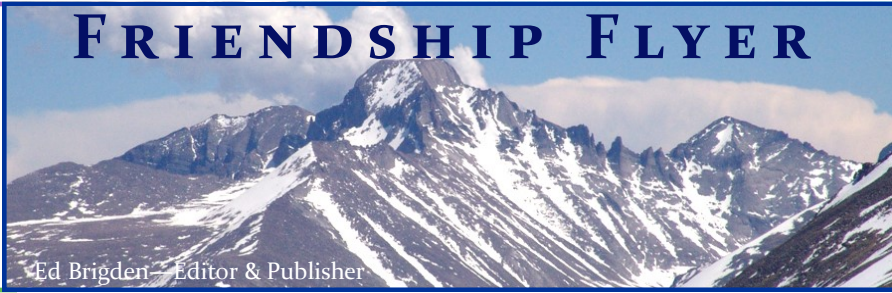




friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO

FRIENDSHIP FLYER



Ed Brigden - Editor & Publisher

February
2017

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

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Friendship Force Northern Colorado is a community of people who are interested in friendship at a personal, local, national, and international level.

According to my 1936 edition of Roget's Thesaurus of the English Language, some of the synonyms for the word "friendship" that I think relate most closely to the vision and goals of FFI (Friendship Force International) and FFNC (Friendship Force of Northern Colorado) include: neighborliness, good will, harmony, peace, good understanding, companionship, acquaintance, fellowship, bear good will, befriend, have dealings with, receive with open arms.

Friendship begins within our own club and extends throughout the world through domestic and international exchanges. I encourage you to use the greeting time before the meeting starts, break time while enjoying refreshments, and after the meeting while helping stack chairs, to say hello to both old and new friends. Introduce yourself to visitors and thank them for coming—and invite them to come again. Have a conversation with one of your personal friends and with a member you don't know as well. Sit next to someone new.

THANK YOU to all who are serving in leadership roles as officers and committee chairs this year. THANK YOU to ALL for your active participation through attending meetings, bringing refreshments, providing rides to members who otherwise could not get here at night, helping with programs, for joining hands while singing the closing song.

I look forward to working closely with all of you as your 2017 President.

Cathie McCallum



February Meeting

SUSTAINABLE

AGRICULTURE

February 10, 2017

7:00—9:00 PM

1st Christian Church
2000 N. Lincoln Ave.
Loveland, CO

FEBRUARY 10—VOLUNTEER IRRIGATION PROJECTS



Terry Podmore, CSU Professor Emeritus in Civil and Environmental Engineering, will discuss and share with us his experiences and his role in EMI (Engineering Ministries International). This group specializes in sustainable agriculture, which Terry enhances with his specialty in Irrigation and Drainage.

A native of England, with some assignments in Australia, Canada and most recently Colorado, Terry has visited 45 countries, from which he has aided projects in twenty. A project in Uganda has focused on sustainable agriculture at their pastoral and agricultural training center. The agricultural aspects of the project have enabled crop and animal production for both food supply and training.

Terry's most recent volunteer project has been in the Dominican Republic where, with World Vision, his group renewed a derelict irrigation system.



Please join us to hear and learn from Terry as he relays some basics of his ag engineering specialty and how it relates to the needs of other countries in which he has volunteered on numerous projects.

2017 DUES ARE DUE! If you haven't already paid for 2017, please bring a check to the January meeting (\$35 per person, made out to FFNC) or mail a check to: **Marcia Ross** 7020 Avondale Rd., Fort Collins 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. Both Susan and LaDonna are ready to get involved. 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

