



# IN FRIENDSHIP

*The Newsletter of the Friendship Force of Northern Illinois*  
July, 2019



## *From Our President*

Scott and I just returned from Washington D.C. Our new family tradition is to meet our son somewhere to celebrate Mother's and Father's Day. It's really just an excuse to travel.

D.C. is always so full of energy; and it's more than

the collision of politics, history, art, and science.

It is a city that began with a grand vision by

L'Enfant, a celebration of a new country with its new constitution and leaders who were passionate in implementing the democratic vision. It is a city that is full of millions of objects and documents and marble statues and yet is still alive as politicians and protesters, lobbyists and judges, artists and writers all continue to implement the original vision.

I admire people with vision.

Wayne Smith certainly had one, peace through friendship, one exchange at a time, one journey out and one journey in. Imagine all the club members, the presidents, and most importantly all the journey coordinators who have worked on implementing this vision throughout the past 40 plus years. I have watched a few of our coordinators organize, re-organize, shuffle hosts and ambassadors, edit itineraries, phone here and there, visit and preview everywhere. It is a dizzy dance full of fun and frustration but it always, always ends with the movement toward peace that Wayne Smith envisioned.

So, all of our members who have been who have been Journey Coordinators or ED's deserve a hug. In the short time that I have been a member, I have admired those who rise to the occasion to organize and lead this crazy dance of friendship. I invite you to step up as we have a need next year.

I will hug Scott after he proofs this.



*Hugs, Chris*

**Share our Message  
of Peace**



**At the Vietnam Memorial:  
Strangers work together to  
make a rubbing of the name  
of a fallen soldier for someone  
to bring home to their family.**

## Travelers' Tales

Our new members Cheryl and Lee Sachnoff joined their **first ever** FF Journey earlier this year. They went for three weeks to Russia, including some home stay and some travel through FFI. The JC for the whole Journey was Oyuna Sengeeva, whom some of us will remember from her visit here as part of a small exchange with the club in Sochi along with the club in Ulan Ude. Oyuna founded the Sochi club after her mother Tanya founded the club in Ulan Ude. The Russian Far East/Mongolia Journey led by Pat and Dave Meyer was the first Journey to Ulan Ude, where Dave & Pat were hosted by Tanya and her husband Lonya! By-the-way, Oyuna has married an American and now lives here and works part time for Friendship Force International. The world really is a wonderful place full of unexpected connections and friendships if you reach out just a little!

Here are remarks on their Journey by the Sachnoffs:

Lee and I just returned from our first-ever Friendship Force journey, visiting the Korolev chapter of FFI. We were hosted by a lovely woman named Elena with whom we are continuing contact. The three of us sat around her table getting to know each other with the help of Google Translate, while munching on the delicious Russian foods she prepared. She's in the picture with us on the river boat cruise in Moscow.

One of the highlights was a visit to a local school where the children had prepared a concert



for us. We then broke into small groups so that students who wanted to practice their English could do so with us. They were sweet and engaging and polite, and we ambassadors were touched by the experience of meeting them.

I've included a picture of Lee and me with Oyuna Sengeeva who was the journey coordinator and our shepherd for three weeks. This one was taken at the Kremlin.

That's it for now -- we are still recovering! ;-)

*Cheryl Sachnoff*





Oyuna Sengeeva with her parents Lonya & Tanya

Tom Coyle

I can imagine that many who are reading this have had the experience of celebrating a birthday twice in one day - perhaps lunch with old friends followed by dinner with family. But I doubt that any of you have celebrated it twice in one day with 9000 miles and 15 time zones between parties! But that's what I experienced on our 2004 exchange to Mount Barker, and Sydney, Australia. On the last day of our exchange David and Pattyann Pellis treated to us to a special birthday breakfast with gifts and then took us to the airport for our return to the U.S. That night I had another birthday party with family in Lake Bluff!

