



CINCINNATI  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
SERVING OHIO, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SINCE 1956



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# THE CANISTER

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Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT P. O. Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org>  
May, 2011 Issue

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Meeting Date: May 19, 2011

**Place: The Drake Center**

**(6:00) Sign-in and Social**

**(6:30) Dinner**

**(7:15) Business Meeting**

**(7:30) Speaker**

**Dinner Menu: Stuffed Pork Chop with gravy served with ceasar salad, baked potato, vegetable medley, dinner rolls, cheese cake with fruit topping  
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker: Thomas Cartwright, Lotz House Civil War Museum**

**Topic: Humor in the Civil War**

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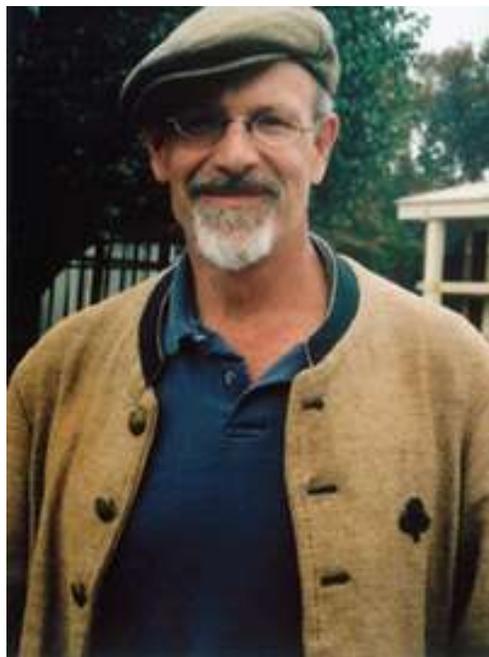
**Reservations:** If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to [reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org](mailto:reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org); call it in to Tom Breiner at 513-984-3101 (h); or email: [tbreiner@fuse.net](mailto:tbreiner@fuse.net). If you are making a reservation for more than yourself, please provide the names of the others. Please note that **all reservations must be in no later than 8:00 pm Wednesday, May 9, 2011.**

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## About our May Speaker:

Distinguished historian, battlefield guide, and author Thomas Y. Cartwright will speak for the first time to the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table at its May meeting. Before becoming an entrepreneur, Mr. Cartwright worked on the staff of the Carter House Museum in Franklin, Tennessee. Beginning in 1989, he served as the Military Curator and Historian at the Carter House until 1997, when he was promoted to its Executive Director, from which position he resigned in 2008. Cartwright now leads history tours throughout the country, including Franklin battlefield tours that start from the Lotz House Civil War Museum, located across the street from the Carter House.

Cartwright began visiting battlefields as a young boy, and his interest was piqued by the stories he had heard about his great-grandfather, a veteran of the Civil War. Over the years, Cartwright has become nationally recognized as the leading expert on the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee (fought on November 30, 1864), one of the bloodiest battles of the war. Thomas has made frequent appearances on Civil War documentaries that have been televised on the History Channel, A&E, Travel Channel, CNN, and the Discovery Channel. Additionally, Cartwright has spoken to Civil War Round Tables across the United States. Cartwright has written several articles and essays, including ones published in *Civil War Times* magazine. He partnered with the Lotz House Civil War Museum to produce *Thomas Cartwright's Battle of Franklin Guide* (2010). He is currently authoring two books: *Mascots in the Civil War* and *The Battle of Thompson's Station*.



**Thomas Y. Cartwright**

Mr. Cartwright's presentation will indulge in a Civil War topic rarely discussed – humor during wartime. We often forget that humor did not disappear when the fighting began. In fact, humor played a key role in maintaining the morale of troops and civilians alike, despite the grief and horror that surrounded them. Cartwright will reflect on examples of Victorian-style humor during the Civil War, from the jokes made among the soldiers, through the quips delivered by their leaders. Men like General George H. Thomas, General William T.

