



IN FRIENDSHIP



The Newsletter of the Friendship Force of Northern Illinois
March, 2019



From Our President

35 years!

35 years of friends across the world, of touring wonders, both man-made and natural. 35 years of tables laden with foods both different and similar. 35 years of meetings and LEOs and picnics and dinners. 35 years of service to local charities.

35 great years.

To celebrate these years: we will look back on the early days, guided by Jean Wilson; we will present a Wayne Smith Award to our founder, Mary Warwick, who now lives in North Carolina; we will eat cake and we will dance under the guidance of members Tom Senior and Barbara Cool. When? At our March 10 meeting at Lamb's Farm in Libertyville. We will gather at 2:00pm in a small banquet room in the restaurant and begin at 2:15 after some announcements. The cake will be provided by the club and the first half of the alphabet should bring treats.

We have accepted a request by 11 travelers from FF Hiroshima, Japan, to show them a bit of Chicago in late June after their stay with the Western Michigan club. The travelers will have hotel rooms but wish our help in seeing a bit of Chicago. For the most part, these members have never visited Chicago. I am looking for three people, each to plan a day and then we will be looking for others who will act as day hosts. For those of you who find planning a whole journey overwhelming, this is a chance to be involved.

Hugs, Chris

Share our Message of Peace

A NOTE FROM OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

As some of you will know, our President had knee replacement surgery literally days before she took time **during her recovery** to write the above. Also, our Newsletter Editor himself had total hip replacement surgery five days before Chris. Isn't modern medicine **amazing**?

If the Newsletter seems abbreviated, or if either of us have missed activities we should have mentioned or featured, let us know. We will include them in future editions.



A WORLD OF FRIENDS IS

A WORLD OF PEACE



FFNI TRAVELERS' TALES

Our Most Recent General Meeting: Mexican Memories from Jean Wilson



Sharing Her Long Interest in Another Culture



Schools: Heart of a Culture, Home of its Future

Pat Meyer



As a retired teacher, I consider the opportunity to visit schools and meet students and teachers around the world a great perk of travelling with Friendship Force. Whether it's Russia, Uganda, Taiwan, or New Zealand, students are eager to welcome visitors from the United States. No matter the school or the country, I am in awe of the respect students show visitors and their eagerness to share their culture with others, even to dancing a welcoming 'Hakka' (Mmm, you look good to eat!) in New Zealand. Although students may be shy at first, they quickly warm to friendly Americans.

In Rotorua, NZ, a teacher asked me to address an assembly of 100 or more students. Although I was nervous, how could I say no! When I approached the podium, the students were silent. As I spoke, they listened attentively and no one even whispered. After my few minutes of fame, I asked the headmistress what her secret was to assure that students were so quiet and attentive. Her reply, "They think you are a movie star because of your American accent! They only hear that on TV." Hummm, I wondered silently, how could I make this work at Glenbard East?



One striking contrast between American schools and the international schools I've visited is the focus on teaching cultural traditions, especially dance and music. Traditional dance dominates, followed closely by traditional music; a visitor to an American school would find neither *traditional* dance nor music as a part of our curriculum. Particularly notable in this regard is the photo of four Buriat boys in Siberia. Can you imagine *any* pre-adolescent American boy doing a dance in what I can only describe as 'decorative' jockey shorts?



One tradition that I found particularly moving comes from Russia. It's called simply "The Last Bell." During graduation ceremonies, a first grader is chosen to sit on the shoulder of a graduating senior, and they walk through the



assembly hall, the young student ringing "the last bell" in front of *each* graduating senior. In addition, one senior boy is chosen to have "the last dance" with the headmistress!

Visiting schools is an excellent way to understand a country's values and traditions. I would urge any exchange director on any outbound to request a school visit during an exchange. Ambassadors, as well as students and teachers, will be enriched. Here are a few more examples of these delights:





FF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

ACTIVITIES



Here is our calendar for 2019 (General Meetings at 2pm; Board time varies):

2019	General Meeting	Board Meeting	Journeys	Other Events
March	March 10 TBA			
April		April 11 Marcia/Bob Weissman's		
May	May 19 Oak Park Library			
June		June 13 Chris/Scott Oliver's	June 6-10 Outbound Oklahoma City Hiroshima, Day Hosting, June 29-July 3	
July	July 7? Picnic/meeting, Lake Bluff Beach		July 11-17 Japanese English Language Learners	July 23 – 27 Boulder, CO FFI World Conference
August		August 8 Brian/Joan Harrington's		
September	September 8		September 22-28 Inbound, Florida Sunshine Coast	
October		October 3 Pat/Dave Meyer's	October 11- November 3 Outbound Thailand & Vietnam	
November	November 10, Time/Venue TBA Annual Board Election, & Dinner			
December		December 12 Coyle/DiBrito Holiday Party		



The Social Side of FFNI



JOIN US FOR A TRIPLE CELEBRATION!!!!



