

IN FRIENDSHIP



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



From Our President

With Friendship Force we do not count time in seasons but in journeys. While Scott and I have only been in Friendship Force since 2012, we remember the years by our journeys: Kalispell, Montana; Halle, Germany; Hassalt, Belgium; Big Canoe, Georgia; Dayton, Ohio; Western North Carolina. All of these places and sites were seen with new friends who shared their homes and their surroundings, whose special stories about these sites were woven into their identities.

And there are so many journeys that Scott and I missed, but you, our members, shared through your presentations: Chile and Argentina, Vladivostok and Ulan-Ude, a Norway cruise, and others, Thanks. Our future includes many journeys next

year: outgoing to Japan and Oklahoma, with incoming groups, a global one focused on architecture, and another from Ottawa. Our lives are richer through the many friends we meet as well as those who travel at our sides.

All these journeys have brought the beauty, wonder, and history of the world to us. The bright yellow canola fields and Glacier National Park in Montana, the Nebra Sky Disc in Germany (oldest astronomical calendar in the world), the church in the Belgium field that was an open steel edifice, the American cemetery near the Battle of Bulge area, the Blue Ridge Highway and the many waterfalls of western North Carolina, the yarn bombing in Asheville. The journeys have also deepened our empathy. As violence continues to erupt around the world, it has scarred the neighborhoods of our friends. When a gunman could not get into the synagogue in Halle, he shot a woman in the neighborhood, then fled to Landsberg where he shot at others. Senseless violence erupted in the Oregon District in Dayton this year. We know these streets where blood has been spilled and our hearts are with our friends. The mission of Friendship Force is so important to heal the rifts in our politics and culture, and in the world. More tables need to be set, more bread broken.

But it is time for me to move into my next position as past-president and for Scott, should you elect him (I fully endorse him), to take over. I want to thank all the members of the board for their hard work these past two years. Dean as Vice-president and membership chair; Joan and her committee for the international dinner; Brian for his work as treasurer; Sandy for her careful note-taking at meetings; Marcia for her many roles as journey coordinator and treasurer for the past year; Kat, Sandy, and Laura, who have focused on LEOs, our picnics and banquets, including our upcoming one in November at Dimitri's; Sally who keeps our merchandise and who, with Tom, creates our earrings, a local specialty; and special thanks to Dave, whose hard work organizing our words and pictures into the newsletter keeps us connected.

Our journeys, these past two years, have been successful because of all of you who have organized them both as JCs or committee members. So thanks, Joan, Marcia, Scott, Dave and Pat. And these journeys would not have been successful without the rest of you who home hosted or day hosted or provided dinners. Most of you played more than one role as we shared Northern Illinois with our many ambassadors. We are all richer from the stories we heard and the stories we shared.

Please continue to share these stories of friendships though travel, the gold and the silver, by writing them up and submitting them to the newsletter or share them at a general meeting.

Hugs, Chris



2019-20 calendar (General Meetings @ 2pm; Board varies):

2019-20	General Meeting	Board Meeting	Exchanges	Other Events
December				December 12, Coyle- DiBrito Holiday Party, Venue TBA
January	Grand Dominion Jan. 12			
February		Feb. 13 Sally Coyle		
March	March 8 Lake Bluff Municipal Building			
April		TBA (Many of us will be in Japan.	Outgoing Japan March 28-April 15?	
May	May 17 Oak Park Library			
June		June 4 Marcia Weissman	Outgoing Oklahoma, June 10-16 Incoming Global Architecture June 21-28	
July	Picnic July 12			
August		August 12 Marlene DiBrito		
September	Sept. 13 LaGrange Park Library			Sept. 18-20 Minnesota Conference
October		October 8 Pat Myer	Canada incoming Sept. 29-Oct. 5	
November	November 15 Annual Dinner			
December		Dec. 10, TBA		

Share our Message of Peace

In Friendship **Activities**

FFNI 2019 BANQUET

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH US SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 12:15PM

Dimitri's Greek Restaurant 660 Lake Cook Rd. Deerfield, Illinois



THIS FINAL MEETING OF THE YEAR INCLUDES ELECTION AND INAUGURATION OF OUR NEW PRESIDENT

\$45 per person (cash bar)

Please send your check to **Sandy Matthews**

NO LATER THAN November 5, 2019

If you haven't paid your 2020 <u>\$45 dues</u> already, you may include them along with your Banquet payment, but as a separate check!

