



# IN FRIENDSHIP

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



## *From Our President*

Please check out the following link at the website of Friendship Force International: <https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/who-we-are/our-clubs/> for a map of the clubs. If you haven't checked this out before, it is very cool as you select an area of the world and the clubs pop up. You will be surprised by some of the unusual destinations and disappointed by the fact that some countries have no clubs.

### **And think about the following questions:**

If FFI matches us to this destination, would you travel with us?

Is this a feasible choice? Hey, everyone wants Switzerland or Sweden, but each country has just one club.

How does this destination fulfill our mission to sit at the dining table to make peace through friendship?

Is this a place we have not visited in the past 15 years? See our website. <https://www.ffnorthernillinois.org/past-outgoing-exchanges/> (Thank you, Marcia.)

Send me up to three destinations. It would help if you wrote a sentence or two. Hey, I convinced nine others to travel to Latvia, just because of a story I heard about young girls knitting mittens and gifting them at weddings. I might choose Florianapolis, Brazil, because the few Brazilians that visited us were so lovely and they did invite us. I might choose Kiev, Ukraine, because Dora has been a wonderful ambassador for the Ukrainian culture and I want to see it first hand.

Anyway, you have the idea.

*Hugs, Chris*

# Share our Message of Peace



# *FFNI ACTIVITIES*



*Explore · Understand · Serve*

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

2019	General Meeting	Board Meeting	Journeys	Other Events
<b>September</b>	September 8 Lake Bluff Police Station 45 E. Center Ave. Lake Bluff			
<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		

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

— WOODROW T. WILSON

## BON VOYAGE, LUDWINA AND BILL!

We sadly say goodbye to Ludwina and Bill Homer, who are moving to their new home in Tampa, Florida. The Homers have been members of FFNI for **27 years** (1992 to present). They have enthusiastically promoted Friendship



Force both in their community and abroad. Ludwina, who has been a board member for 22 of those years, also served as ED more than a half dozen times, a home host and dinner host for nearly every exchange—journey, a membership chair, social director, chair of both ways and means, and our international dinner. Ludwina initiated the Ways and Means committee and, through the International Dinners organized

by that committee, raised substantial funds for incoming club exchanges while simultaneously promoting friendship and fellowship within the club. Ludwina is also a 2013 recipient of the Wayne Smith Award which recognizes exceptional leadership in advancing the Friendship Force mission.

The Homer's will be greatly missed by FFNI club members. We wish them well in their new home and community where they will, no doubt, join in Friendship Force activities.

*Joan Harrington*

# *OUR JAPANESE LANGUAGE* *INBOUND JOURNEY*

*July 11 — 17, 2019*

FFNI's July inbound exchange demonstrated that "if you've always wanted to go to Japan, but haven't had the time, money, or opportunity, then bring Japan to us!" This year's inbound, billed as a Language Journey, gave us the opportunity to explore all things Japanese in Chicago and the Suburbs with our ambassadors, who practiced their English by being our tour guides, a win/win for all.

The Japanese were especially interested in visiting Frank Lloyd Wright's Home and Studio in Oak Park. They quite specifically requested to go there; however, what they were not expecting was the walking tour through the "Wright neighborhood."



After visiting the Home and Studio, we asked our ambassadors to "show us the Japanese influences" as we explored the Wright homes nearby. They practiced their English, and we learned more about Japanese influences on Wright's designs.

A first for many of our members and ambassadors was a visit to the Midwest Buddhist Temple. When I informed the Japanese JC that the Temple was on our agenda, she quickly emailed that no one on the exchange attended a temple, so they would not be able to explain Buddhism to us! Fortunately, Jesse Zavala, Administrator and Assistant Minister at the Midwest Temple, was able to lead a tour and answer our questions!





The highlight of the week for many of us was the opportunity to experience a tea ceremony and learn calligraphy. The ritual and precision of the tea ceremony was mesmerizing

— each gesture an ancient and well-practiced move. The matcha (green tea) itself was a bit too bitter for me! Calligraphy, not an art someone learns in an afternoon, was however, relaxing. Many of us produced some ‘thought-provoking’ characters, some actually readable by our Japanese guests. At least they courteously told us that!



