

# Language & Friendship Newsletter



Spring 2008

## Celebrating 20 Years!

Language & Friendship is celebrating 20 years of supporting **language learning** and creating **international friendships**. L&F was created in 1988 by Naomi Thomsen, whose passion for languages and friendships was infectious!



*In 1988 Naomi created Language & Friendship in her basement.*

Everyone who knew Naomi was inspired by her persuasive belief in the value of learning about other cultures. Growing up in Madagascar as part of a missionary family (the oldest of nine children!) and studying in France instilled in Naomi a curiosity and enthusiasm for languages and international friendships. She loved making new friends! She made it her life's work to share her journey with others, first as a teacher and then organizing programs for teachers to give their students this opportunity. Family stays in France were organized by Naomi's personal friends, teachers and others who loved meeting Americans because of their connection to Naomi.

We are proud to carry on Naomi's passion for language and friendship! As we have added new programs over the years, it's the **personal connections** that make us confident our groups will be treated as friends. We plan programs with a personal touch and, as former teachers, we love helping teachers share their passion for language and culture with their students. Naomi's spirit of optimism, determination and commitment will always be the driving force behind L&F.

**Celebrate travels and family stays with L&F!**

## Join L&F for 2009

### Immersion Travel Programs

It's not easy to know when our dollar will regain its strength or if fuel costs will come down, but it IS a sure bet that, despite the cost of travel, an experience abroad is an invaluable opportunity for young people to use the language they're learning, to experience the culture and to become global citizens. Over and over, we hear wonderful stories of personal growth, new friendships, and life-changing experiences, thanks to teachers who take time to give this wonderful gift to their students.

**Sign up by June 1 and receive early-bird discounts!**

*See inside for more information about travel in 2009.*

### France • Martinique • Québec

*Parler la langue; connaître les gens et la culture!*

### Argentina • Costa Rica • España

*¡Descubre la cultura; concoce a la gente; habla el idioma!*

### Deutschland

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



*Tracy HS students and host families gather to visit the replicas of Christopher Columbus' ships in Huelva, Spain.*

**In 1988...**

*A postage stamp cost 22¢ • Faxes were the new thing!*

*A dollar could buy 5.6 francs or 112 pesetas.*

## Each Host Family Makes a World of Difference!

Language & Friendship is gearing up for another season of hosting! Our spring groups arrive in April!

**Jeanne Kilburg**, Bremerton HS, WA, will host a school group from Lille, France. Jeanne moved to Washington from Minnesota in 2007 and keeps the hosting tradition alive and well wherever she goes!

**Ann Bosch**, Upper Darby HS, PA, will host a group from Sannois, France, for the second time. The Sannois school will host Ann and her students this summer.

In May, **Gerry Lukaska**, Académie Lafayette, Kansas City, MO, is hosting a group from Biarritz, France, for the second year. Gerry is the principal of the French immersion school and began an exchange program for her 6<sup>th</sup> grade students last year. Gerry and her students traveled to Biarritz in February and are looking forward to welcoming the group to Kansas City!

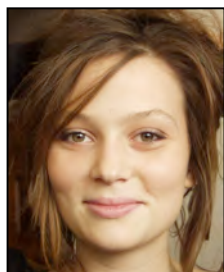
Interested in hosting a **school group from France, Spain or Argentina** for 2 weeks during the school year? Contact L&F to learn how!

### WANTED:

**MORE SUMMER HOST FAMILIES!**  
MERC I and GRACIAS to all of you who have helped find host families so far! **P l e a s e encourage your students to host!**

French, Swiss and Spanish students arrive Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri and Michigan in June and July. We appreciate your help in placing even just one!

A special acknowledgment goes out to **Lisa Myhre** of River Falls, Wisconsin, who has found 23 host families so far for our summer groups! Bravo, Lisa!

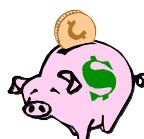


We are delighted to welcome **Kim Gallice** from France as our intern for three months. Kim is being hosted by two families in Eagan, Minnesota and working in our office. If you are interested in having her visit your classes to talk about France and French teenagers,

just give us a call. We'd be happy to set something up!

## Scholarship Fund Grows

Since 2004, the **Naomi Thomsen Scholarship Fund** has provided financial support to several L&F students so they can have the opportunity to travel abroad. We would like to thank our selection committee who spent many hours reviewing the applications and made the difficult decision of selecting the finalists. **Dorothy Rose, Traci Nelson** and **Annette Hegler** are retired language teachers who continue to be devoted to intercultural education and language-learning!



