



friendship force  
NORTHERN COLORADO



Sue Cummins - Editor & Publisher

December  
2014

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

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**FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,



As you read this, we are well into the holiday season. But as I write, Thanksgiving is just ahead, and it reminds me of all of the things I have been thankful for while serving as president of our Friendship Force chapter.

Of course, Friendship Force is about the amazing new friendships we build on our exchanges. I think of all those I met in Kiel in May whose friendships I hope to renew next year in May. But just as important are the bonds of friendship with our local FFNC members, which are forged even stronger when we get together at meetings and events each month. I am thankful for so many of you this past year.

As the year began, many of you were willing to pick up committee jobs. Our officers faithfully attended board meetings and brainstormed over activities and mission. Cindy has made sure we are aware of newsletter assignments each month. Kay Thomas has kept our exchanges on track with numerous emails around the world. Rosemary agreed to organize the hospitality list so that we would have tasty snacks each meeting. Cheryl, Donna, and Diane all agreed to help with the refreshment set up. Many others pitched in just because they saw a need for table and chair set up and take down and for helping with the setup of the audio visual for the programs. Ed and Larry volunteered to research and upgrade our sound system. Rona agreed to encourage small group activities. Esther found great programs for us. Ann kept our meetings updated in the paper. And I personally felt supported when you gave me words of encouragement and advice. I'm sure I've failed to mention some really important jobs that were filled but be assured that I **KNOW** our club would not have been as successful without each of you helping.

We can all look forward to our Holiday Party, as it promises to be an outstanding event with all the hard work by that committee of Barbara Miller, Rona Baer, Cheryl Stevens, and Kay Thomas. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you there.

May each of you enjoy this holiday season with family and friends, no matter how near or far we are from each other.

*Marilyn Garner*

***Holiday Celebration***  
6:00 PM  
Friday, December 12

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Dorothy's Event Center  
22248 West 1st Street  
Loveland

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

6:00 PM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12; 2248 WEST 1ST STREET, LOVELAND

Holiday celebration plans are underway for our club's December gathering. Members and guests are welcome. We'll be in the front banquet room at Dorothy's Event Center, 2248 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Loveland (parking in the rear). Cost is **\$20.00 per person.**

### Menu

Carved Roast Beef  
 Glazed Salmon  
 Salad Bar  
 Potatoes or Rice  
 Vegetable  
 Homemade Rolls  
 Dessert Bar  
 Coffee, Tea, Soda, Lemonade  
 (domestic beers \$2.50,  
 wine and specialty beers \$3.50)



### Entertainment

"Four the Good Times"

Tenor – Ken Yergler

Lead – Ted Cluett

Baritone – Dick Kitchener

Bass – Rex Touslee

from the Valentine City Chorus

Thank you to the many folks who signed up at the Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. There is still time to get your name in by calling Barbara Miller, 667-7330 with your reservation (paying that evening), or better yet, **send** a check to her at 1302 6<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Loveland, CO 80537. Space is limited and we need to give the meal count on Monday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming Exchanges

### 2015

**May 2-9?**; Kiel, Germany; Inbound  
 Exchange Director: Marcia Ross, 377-0512  
**June 5-9**; San Diego; Inbound;  
 Exchange Director: Barbara Miller, 667-7330  
**July** (dates TBD); Lima Peru; Outbound  
 Exchange Director: Alice Gibson, 310-8848  
**August 21-27**; Napier, New Zealand, Inbound  
 Exchange Director: Sue Cummins, 682-2266  
 (Napier will be in Des Moines ( 8/9-8/14) and in  
 Lincoln (8/15-8/20)  
**August 29 – 31**; Friendship Force International  
 World Conference; Vancouver, B.C., Canada  
**September 23-30**;- Harrisburg, Pennsylvania;  
 Inbound; Exchange Director Nita Kopyay,  
 613-2066; (Harrisburg is visiting Cheyenne FF the  
 previous week of September 16-23)