WEBSITES - FF International: www.friendshipforce.org - FF of Northern Illinois: http://www.ffnorthernillinois.org LIKE FFI AND FFNI ON FACEBOOK page 3

November, 2019

JOURNEY STORIES

TURKEY SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019.

This journey was more like a global Journey than just one club traveling. There were ambassadors from Australia, Canada, and other states, plus members of the home club. I will share a few experiences and some of what I learned.

Western Turkey was an eye opener. We Americans did not know much about the country, believing Turkey to be the Middle East, where women dressed in burkas and men in robes. But western Turkey is very different (there are no FF clubs in eastern Turkey, perhaps because westerners are restricted from some areas). I couldn't have been more surprised all over Izmir & Cesme to see sharply dressed men & women in American designer label clothes. We Americans looked shabby in comparison. I remembered the advice from everyone I knew before I left home: bring long sleeve blouses to cover the arms, high collar necklines, long pants to cover the legs, and of course, a scarf to cover the head in mosques. I came prepared to meet the Taliban.

But our Turkish hosts said they do like to be not considered Middle Eastern because they are not. They more are European, but think of themselves neither, just as Turks, proud to be a country between continents. two home hosts Our



from the Karsiyaka Club also told us that, although the country is predominantly Muslim, there is religious freedom to can belong to any church, mosque, temple, etc. They themselves are 'non-practicing Muslims.' Our tour guide for the second week was a Sufi. We heard calls to prayer every morning at sunrise (some of us did not need an alarm clock!) and throughout the day, but were told the local people did not even notice them anymore.

We also learned that Turkey is a democratic republic like the U.S. since 1923, when Ataturk led a revolution against the Ottoman Empire. He is their national hero: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln rolled into one. Ataturk and his

followers threw out the royal families (Sultans), seized their property, and got rid of all vestiges of that empire. Luckily for us, they kept a few palaces, castles, and other assorted buildings to show tourists. The rumor is that the last member of the Sultan's royal family is driving a taxi somewhere in Istanbul.

Many people we met in Izmir do not like radical Muslims, because Islam is about peace, whereas radical Islamists are not. Our hosts also do not like their President Erdogan, thinking he is trying to lead the country backwards toward the right and Islamic fundamentalism (they dislike our President for similar reasons). They enjoy their freedom too much to want to go backwards, socializing a lot with drinking and dancing. Many smoked cigarettes, too.

Our home hosts, however, were very respectful of our wishes for a non-smoking environment. One morning when we came down to breakfast we called out, looking all over for our host, but could not find her. Someone finally went outside and found her smoking in the yard. Our Sufi tour bus guide did not mind giving us bathroom breaks every couple of hours either. He gladly sat off

to the side having his cigarette break.

He also liked inviting us to the bars hotel for their Happy drinks Hour before dinner. is which late there. 7-8pm. Then he invited everyone to meet for drinks again after dinner.



Some accepted, but most declined and went straight to bed exhausted. Our home hosts from the Karsiyaka Bay Club also liked to serve wine, cheese, and olives each night after dinner about 9pm and invited us to stay up talking with them a few hours. We tried, but became too tired and excused ourselves. They stayed up till around midnight each night, but were always up before us next morning, wide awake and cheerful. During the second week, when we stayed in the same hotels together, we commented as we dragged ourselves down to breakfast, "When do these people sleep?" And "How do they get up early every morning so fresh and ready to go?" The 'Mediterranean' diet?

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Outside of breakfast, the food was delicious Mediterranean meals. But breakfast: lettuce, tomatoes, green olives, cheese, garlic yogurt, and bread rolls. Luckily at the hotels they had hard boiled eggs. We learned from our hosts that they do not eat cereal and milk for breakfast, and don't even have milk in their houses, drinking coffee and tea straight. Try hard as I might, I could not get used to eating salad for breakfast. One group member commented, "I love it here, but I can't wait to get home for a bowl of oatmeal for breakfast."



farewell Our the party last night in Cesme with the Karsiyaka Bay Club members quite was an After event. а marvelous dinner they had a DJ and dancing. They love to dance and got all of us out on the floor dancing

too. They also taught us steps to a Turkish dance.

