

ISB WINTER NEWSLETTER

**'TIS THE
SEASON TO
CELEBRATE
AND BE
THANKFUL**

THE THAI THAT BINDS



ISB Network News



WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

In This ISSUE

Page 1

In This Issue and Board of Directors

Page 2

Letter from our President: Kathy Beard

Page 3

Registration Fees/Alumni Directory

Pages 4-5

Reunion Registration and Hotel Information

Page 6

Malee's Thai Bistro on Main

Page 7

Live Drawing and Second Drawing Winner

Page 8

Celebrating 50 years and Party Suites

Page 9

Archives and Silent Auction
The Shack

Pages 10-11

Meet Dave Vessey

Page 12

Bangkok/ISB Monopoly

Pages 13-14

Legacies of War

Pages 15-16

Clean Birth Kits

Pages 17-18

Loy Krathong, Florida Style

See you at The Scott Resort & Spa

ISB NETWORK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kathy Beaird

Letter from our President



Sawadee Ka, ISB friends -

I remember when I was in college, I asked my grandma what was the worst part about growing older. She told me it was how quickly time flew, that the days just started going by faster and faster. Here I am, at the age she was when we had that conversation, and I get it. Where has 2024 gone? This time last year over 200 of us were anxiously awaiting what would be the trip of a lifetime for so many. Just after the first of the year we converged at the Anantara Riverside Hotel in Bangkok to kick off our adventures through BKK, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, and other parts of the world. How was that a year ago? It seems like just yesterday.

And now here we are ... 2025 is staring us in the face as preparations are being made for alumni to come together for our biennial reunion. July will be here before we know it. As you read this, you will have just a few more days to register for the reunion at the early bird rate. Take advantage of that lower price. I can't wait to see you!

I am heading to Scottsdale on January 9th to make a visit to the resort. The pictures and videos were amazing and I can't wait to see **The Scott Resort & Spa** for myself. We will also have a meal at Malee's Thai Bistro on the evening of Sunday, January 12th. If you're in the area I hope you will join us.

This is getting real. The reunion will be here before we know it. I guess I better get started on the name badges. Make sure your name will be on one!

Wishing everyone the happiest of holidays and an awesome 2025!

Kathy

Kathy Beaird
ISB Network President

Reunion Registration Fees

The Board of Directors for the ISB Alumni Association works very closely with prospective hotels/resorts to minimize the registration fees for each reunion.

There are certain requirements that our alumni wish for the BOD to consider when selecting a venue for our reunions.

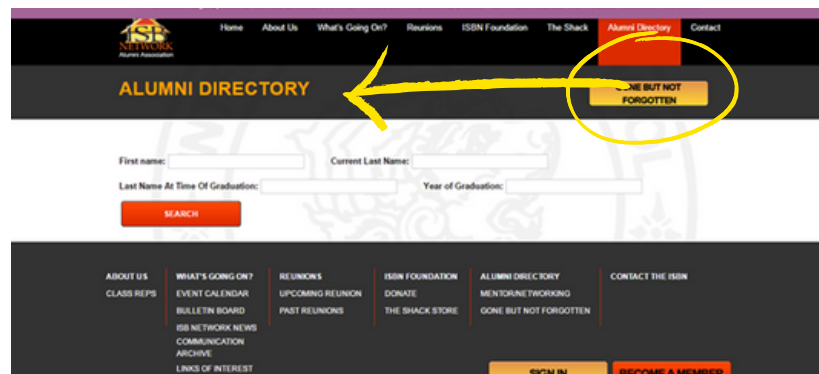
- Close to a large airport
- Quality affordable hotel rooms
- Pool and poolside for games and gatherings
- Adequate banquet space for The Shack, The Archives, Saturday night dinner, and Sunday breakfast.

Inflation has impacted the food industry, and those higher costs have affected the hotel and resort industry. Hotels/resorts demand financial guarantees that affect our registration fees. Please know that negotiating fair and reasonable pricing is always the goal of the BOD and reunion committee. We hope you will join us for a spectacular reunion in Scottsdale, AZ, July 25-27, 2025.