JANUARY 13—GERMAN "ORPHAN" OF WWII

Our guest speaker, **Ruth Cooper**, captivated us with her true story of the horrors she lived through as a young German girl during the atrocities of WWII. Her missionary parents had been assigned to China, so at age 6, she and her older sister were left behind in a Children's Home near the Black Forest. Shortly after the placement, the war broke out and air raid sirens often blared multiple times a day. One day they rushed down to the bunker under the school at the sound of the sirens, as the French were bombing nearby. They had been told to wait in the bunker until the all clear siren sounded, but this time it was a whole week underground. The 25 students and their house parents had very meager rations of water, beets, turnips, apples, carrots and some canned goods and a few candles. Just as their food supply ran out, a German soldier knocked on the door and told them to come out because the war with France was over. But soon thereafter, Britain and the USA joined the war with new air raids, so they had to quickly pack and evacuate town. By this time, Ruth was about 10. They boarded a military transport train and ended up in a small town just outside Berlin, where they moved in with an aunt and two cousins in their very tiny apartment. There wasn't enough food, the space was very cramped and there was no indoor heat.

The girls had to walk through terrible destruction to get to school. One day on their way to school they saw dozens of people frantically clearing rubble from a recently bombed church, trying to get to the people trapped beneath. Just as they were able to make a small opening, the ceiling beam of the shelter collapsed, and all of those in the shelter were crushed to death. That day the girls found that their school had also been destroyed, so they returned home.

Because conditions at the aunt's home were so bad and they were rationed to only one beet or one turnip per person each day, the girls decided to leave again on the train. As they arrived at the station, the air raid sirens began. Racing to the nearby forest, where other passengers were desperately hand-digging holes for makeshift shelters, the girls crawled into their own holes. Huge chunks of dirt and trees rained down on them as the bombs made enormous craters all around, and the forest was filled with smoke and steam from the train. Miraculously, after the bombing stopped they found that the train and tracks were intact. The engineer had let out all the steam from the engine so it looked like it had been hit. Ruth described the mud and dirt in their hair and on their clothes as they journeyed to a town with a Mission Headquarters. Along the way they were admonished by unknowing adults for being so dirty and unkempt. First turned away at Mission Headquarters, they persisted and were recognized by the second nun as one of her mother's neighbors; they were admitted. While there, they were treated kindly, enjoyed real baths and returned to school.

In 1947 the war was finally over. Ruth was about 13 when an American soldier came in and showed the sisters a photo of their parents, whom they hadn't seen or heard from for seven years. He took their picture and sent it to the parents, who were by then living in the United States. They were soon able to travel on a US military transport ship to America. The ship finally made it to the USA and the girls were reunited with their parents in New York. Ruth still recalls the elation she felt at first seeing the Statue of Liberty as they came into the harbor, signifying her new homeland.



Marcia Ross

MARCH 10—WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY

World Friendship Day

As we come together to celebrate World Friendship Day, let us think of the lasting impressions that each country we visit leaves with us. Think of the Cultural impact we share and communicate.

Friday, March 10, 2017

Regular meeting time and place

6:00 pm Potluck International Feast

Dress with International flair

Invite interested (and interesting) friends

First Christian Church
2000 N. Lincoln Ave.
Loveland

Find an **International recipe** to share with us at the Potluck.

Come to the regular meeting place **ONLY an hour earlier** than normal to feast and socialize.

Wear something from another country. Plan to share what country it represents and something about it.

We have a **special event** planned for your enjoyment.

Please join us to help with planning

Committee meeting:

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 2:00 pm

IHOP, Eisenhower and Outlet mall

(just west of I-25)

Betty Jean DeMersseman



CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

To **Choose Your Own Adventure** will be a breeze now that FFI has posted more than 2 dozen opportunities for us to "Travel for Good". There are opportunities on every continent; sometimes several per country. I am considering one to New Zealand and then there's that cruise option for the 40th Anniversary. If you want to stay closer to home, there's the solar eclipse in Oregon and the film festival in Chicago.

Check out the offerings at http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/all_list/#sthash.aTwpCX5X.dpuf and then call one or more of us so we can start to plan our adventure.

Las Vegas/Grand Canyon/Phoenix February 14-21 <\$600

Join the Las Vegas and Phoenix FF Clubs for split-week Exchanges that include Las Vegas, Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, Oak Creek Canyon, Sedona, Montezuma Castle and Phoenix attractions.

Transportation to Las Vegas and from Phoenix must be arranged.