Grocery shopping with our ambassadors at Mitsuwa left me breathless! They whipped down aisles putting unimaginable produce and food in the cart. However, when this food later arrived at the table, it was delicious and satisfying. I refrained from asking what I was eating. Sometimes ignorance is bliss!

As with all journeys I've been involved in, the week ends too quickly, but there is no greater satisfaction than knowing I've made friendships that will last a lifetime.

*Pat Meyer*





## JAPANESE CUISINE IN OUR OWN KITCHEN

As hosts for the Japanese Language Learning journey, Bob and I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Mitsuko and Yoshihiro Shimakura. Yoshihiro didn't say much, but Mitsuko worked hard to express herself in English. She performed the tea ceremony for the group on the first day of the journey, and also prepared remarks about Japanese gardening when we visited the Botanic Garden.

But for me, the most interesting experience was the dinner preparation that Mitsuko did for us after shopping at the Asian market. She was excited by the ingredients they were able to buy there, and especially by the fact that everything was much less expensive than the same foods in Japan.

Then Mitsuko began to cook. She asked for a knife and I opened my drawer. She selected the longest, sharpest knife I have, and proceeded to use it to peel carrots, potatoes, and a long thin brown vegetable that I think was some kind of radish. I tried to give her my vegetable peeler, but she wanted to use the knife. After peeling, she sliced the veggies, and then still with this long knife, she took each slice and scalloped it into a flower shape.

Mitsuko prepared a chicken dish, a beef dish, a tofu dish, some soup, and rice balls. For stirring, she used a pair of very long chopsticks that she had brought. Seasoning was mostly some kind of powdered bouillon, as well as sugar and soy sauce. She tasted small amounts and then added tiny amounts of each seasoning until she was satisfied that everything was correct.

Yoshihiro was directed to search my cabinets for small plates, and came up with small bowls, saucers and dessert plates. Mitsuko set the table with four plates and a bowl for each of us, with one course in each. The food on each dish was arranged for visual symmetry and beauty.

The food did not taste like anything I've had in any Japanese restaurant, but it was totally delicious!

*Marcia Weissman*

**Many of us had similarly delectable meals on the evening Ambassadors cooked for us, but, oddly, I received photos from only one host, Donna Rolf (Dave & Pat's neighbor). Here are some of those:**



# CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD



Our chefs, Yoko Sawada (Donna's Ambassador) & Kazuko Ishimaru (Meyers' Ambassador).

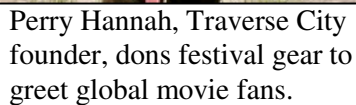


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**World of Friends is a World of Peace!**



FROM THE  
**TRAVERSE CITY FILM FESTIVAL**



A large crowd of people, many wearing red, gathered outside a movie theater for the premiere of 'The Untouchables'. The marquee reads 'WELCOME MOVIE LOVERS' and 'JANE FONDA IN FIVE ACTS WITH JANE FONDA &amp; SASHA LAY'. A 'Box Office' sign is visible above the entrance.

CHRIS recommends the film *STYX*, a German film about a doctor who sails from Gibraltar toward Ascension Island, an island Darwin visited. During the trip she encounters a boat filled with refugees in danger of sinking. Her instinct is to help, yet she cannot save them, despite her month's supply of water and food. One boy reaches her boat and the ethical dilemma plays out. The conflict increases as the refugee boat is sinking without help arriving. "I could lose my job," is one comment coming through the sailboat's radio. (Available on Amazon Prime — for a fee.)



SCOTT recommends the German film *BALLOON* (*Ballon* original German title)- a remake of a movie Disney produced in the 1980's (*Night Crossing*). This film, based on a true story, follows the efforts of two families to attempt dangerous escapes from the old East Germany, and shows the trials that people will knowingly undergo to reach freedom and a better life for their families. The escape attempts took place in an area just south of our recent journey to

Germany/Belgium.

