



**February
2015**

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

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



I'm excited to serve as your president this year, and I appreciate the way our club members take the initiative and get involved in the activities of our organization. We are blessed to have such wonderful talent and experience.

Our January meeting was well attended; we installed our new officers for 2015, welcomed four visitors, enjoyed some fine refreshments, had good raffle participation, and got to explore an excellent store layout. Sue and I got to share some highlights of our truly wonderful trip of almost four and one half weeks to New Zealand that included a tour of the South Island.

Our club will have some wonderful opportunities in 2015 to share beautiful northern Colorado with ambassadors from Germany, San Diego, New Zealand, and Harrisburg, and to send excellent ambassadors from our club to experience Peru. Please consider involvement in our hosting efforts. With so many incoming exchanges this year, we need many hosts. This is a great way to build relationships with incoming ambassadors and to let them experience our Colorado lifestyle. The planning for the Peru exchange and the follow-on excursion is certainly worth your consideration.

The February program will feature Jessica Cummings, from Compass USA. She will tell us about this wonderful program (a bit like Friendship Force) that helps teenagers learn foreign languages while living with a family in a different culture, striving to "live and learn together to build bridges of understanding to truly appreciate our differences in an ever-changing world."

In March we will celebrate "World Friendship Day." Barbara Miller and her committee are making plans for our celebration and program now. Stay tuned for more information.

Please take some time to seriously consider your feedback on the Survey Form I handed out at the January meeting. We want to constantly look at ways we can improve our club's operations, recruit new members, and promote Friendship Force in our communities. If you didn't get a survey, please email me at gary@gscummins.com to request one, then return it to me by email before our February meeting.

As we start a new year, also remember to check in with Thelma Slocum to see if your dues are up-to-date (your new president is paid up for 2015).

Gary Cummins

Next Meeting
February 13, 2015
7:00 PM
Compass
USA
First Christian
Church
2000 N Lincoln Ave.
Loveland, CO

FEBRUARY 13 MEETING—COMPASS USA

Jessica Cummings, from Compass USA, and Julia Togbe, a teacher in a Loveland middle school, will fill us in on this wonderful program. Compass USA offers teens from one country or culture an intense one-month immersion into the culture and language of another country.

Northern Colorado hosted 9 students and a chaperone from Madrid, Spain during July, 2014. As with Friendship Force, many permanent friendships were fostered.

Compass programs offers a variety of short-term opportunities, sometimes with a rigorous language component, sometimes with a chance to help out in a community service program, and sometimes with a specialized learning tour focused on sports or other interests.

With a mission to help others contribute and benefit from the growth of intercultural understanding, Compass is a group that expands the interests of Friendship Force in the world.

You will enjoy the vitality Jessica and Julia bring to their work. Bring a friend and come hear about the exciting 2015 programs in Friendship Force and learn about Compass USA.



Compass USA students, from Madrid, Spain, as they enjoy a barn dance last July at a local Loveland farm.

EXCHANGE TO MYANMAR MARCH 20—APRIL 4, 2015

Once again, Dot will lead a humanitarian Exchange to Myanmar (Burma). See and learn much in this previously closed country. Contact **Dot Cada** at dotcada@yahoo.com.

EXCHANGE FROM KIEL, GERMANY

Plans are coming together for hosting FF Kiel **May 6-13, 2015**. We need more day hosts, volunteers to organize and set up the pot luck (during our regular May 8 FFNC meeting), and volunteers to help set up for an evening of western dancing and dining at our catered dinner Tuesday, May 12. Please call ED **Marcia Ross** at **970-377-0512** to lend a hand and join in the fun!

EXCHANGE FROM SAN DIEGO JUNE 5—11, 2015

The San Diego exchange planning team has met to begin preparations for a fun-filled week with the 25 people who have already signed up for the FFNC visit (7 Couples & 11 Singles). Please volunteer to help with Hosting, Day Hosting, Small Group Dinners and/or **the** Planning Team.

There are numerous opportunities to help with the many exchanges scheduled for 2015, so plan to be a part of all of them! **YOU** are needed! Call ASAP so we know the help available.

Call **Barbara Miller** at **970-667-7330**.

JANUARY 9 PROGRAM—NEW ZEALAND

As the upcoming president of FFNC, Gary Cummins and his wife, Sue, decided to attend the FFI World Conference in 2013. Since they were committed, why not spend a couple of “home stays” with two New Zealand clubs (Wairapa and Hamilton) to really experience the glory of NZ.

Gary and Sue presented a slideshow of the sights and sites of New Zealand. For many of us who have been there, there was instant recognition.

