



**April
2014**

Estes Park, Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland, Windsor and Surrounding Areas

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Our World Friendship

Day was very

festive with over 60 attending in a flag bedecked room (Thanks, Phil and Linda Smith) and so elegant with our new blue tablecloths! The food was outstanding, as usual, and I, for one, am hoping to get some of the recipes. Our club has such talented cooks! Thanks to all the committee, Esther Johnsen, Nita Kopylay, Donna Clark, Barbara Miller and Gary Cummins, for your great ideas and good follow-through to make it a successful evening. Thanks to all of you who came early to help and those who pitched in to help clean up. And thanks to our outstanding speakers, Cinda Clark, Gary Cummins, Marcia Ross, Phil Smith, Dennis Miller and Nancy Brigden, who confirmed the ideals of Friendship Force by sharing their personal experiences as well as informing us on the history and future of the club. Thanks to Cindy Paulson and Ed Brigden for the visual setups.



Our incoming Curitiba, Brazil exchange will finally become a reality. Communication has been slow and difficult, but it now looks as though we will welcome some 25 Ambassadors in October. When we get final confirmation, we shall recruit home hosts, day hosts and small group dinner hosts. We've heard that the friends from Curitiba are fun people, from the enthusiastic reports from our club members who were there in 2012.

We still have not been notified whether our Ireland and New Zealand exchanges are a match. So, we'll be on pins and needles until after April 15, I guess! So many have expressed an interest in the Ireland exchange that we may have to have a lottery to pare down the numbers to the 20 slots available.

Just a reminder that Regional Conference in Salt Lake City will be May 2-4. Please try to get your reservations in as soon as possible. So far we have only 7 registered from our club and we had hoped to have better representation since it is not that far away. (My daughter and I drove over there to shop at IKEA before there was a store in Denver!) Check out the Conference agenda on page 4. Meet and chat with our new FFI president, Joy DiBenedetto, who will be at the conference.

I hope to see all of you at our April 11th meeting.
In Friendship,

Marilyn Garner

Next Meeting
April 11, 2014
7:00 PM

Egypt

First Christian Church
2000 N Lincoln Ave.
Loveland, CO

APRIL 11 MEETING—EGYPT

Join us at our April 11 meeting to hear Wahid Awad speak about his homeland. Wahid is a CSU doctoral student in plant breeding and genetics and is “a political activist with an agenda to end the continuous political turmoil in Egypt. My goal (*post CSU*) is to run for parliamentary elections...and to guide the nation out of political turmoil and into the light of social justice and human dignity.”

Wahid says, “Egypt is a very important country in the Middle East with special interest to the USA. Egypt is a nation of great, mysterious history, a very interesting present, and a hopeful future. First, I will review Egyptian history, culture, politics and other facts about my country. Second, I would like to talk about the Egyptian revolution—exactly what happened in January 2011, and June 2013, and why.” Wahid encourages us to ask questions about Egyptian history, culture, religions and politics.



Wahid Awad

EXCHANGE TO KIEL, GERMANY & EXTENSION CRUISE/TOUR MAY 21-JUNE 8, 2014

News of our home host assignments is being eagerly awaited for our May 24-31 exchange with the FF Kiel, Germany. Our traveling group of 18 consists of 11 ambassadors from Northern Colorado, 4 from other US states (Washington, Nevada, New Jersey and Virginia), plus 3 from Australia. Additional plans are coming together for our extensions in Hamburg and our cruise along the Norwegian fjords. We're glad to hear from the Kiel ED that spring is arriving there, and the weather is warming up! We'll be holding a final group planning meeting on May 6 at 9:30 a.m. at Cindy's house.

Marcia Ross



What does the Friendship Force experience mean to us? Is it getting to know our host people personally? Is it seeing the area people and sites through the eyes of our hosts? Is it learning more about the culture firsthand? Is it an opportunity to get answers to our variety of questions about culture, country, history and people? The answer is **YES!**

“Hotels are a wonderful invention, but not the ideal window to the soul of a nation. They are designed to do the opposite—to keep you and the country at a comfortable distance.”

