



friendship force  
NORTHERN COLORADO

# FRIENDSHIP FLYER



Ed Bridgen—Editor & Publisher

December  
2015

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

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## FROM OUR PRESIDENT



My thanks to all of you for helping us to have a wonderful November meeting. Good attendance, good refreshments, good fellowship, and an excellent program from our travelers to Peru all contributed to a superb FFNC evening.

We are now into the holiday season, and Anne Brown has our December Holiday Party moving forward to ensure a good time for all. If you missed our November meeting, the **Holiday Party will be at Johnson's Corner on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.** The cost for this event is only \$15. Please let Anne know if you plan to attend (she will have to turn in a hard number to the restaurant around **Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**) and get your check to our Treasurer, Duane Sharp as soon as you can (825

Glenarbor Circle, Longmont, CO 80504).

In recent meetings, your Board has been discussing our meeting dates and times to consider if any changes need to be made to better accommodate our membership. At the November Board meeting, the Board unanimously decided to maintain our current meeting dates and times. Important: know that if any member has a special need (can't drive at night; need a ride for any reason; etc.) they should contact our President or another Board member, and we will attempt to accommodate.

I'm pleased that our Board has also approved a new sign for our club. Larry Clark and I have been researching and working with an area company to design and build a sign to professionally identify the FFNC: easy to use, easy to maintain, and easy to transport. The new sign will also meet the FFI graphic standards. We hope to unveil the new sign at our January 2016 meeting.

In case you haven't heard, we have submitted our club's Outbound Requests for 2017. Our choices are Belgium, France, Norway, and Turkey. Additionally we have been told that FFI is looking at matching us with Ireland in 2018.

I also want to thank our membership for the efforts made to share the FFNC with others. This year's recruitment efforts resulted in 12 new FFNC members. Speaking of membership, please renew your membership for 2016 at our Holiday Party—Membership Chair Thelma Slocum will accept your check.

Finally, I thank all of you for making my year as our FFNC club president a very enjoyable and rewarding one. I hope in some small way that I have helped our club move forward, representing our FF purpose with dignity and excitement. We have a great club, great people, and we are only going to get better. I wish each of you a wonderful holiday season!

Gary Cummins

Next Meeting  
December 11, 2015

6:00 PM  
**Holiday  
Party**

Johnson's Corner  
Frontage Road  
Johnstown  
At I-25

# December Holiday Party—Dec 11

The Holiday Party for The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado is already to go and to welcome you all on Friday evening, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Johnson's Corner, I-25, exit 254, to 2842 SE Frontage Road, Johnstown 80534, is set up and waiting for us. For reservation and pre-payment of the \$15.00, please get your info to Duane Sharp, Treasurer, at 825 Glenarbor Circle, Longmont 80504 (720-218-2299). The party will start at 6:00 p.m. and I have asked for the meal to be served at 6:20 p.m. As you know, there will be no liquor allowed. Please use the North Door towards the back of the building when you arrive rather than go thru the restaurant. We are looking forward to a great meal and super entertainment. Please call me at 663-3727, should you have any questions.



*Anne Brown*

## FFNC 2016 Dues are Due

**IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR FFNC 2016 DUES.** Dues will cover calendar year, 2016. Annual Membership Dues of \$35.00 per person/\$70 per family need to be paid no later than the February 12<sup>th</sup>, FFNC meeting. An additional \$15 fee will be assessed to members opting to receive a mailed paper copy of the monthly newsletter.

For those who have dual FF memberships (those who pay FF dues to more than one club), please contact Marcia Ross ([mross377@msn.com](mailto:mross377@msn.com) or 377-0512) for your 2016 FFNC affiliate dues assessment, as the fee depends on which club is considered your "home" club.

IF YOU ARE COMING TO THE HOLIDAY PARTY ON DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>, bring your check and deliver it to Thelma Slocum or Marcia Ross (Membership Co-Chairs). Or, you may mail your dues check to Thelma Slocum at: 5025 Blue Stem Ct., Fort Collins, 80525.

If you have any revisions to your contact information, (email, phone numbers, address, etc.), please also send that information right away to Thelma.

**All checks should be made payable to FFNC.**

Thanks for paying promptly!!

