



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO

FRIENDSHIP FLYER



Ed Brigden—Editor & Publisher

January
2016

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

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Our December Party is always a highlight for the FFNC, and this year's party kept that tradition going! Anne Brown planned and coordinated a wonderful evening that helped to put each of us in the holiday mood. Good food, good fellowship, good entertainment—it's a great combination—thank you Anne! My thanks also goes to my wife, Sue, for sharing that special memory created during WWI when troops from opposing sides of the war took a moment to look beyond the conflict and shared, albeit briefly, in singing songs focused on the true meaning of Christmas.

2015 was an active and exciting year for our FF club. We added 12 new members during this year and we modified our club documents to better meet the financial challenges for members that belong to more than the FFNC club. Our inbound and outbound Exchange Directors did a wonderful job for our membership and these exchange activities were exceedingly beneficial to all who participated in them. A highlight, in my opinion, was our support of the "I'm-In Campaign." Thanks to Betty Jean Demersseman (who matched what our membership contributed) we were able to provide a significant gift to the FFI effort, and, helped FFI exceed its goal. My thanks also goes to Anita Koplyay—she is our new Hospitality Coordinator. This is a position that we have been wanting to fill for some time now; it's wonderful that we have such a talented and warm person in this position.

At our January 2016 Club meeting, we are hoping to unveil our new FFNC sign that Larry Clark and I have been working on for several months. This sign enhances our club's professional presentation and will allow us to better represent our club at events and activities, including the 2016 Regional FF meeting. You are going to like this!

As we begin a new year, we are in very good hands. Barbara Miller will be our new president, Cathie McCallum will be our new vice president, Kay Sheahan will be our new secretary, and Ray Garcia will be our new treasurer. We are so fortunate to have such talented individuals assume the leadership of our organization. In 2016, we will conduct the first "Peaks to Plains" global exchange, thanks to our very own Kay Thomas! What a special accomplishment for FF and for our club. We do have creative and energetic people. My very best wishes to Barbara Miller for an excellent 2016 Presidency.

My sincere thanks to each of you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your president during 2015—a very busy and challenging year. With your help, we represented the FF mission well. We can be proud of what we accomplished together. I wish each of you a fantastic 2016!

Gary Cummins

Next Meeting
January 8, 2016
7:00 PM

Cuba

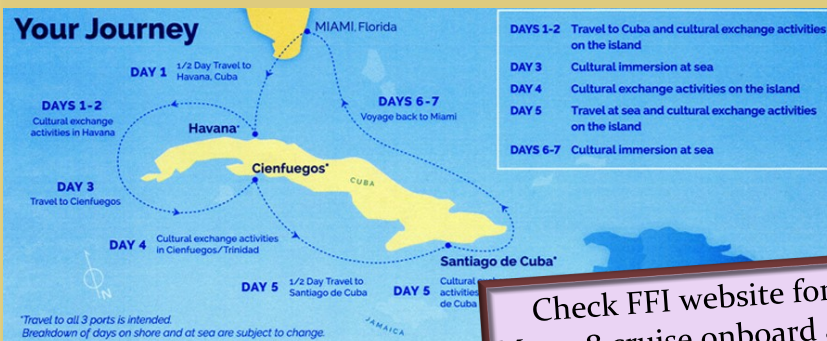
**First Christian
Church**
2000 N Lincoln Ave
Loveland, CO

January 8 Meeting—Cuba

Cuba – New Horizons In The Caribbean will be the subject of a presentation by Andrew and Lisa Haines. The couple took part in an educational exchange program to Cuba in 2015 and will speak about the rules that were in effect between the two countries just before and since the USA and Cuba began to restore diplomatic relations.

After a 54-year hiatus, presidents of the two countries announced the turn toward normalizing relations in December, 2014. Assisted in secret negotiations by Pope Frances and Canadian government representatives, the initial steps have included the opening of embassies in both Havana and Washington and the exchange of prisoners held by each country. Just before Christmas, a news release announced the intent to restore commercial air service between the two countries early in 2016.

Andrew Haines is a retired civil air traffic control manager and now teaches project management for technology companies. Lisa, a retired Spanish teacher, works with various volunteer organizations in Loveland.



Cuba is the new “in” place for international travel. Old taboos and restrictions are breaking down. Soon, direct airline travel from the U.S. will be available.

Please join us for this interesting and timely presentation.

Nancy Brigden

Check FFI website for this May 1-8 cruise onboard a 704-passenger ship.

Upcoming Exchanges

Alice Gibson and Cathie McCallum will be the ED's for the Incoming **Greater Burlington/Hamilton Canada** exchange. Dates are June 23-29. 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 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 local ED's for FFNC's part of the 6-club Peaks to Plains.

Our exchange to **San Diego** has been cancelled. They will be returning from a Costa Rica exchange just before the planned October exchange and need a break. No alternative date, but will keep you posted.

Marilyn Garner

DECEMBER 11 HOLIDAY PARTY



We met at Johnson's Corner for the annual holiday dinner on December 11 at 6:00 pm. Anne Brown planned a festive gathering with a main course of chicken and roast beef. The tables were decorated with poinsettias that were given to attendees through a drawing of names at the end of the evening. Sterling Snyder played his guitar and sang holiday music.

