

Language & Friendship Newsletter



FALL 2010

Apples to Apples?

Looking out for the needs of your students is key when it comes to providing them with a quality travel and family-stay program abroad. Be sure to compare apples to apples as you search for the program for you!

With Language & Friendship:

PRICING

- ✓ up-front pricing with no surprises
- ✓ taxes, fuel, weekends included
- ✓ no membership fees

INCLUSIONS

- ✓ hotels are centrally located
- ✓ meals are authentic
- ✓ individual family stay experiences (not "room and board")
- ✓ have a say in your itinerary
- ✓ dates are firm

QUALITY

- ✓ language-focused
- ✓ quality preparation materials provided for both students and teachers
- ✓ leader workshop available
- ✓ experienced staff ready to work with you one-on-one

From your first phone call to your return home, remember the value of personal connections: **an L&F art that sets L&F apart!**

1st Place Photo - Travel Category



Visions of Paris

Submitted by Kellie Pfouts - Stillwater, MN

Operation Immersion: The L&F Way to Go

L&F works with teachers to design travel programs that may or may not include a family stay, but always emphasize the value of immersion in the language and the culture.

France • Martinique Québec • Suisse

Parler la langue; connaître les gens et la culture!

Argentina • Costa Rica • España

¡Descubre la cultura; conoce a la gente;
habla el idioma!

Deutschland

Sprichst du die Sprache;
kennst du die Leute und die Kultur!

1st Place Photo - Family Stay Category



I was given the opportunity to run the Augsburg half-marathon with my [German] host father which I looked forward to many days before and reveled over many days after!

Monte Cole, Park HS, Livingston, MT

L&F Teachers: True treasures teeming with talent!

We know that **L&F teachers are special** - the crème de la crème, really! Our teachers work hard to promote their language programs, take time to travel with their students, and invite student groups into their communities. It shouldn't surprise us that our teachers have so many other hidden talents, too! For example...

James Bryan, Spanish teacher at Bellarmine Preparatory in Tacoma, WA, travels with L&F to Spain and Argentina and is hosting an L&F French group this fall: "I've been a singer & guitarist since I was 15. We lived in southern Spain when I was a teenager, plus New Orleans and Mississippi, so listening to the radio I absorbed lots of different musical influences. My current band is a quartet called The TahomaTones (tahomatones.com), after the native American name for Mount Rainier, which is very visible from where we all live. We play blues, country, Latin, gospel, R&B and rock."

Keith Bonnstetter, Spanish teacher at Bettendorf HS, Iowa, travels with L&F to Costa Rica and also hosts L&F Spanish groups in his community. In all of his spare time (?!?!), Keith makes paper snowflakes. But not just any snowflakes! These are intricately designed, personalized, and framed snowflakes. Keith and his snowflakes made an appearance on the Martha Stewart show and a number of magazine spreads are in the works. Check out his creations at www.clearvisionsnowflakes.com.

Parlez-vous français?

Michele Campbell, French teacher at Minneapolis South HS, is also a writer and actor. She wrote and performed a one-person show, *Pardon My French*, in the Minnesota Fringe Festival. She shares the love of her students, her delight in the French language and her adventures in student travel. It was voted Best of Venue and she sold out four of her five shows! Félicitations, Michele!



Using Language; Building Friendships

"I had the opportunity to travel to Niger to help a non-profit group called Remember Niger. Their mission is to improve quality educational opportunities for the children of Niger. I was intrigued by the idea of helping teachers on the other side of the world. This would be the first time I had ever used my French to do something so meaningful in a volunteer setting. It was moving and humbling to work with people who have so little, yet do so much. I was delighted to be able to translate documents and interpret speeches, lessons, and conversations for the participants of the work team. I look forward to going to Niger again and doing even more to help them improve their school and their children's' future."

~Colleen Colton, Forest Lake, MN

JEU

Connaissez-vous ces expressions idiomatiques utilisant les animaux? Quels sont les équivalents anglophones? Trouvez les réponses à la page 6

Quand les poules auront des dents.

