

# Language & Friendship Newsletter



FALL 2017

## Unlock the World for Your Students with L&F

**L&F holds the keys to travel and hosting experiences! You still have time to organize for 2018, and we can also get a jump on plans for 2019!**

We will soon celebrate our 30-year anniversary. Our staff (see page 3) has over 100 years of combined experience in intercultural and educational programs. We believe that we have what it takes to help you unlock the world for you and your students.

Here are our **FIRST PLACE WINNERS** in our 2017 PHOTO CONTEST that help show you how you can benefit from our expertise.

Abigail Tietjen, Eastview HS, MN, caught her teacher, Mlle Hannah Nguyen, in action in the *métro*. Hannah remarked, "*L&F was great with communication & making sure that I was prepared to lead my group.*"

The Malone Family, Central City, IA, shared how their "worlds collided" for the better when they hosted Pilar from Spain: "*Thank you to Language & Friendship for the wonderful experience. We will always think of Pili as one of the family. What you do is truly amazing. It is very well run!*"

Joao Marcus Costa, San Bruno, CA, captured the true essence of a family stay: being part of a family and enjoying the simple things together. Here, Joao is reading to his host sisters (ages 5, 9, 12) and host brother, 15, listens, too.

Meghan McFadden's students from Andover HS and Blaine HS, MN, have a good grasp of the language and of Château de Chenonceau. They spent time with two other schools. Per Meghan, "*Hilarity ensues when mixing four different schools together - as well as unforgettable friendships and experiences!*"



**YOUR PASSION.  
OUR MISSION.**

Our mission is to serve language teachers and their students and to promote global citizenship through quality educational programs including short-term travels, language-immersion family stays, and hosting opportunities.

**FRANCE  
MARTINIQUE  
QUEBEC**

**ARGENTINA  
COSTA RICA  
SPAIN**

**HOSTING IN THE USA  
INDIVIDUAL FAMILY STAYS  
ADULT TRAVEL GROUPS**

languageandfriendship.com  
888-927-0120

# L&F Programs Unlock New Perspectives

Most L&F travelers go in to their travels with one mindset ("I can't wait to see the Eiffel Tower!") and come home with a whole different perspective ("I have a whole new family in France!") We asked some of our scholarship recipients to share their thoughts about what their L&F program meant to them.

## LANGUAGE IMMERSION

My trip to Spain was life-changing. Even though I was only with my host family for a week I felt that **my Spanish improved** a lot. It was an amazing experience. ~ Morgan Corbeille, Arrowhead HS, Hartland, WI, pictured with her host family.



## "WE vs ME" MENTALITY

The whole trip was wonderful and I was lucky enough to have wonderful friends by my side experiencing it with me. We learned and grew not only as travelers, but also as humans. This was not only a cultural experience, but one of **self-improvement and teamwork**. ~ Jessy Kong, Appleton West HS, WI, pictured with French and American classmates behind her.



## FEELING CONNECTED

My best memory was going up to Sacré-Coeur. During the long trudge up the hill we found a little square full of artists. This block of pavement was the home to at least a dozen portrait makers and even more painters, photographers, illustrators and draftsmen. It was unique and stunning. **I felt at home** though I was so far from home. ~ David Mitchell, Ralston Valley HS, Arvada, CO, along the Seine in Paris.



## INSPIRATIONAL

This program meant a lot to me as an artist. Not only was it amazing to experience the art, but being surrounded by nature at points was incredibly invigorating as well. The climate, social and environmental, in Nice was enough to have me sketching out designs for a fashion line. The wonderful colors found in the cities and the coastline have stuck in my head. The markets offered a new kind of street art that was wonderful to experience. The whole trip had me **running on inspiration** for days. ~ Isabetta Herrera Grant, West Fargo HS, ND, experiencing the street art.

**\$** The Naomi Thomsen Scholarship Fund was established in 2004. Naomi, the founder of L&F, dedicated her life to promoting international friendships through language and cultural studies. **Consider a donation today.** Each year, deserving students are awarded partial scholarships for their L&F program abroad. **\$**

**Survey Says!** Returning students evaluate their experiences. L&F is happy to share the following results.

### Overall Program:

Excellent: 77%  
Good: 21%  
OK: 2%  
Poor: 0%

### Family Stay:

Excellent: 71.8%  
Good: 20 %  
OK: 8%  
Poor: 0.2%

### Language Improvement:

Improved a lot: 62%  
Improved a little: 37%  
Not much improvement: 1%



## L&F Team: Get to Know the L&F Family

Perhaps you have traveled with us for the past 29 years. Perhaps you met us at a conference last fall. Perhaps you placed a French or Spanish student in your community. No matter how you met us, we appreciate you taking the time to learn about L&F programs. We hope you will always consider us for your travel and hosting plans.