Alumni Directory

Help us ensure we have your correct information

Please go to ISBNetwork.com and the alumni directory to make sure your contact information is current and correct. Many times, alumni change email addresses and/or phone numbers and forget to update the directory with the new information.



SEARCH BY ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

Alumni Name:

First Name: Current Last Name: Last Name At Time Of Graduation:

Alumni Graduation Year:

Year of Graduation:

SEARCH

SEARCH RESULTS

☐ SELECT ALL

	First Name	Last Name(Current)	Last Name(Former)	Gender	Grad Year	Years of Attendance	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kathlyne	Boslet	Boslet	F	1973	1967 - 1969	SEE FULL PROFILE/CONTACT

FULL MEMBER PROFILES ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE ISB NETWORK IN ORDER TO VIEW ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE [SIGN IN](#), IF YOU ARE NOT YET A MEMBER [JOIN NOW](#)

SEND MESSAGE TO SELECTED MEMBERS

Special Note:

Ensure you have the years you attended ISB noted correctly - these years will be included on your Reunion Badge!

To edit - ensure you are signed in and you can update your personal details!

2025 ISB REUNION

SIPPING ON SUNSHINE IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

FRIDAY, JULY 25 - SUNDAY, JULY 27



THE SCOTT RESORT & SPA

4925 N Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale,
AZ 85251

[Hotel Website](#)



EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL

Early Bird Registration Rates END December 31, 2024

The early-bird reunion rates are as follows:

\$275 - Sustaining Members, Spouses, and Guests, and \$150 for a child 12 and under.

\$295 - Members, Spouses, and Guests, and \$150 for a child 12 and under.

\$340 - Non-Members, Spouses, and Guests, and \$150 for a child 12 and under.

If you are a member of the ISB Network,
follow this link to register for the reunion.
User name and password are required.

[MEMBER REGISTRATION
LINK](#)



If you are not a member of the ISB
Network, follow this link to register
for the reunion. Consider joining by
visiting our [Join the ISBN page](#).

[NON MEMBER
REGISTRATION LINK](#)



Note - if viewing on a cell phone, please turn it
to landscape to see the registration cart.



The Scott Resort & Spa **Hotel Reservations are available!**

**Room Block is available from
Tuesday, July 22 - Wednesday, July 30, 2025**

Room Rate = \$154.00 ++ (sales and occupancy taxes)

To make a reservation at The Scott Resort & Spa, you can call or follow the provided link:

- Phone 800-528-7867 and reference 2025 ISB Reunion.
- Follow the link to make your reservation online - [**The Scott Resort & Spa Hotel Reservation Link.**](#)
 - You will see a calendar once you reach the “Welcome to The Scott Resort & Spa” page.
 - Use the arrow on the right side of the page to scroll to July 2025.
 - Then you can select the dates you wish to stay for the reunion.

2025 Thai Dinner



The Thai dinner plans are underway for Thursday, July 24, **Maylee's Thai Bistro**. The Thursday night Thai dinner option will be offered to attendees in the order they registered. At this time, we expect to be able to seat 125 people. More details will be in upcoming newsletters.

Register now for the reunion to ensure your spot is held for the Thai dinner AND your name will be entered into a drawing on January 10.

MALEE'S THAI BISTRO ON MAIN

BY CINDY HUNT LEACH, TREASURER, CLASS OF '80



I moved to Phoenix, Arizona 40 years ago and one of my first priorities, as any good ISBer, was to find a good Thai restaurant. There were not many at that time. For a few years it was challenging to find a good Thai restaurant until I got a job in Scottsdale. To my delight, a new restaurant had just opened in Old Town Scottsdale,

Since that time, I have moved around the Phoenix area a few times and have had the opportunity to eat at many good Thai restaurants. For those of you who have lived or visited the Phoenix metro area you have also had those experiences. Some of you have had that experience with me because after my sister, Chris Hunt, and I attended our first ISB reunion, we now have many ISB friends in AZ. The one thing we always enjoy is spending time with ISB friends and trying out different Thai restaurants throughout the Valley of the Sun. There are so many choices now!