Another special memory from that trip comes from the Mount Barker exchange. Whenever our host Ann Ferguson would part company with someone she would say "Be good, do good, and good will follow." When we asked her about this, she said that was what her grandmother always said when they parted. Those of you who have called our home phone and reached the answering machine know that this is how our answering message ends: with the exhortation to "Be Good, Do Good, and Good Will Follow." I have many happy memories of the callers who tell us what a nice message that is before leaving their message. Can you imagine that? How many years/generations has that exhortation been passed on - and will be passed on. For me this is the real value of Friendship Force: it's not about the trips, it's about how our lives are changed as a result of the trips.

*Tom Coyle*

A World of Friends is a World of PEACEJean Wilson

In 1984, our chapter's founding year, we welcomed our very first FF Ambassadors -- from Piacenza, Italy. We had scheduled the week to include a visit to Lambs Farm. All our guests were interested and impressed by this facility, but their President was especially amazed -- and immersed. We discovered that she had a niece who was afflicted with Downs Syndrome and of course the visitor wanted to see every inch of Lambs Farm. There was no such facility in Italy to address and assist with this condition.

When the lady returned to Italy, she kept in touch with her hosts -- and our chapter informed -- of what subsequently occurred. We learned that the lady had friends in administrative and political departments in Italy. She provided photos of Lambs Farm, distributed brochures she had received during her tour, and promoted the concept of founding a similar facility in Italy. This lady was on a mission -- and it worked! Along with governmental and private financial support, she was able to establish a "Lambs Farm" on a plot of land near her niece's family. Her relatives were overwhelmed -- and our FFNI members were gratified that we had scheduled a visit to Lambs.

*Jean Wilson*



*Chris Oliver*

Janis and Dave Westlund, Tom and Sally Coyle, Sandy Matthews, Dora Turula, Scott and I showed 11 members of FF Hiroshima around Chicago on the hot last weekend in June.



After our late arrival from Kalamazoo, Scott and I joined our Japanese friends to walk to the Cultural Center and back through Millennium Park. The next morning (a stormy one) Janis, Dave, Sandy, Scott and I showed our guests around the Art Institute, where a manager enabled them to see the Manet Exhibit for *free*. After the Manet most of us wandered through the Impressionist rooms, while Scott took the two men to the weapons and armor exhibit. The storms had passed, so we were able to do a Chicago River boat tour.

The next day, Coyles brought FFNI pins for our guest when we met at the Field Museum. After some time at the Field, we took a water taxi to Navy Pier, then went to the Hancock Building and shopping at Water Tower Place. We used almost every mode of transportation except the EL.

Two of the eleven Ambassadors had been FFNI guests several years ago when Pat and Dave led the exchange “Out of the Ashes” focused on Hiroshima and Chicago. At that time Toshiro Inohari stayed with Coyles and Hiromi Sugakawa stayed with Barb Dilliard.

While our hospitality wasn't a “Journey,” we did find common ground at lunch and dinner. One Ambassador, Hisako, will travel to Prague next year, where her daughter has relocated. Ironically, Sally and Tom were just there visiting their Japanese hosts from many years ago. Traveling does make it a smaller world.

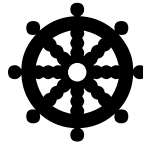


And like most journeys, there was a problem: a guest tripped on a sidewalk. After a call to her insurance company, she went to Arlington Heights to a Japanese doctor who operated on her wrist. She and a companion had to extend their stay in Chicago. What a good reminder that we all need travel insurance. She is doing fine and recovering from the injury.

Again, thanks to Janis and Dave, Tom and Sally, Sandy, Dora, and to Scott who stood many inches above the ambassadors. One of the Japanese women said, with a smile, that she was not worried about the lightning as long as Scott stood tall. *Chris Oliver*

## With great sorrow we remember two of our long time members who passed away in recent months.

John Balazs, who passed away in April, was much beloved by his FFNI family. He gave his warmth and energies, but also his skill and devotion not only to FFNI, but also to our outreach, most notably in organizing our food donations to the hungry in our communities. He and Mary Lou were frequent hosts and, at least once, Exchange Directors. I remember talking to John as we fished (without much success, but it didn't matter) at our annual picnic several years ago. He loved that he had been able to fish in the Amazon while on an Exchange to Brazil, whereas I regretted that an infection kept us from joining that exchange so I could have fished the Amazon with him. Our hearts are with you in your loss, Mary Lou. We miss him!