President, Gary Cummins, opened the meeting and announced a change in club officers next year.

Anita Kopyay has decided her talents are more suited to the Hospitality Committee and relinquished the office of President. The Board offered the Presidency to Barbara Miller who accepted, and her replacement as Vice President is Kathy McCallum. Kay Sheahan is Secretary, and Ray Garcia is Treasurer.

Betty Jean DeMersseman reported that our club contributed \$1,930.00 to the "I'm In" campaign to buy new software for the Friendship Force web site in Atlanta. As of December, a total of \$46,940 was raised.

Rona Baer announced there were more tickets available for "Men are from Mars; Women are from Venus" show at the Rialto Theatre in Loveland on February 4 and 5.

Dot Cada gave an update on the Saratov Friendship Force club for new members in our club.

Sue Cummins read a poem, "Belleau Wood" about a truce between German and American troops on Christmas Eve in World War I.

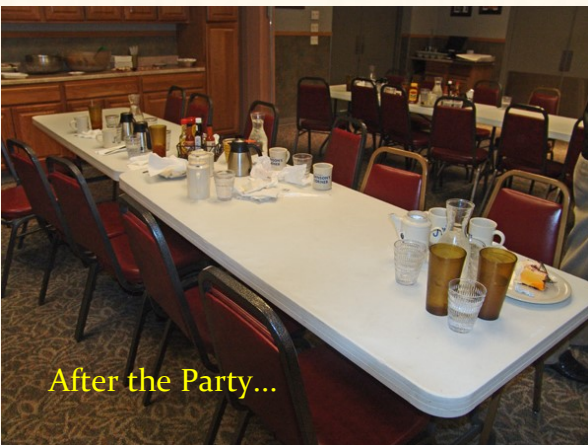


Sterling Snyder

Gary Cummins read a commentary on New Year's resolutions for losing weight.

The meeting closed with everyone joining hands and singing "Let There be Peace."

Marian Sparks



After the Party...

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Grand Junction—May 13 & 14

We all know that “times flies” when we aren’t paying attention. May will be here before we are ready. Make your plans **NOW** to join our regional Friendship Force cultural travelers at our biannual Mountain States Conference this year. There are more than 400 of us, members of 6 regional clubs.

Meet and hear from Jeremi Snook, new FFI president, and learn of his vision for FFI. Also hear from Dave Kalan, FFI board member from FF Milwaukee.

If you are new to Friendship Force, what a wonderful chance to learn more about FFI and its opportunities for cultural travel. None of us knows “everything” about this organization. Where are we heading and how do we get there? How can we better communicate our mission? How can we make our mission relevant to ourselves and to those whom we would like to attract? Meet the veterans within this organization. Learn and ask questions.



Kathy Lyn (FFWC), Marcia Ross and Cindy Paulson—Grand Junction 2011

If you are an “old-timer”, utilize this weekend to catch up, with friends and with coming change. Share what you have learned and quiz others as to the ideal directions for our individual clubs. Be a mentor to our “newbies”, that they may soon lead us to new horizons with a better understanding of our mission and our history.

Register for the Conference **VERY SOON** and make reservations for lodging in Grand Junction. And why go alone? Find others with whom to carpool. See! Cultural travel in the same vehicle! Perhaps you can find answers to many of FFI weaknesses and solve all the ills of society during those few driving hours to the scenic western slope. Give it a shot.

How do you proceed? AHA! Go to the FFNC website ([ffncoloro.com](http://ffncolorado.com)) and click on **Exchanges** or **Regional**. Within each of those pages are a Registration Form and a lodging options page.

Ed Brigden

See the next page, Pg. 5, for a Mountain States Regional Conference Registration form.



Regional Conference Application



friendship force
WESTERN COLORADO

"NEW DIRECTIONS"

2016 Rocky Mountain Regional Conference

~ EARLY REGISTRATION FORM ~

May 13 & 14, 2016 (Friday, Saturday)

Downtown Grand Junction:

Hampton Inn, Fairfield Inn & Suites, Spring Hill Suites by Marriott

Please complete this registration form. Include your check made payable to Western Colorado Friendship Force. Mail to Sue Palmer, Conference Coordinator, 2402 Applewood Circle, Grand Junction, CO 81506

x _____

Last Name First Name (s) (Couples may choose to register on the same form)

x _____

Street Mailing Address City State Zip

x _____

E-Mail Address

Phone: Home

Phone: Cell

x _____

Home Club Name

Hotels in downtown Grand Junction, 2nd Block of Main Street, are offering special room rates for the Conference at \$129.95 per night. To register, see the information attached to this registration form and tell the hotel you are with the Rocky Mountain Friendship Force Conference. (See attachment for lodging information)

Registration begins on Friday, May 13 from 12:30 pm until 4:00 pm in the Monument Board Room at Spring Hill Suites. There will also be registration at 8:30 am on Saturday morning in the Main Street Room.

