests were treated to traditional dance and drumming performances and ~~also~~ to contributions from FOK members. Bruce Ballard, a former Peace Corps volunteer/Korea) introduced a video of his Bronx New York elementary school class dressed in traditional Korean garb and performing traditional Korean songs. (To view this video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6eidVDkUCw>). A second video, "In addition Memories of Peace Corps Volunteers," a video was shown. The video was created by Lee Joon Hee, the son of Mrs. Shin Hae Park who for many years served as a senior Peace Corps staff member in Seoul. To view, visit the Friends of Korea video gallery: <http://www.friendsofkorea.net/video-gallery.html>. The evening ended with FOK members John Carter and Helen Park leading all in a number of traditional folk songs.

Feedback from all was overwhelmingly positive. A second event tentatively scheduled for fall 2015 is planned.

### **Exhibit at Korean Cultural Center**

In September of 2014, the Korean Cultural Center in Washington, DC held an exhibition of Neil Landreville's ink brush paintings that depict a Korea largely gone or remembered only to older generations, including former Peace Corps volunteers. Drawn from his memory upon his return to the US, these images were Neil's way of capturing and remembering activities of everyday life in Korea. Stored away for more than 35 years, these paintings have received considerable acclaim since their rediscovery. Other exhibits on the West Coast are planned in 2015.

### **Annual Meeting**

Approximately 25 members of Friends of Korea gathered at the Korean Cultural Center in Los Angeles on November 14th for the annual membership meeting.—Some 60 members and others attended the general meeting that followed.

Business transacted during the membership meeting included the election of officers and directors of the board of directors. President Nancy Kelly spoke about Friends of Korea's change in focus, from event-oriented organization to one more focused on developing partnerships with other organizations ~~to~~ and giving back to Korea and the Korean American community. FOK treasurer James Mayer reported on the financial health of the organization and reminded all attendees of the opportunity to renew their membership.

At the general meeting that followed, Nancy Kelly and Byungkon Kim, director of the Korea Foundation in Los Angeles, gave welcoming remarks. The keynote address followed, presented by Ambassador Hyun-Myung Kim, consul general in Los Angeles for the Republic of Korea, whose topic was the current situation on the Korean Peninsula. Following Ambassador Kim's

remarks, Nancy Kelly, on behalf of FOK, presented him with a letter of commitment for \$2000 to benefit a social service organization of his choosing that benefits Koreans in the Los Angeles area.

There then was a panel discussion, "Korean-American identity, culture & community in the 21st century." Panel participants included Dr. Edward T. Chang, professor of ethnic studies at UC Riverside; Sukhee Kang, adjunct professor and former mayor of Irvine, CA; and Paula Ness Speers, former Peace Corps volunteer in Korea. The panel was moderated by Mary Broude. A question-and-answer session followed.

At the conclusion of the program, musical entertainment was provided by the Korean American Young Artists group. A buffet dinner was held for all meeting attendees at the residence of Consul General Ambassador Kim.

### **Officers and Directors**

The officers for the 2014-2015 term are Nancy Kelly, president; Suzanna Crowder Han, vice president; Gerard Krzic, vice president; Lynn Barclay, secretary; and James Mayer, treasurer. The new board directors are Greg Caldwell; David Harrop; Robert Ichihana; Younghee MacIntyre; and Dan Strickland. For a full list of the board of directors, [click here](#).

**Friends of Korea**  
**2014 Financial Report**

**Income**

Dues	\$	13,015.00
Unrestricted donations	\$	1,240.00
Restricted donations	\$	-
Publications	\$	775.00
Interest and Misc	\$	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,030.00</b>

**Expenses**

Communications & website	\$	420.00
Dues, NPCA	\$	80.00
Licenses & fees	\$	-
Bank & credit card fees	\$	431.57
Meetings	\$	1,967.47
Office supplies & equipment	\$	336.20
Postage	\$	938.05
Printing	\$	239.81
Photo exhibit	\$	503.74
Professional fees	\$	90.00
Travel	\$	2,550.00
Special projects	\$	2,060.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,616.84</b>

**Net income** **\$** **5,413.16**

Prepared March 1, 2015  
cash basis