When The Scott Resort & Spa was chosen as the place to be for the 2025 ISB Reunion, it was a no brainer to turn to Malee's Thai Bistro for the Thai dinner Thursday night as it is only a little over a mile away from The Scott Resort & Spa. But first, Teresa Martin, Aron Medieros and I had to visit Malee's to ensure the food and ambiance was good enough for our group. I had not been back at Malee's for a while and could not wait.

Our experience at Malee's was simply amazing! Not only were there multiple choices on the menu, but the food was authentic and fantastic. Portions were generous, service was extraordinary, and there is plenty of room for people to move around to visit while dining. We returned to Malee's since our initial visit where we welcomed ISB friends visiting the Valley. Consensus has been Malee's is an excellent choice for the Thai dinner before the reunion starts.

I am sure there will be more dining experiences at Malee's as I know additional ISB friends will be visiting before the reunion. I look forward to not only seeing and meeting old and new friends at the reunion, but I also look forward to making Thai food memories with our visitors before the reunion!



COULD YOU BE A WINNER?!



IF YOU HAVE REGISTERED FOR THE REUNION BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, YOUR NAME WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING THAT WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 10. THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A FREE THAI DINNER TO MALEE'S BISTRO ON THURSDAY, JULY 24.

DRAWING TIMES:**4:30 PM PST****5:30 PM MST****6:30 PM CST****7:30 PM EST**

Constant Contact email reminders will go out as we get closer to the date. Reminders will also be posted in the ISB Network Alumni Facebook Group.

WINNER! WINNER!

On Saturday, November 9, our Director of Reunions (Teresa Martin), Treasurer (Cindy Hunt Leach), and Honorary Alum (Aron Medeiros) met at The Scott Resort & Spa to draw the name of our second winner who will receive round-trip transportation to/from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and The Scott Resort & Spa.



Gwen Hanlon Howard is our winner!
Congratulations Gwen!

50th REUNION CELEBRATION

50th Reunion Celebration for the Classes of '74, '75, and '76

In celebration of our 50th reunion, the classes of '74, '75, and '76 will host a party suite at the Scottsdale, Arizona reunion.



**HELP
NEEDED**

Please reach out to
[Don Drew \(class of '75\)](#)
who welcomes your ideas and help in
planning this momentous occasion!

PARTY SUITES

If your class (or a group of classes) is interested in hosting a party suite for the 2025 Scottsdale Reunion, please reach out to our [Director of Reunions, Teresa Martin](#), so she can share space options and costs with you.



ARCHIVES & SILENT AUCTION

Once again the fabulous JoHanna Ewing will organize our ISB Archives and Silent Auction for the 2025 Scottsdale Reunion. The Archives is no longer accepting bound magazines and paper.



If you would like to donate items for either the Archives or the Silent Auction, please contact [JoHanna](#).

SHACK NEWS



The Shack online store is currently closed; however, **Erawans** are available to purchase through The Shack [at this link](#). No other online orders will be available until further notice.

The Shack items will be available at our next reunion in Scottsdale, 2025.

We hope that you will "Shop the Shack" in Scottsdale.

HELLO
MY NAME IS

DAVE
VESSEY



WELCOME DAVE

BY CHRIS HUNT, CLASS OF '81

If you've been to a reunion, then you have surely heard at least one 'it's a small world' story. The ones where someone knows someone who randomly ran into someone 20 years after attending ISB?

David Vessey (attended 1969-72, class of '75) has one of those stories. This summer Dave will be attending his first ISBN reunion in Scottsdale. He can tell you the story then, or I can share a little bit here.

But first...

Dave spent one year on the Bangsue Campus then off to high school on Soi 15. He and his sister Sarah were in Thailand as Army Brats and spent many years of their youth in different locations. Sarah, who had attended several reunions over the years, sadly passed away in 2022. This year, Dave will attend his first reunion and honor her at the memorial ceremony, connect with her friends, make new ones, and experience a weekend of reminiscing that he is looking forward to. Although Sarah had told him stories about reunions and passed on greetings to and from attendees, the timing had never worked out for him to attend. That will change in 2025.