Etre heureux comme un poisson dans l'eau.

Etre une poule mouillée.

Il ne faut pas vendre la peau de l'ours avant de l'avoir tué.

Quand on parle du loup, on en voit la queue.



MUSEUM MUSINGS

To help students be more engaged in visiting art museums, we prepared an activity that catered to their love of shopping! Each student was given a sheet to record information on a work they would want to purchase:

- ✓ the name of the piece
- ✓ the name of the artist
- ✓ 3 physical reasons why you like it
- ✓ 3 sentimental reasons why you like it
- ✓ what price would you pay

Sharing the results was fun and surprisingly insightful!

~ Ann Bosch, Upper Darby HS, Drexel Hill, PA

JUEGO: Fun with idiomatic expressions with animals! Match English to Spanish.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Trabajar como un burro/una mula | a. Don't be mean/selfish! |
| 2. Ser un águila | b. To be nuts, crazy |
| 3. No seas rata | c. To be very fat |
| 4. Tratar alguien como a perros | d. He/she is a gossip-girl/boy. |
| 5. Ser una vibora | e. To treat someone very badly |
| 6. Estar como una vaca | f. To work very hard |
| 7. Estar como una cabra | g. To be very clever |

Respuestas en la página 6

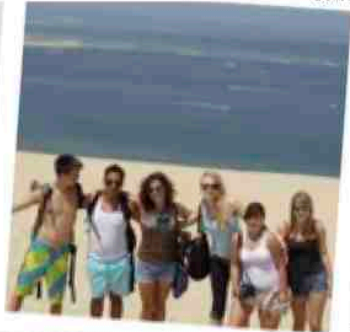
Consider a DONATION to the
Naomi Thomsen Scholarship Fund
 to benefit future travelers. Every penny counts!
 Contact L&F today!

The entire trip was 100% amazing. It was the best experience of my life.

~ Dana Dougherty, \$1000, Warrensburg HS,
 Debbie Wilson, French teacher

I would like to thank Language & Friendship for this memorable opportunity to go to France. I have many fond memories of France, and the people I met....This trip to France gave me a chance to explore a new country that helped me grow as a person.

~ Eduardo Santos, \$1000, Squalicum HS,
 Stanley Kreft, French teacher



Eduardo with his classmates at Dune du Pyla, France.

For your highly motivated students:

L&F offers individual 3- or 4-week family stay programs abroad for **individual** students. The extended immersion provides an atmosphere for further comprehension and strides toward fluency. Call L&F for details.

North St. Paul student, Greg Davis, left, meets his host brother and host mother in Puerto de Santa María, Spain.



L&F Offers Programs to ARGENTINA, SPAIN and COSTA RICA.

Contact Rachel at rachel@languageandfriendship.com to find out more.

ESPAÑA

Customize a travel plan for you and your students and top it off with a family stay where your students will grow by leaps and bounds both linguistically and emotionally!

There is no better way to experience Spain's culture than by getting the chance of a family stay.

~Dalton Kirk, Tracy HS, MN right, with fellow travelers in Segovia



ARGENTINA

From the get-go, I was nothing but impressed with Language & Friendship. In Argentina, the tour was amazing. My personal favorite was making the empanadas - DELICIOUS! And the family stays were the favorite part for my students. I felt very confident about the placements because I know each family is screened by coordinators. Each family seemed to be a great match for each of my students. One component that made me proud was the student who was at the lowest level of Spanish when we arrived made the most progress while we were there. I am a firm believer in family stays; they make the experience more real for students.

