



January
2015

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

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Next Meeting
January 9, 2015
7:00 PM
New Zealand
 First Christian Church
 2000 N Lincoln Ave.
 Loveland, CO

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Holiday Party held at Dorothy's



was just the best way to start off my Christmas celebrations -- as they say "Good Friends, Good Food, Good Fun". The committee outdid themselves with a fun mixer and lovely prizes and a finale of fine entertainment by the Barbershop Quartet, "Four the Good Times". We had a lot of great laughs and the quartet nearly recruited Dennis Miller to their group, who stepped in with the words to "When I'm 64" to save the day!

I hope all of you made great memories with your family and friends over the season. And now it's time to look forward to the events coming up this year that will make more good memories! Marcia Ross is in close contact with the Kiel, Germany club who will arrive in May. June brings San Diego and Barbara Miller has already scheduled the first committee planning meeting. Alice Gibson has rearranged and confirmed the Peru Outbound Exchange for July. Check the Exchange Calendar to see the change in the Vancouver International Conference which follows immediately on the heels of our Inbound Exchange from New Zealand. Then a few weeks after that we receive our friends from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in September. There's hardly time to take a breath, so be sure you mark your calendars so that you don't inadvertently schedule Aunt Martha's yearly visit at a conflicting time. Plan ahead and be sure to sign up at the January meeting if you are able to host, day host, fix a dinner, or help plan.

Also, don't forget to check the wonderful offerings available on the FFI website. There are opportunities all over the globe to explore and make new friendships. If you are not receiving emails telling you about them, please call me and I will help walk you through the FFI website to get your name on the mailing list for global exchanges and unfilled club exchanges. I know that I really enjoyed the "visitors" who joined us on our exchange to Kiel and I know you, too, would be welcomed by another club trying to fill their exchange.

This has been a busy and challenging year for me and also truly enjoyable but I look forward to turning over the reins to the very capable Gary Cummins and his new board members. I know you will support him as faithfully as I feel you supported me. At the January meeting Gary and Sue will be reporting to us about the International FF conference in New Zealand which they attended in October. See you there!

Marilyn Garner

JANUARY 9 MEETING—NEW ZEALAND

Gary and Sue Cummins will present an overview of their 4-week journey through New Zealand, including a tour of the South Island, two 1-week home stays on the North Island, and attendance at the World Conference in Auckland.

Their presentation will include photos of some of the most beautiful places they've seen outside of Colorado.



2015 OFFICERS TO BE INDUCTED JAN. 9 MEETING

Congratulations to our new officers, to be inducted at our next meeting.

President: Gary Cummins, **Vice President:** Nita Kopyay, **Secretary:** Paulette Weaver, **Treasurer:** Duane Sharpe. Thanks to all who accepted the call, and for those who have served.

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 MAY 6—13, 2015

Join in the planning and preparations for this reciprocal Exchange from Kiel, Germany, with whom we visited last spring. Contact Marcia Ross at 377-0512.

EXCHANGE FROM SAN DIEGO, CA JUNE 5—11, 2015

Help with the arrangements to host FF San Diego in June. Hosts needed, and those interested will be utilized in very important positions. Contact Barbara Miller at 667-7330.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

Approximately 50 members gathered to celebrate the upcoming holidays in grand fashion at Dorothy's Catering in Loveland on Friday, Dec. 12th. As folks arrived, their brains were taxed with the Scrabble Letter ice-breaker... greeting each other, exchanging letters and making new words. Later in the evening fabulous prizes (thanks Kay T.) were given for:

- Most 2 letter words (Bev Goering)
- Most holiday words (Gary Cummins)
- Longest word (Nancy Brigden)
- Most words created:

- 3rd Place-Marcia Ross-75
- 2nd Place-Dennis Miller-93
- 1st Place-Donna Clark-107 words *{Yeah, Donna!}*



