



friendship force  
NORTHERN COLORADO

# FRIENDSHIP FLYER



Mary Nelson, Editor & Publisher

April  
2016

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

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## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A big THANK YOU goes to FFNC for a delightful evening on Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> as we celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, as well as World Friendship Day. An evening like this is successful when club members host tables (participating in the country "Show & Share" requested), take extra effort to make delicious international foods, find a program with interesting panelists (CSU international students), work to create a festive atmosphere, and most importantly invite guests (27) to join in the fun! Thank you **Pat Sharp**, **Rosalie Summers**, **Cathie McCallum**, **Marcia Ross**, **Nita Kopyay**, **Dennis Miller** and **Duane Sharp** for your planning, organizing, and working on set-up/clean-up.



**PLEASE** get your Rocky Mountain Regional Conference registration in to the WCFF, c/o Sue Palmer, 2404 Applewood Circle, Grand Junction, CO 81506. The RMRC will be May 13-14, but we can always go a day early or stay a day later to add to our fun! Check with **Marilyn Garner** regarding carpool to Grand Junction.

Our tender loving care (TLC) for Benson Sculpture Garden begins soon. We usually meet on Saturday mornings after FFNC meetings; which means April 8, May 14, and June 11. Watch for details from our Garden Coordinators, **Nancy Brigden** and **Cinda Clark**.

We are in for an informative evening on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. At 7:00 PM we'll hear from **Dr. Enas Alsharea**, an Internally Displaced Person (IDP), as she relates the devastating effects of being a refugee in one's own country... some very personal experiences in Iraq and in IDP camps around the Middle East. **Please join us and bring a friend!**

*Barbara Miller*

### Next Meeting

April 8, 2016

7:00 PM

**Dr. Enas Alsharea**  
"Fenced In"

First Christian  
Church  
2000 N Lincoln Ave  
Loveland, CO

## MARCH 11TH PROGRAM FEATURED INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

March is Friendship Force's birth month, and this year's celebration was extra special in Northern Colorado! Not only did FFI turn thirty-nine, but our local club also turned thirty! To mark the occasion, and also recognize World Friendship Day, FFNC transformed its monthly meeting into a festive evening of international sights, sounds, smells, and sharing. It was an exceptional affair for over eighty attendees, including twenty-seven guests.

Our meeting hall had a multicultural atmosphere right from the front door. FFNC members wore gowns, shirts, hats, and even shoes from around the world to accentuate and enhance the stories they shared about their treks to distant shores. Each of the ten dinner tables featured a unique country and the hosts at each table had distinct experiences from their featured country to share with tablemates.



Tables were adorned with brightly-colored cloths and napkins. They also featured a collection of souvenirs brought home by the hosts from abroad. It was a true learning experience for all our members and guests. Before dinner, FFNC President, Barbara Miller, welcomed everyone to the festivities and honored those in our organization who have provided leadership over the years. Those who are the epitome of the service, values, and vision that Friendship Force upholds are



honored with the Wayne Smith Award. Barbara reminded us of our eight Northern Colorado recipients of this highest honor. They are: Charlie & Helen Crihfield, Betty Jean DeMersseman, Ed & Nancy Brigdon, Cindy Paulson, and Larry & Cinda Clark. The meal that followed was a true culinary delight. More than eighteen feet of banquet tables were overflowing with favorite dishes from the world over. The plethora of foods tempted the palates of even the most discriminating gourmets. Then, the crowning touch was...what else...a beautiful and tasty birthday cake.

The final delight of the evening was our after-dinner international student panel, moderated by Marcia Ross. We heard from three young Vietnamese (Van Hoang, Linh Chi, and Hung Nguyen), Kwami Noudemidjan from Togo, and Vishwal Shah from India. Marcia challenged the young folks with questions about their homeland and also their experiences in the U.S. (particularly Northern Colorado). The students were certainly up to the challenge!



Marcia with Vishwal Shah, Kwami Noudemidjan, Van Hoang, Linh Chi and Hung Nguyen



Marcia with Vishwal Shah, Kwami Noudemidjan, Van Hoang, Linh Chi and Hung Nguyen



# MARCH 11TH PROGRAM FEATURED INTERNATIONAL STU-

Excerpts from their responses included:

“Education is more informal here. You can really talk to your teachers and call them by their first name. We can’t do that back home.”

“It’s COLD here!”

“The traffic laws and procedures are different here. You can’t make a right turn on red in India. When I was in the car and the driver did that, I thought we’d wreck for sure.”

“A stranger gave me a ride home when I was lost in the dark late at night in a construction zone. That would never happen back home. People are friendly and kind here.”

“A waitress paid for my ice cream at Sonic when I came up short of money.”



Vishwal and Kwami

a bit like a Friendship Force value... “I’d like to travel the world.” It was informative, inspirational, and just plain refreshing to listen to

these articulate young folks speak about their own countries and their experiences here in America. When asked what they would share with those back home about their time here, they said:

“It’s nice to just be yourself”

“You can earn *clean* money as opposed to the *dirty* money back in Vietnam.”

