

Language & Friendship Newsletter



Spring 2010

We Practice What You Preach

I feel **more prepared** for this trip and more at ease than all my other trips (with another organization). That is all due to your hard work and help. ~ *Carmen Gwenigale, Iowa City West HS, IA, Spanish teacher.*

I hope you know what **an impact** your work has on kids in both the U.S. and abroad. It makes such a difference in their lives. ~ *Kim Caster, Edina HS, MN, French teacher.*

To see a group of people working together so purposefully and amicably is reassuring. Your team loves what it does and that is obvious. Your **commitment** rubs off on us! ~ *Sonya Hill Morrison, Sehome HS, Bellingham, WA, French teacher.*

I love how much you are **passionate** about what you do. This is why you are such a great company and I love traveling and **trust** you. ~ *Anna Maki-Birchler, Staley HS, Kansas City, MO, Spanish teacher.*

My students **loved the family stay** as much as, if not more than, the Paris stay! ~ *Caroline White, Int'l School of MN.*

The program gives us an **opportunity** to experience another country and to learn by **using the language** in the real world. ~ *Will Johnston, Tracy HS, MN, Spanish student.*

Contact us today to begin experiencing the L&F difference! info@languageandfriendship.com



Front: **Rachel**: Spain, Costa Rica, Argentina, Germany;
Liz: accountant; **Liane**: France, Martinique and Québec;
Back: **Laurence**: France; **Julie**: Registrar; **Barbara**: U.S. Hosting

Early-Bird Discount! Apply by June 1!

Many travelers took advantage of our Early-Bird PLUS program by applying by April 1 - \$125 discount for students. Students who turn in their applications and deposit by **June 1** receive a **\$100 discount**.

Plan Early and Save Money!

Teachers: The Heart of the Program

We realize that our teachers sacrifice their school breaks and summer vacations to offer travel and family stay opportunities to their students. Even though they may not always show it, we know the students thank you! And, we thank you, too!

Rachel and Barb recently spent time traveling with groups to experience first-hand a day in the life of an L&F leader. We are continually amazed at the patience, energy and enthusiasm of our teachers! Merci! ¡Gracias! Danke!



Above, center, are **Melissa Davis** and **Michele Campbell**, Minneapolis South HS, MN, upon arrival in Biarritz to begin their family stay. **Jackie** (left) and **Annie** (right), along with their husbands, have been hosting L&F groups for years and also send groups to the US.

Did you know?



✓ International flights allow you to check **ONE bag** without charge. Be sure to check the weight!

✓ Be aware that there may be additional security checks. So, the extra time at the airport is often necessary!

Hosting: Spread the word!

Bring the hosting experience to YOUR community! The effect that welcoming a foreign visitor can have on your students, families and communities is long-lasting! Students will be arriving this summer in the following states: Alaska, Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin. Finding even just one family makes a world of difference!

Here's to new life-long friendships! Thanks for such an amazing experience! ~ Hasher Family, Maplewood, MN, hosted Sebas from Vigo, Spain.



Amaury really appreciated his stay in a lovely family. Thanks for this opportunity. ~ Mrs. H. Toulemonde, mother of Amaury from Rennes, France, hosted by the Poirier family of Eagan, MN.



Thank you to the following teachers, host families and schools who welcomed FRENCH school groups this spring! The students spend 2 weeks with host families, shadowing students and participating in excursions.

Colette Clarke, Leon HS, Tallahassee, FL, hosting 31 students and 3 teachers from Sannois, France.

James Bryan, Bellarmine HS, Tacoma, WA, hosting 11 students and 1 teacher from Biarritz, France.

Bill Vitt, Blaine HS, MN, hosting 16 students and 2 teachers from Le Mans, France.

Fontainebleau students from France will find their new homes in Wisconsin and Missouri: **Cecilia Schoultz, Seymour, WI; Vicki Barmann, Staley HS, Kansas City, MO; Debbie Wilson, Warrensburg, MO.**

Also, a large school group from Viry-Chatillon (just south of Paris) spent 3 weeks in area schools in February. **MERCI to the following schools and teachers for warmly welcoming these students:** MN: Bloomington Jefferson, Eagan, Eastview, Edina, Esko, Lakeville, Mpls South, Mpls Washburn, North St. Paul, Northfield, Owatonna, Rosemount, Stillwater. WI: Amery, Eau Claire Memorial, Madison East and La Follette, Marshfield. IA: Clear Lake, Norwalk.

Hosting Comes Full Circle

Christine Schneider of Willmar, MN, recently called our office to tell us how hosting impacted their lives. The Schneiders hosted Valentin Primault in 2008. Their son, Grant, traveled to France with Willmar HS in 2008 and is currently studying in Tours, France.

“The name of your organization is exactly what it is! Language and friendship! Hosting is so wonderful! You bring people together, caring for each other and you learn to see the world in a new way. We visited Grant in Tours this spring and went to see Valentin and his family in Rennes. They were so welcoming! Valentin was such a dear, young man and it was so

emotional to see him again. The experience was beyond our dreams!”