*Thelma Slocum & Marcia Ross*  
*Membership co-chairs*

## Upcoming Exchanges

Alice Gibson and Cathie McCallum will be the ED's for the Incoming **Greater Burlington/Hamilton Canada** exchange. We have suggested the last 2 weeks of July. We still need to hear from Denver as additional hosts. Please plan to help/host for this 2016 exchange.

Christine Hall has stepped up as Exchange Director for our outbound exchange to **Stratford-St. Mary's, Canada**. The tentative dates are July 18-25.

September 12-15, 2016 we will be hosting the **Global Exchange, Peaks to Plains**. This is only a 3-day exchange **with our club** so please consider volunteering to host and help out. Thelma Slocum and I are the ED's.

Our exchange to **San Diego** will be October 12-18, 2016. Please let Barbara Miller know that you would like to participate in this Outbound exchange.

*Marilyn Garner*

## NOVEMBER 13 PROGRAM—PERU

Exchange Director, Alice Gibson, and her exchange team shared their fantastic July 8-29, 2015, exchange to Peru at our Nov. 13 meeting. Their first week began in Trujillo (330 miles N. of Lima). They were greeted by the mayor, viewed the Plaza de Arma, as well as a colorful Independence Parade. Hosts celebrated throughout the week with special dinners and tasty Pisco Sours (the group's new favorite beverage). Visiting the site of the largest adobe ruins was a fascinating way to learn about the Chimu culture, a pre-Inca civilization. Time at the beach was relaxing before the group was treated to the Peruvian Paso Horseshow. These horses have unusual joints, which allow them to perform the Marinera Nortena dance with human female partners. Museum and city tours completed the first exchange week.



Capital city, Lima (8.85M people) was the beginning of week two. The traffic and daring driving seemed to be a standout for everyone, they were just glad they didn't have to drive. Greetings from the mayor, a reception, tour of town hall and a luncheon with gifts galore was a great start to the week. Tour highlights included numerous cathedrals, flower gardens, beaches, and shopping along the way. The evening Laser and Water Extravaganza was truly spectacular and enjoyable. The people showed a reverence for Inca history, and the team shared a brief history of various conquerors. Again, the Independence Day celebration was filled with music, dancing, eating, colorful outfits...what a wonderful time to visit!

Cuzco (10,809 ft.) oldest city in the Americas was the next stop as the group joined a tour that included the Sacred Valley of the Urubamba River and the Sacsayhuaman (sexy woman) Ruins. The stonework was amazing, taking 20,000 men over 70 years to build. The angles in the massive stonework architecture made these structures earthquake resistant. The Murray Sinkholes and their "micro climates" had unusual effects on ancient crops; these are currently being researched. Salt mines filled by 3,000 shallow pools provide for individual family incomes even today. Machu Picchu, possibly a "royal retreat city" was built between 1460 and 1470. The city was never conquered by the Spaniards; however, many relics were taken by the Germans in the 1880's. In 1953 it was listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Lake Titicaca (12,500 ft.) with its "floating islands" was a cultural delight. Inca weavers demonstrated their weaving methods using natural dyes and the spinning of the wool. Many beautiful purchases were made (and shared with us during the program). There are 20-25 floating islands on the lake; these are kept from sinking by tortora reeds. Four or five families live on an island, each of which originally was used to fend off warlike tribes/enemies. Recently they received solar panels from the government to provide electric lights. These families choose to maintain their rural tribal culture, but some allow tourist visits. They have set up a rotating schedule to reduce impact and share the income among the islands.

*Special thanks go to Ken Weaver for his time and expertise as he collected and organized the photos that were used in the November presentation.*

A big thank you goes out to Alice Gibson, Ken and Paulette Weaver, Nita Kopyay, Marica Ross, Rona Baer & Nancy Brigden for an informative presentation and a colorful display of gifts and purchases made on this fun-filled exchange!