Here are some of the interesting highlights shared during their slideshow:

- Metal roofs on many buildings
- The fun of a remote control sailboat regatta
- Due to numerous earthquakes... the birth of the “container malls” with recycled shipping containers
- The “Chair Memorial” for 115 that died during the 2011 Christchurch earthquake
- Franz Josef Glacier, melting???
- Jetboats...WOW, what fun!
- Mirror Lakes, waterfalls everywhere
- Milford Sound and the Brown Seals
- Mailboxes like dollhouses
- The “Edwin Fox” prisoner ship of 1853
- Masterton Golden Shears Competition
- Fantastic rotating “milking carousel”
- Mushroom farm & Stonehenge
- Hydro electric power, Waikato River
- How about the Glow Worm Caves
- Award winning Hamilton Gardens
- Sheep Show at the Agrodome
- The Maori tribe, tattoos & tongues
- Wood Carving
- Sky Tower in Auckland and Bungee Jumping...
- Auckland built on 50 volcanoes



There were 330 folks attending the FFI World Conference from 16 countries. The speakers and presentations were excellent with many good ideas for club improvements and ways to “grow” our club.

The Cummins’ highly recommend attending a World Conference...the next will be in Vancouver, so plan now to attend Aug. 28-31.

Barbara Miller

KIWIS FROM NAPIER, NEW ZEALAND—AUGUST 21-27

Kiwi Exchange Director Kathy McQuade has 18 ambassadors excited to come to the USA this August. They’ll spend three days in Chicago on their own before enjoying Friendship Force exchanges in Des Moines and Lincoln. Then they will come to Northern Colorado by bus. We will need home hosts to greet and keep six couples and six single ladies, and Kathy may still admit additional ambassadors.

Think about how you can help with the exchange as host, day host, or participant in the planning of what I hope will be a positively delightful experience for our visitors.

Sue Cummins

970-682-2266 or 303-910-0463

sue@gscummins.com

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR—**MARCIA ROSS**



I was pleased to present Marcia Ross with the Volunteer of the Year Award at our January meeting. As outgoing president, I benefited from her expertise and influence throughout my term. From her work as an ED for the 2014 Kiel exchange, keeping in touch with FFI, to participating in numerous committee meetings and helping with club events, I was always very aware of her commitment to the club. Perhaps less visible were her efforts in making

contacts for future exchanges and keeping tabs on our members and the overall membership activities.

Marcia truly deserves the title, Volunteer of the Year. Her support and encouragement has made us a stronger and more dynamic club.



NEW OFFICERS—2015

New 2015 officers were inducted at the January 9 meeting.

President: Gary Cummins

Vice President: Nita Kopyay

Secretary: Paulette Weaver

Treasurer: Duane Sharp



Past-president Marilyn Garner shares some chuckles as the gavel is passed to new-president Gary Cummins



Marilyn observes as Duane, Nita and Gary read their "oaths"

THANK YOU—ITEMS FOR GUATEMALA EXCHANGE

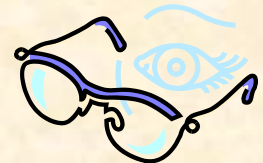
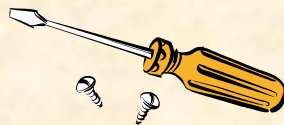
Thanks to all who have generously contributed to the upcoming special All-USA Mission Exchange to Guatemala. Ed and I have needed to add yet another suitcase to carry the donations! The collection of books, tools, laptops, shoes, reading glasses, toothbrushes, and such is very heart warming.

We can still use additional markers, Crayola crayons, pencils, or pens and will be able to collect these items until February 15 to tuck into shoes bound for children in Guatemala.



During our Friendship Force journey to Discover Guatemala, we will visit 1) Lavoisi School for the Deaf; 2) a home for the elderly Hogar Casa Maria where many of the residents previously scavenged from the dump until no longer physically able to do so; and 3) two other schools - all near Antigua and all serving indigenous Mayans.

Each Ambassador has made a donation that totals \$2400 as part of our exchange fees with which we expect to purchase locally in Antigua additional materials for the senior's home.



Nancy & Ed Brigden Brigden@comcast.net

MARCH 13 PROGRAM—GUATEMALA

At World Friendship day on March 13, our guest speaker will be Dr. Robert Kron, a dentist and longtime Habitat leader who has made many trips to Guatemala. Roky has also served on several medical missions to the country. He will be joined by Paulette Weaver, who worked on two Habitat builds there, and by Ed and Nancy Brigden, who will report briefly on their experiences with the February All-USA Mission Exchange to the Guatemala Highlands.



