



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO

FRIENDSHIP FLYER



Ed Brigden - Editor & Publisher

December
2016

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

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The November program for FFNC was a refreshing reminder of all the wonderful ways we can be culturally enriched and travel around the world or within the United States. Thank you to everyone who shared an exciting exchange or conference with us that evening (read more in this Newsletter) and to Nancy Brigden for planning the program.

We were also encouraged to sign up for the **annual Holiday Party** that will be held in the Adriel Hills Clubhouse in Ft. Collins on Friday, Dec. 9, at 6:00 PM. Planners Suzi Gossard and Esther Johnsen have been busy lining up gourmet catering and an elite singing group from Fossil Ridge High School as our evening entertainment. Try to carpool with other FFNC members as the parking is limited. It should be a fun evening. Please call Suzi or Esther to see if they can add a few more folks; the cost is \$15/person. Festive dress is always appropriate for this holiday event.



I want to thank Marilyn Garner, Marcia Ross, Lynn and Carl Dawson (FF Denver) for helping to plan and deliver our recent Exchange Leadership Workshop. A special thanks to Diane Locke for delicious healthy refreshments and to Don Locke and Dennis Miller for set up and clean up. Cathie McCallum did a great job greeting our 24 attendees! I hope the various resource notebooks, document examples, and the oral review of FFI procedures will help us to effectively plan our next two exchanges: FF of Connecticut (May 22-27, 2017) and FF of Ottawa (September 27-Oct. 4, 2017).

Since there will be no December meeting (but don't forget our Holiday Party), I would like to thank FFNC for allowing me the honor of serving as your President during 2016. It has been a wonderful experience for me and hopefully for each of you. FFNC continues to remain focused on promoting global understanding across the barriers that separate people...**Changing the Way You See the World!**

Annual Holiday Party

December 9, 2016
6:00—9:00 PM

**Adriel Hills Clubhouse,
Ft. Collins, CO**
(See directions Page 2)

Barbara Miller

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY—DECEMBER 9



Last Chance to Sign Up!

Friendship Force Holiday Social Gathering

Featuring:

Festive Food, Wonderful Wine and Exciting Entertainment!