Sherman, General Patrick Cleburne, and President Abraham Lincoln all tried to make people laugh during a period in American history when there was not much to laugh about. We'll find out how they did it!



## President's Report

## ... Pat Homan

We enjoyed an excellent turnout at the April meeting and heard a great presentation by Harold Holzer. I learned a number of things, including the most interesting story on the Bible used to swear in Mr. Lincoln. It was a most enjoyable event.

I have several business items that will require a vote of the members at the May meeting. First, we have the annual election of officers. The current officers have all agreed to stand for a second term, with the exception of Mike Rhein, our secretary. Mike asked not to run again as he is working on a number of projects and doesn't feel he can devote the time to the position. Andy Simmons has agreed to stand for the office. I appreciate his volunteering spirit. The appointed positions of Preservation Chairperson, Alan Berenson; Webmaster, Dan Reigle; Photographer, Shane Gamble, and the ListServ Coordinator, Dr. John Steiner, have all agreed to stay on. I appreciate all that these gentlemen contribute to the Round Table. I also have to mention the two individuals who come up with the monthly quiz, Alan Berenson and Dawn Mowery, further noting that Dawn is the monthly raffle ticket sales person. We are all indebted to them for keeping the meetings interesting and challenging.

The second item which will require a vote by the membership is recommended changes to the wording in our

Constitution. I asked Bob Limoseth and Dan Reigle earlier in the year to review this document to see if changes needed to be made. They discovered a few items that would benefit from additional clarification and others where our current practices have evolved over the years and the language in the Constitution is outdated. One example is that the Constitution, as currently worded, only allows the President to sign contracts for the organization. The update allows for this responsibility to be delegated by the President to the Vice President, and the Vice President only, in special circumstances like meeting arrangements and caterer contracts. This responsibility has been handled by the Vice President for a number of years and it is a part of the V. P's job description as currently written. All the recommended changes were documented in a handout that was passed out at the April meeting. Copies of these changes will also be available at the May meeting for your review.

I also want to remind you that we have two more meetings this Campaign Year due to the cancellation of the January meeting. Our contract with Drake requires us to move a cancelled meeting into June to avoid paying a penalty.

Finally, we are receiving an increasing number of requests for speakers or demonstrations on the Civil War. The Round Table will try to handle as many as we can, in addition to appearing at various events such as the recent U.S. Grant Days at Point Pleasant, OH. If you are interested in helping man a table at some of the coming summer events, please let me know. I can always use assistance.

I hope to see you all at the May meeting.



## Items of Interest:

**Report from Shiloh:** On May 2, nine members of the Cincinnati Civil War Roundtable returned from their journey to Civil War sites in Corinth, MS and a tour of the Shiloh, TN battlefield. I am pleased to report that, while we did encounter some rain on the morning of May 1, Mother Nature was far kinder in her treatment of us on this year's trip than she was the previous two years. This made for a most enjoyable trip.

On the evening of April 30<sup>th</sup>, Jim Minor, NPS Ranger, took our group to sites in Corinth including Oliver Hill, Battery Robinett (pictured at right), and the Confederate Siege Lines while explaining the military actions in great detail. On Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Chris Mekow, NPS Ranger, gave his full day tour of Shiloh. Of all the major Civil War battlefields, Shiloh is surely the most pristine and beautiful.



Mr. Mekow's unusual combination of detailed knowledge and sense of humor kept us all entertained. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the group visited more Corinth sites including The Crossroads Museum, the Verandah House, and the Contraband Camp before returning home. Look for a detailed report coming soon in on our website.

**Preservation project for 2010-2011:** Our project for the 2010-2011 campaign is to fund the cost of replacing and updating two interpretive signs at the Perryville, KY Battlefield. The signs describe the actions of Colonel Wm. H. Lytle's Brigade. One sign describes the brigade's stubborn defense of the hill above the Bottom House while the other sign describes the brigade's artillery duel at Loomis Heights. As many of know Lytle, perhaps the most well known Civil War soldier emanating from Cincinnati, was injured at Perryville, recovered, and then went onto tragically lose his life in the Battle of Chickamauga.