### Top Row:

*Liz Horstman, Accountant (with L&F since 1997)*

*Tammi Brusegaard, France (with L&F since 2015)*

*Elizabeth Honorio-Arroyo, Spain, Costa Rica, Argentina (with L&F since 2017)*

*Michelle Roemmich, Hosting (with L&F since 2016)*

*Rachel Aldrich, Special Projects (with L&F since 2004)*

### Bottom Row:

*Laurence Gallarato, France & Martinique (with L&F since 2008)*

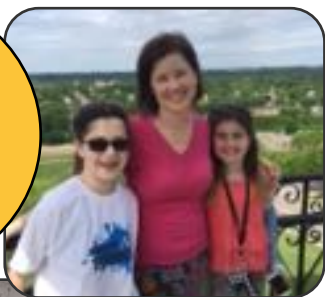
*Jennifer Beattie-Cramer, Co-Director (with L&F since 2017)*

*Liane Mattson, Co-Director (with L&F since 1998)*

*Barbara Keenan, IT Coordinator (with L&F since 2006)*

### SPOTLIGHT:

Jennifer & Elizabeth



Our newest staff members came on board mid-2017. We look forward to the new perspectives they will bring to continue providing the gift of travel and international friendships to students and communities across the USA.

**Jennifer Beattie-Cramer, Co-Director:** Jennifer and Liane will be working together in the leadership of Language & Friendship to assure a smooth transition into the future when Liane eventually retires. Jennifer studied French and Spanish. She earned a double major in International Relations and Economic Theory from American University in Washington, DC. She mastered the Spanish language while working in Madrid. She has spent the past 15 years coordinating, leading, and managing student programs abroad. She and her husband are raising bilingual daughters through Spanish immersion schooling, travel abroad, and hosting.

**Elizabeth Honorio-Arroyo, Spanish Programs Coordinator:** She earned a degree in Spanish Language Studies with a minor in French from the University of Iowa. She has most recently spent 4 years as a Cultural Liaison in the South St. Paul school district. She taught in both Peru and in Spain, and worked in Peru as a travel advisor. This past spring, she was a leader with the South St. Paul L&F group to Costa Rica. Elizabeth will be working closely with Rachel.



Read more about each L&F team member on our website: [languageandfriendship.com/about-us/](http://languageandfriendship.com/about-us/)

Once all of our travelers return to their respective countries, the L&F staff takes a break in August to rest and recharge for the new season. Jennifer had a staycation. Elizabeth returned "home" to Lima, Peru to visit friends and family. And then there are a few more of us who couldn't shake the travel bug..



**Barbara** experienced one of the Great American Road Trips - Niagara Falls! It was amazing, majestic, inspiring - and wet!



**Laurence** celebrated 60 in grand style with family and friends in Italy and France. A dream came true when she rode horseback on the beaches of the Atlantic.



**Liane** and her husband Jim celebrated 45 years!



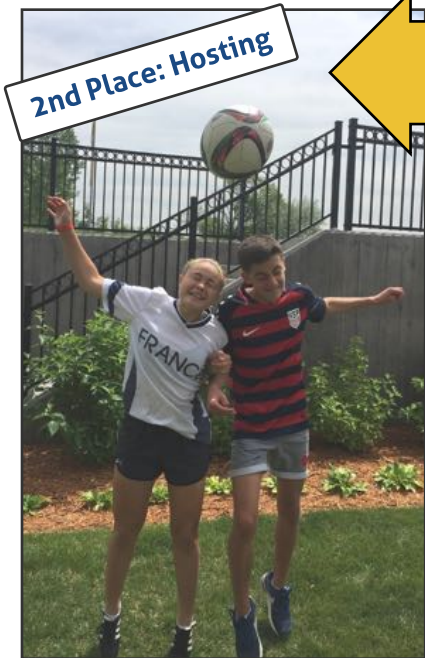
**Rachel** road-tripped a few hours into Wisconsin to pick up the new addition to their family: Guillermo (Guili), the pug.



**Tammi's** travels took her to Norway for a week to discover the land of her ancestors.

# HOSTING: A Crash Course in Culture

The theme for this year's host family photo contest was "Two Worlds Collide." We received many wonderful entries, and it looks like everyone had a lot of fun with their photo shoots AND with their overall experience! The winning pictures are featured in the annual hosting poster. Find the first place winner on the front page.



**2nd Place: Hosting**

The Bratt-Linebarger family (LaCrosse, WI) and Corentin, from France, really put their heads together for their **2nd place** photo!