~Jamie Simon Linkowitz, Central HS, St. Paul

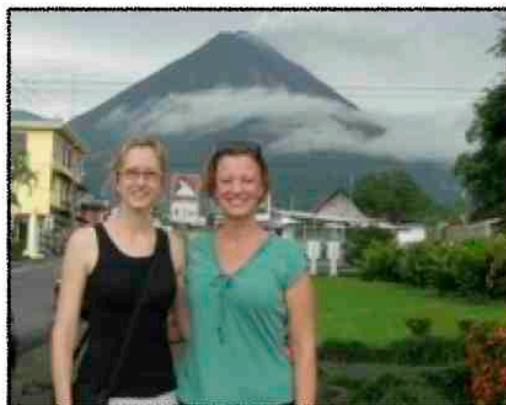
COSTA RICA

We are fortunate to work with wonderful people in Costa Rica. Time and time again, we receive the following reviews:

Guides are friendly, fun, knowledgeable and have great rapport with students.

Michael and Marcela, coordinators, really care deeply about this family stay program.

Costa Rica with L&F: ¡Pura Vida!



SPOTLIGHT: MARTINIQUE



Location: Nestled in Lesser Antilles, between Dominica and St. Lucia

Average Temperature: 79°F

Languages: French, Creole

Currency: Euro

Capital City: Fort-de-France

Why Martinique for your student group: La langue française, l'accueil en famille, sous le soleil des Caraïbes

Sample Itinerary:

Days 1-2: Travel

Flight to Fort-de-France; meet host families

Days 2-10: Family Stay

Students fully immerse themselves in the language and culture of their host family. The group has two full-day excursions together:

•Jardin de Balata; Musée Gauguin; volcanic ruins of St. Pierre; rainforest hike

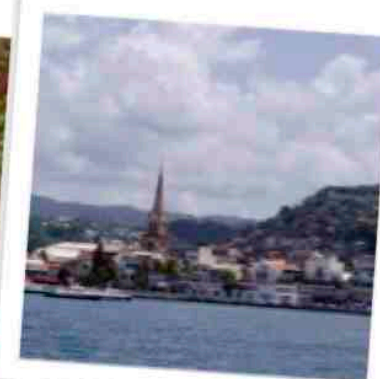
•Visit Empress Josephine's birthplace; sucrerie; La Savane des Esclaves; picnic and kayaking

Day 10-11: Travel

Say good-bye to host families. Farewell dinner; overnight in hotel

Day 11 Return to USA

Experience "La France" with a Caribbean twist: *La Martinique, département français d'outre-mer!*



By Laurence Gallarato
Program Coordinator, Martinique and France

When I visited the island of Martinique last July, my first impression was having the uncanny feeling of something so familiar (same stores, same administration buildings, and, of course, same language!), yet so different in many ways from the France I know:

- Instead of the the Champs Elysées, I saw sandy beaches with emerald water and luxurious tropical forest full of incredible flowers, birds and waterfalls.
- Instead of the typical French market, I found fragrant spices and madras clothing; homemade punch; pineapple and bananas fresh from the farm; and fishermen bringing in their catch of the day.
- In place of the well-dressed, stressed out Parisians running to catch their metro, I was welcomed by relaxed, smiling faces offering delicious punch and fresh peanuts as I waited for the next taxi boat.

Are you ready to experience "**Une France différente?**" Language & Friendship offers spring & summer family stay programs with a possible service project to Martinique. Are you ready to discover "l'Île aux Fleurs"?

Call or email Laurence for more information!
laurence@languageandfriendship.com

Je me souviens

~ QUÉBEC ~

5-6 day programs

Our tour guide in Québec was wonderful! And communication was excellent! This is what I like most about L&F. You are very personable and dedicated to your groups.

~ Mary Beth Fischer,
Kinard MS, Fort Collins, CO

If your heart still longs for FRANCE, or a new itinerary en dehors des sentiers battus, consider this:

Itineraries in **Northeastern France** offer impressive cathedrals (Reims and Strasbourg), WWI and WWII sites, wonderful regional cuisine, and welcoming family-stay communities (Montbéliard, Besançon, Dijon, and Thionville).

Did you know....

The Lorraine American Cemetery at Saint-Avold, on the way to Strasbourg, is actually larger than the one in Normandie.