Toshi Puri just passed away July 1. Many of us will remember the incredible hospitality she extended to our whole club. Who among us doesn't have warm memories of the terrific Indian food she personally prepared for us in the lovely home she shared with Ishwar? Aside from being stuffed to the gills with the many and varied vegetarian dishes she made for us all, I remember particularly one event where she and Ishwar explained some of the stories and beliefs around a Hindu holiday for which they had invited the *entire club!* What they had to say was not only interesting, but clever and witty. How many of us could explain key elements of our beliefs in a way that didn't diminish the beliefs, but made the listeners laugh too? Farewell, Toshi. Sweet soul that you are, may you achieve Nirvana! And, Ishwar, we are with you at this difficult time.

*Dave Meyer*



# *FFNI* *ACTIVITIES*



Remaining 2019 calendar (General Meetings @ 2pm; Board varies):

2019	General Meeting	Board Meeting	Journeys	Other Events
<b>July</b>	July 14 Picnic/meeting, Lake Bluff Beach		July 11-17 Japanese English Language Learners	July 23 – 27 Boulder, CO FFI World Conference
<b>August</b>		August 8 Brian/Joan Harrington's		August 6 <b><i>Tentative</i></b> LEO w/New Zealand Ambassadors stopping over in <b><i>downtown</i></b> <b><i>Chicago,</i></b> Time & Place TBA
<b>September</b>	September 8		September 22-28 Inbound, Florida Sunshine Coast	
<b>October</b>		October 10 Pat/Dave Meyer's		
<b>November</b>	November 10, Time/Venue TBA Annual Board Election, & Dinner			
<b>December</b>		December 12 Coyle/DiBrito Holiday Party, Venue TBA		

*Explore · Understand · Serve*

*The Social Side of FFNI*  
*IT'S PICNIC TIME ONCE AGAIN!*

*THE SUN IS WARMING,  
BUT LAKE MICHIGAN'S COOL BREEZES  
KEEP YOU COMFORTABLE*

*Join us*

*SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2019*

*At 1 PM*



**BRING SUNTAN LOTION, YOUR 2 BEST FRIENDS AND A SMILE  
to Lake Bluff's Sunrise Beach North Shelter, E. Scranton & Sunrise Drive**

**The picnic cost: *Adults* \$15, *under 12* \$5  
which includes Water & Ice; please bring any other drinks you desire**

**Send your check made out to FFNI**

**TO**

**Kat York  
933 Chase Court  
Gurnee, IL 60031  
By July 10**

**HOME HOSTS NEED NOT PAY FOR JAPANESE AMBASSADORS**

**Details on parking, passes, & ATV rides up/down the cliff**

**PLUS a map will follow as people reserve places**

**How to reserve a place? SEND A CHECK!**

*Kat York, Social Chair*



*FFNI General Meeting, May 18  
Oak Park Public Library*

*Vietnam! an “Armchair” Visit*



*presented by*

*Diem-My Bui & Paul Luu*

Though our Journey to Thailand and Vietnam has been cancelled, we had a wonderful ‘armchair’ journey presented by a Vietnamese couple Diem-My Bui and Paul Luu and their delightful children. After the informative presentation, many of us adjourned to a nearby Vietnamese restaurant for an excellent meal. Our only regret was that we won’t see Vietnam this year. Maybe next? Or the year after that?

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU  
SEE THE WORLD**

## *L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out!)*

**HOLD THE DATE:** On August 6, while six Ambassadors from New Zealand explore our city after a Journey, Dave & Pat will host them, including an architectural walking tour of downtown. We will hold a L.E.O. as part of the activities, probably at an ethnic restaurant in or near the Loop. More info as it becomes available.

