



# IN FRIENDSHIP

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



## *From Our President*

I appreciate anniversaries and the power they have. They stop us, beg us to pause to enjoy the moment, always with friends and food. We contemplate the past, and then dedicate ourselves to the future.

On Sunday, March 10, we celebrated our 35th Anniversary at Lamb's Farm. Jean Wilson, our tour guide, took us through our club's first ten years. We heard about the first inbound and outbound exchanges with Piacenza, Italy and saw that Lamb's Farm was on the itinerary. We viewed early members as they walked in the Libertyville Days Parade, ladies in their white skirts, men in light colored pants, and all members in their green shirts. We conversed a bit with Mary Warwick, our founder. At this meeting she received the Wayne Smith Award to recognize her early vision.

Jean has a file of early news articles and correspondence. On the tenth Anniversary of our club, Wayne Smith sent a letter and in that letter, he writes, "One of the most important tasks for all of us in the years ahead is finding ways to live in an environment of mutual understanding and respect." These words are as true today, in our nation, and in our world, as they were in 1994.

The Olivers and the Meyers will join in the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Dayton Friendship Force. We will reconnect with our hosts and meet with other Presidents and Jeremi Snook. The Weissmans will head to Boulder to represent us at the World Conference, the 42nd Anniversary of Friendship Force and I know they will bring back more ideas and more connections.

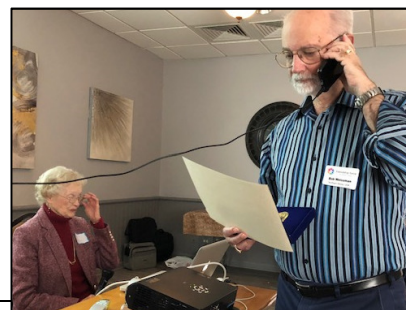
And so we have paused and looked back with Jean's help. Now we need to look forward and work on this mission of peace and gather others into this work. We should invite friends to our meetings. At our May meeting, we will hear from speakers on Vietnam and afterwards we will eat at Saigon Pho, a Vietnamese restaurant near where we will meet at the Public Library in Oak Park. We should also invite friends to help day host this summer or this fall. Pat Meyer has some wonderful plans for our July Language Immersion Journey where we will be asking our guests to teach us about the Japanese culture as they practice their English. And we should consider inviting non-members to our LEOs. Pursuing our peace mission by including others might just gain us members as well.

*Hugs, Chris*

**Share our Message of Peace**

## FFNI Odds and Ends

At our last General Meeting, we gave the Wayne Smith Award to Mary Warwick, our FFNI Founder. Here Bob Weissman is on the phone with Mary while Jean Wilson contemplates the next portion of her presentation on the first ten years of FF of Northern Illinois.



### FF Dayton's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On Saturday, May 4, the Olivers and the Meyers joined FF Dayton's 40th Anniversary celebration. Jeremi Snook, CEO of Friendship Force International, and his eight year old son Brookston were also part of this special occasion. Dayton is a vigorous club that has had 115 exchanges, including inbounds, outbounds, and Open World, during their 40 years of existence. No wonder they were named "Top Friendship Force Club Worldwide" in 2002. Dave and I were happy to reconnect with Julie Vann and her son Zach, our home hosts in 2017. On this occasion, because of flooding at Julie's, we were hosted by Vicki and Ron Thompson, active members in FF Dayton, and **new** good friends. We look forward to seeing Dayton friends soon, perhaps on a Journey to FFNI!

### Skyping with Russians? A new Opportunity

Both FF Milwaukee and FFNI have been approached about a new language learning opportunity. FF of Moscow has several members who have studied English, but have only occasional opportunities to use it ("use it or lose it!"). They would like to establish a program where our members would speak with their members on a one-on-one basis. The idea is to further English conversational skills while forming and sustaining friendships. Certainly ours is an era where more friendship between our two countries is a good goal. More about this idea will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

**IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO BE WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN.**

**— GEORGE ELIOT (MARY ANN EVANS)**



# *FF NORTHERN ILLINOIS* *ACTIVITIES*



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

2019	General Meeting	Board Meeting	Journeys	Other Events
May	May 19 Oak Park Library 834 Lake St. Oak Park, IL			
June		June 13 Chris/Scott Oliver's	June 6-10 Outbound <u>Oklahoma City</u>  June 29-July 3 Hiroshima <b>Day Hosting,</b> Contact Chris Oliver	
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 10 Pat/Dave Meyer's	October 11-November 3, <b>ON HOLD</b> Outbound Thailand & Vietnam	
November	November 10, Time/Venue TBA Annual Board Election, & Dinner			
December		December 12 Coyle/DiBrito Holiday Party, Venue TBA		



## The Social Side of FFNI



**KAT YORK, SOCIAL CHAIR**

### ***L.E.O (Let's Eat Out!) at the Naper Settlement***

Oh, What a Day! I am sorry that not all of our members couldn't join us. It was truly exhilarating to lunch and explore an historic/cultural site with FFNI friends.

First, we had lunch in a beautiful room in the mansion at Meson Sabika. The food was great! I'm not going to tell you who loved those Garlic potatoes, or who laughed the most. Whatever plans your social committee makes, the best part is always watching Friends get together enjoying the relationships that have developed in FFNI.