Friday, December 9, 2016

6:00-9:00 PM

Adriel Hills Clubhouse

Contact Suzi Gossard

970-412-0691 or suzi.gossard@gmail.com

Mail checks to her at: 921 Hazel Court, Fort Collins, 80526

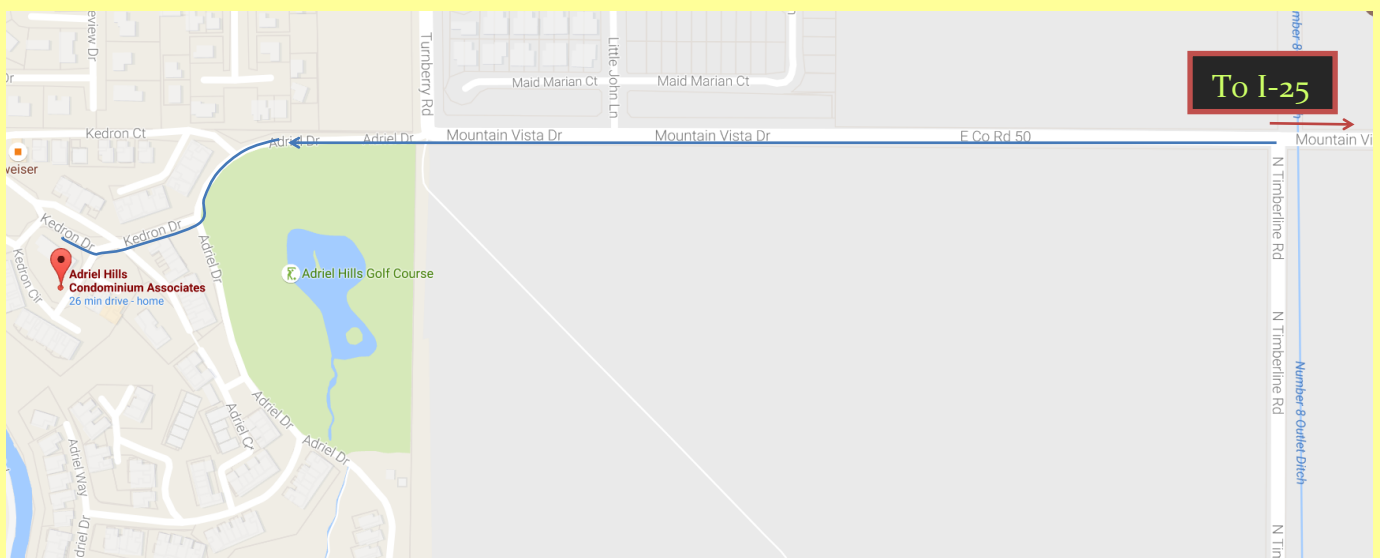
\$15/person

Directions from Fort Collins:

Take Timberline north until it ends in a T. Turn left onto Mountain Vista Drive. Follow this straight into housing area (Adriel Hills). Mountain Vista turns into Adriel Drive as you enter the area. Follow the road around the left curve. Turn right onto Kedron Drive (Watch for balloons marking the turn). The Clubhouse will be straight ahead and parking will be on your right.

Directions via I-25 (coming north or south):

Take exit 271 (E CR 50/Mountain Vista). Turn west (toward the mountains). Follow this straight into housing area (Adriel Hills). Mountain Vista turns into Adriel Drive as you enter the area. Follow the road around the left curve. Turn right onto Kedron Drive (Watch for balloons marking the turn). The Clubhouse will be straight ahead and parking will be on your right.



NOVEMBER 11—EXCHANGES GALORE!

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OFFERS MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF EXCHANGES.

Our November meeting program featured up-close, in-depth looks at examples of a few of the exchanges offered within Friendship Force International. Club members who had recently participated in exchanges shared their experiences with members and guests at our November meeting.



WHIDBEY ON THE WATER, A THEMED, GLOBAL EXCHANGE

Marcia Ross and Cindy Paulson described the week with the FF of Whidbey Island, WA. In June, 15 ambassadors from 7 different US states participated in activities and events in and around the ocean, lakes and rivers in the Puget Sound region wherein Whidbey Island is located.

The water theme provided wonderfully active days: sailing, exploring ocean plant & animal life with sea kayaks, nature walks along the beaches, whale, seal, and sea lion watching along 90 miles of the Pacific Ocean north west of Seattle. The week of adventure at Whidbey Island was anchored in the signature Friendship Force homestay experience resulting in many wonderful and lasting friendships.



FFNC to ONTARIO: INTERNATIONAL CLUB-TO-CLUB CULTURAL EXCHANGE



Dennis Miller shared photos and information about the exchange to Ontario, Canada. The Ontario club welcomed our group from FFNC and provided a plethora of experiences about many aspects of life in Ontario: agriculture, the arts, geology and commerce, history, architecture, engineering and the people!



Friendship: The Final Frontier.
 These are the voyages of the FFNC.
 Its ongoing mission: to explore strange new countries, to seek out new friends and new cultures, to boldly go where no club member has gone before.
 The Force is with us!

NOVEMBER 11—EXCHANGES GALORE...continued

PEAKS TO PLAINS: GLOBAL EXCHANGE VISITING ALL 6 CLUBS OF THE MT. STATES REGION



Kay Thomas, Exchange Leader for *PEAKS to PLAINS* worked with Exchange Directors from all six clubs and other members of her exchange planning committee for over a year, preparing for this very special exchange. The ambassadors spent a few days with each club starting in Cheyenne, then FFNC, FF Denver, FF Pikes Peak, FF Grand Junction, and FF Salt Lake City. Kay will share a more in-depth look at the entire exchange probably in March.

Thelma Slocum and Marilyn Garner, EDs for the Northern Colorado portion of the exchange, shared pictures and commentary about the special three days spent with our club. Showcasing the unique culture and appeal of our N. Colorado area included: Benson Sculpture Park & Gardens, Bronze Services Foundry, Alabaster Sculpting with artist Gail Sundell, drive through Big Thompson Canyon with stop at Jo McFadden's home, and visits to RMNP and Estes Park.