One different thing we noticed was the number of dogs and cats roaming free in the streets. Our hosts told us Muslims believe in compassion toward animals: they put out food and water each day. The animals are all friendly to people and think of the streets as their home. Dogs especially will just lie down and go to sleep anywhere they feel like, even the middle of the sidewalk or street. People just walk or drive around them.

On both our Journey and our tour, we went to amazing sites: Three cities of Roman ruins, each more extensive than the one before it, castles, palaces, the Ataturk museum, the Sultanhan Caravanserai (fort-like buildings where medieval merchants from caravans gathered to sell their wares and stay overnight, safe from attack), and old-world bazaars. Outside one such market a wedding party was passing by. Somehow, we got in the middle and ended up in a group picture taken with the bride and groom!

Another time when we came out of a castle tour, we were minus one. An Australian woman's husband was missing from the group. We went back to the castle where she tried to go in to look for him, but the guard and the admission clerk stopped her, saying she had to pay again to go in. She began arguing, telling them we were on a tour and had to leave, but they would not let her in. In exasperation she said, "Enough of this, I know how to find him," and let out a very loud 1/2 hog call and 1/2 yodel that was the funniest thing we ever heard. From way on top of the castle roof we heard the same sound from her husband. We all burst out laughing. She said that was the way they had to call to each other out on the ranch back home.

We also went on boat rides, swimming in the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas, climbed rock formations in Cappadocia, toured the Mevlana Rumi Museum, watched a whirling dervish ceremony, and, of course, visited mosques. All the women brought scarves from home and showed them to each other excitedly. We could not wait to wear them in a mosque. However, our tour guide said we could not enter the Blue Mosque in Istanbul because it was closed for renovation. I don't know if the howl of disappointment was for not being able to see the mosque, or for not being able to wear our scarves. But he did take us to two beautiful mosques on the tour: First, in Istanbul we visited the Green Mosque, which our tour guide said was even better than the Blue Mosque, though most of us weren't sure about that. Then to Topkapi Palace and the Grand Bazaar. Later, in the city of Konya, we had our picture taken outside the mosque (with our scarves).

We loved every minute of our journey, learned a lot, and made friends with the welcoming and friendly members of Karsiyaka Bay Club. We ambassadors also became friends with each other, constantly joking and laughing on the bus, partly because our Sufi tour guide was nothing short of a stand-up comic who had us in stitches. (Yes, a Sufi). He was also very knowledgeable about his country and gave us much information. The only complaint voiced at the end of the trip was: "Not Enough Time for Shopping!" If anyone has a chance to go on this journey with an FFI club, do so. It is something not to be missed.

Sandra Matthews

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES ON TIME

Please don't forget that FFNI dues for 2020 must be paid by the day of our Annual Dinner on <u>November 10</u>. As previously announced, the dues are now \$45.00 per person because of an increase in the Friendship Force International fees. Please send your check, made out to FFNI, to the Treasurer, Marcia Weissman.

If your check is not received by November 10, there is an additional fee of \$5.00 per person, for a total of \$50.00 each.

For your convenience, you can include the dues (in a separate check) when you send your payment for the Annual Dinner, or you can bring the dues check to the dinner itself. Just be sure that the check is received by November 10 at the latest.

If you have any questions, write to Marcia at <u>marcia.weissman@yahoo.com</u>, or call her at 630-399-1765.

Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together.