Struthof, the WWII concentration camp west of Strasbourg, has an impressive new museum with interactive exhibits.

Plan a customized program or join an L&F Guided Program for 2011!!

“A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles.”
Tim Cahill

August is always the chance for L&F staff to unwind after the busy summer season and to see old friends and make new friends, too.

Liane and her husband went to Florida to visit their first grandchild, Kelsie Jacqueline, born on Bastille Day! They also spent 10 days in northeastern France, rediscovering Champagne, Lorraine, and the Route des vins d'Alsace. They enjoyed wonderful regional specialties: biscuits roses, tarte flambée, choucroute, baecoffe, and tarte aux quetsches.

Laurence planned an August adventure in Provence and Tuscany for a group of her friends. In Aix, they enjoyed wine-tasting, a cooking class and a wonderful picnic. Florence was their home base in Tuscany, with daily side trips to discover the countryside. Moving south they visited Pompeii, Sorrento, and the Amalfi coast. The grand finale was Rome with an excellent guide!

Rachel and Barbara visited friends in Japan for 10 days in August, where they did their best to soak up the language, try as many new foods as possible, and

THE GROWING L&F FAMILY

Cristina Sturm joins the L&F staff after a decade of teaching French at Rosemount HS, MN, and tens of thousands of travel miles under her belt. Born and raised in Lebanon by Italian and French parents, she learned several languages early on. She and husband, David, have three sons ('84, '86, and '90) who participated in L&F programs, with the youngest participating twice! She has led several L&F programs to France and Italy with students and one with adults. We are thrilled to have her with us and know that she will be a wonderful addition to the L&F family!



Liane and Jim became grandparents for the first time on Bastille Day (how fitting!) to **Kelsie Jacqueline**. Félicitations!



stay cool! Just for the record, they are both single and looking for male suitors. Let's see how many people thoroughly read our newsletter! :-)

Julie's family hosted Aude, the French teenager who hosted Julie's daughter, Paris, in March when she traveled with South St. Paul. Aude fit right in, making many new friends and improving her English! Paris took Aude to her school tennis practices where the coach asked if she could stay for the school year -- or at least through the tennis season!

Since 2005, **Cristina** has been to Europe with L&F groups and visiting family in the summer. This June she stayed stateside to visit her sons in upstate New York and North Carolina and her sister in Virginia. As she experienced the beauty of the Thousand Island Waterway and Boldt Castle on a long boat ride, she realized she had never been on a boat ride in the U.S. before, yet a number of times on the lake of Annecy! And, as she was soaking up some sun at the beach in N.C., she could not help but remember how happy her students were last year on the beach at Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer.



Enjoying a world-class picnic in a vineyard near Aix-en-Provence.

Do your friends and family ever ask.....

When are you going to plan a trip for us?

After several adult trips with couples, **Sherri Condon** (Cedar Rapids, IA) took an all-ladies group this year. They did wine-tastings in Reims, Beaune and Provence; took a cooking class and stayed in the lovely Abbaye de Sainte-Croix in Salon. **Karen Lewis** (formerly of Forest Lake) took a small group of her husband's veteran friends and wives for a visit of the Bayeux and Dinan areas, accompanied for two days by our retired local coordinator who does guided visits of D-Day beaches. **Cory Schlangen** (retired, Waukesha, WI) took a group of 30 made up of several families with children and called it the "Southwest France Gang." They began in Bordeaux and saw the arrival of the Tour de France, spent a week in Sarlat with day trips to Lascaux, Domme, Rocamadour and canoed from Vitrac to Beynac. They ended with a stay in St-Jean-de-Luz. Our local coordinator showed them around nearby Basque villages where they enjoyed regional specialties. **Dorena Montgomery** (Anchorage, AK), took a small group of friends to Bayeux and Saint-Malo, then stayed in a private château in the Loire Valley before visiting Paris.