While in Bangkok, the Vesseys lived on Soi 67, and Dave has fond memories of movie nights and many hours in the pool at the Teen Club. It was also the place to be for any social occasion to hang out and chow down on snack bar food. Although he played league soccer, what Dave really enjoyed was photography, which eventually led him to a lifelong career as a photographer/videographer. He also spent his summers working in Pattaya. Hmmm? Work there? I thought we all just visited the beach resort.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

WELCOME DAVE CONTINUED

But Dave stayed in the spare room of a non-commissioned officer while working at the rec center signing equipment in and out. He will admit though, he spent more time on the water than he did working. On weekends, if he wasn't there with his family to relax, you'd also find him working there during the school year.

When recalling memories, Dave is quick to point out the whole experience in Bangkok is remembered fondly. The school, the teachers, and the good friends are just a few highlights of his time. The Thai people, their culture, and the food evoke good thoughts as well. Although Sarah was horrified that Dave loved to eat from the food carts, it did not stop him. His love for the food has not waned and you will find him going for the green curry any chance he can.

Dave has reconnected already with a handful of fellow ISBers in Arizona, but it is the story of Jean Steel (class of '75) that he likes to tell. Dave met his wife of 49 years, Donna Orr Vessey, in Colorado Springs, CO where they both graduated from high school. Randomly several years ago, Dave's sister-in-law (his brother was in college while he was at ISB) received a phone call from a gentleman wondering if Donna Vessey was the same Donna Orr that attended elementary school in Ethiopia? He had a photo of Donna and Jean Steel at that school. Why yes....it was the same Donna. Then during a future conversation between Donna and Jean, Donna mentioned that her husband Dave went to ISB. Well, there you go. Turns out Jean was at ISB at the same time and remembered Dave! There is your 'small world story.' Jean went to elementary school in Africa with Donna. Then school at ISB. Then comes across an old photo and reconnects with Donna. Only to learn that Donna married one of her ISB friends!

After Thailand the Vessey family moved to McLean, Virginia for a year then off to Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. Donna and Dave spent most of their adult life in Colorado Springs, but now reside in Mesa, AZ. He is a retired photographer/videographer, but I am sure even though he is retired, you will find him behind the camera taking pictures at his first ISBN reunion. He, like many of us, is looking forward to reconnecting, expanding his circle of ISB friends, and reminiscing in July. Make sure you get a chance to meet Dave and welcome him home to his ISB family.



Bangkok Monopoly is HERE!

We are so excited that ISB has a square on the game board!

Bangkok, 15 October 2024 – The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is pleased to announce that the much anticipated 'Monopoly: Bangkok Edition' officially passed "GO" on 2 November.



Created by Winning Moves UK, under license from Hasbro and in partnership with TAT, Monopoly: Bangkok Edition will feature six brand-new, Bangkok-themed tokens:

- **Mango Sticky Rice**: A nod to Thailand's most beloved dessert, this token captures the sweet essence of Bangkok's culinary scene.
- **Muay Thai Boxing Gloves**: Representing Thailand's national sport, this token celebrates the strength and agility of the country's renowned martial arts.
- **A Suitcase**: Perfect for the traveler at heart, this token symbolizes the adventure and discovery that awaits in every corner of Bangkok.
- **A Moped**: A familiar sight on the bustling streets of Bangkok, this token pays tribute to the city's fast-paced, dynamic nature.
- **A Backpack**: Ideal for the backpacker exploring Bangkok's hidden gems, this token highlights the city's appeal to travelers seeking unique experiences.
- **Tuk-Tuk**: Perhaps the most iconic symbol of Bangkok, this token honors the vibrant, colorful tuk-tuks that zip through the city, offering a ride like no other.

THE GAME IS NOT AVAILABLE
PUBLICLY AT THIS TIME.
WE'LL PROVIDE AN UPDATE
WHEN WE RECEIVE ONE.