**JOIN US!**

## *L.E.O. at the Highland Games*

### **SCOTLAND IN ILLINOIS, 2019 --- OR THE LEO OF JUNE**

It has been a great while since I have been to an outdoor fair, but the memory of wonderful fairs from years ago



brought me to this one. The weather wasn't the sunny and bright that fair makers



wish for: it was grey and a little rainy. So, we did get damp. However, I fought the weather with my best weapon: SUPERSTITION! And it worked. As soon as I returned from my car with umbrella and rain cape, the rain turned to drops, then just petered out. The nice thing about going to the fair in such weather was that it kept the numbers of people down to hundreds, instead of thousands.





This fair had so many interesting areas, it is hard to tell you about everything. We met the peregrine falcon, learning why he wasn't flying/hunting. We saw the Scottish dance competition, the Parade of Tartans, and the roll call of Clans. There was a Scottish pipe competition, and handsome young men (and dogs) in their kilts throwing things around, such as the 140lb.+ caber — think telephone pole — and the sheaf toss; that was *only* 20 pounds over the right shoulder. Okay, only the men threw things, while the dogs accepted pats and rubs.

The most interesting area was of booths representing clans. In it we talked to a young man who was very excited to tell us about his clan, the Elliots, lowlanders who lived on the border just outside of England and quite near Gretna Green. I'm sure some of you know that Gretna Green was the town to which young couples who did not have the approval of their church and family fled. The Elliots were 'reivers' [raiders] who went into the English countryside, and stole whatever they could, bringing their booty home to great acclaim.

There were maps to look at and photos of the ruins of formerly great castles, as well as advice about what to do in various parts of Scotland today.



I am sorry many of you missed a great day.







# *FFNI Journey News*

## *2019 Journey Schedule*

### **Japanese English Language Learners, Inbound**

**July 11-17** (then on to Milwaukee for a second week)

Pat Meyer, Host Coordinator

**WATCH EMAIL FOR PARTICIPATION SIGN-UP SHEET**

**Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada** (replace Florida Domestic Inbound)

**September 22-28 *TENTATIVE***

*And for 2020*

### **Japan**

**May (date not set)**

Marlene DiBrito, Ambassador Coordinator

### **Ottawa, Canada, Inbound**

**October (date not set)**

No Host Coordinator yet appointed

**A World of Friends is  
A World of Peace!**

## NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SUNSHINE

Former member (& FFNI friend!) Karen Li had a baby girl on June 26. Congrats, Karen!

Both Chris Oliver and Dave Meyer are almost recovered from their respective knee and hip replacements. As a result of medications and gait improvement, Dave *hopes* to avoid the knee replacement scheduled for September.

If you know of events in our membership that call for notes and greetings from all of us, please let me know. This includes illness, surgery, etc. but also graduations, weddings, births of grandchildren, etc. We need to congratulate as well as commiserate!

*Pam Bridges, Sunshine Chair*

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### HOSPITALITY/MEMBERSHIP

HELLO, ALL —

Every member can help as we strive to add **significantly** to our membership. Please bring potential members whenever you can, and especially to our upcoming picnic. New ideas? Past successes? Email me.

*Dean DiBrito, Hospitality/Membership Chair*

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### FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Please contribute to the hungry! Bring donations of canned, prepared, or dried foods, staple items like paper goods, toiletries, or money/checks **to our Annual Picnic, July 15.**

*Scott Oliver, Service/Community Outreach Chair*

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### CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE !

If you and your friends are Facebook users, be sure to look at (and “like”) the Friendship Force of Northern Illinois page. You can see pictures from a number of our exchanges and other activities, and also leave ‘likes’ and comments.

Other Friendship Force clubs have Facebook pages as well – check them out to see news from clubs we have visited or plan to visit, as well as those who have stayed with us. A great way to stay in touch!

If you have photos, news, or information, you’d like to post on the site, send them me.