**Honorable Mentions**

An experience in the U.S.A. would not be complete without peanut butter and a variety of cereals. Emiline, from France, shared nutella and crêpes with the Auge family (Northfield, MN).



The Frye family (Midland, TX ) and Alicia, from France, really got "wrapped up" in the photo contest. Alicia came for a short stay of **3 weeks during the school year**.

Per the Frye family: "Three weeks was long enough to get very attached to each other which made the departure quite emotional. Be ready to explain everything you do, say and eat! Alicia's English was really good already so we focused

on cultural things like 'Trick or Treat.' 'What the heck?' was one of our favorite sayings. Try explaining that one!"

## Teachers Lead By Example

Teachers are pulled in so many directions, so we are extra grateful when they make hosting a part of their personal lives. The following teachers hosted leaders (l) and students (s) from France, Spain, and Argentina this past year.

### Merci! ¡Gracias!

#### Fall 2016:

- Tammy Cortimilia, TX (l)
- Jennie Eiken, WA (l)
- Cecilia Lofqvist Traum, WA (l)

#### Winter 2017:

- Kyra Behnke, IL (s)
- Ann Berns, WI (s)
- Heather Carey, IL (s)
- Susan Dickerson, KS (l)
- Rachel Dwyer, ND (s)
- Janelle Graham, MN (s)
- Cynthia Johnson, WI (s)
- Pam Melchert, MN (l)
- Robert Slabodnik, WA (s)
- Robin Vaughn, MO (l)

#### Summer 2017:

- Debby Bowe-Wielgus, WI (l)
- Heather Carey, IL (s)
- Corrie Crothers, MN (s)
- Lindsay Alejandrino, MN (l)
- Christi Fischer, WI (s)
- Sonya Hall Morrison, WA (s)
- Suzanne Hench, CA (l)
- Kim Hufford, CO (s)
- Ann Marie Lahti, WI (s)
- Christy Nickelson, KS (s)
- Nichole Sieck, IA (s)
- Cathy Sparks, IL (l)
- Ana Vásquez, MN (s)
- Bryan Whitney, MO (s)

## ★ Hosting All-Stars! ★

Teachers who help find even one host family make us starry-eyed. We'd like to feature some teachers who had an extra twinkle in their hosting stars in 2017.

**Colette Clark**, French teacher, Leon HS, Tallahassee, FL:  
- single-handedly places a group of 20-30 students each year. She is on her 9th year! Colette also travels to France with L&F .

**Katie Kerekes**, Spanish teacher, Washburn HS, Minneapolis, MN:  
- placed 13 students: 11 French + 1 Spanish + 1 Argentina. Katie also travels to Argentina and Costa Rica with L&F.

**Nichole Sieck**, Spanish teacher, Linn-Mar HS, Marion, IA :  
- placed 13 students: 8 French + 5 Spanish

Nichole and her family hosted French students in 2016 (Pauline) and 2017 (Anaëlle). Nichole also travels to Argentina and Spain with L&F.

"Families who are thinking of hosting should absolutely consider it. This has been an incredible experience and it is one we can't replicate. Opening your home to a foreign visitor will give you the chance to learn about other cultures, our own culture, and simply see our own everyday life through another person's eyes and perspective."



**Contact L&F to learn about hosting opportunities for your community.**

~ 2 - 4 weeks during the school year or summer ~  
michelle@languageandfriendship.com or visit our website at  
www.languageandfriendship.com/hosting

Michelle spent the August break with family and friends. The highlight was a road trip with her sister to visit their grandparents in South Dakota and teaching them how to take selfies! Post a selfie of you in your classroom on Facebook or Instagram with the following hashtags: #LFFabroad #LFhosting #LFteacher. Everyone who posts will be entered into a drawing to win \$50 for their language club.



# Barcelona, te queremos

We were all shocked and saddened to learn of the attack on Las Ramblas in Barcelona this summer. We were heartened by the responses we received from our teachers :

"My students sent me messages stating how upset they were. At the same time, memories of the beautiful times we had come to their mind. That's what travel does. It brings you closer to people and places. It makes you feel connected. So, when a city is in grief, the traveler who has experienced the city feels the same way. And, when the city finds it's resolve and strength, the traveler does, too." ~ Alma Rivera, Appleton East HS, WI, with her 2017 travelers at the Canaletes Fountain on Las Ramblas.

"Barcelona is a magical, powerful, poetic city full of love and open arms to all. Terrorism has always existed in this world, and we must not let it, or fear, control our lives." ~ Anna Maki-Birchler, Staley HS, Kansas City, MO. Anna and her students were most recently in Barcelona in 2016.