*Barbara Miller*

# PERU EXCHANGES CONTINUED



Recent Chan Chan excavation



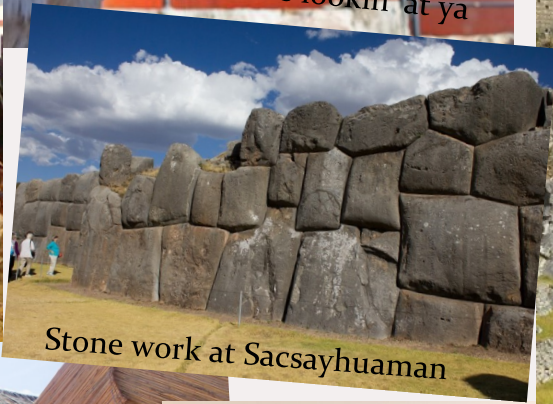
Floating islands & boat made of reeds



Here's lookin' at ya



Marinera Norteno



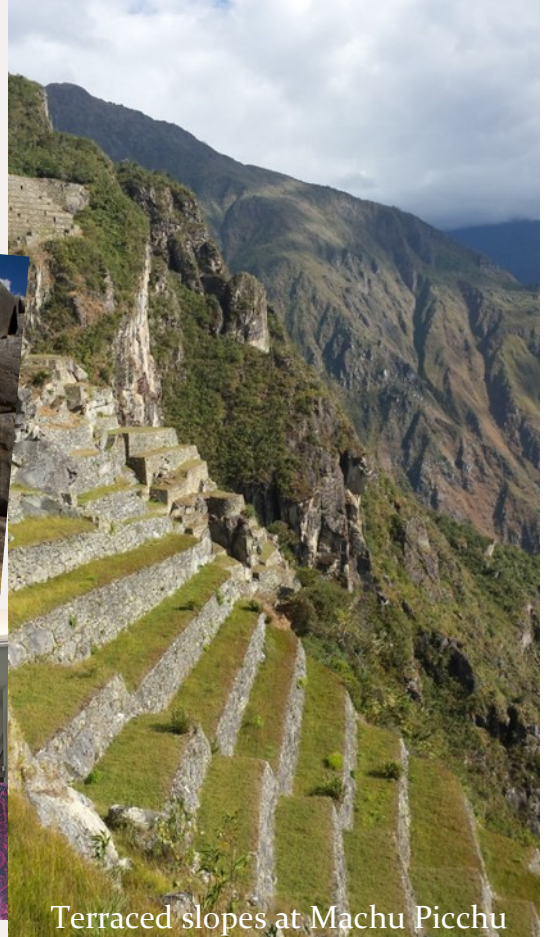
Stone work at Sacsayhuaman



Native dress on floating island



Ken & Paulette



Terraced slopes at Machu Picchu

# Peru continued



Parades are big



Dances are a national pasttime



Marcia and hosts



Canadian sisters & Alice

## PRESIDENT-ELECT BARBARA MILLER



In January 2016, Barbara Miller will become the 30<sup>st</sup> president of our local FF of Northern Colorado. Barbara, a retired Thompson School District principal, has been a member of Friendship Force since 2010. Since retirement, she and Dennis (our FFNC treasurer for 2 years) have become what she calls “professional volunteers”. Together they have worked on the conversation cafes at Lifetree and in programs with needy children and homeless individuals. Barbara has also enjoyed her volunteer work with McKee Medical Center, The Breast Center, and Stepping Stones.

She views “being asked” as the most important part of new member recruitment. And she cites her own experience as example. She was invited by Marian Sparks to attend an informational social gathering for potential members organized by Betty Jean Demersseman in 2009. Seeing other new retirees like Cindy Paulson and Marcia Ross there, she wanted to learn more. The rest is history.

Barbara served as ED for the San Diego Interclub Exchange last year and has organized two FFNC Christmas Programs as well as three successful World Friendship Day Celebrations. She also helps keep our adopted garden at Benson Park neat and tidy. Always organized with a cheery smile, she sees our programs and social interaction of members as critical to our continued success. She intends to use the results from the membership survey conducted by outgoing President Gary to assist in setting goals for 2016.

Barbara looks forward to an exciting and productive year. There could be no better statement of good wishes to her than to **let her know how you can help out with FFNC next year**. Why not take a moment and let her know of your interest.

*Nancy Brigden*

## “I’M IN” CAMPAIGN—**ABOVE THE GOAL!**

We are informed that the campaign for funds for a new software package has reached its goal. To date, collections and pledges to FFI exceed the **\$40,000 goal**. Of this amount, FFNC has contributed \$1900.00, or nearly 5% of the total pledged and collected. Congratulations; and thanks to all who contributed toward this goal to achieve an updated software platform with which FFI personnel can more efficiently and effectively assist Exchange Directors as they organize and coordinate exchanges. The new software will also provide Ambassadors with more satisfying cultural exchanges and relationships.