The movie *PEANUT BUTTER FALCON* got a huge standing ovation at TCFF. Google the movie name and watch the Downs syndrome star interviewed on Today show: <https://www.today.com/video/meet-the-peanut-butter-falcon-star-zack-gottsagen-taking-hollywood-by-storm-65873477895>.

In selected movie theaters now.

*Chris & Scott Oliver*



**CHANGING THE WAY YOU  
SEE THE WORLD**



## Carillon at the Botanic Gardens

'Twas a soft mist that covered the Chicago Botanic Garden on the evening of August 12<sup>th</sup>, but it did not dampen the spirits or hamper enjoying the carillon concert played by Jan Verheyen, the city carillonneur of Hasselt, Belgium. Announced as a "2015 Belgium exchange reunion and mini LEO," the group was charmed by Jan as he gave us a tour of the carillon tower, played a song just for us and let us "play" the carillon. During the concert, Jan played nine songs



including one that he composed. Jan was ending a month long concert tour that included Princeton University, New York City, Boston, Washington, DC, and Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel. Scott Oliver wore his Belgian shirt, and of course we explained all about Friendship Force. Tom and Sally Coyle visited Belgian hosts Chris Buntinx and Etienne Ramaekers for the second time in May.

*Sally Coyle*

## *OUR SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING*

**THANKS TO SALLY COYLE FOR ARRANGING OUR SPEAKERS AT OUR NEXT MEETING. HERE IS HER INTRODUCTION TO THE KAISERS.**

Dear Friends —

Learning about other cultures is at the very heart of Friendship Force. The program for our Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> Friendship Force meeting will be “Israel and Palestine or Palestine and Israel: Both are Equally Important.” The meeting will be held at the Lake Bluff Police Station and starts at **2 pm**; the address is 45 E. Center, Lake Bluff IL 60044. There is a small adjacent parking lot and additional street parking as well.

If your last name starts with **A-C**, please bring a snack to share.

Our guest speakers will be Jeanette and Andy Kaiser, friends of FFNI. In 2018 they visited Israel and Palestine. Everything that they saw and did involved two guides, a Muslim Palestinian and a Jewish Israeli. Each gave dramatically different perspectives on everything including places of worship, archaeological sites and visiting private homes. The Kaisers listened to stories on both sides, each equally harrowing.

Their group tour is the front cover and lead article of the July/August issue of “Smithsonian Magazine.” Yes, you read that correctly. The article can be found at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/two-tour-guides-offer-a-new-way-to-see-holy-land-180972503/>. It was written by Geraldine Brooks, who accompanied the Lake Forest group.

A 14<sup>th</sup> century traveler said, “Travel makes you speechless; then it turns you into a storyteller.” Come hear the stories of Jeanette and Andy.

*Sally Coyle*

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU  
SEE THE WORLD**



## *The Social Side of FFNI* *L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out!)*

### GINZA FESTIVAL LEO

The FFNI group attending the Ginza Holiday Festival on Sunday August 11, was in for a delightful day. There were four artists from Japan who demonstrated traditional arts. I was amazed to watch a young man take a few pieces of rice flour to form into very intricate, beautiful pieces of *dessert*. The Chicago health department protected us from germs and such, so, though we could watch, we couldn't taste!

We were delighted that Marlene and Dean DiBrito, Marsha Temple, plus Barbara Cool and Tom Senior all were able to join us.



There was a rumor that Ron and Candace Bare were also there. I went to look for them, but was not able to find them; Sandy and Marlene did, though, their presence was real. I regret I didn't get to say hello them. I think I don't need to say that Sandy Matthews, Jean Wilson, and I were there too.