¡Barcelona te espera!



Hosting and travel go hand in hand. Students who host report that they feel better prepared for their own family-stay experience. Bonus: They often reconnect with their visitor.



Abby Rahn learned about the hosting opportunity from her Spanish teacher, Mike Takalo, Jefferson HS, Bloomington, MN. She and her family hosted Iñigo in 2016, above.

Per her mother, Beth: "[Through hosting] we were reminded of how alike we are to people from other countries, which helps to make the world feel a little smaller and kinder."



Then, Abby traveled to Spain in 2017 with Sr. Takalo and a group of Jefferson HS students.

"Abby had a fabulous time in Spain! Reconnecting with Iñigo and his family for a day in Madrid made Abby's trip that much more special. Her family stay was the highlight for her. We love your program!"

## 2nd Place: FAMILY STAY



Students from Maple Lake HS, MN, take 2nd place. Garret Anderson, left, is WILD about his host family. Mackenzie Miller, right, caught her friends treating themselves in Plaza Mayor in Madrid. Maple Lake teacher, Kim Fynboh, travels every other spring on a 2-week travel + family stay program.

## 2nd Place: TRAVEL & CULTURE



### SPAIN

- ✓ Custom-designed or Fixed Itineraries
- ✓ 9 - 21+ days

TRAVEL + FAMILY STAY

TRAVEL ONLY

FAMILY STAY ONLY

### ARGENTINA

- ✓ Fixed Itineraries of 10 - 14 days
- ✓ All Family Stay + Excursions
- ✓ Fully guided

### COSTA RICA

- ✓ Fixed Itineraries of 10 - 14 days
- ✓ Travel + Family Stay
- ✓ Fully guided

Contact Elizabeth for information on Spain, Costa Rica, Argentina:  
[elizabeth@languageandfriendship.com](mailto:elizabeth@languageandfriendship.com)



### Family Stays for Individual Students

Do you know students who are motivated and ready to test their language skills for a longer family stay? Have them contact L&F!

- 2 - 3 week stays in June/July
- France, Spain, Costa Rica, Argentina

Julia Kenneally from Kansas City, MO, helps prepare a large paella with her Spanish host family.

Contact [rachel@languageandfriendship.com](mailto:rachel@languageandfriendship.com)



As a French teacher who hosts AND travels, Robert Slabodnik and his wife, Ellie, can see the effects of hosting first-hand.

"We had a fantastic trip to France. We met up with our winter exchange student, Margaux, in Annecy with our student group. Margaux had really clicked with our entire group - they all went to a regional French Camp

together during her stay. We are excited to host again, and several of our summer students want to host, and we will, of course, encourage the upcoming 2019 group to host!"

Robert teaches at Sedro-Woolley HS in Washington. He traveled on a 3-week travel + family stay program to France.

Photos: The group in Annecy; Margaux and Zoe getting ready for a school dance in Sedro-Woolley.

**3rd Place: Travel & Culture**



Kiara Messersmith and her friends from Bellarmine Prep, WA, at Abbey Fontenay

**SPOTLIGHT: Family-Stay Coordinators**

**Marie-Claude Giulietti, Annecy, France:**

Marie-Claude is a retired English teacher who led groups of her own students to the USA. She placed her first group in the summer of 2016: 8 students from Shaler HS, PA, and 8 students from Squalicum HS, WA. Then, she placed a group of 33 students from Appleton, WI, in 2017!

"Marie-Claude was fantastic. Always kept in touch and watched over us as well as any guardian angel. A great coordinator to work with." ~ Stan Kreft, Squalicum HS, WA



**Christine Todd, Lorient, France:**

Christine has been placing L&F groups for 20 years! She placed 22 students from Great Falls, Kalispell (Flathead HS), and Hot Springs, MT, in 2013.

Kathy Jackson, Great Falls HS, said, "I clicked with Christine right away and shared many laughs, fun moments, and great conversations. She treated the four of us teachers as honored and welcomed guests. I feel as if she and I will definitely keep in touch."

Well, Kathy was right! This summer, Christine visited Kathy in Montana.

"We had such a great time. I wish that I had gotten a shot of Christine's face when we were hiking in Glacier National Park and a grizzly bear showed up no more than 300 yards from us. He reared up on his hind haunches...something I've never seen and I hike in Glacier every summer!"



**3rd Place: Family Stay**

Rebecca Steffen from South St. Paul HS, MN, with her host mom in Caen.