❖ **MARCH 1, IS WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY**

❖ **2019 IS THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS**

❖ **ON MARCH 10, WE WILL PRESENT A WAYNE SMITH AWARD
TO OUR FOUNDER, MARY WARWICK**



Join us to celebrate the beginnings of Friendship Force of Northern Illinois. Jean Wilson, a charter member, will present a slideshow history of the early days of our club. She will describe how Mary Warwick, inspired by Friendship Force International founder Wayne Smith, initially organized the group and served as the first president.

The Wayne Smith medal is awarded by Friendship Force International to recognize those who have shown exceptional leadership in advancing the Friendship Force mission in their communities. This award is a tribute to the memory of Friendship Force founder Wayne Smith, who believed **A WORLD OF FRIENDS IS A WORLD OF PEACE**

The medal that bears his name is the instrument through which Friendship Force clubs honor those who share that belief and who advance the organization's values of mutual respect, cultural diversity and humanitarian service.

Special Treat: English Country Dancing led by Tom Senior!

Sunday, March 10, 2019

Lambs Farm: 14245 Rockland Road, Libertyville

2:00 – 4:30 PM

Refreshments will be served. All guests are welcome!

FFNI Journey News

Journey Schedule, 2019



Japanese English Language Learners, Inbound

July 11-17 (then on to Milwaukee for a second week)
Pat Meyer, Host Coordinator

Thailand and Vietnam, Outbound

Dates: Arrive Bangkok Oct. 12 (dep Oct. 10 or 11); begin Bangkok Journey Oct. 13; fly to Hanoi and begin Vietnam Journey Oct. 20; depart from Ho Chi Minh City for home Nov. 2 (arr Nov. 3). If there is interest, we may offer an extension of the Vietnam portion to visit Cambodia and Laos.
Dave Meyer, Ambassador Coordinator

Oklahoma City, Domestic Outbound

June 6-10, Scott Oliver, Ambassador Coordinator

Florida Sun Coast, Domestic Inbound

September 22-28, Marcia Weissman, Host Coordinator

And for 2020

Japan

May (date not set) Marlene DiBrito, Ambassador Coordinator

Ottawa, Canada, Inbound

October (date not set) No Host Coordinator yet appointed

Japanese English Language Learners

INBOUND, July 11-17, 2019

FFNI has been selected as one of the few clubs in the States to host Japanese Language Learners in 2019. As many in our club are former teachers, or secretly wish they had been teachers, this is a perfect match for us! It's also a perfect excuse for us to discover Japanese influences in our area, and then incorporate those influences while helping our Japanese friends improve their spoken English. For example, our great American architect Frank Lloyd Wright was heavily influenced by Japanese art and design. So, during a morning when we teach vocabulary and practice pronunciation, we'll use photos of Wright homes to explore these influences, practice vocabulary, and spark discussion. Later, we'll do a walking tour of Wright's homes in Oak Park, asking our Japanese ambassadors to explain in English what they see as Japanese influences in Wright's work. We'll be able to break into small groups for this activity, so all of our ambassadors will have ample opportunity to speak!



The week will be designed for hosts and ambassadors to work on vocabulary and pronunciation in the comfort of our homes, then to meet in the afternoon to allow ambassadors to practice English by introducing us to Japanese cultural influences here in Chicago.



Additional activities may include a visit to a Buddhist Temple, art lessons in origami or drawing/sketching, a baseball game, shopping at a Japanese Grocery followed by a cooking lesson, and a Kimono fashion show. **Please let Pat Meyer know if you can be a home host.** This unique exchange allows all of us to explore and learn how Japanese influence shaped part of *our* culture.

Materials and “study guides” will be provided for home hosts!

