

The Compass

CISV Greater Springfield Chapter Newsletter



**CISV educates and inspires action
for a more just and peaceful world**

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 11/12/2011 | JB Activity about
Human Rights |
| 12/10/2011 | JB Cookie - a - thon |
| 12/27 -
12/29/2011 | Holiday Mini
Camp |
| 2/4/2012 | Selection Play Date
Trinity Church
Sumner Ave |
| March 2012 | Regional Mini
Camp- NYC |
| April, 2012 | Maine Mini Camp |
| May 25-28,
2012 | National Mini
Camp
Brandywine, PA |

From the President

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since I was elected President of CISV Greater Springfield. Since that time I have met many interesting people in the CISV family and in our local community. This position has been a wonderfully challenging journey for me. The biggest challenge we face as a chapter is to think of ourselves as a 'peace education organization' rather than an 'international travel program'.

This newsletter is designed to highlight what we have accomplished in the last year and what we have planned for the coming year. All CISV events are planned to educate about the **Attitudes, Skills and Knowledge (ASK)** needed become a more active and global citizen. This is at the core of what CISV is all about. Our Chapter is committed to bringing this kind of programming to each of our educational content areas: Diversity, Human Rights, Conflict and Peaceful Resolution, and Sustainable Development, while sharing it with our community to build global friendship. We are working for a more peaceful and just world by starting with children here in Hampden County through local programs, and, bringing it around the world through our many summer programs.

We have an exciting year planned. We are working hard to bring the CISV spirit to Greater Springfield. Please help us by signing up to follow the blog on our web site (www.cisvspringfield.org) and check the calendar on the web site often. You never know when you may find something there that interests you.

Yours for a more peaceful and just world through global friendship,



In this inaugural issue of The Compass we highlight recent travels, plans for the future and an inspirational message from our International President



Village Delegations hit the road....

2011 - Paris

Leader, Sally Roberge and delegates, Andrew Smith, Cole Norman, Kayleigh Campbell and Tamira Powe represented CISV Greater Springfield in Paris France at CISV's cornerstone program that is a mix of educational, cultural and sporting activities, which emphasize cooperative and intercultural living. "The activities were really deep. They made me think about how I perceive people," Andrew Smith told the Republican reporter Elizabeth Roman.

Village 2010: The Best Summer Ever

by Molly Donohue

Who would have thought that a month away from my family and friends in a strange new place wouldn't be horrible? Well it turned out to be completely the opposite: the best summer of my life. The friendships I made were really special – people I'll never forget. The activities I did were really interesting. Some were like any other summer

2010 - Hamburg

camp, but many were different. The activities were fun, but they showed you what it was like in the world for some people, and discussed real world issues.

Our Village was in Hamburg, Germany. I went with three other people from the Springfield area. Little did I know they would soon become like siblings to me. The Hamburg chapter has its own house with 24 bedrooms. There were 12 delegations there from 12 different countries including Japan, Italy, Ecuador, and Spain, but all the kids spoke English. In each delegation, there are two boys and two girls around the age of 11, and a leader who is an older person that accompanies the kids and helps plan the Village activities. I will never forget the friendships I made at Village,

Interchange with Forli, Italy - 2011

By Michael Lachenmeyer

I traveled to Forli, Italy, this summer as part of Interchange. I loved Interchange, because I enjoyed eating the wonderful food and getting to know my Italian families. I was very happy that I had a chance to see historical places in Florence, Venice, and Ravenna.

I also liked that we hosted the Italians in Springfield for two weeks. It gave them a chance to see how we live. It was a great experience for me.

The Forli-Springfield Interchange Mini-Camp benefited from a \$650 grant through our National Office and the Shinnyo-En Peace



Foundation. We thank them for supporting this groups service project of river bed clean up while canoeing the Connecticut River.

AIM Welcome Address

International President and Greater Springfield founder, Brett Vottero addressed the Annual International Meeting and explains why CISV is the answer to the summer's violence in Norway



Good evening, and thank you for your welcome. It is a very real pleasure for me to extend an official welcome to all of you on behalf of the International Executive Committee... This evening we are prepared to celebrate the start of AIM 2011, to review our successes and challenges since our time together in Berlin last August, and to plan and prepare for 2012 and future years.