LEGACIES OF WAR

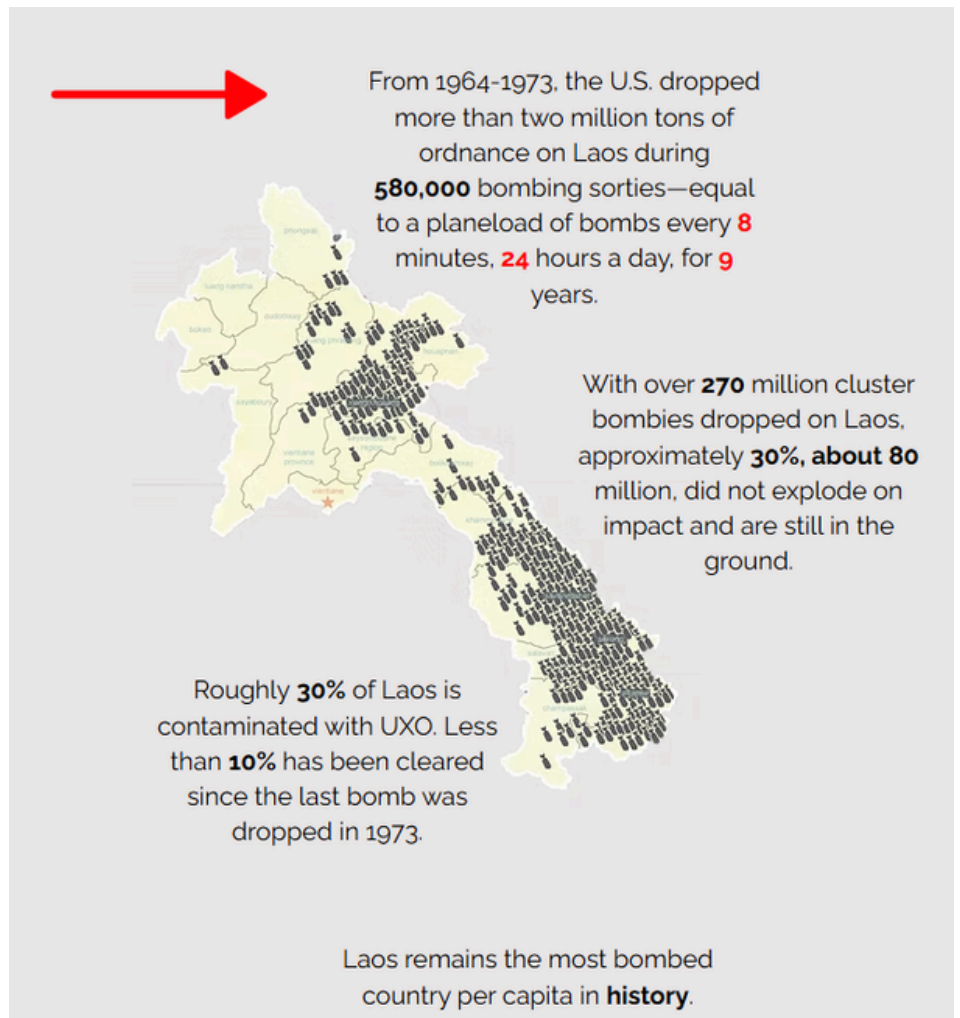
BY SERA KOULABDARA

Legacies of War's advocacy and educational programming is critical to ensuring that the U.S continues to learn about this history and fund demining, victim, assistance and mine risk education in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Dear Friends,

Wow. I am celebrating my 5th Anniversary as a staffer with our beloved Legacies of War today! Two words best encapsulate how I feel about the energy & camaraderie that has made our small but mighty organization run for the past 20 years: gratitude and grit.

Thank YOU for the contributions you make to allow us to run and fund our vital efforts for Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam doing advocacy & educational work from Capitol Hill to Geneva to my Buckeye State, OHIO! Your support means the world to me.