After a wonderful lunch, we all proceeded to the Naper Settlement. The Naper family left their mansion and property to the community to be used in the service of the people. This huge piece of land now serves many purposes: the high school, the river walk, and the Settlement. It includes over 20 buildings on the grounds of the original family mansion. These structures from around the

community have been moved and restored to exhibit the lifestyle of people who lived there from the 1830s forward. Although many of us have visited other places of this sort, I think we all learned many things we didn't know before and saw some exciting and interesting contrasts.

I want to thank the members of the social committee. They are a great group of ladies: Sandy Matthews, Laura De Ment, and Janis Westlund. This and other FFNI social events couldn't happen without the magic of each of these ladies.

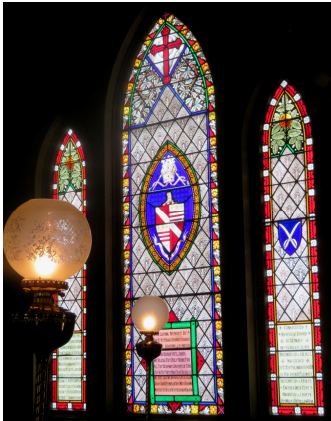


*Kat York*



SCOTT OLIVER, ALSO SHARED HIS NAPER SETTLEMENT EXPERIENCES:

Our Social Committee, Kat York, Sandy Matthews, and Laura DeMent, planned a delightful LEO. We began with lunch at Meson Sabrika, a building whose history goes back to the middle of the 19th Century. The “Meson” celebrates Spanish culture through music and art, but mainly food—Tapas such as Patatas con Aioli and Datile (dates) con Tocino and full plates such as Tilapia Marinada and Pasta con Gambas (shrimp). Thanks to all who shared small plates! We need to go back when we have time for the paellas.



first highlight here Memorial Chapel with its beautiful windows and its door in the floor. Pat Meyer answered all the “I SPY” questions the floor led down to immersions.

At the print shop, ink and press small with one such card. It At the blacksmith’s man use the bellows, away.

All this food fueled us for our tour of the Naperville Settlement. The was the Century



and we found out the door in the spot for baptismal

Marlene watched a young girl cards and she was rewarded will be a bookmark for Dean. shop, we watched a young heat the metal, and hammer

It was a rewarding Wednesday for the dozen participants! Thanks to our social committee!

*Scott Oliver*

**NOTE:** Our June L.E.O. will be at the Scots Highland Festival and Games in Itasca. Details forthcoming from Kat York. [www.scottishfestivalchicago.org](http://www.scottishfestivalchicago.org)





# *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**

**ON HOLD — SEE BELOW.**

**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).

### **Oklahoma City, Domestic Outbound**

**June 6-10**, Scott Oliver, Ambassador Coordinator

### **Florida Sun Coast, Domestic Inbound**

**CANCELLED:** Possible for next year (both Inbound & Outbound?)

*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!**

## Japanese English Language Learners

INBOUND, July 11-17, 2019

**URGENT: We still need home hosts for four women Ambassadors. CALL PAT TO VOLUNTEER: 708-369-5685.**

FFNI has been selected as one of the few clubs in the States to host Japanese Language Learners in 2019. With all our retired teachers, this is a perfect match for us! All the Japanese Ambassadors will have studied English, but hope to improve their pronunciation and conversational fluency. To help with this, we have decided to investigate areas of local culture influenced by Japan. For example, Frank Lloyd Wright 'borrows' heavily from Japanese art and design, so, one morning when we teach vocabulary and practice pronunciation, we'll use



photos of Wright homes to explore these influences. Later, we'll do a walking tour of Wright's homes in Oak Park, asking our Japanese ambassadors to ***explain in English*** where they see Japanese influences in Wright's work. To give Ambassadors ample opportunity to speak, we'll break into small groups. The whole program will follow this pattern of morning

'study' and afternoon activities with the Ambassadors teaching us while practicing spoken English. **Materials and "study guides" will be provided for home hosts! Please let Pat Meyer know if you can be a home host.**

*Pat Meyer, Journey Coordinator*



## Thailand and Vietnam

OUTBOUND, October 11-November 3, 2019



Dave Meyer must have a knee replacement in mid-September, so he has had to withdraw from leading this Journey. Since no one from FFNI or any other Midwest club has agreed to take over, we are uncertain of the Journey's status at present. Twnty-seven queries have come from the listing in the FFI catalogue. Maryam Jordan at FFI is seeking a new Journey coordinator now so the Journey can proceed.



# **NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Friendship Force World Conference**

### **July 23-27, 2019**

*Last chance* to join FFI in Boulder, CO for this important gathering of friends from around the world.





### SUNSHINE

Both Chris Oliver and Dave Meyer are recovering very well from their respective knee and hip replacements. In addition, Dave, alas, is scheduled for a knee replacement in September. Brain replacement next?

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

We added a new member from our Old Dominion presentation, Art Shriber of Mundelein. Welcome him at our next meeting. At Old Dominion 3 other people showed interest in joining.

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

*Dean DiBrito, Hospitality/Membership Chair*

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### 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, 5/19.**

*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*

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## *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**

FFNI merchandise will be displayed at the May meeting. Select a gift for your journey hosts or incoming ambassadors or yourself. There is one woman's XL FFNI club shirt available at the May meeting. Marlene DiBrito will handling merchandise at the meeting.

**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 each of them has 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.**