“You have freedom here, but you must know how to handle it.”

“People here are friendly. Just ask them!”

World Friendship Day is our once-a-year opportunity to share what Friendship Force is all about: mutual respect, cultural diversity, cultural exploration, and service. Our 2016 celebration was certainly a reflection of all of these values. It was a night to remember!

*Dennis Miller*



Van and Linh

The students had high praise for American democracy and wished that their own political systems could be more open and honest. “You get to know everything about your presidential candidates,” quipped one of them. Each student had ambitious, yet attainable, career goals and looked forward to successful futures either back in their own countries or here. One goal sounded



Marcia with Hung

Kwami with his family

## APRIL 8TH MEETING - "FENCED IN"

Our speaker, Dr. Enas Alsharea, will share her personal account of being an IDP (Internally Displaced Person) near ISIS-held territory.



Dr. Enas Alsharea will be our speaker on Friday, April 8th. Her topic will be "Fenced In: Personal Accounts and Causes of Internally Displaced Persons." An internally Displaced Person (IDP) is someone forced to flee from his or her home, but who remains within their country's border. This group is often subject to heightened vulnerability and often shows higher mortality and rates of physical attack, sexual assault and abduction. They are frequently deprived of shelter, food, and health services. Overwhelmingly, the majority of IDPs are women and children.

Dr. Enas Alsharea was born and raised in Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq War. She graduated from the University of Almustansirya with a degree in dentistry and the University of Baghdad with a master's in orthodontics. Enas now lives in the United States. However, before coming to the U.S., she was forced to move around Iraq as an educated IDP due to deteriorating safety in Baghdad. She also suffered harassment from sectarian militias due to her brother's work as an interpreter for the coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following the Islamic State's invasion of Iraq in the Spring of 2014, Enas began working heavily with IDPs in camps around Iraq - a mere 50 miles from ISIS-held territory.

Dick and I heard Enas speak at the Vail Symposium this summer. This is a chance to hear a first hand account of situations people encounter as a result of war. She and her husband have a young family who will join us for the evening. We were pleased that they agreed to come and join us. We encourage you to invite your friends to this enlightening meeting.

*Esther Johnsen*



### ***San Diego, Here We Come . . .***

Our outbound exchange to San Diego is **BACK ON for October 12-17**, returning on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The SDFP was able to fit us in when a Costa Rica Exchange rescheduled... **good news!** We've had 17 applications turned in with 4 more "in the mail". Please let Barbara Miller, ED (970-667-7330) know if you are interested in this reciprocal exchange.

**Watch for a meeting soon to go over details  
and pay your deposit.**

# WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY REPORT

March 11, 2016

The 30th birthday party of FFNC, as well as the celebration of World Friendship Day, was a grand event! Thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers!



Where else but at the FFNC meeting could you find such international flavor, with foods from around the world, members sharing their exchange souvenirs and costumes, a panel of select students, a delicious and very large birthday cake, and best of all, 27 guests who now have the idea that Friendship Force is a very unique and special organization!



President Barbara Miller welcomed all 80 attendees to the celebratory dinner event, informing that there are 400 chartered FF clubs and programs in 70 countries on 6 continents, with more than 18,000 members worldwide. A video explained the beginning of Friendship Force by then President Jimmy Carter, and the recent direction and expansion planned for the future.

President Miller thanked the many committee organizers who made the evening such a great success, including VP Cathie McCallum, Dennis Miller, and Kay Sheahan; the Table Hosts who each represented a Friendship Force destination, and included Larry and Cinda Clark, Larry and Thelma Slocum, Willie Westdorp, Elle Barr, Cindy Paulson, B.J. DeMersseman, Barbara McCluskey, Debby Jones, and Rosalie Summers. The Decorating Chairperson was Pat Sharp, with help from Duane Sharp, and Nita Koplay was Potluck Organizer. A special thank you to each of you, especially the cooks who made this a potluck that included an amazing array of delicious international foods!



The International Student Panel discussion, led by Marcia Ross, concluded our evening. The five students, from India, Togo, and Viet Nam, expressed how pleased they were to be in Colorado, which they thought was a beautiful state with friendly and kind people. To read some of the interesting comments made by these articulate international students, please refer to the March 11th Program Report on pages 2 and 3.

*Rosalie Summers and Pat Sharp  
World Friendship Day Coordinators*



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It was very exciting to have 27 guests attend our FFNC World Friendship Day potluck. We hope some of those may join us in the future. We have one new member so far this year He is **Sam Uhrick from Arizona, a friend of Cheryl Stevens**. He lives in Windsor in the summer. Current members are encouraged to continue to invite guests and potential members to our monthly meetings.