2016 FFI WORLD CONFERENCE, MARRAKESH, MOROCCO

Cathie McCallum reported about her experiences at the FFI World Conference in Marrakesh. In attendance were 180 delegates representing 17 countries, together with several FFI staff including CEO Jeremi Snook. Cathie mentioned that the smaller size of this year's conference was a plus, allowing for more friendship-building, collaboration and connections. Highlights included learning about FFI changes and direction going forward, practical workshops, and... her favorite part of the conference was the people! See last month's newsletter for Cathie's complete conference report and photos.

Cindy Paulson



EXCHANGE LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Together the FF Denver leadership and FFNC hosted an Exchange Leadership Workshop in Windsor on Saturday, November 12th, which was attended by 24 participants whose experience ranged from two, just considering membership, to Friendship Force members highly experienced as exchange leaders. Organizers Barbara Miller, Marilyn Garner, Marcia Ross and Lynn Dawson (FF Denver) reviewed the important roles of Exchange Directors and exchange team members and reviewed salient points from the FFI Ambassador/Host Exchange Director Manual.

Each club now has current copies of the ED manuals (although FFI sent us a few updated policies just a week after this meeting) which outline responsibilities for all aspects of planning successful exchanges. Discussion topics at the workshop included: Plan It, Sell It, and Lead It, plus an overview of resource notebooks and online materials pertinent to each club. Links to all of this valuable planning material can be found on the FFI website under *Member Resources*, and our FFNC Exchange Coordinator and President also have these resources available on thumb drives.

During the last part of the training, participants had the opportunity to share personal insights and best practices regarding exchanges and exchange planning. Special thanks to Barbara and Marilyn for their initial planning and outreach to FF Denver in preparation for this important and useful learning opportunity, and thanks to the 14 from FFNC who participated in this Saturday training.

Marcia Ross

FFNC Membership Report

2017 DUES ARE DUE! If you haven't already paid for 2017, please bring a check to the holiday party (\$35 per person, made out to FFNC) or mail a check to: Thelma Slocum 5025 Blue Stem Court , Fort Collins, CO 80525.

We have two new members as of our October 14th meeting. **LaDonna Palm**, from Loveland, is a retired Business Administration teacher. She likes to play bridge, hike, read and do needle craft. **Susan Mathre**, from Fort Collins, is a retired Special Education teacher with an emphasis in Speech Pathology. She loves to travel, downhill ski, play pickle-ball and tennis, hike and bike. They are both ready to get involved, and both attended our recent Exchange Leadership Workshop. Please welcome these two new members and let them know how glad we are to have them join us in our quest for friendship around the world.

We ended the 2016 year with **81 members**. Please continue to invite friends, family members and acquaintances to attend our regular monthly meetings and to become involved with FFNC activities and exchanges. The more the merrier!

*Marcia Ross & Thelma Slocum
Co-Chairs*

CULTURAL & TRAVEL OPTIONS

Here are just two of the new offerings from FFI. Choose an adventure and give a call to a fellow club member (or a potential new club member aka "friend outside the club") and see if they'll join you on the adventure.

Tanzania August 31 to September 18, 2017 \$4200 USD

From a safari in the northern circuit of Tanzania, to a cultural program at Itagutwa Village, and a historical tour of the Isimila Old Stone Age historical site. Ambassadors will be excited by the welcoming culture of Iringa, Tanzania. The friendships you make with your hosts and fellow ambassadors will be carried over long after the exchange.

Price Includes

FFI and host fees, accommodations, professional safari guides and drivers, tours, tips, domestic travel transportation between Kilimanjaro-Moshi and Iringa, all meals on the actual safari tours, and five box lunches with water. Hotels provide breakfast that are not part of the safari tours.

Contact: Bonnie Evans, Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta, 404.771.0010, kbemje@bellsouth.net

See more at:

http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/all_more/iringa_tanzania/

Australian Pubs and Country Gardens October 22 to November 6, 2017 \$2200

Join us for this great opportunity to explore and experience parts of Australia that tourists seldom see, traveling in small 10-seater mini buses along roads that bigger buses cannot negotiate. We will visit coastal, mountain and inland plains gardens joining in on their spring festivals and staying and eating at historic old pubs. This is a unique chance to immerse yourself in true Australian culture.