MARCH MEETING—WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY

Our 37th celebration of World Friendship began with a Getting to Know You social mixer sharing our “bucket list” of places we’d love to visit. This activity helped us to meet and greet members and their guests as folks circulated around the colorfully decorated room. Large flags from 30+ nations provided by Phil & Linda Smith brightened the walls as well as the new royal blue tablecloths on the dinner tables. Thanks go to the Planning Committee: Esther & Dick Johnson, Marilyn Garner, Donna Clark, Nita Kopyay, Gary Cummins, Barbara & Dennis Miller.



Cindy Paulson



Cinda Clark

After the delicious potluck dishes from around the world, President Marilyn Garner read a letter from the new national FFI President Joy DiBenadetto “wishing all a fulfilled life lived in friendship”. Our club was honored to have Cinda Clark, who serves on the international board of directors for FFI, give her overview of the history, purpose and future activities of Friendship Force International.

Cindy Paulson treated our guests to two short videos; one was a **pictorial** overview of FFI and the other was a demonstration of the complex method and time lines involved in **matching clubs in the exchange process**. Members of the club shared from the heart, some of the special experiences gained by:

Building life-long relationships with **hosting**...through sharing your home. This Friendship Force activity will enrich your life (Gary Cummins)



Gary Cummins



Marcia Ross

Adding on **extension** experiences after a home stay; such as cruises, bike tours, bus tours, or ... (Marcia Ross)

Venturing into **specialized** exchanges that included rafting, jeeping, birding, rappelling, hiking, climbing... fun for the adventurous (Phil Smith)

Climbing into the car and taking that **ground exchange** as you get to know fellow travelers better by taking a few side trips on your way to your destination exchange (Dennis Miller)

Sharing **lifelong friendships** made, through repeated visits over many years (Nancy Brigden)

Our enchanting evening ended with a group picture and forming a “circle of friendship” to sing, Let There be Peace on Earth. And, as usual everyone pitched for a quick and easy clean up...thank you all!



Phil Smith

Barbara Miller



MARCH WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY—CONTINUED



*“Willie” Westdorp
& Rosemary Donovan*



Marilyn Garner & Doris Rogers



Rona Baer, Marcia Ross & Mary Lou Selch



Nita Kopylay & Mary Riney



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION—MARCH 7

FFNC is pleased to welcome 6 new members and 16 transferring members from the Rocky Mountain Friendship Force. On March 7, a Welcome/Orientation Social was hosted at Cindy Paulson's home.

Five new members and two transferring members and their mentors attended the morning social. FFNC president, Marilyn Garner, past president Marcia Ross, FFNC Store Mgr. Debby Jones and membership co-chairs Thelma Slocum and Cindy Paulson each shared brief presentations about various aspects of Friendship Force. After the presentations, Debby Jones showed several of the items available in our FFNC Store.

Welcome to our newest members of FFNC!

Left Row, back to front: Thelma Slocum, Mbrship. Chair, Cheryl Stevens (new), Mary Ann O'Neill (new), Patti Griffin (new)

Right row, back to front: Duane & Pat Sharp (transfers Rocky Mt. FF), Marilyn Garner, FFNC Pres., Marcia Ross, mentor, Diane Martell (new), Kendra Schmick (new) and Debby Jones (FFNC Store Mgr.)



REGIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA—MAY 2-4

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Salt Lake City, Utah

Little America Hotel

May 2nd, 3rd & 4th

Friday, May 2nd

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Registration at Little America Hotel

4:30 – 6:00 90 minute city tour – free for those registered for conference - \$20 guests
Board the bus in front of the hotel – bus will return to the hotel after the tour where you can have dinner.
Or, the bus will drop you downtown so you can visit the new City Creek Mall and have dinner downtown.
Volunteers will help you find the Trax train to come back to the hotel.

Saturday, May 3rd

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
Mix and enjoy posters with information about each club

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and introductions of club officers by Kathy Howarth, Moderator for Conference, Longtime member of Utah FF and past President

9:30 – 10:15 Presentation by FFI President Joy Di Benedetto

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:15 **Workshop #1** – “Promotion and Publicity” by Denice Wheeler
Author & Lecturer & former Utah FF President

11:15 – 12:00 **Workshop #2** – “Photography” by Keith Hill
Member of Utah FF and Pres. Wasatch Photo Club

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch provided by Little America

1:30 – 2:15 **Workshop #3** – “Membership Development” by Margret Boes-Ingraham
President of Utah FF and her committee