Optional Friday Activities: (Please choose one of the following afternoon Activities :)

___ 2-4:30 pm Friday, May 13 - Downtown Walking Tour (Art on the Corner and interesting shops)

___ 1-4:30 pm Friday, May 13 - Wine Country Tour (Drive through vineyards/ orchards and wine tasting)

(May be small charge for wine tasting)

___ 1-4:30 pm Friday, May 13 - Colorado National Monument Tour (Drive along Rim Rock Rd.)

Registration Fees:

___ Saturday, May 3rd - \$125 per person

COST: \$125

(Includes: coffee, tea and refreshments, all conference sessions, box lunch, evening banquet and entertainment)

Make checks payable to-- **Western Colorado Friendship Force** and mail to:

Sue Palmer; 2402 Applewood Circle, Grand Junction, CO 81506

For questions or conference registration information, call Sue Palmer, Conference Coordinator at 970-260-4653

alfshouse12@hotmail.com OR Carol DeAngelis, Conference Coordinator at 970-250-6282 cdeangel22@gmail.com

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 12th, 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 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 January meeting on January 8, 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.

*Thelma Slocum & Marcia Ross
Membership co-chairs*

Thanks for paying promptly!!

"I'M IN" CAMPAIGN—ABOVE THE GOAL!

Our goals were a **retooling goal** and a goal for **creating the moments we love**.

To keep our worldwide network of members connected, up to date, and informed, we must update our outdated/at risk technology. So Goal #1 was to raise \$40,000 before the end of 2015 for a **one-time data management investment** to keep FF functional for the years ahead.

The second goal was to **create the Friendship Force moments we love**. Knowing that global and themed exchanges are popular, we need more Exchange Directors to lead them. If you have a great idea for one, bring your passion to the task! The time frame for this goal is 24 months (or, until the end of the 2017 exchange cycle).

World wide, the answer is clear. Friendship Force is a dominant force in our lives. With every travel experience, we do not remain strangers for long. **Friends...** are other persons you just haven't met yet.

Support for our organization continues to show strength and resilience with **\$ 53,305** given in support (as of newsletter deadline); and as the campaign continued through the end of the year, we can expect to learn that this number has grown even larger. Be proud that our club has contributed \$ 1930, included in that total. Congratulations: you recognized a good thing and supported it!

Betty Jean DeMersseman

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR

2
0
1
6

Rocky Mtn. Regional Conference

Grand Junction, CO

May 13 & 14

Get Registered ... and a place to stay!

Hamilton/Burlington, Canada

Inbound June 23-29

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

Marilyn Garner 493-4137

Thelma Slocum 223-9855

FFI International Conference

Marrakech, Morocco Sept 15-18

2016 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT: Barbara Miller

667-7330 bmill4708@comcast.net

VICE PRES: Cathie McCallum

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667-4473 kay6568@peoplepc.com

TREASURER: Ray Garcia

669-3699 raybruin@msn.com

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Sue Cummins 377-0512 sue@gscummins.com

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Thelma Slocum 223-9855 thelmaslocum@comcast.net

Marcia Ross 377-0512 mross377@msn.com

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Facebook: Barbara Miller 667-7330 bmill4708@comcast.net

Teleph. Tree: Barb Turnbull 493-0787 b.turnbull493@gmail.com

Small Grp. Social Events: Rona Baer 744-9974 baerextremes@gmail.com

FFNC Club Store: Debby Jones 686-0303 dsj55@aol.com

Historian: Cheryl Stevens 231-4392 cheryl2204@msn.com

World Friendship Day Potluck, Mar. 11, 2016 (Mbrs. Invite guests)

Pat & Duane Sharp 720-218-2299 m6sharp@aol.com

Rosalie Summers 303-887-2681 eisor01@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 Kopylay 613-2066 kopylay@comcast.net

Greeters/Hospitality: Nita Kopylay 613-2066 kopylay@comcast.net

Willie Westdorp, greeter 6676525 willie.westdorp@gmail.com

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

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

Dennis Miller, set-up 667-7330 dmill5050@comcast.net

Ways & Means: Dick Johnsen 484-2666 RNEjohnsen@aol.com

Larry Clark 669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com

Photographers: Cindy Paulson 225-2252 cdp225@msn.com

Ed Brigden 381-5809 Brigden@comcast.net

Cathie McCallum 223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

Nominating Comm: Gary Cummins 682-2266 gary@gscummins.com

Marcia Ross 377-0512 mross377@msn.com

Nancy Brigden 352-3829 brigden@comcast.net

Audit Comm: Debby Jones 686-0303 dsj55@aol.com

Dennis Miller 667-7330 dmill5050@comcast.net

Music: Larry Clark 669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com

Rosemary Donovan 669-8818 donovangcd@aol.com

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

BENSON GARDEN—IN HIBERNATION



Benson Garden is in hibernation. Therefore, we do not have an immediate responsibility to attend to her needs. However, remember that this, too, will change as will the season. Post-hibernation will require many person-hours to trim, weed

and transplant. Please make time in a few months to help bring our garden to its spring and summer glory, as you have in the past. Your help makes it happen.

We shall keep you posted.



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 submit your application to the specific Exchange Director to join that club’s 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, 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 w/ Charleston & Savannah—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

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