Price Includes

FFI and host fees, all accommodations, garden entry fees and most meals.

Contact: Russell Veitch, FF Southern Sydney, 1 +61 2 95342364, rrveitch@optusnet.com.au

See more at: http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/all_more/australian_pubs_and_country_gardens/#sthash.4Ez86ifz.dpuf

Marilyn Garner

For more cultural options, utilize our **FFNC website** and click on **Regional**.

At the bottom of the website page is a table of upcoming itineraries for 2017 with our sister clubs in the FF Rocky Mountain region:

Australia and New Zealand (Brisbane, Mt. Barker, Otago) - FFD

Western Michigan and Dayton Ohio - FFD

Southern Oregon - FFPP

Montreal, Quebec, Canada (to include Quebec City and Ottawa) - FFPP

Kampala, Uganda and Nairobi, Kenya, Africa - FFD

Editor

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR**2016 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS****PRESIDENT:** Barbara Miller

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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 Kopyay 613-2066 kopyay@comcast.net2
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7**2017 Outbound Exchange Options**

Gather your friends and

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURELook at the **CATALOG OF FRIENDS**

On the FFI Website,

See page 6 of this newsletter

and

Click on The **Regional** tab on our FFNC
Website (ffncolor.com),**Connecticut****Inbound** May 22-27

Debbie Jones 686-0303 dsj55@aol.com

Paulette Weaver 381-8898
paulette.weaver@gmail.com**Ottawa, Ontario, Canada****Inbound** Sept 27-Oct 4

Marilyn Garner 493-4137

garner.marilyn@gmail.com

Greeters/Hospitality:

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Elle Barr, greeter 204-9722 shilohbelle@gmail.com

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Rosemary Donovan 669-8818 donovangcd@aol.com

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

UPDATE ON MYANMAR FRIENDSHIP PARTNERS

Friendship Partners (FP) is a designation given to people in foreign countries who politically are not permitted to Home Host.

In Yangon, Myanmar, FP focuses on teaching English, literacy and critical thinking. The Mandalay FP are working to help Rotary install water purification systems in two remote villages.

In Yangon we work with Aung San Suu Kyi's schools in classes of ESL and Conversational English. The coming-year's trip is delayed till March 15th-April 2, due to increasing enrollment and the developing creative efforts of FP Nay Toe, local teachers and interns looking for scholarships to English-speaking countries. Jenny Pettit, the group director, is the Curriculum Administrator and author of Social Studies and Literacy Curriculum for the St. Vrain School District. We have a need for both helpers and trained teachers for team teaching in "Critical thinking" through games and exercises. I've done both and it is so rewarding to see those "light bulbs" come on among the students.

Our Mandalay group for FP is very diverse: members are Irish Catholic, Hindi, Buddhist, Muslim and Baptist. They recruited some members who are English speaking guides and teachers from an NGO who learned about my Rotary efforts to locate Muslim villages or orphanages with a need for water purification systems to help represent the diversity of the

population.

Through these Mandalay members, in January we visited 2 villages 4 hours from Mandalay, together with 4 of the Mandalay village "Godfathers". One village is 30% Buddhist and 70% Muslim, typical of the regional diversity. The other village (all Muslim) has no electricity but a huge generator and solar panels.

For this water project, Rotary has agreed to build both water purification systems (estimated cost to be \$11,000 each) through matching funds. Money has been donated from the FP in Mandalay and the "Godfathers" to take care of the extra 3 days of transportation costs. Villagers have volunteered to house and feed the Burmese installation crew.

Rotary, with matching funds, so far has not yet been able to reach the full amount necessary. There is a current shortfall of \$4,000.00. All donations will be matched.

If you can help to make a difference for this Myanmar (Burma) project, please make out your tax-deductible checks to [Rotary Foundation of Los Angeles, CA](#) and mail to Dot Cada, 2918 S. County Rd 29, Loveland 80537.

For any questions on either effort, please email DotCada@yahoo.com or call 970-667-7548. The local villagers and FPs are on a roll; I'm just trying to keep up with them!

Dot Cada

WHAT DOES FRIENDSHIP FORCE 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."