As has been the practice in the past, the Roundtable will match the first \$500 contributed by our members. Last year we had a very successful donation campaign, which benefited of the Museum of the Confederacy. We were able to more than double the number of fund donors who contributed to the previous year's campaign. This year we are setting a goal of increasing the number of donors by another 25 percent. We hope that you will share our enthusiasm in improving a battlefield close to our homes and a hero close to our hearts. Please give or mail your checks to Alan Berenson, Preservation Chair.

**Cornets and Cannons Civil War Sesquicentennial Music Festival:** The City of Frankfort, Kentucky, will host a unique observance of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. *The Cornets and Cannons Civil War Sesquicentennial Music Festival* will celebrate the music of the War Between the States. Outstanding ensembles and solo performers from across the eastern United States will be in Kentucky's capital city for this event on September 1-4, 2011.

The Festival will begin on the evening of Thursday, September 1 with an opening ceremony and a program about the history of Civil War era music at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. A highlight of this evening will be piano music of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century performed by Helen Beedle. A similar session will follow on Friday morning, and it will feature Jari Villanueva – the foremost expert on the bugle call *Taps*, the history of which is closely tied to the Civil War. The Festival will feature the brass band music of the time. Festival concerts will begin on Friday with a performance on the lawn of the Old State Capitol by the Wildcat Band from Pennsylvania. On Friday evening, Saxton's Cornet Band – Frankfort's hometown Civil War ensemble – will perform in the Grand Theatre. A performance of period string and vocal music will follow. Performances will continue Saturday and Sunday with a "battle of the bands" the climax of the event on Sunday afternoon. This joint performance will be at Frankfort's new Ward Oates Amphitheatre overlooking the Kentucky River. Cannons will join the horns, fifes, and drums in a dramatic – and loud – closing concert.

All *Cornets and Cannons* events will be free. Performers will offer recordings of their music for sale at the festival, and a recording of many of the festival performances will be offered after the event. The proceedings of the scholarly publications will be published as well. Details about the performers, presenting scholars, and venues are at the event website – [www.cornetsandcannons.com](http://www.cornetsandcannons.com).  
magazine of the CWPT)

**Follow the Civil War Sesquicentennial On-line:** If you have access to the Internet, you can follow the events each day of what happened 150 years ago in both the New York Times and the Washington Post. Both of the papers are offering great articles on the Civil War and these are absolutely free. The New York Times web site is [www.Nytimes.com](http://www.Nytimes.com) and just click on Opinion then Opinionator and Disunion and you will find a listing of the articles. The Washington Post web addresses is [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) and then go to A House Divided.

## **Springfield Civil War Symposium:** Speakers/ Book Signings/ Panel Discussion

May 7, 2011 Springfield, Ohio 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Clark County Heritage Center, 117 South Fountain Ave.

### **SPEAKERS:**

- “The Underground Railroad” and “Road to Disunion” Fergus Bordewich, Historian and Author of Bound for Canaan
- “Secession Crisis” Nicole Etcheson, Ph.D., Author of Bleeding Kansas
- “Election of 1860” Mark Grimsley, Ph.D., Author of The Hard Hand of War: Union
- Military Policy Toward Southern Civilians
- “Battles & Leaders” Ethan Rafuse, Ph.D., Author of McClellan’s War

**TICKETS:** 937-324-0657 Adults \$25 / Students \$15 *Lunch Included*

**Changes to the Constitution:** The April meeting included a proposal to amend the CCWRT Constitution. These proposed changes will include, among other things:

- Circumstances in which duties are delegated to the Vice-President
- Secretary shall also serve as Club Historian
- Treasurer shall also maintain master membership lists
- Rules as to how dues are applied
- Description of the duties of the Preservation Chair

The changes were presented at the April meeting, but the vote will take place at the May meeting. To see a full list of the changes, please see our website.