### 2016

San Diego; Pending Outbound; possibility of a  
 second week with another California club  
 Canada, Hamilton/Burlington; Inbound  
**September**; Peaks to Plains Global Exchange;  
 Inbound to Cheyenne, Northern Colorado, Den-  
 ver, and Pikes Peak Friendship Force clubs;  
 Exchange Director: Marilyn Garner,

**SEEKING MANY, MANY  
 HOME HOSTS AND HELPERS  
 IN 2015;  
 CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE  
 DATES AND CALL  
 AN EXCHANGE DIRECTOR  
 FOR INFORMATION.  
 AND DON'T FORGET THE  
 2016 OUTBOUND TO PERU.**

## BETTY JEAN DEMERSSEMAN HONORED WITH WAYNE SMITH AWARD

A highlight of our November meeting was surprising Betty Jean with a Wayne Smith Medal just for her. What follows is our club's nomination of a most-deserving member.



It is our distinct honor and privilege to nominate the following FF Northern Colorado member for a Wayne Smith Award: **Betty Jean DeMersseman.**

Since joining FF Northern Colorado in 1994, Betty Jean DeMersseman has embraced the spirit of Friendship Force wholeheartedly. She has participated as an ambassador on multiple outbound exchanges both internationally and domestically, and has attended several FFI World Conferences in various locations. She has opened her home to incoming ambassadors numerous times over the years, and served as inbound ED on three occasions. In 2011, she orchestrated a highly successful global "Renewable Energy Festival Exchange," helping our club to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and treating participants from multiple states and countries to an extremely interesting and informative week where they learned about various alternate energy resources in Colorado.

While serving in the roles of Vice President and President in 2008-2009, Betty Jean devoted herself to finding ways to grow our local membership. She orchestrated an informational social for 43 guests from the community in which our members gave a broad overview of the highlights of FF membership. The net result was a gain of 25 new FFNC members over the following year. Her tireless efforts to support FFI and FFNC have also included organizing "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" events which raised funds for hosting our 2010 regional conference and for the FFI Legacy Fund, and provided opportunities for members to meet in smaller groups to get to know one another better. She originated an idea for a club raffle, and donated a much sought-after handmade quilt and pillow shams. Utilizing her passion for cooking, she often volunteers to provide meals for large and small groups of FF ambassadors and FFNC members, treating all to her outstanding culinary skills.

In service beyond FFNC, for three years Betty Jean served as Regional Field Representative, doing an outstanding job of communicating with both FFI and all clubs in our region.

She is truly deserving of the honor merited by the Wayne Smith Award.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Garner  
FFNC President



## NOVEMBER MEETING: BARBARA GUILFORD ON WAYNE SMITH

Despite the cold, snowy weather, we had a good turnout for our FF meeting and program on November 14. We were very fortunate that Barbara Guilford and her husband Dennis were willing to make the trip to Loveland from Cheyenne so Barbara could present her program on the research she's been doing about the founder of Friendship Force, the Reverend Wayne Smith. She told us Wayne, born in Charleston West Virginia in 1936, was a Presbyterian minister and former missionary to Brazil, who had a lifelong affinity for traveling the world and getting to know people from other cultures. He lived in Charleston, Atlanta, Brazil, Russia, and in Big Canoe, Georgia, until his death at age 68 in 2004.



Wayne Smith founded Friendship Force in 1977, with participation and support from then President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalyn Carter. Wayne served as president of Friendship Force for 23 years, from 1979 until 2002. He stated that the purpose of Friendship Force was to provide ordinary citizens of the world the opportunity to establish personal friendships with counterparts in other countries through one to two-week homestay experiences. The mission was to establish worldwide friendships to promote peace and global understanding.