If you haven't paid your 2016 dues yet, please send your check to Thelma Slocum at 5025 Bluestem Ct., Fort Collins, Colorado 80525. Marcia has contacted most of you if you have forgotten to send a check in. So far we have 75 paid members in 2016.

If you want FFNC business cards with your information on them, sign up for cards at the Welcome Table at meetings. We can easily make stickers for you with name, address, email, cell or whatever you prefer. Just let us know!



*Thelma and Marcia*

## WHAT DOES FF MEAN TO US?

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!**

"I have found out that there ain't no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them." – Mark Twain

## 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](http://ffncolo.com) and click on Newsletters. And **voila!** There is the June, 2012 issue among up to 49 past issues. See how much time you saved when you utilized our website? And you still have friends.

Inbound

Outbound

## EXCHANGE CALENDAR

## 2016 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**PRESIDENT:** Barbara Miller

667-7330 bmill4708@comcast.net

**VICE PRES:** Cathie McCallum

223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

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**Facebook:** Barbara Miller 667-7330 bmill4708@comcast.net

**Teleph. Tree:** Barb Turnbull 493-0787 b.turnbull493@gmail.com

**Small Grp. Social Events:** Rona Baer 744-9974 baerextremes@gmail.com

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

**Historian:** Cheryl Stevens 231-4392 cheryl2204@msn.com

**World Friendship Day Potluck, Mar. 11, 2016** (Mbrs. Invite guests)

Pat & Duane Sharp 720-218-2299 m6sharp@aol.com

Rosalie Summers 303-887-2681 eisoro1@gmail.com

Nancy Lawton 303-907-1181 nanLawton@aol.com

**Annual Picnic, Aug. 2016 in Cheyenne:**

Judy Flatley 223-1037 flatleyjl@msn.com

**Holiday Party, Dec. 9, 2016:**

Suzi & Rick Gossard 412-0691 suzi.gossard@gmail.com

Esther & Dick Johnsen 484-2666 RNEJOHNSEN@aol.com

**Greeters/Hospitality:** Nita Kopylay 613-2066 kopylay@comcast.net

2017

**Rocky Mtn. Regional Conference**

Grand Junction, CO May 13 & 14

**Get Registered ... and a place to stay!**

**Hamilton/Burlington, Canada**

Inbound June 23-29

Alice Gibson 310-8848 Aligibsc@gmail.com  
Cathie McCallum 223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

**Stratford-St. Marys, Canada**

Outbound July 18-25

Christine Hall 402-0433 christinehallep@aol.com

**Peaks to Plains Global**

Inbound Sept 12-15 w/ FFNC

Marilyn Garner 493-4137 garner.marilyn@gmail.com  
Thelma Slocum 223-9855 thelmaslocum@comcast.net

**FFI International Conference**

Marrakech, Morocco Sept 16-19 (Revised dates)

**San Diego**

Outbound October 12-17

Barbara Miller 667-7330 bmill4708@comcast.net  
Elle Barr 204-9722 shilohbelle@gmail.com

**Lubeck, Germany**

Outbound April 2017

**Ottawa, Canada**

Inbound September 2017

ED's Needed!

**Greeters/Hospitality:** Nita Kopylay 613-2066 kopylay@comcast.net

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Dennis Miller, set-up 667-7330 dmill5050@comcast.net

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Cathie McCallum 223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

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Nancy Brigden 352-3829 brigden@comcast.net

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Dennis Miller 667-7330 dmill5050@comcast.net

**Music:** Larry Clark 669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com

Rosemary Donovan 669-8818 donovangcd@aol.com

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

# EXCHANGE DIRECTORS NEEDED!

In 2017 we have the opportunity to visit Lubeck, Germany for our OUTBOUND ex-



change. FFI has suggested that April would be a good time to aim for. We need an ED to start planning this exchange ASAP.

Ottawa, Canada will be our INBOUND exchange, suggested for September 2017. Please consider helping us host these friends and showing off the best of Northern Colorado. We will need an ED for this exchange as well.



Please contact Marilyn Garner if you are willing to be Exchange Director for either of these exchanges. We are currently planning an ED training for November, so if you need a brush-up or would be starting from scratch, this will be the opportunity to have seasoned ED's to share their expertise with you.



## The Rocky Mountain Regional Conference

will be in Grand Junction, May 13 - 14, 2016. So that Western Colorado can finalize their plans, PLEASE get your registration in to the WCFF, c/o Sue Palmer, 2404 Applewood Circle, Grand Junction, CO 81506 - ASAP. We have cancelled our May meeting to encourage as many club members as possible to attend. The RMRC will be May 13 and 14, but we can always go a day early or stay a day later to add to our fun! If you need a ride and have not signed up on the carpool sheet, please email or call Marilyn Garner (493-4137 or [garner.marilyn@gmail.com](mailto:garner.marilyn@gmail.com)). If you need help registering, also contact Marilyn.

For more information, go to [ffnco-lo.com](http://ffnco-lo.com) and select **Regional** for a registration form and hotel reservation options.