## **April Presentation:**

**...submitted by Mike Rhein**

Ohio embraced Abraham Lincoln. In essence, this seemed to be the key theme of Mr. Harold Holzer’s April presentation during which he emphasized, “I don’t think he could’ve won the presidency without Ohio or stay in power without Ohio.” Alluding to this year’s 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s inaugural journey to Washington City, he cited Ohio’s giving 23 electoral votes to the Republican candidate from Springfield, Illinois to help clinch victory in the 1860 presidential election.

Lincoln had stamped himself politically on a national basis from his strong performance in a series of seven statewide debates in Illinois, though eventually losing to Democrat Stephen A. Douglas in the 1858 Illinois campaign for the U.S. Senate and a well-received anti-slavery speech at the Cooper Union Institute in New York City, February, 1859. Mr. Holzer noted that in 1859, “there were gubernatorial races all over the country.” In support of the Ohio Republican gubernatorial candidate that year, Lincoln ventured to the Buckeye state to give speeches. His Ohio appearance “was built on the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates” and that the “papers were enthusiastic about Lincoln’s visit,” calling him the “slayer of the Little Giant (Douglas), commented Holzer, who has written/edited 33 books and 425 articles, the majority of them on Lincoln, including **Lincoln President-Elect: Abraham Lincoln and the Great Secession Winter 1860-61** (2008).

Mr. Holzer noted Lincoln's thinking about Kentucky and the slavery issue in his 1859 Cincinnati appearance when he emphasized, "We mean to leave you alone," but also stressing his anti-slavery view, said, "I think slavery to be wrong, not to be extended." Mr. Holzer, Senior Vice-President for External Affairs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, said Lincoln "was credited with beating Douglas on the Ohio turf" in helping the Republican candidate to win the Buckeye governor's race. Because of his 1859 Ohio performance, Mr. Holzer stated that Lincoln "felt fit for the presidency."



**Harold Holzer**

On Feb. 12, 1861 (Lincoln's 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday) at 3 p.m., the president-elect's inaugural train stopped in Cincinnati on his journey to Washington (from Springfield, Illinois to Washington City, he would make 101 speeches, according to Mr. Holzer). The enthusiastic Queen City audience, a "spontaneous turnout," numbered about 100,000 "of all classes" in a joyous reception, he said, adding that "every window was thronged." Lincoln, welcomed by Mayor Richard Bishop, was driven through downtown Cincinnati in an open carriage pulled by six white horses. He spoke to a large group of German immigrants who had supported him in the 1860 presidential race. Mr. Holzer observed that Lincoln was viewed by the Germans as a "model self-made man." Lincoln that evening delivered another speech at the Burnet House Hotel (located on Third and Vine Streets) where he had stayed in 1859. "He was mobbed," the speaker said, adding that there "was much affection and embracing."

Then the inaugural train embarked Feb. 13 to Columbus, the state capital, with Lincoln continuing "to work on his inaugural address, toning it down little by little." He was greeted with a 34-gun salute at the new capitol building by Governor William Dennison and 60,000 people, according to Mr. Holzer. There, on

Feb. 14, Lincoln was informed that he was officially elected president; holding the telegram (which confirmed the ratified results, making him the 16<sup>th</sup> president) before 5,000 at the capitol plaza, he said with joy, "You really do have a beautiful state capitol."

Mr. Holzer related the subsequent Buckeye journey for Lincoln, arriving at such small towns in eastern Ohio as Newark, Dresden, Coshocton and New Cumberland, proclaiming that his election victory was the "voice of the people..."

One more Ohio political victory awaited Lincoln in 1863 when Ohioans rejected former congressman Clement Vallandigham, an anti-war Democrat banished to Canada, in his bid for the gubernatorial office. Mr. Holzer said that, when Lincoln heard of electoral result, he exclaimed, "Glory to God in the Highest, Ohio has saved the nation."

As Mr. Holzer's presentation so aptly illustrated, Abraham Lincoln's relationship with Ohio was not only forged politically but also personally. Ohioans, particularly Cincinnatians, embraced Lincoln for the humble, self-made man that he was, along with his resolve to face the slavery issue head-on and keep the Union intact. He, in turn, embraced Ohio for its fervent support of his efforts.