For the first five years, FFI used chartered airplanes to shuttle delegations of 150 to 400 visitors between partner cities. The first exchange took place on July 4, 1977, with a massive exchange involving 762 travelers between Atlanta, Georgia, and Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Smith led exchanges all over the world, including war-torn and Cold War countries. In 1990, he oversaw a two-week trip by 300 Americans to visit Soviet Georgians in Atlanta's sister city, Tbilisi.

Barbara has done extensive research involving contact with Wayne Smith's family and friends, and she is planning to present an expanded version of her overview of the life of Wayne Smith at the FFI World Conference in Vancouver.

*Marcia Ross*

***"The best way to get to know people is to put your feet under their table."***

Wayne Smith

## November Meeting St. Louis Exchange a Success



(Italian section of St. Louis) where we enjoyed wonderful Italian food including their signature fried ravioli, and we had a lesson on an indoor Bocce Ball court. Several of the ambassadors drove on to Branson to see a couple of shows before heading home. It was a great exchange, and we hope FF Saint Louis will come to Colorado to visit sometime soon!

*Marcia Ross*

The second part of the November 14 program was a short overview of the recent exchange between FFNC and FF Saint Louis, led by ED Alice Gibson. Some of us went to the Kansas City area beforehand and enjoyed touring the Plaza, Halls, the Federal Reserve, WWI Memorial and other landmarks. On the way to St. Louis we all stopped in Fulton, Missouri where we explored an informative Churchill exhibit in a museum on the Westminster College campus. Before we left Kansas City for Saint Louis, we enjoyed a

whole group dinner hosted by a very hospitable couple, Clair & Roy Hoffman, who were FF St. Louis members that had moved to Kansas City.

During the exchange in Saint Louis we had a marvelous time seeing the Arch, the Botanical Gardens, the Fox Theater, Grant's Farm, the Butterfly Pavilion, plus museums and other highlights around the city with our generous and fun home hosts. We toured The Hill



## MOUNTAIN STATES FIELD REP NEWS

**FIELD REP NEWS, NOVEMBER 20, 2016**--Monthly Conference Call: Participants, FFI Staff, Anna, Jillian, Laura, Joy and Mary; Field reps, Barbara, Marilyn, Tom, Gordon, Lynn, and Adrienne.

Field Reps discussed clubs that had taken on the Next Generation Initiatives in upcoming exchanges in their regions. I mentioned **Kay Thomas's proposal for a Front Range Exchange in 2016**. Laura discussed **Youth Exchange to Bogota, Columbia, April 24-30, 2016**.

Joy discussed preparations for the **Friendship Force International Conference in Vancouver, BC Canada, August 28-31, 2015**. The convention will be maxed out at 400 in order to make the proceedings more manageable and pleasurable. There will be pre- and post- See Alaska Cruises, walking and bicycling tours, as well as other activities outside of the hotel. In addition, 150-170 pre- and post-conference regional home stays will be featured on the Web site. Joy will visit Vancouver in a couple of weeks to negotiate a contract with a hotel.

Jillian described the new **Home Page** on the Web site. Changes have been made that include a slide show with photos from current exchanges offered. The new look also spotlights the FF Difference. New club profiles have been added to the site. Now visitors can join a club. There are new buttons that allow donations from clubs or members that allow them to contribute dedications. There is also a store to purchase a number of FF items. Now is a good time to visit the site.

A **Promotional Video** is available to use for programs. Contact Jillian to send it to your club.

Joy discussed the Strategic Plan and visitors from 51 U.S. clubs out of 135 international clubs and 176 individual responses.

Cruises are up. FFI will partner with a group called Homestay.com, a like-minded club, in order for FFI to expand our hosting capacity in Europe in the 2016 Cycle.

*Barbara Guilford  
FF Cheyenne*



**Friendship Force International**  
**Phone: 800-554-6715**  
**[www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)**

### Dot Cada Nominated for International Rotary Award

Long-time FFNC Member Dot Cada, who travels two to three times a year to improve living conditions in developing countries, is one of 14 finalists worldwide for Rotary International's humanitarian award, the Golden Alumni Service to Humanity. Rotary Clubs worldwide have 2.25 million members.