Marcia Weissman and Kat York have already volunteered to help plan this Journey. **Whether you want to help plan, host, or both, contact Pat Meyer.**

Pat Meyer, Journey Coordinator

Suncoast, Florida

INBOUND, September 22–28, 2019



September seems a long way from now, but it's not too early to start planning. We have already begun to map out our activities for this event. We expect about 16 people from the Florida club, and we would like to show them a variety of interesting places in Northern Illinois. If you have ideas to share, please let us know – or join the **planning committee**! We are also looking for **home hosts, day hosts, and dinner hosts**.

If you've already signed up, thanks – we will be in touch as plans progress. If not, please contact Marcia Weissman to participate in this fun journey.

Marcia Weissman, Journey Coordinator

A World of Friends is a World of Peace!



Thailand and Vietnam

OUTBOUND, October 11–November 3, 2019

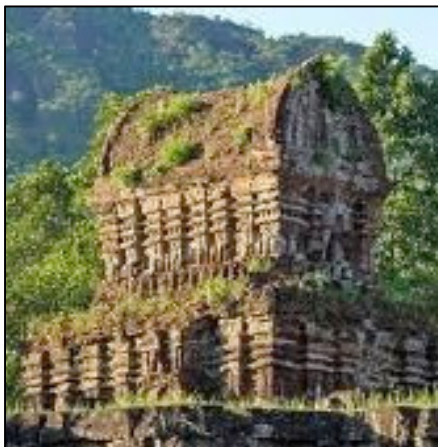


The Bangkok club and the Vietnam-America Friendship organization both plan many engaging events and excursions to cultural and historical locations. Many of the itinerary items sound strikingly exotic, but I suspect that's mostly because I can't pronounce any of them! In lieu of a meaningless list of itinerary items, I've decided to just



include a few of photos of cultural events/sites we expect to visit.

THAILAND (above) VIETNAM (below)



NOTE: During our 12 days in Vietnam, we expect to have two nights of home hosting in Ha Long and two more in Hanoi. The Vietnamese government arranges these and some other encounters with 'ordinary people,' as clubs per se are not allowed.

COST: \$4100±, most meals/hotels, internal Vietnam flights, buses, cruise boats, most admissions, guides, club gifts, most tips, and a contingency. The fee *does not* include flights to Bangkok, Hanoi, and home from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). Checking bargain sites Cheapo Air and Momondo, I found prices at \$1000-1200 overnighing in Hong Kong (hotel additional) on 10/11, though it is possible these will decrease closer to departure.

Let me know if you are interested: davidcmeyer@sbcglobal.net. Don't Delay. The Bangkok club has limited Ambassadors to 15, so we *will* fill this Journey!

NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friendship Force World Conference July 23-27, 2019

Plan to join us in Boulder, CO for this important gathering of friends from around the world.



SUNSHINE

Dave Meyer had total hip replacement on February, 13. Chris Oliver had total Knee replacement on February 18. Both are convalescing well at home and beginning to get about.

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

HOSPITALITY / MEMBERSHIP

Every member can help as we strive to add **significantly** to our membership. Please bring potential members whenever you can. If you would like to get involved, please join the membership committee, or send us your ideas for growing our membership. What worked in the past? New ideas? Email me.

Dean DiBrito, Hospitality/Membership Chair

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Please contribute for the hungry! Please bring donations of_canned, prepared, or dried foods, staple items like paper goods, toiletries, or money/checks **to our Sunday meeting, 3/10.**

Scott Oliver, Service/Community Outreach Chair

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 COORDINATOR: Pat Meyer Journey Coordinators: Pat Meyer, English Language Learners Dave Meyer, Thailand & Vietnam Scott Oliver, Oklahoma City Marcia Weissman, Florida Suncoast Marlene DiBrito, Japan (2020)

FFNI STORE

FFNI club shirts have arrived. Plan to pick up your shirt at the March meeting or contact Sally Coyle, tomensally610@gmail.com to make other arrangements. Thank you.

It is never too early to start planning for upcoming journeys. Check out club merchandise at the March meeting.

NOTE: Our membership continues to dwindle as members age and can no longer travel, host, or participate. The following members have **not** renewed for 2019, most for health reasons, some because of distance from our club: John & Mary Lou Balasz, SuEllen Brauer, Cheryl DePaul, Jeanne Eisele, David Fredin, Su-Mei Horng, Amy Lee, Beverly Nelson, & Cobi Stein. We are sorry to see them go, for each of them has offered the club friendship and the hope for peace, which is our raison d'être. FFNI membership is now 46. Please recruit new, hopefully younger members among your relatives, friends, and neighbors.

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.



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.