## **We Who Study Must Also Strive to Save!**

# April Quiz:

1.: It took 3 ballots at the 1860 Republican national convention for Abe Lincoln to win the nomination with the necessary 233 votes. Which state provided the critical votes sealing his victory?

2.: Confederate veteran Lt. Col. John Smith Pemberton developed a formula for a concoction that still exists today and is known as \_\_\_\_\_.

3.: Harold Holzer, a leading authority on Abraham Lincoln, tells us in his excellent book, *Lincoln at Cooper Union*, that Abe was in the habit of reading while his head was supported by his hand which had a peculiar anatomic characteristic. What was that idiosyncrasy?

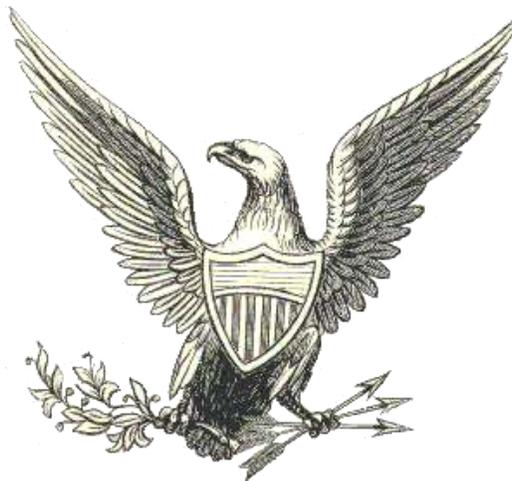
4.: Which one of the following statements, all taken from Harold Holzer's *Lincoln at Cooper Union* is considered reliable by the author?

- a.: George Henry Story's statement that Abe was dressed in the finest broadcloth and his hands and feet were small and dainty.
- b.: After having his famous picture taken by Matthew Brady on the day of his Cooper Union speech, Abe stopped at McSorley's tavern for an ale on his way back to his hotel.
- c.: Abe appeared visibly nervous according to lawyer Joseph Choate as he waited at Cooper Union to begin giving his speech.
- d.: Abe lost his place after reading three pages of his speech and he began to tremble and stammer.
- e.: According to Russell Conwell Abe quoted Fred Douglass, "It is written in the sky of America that the slaves will be free."

5.: Lincoln gave 101 speeches on his meandering trip from Springfield, Il., to Washington, D.C., to attend his first inaugural. A prominent American orator from Massachusetts who was the vice presidential candidate of the Constitutional Union Party expressed his disgust calling them ordinary, destitute of felicity and common pertinence. Who was he?

6.: Both Abe Lincoln and Jeff Davis had photographs taken of themselves by Mathew Brady in 1860 in very similar pose except Jeff's is shown in greater profile. Why?

Bonus: On the platform on which Abe Lincoln and Edward Everett were to give their Gettysburg military cemetery dedications a tent was erected. Why?



## April Quiz Answers:

- 1.: **Ohio** Ref.: Lincoln at Cooper Union, Holzer, p217
- 2.: **Coca Cola** Ref.: Civil War Pharmacy, Flannery, p7 Nation's Restaurant News, Feb. 1996, Hayes, p120-1
- 3.: **His hand contained 6 digits** Ref. Lincoln at Cooper Union, Holzer, p33 ("Lincoln's thumb supported his head, the index finger was placed across his lips and the side of his nose and his other 4 fingers were tightly clenched.")
- 4.: **c** Ref.: Lincoln at Cooper Union, Holzer, p100, 104, 114
- 5.: **Edward Everett** Ref.: Lincoln's Winter Silence Nov. 1860 to Feb. 1861, H. Holzer, Lincoln Forum, 2010 Lincoln, Donald, p247
- 6.: **To hide his opacified left eye which was scarred from previous recurrent herpes infections.**  
Ref.: The Civil War, Foote, Vol I, p.251