2:15 – 2:30 Break

2:30 – 3:15 **Workshop #4** – “Packing & Travel Tips” by Becky Hale
Travel Specialist from Travel Outfitters

3:15 – 4:15 Wrap-up – Discussion and opportunity for FFI President Joy DiBenedetto to answer questions

5:30 – 6:30 Social – cash bar

6:30 Closing Banquet and entertainment

Sunday, May 4th

9:00 a.m. Meet at the Tabernacle on Temple Square for the Mormon Tabernacle Broadcast

9:30 Temple Square tour for those who are interested

Pick up by hosts for those who choose to stay on for two or three days with Utah FF Club hosts

Visit our website, ffncolor.com, for the Conference flyer, Conference schedule and the registration form. See **Regional** for the flyer and schedule, and click on **Forms** for the Conference Registration Form.

MTN. STATE FIELD REP NEWS

Mountain States Region

6 Clubs

423 Members

Keep your eyes open for the membership survey by the middle of April and return it by July in order that strategic planning includes individual member responses. The Global Survey will be published in September and presented at the World Conference in October in Auckland, New Zealand. Clubs should talk up the early bird special at the world conference. Most Australian, New Zealand, Japanese, and Asian clubs are expected to participate.

Atlanta, GA is expecting a special event in second week of November, 2015—THE NOBEL FESTIVAL. 45,000 to 50,000 visitors as well as winners and speakers from around the world are expected. Large organizations such as Rotary International and Friendship Force International will be planning activities for the biggest event since the Olympic Games.

Sandy Gourdine, Field Rep from Clearwater, Florida reported on the OLLI LEARNING PROGRAM, Osher Lifelong Institute of Florida State University, and encouraged FFI members to consult the website to learn about affiliates of FFI in various parts of the country. CHECK THIS ADVENTURE OUT!

Joy Di Benendetto mentioned the Board Meeting to be held this coming Friday with 4 new board members. She also mentioned her attendance at Albuquerque and Phoenix at upcoming conferences. And, yes, she is coming to Salt Lake City May 2-4. Are you registered?

Barbara Guilford—FF Cheyenne

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS—CO. WELCOME CENTER

Colorado Welcome Center (Prospect and I-25) is looking for volunteers that can work three to three and a half hours once a week or twice a month. You will be trained on the vacation hot spots in Colorado and work with people traveling from all over the world. We usually see about 90,000 travelers a year. Open 7 days a week 8:00 to 5:00 – 6:00 in the summer.

If interested please call Linda Ellis [970-491-4775](tel:970-491-4775) or Kathi Gomez [970-491-3966](tel:970-491-3966) for an application

REMEMBER OUR SISTER MTN. STATES CLUBS

As Barbara mentioned in the article above, when you have a “hankerin” to visit other countries and cultures, remember you have many options through Friendship Force. First, be aware of exchanges through our local club. Secondly, check on exchanges through our sister Mountain States Regional Clubs. Then, thirdly, check on exchange offerings through FFI. In each case you would file an application to join the exchange as an Ambassador. Many options!

To learn what other clubs in our region have planned, check out their monthly newsletters for the latest. Visit our website, ffncoloro.com, click on Regional and then select a newsletter of interest from the Regional Newsletters box or investigate a website from the Regional Websites box.

If you have an interest in a particular article or a detail from one of the above newsletters, please print or make notes. There will be no archives of past issues; only the most current issue will be available on our website.

Currently selections include newsletters from the Denver, the Pikes Peak (Colorado Springs) and the Western Colorado (Grand Junction) clubs. As others become available, they will be added.

Ed Brigden

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR

2
0
1
4

2
0
1
5

Mtn. States Reg. Conference May 2-4
Salt Lake City

Kiel, Germany May 21—June 9
& Cruise/Tour
Marcia Ross 377-0512
Cindy Paulson 225-2252

St. Louis, MO 5 nights TBD,
between Sept 21—Oct 4
Alice Gibson 310-8848

Curitiba, Brazil October
Inbound
Debby Jones 686-0303

FFI International Conference
Auckland, NZ October 14—16

Registration available online with FFI

Ireland
1 Week, dates & location TBD
Ed Needed

Harrisburg, PA Fall
Inbound
ED Needed

Napier, New Zealand
Inbound Dates TBD
ED Needed

FFI International Conference
Vancouver, BC, Canada TBA

2014 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT: Marilyn Garner
493-4137 garner.marilyn@gmail.com