The next time your friends and family ask you to take them abroad, maybe it's time! You will forever share memories as you discover incredible places together, opening their minds to other cultures, languages and foods.

MAILBAG

FROM TEACHERS

My most important advice would be to be patient, enjoy your students, and experience France WITH them. I am so fortunate (even though it's a lot of work) to be able to take students on such a wonderful trip. The kids make the trip! Thank you for giving my students another fantastic voyage.

Wanda Rimstad, Amery HS, WI

It was an absolute pleasure to work with you all again. Thanks for the great work that you do. You're a fantastic team and you all do great work for our students - and our world!

Will Coghill-Behrends, Iowa City West HS, IA

L&F is a great company, professional, organized, caring and committed to providing students and teachers with quality cultural experiences. The name "Language & Friendship" truly reflects the values and dedication of you all.

Marifer Walter, Warrensburg HS, MO

L&F provides communication without waiting to be asked. When I have questions, responses are prompt. I value the open communication and feel that I can express myself honestly.

Cheryl Johnson, Kenai Central HS, AK



Iowa City West student Katherine Yang poses with her host family in front of the Haribo Gummi Bear.

My students all had fabulous experiences and cannot wait to return. They improved their Spanish, saw many things, lived Spanish life for a brief period and made friends for life!

Kristine Devorkin, Dominican HS, WI

You are in this business for the right reasons and do a phenomenal job of ensuring we have a fun-filled, language-rich, way-more-than-a-sight-seeing tour adventure in truly magical locations for which we really cannot thank you enough, but will try!

Nikki Snyder Roberts, Owatonna HS, MN



Eau Claire Memorial HS (WI) student, Joscelyn Baker-Hoy, with her hosts in La Rochelle, France

Marie-Claire (Orléans family-stay coordinator) is a gem! She is so vivacious and made us feel so at ease. Our students had great family stays.

Brian and Sue Drummond, Hastings HS, MN

FROM PARENTS

My husband and I wanted you to know how much we appreciated all the extra time and effort you put into making it possible for Amie to visit the student we hosted. She had an experience she will never forget!

Carol & Patrick Beland, Menominee, MI

The words "thank you" don't come close to my eternal gratitude for all that you did (to get our daughter to France after her hospitalization). You were so patient, kind and accommodating. Leah and her "sister" Chloé have become fast friends which I'm sure will last a lifetime. Thank you for making her dream come true.

Tracy Malkovich, Urbana, IL

ANSWERS to Quizzes from Page 2:

French:

1. When pigs fly
2. To be happy as a clam
3. To be a scaredy cat
4. Don't count your chickens before they are hatched
5. Speak of the devil

Spanish: 1f, 2g, 3a, 4e, 5d, 6c, 7b

STUDENT QUOTES:

The most difficult part about the family stay was saying good-bye. The family stay was the best 6 days of the entire experience in Spain, and saying good-bye to the people you just started to know was the hardest part of all.

MHesi Haugen, Tracy HS, MN

Best thing about family stay is getting to see France from the perspective of those who actually reside there.

Erin Keefe, Minneapolis South HS, MN

My favorite memory of this entire experience is the family stay. This is my second L&F trip and the amount that my French improved is astonishing!

Dominique Bouavichith, Chaska HS, MN

Nobody can make you speak French or try escargot, but the trip is more rewarding if you do. I would give the same advice to a friend.

Jordan Jacks, Warren Woods Tower HS, MI

The best part of the family stay was learning the culture, learning new phrases and vocab, and listening to them speak at a realistic speed!

Kelly Flanders, Hastings HS, MN

I had host BROTHERS; I had never had brothers before!

Luis Magallanes, McKay HS, Salem, OR

The family stay will be the best part of your trip. It was for me. These people will be in my heart forever.

Mariah Howe, Owatonna HS, MN

Favorite memories from the trip are from the family stay. Spain is the best!

Katherine Aschoff, Iowa City West, IA

The family was so helpful. I felt like for that time they were my real family. Advice - Speak! Speak! Speak!