*Marcia Weissman, page administrator*

## FF Northern Illinois Information

### FRIENDSHIP FORCE WEBSITES:

**FF International:** <http://www.friendshipforce.org/>

**FF Northern Illinois:** <http://www.ffnorthernillinois.org/>

### FFNI Officers & Board

PRESIDENT: Christine Oliver  
VICE PRESIDENT: Dean DiBrito  
SECRETARY: Sandy Matthews  
TREASURER: Marcia Weissman

MEMBERSHIP: Dean DiBrito  
SOCIAL: Kat York  
WAYS & MEANS: Ludwina Homer  
& Joan Harrington  
MERCHANDISE: Sally Coyle

SERVICE/COMMUNITY OUTREACH:  
Scott Oliver  
NEWSLETTER: Dave Meyer  
SUNSHINE: Pam Bridges  
PAST PRESIDENT: Marcia  
Weissman  
PUBLICITY: Joan Harrington  
COMMUNICATIONS: **OPEN**  
PROGRAM: **OPEN**  
WEBMASTER: Marcia Weissman

### JOURNEYS:

**GENERAL JOURNEY**  
**COORDINATOR:** Pat Meyer

Journey Coordinators:

Pat Meyer, English Language  
Learners

Scott Oliver, Oklahoma City

Marlene DiBrito, Japan (2020)

### FFNI STORE

What do you need for the Japanese Language Journey? Please place your order ASAP with Sally Coyle ([tomensally610@gmail.com](mailto:tomensally610@gmail.com)) and plan to pay and pick up the items from Marlene DiBrito at the July picnic. Club earrings, pins and pens make excellent host or ambassador gifts. Sally will be unavailable July 4-18.

NOTE: Our membership continues to dwindle as members age and can no longer travel, host, or participate. We are always sorry to see them go, for they have offered the club friendship and the hope for peace, which is our raison d'être. FFNI membership is now 47.

**PLEASE HELP YOUR CLUB! RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS AMONG YOUR  
RELATIVES, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS. WE PARTICULARLY NEED YOUNGER  
MEMBERS TO LEAD US INTO THE FUTURE!**



A World of Friends is a World of Peace!





## *Friendship Force of Northern Illinois Membership Application*

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# *Join us!*



Because many interested friends look at our Newsletter, we include here a form you can use to join Friendship Force of Northern Illinois. Engage with us in citizens' diplomacy to forge peace through homestays and the friendships and new understanding they engender. You can fill out this form on your computer, save it as a document separate from the newsletter, and attach it to an email to our membership chair Dean DiBrito at [showrks@aol.com](mailto:showrks@aol.com).



### FRIENDSHIP FORCE of NORTHERN ILLINOIS 2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ type here

First \_\_\_\_\_ type here Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ type here

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ type here Spouse Email \_\_\_\_\_ type here

Street \_\_\_\_\_ type here

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ type here Zip \_\_\_\_\_ type here

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ type here Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ type here

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ type here Spouse Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ type here

New Member Dues: \$40\* plus one-time fee of \$10 for required name badge. Fees are *per person*.

Name as you would like it to appear on the Name Badge \_\_\_\_\_ type here

Spouse name as you would like it to appear on the Name Badge \_\_\_\_\_ type here

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS and mail your check along with this form to FFNI, c/o Dean DiBrito, 565 Timber Lane, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045.

#### PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

How did you learn about the Friendship Force? \_\_\_\_\_ type here

What languages do you speak other than English? \_\_\_\_\_ type here

What countries would you like to visit on an exchange \_\_\_\_\_ type here

Please indicate a club committee you would like to serve on UNDERLINE as many as you like:

**Membership Publicity Program Social Newsletter Archives Website Merchandise**

Do you have special skills, special training, or experience can you share with the club?  
\_\_\_\_\_ type here

List other organizations you belong to that might have prospective members for the Friendship Force.  
\_\_\_\_\_ type here

Comments or suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_ type here

**NOTE: The Board of Directors is always interested in your comments and looks for input from members in order to keep our organization dynamic and active for our members.**