Dennis Miller, Nita Kopyay & Barbara Moore



Pat Sharpe & Rosemary Donovan

After the delicious buffet of salmon and roast beef, we were treated to a tasty dessert bar before the evening entertainment began. Ed Brigden shared a humorous video/song about trying to cook that special holiday meal with everyone's dietary restrictions; we all had a good chuckle. A quartet from the Valentine City Chorus called "Four the Good Times" sang harmony to a wide variety of songs, including the



Donna Clark & Barbara Miller

Beatles "Will You Still Love Me When I'm 64?" (remember when that sounded really old). Our favorites were the holiday songs and the opportunity to "sing-along" with several before the party ended. Appreciation goes out to Ken Yergler-tenor, Ted Cluett-lead, Rex Touslee-base, and Dick Kitcherner-baritone for that special music.

The committee, Kay Thomas, Cheryl Stevens, Rona Baer, and Barbara Miller wish to thank all the members who were able to attend and support this social get together. It's always time well spent when we can meet our new members (Barbara, Phyllis, Pat and Duane) and



Four the Good Times



Committee: Cheryl, Kay, Barbara & Rona

remember past trips with friends we've made along the way. Please visit our **Friendship Force of Northern Colorado** Facebook page to view the festivities captured by Santa's elves. We wish you a very healthy, productive and happy 2015!

Barbara Miller

SIGN UP FOR ANNUAL CONVENTION IN VANCOUVER

Wednesday, January 7, is the first date to sign up for the FFI annual convention, to be held in Vancouver, BC, Canada from August 28-31, 2015.

Pull out calendars, contact new or favorite travel companions and arrange transportation to and from Vancouver. This would be a great time to take advantage of home-hosting opportunities with one of many Canadian FF clubs. And/or plan to explore American states and Canadian provinces while enroute.

Connect with the Friendship Force International website (thefriendshipforce.org) for information and signup procedures.

EXCHANGE TO LIMA, PERU JULY 10-30, 2015

It's not too late to apply for this Peru Exchange. This Exchange will include a visit to Machu Picchu. Refer to our FF Northern Colorado website (Exchanges) [ffncoloro.com] for a multi-page flyer with the full itinerary. Contact Alice Gibson at 310-8848.



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.”

MORE FFNC NEWSLETTERS ON WEBSITE!

Can you put your hands on your copy of the June, 2012 FFNC newsletter? Call another FFNC member and get others involved in your search. After all, we have plenty of time. Many are retired, right?

Wait! A better idea! Visit ffncoloro.com and click on Newsletters. And **voila!** There is the June, 2012 issue among up to 37 past issues. *See how much time you saved when you utilized our website?* And you still have friends.

SPECIAL REQUEST—ITEMS FOR GUATEMALA EXCHANGE

Ed and I are preparing for a special **FF All-USA Mission Exchange to Guatemala**. We'll be with ED Vicki Vance (whom many of you know) and Ambassadors from different parts of the USA.

There will be several visits to non-profits that provide services for Mayan children in the country. If you, a family member or neighbor can help, here's our shopping list:

- **Good Quality, Used Athletic Shoes**, sizes 8 and under for boys. If you have access to such shoes and would like to donate, we will carry them with us. We're told the shoes available locally are not well made and do not hold up.



- **Reading Glasses**, in magnifications of 1.25, 1.5, or 1.75. Again we've been advised that Guatemalans seem to need low magnification readers. As long as they are in good condition, these can be used too.



- **Used Tools**, such as wrenches, screwdrivers, levels, measuring tapes, awls, hammers, etc.

Tools available there are cheaply made in China and break easily. So if you are at a garage sale, know someone who is down sizing, or no longer needs good used tools such as Craftsman, please let us know.



- **Children's Books**, lightweight please, in English or Spanish, clean and in good used condition. We will spend time at Lavosi, a school for deaf children where such donations will be appreciated.



- **Toothbrushes & Toothpaste** if you have a collection of new toothbrushes from your dentist that you aren't apt to open, please consider contributing them for the school.