The Festival was very interesting and fun. The entertainment lasted all afternoon, starting with

Hawaiian dancers, followed by Taiko – who knew that watching a group of drummers could be so enthralling. Then the Kendo Dojo showed us where Darth Vader found his wardrobe. The athleticism and deft moves of the warriors is compelling. We also saw a small group of women, each from a different area of Japan, dance four folk dances. The dancers are so very graceful in moves that were distinctly different in each dance. Fans, umbrellas, and beautiful hats were used to great effect. We wish everyone could have been able to attend. It was certainly a great day. ***Put it on your calendar for next year!***

*Kat York*



**NOTE: Plans are for the October Leo to be at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Pow-Wow sponsored by the American Indian Center of Chicago. Date and location have not been announced yet.**



# FFNI Journey News



2019

## Inbound: Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada **CANCELLED**

I want to thank all who volunteered to help, host, etc. for this cancelled journey. As you probably know, the journey had many problems from the start. It began with a request from the Florida Suncoast club to visit us, promising a full group of ambassadors. After several months of correspondence, during which time Kathy Loudon, Sandy Matthews, Kat York, and I worked hard to schedule a full itinerary, including making reservations at a number of places, the Suncoast cancelled without warning, saying that they could not enlist enough ambassadors. Since, after all our efforts we were reluctant to abandon this journey, we contacted FFI headquarters to help find another club to visit Northern Illinois. We were put in contact with Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada. As it turned out, they had a few people who wanted to come, but no one who would be the coordinator. We managed to locate two people in Quebec City who agreed to coordinate, but then just last week the original group in Sherbrooke said they no longer wanted to come. After a few more efforts it became clear that this journey was not going to happen, so it is now officially cancelled.

Again, thanks to all for volunteering. We have some great things coming up for next year, and I hope that everyone will be eager to participate. See you all at our upcoming activities.

*Marcia Weissman*

2020

## Outbound: Tokyo & Osaka, Japan

March 29-April 12

Marlene & Dean DiBrito, Ambassador Coordinators

## Outbound: Oklahoma City (TENTATIVE)

June 11-16 (tentative)

Scott Oliver, Ambassador Coordinator

## Inbound: Architecture (GLOBAL)

June 21-28

Marcia Weissman, Ambassador Coordinator

## Inbound: Ottawa, Canada

September/October (date not set)

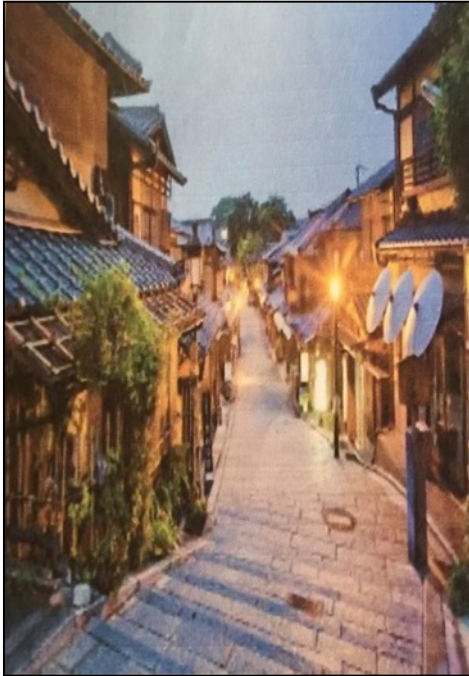
No Host Coordinator yet appointed



## *JAPAN* **TOKYO & OSAKA**

**MARCH 29-APRIL 12, 2020**

Join FFNI for a wonderful two-week journey to “Cherry Blossom” Country!  
Depart March 29<sup>th</sup> (arrive **Tokyo** March 30); return to Chicago April 12.  
Enjoy one week hosted by **FF Tokyo**; Second week hosted by **FF Osaka**.



Contact Journey Coordinators  
Marlene & Dean DiBrito

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## *Global Inbound: Architecture*

**JUNE 21-28, 2020**

We have had over **50 applications** in about a month, and we're not accepting any more. My committee will meet later this week to start selecting 20 ambassadors; together, we've already developed an exciting program Hosts and Ambassadors alike will enjoy. Of course we will need lots of host volunteers.