Left: The Schneider family greeting Valentin upon his arrival to Minnesota in 2008.

Host Students Become Family

We first participated in Language & Friendship in the summer of 2004, when our delightful French daughter, Elodie, spent the summer here with us. Our daughter, Alie, plans to study in Paris where Elodie is studying.

In 2007, we hosted Kevin, who was instantly another son to us. He and his American brother enjoyed many of the same things like cars and video games.

We hope to have more students become part of our family through Language & Friendship. The program has brought such happiness to our family and created such great friendships. Thank you! ~ *Carrie McKenzie, Milwaukee, WI, host mother.*

**The experience lasts only a few weeks.
The FRIENDSHIPS last a LIFETIME!**

Share this video with your students!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qx-T6wm6ko>

**Even just ONE family
makes a WORLD of difference!**

**Contact Barbara at L&F for student bios and
information about the hosting program!**

barbara@languageandfriendship.com or 888-927-0120

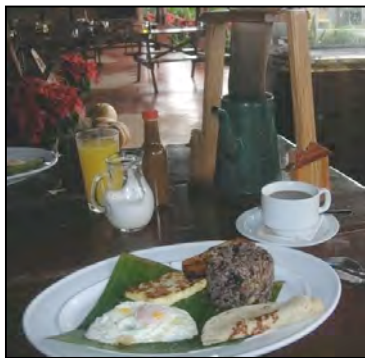
Language & Friendship Programs: Come Experience the L&F Difference!

Custom-design your program or choose a fixed itinerary already planned by L&F. Either way, our programs offer you flexibility, choices, personal attention, and, above all, quality! What is your next destination?

From Flavorful Friendships to Savory Sites ~ Eat Up the Culture!



I think 80% of the pictures I take while traveling are of the foods I eat. Eating is such an important part of experiencing the culture and the people of the country. As you plan your itinerary, remember to send your students on a gastronomical tour! ~ Barb, L&F



Costa Rica

Students will be very familiar with *gallo pinto* – the delicious rice and beans mixture that accompanies nearly every meal at restaurants and during the family stay. They may also eat *queso frito*, *huevos*, *tortilla*

and, oh, the *café*.....*qué rico!* ¡Pura vida!



España

Where to begin? It will depend on the region. *Jamón y queso* is *my* typical diet. But, head to Galicia for *pulpo* (left), to Asturias for *fabada*, to País Vasco for *pintxos*. A fun link

for you and for students: www.SpainOntheRoadAgain.com – Gwyneth Paltrow and pals take a road trip through Spain: a gastronomical and historical wonder! ~Rachel, L&F



Argentina

If you go to Argentina, plan to eat well! Learn the art of making *empanadas* with a local chef, feast on *asado* with the *gauchos* and sip on *mate* with your host families. Here, the students from St. Paul Central HS, MN, prepare the corn for the empanada.



France

One *crêpe* a day seems like a reasonable amount, *non?* As you dine on regional foods at a variety of restaurants, the thing your students will likely

remember most is their interaction at the *crêperies*, watching the steam rise from the grill, and anticipating the savory taste they are about to experience!



Germany

With over 1500 types of *wurst* in Germany, you and your students are bound to try a few. The time spent around the table with the host family is a time to relish other delicacies like *Schnitzel*, *Strudel*, *Spätzle* and more! *Guten Appetit!*

Québec: Vive le Canada français

We had a great experience in Québec! Thank you so much for all of your hard work. Everything ran smoothly and the students really enjoyed the activities, their guide, the sights and the opportunity to use some French. I took a group of students to Québec with another organization, but was disappointed. It is so nice to be back working with Language & Friendship again. You really know how to organize a great educational experience!



~ Mary Beth Fischer, Kinard MS, Ft. Collins, CO.

ALSO:

- ✓ **MARTINIQUE** family-stay programs!
- ✓ **DREAM ITINERARIES:** What itinerary do you want to share with friends and family? Let us know and we'll help you design it!



Two Appletree Square, Suite 250
8011 34th Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55425 USA

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

*If you reject the food, ignore the
customs, fear the religion and avoid the
people, you might better stay home.
~James Michener*

L&F Workshop And Preparation Materials – Key to your Success!



The L&F Leader Workshop is a day-long meeting full of informational and energizing presentations. Above, teachers get their packets of materials to help them during their afternoon planning session. Left to right: Elizabeth Zwanziger Page, *Price Lab School – UNI, IA*; Jackie Parr, *Stillwater HS, MN*; Lynda Lopez, *University of Illinois Lab School, IL*; Suzanne Gyurgyik, *Shaker Heights HS, OH*; Corrie Crothers and Rochelle Meulemans, *North St. Paul HS, MN*.

In the evening, we gather at Liane's home for dinner. It is a great time to connect with other teachers and share ideas and stories. Leslie Houfadi, *Academie Lafayette, Kansas City, MO*; Vicki Barmann, *Staley HS, Kansas City, MO*; Debbie Wilson, *Warrensburg HS, MO*; Cheryl Johnson, *Kenai Central HS, AK*



LEADER WORKSHOP 2011: Saturday, January 29, Bloomington, MN