- WOODROW T. WILSON



<u>FFNI Journey News</u>



Outbound: Tokyo & Osaka, Japan

March 29-April 12 Marlene & Dean DiBrito, Ambassador Coordinators

Outbound: Oklahoma City

June 11-16 Scott Oliver, Ambassador Coordinator

Inbound: Architecture (GLOBAL)

June 21-28

Marcia Weissman, Ambassador Coordinator

Inbound: Ottawa, Canada

September/October (date not set) No Host Coordinator yet appointed



April 5

to

on

<u>JAPAN</u>

TOKYO & OSAKA

MARCH 28-APRIL 12, 2020

Our FFNI Japan journey begins on March 28 with a flight to Tokyo arriving at Heneda (Tokyo

International) Airport on the 30th, where we will be met by our hosts from FF Tokyo. We will spend a week with our hosts experiencing the culture and community of Tokyo, a diverse city with shrines, temples, and skyscrapers. Here are some possible activities:

• Travel by bus touring Hakone National Park, and its Lake Ashi, maybe seeing Mount Fuji if the





spend another busy and amazing week.

• Parts of Osaka are in 6 prefectures (states), so there will be much to see in this part of Central Japan:



clouds agree.

• Visit the seaside town Kamakura to see Daibutsu Buddha.

• Enjoy a tea ceremony with Kimonos!

• We also will have two free days with our home hosts to visit other wonderful and ancient sites while enjoying Cherry Blossom time — a very special season in Japan.

• Our week ends with a farewell party.

• We depart Tokyo by bullet train arrive in Osaka 1 & 1/2 hour later. Luggage is sent to our FF Osaka hosts in advance, so we are unburdened with it the train.

• We are met and welcomed by our club hosts and taken to their homes to

• Osaka itself, Osaka castle city tour.



• **Kyoto**, capital of Japan for 1000 years: beautiful gardens and the Golden Pavilion.

• Historic Nara, Todaiji Temple; Hyogo (Kobe Seat); Wayakama and Shiga.

• We again have two free days for hosts and ambassadors to explore more of this ancient area. There is much to see and experience in this uniquely ancient-yet-modern country.

• We end our journey with a farewell party of Lunch, Program and Ceremony and prepare for our departure for home the next day, **April 12**.

Contact Journey Coordinators Marlene & Dean DiBrito

Share our Message of Peace

Journeys

<u>Oklahoma Cíty</u>

JUNE 10-16



The itinerary/cost is still being finalized, but here is a general list of suggested activities:

- Wed: Welcome lunch at Cattlemen's Steakhouse, Bricktown: Canal/Statues/Trolley, Botanic Gardens, and Art Museum (Chihuly exhibit)
- Thu: Capitol Tour/Western Heritage Museum
- **Fri**: Cheyenne/Arapaho Nation and Bison Feed, Fort Reno, (&maybe Clydesdales horses)
- **Sat:** Red Earth Festival (Native American Juried Art Market, Pow Wow)
- **Sun:** free day
- Mon: OK City Memorial (bombing), OKC Memorial Museum, Farewell Dinner (Barbecue)
- Tues: Tour of National Weather Center (AM) and departure

NOTE: Tom Coyle is taking over the role of Journey Coordinator from Scott Oliver as Scott takes on the role of President.

Red Earth Festival - Second Weekend of June 2020

The Red Earth Festival has made Oklahoma City its home for the past 33 years. The event, held each year at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City, celebrates its 34th Anniversary in June 2020 when it welcomes the world to Oklahoma City to share the Native Cultures that make our city and state unique.

Downtown Oklahoma City is a vibrant and exciting place, with the new OKC Street Cars transporting passengers to attractions and events throughout downtown from the Myriad Botanical Gardens to Midtown, Automobile Alley and the Bricktown Entertainment District where Water Taxis cruise the Bricktown Canal. The Center of all activity is the Cox Convention Center, home to the 34th Annual Red Earth Festival.

Native artists travel from across the country to participate in the prestigious Red Earth Juried Art Market. Red Earth attracts America's best Native artists who fill the climate controlled Cox Convention Center Exhibition Hall in the heart of Oklahoma's Capitol City.

The Red Earth Pow Wow, on Saturday and Sunday, features hundreds of dancers in full tribal regalia as the fill the Convention Center Arena during exciting competitions and exhibition dances.

Check back for more information and a detailed schedule for the coming year!