Tyler Manista, Dominican HS, WI

Living with actual native German speakers was the best!

Megan Wiechert, Park HS, Livingston, MT

I got to experience the culture in Costa Rica that I had previously only read about in text books.

Gabriela Cavuoti, Warrensburg HS, MO.

Even if I make a fool of myself, if I am trying, that's enough and I'll learn from that more than staying quiet.

McKenna Hughes, San Clemente HS, CA

ANOTHER GREAT HOSTING SEASON!

2010 was a busy year for hosting! Students from France, Spain and Switzerland were welcomed for 2-4 weeks throughout the Midwest and beyond. A huge thank you to all the teachers who helped place our spring and summer visitors, especially the following group coordinators:

Spring Groups:

Vicki Barrman - Kansas City, MO
James Bryan - Tacoma, WA
Colette Clarke - Tallahassee, FL
Cecilia Schultz - Seymour, WI
Bill Vitt - Blaine, MN
Debbie Wilson - Warrensburg, MO

Summer Groups:

Keith Bonnstetter - Bettendorf, IA
Jennifer Collings - Germantown, WI
Sherri Condon - Cedar Rapids, IA
Sheila Conrad - Bettendorf, IA
Amy Coraggio - Hartland, WI
Mary Droulliard - Detroit, MI
Brenda Hearn - Anchorage, AK
Doug Kollasch - Cedar Rapids, IA
Rhonda Mellor - East Moline, IL
Johanna MacKenzie - Norwalk, IA
Catherine Marquart - St Louis, MO
Libby Oliver & Peggy Patrick - Missoula, MT
Julie Pierce - Seattle, WA
Rachel Sabre - Thornton, CO
Dianne Strand - Jamestown, ND

Our daughter had a great international "camp" experience without leaving home. We already have plans to get together next summer!

Callahan family, Eagan, MN



Arrivals of student groups are always full of nervous energy and excitement, as shown here at one of the MSP arrivals. If you haven't experienced the excitement yourself, contact us for more details on your local arrivals!

The Clifford family from Blaine, MN, hosted Audrey Khoury from France this spring. Audrey was able to attend Prom with her host sister and two new American friends.



The students were a wonderful addition to my French classroom. It was a living curriculum. We were saddened when the students' trip quickly came to an end. It was a wonderful experience for our community and school. I look forward to hosting again in the future!

Cecilia Schultz, Seymour HS, WI

2011 SUMMER HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

Below are the approximate dates and arrival states for our visiting groups next summer. Transportation or carpooling may be arranged when possible to other communities.

French, June 15 - July 14 (age 15-16) - CO, IA, IL, MI, MN, MT, ND, OR, WA, WI

French, June 20 - July 10 (age 11-14) - MN, northern IA, western WI,

French, July 7 - 28 (age 14-17) - MN, MO

Swiss/French, July 1-22 (age 14-17) - MN, eastern ND, northern IA, western WI

Spanish, June 24 - July 23 (age 14-17) - IA, MN, ND, WI

Spanish, July 1 - 28 (age 14-17) - IA, WI

If you would like to welcome a group in your community, please contact L&F for more details and compensation information!

Please note that these dates are approximate and may change slightly according to airline availability.



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*The real voyage of discovery consists
not in seeking new landscapes,
but in having new eyes.*

~Marcel Proust

Photo Contest - Runners Up



Second Place
Travel Category
Tamlyn Tinker, United Township HS, IL
Students jump for joy as they see the
Louvre for the first time!



Second Place
Family Stay Category
Tess Starman of Owatonna HS, MN,
with her host brothers in Costa Rica.



Mark your calendars!

✓ Leader Workshop - Saturday, January 29, 2011

For teachers traveling in 2011

✓ Conferences

L&F will be at the following state language conferences.
Stop by and visit us!

**Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado, Washington/
Oregon, Central States**

Find us on
facebook!



Inside:

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