VICE PRES: Gary Cummins
682-2266 gary@gscummins.com

SECRETARY: Paulette Weaver
356-5068 interweaver@greeleynet.com

TREASURER: Alice Gibson
310-8848 aligibs@yahoo.com

Programs: Esther Johnsen
484-2666 RNEJOHNSEN@aol.com

Exchange Coordinator: Kay Thomas
278-9054 kthomaslvld@aol.com

Website: Ed Brigden
381-5809 brigden@comcast.net

Newsletter Editors/Publishers:
Ed Brigden, Cindy Paulson, Sue Cummins
381-5809 brigden@comcast.net
225-2252 cdp225@msn.com
682-2266 sue@gscummins.com

Publicity: Anne Brown
663-3727 abby144@aol.com

Member Directory: Ed Brigden
381-5809 brigden@comcast.net

Membership: Thelma Slocum & Cindy Paulson
223-9855 thelmaslocum@comcast.net
225-2252 cdp225@msn.com

Telephone Tree: Barbara Turnbull
493-0787 b.turnbull493@gmail.com

Music: Rosemary Donovan, Larry Clark
669-8818 donovangcd@aol.com
669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com

Store: Debby Jones
686-0303 dsj55@aol.com

Historian: Ken Weaver
356-5068 interweaver@greeleynet.com

Greeting Table: Willie Westdorp 667-6525
Nita Kopyay 613-2066

Hospitality: Rosemary Donovan 669-8818
Donna Clark 484-8009
Cheryl Stevens 663-4588

Tablecloth Mgr: Kay Sheahan
667-4473 kay6568@peoplepc.com

Lge. Drink Containers: Cindy Paulson

Ways & Means: Dick Johnsen & Doris Rogers
484-2666 RNEjohnsen@aol.com
203-9045 doris.rogers@live.com

Photographers: Cathie McCallum, Ed Brigden,
& Cindy Paulson

Reporters: Donna Clark, Cindy Kenna, Barbara
Miller, Thelma Slocum, Marion Sparks

MOUNTAIN CLUBS' EXCHANGES

Oregon Outbound—with FF Western Colorado

FFWC is joining Baton Rouge to fill an exchange to Willamette Valley, Oregon from **July 7—14**. There will be an optional overnight trip to the Oregon coast. More information on numbers, agenda, cost and contacts will be forthcoming.

Connecticut and NYC Outbound—with FF Western Colorado

FFWC (Western Colorado) has a confirmed outbound Exchange to Connecticut from **October 5—11**. Plans include: foliage tour (including corn maze); Winery tour; State capitol tour; Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art (oldest in US); Norman Rockwell Museum; Sturbridge Village (Colonial village); Mashantucket Pequot Indian Museum; Mark Twain House and museum.

An optional second week from **October 12—18** will take the group to New York City. EDs are currently checking hotel rates, Broadway plays, and tours of historical landmarks in the City.

EDs Sue Palmer 970-260-4653 alfshouse12@hotmail.com
Nancy Galbraith

Hamilton & Wairarapa, New Zealand—FF Denver

Join the Denver FF club for an outbound exchange to New Zealand: Home-stays in Hamilton and Wairarapa and an 8-day tour of the South Island. Arranged from **September 18—October 13**, prior to the FF annual Convention in Auckland.

For a trip of that distance and time, arrive early and enjoy the Kiwi culture, friendliness and countryside prior to the Convention festivities.

EDs Anita Smith anita.smith22@gmail.com

Mispah, South Africa—FF Utah

Check out this opportunity to visit FF Mispah (near Cape Town) South Africa from **October 13—20** with planned side trips. EDs Nona Bressler 801-261-1561 don_nona@comcast.net and Lotti Wann.

MORE FFNC NEWSLETTERS ON WEBSITE!

Can you put your hands on your copy of the June, 2012 FFNC newsletter? Call another FFNC member and get others involved in your search. After all, we have plenty of time. Many are retired, right?

Wait! A better idea! Visit ffncolo.com and click on Newsletters. And **voila!** There is the June, 2012 issue among up to 33 past issues. See how much time you saved when you utilized our website? And you still have friends.