<u>Global Inbound:</u> <u>Architecture in Chicago</u>

JUNE 21-28, 2020

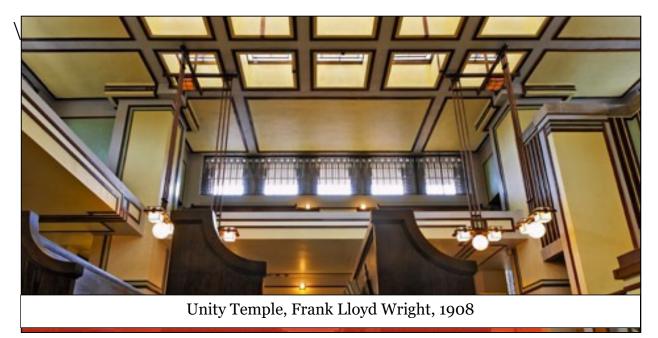
"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood..." Daniel Burnham, Chicago architect and urban planner, 1910

We are delighted to welcome ambassadors from around the world to Northern Illinois, and our world-class city of Chicago. Although Chicago has a rich history and heritage in many fields, it is often identified and defined by its architecture. Needless to say, there are many important architects – some world-famous, and others lesser known – who have contributed to the architectural landscape in Chicago and its vicinity. One could spend many months exploring their

innovations, diversity, and beauty. Unfortunately, we have only one week to taste a small sample.

Although we will have several tours that will provide views and information about a wide variety of architects, we will focus on three in particular. These individuals have become exemplars of particular styles and techniques that became hallmarks of their eras and inspired architects and designers throughout the world, and they are also identified with Chicago and contributed significantly to the development of the area as it is today.

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959): Known for the "prairie school" of building that dispensed with Victorian ornamentation and took inspiration from the land on which his homes were built. His career began in Chicago. We will see several examples of his work, and we will visit his home and studio as well as the Unity Temple, a Unitarian church which was recently designated a World Heritage Site.



Explore · Understand · Serve



❖ Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969): Although he had a significant career in his native Germany, Chicago provided him with the scope and opportunity to fully develop his vision, which became known as Modernism. As dean of architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology, he designed most of the original buildings of the IIT campus, which we will visit, and he and his students built many of the most significant high-rise buildings for which Chicago is known.

✤ Jeanne Gang (1964 -): Most of her significant buildings have been completed within the past decade, but already she is known worldwide and has become a major influence in 21st century

architecture. Her work combines highly innovative visual design along with enhancements that improve the environmental quality and sustainability of the structures and those who live and work in them. We will view several of her major buildings in the city and visit a striking theater that she designed.

This promises to be a very exciting journey. From the **many** applicants, those we selected will form a group of

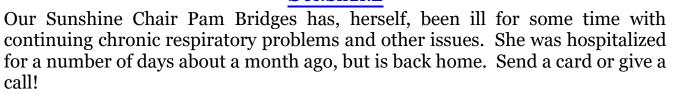


knowledgeable, enthusiastic and diverse individuals with a common interest in architecture and a desire to learn about Chicago's contributions to the field.

As always, we are looking for hosts to make this journey truly memorable and successful. Home hosts are needed for single ambassadors, traveling companions, and couples. We will also need day hosts and dinner hosts for small group dinners. Remember that your friends and neighbors who are not members of FFNI can also participate as hosts. Contact me if you are able to join this adventure.

Marcia Weissman, Host Coordinator





Brian Harrington had a Total Knee Replacement September 17. Send a card or give a call! Regarding Brian's knee replacement, he sent this note:

THANK YOU FFNI FRIENDS

On September 17, I had a total knee replacement performed at Skokie Hospital. The surgery was successful though rehabilitation will take a while longer than first anticipated.

Since this news was announced to FFNI members, I have been overwhelmed by the many cards, notes, phone calls and even meals and treats delivered to my home. I cannot individually acknowledge each of these beautiful acts of kindness, care and concern. However, I want to publicly express my deepest gratitude to every Friendship Force friend who reached out with words of support and encouragement.