Bonus: Edward Everett had a bladder/prostate problem & had to have a facility to relieve himself before he went out to give his 2 hour rambling speech. Ref.: Lincoln, Donald, p.464



## Future Presentations:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| June 16, 2011      | Pat Homan, CCWRT<br><i>Paved with Good Intentions: The Road to War</i>  |
| September 15, 2011 | David Mowery, CCWRT and OCWTC<br><i>America's Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan's 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i>                      |
| October 20, 2011   | Frank J. Williams, Providence, RI<br><i>Abraham Lincoln: The Evolving Commander-in-Chief</i>                                      |
| November 17, 2011  | Peter Cozzens, Silver Springs, MD<br><i>Topic TBD</i>   |
| January 19, 2012   | Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT<br><i>Achieving the Anaconda Plan</i>  |
| February 16, 2012  | Jill Holt, CCWRT<br><i>Women Soldiers in the Civil War</i>  |
| March 15, 2012     | TBD   |
| April 19, 2012     | Thomas R. Flagel, Columbia State Community College<br><i>Appomattox: The Place of Lee's Surrender and a National Resurrection</i> |
| May 17, 2012       | Lesley J. Gordon, University of Akron<br>Topic TBD  |

## **ABOUT THE CINCINNATI CWRT:**

**Membership** in the Cincinnati CWRT is open to anyone with an active interest in the American Civil War. Annual dues (prorated throughout the year to new members) are \$25 for a Regular Membership. This fee helps cover operating costs which include this newsletter, as well as speaker expenses. A Sustaining Member level of membership is also available for \$50 (single) and \$85 (couple). The purpose of this membership category is to encourage and recognize members who make additional contributions of \$25 or more, in addition to their annual dues in any fiscal year, to the objectives and programs of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. If you are joining for the first time, there is a one-time, lifetime, initiation fee of \$20.

**Dinner reservations** are required, and can be made prior to the reservations deadline either by an email to [reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org](mailto:reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org) or by a phone call to the officer taking reservations for the meeting (whose name and number is listed on the header of the current *Canister*). **Meals** currently cost \$28. Menu selection will change with each meeting. A vegetarian meal option is available, if requested prior to the reservations cut-off date.

**A Meeting Only Fee** of \$5.00 is assessed to members, visitors and guests who arrive after dinner to hear the speaker. The monies collected are used to help offset the expenses of the evening's activities.

**Late Reservations and Walk-ins without a reservation:** Our ability to be flexible for late reservations or walk-ins is now restricted by the fact that the Drake Center only prepares meals according to the reservation count called in. Therefore, **Late Reservations** (after the Wednesday by 8:00 pm which is eight days before the meeting) will be accepted conditionally, subject to the caterer's ability to honor a change in dinner count if received close to the meeting date. **Late Reservations and Walk-ins without a reservation** will only be able to have dinner if offset by cancellations or no-shows, or if the caterer determines that sufficient food is available.

**Late cancellations** may be made by email or phone. Since a cancellation after the Wednesday 8:00 pm deadline which is eight days before the meeting means that CCWRT has guaranteed payment to The Drake Center for the reserved number of meals, the Treasurer will review the number of late cancellations and late reservations for every meeting. If a late cancellation results in the CCWRT being required to pay for an extra meal, the person making the late cancellation will be expected to pay for the dinner. **No-shows** who have a dinner reservation but do not attend will be billed for the meal. **Meetings** are held the third Thursday of the month, September – November and January – May at The Drake Center, 151 West Galbraith Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45216 (**Phone: 513-418-2500**). If traveling Interstate 75, exit at Galbraith Road (Exit 10) and go west one mile. If coming across the Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway, take the Galbraith Road exit and go west two miles. Or, take the Galbraith/Winton exit and go east one mile. **Free parking** is available in the WEST PAVILION parking lot. The West Pavilion entrance will take you to the meeting rooms. To get to our meeting room enter the West Pavilion and take the elevators to your right to level A, go to your right and Motivation Meeting Room G is located at the end of the hallway.

## **CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:**

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**Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!**