But before we celebrate, I want to say a few words about recent events.

Just days ago, as final preparations for this meeting were underway, a summer camp for young people in Norway was the target of a violent attack that has resulted in 77 deaths - an attack that has devastated families, a nation and the world,

...an attack that claimed the life of young Johannes Buo, of Norway, a Village delegate to Brazil and a Youth Meeting participant just last year.

As news of this tragedy spread around the globe, I know that CISV members everywhere were hurt to their very core by this news. As details emerged - and as we learned about the person responsible for

this crime, our collective anguish could only grow.

Young people - targeted for violence - because of their commitment to social justice? because they "accepted" immigrants?

How can CISV respond to these events? While many people around the world have reacted with emotion - with sadness - with outrage - with tears, many also react with despair - wondering what they could do - what anyone could do in response to such unspeakable violence.

But as CISV's Founder once noted, we in CISV are privileged to have the opportunity to take concrete action towards peace.

We have been doing something.

We are doing something.

Though CISV was founded as a long term strategy to prevent war, our programs today are aimed at violence of many kinds, including the violence we witnessed less than two weeks ago.

If, as was recently written, "prejudice is the infrastructure of hate crime and terrorism", then CISV's peace education program is aimed at tearing down that structure,

stereotype by stereotype, child by child, family by family and Chapter by Chapter.

For sixty years CISV has educated young people with experiences that are deeply felt and never forgotten. For those still active - and for the almost quarter million of past participants, the warm and bittersweet emotions of our youth are not far from our thoughts. I am sure that many thousand of our alumni - upon reading of events in Norway - thought quickly of their CISV experience and the contrast between the summer of their youth - and the nightmare in the news.

So what is there to celebrate? In the aftermath of these events - what can we celebrate?

We can begin by celebrating the lives and memories of those young people who we have lost, including Joannes Buo.

We can celebrate that the memory of their lives will remain with each of us - and will inspire us to continue our work together.

We can celebrate those young

Continued

lives by renewing our shared commitment to that which they so passionately believed - that we all have a part to play in working to build a more just and peaceful world.

We can celebrate the positive difference we have made, and are dedicated to continuing to make, through educating and inspiring individuals and communities- local and global.

We can celebrate our personal and collective contributions to the purpose of CISV.

We can celebrate the twenty year record of success that CISV Indonesia celebrates this year, and the work of the volunteers of CISV Indonesia that has made this meeting possible.

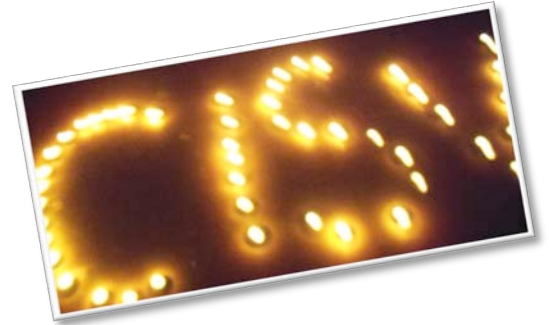
We can celebrate the success of CISV program - one that now provides quality peace education experiences to over 7,000 people each year.

The truth is that CISV members do not despair of the future.

We plan for it. We work for it.

And while we are celebrating our 60 year history - in truth, - we are more joyful and happy to continue looking forward to the future - a future filled with children and adults who "understand one another's point of view", who celebrate our differences as well as "how alike"

we are.



First Annual Holiday Mini Camp

Mini Camp is a weekend long camp within the local chapter. It is planned and run by local Juniors and leaders. It is a chance for participants to have a camp like experience locally and allows potential delegates and JCs to have a taste of what a few days of camp may be like. Activities can range from sports, to simulation activities to guest speakers and much more.

We are hosting a mini camp from Tuesday 12/27/11 to 12/29/11. Academy Hill School is our partner in this camp. The cost is just \$80 and a sliding need based assistance scale is available.

All residents from Hampden County are invited. We will also be joined by experienced CISVers from another chapter.