Cada, who became a charter member of the Thompson Valley Rotary Club in 1989, works on

projects through and alongside Rotary to strengthen existing in-country charities and to build new non-governmental organizations in Africa, Nicaragua, Russia and Myanmar/Burma by partnering with Friendship Force International, the Global Chest Initiatives, and many other organizations.

*From the Loveland Reporter-Herald*

Inbound

Outbound

## EXCHANGE CALENDAR

May 2-9 (?); Kiel, Germany; Inbound  
Exchange Director: Marcia Ross,  
mross377@msn.com 377-0512

June 5-9; San Diego; Inbound  
Exchange Director: Barbara Miller,  
bmill4708@comcast.net 667-7330

July? (TBD); Lima, Peru; Outbound  
Exchange Director: Alice Gibson  
aligibs@gmail.com 310-8848

August 21-27; Napier, New Zealand;  
Inbound  
Exchange Director: Sue Cummins  
sue@gscummins.com 682-2266

August 29-31  
Friendship Force International World  
Conference; Vancouver, BC, Canada.  
Registration limited to 400.

September 23-30  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Inbound  
Exchange Director: Nita Kopyay,  
kopyay@comcast.net 613-2066

San Diego and perhaps another  
California location; Outbound pending;  
Exchange Director will be needed.

September  
Peaks to Plains Global Exchange  
Exchange Director: Marilyn Garner  
garner.marilyn@gmail.com 493-4137

## 2014 OFFICERS &amp; COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**President:** Marilyn Garner

493-4137 garner.marilyn@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Gary Cummins

682-2266 gary@gscummins.com

**Secretary:** Paulette Weaver

356-5068 interweaver@greeleynet.com

**Treasurer:** Alice Gibson

310-8848 aligibs@gmail.com

**Programs:** Esther Johnsen

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**Exchange Coordinator:** Kay Thomas

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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

Diane Locke 377-2447

**Tablecloth Mgr:** Kay Sheahan

667-4473 kay6568@peoplepc.com

**Large 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

## Peaks to Plains Global Exchange – September, 2016

We are excited to share that we are in the planning stages of a Global Exchange that will be in September, 2016. This exchange will be hosted by all of the Friendship Force clubs on the Front Range—the **Cheyenne, Northern Colorado, Denver, and Pikes Peak Clubs**. From Cheyenne to Colorado Springs is only 150 miles—a three-hour drive—and is an area diverse in its terrain and beauty. The primary focus of this exchange is to capitalize on this beauty and terrain, the many different points of interest, and the unique diversity of the Front Range. Those differences will enhance the overall experience for the Ambassadors.

There is much planning to be done, and a meeting of all four club EDs is scheduled for January to determine the programs for each club. All plans need to be finalized by July of 2015, and we will enhance the marketing on each club's Web site and at the International Convention in Vancouver in late August, 2015, as well as on the FFI Web site.

Each Club will be picking a mini theme under the **Peaks to Plains** name and will have two days to show the Ambassadors a sampling of their area. Each club's mini theme will convey what they consider their best. It will be a difficult decision to pick what can be shown in only two days. The third day will allow for some free time and travel to the next club. This is planned as a 12-day exchange, considering Day 1 as arrival day and departing Pikes Peak Region on Day 13.

The **Grand Junction** club will be offering an add-on option. Details will be forthcoming, but ideas include possibly taking the train from Denver to Grand Junction for a three- to four-day exchange.

**Marilyn Garner** is the Exchange Director for the Northern Colorado portion of the exchange and will be looking for assistance for committees, hosts, dinner hosts, day hosts, etc.

Questions? Call Kay Thomas at 278-9054 (for the big picture) or Marilyn Garner at 493-4137 (for the FFNC connection).

## Travel Tip

Wag more.  
Bark less.