MTN. STATE FIELD REP NEWS—JAN. 15

Mountain States Region

6 Clubs

423 Members

PARTICIPANTS: All Field Reps with regrets from Adrienne Moen. Special Guests Juan Barella and Agustina Solinas (Argentina), **FFI Staff** Matthew Nidek, Allison Lindsey, Laura Romero, Mary Mwanbay

- Club Charters Due today
- Vetting questions for new FF members applying to participate on exchanges were offered by field reps. Marilyn Peterson, Lynn Hargreave volunteered to work on a committee with Laurie Ann Scott. Several reps suggested situational interviews. Sandy Gourdine suggested that Cinda Clark (Northern Colorado) as a contact for the committee. Barbara Guilford offered potential questions regarding educational aspect of exchanges and adaptability. Juan and Agustina offered suggestions about language and communication. Other reps offered suggestions for translation services for presentations and tours.
- Field reps agreed that some redistricting clubs/regions would be good. Arizona was a popular choice.
- New and updated information from clubs regarding their hosting programs will be collected as part of the Board's new 100-day Fill the Seat Policy. New and unique things about each club will be welcomed on the new catalog entry forms available online.

Kristen reported that 2016 Exchange Matching Process showed 295 requests have been made. 216 are fully matched, 36 partially matched, 43 not yet matched that include 26 US clubs. They will be assigned or offered a domestic location. Kristin will share the 2015 Waitlist for both inbound and outbound requests/availability.

Check out the year ahead—first half of 2015 Outbound Exchanges for US/Canadian clubs.

- 2015 Field Rep Meeting in Atlanta will be held July 22-24.

I hope that 2015 will bring continued sharing within our region. Kay Thomas's Plains to Peaks 2016 Exchange offers opportunities to discuss common problem on the Eastern slope. I hope to meet leaders from Grand Junction and Salt Lake City some time. Is there any club in our region that is offering an Exchange Director Workshop? Should we do that? Sue, is it your club that is working on that? Please share your club's new ideas with everyone through your newsletters.

Barbara Guilford—FF Cheyenne

MYSTERY BAGS

One dollar, two dollars or three dollars. What do you have that is related to Friendship Force and people might find interesting?

Label the bag with how much you would like someone to spend and put your item inside the bag. Staple it shut and put it into the Mystery Bin.

The only criterion is the item must be related to Friendship Force. No white elephants, please.

All donations are to benefit the Hospitality Committee. We made \$ 10. last month. Yea!

Betty Jean DeMersseman

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR

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Myanmar (Burma) Mar 20—Apr 4
Outbound
Dot Cada dotcada@yahoo.com

Kiel, Germany May 6—13
Inbound
Marcia Ross 377-0512

San Diego, CA June 5—11
Inbound
Barbara Miller 667-7330

Lima, Peru July 10—30
Outbound
Alice Gibson 310-8848

Napier, New Zealand
Inbound Aug 21—27
Sue Cummins 682-2266

FFI International Conference
Vancouver, BC, Canada Aug 28—31

Harrisburg, PA Sept 23—30
Inbound
Nita Kopyay 613-2066

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Peaks to Plains Global September
Inbound Hosted by all Mountain
Reg. clubs Marilyn Garner 493-4137

San Diego, CA Dates TBD
Outbound ED Needed

Hamilton/Burlington, Canada
Inbound Dates TBD

FFI International Conference
Marrakech, Morocco October 2—5

2015 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT: Gary Cummins

682-2266 gary@gscummins.com

VICE PRES: Nita Kopyay

613-2066 kopyay@comcast.net

SECRETARY: Paulette Weaver

356-5068 interweaver@greeleynet.com

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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 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

MOUNTAIN CLUBS' EXCHANGES

Tuxtla-Gutierrez & Xalapa, Mexico—with FF Pikes Peak

FFPP (Pikes Peak) is planning an Exchange to Tuxtla-Gutierrez and Xalapa, Mexico in **February**. For more information, contact Etta McClanahan at 719-597-7794 or mtnannie@yahoo.com.

Biarritz, France—FF Denver

Join the wait list for this intriguing cultural Exchange from **April 28—May 15** with FF Denver.

“Twenty-four enthusiastic club members had their first planning session (and the first dropouts were quickly replaced from the alternates list) with everyone signing up to help with planning different parts of the trip. Nineteen of the group have opted to go on the week-long extension tour into Spain, where the challenge of keeping 5 carloads of folks all on the same track is likely to test everyone's patience and flexibility. Intrepid travelers all, the challenge adds some extra excitement to an already fun-sounding 2 weeks.”

ED: Jack Green jack.green@comcast.net 303-782-0140

Harrisburg, PA—FF Cheyenne

Check out this opportunity in the spring to visit Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania from **May 13—20**. Connect with John Kaiser at 307-635-6050 or jkaiser3@msn.com for more information.

Vienna, w/ Optional Croatia Cruise—FF Western Colorado

Pull out your calendar and arrange to fit in a wonderful European sojourn to Vienna from **June 13—28**. Contact Sue Moyer at stmoyer@bresnan.net for more information. And extend for the optional Croatia cruise.

Ft. Worth, TX and OK—FF Pikes Peak

Plan for a late-fall get-a-way in **October-November** to Oklahoma City, OK and then on for a second week in Fort Worth, TX. Contact Dan Hannaway through the FFPP website at friendshipforcepikespeak.com.