LEGACIES OF WAR CONTINUED

Most of you know the gist of my story. Today, I want to share more of who I am and the superhumans who nurtured and shaped my life. I never understood the harsh realities that my parents had to face leaving war-torn Laos with 4 children, all 10 years and under. Nor did I appreciate their strength until I was older. By the time I was 11 years old, we lived in 4 different states and at one point, in order to give us the best chance in life, my parents had to force themselves to leave my older brother and I with our aunts for 2 years. They worked 2-3 odd jobs each until we all reunited and moved to Ohio in 1995.

My childhood was full of hardships, universal ones faced by refugees and immigrants like lack of food, difficult living situations, trauma from war, displacement and many more. Yet, it was a happy one with a loving family. We made it to this day because my parents were dedicated, fought for a better life and asked for help. They knew they didn't have to do this all alone.

My parents' sacrifices paid off. I'm their wildest hope and dreams. Who would have thought that the 6-year-old little girl (me!) would be leading Legacies, an organization that is making huge impacts for millions of people today? Especially having the opportunity to give back to two countries they love so deeply the US and Laos. I wouldn't be where I am today without my parents, my family, the community and you, my closest circle.

As I reflect on where Legacies is today, I want to share a candid thought and like my parents, I know I am not alone. I seek your support, guidance and friendship as we plan for the next 5 yrs.

Funding does not come easy for our organization. Each year we struggle to gather enough financial resources. This is the #1 priority for me and where you can help make a BIG difference. <https://legaciesofwar.funraise.org/fundraiser/sera-koulabdara>

This has been the honor and privilege of my life and I'm so excited for the next 5 years together.

With HOPE,
Sera



ISB ALUMNI AND CLEAN BIRTH KITS

BY SUZANNE CANO MEEKER, '84



2018 Nashville



2023 Daytona Beach

In 2018, during our All Class Reunion in Nashville, TN, Patricia De Martini Williams (1984) brought supplies to assemble Clean Birth Kits and shared her story with us.

Since graduating from ISB in 1984, Patty's career as a healthcare executive in international hospital and health services management led her to found a company in 2008, Global Health Services Network (GHSN), with the goal of making a positive and sustainable impact on the health status of communities served around the world. Recognizing that there were significant additional needs in the communities being served, Patty with the help of her fellow board members, including Earl Bridges (1983), started Global Health Charities (GHC) to address the sad and preventable deaths that occur in mothers and newborns who don't have access to clean supplies during childbirth. GHC focuses on funding and supporting charitable initiatives to reduce infection-related mortality of maternal and infants in more than 22 countries.

Every year 4,000,000 infants and 287,000 mothers die due to childbirth related causes. 90% of these deaths are preventable. Infection is the second leading cause of death. The GHC Clean Birth Kit (CBK) program is working to reduce maternal and infant mortality in global communities in need by providing training and clean supplies within a CBK for childbirth. A Clean Birth Kit contains clean birthing supplies (including soap, gauze, gloves, clean blanket, alcohol wipes and a clean razor to cut the umbilical cord) for women and babies giving birth in under-resourced countries, many of whom deliver at home due to distance, poverty, and/or cultural norms.

ISB ALUMNI AND CLEAN BIRTH KITS CONTINUED

In 2018, the ISB Alumni Reunion Nashville attendees assembled 216 kits that ultimately were delivered to the Thai Ministry of Public Health on January 14, 2019, by Patty herself, Harold Albert and Jun Ikeda. Harold Albert also brought the CBK assembly activity to students at ISB, with several groups participating over the years. In 2021, the Tucson attendees raised funds for the supplies and then assembled kits that awaited shipment and eventually were sent to Ukraine after a maternity hospital was bombed in 2022. These were used to deliver babies in bomb shelters. In 2023, the Daytona Beach attendees and several family members continued this tradition of service by raising the funds and assembling over 200 kits.

Patty has shared that the logistics of transportation and global customs requirements often play a factor in where the kits can be distributed. In particular, Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) have several challenges. One country, among the 27 to which GHC has delivered over 27,000 CBKs, is Nigeria, where the infant mortality rate is one of the highest in the world at 72 deaths per 1,000 births. The Daughters of Charity in Nigeria have received over 7,200 CBKs over the last 7 years. Since this program was initiated, the eight clinics they operate have not lost a baby, therefore meeting the mission of Global Health Charities: “to save the lives of mothers and infants in communities in need around the world by providing training, education and materials essential to a clean and healthy birth.”