### Rounding Up – Helping Out!

This year, participants were given the opportunity to round up their final payment to contribute to the Naomi Thomsen Scholarship Fund. We are happy to report that the Fund is growing! Your students are helping future L&F travelers. *MERCI! ¡GRACIAS! DANKE!*

**\$20 for 20 Years!** Help celebrate L&F's anniversary by contributing to the Naomi Thomsen Scholarship Fund!

## Did you know....?

The **Eiffel Tower** now takes group reservations! As of March 2008, tickets can be purchased online at [www.tou Eiffel.fr](http://www.tou Eiffel.fr)

~*Vicki Barmann, Winnetonka HS, MO*

**Nice** has a wonderful new tramway and lots of interesting artwork at the various stops.

~*Nancy Sturino, Wauwatosa West HS, WI*

The **Museo del Prado** takes group reservations online. Simply enter the date and you can select the hour you wish to arrive. [www.museodelprado.es](http://www.museodelprado.es)



*Becky Roider of Germantown, Wisconsin, learned how to make crêpes with her host family in Rennes.*

## What Type of Program?

Teachers are wondering how to make travel more affordable these days. We are glad to make suggestions and help you think through various possibilities. Ask for our **Travel Planning Worksheet** to begin the process. With Language & Friendship, you have the opportunity for maximum **input in the design** of your program: the number of travel days, the length of family stay, the number of pre-arranged dinners, where you want guided tours... OR, you can choose to travel on L&F's **fixed itinerary** with the convenience of a pre-planned program. Let us know your priorities and your preferences and we will do our best for you!

### **Remember! Early-Bird Deadline is June 1!**

Early-bird applicants receive a \$100 discount©  
Students whose families host a student in the summer receive another \$100 discount!

## L'Hexagone

L'Hexagone, as the French often call their country, includes so many wonderful and varied treasures that teachers often say they could go anywhere and be delighted! Language & Friendship is delighted to offer a wonderful variety of family-stay communities with our teacher/coordinators who do such a fabulous job of matching students with host families. These friendships are key to L&F's success. *N'importe où dans l'Hexagone, vous aurez un accueil chaleureux!*

## L'Île des fleurs

Language & Friendship's program in Martinique includes a family stay with excursions to places such as the birthplace of the Empress Joséphine (Napoléon Bonaparte's wife) and the rainforest. *La Martinique est un département d'outre-mer.* Your students will be able to not only practice their French language skills, but experience French Creole culture and the warmth of the Martiniquais people (and the warmth of the sun)!

## Québec, ville de charme

Language & Friendship's program to Québec is a fully-guided, interactive experience. Choose the 4-day program to Québec or the 6-day program which includes a visit of Montréal as well.

*"Our guide was great with the kids and the activities were totally age-appropriate. We couldn't believe how much French the kids used!"*

*Rebecca Lennartson, Sandburg Middle School  
& Kathleen Lahouze, Cooper HS, Robbinsdale*

## España Te Espera

**Warning!** Following travel itinerary not advised!

In an effort to visit as many family-stay coordinators as possible, Rachel visited 13 cities in 15 days! "I just couldn't be in Spain and NOT see everyone!" Rachel's mother, a veteran traveler, accompanied Rachel, driving her from coast to coast, meeting friends old and new:

in **Castellón**, a wonderful teacher who spent a year in Iowa; in **Barcelona**, a long-time friend of Liane; dynamic language teachers in **Pamplona, Gijón** and **Vigo**; two Wisconsin women turned-Spaniards in **Oviedo** and **Valladolid**. And, of course, it was wonderful to see old friends from **Bilbao, Madrid** and **Huelva**. Which city will you and your students be calling home in 2009?



## Aventuras al Sur Te Llaman

### ARGENTINA



Bill Rosendin, Bellarmine Prep, WA, and Sara Koppenhaver, Cedar Rapids Prairie HS, IA, are pioneers, traveling on L&F's inaugural program to

Argentina in June. *Tango, mate, empanadas* and, above all, eager host families await them! **Join us in 2009!**

### COSTA RICA



Jennifer Lariviere and Sarah Reade, North St. Paul HS, MN, map out their Costa Rica travels. Consider a program that immerses you in

the language AND nature! ¡PURA VIDA!



L&F also offers travel and family stay programs to Germany. For those of you with partnership programs, we can help you make your air arrangements. Call about your 2009 plans!



8009 34th Avenue South  
Suite 880  
Bloomington, MN 55425 USA

phone 952-841-9898  
toll-free 1-888-927-0120  
fax 952-841-9919  
info@languageandfriendship.com

www.languageandfriendship.com

The world is smaller than you think,  
and the people on it are more beautiful  
than you think.

~Bertram van Munster



#### Preparing for a *Bon Voyage!*

*Above:* Meg Keator, Ilse Norris of Visitation HS, MN, and Mary Kuettner of Eastview HS, MN.  
*Below:* Debbie Wilson, Warrensburg HS, MO; Sherri Condon, Linn-Mar HS, IA; Suzanne Ten Broek, Richard Gahr HS, CA. Besides traveling to France, these three are hosting French groups in their communities this summer! *Merci!*

## Teachers give L&F Preparation Materials a Thumbs Up!!

Preparation is the key to success! Comprehensive **Leader and Student Guidebooks, Study Materials, Preparation Meeting Outlines** and the **Annual Leader Workshop** help prepare teachers and students for their experiences abroad.

*"I found every presentation to be excellent and coming here has renewed my passion for teaching language and traveling with my students."*

### LEADER WORKSHOP 2009: Saturday, January 31.

**NEW for 2009:** Updated Study Materials that will be streamlined and interactive. Thanks to **Joye Lore-Lawson**, Iowa, for her hard work on the updates to the French Study Materials!



#### **Español V:**

Billie Shoen, Carrie Hansen, both from Tartan HS, MN, Anna Favrow, Truman HS, MO; Grace Valdez, Cedar Falls HS, IA, and Pam Peck, Truman HS, MO, put their heads together on their Spain plans.