Please contact us if you have a question or need us to pick up any of the above. We will be grateful for the donations and will carry them with us to the school and to other non-profits.

Nancy & Ed Brigden Brigden@comcast.net

MTN. STATE FIELD REP NEWS—DEC. 18

Mountain States Region

6 Clubs

423 Members

- FF planning emailed all clubs that did not submit their 2016 requests.
- There will be a Cuban Exchange in March
- Mystery Exchange is available
- Homestay.com is partnering with FFI to broaden hosting availability in critical areas,
- Registration open for VANCOUVER CONFERENCE August 29-31, Canadian and North American clubs are featuring add-on Pre-Conference and Post-conference homestays
- Regional field reps gave report on their regions. I am posting something exciting from each region. Complete minutes are available.
- Gordon Carscadden of the Southwest Region reported that two clubs, Bakersfield, CA and Las Vegas, NV volunteered for Next Generation Exchanges.
- Sandy Gourdine, Florida, reported Hurricane Data base has been organized by clubs for hurricane hosting. Florida are stable and have good leadership
- Marilyn Peterson, Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies, reported new members and new presidents in the region.
- Adrienne Moen, Midwest Region, reported increasing membership and pro-active events such as community collaboration and interesting speakers.
- Tom Lagy, Southeast Region, reported Golf Exchange for 2016 using next generation participants as instructors and featuring wine and cheese reception for interested non-golfers.
- John Heard, Southwest Region, reported on the Albuquerque Gathering of First Nations Lynn Hargreave, Midwest Region, posted a document detailing expansion in her area.
- Barb Clarke, Western Canada, shared information on the Vancouver Conference. The region will be sending out a global letter about the conference and seeks direction on workshops from FFI.
- Jaap Schouten, Eastern Canada, was excited about three new presidents in the region and their efforts to improve national coordination.
- Barbara Guilford, Mountain States, reported that regional coordination and communication is aided by joint publication of newsletters from clubs. The region is excited about "Plains to Peaks" International Exchange.
- Field Reps exchanged Christmas Greetings

Barbara Guilford—FF Cheyenne

REMEMBER OUR SISTER MTN. STATES CLUBS

As Barbara Guilford mentions, when you have a "hankerin'" to visit other countries and cultures, remember you have many options through Friendship Force. First, be aware of exchanges through our local club. Secondly, check on exchanges through our sister Mountain States Regional Clubs. Then, thirdly, 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!

To learn what other clubs in our region have planned, check out their monthly newsletters for the latest. Visit our website, 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.

If you have an interest in a particular article or a detail from one of the above newsletters, please print or make notes. There will be no archives of past issues from other clubs; only the most current issue will be available on our website.

Currently selections include the latest newsletters from the Denver, the Pikes Peak (Colorado Springs), the Western Colorado (Grand Junction) and Utah (Salt Lake City) clubs.

Ed Brigden

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR

2
0
1
5

2
0
1
6

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

Peaks to Plains Global September
Inbound
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

2014 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com

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686-0303 dsj55@aol.com

Historian: Ken Weaver
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Nita Kopyay 613-2066

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Donna Clark 484-8009
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Ways & Means: Dick Johnsen & Doris Rogers
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Photographers: Cathie McCallum, Ed Brigden,
& Cindy Paulson

Reporters: Donna Clark, Cindy Kenna, Barbara
Miller, Thelma Slocum, Marion Sparks

MOUNTAIN CLUBS' EXCHANGES

Ft. Myers & Orlando, FL—with FF Denver

Join FF Denver for an Exchange to a warm(er) climate in Ft. Myers and Orlando from **Jan. 28—Feb. 7**. Connect with EDs Lynn and Carl Dawson, 303-279-5222, for more info.

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 **November** to Ft. Worth, TX plus a second week in Oklahoma. Contact Dan Hannaway through the FFPP website at friendshipforcepikespeak.com.