A world of friends is a world of peace. Brian Harrington

If you know of events in our membership that call for notes and greetings from all of us, please let Pam 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

CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

HOSPITALITY/MEMBERSHIP

Every member can help as we strive to add **significantly** to our membership. Bring potential members to our activities whenever you can. Ideas? Successes? Email to Dean DiBrito, Hospitality/Membership Chair

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

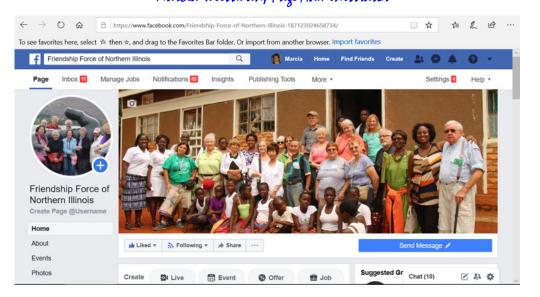
Please contribute to the hungry! Bring donations of_canned, prepared, or dried foods, staple items like paper goods, toiletries, or money/checks <u>to our</u> <u>Annual Dinner Meeting, November 10.</u>

Scott Oliver, Service/Community Outreach Chair

Have You Looked at Our Facebook Page?

Maybe you haven't looked, but lots of other people have. We have now passed 400 "likes" for our page. We have postings about our various journeys – incoming and outgoing – and also photos and shared articles about the many areas of interest in Northern Illinois. People from all over the world have viewed, commented, and liked the postings and the page itself.

If you have photos or postings you'd like to share on our page, just send them to me, or to my Facebook timeline at Marcia Edelstein Weissman. Marcia Weissman, Page Administrator



FF Northern Illinois Information

FRIENDSHIP FORCE WEBSITES: FF International: <u>http://www.friendshipforce.org/</u> FF Northern Illinois: <u>http://www.ffnorthernillinois.org/</u>

FFNI Officers & Committee Chairs						
PRESIDENT: Christine Oliver	WAYS & MEANS: Joan Harrington	JOURNEYS:				
VICE PRESIDENT: Dean DiBrito	MERCHANDISE: Sally Coyle	GENERAL JOURNEY				
SECRETARY: Sandy Matthews	SERVICE/COMMUNITY OUTREACH:	COORDINATOR: Pat Meyer				
TREASURER: Marcia Weissman	Scott Oliver	JOURNEY COORDINATORS:				
PAST PRESIDENT: Marcia	NEWSLETTER: Dave Meyer	Tom Coyle, Oklahoma City				
Weissman	SUNSHINE: Pam Bridges	Marlene DiBrito, Japan				
weissman	PUBLICITY: Joan Harrington	Ottawa, Chris Oliver, Sandy				
	PROGRAM: OPEN	Matthews, & Kathy Louden				
MEMBERSHIP: Dean DiBrito	COMMUNICATIONS: OPEN	Marcia Weissman, Architecture				
SOCIAL: Kat York	WEBMASTER: Marcia Weissman	Global				

FFNI STORE

Club earrings, pins and pens make excellent host or ambassador gifts. What do you need for upcoming Journeys? Place your order with Sally Coyle (<u>tomensally610@gmail.com</u>). Pay and pick up items at future meetings.

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'**ê**tre. FFNI membership is now 46.

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!





2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Chair: Dean DiBrito: showrks@aol.com

Last Name		
First	Spouse	
E-Mail	Spouse Email	
Street		
City, State	Zip	
Home Phone	Work Phone	
Cell Phone	Spouse Cell Phone	-
New Member Dues: \$45	plus one-time fee of \$15 for required name badge per person	
Name as you would like	it to appear on the Name Badge	
Spouse name as you wo	uld like it to appear on the Name Badge	
	BLE TO: FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS an orm to FFNI, c/o DiBrito, 1230 N. Western Ave., Unit 303, Lak	-
	PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS	
How did you learn about	t the Friendship Force?	
What languages do you	speak other than English?	
What countries would yo	ou like to visit on an exchange/travel?	
Please indicate a club co	mmittee(s) you would like to serve on. Circle as many as you like	<u>e:</u>
Membership Publicity	Program Social Newsletter Archives Website Merchandise	
Do you have special skil	ls, special training, or experience can you share with the club?	

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

Comments or suggestions:

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.