*Marcia Weissman, Host Coordinator*

## FF OF LINCOLN HOSTS THE BANDURA!

Many of us have fond memories of a LEO and concert in Ukrainian Village performed by The Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America, of which Dora Turula's daughter Motria is a member. They perform all over the US and Canada, most recently in early August at the first *Lincoln Crossroads Music Festival* in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Ensemble members were **home hosted** by **FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LINCOLN**. Motria, who stayed with Marie Hitz, says they thoroughly enjoyed the experience! Among the other hosts were Wendy Horacek, and Dick and Cheryl Johnson. As many FFNI members have been to Lincoln for regional conferences, etc., Dora wonders if anyone knows them?

Besides performing, they also introduced audience members to the instrument, including some instruction (seen above).

*Dave Meyer*





## **NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SUNSHINE**

Our Sunshine Chair Pam Bridges has, herself, been ill for some time with continuing chronic respiratory problems and other issues. She was hospitalized for a number of days about a month ago, but is back home. Send her a card or give her a call!

Brian Harrington is scheduled for Total Knee Replacement surgery on September 17.

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*

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### **HOSPITALITY/MEMBERSHIP**

We have one new member Nancy Braham Homor, plus three other possibilities.

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.

*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 general meeting September 8.**

*Scott Oliver, Service/Community Outreach Chair*

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### **CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

Look at (and “like”) the Friendship Force of Northern Illinois page to see pictures from our exchanges and other activities, and also leave ‘likes’ and comments.

Other Friendship Force clubs have Facebook pages as well – check them out as well. They’re a great way to stay in touch with our friends in clubs around the world!

If you have photos, news, or information, you’d like to post on the site, send them me at [marcia.weissman@yahoo.com](mailto:marcia.weissman@yahoo.com).

*Marcia Weissman, Page Administrator*

**Share our Message of  
Peace**

## *FF Northern Illinois Information*

### **FRIENDSHIP FORCE WEBSITES:**

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

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

### **FFNI OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

PRESIDENT: Christine Oliver  
VICE PRESIDENT: Dean DiBrito  
SECRETARY: Sandy Matthews  
TREASURER: Marcia Weissman  
MEMBERSHIP: Dean DiBrito  
SOCIAL: Kat York  
WAYS & MEANS: Joan Harrington  
MERCHANDISE: Sally Coyle

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

WEBMASTER: Marcia Weissman  
**GENERAL JOURNEY**  
**COORDINATOR:** Pat Meyer  
JOURNEY COORDINATORS:  
Scott Oliver, Oklahoma City  
Marlene DiBrito, Japan  
Ottawa, **OPEN**  
Marcia Weissman, Architecture  
Global

### **FFNI STORE**

What do you need for upcoming Journeys? Please place your order ASAP with Sally Coyle ([tomensally610@gmail.com](mailto:tomensally610@gmail.com)) and plan to pay and pick up the items at future meetings. Club earrings, pins and pens make excellent host or ambassador gifts.

**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 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!**



## Friendship Force of Northern Illinois Membership Application



### *Join us!*

Because many interested friends see our Newsletter, we include a form you can use to join Friendship Force of Northern Illinois. Engage with us in citizens' diplomacy, forging peace through homestays and the friendships and new understanding they engender. 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).

### 2019-20 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (**DOUBLE CLICK THE X, THEN TYPE**)

Last Name X First X Spouse X

E-Mail X Spouse Email X

Street X City, State X Zip X

Home Phone X Cell X Spouse Cell X

Member Dues: \$45 plus one-time fee of \$10 for required name badge. Fees are **per person**.

Name for Name Badge X Spouse name for Badge X

MAKE CHECK TO: FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS and mail 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? X

What languages do you speak other than English? X

Please indicate ways you can contribute to our organization. **UNDERLINE as many as you like:**

Activities Committee	Greeter at events	Publicity
Board Member (future)	Historical/Archiving	Small Dinner Hosting
Community Service	Home Hosting	Speaker's Bureau
Day Hosting	Inbound Planning Team	Social Media
Entertainment/Speakers	Journey Coordinator	Treasurer (future)
Farewell Party Team	Membership Committee	Website
Financial Audit	Newsletter Editor	Welcome Party Team
Fundraising	Photographer	Other

Do you have skills, special training, or experience can you share with the club?  
X

**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.**