Local Programing takes off in Springfield

We hosted two one day "Peace Education in Action" programs at Springfield Renaissance School (1/22/2011 and 3/25/2011) . These programs were open to all 7th and 8th graders at Renaissance. (32 participants)

Facilitated CISV activities for all fifth graders at Elias Brookings School on four consecutive Wednesdays in March (45 participants)

Joined the Mayor's Task Force on Violence Prevention. We are working with the task force to develop a

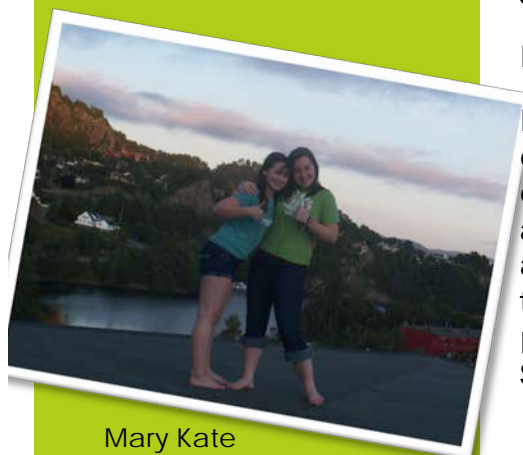
Hampden County Boarding Pass to partner with the CISV International Passport

We hosted a one day FREE program on 10/29 for anyone interested in learning about CISV or wanting to revive the CISV spirit. (27 Participants)

Summer Camp

By Mary Kate Grow

My CISV summer camp experience was amazing. I had known from past experiences with CISV what to expect but it was more than I could have ever imagined. The unique part about summer camp is that you to plan all your own activities. It was incredible participating in activities that are completely planned and run by my friends. I will always remember the wonderful friendships I made and the fabulous times spent planning and being with my friends from around the world. My CISV Summer Camp experience was unforgettable and irreplaceable.



Mary Kate Grow, JB Co-President attended Summer Camp in Bergen Norway. Summer Camp encourages participants to take responsibility for leadership and program planning

Seminar Camp

By Carolyn Stearns

Before I travelled this summer, most people had told me that Seminar Camp is an amazing, but unique experience. After participating in this camp, I would have to agree with this statement. Together, for three weeks, we had the freedom to make the camp our own. We decided our daily schedule, planned/ran activities, cooked our own meals, and cleaned our space. It was an intimate environment- only 22 participants and 4 staff- which made it easier to spend time with and really get to know every person. If even one person had not been there, it would have been a completely different experience. My new friends and I discussed a variety of important issues, and they've opened my eyes to how other countries operate differently from my own. Seminar Camp was such a rewarding experience, and I wouldn't trade this past month for anything!



Carolyn Stearns, Junior Branch Past President attended Seminar in Portugal in July. Seminar is a CISV capstone program that is personally challenging, intense, and, is facilitated by participants

2010 Spotlight Village hosted by CISV Greater Springfield Chapter

"The best thing about this camp was that I made so many great friends just because I was me."

"This has been a powerful month for me as a staff member. I've learned a lot about my strengths, weaknesses, and overall character. I've enjoyed getting to know the children and also observing their ability to soak in the knowledge presented to them."

These are just two of the comments from participants of, "Spotlight Village- Focus on Friendship, Focus on Peace", hosted by the Greater Springfield Chapter of Children's International Summer Villages this July at Springfield College. The experience was a success for the children who participated. We know that meaningful friendships, concepts of peaceful conflict resolution, diversity, human rights, and, sustainable development were absorbed by all participants. The Village was a wonderful experience for our Chapter to host our organization's cornerstone program for Peace Education in Action. We grew our membership and our capacity to serve the community with our programming in the future.



Summer 2012 Programs

Village (age 11) Rocky Mountain, CO
Norway

Summer Camp (age 14): Great Britain

Junior Counselor (ages 15-17): Austria – female
France- Male

Interchange (ages 14-15) Prague, Czech Republic

Selection Day:

February 4, 2012
Trinity Church, Sumner Ave



usa

building global friendship

greater springfield chapter

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