Special thanks go to Betty Jean DeMersseman for her match of funds, dollar-for-dollar. We can be proud of these efforts to further our cultural travel future.

Inbound

Outbound

## EXCHANGE CALENDAR

2  
0  
1  
6

### Hamilton/Burlington, Canada

**Inbound** May 6—13

Alice Gibson 310-8848

Cathie McCallum 223-0436

### Stratford-St. Marys, Canada July 18-25

**Outbound**

Christine Hall 402-0433

### Peaks to Plains Global Sept 12-15

**Inbound** Hosted by all Mountain

Reg. clubs Marilyn Garner 493-4137

Thelma Slocum 223-9855

### FFI International Conference

Marrakech, Morocco Sept 15-18

### San Diego, CA Oct 12-18

**Outbound**

Barbara Miller 667-7330

## 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!**

“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.”

## 2015 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### **PRESIDENT:** Gary Cummins

682-2266 gary@gscummins.com

### **VICE PRES:** Nita Kopylay

613-2066 kopylay@comcast.net

### **SECRETARY:** Paulette Weaver

356-5068 interweaver@greeleynet.com

### **TREASURER:** Duane Sharp

720-218-2299 m6sharp@aol.com

### **Programs:** Esther Johnsen

484-2666 RNEJOHNSEN@aol.com

### **Exchange Coordinator:** Marilyn Garner

493-4137 garner.marilyn@gmail.com

### **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

### **Membership/Mentoring/Directory:**

Thelma Slocum 223-9855 & Marcia Ross 377-0512

thelmaslocum@comcast.net mross377@msn.com

### **Commun./Newsltr./Website/Tel. Tree:** Cindy Paulson

225-2252 cdp225@msn.com

### **Small Social Group Coord.:** Rona Baer 744-9974

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

### **World Friendship Day Comm.:** Barbara Miller 667-7330

### **Annual Picnic Comm:** Marcia Ross 377-0512

### **Historian:** Mary Lou Selch

226-1902 pjselch@hotmail.com

### **Greeters/Hospitality:** Willie Westdorp 667-6525

Rosemary Donovan 669-8818

### **Ways & Means:** Dick Johnsen

484-2666 RNEjohnsen@aol.com

### **Photographers:** Cathie McCallum, Ed Brigden, & Cindy Paulson

### **Reporters:** Donna Clark, Barbara Miller, Thelma Slocum, Marion Sparks

### **Music:** Rosemary Donovan, Larry Clark

669-8818 donovanged@aol.com

669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com

### **Tablecloth Mgr:** Kay Sheahan

667-4473 kay6568@peoplepc.com

## BENSON GARDEN CLEANUP—NOV 14

Thanks to all of you who came to help "put our garden to bed" for the winter! There were enough helping hands so that in about



Jane Willhour

an hour and a half per person the work was done! It is sure nice to have willing workers and a few experts who can say "Trim this way back" or "Leave the seed pods on for the good of the plant". A plus is the chance to get to know some members in a slightly



Nancy B & Treasurer Duane

different way as we chat and trim. Thanks also to Marilyn Garner, Cindy Paulson, Ed Brigden and Rona Baer.



Barbara Miller & Marcia Ross

*Kay Sheahan*

## REMEMBER OUR SISTER MTN. STATES CLUBS

Have a "hankerin'" to visit other countries and cultures? Remember you have many options through Friendship Force. Follow these easy steps: (1) check our local club. (2) check on our sister Mountain States Regional Clubs. (3) check on exchange offerings through FFI. In each case you would file an application with the specific Exchange Director to join that exchange as an Ambassador. Many options!

Check the other clubs in our region for information; review their monthly newsletters for the latest. Visit our website, [ffncolo.com](http://ffncolo.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.

**Alajuela, Costa Rica—February 10-17 with FF Pikes Peak**

**Lake Hartwell, GA—Apr 19-May 3 with FF Denver**

**Hamilton/Burlington, Ont., Canada—May 24-June 1 with FF Utah**

**Cleveland, OH—May with FF Pikes Peak**

**Central NC—July 13-20 with FF Pikes Peak**

**Kolokov and St. Petersburg, Russia—September with FF Western Colorado**

**Penticton/Okanagan, BC, Canada—2016 with FF Cheyenne**

**Charlotte, NC—October 23-29 with FF Western Colorado**

**Miyagi and Shizuoka, Japan—November with FF Denver**