Contact Carol Kuntzman, 219-781-1999 or carollowell@yahoo.com for information and reservations.

San Miguel De Alende, Mexico March 14—23 \$1190 w/o Air

San Miguel de Allende is just the perfect place the year round, but spring is especially wonderful! Join us as we explore this wonderful city, learn about the history, spend time in the Jardin, and share a meal with a local family. It is impossible not to enjoy the experience in this colorful, clean, safe city! Although there is no home-hosting portion to this exchange, there will be opportunities for authentic cultural interaction, including a home-hosted lunch with a local family.

Cultural immersion is offered with a cooking class and a lunch at a local hosts' home.

Enjoy some time sitting in the Jardin and people watching. Get to know the city's local color, enjoy inexpensive and delicious food, and shop in the artisans' markets.

Walking tours are available to view and to absorb the colorful culture of this native Central American and Spanish city.

The spring parade and the wedding watch in the Jardin or central garden, are fascinating cultural experiences. Ambassadors will enjoy a trolley tour of San Miguel to see the incredible jacaranda trees blooming during this beautiful time of year.

Although the weather will be perfect, you can warm up in the volcanic heated waters of the nearby La Gruta.

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

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

One of the difficult tasks as President of FFNC is choosing the **Volunteer of the Year** because there are so many worthy candidates. However, observing over the past year, I had the honor of picking a “behind the scenes worker-bee”...

Debby Jones.

Debby, a member since 2006, has provided help to plan exchanges, hosted for ambassadors, served for many years on the audit committee, assisted with hospitality and served as past treasurer. Her service over the past few years that I noticed and appreciated was managing our FFNC Marketplace. I’ve watched Debby carry numerous tubs, signs and cases from parking lot to building, set up before meetings, graciously talking with folks about gifts for their Ambassadors, or Host gifts that says “Colorado” as they travel on outbound exchanges.



Debby Jones & Barbara Miller

Debby is always friendly, cheerful and definitely has a service attitude when it comes to her club members and their needs. In fact, she has even offered to take the “store” or gifts to someone’s home so they’ll have that special Colorado Aspen jewelry or a Thelma Slocum original painting (definitely going that “extra mile”). She never rushes folks with their purchases at our evening programs. As she packs up all the marketplace goodies, Debby carefully organizes to make it easy for next set up. Thank you Debby for all your extra-special efforts; for spearheading the redesign and purchase of our new club pins, and for saying “Yes” to serving as FFNC Treasurer for 2017.

Barbara Miller



Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR**2017 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**2
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1
7**2017 Outbound Exchange Options**

Gather your friends and

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

On the FFI Website,

See page 5 of this newsletter

and

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

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garner.marilyn@gmail.comKay Sheahan 667-4473
kay6568@peoplepc.com**Greeters/Hospitality:**

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Rosemary Donovan, refreshments 669-8818 donovangcd@aol.com

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FFNC Club Store: Debby Jones 686-0303 dsj55@aol.com**Historian:** Cheryl Stevens 231-4392 cheryl2204@msn.com**World Friendship Day Potluck, Mar. 10, 2017**

BJ DeMersseman 304-0267 bettyjean1301@gmail.com

Annual Picnic, Aug. 2017 in Northern Colorado:

Anne Brown 663-3727 abby144@aol.com

Judy Flatley 223-1037 flatleyjl@msn.com

Holiday Party, Dec. 2017:

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

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

SPOTLIGHT—JAN & FEB BIRTHDAYS

You're in the Spotlight!

Every member has an opportunity to take their place in the Spotlight. On the month of your birthday, take your turn in the Spotlight and expect to meet and greet your fellow members as they get to know you better.

BJ DeMersseman



February Birthdays

Dick Johnsen 8th

Rosalie Summers 11th

Doris Rogers 15th

Ed Brigden 25th

Alice Gibson 25th

Rick Gossard 28th



January Birthdays

Oops! I'm Late! Sorry
Editor

Pat Sharp 4th

Cathie McCallum 9th

Helen Crihfield 12th

Larry Clark 17th