**FRANCE**

- ✓ Custom-designed or Fixed Itineraries
- ✓ Guided programs available
- ✓ 9 - 21+ days

**TRAVEL + FAMILY STAY**

TRAVEL ONLY

FAMILY STAY ONLY

**MARTINIQUE**

- ✓ Reciprocal exchange
- ✓ Fixed Itineraries of 8-12 days
- ✓ All Family Stay + Excursions

**QUEBEC**

- ✓ Fixed Itineraries of 4-7 days
- ✓ Available any time of year
- ✓ Fully guided

Contact us for information on France, Martinique, Québec  
 laurence@languageandfriendship.com  
 tammi@languageandfriendship.com

**Programs for Immersion Elementary Schools**

L&F is able to provide family-stay programs for immersion elementary students ages 10-12 years old. They typically go for 10-15 days. The students visit school with the host siblings and have a few planned excursions with the group.

L'Etoile du Nord Immersion, St. Paul, MN and Normandale French Immersion, Edina, MN, each travel with their 5th graders.



Leslie Houfaïdi, with Académie Lafayette, Kansas City, MO, brought her first group in 2008 with 31 6th graders. For her 10th program this summer, they had 80 students and 9 teachers! This amazing program continues to grow! L&F Family-Stay Coordinator, Jackie Leguay, places the students for Leslie in southwestern France. Leslie also places a group of French students as part of this back-to-back exchange.

Contact tammi@languageandfriendship.com



# MAIL BAG

Sheldon Achs, Appleton North HS, WI, and his 3 Spanish host brothers all give the experience a thumbs up!



"My favorite memory of this entire experience is when I was with my host girl just living like a Spaniard with her friends." ~ Maria Caladnranis, Arrowhead, WI



Davenport North, IA, students get ready to zip!



Kalina Matossian (left), San Mateo, CA, followed in her sister's footsteps to France. L&F has many sibling travelers in our history.

"Don't worry about being homesick. Just focus on having fun and soak it up because this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance." ~ Evelyn Parker, Académie Lafayette, MO

*"My host mom told me: 'People like you are the ones who go out and experience and use that knowledge to change the world.' Now, my goal in life is to be a doer. I want to travel, learn, experience, explore, and use this knowledge to help make my own positive change in the world."*

~ Brianna Werner, Sedro-Woolley HS, WA

"The hardest part of hosting was saying goodbye when we had more that we wanted to share with them." ~Host Family, Missoula MT

"My students LOVE to meet the French students and it's a great way to build my program." ~ Every teacher who is involved in hosting

## FOLLOW THE PATTERN...

Christi Fischer, East HS, West Bend, WI, travels to France and Québec with L&F. She also helps find host families each summer. And, she has her own personal exchange in Annecy, so she hosts a group of these students every other year as well! This summer, her family also hosted a French student! Christi, we applaud you for your dedication!

"We had such a good time with our French student, Louane, and I have a sneaking suspicion that we will see her again next summer. She and Elise are in contact nearly daily and we communicate at least once a week as well. Thanks again for offering this wonderful opportunity to our kids." ~ Christi Fischer

Here is a snapshot from just the past few years of her travel and hosting pattern. Amazing!

Québec		Winter 2014		Winter 2016		Winter 2018
France	Spring 2013		Spring 2015		Spring 2017	
Host L&F	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018

## Verdun, 100 years later

2017 is the centennial of the American entry into World War I. Two adult groups (Carolynn Johnson & Linda Albertson) are currently abroad this fall. They are visiting battlefields and cemeteries, notably Verdun, the site of the largest and longest battle on the Western Front.

Adult groups often have time to delve deeper into destination countries. They often pick a theme for the focus of the travels: food and wine; World War I/II; authors and artists... **What theme would you pick? Contact L&F today!**



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

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

*"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry,  
and narrow-mindedness..."*  
~ Mark Twain

## L&F Teachers in Action



2nd Place: **TEACHER IN ACTION**

L&F teachers work hard for their students - preparing them, leading them, and even becoming a human hanger for their audioguides at the Louvre, as Robert Slabodnik, Sedro-Woolley HS demonstrates!

**Speak no English. Hear no English. See no English.** Juneau teachers take a break at Sainte-Chapelle. L&F prepares travelers to speak in the language as much as possible.

*See our other photo contest winners and more inside this newsletter.*



3rd Place: **TEACHER IN ACTION**

### Experience the L&F DIFFERENCE!

France • Martinique • Québec  
Argentina • Costa Rica • Spain

Hosting Opportunities

**Plan for 2018 or 2019!**

*"You show a great work ethic and true passion for what you do and have a golden touch to everything you prepare for us. All of you in the Language & Friendship team keep this opportunity real and down-to-earth for us. Thank you!"*

~ Lynda Lopez, University of Illinois Lab School, Champlain, IL