The mission of GHC is fulfilled entirely through volunteers assembling the kits at events like our alumni reunions, donations and the sale of baby blankets which each, at \$10, fund one birth kit.

We are excited to host another CBK event at our next alumni reunion. Once we have raised funds and gathered the supplies, we will need 20-30 volunteers on Saturday morning in Scottsdale to assemble these kits. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to [Deangela Chastain](#) (1984) and [Janice Perrill Iriarte](#) (1986).

The dedicated ISB Link to contribute to this service effort is found below:

[Donate for ISB's 2025 Assembly of Clean Birth Kits](#)



Please support GHCs efforts by following them on Facebook and Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/globalhealthcharities/>

Loy Krathong, Florida Style

Celebrating Thai tradition and the life of Susan Haralson



The History of Loy Krathong

Loy Krathong or Loi Krathong (ลอยกระทง), known as Thailand's Festival of Lights, is an annual traditional Siamese festival celebrated by Thais on the 12th full moon of the Thai lunar calendar to pay respect to the Goddess of Water and the Buddha.

A krathong is a small, decorative float made primarily from banana leaves, traditionally resembling a lotus flower or a small boat. The krathong is typically adorned with flowers, candles, incense sticks, and sometimes coins or small offerings. The floating krathongs carry the hopes, wishes, and gratitude of individuals as they navigate along rivers, lakes, or canals during the festival. This act symbolizes letting go of negative emotions and paying respect to the water spirits.

Celebrating Florida Style

The Florida Alumni Chapter of the ISB Alumni Association gathers each year to continue the Loy Krathong tradition. Initially, the FL group gathered in the Tampa Bay area, but for the past two years, they have celebrated in Cocoa Beach, FL. This year's celebration included paying tribute to Susan Elena Haralson, class of '75, who passed away earlier this year in February. Susan loved Loy Krathong and wanted to be remembered at this event. The 2024 celebration was our largest one with over 70 people in attendance.

On Friday, November 15, many of the ISBers met at White Sands Buddhist Center, Mims, FL, where we enjoyed the tranquility of the Center and spent time getting reacquainted with the Loy Krathong regulars and making new friends with those who were attending for the first time. Later, we checked into the Beachside Hotel and Suites and spent many hours poolside, and then swapping stories in the party suites.

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LOY KRATHONG CONTINUED



Saturday, November 16, we gathered in the breakfast area to make our floating boats. The ISBers shared flowers, and thanks to Jolli Sidon and Lora Yount Keating, we had banana stalks and the supplies we needed to create our krathongs. A huge shout out to Sid and Marlone for helping us to stabilize our boats with the addition of outriggers.

Before floating our krathongs at sunset, we enjoyed a late lunch (early dinner) at the Siam Orchid Restaurant. Thank you, Jolli and Lora, for making all the arrangements. At sunset, we launched our krathongs from a beautiful dock on the Banana River. Susan's ashes were lovingly placed in three different krathongs before we said our goodbyes to her. Susan's brother Paul and her niece Katie were in attendance and helped us to honor our Hippie Chick on her journey.

After the launchings concluded, we returned to the hotel and paid tribute to Susan with a Celebration of Life and video tribute. She was lovingly remembered by her brother Paul, her life-long friend Sue Donato, ISB sisters Jolli Sidon and Kathie/Kate Boslet. Special toasts to Susan's memory were given by The Green Fairy and The Grateful Dead. Susan may no longer be with us, but the impact she left behind is everlasting.



Thank you Randy Perritt for sharing your DJ skills with us.

It was a wonderful ISB weekend filled with love, tears, stories, and the creation of new memories.

Sawadee Ka ... see you in Scottsdale, July 2025, and Loy Krathong, November 2025.



Join Us



IN

SCOTTSDALE