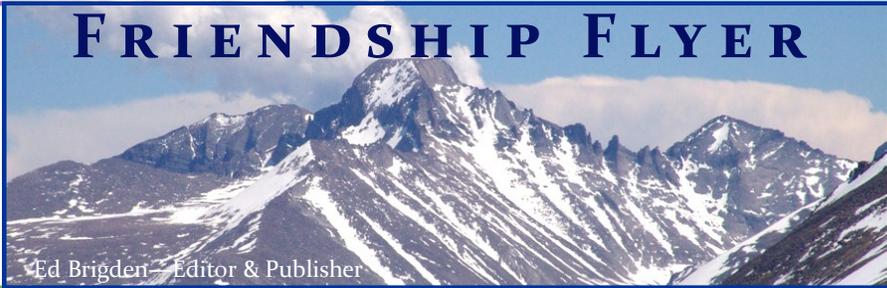




friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO

FRIENDSHIP FLYER



Ed Brigden - Editor & Publisher

January
2017

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

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As I leave the office of president, I wish each of you the happiest 2017 ever! Our Friendship Force club, strong and vibrant, will continue to flourish under Cathie McCallum's leadership!

Many thanks to the officers and committee folks that served with me during 2016. Vice-president Cathie McCallum was always a positive, encouraging support; secretary, Kay Sheahan was faithful in getting those minutes completed in timely fashion with the accuracy for "who", "what" and "when". Despite the busy workload of his professional CPA firm, building a home and moving this year, treasurer Ray Garcia kept us "on track" with FFNC financials.

Thank you to all our hard-working committees. Special activities like monthly social events (Rona Baer), World Friendship Day (Pat Sharp & Rosalie Summers), summertime Picnic with FF Cheyenne (Judy Flatley) and our recent Holiday Party (Suzi Gossard & Esther Johnsen) come to mind. Our Membership team provides orientation, training and mentoring (Thelma Slocum and Marcia Ross). We can be proud of the FFNC Newsletter, one of the best in the region! Thanks to our four editors, Cindy Paulson, Mary Nelson, Ed Brigden and Sue Cummins and the numerous reporters who keep us updated.

We look forward to the upcoming monthly program: thank you Esther Johnsen (for 2017) and Nancy Brigden, (2016). Publicity in the newspapers (Anne Brown) or on the internet - Website and Facebook (Ed Brigden, Barbara Miller). And those who welcome guests: Nita Kopylay and the Hospitality group (Willie Westdorp, Elle Barr, Rosemary Donovan and Dennis Miller) for seats, coffee & snacks, A-V setup. Photographs: Cathie McCallum, Cindy Paulson, and Ed Brigden help us to remember. The FFNC Store (Debbie Jones) for those special exchange gifts and for purchasing, displaying and carting the many boxes each month.

Our Exchange Coordinator, Marilyn Garner worked closely with Exchange Directors this year to provide fun (and efficient) exchanges... inbound Canada from Hamilton-Burlington, Ontario, the 21 global ambassadors who joined the Peaks to Plains Exchange (ED-Kay Thomas...WOW! And our outbound exchanges to Stratford-St. Mary's, Ontario, CAN and our domestic exchange to San Diego. **CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD THROUGH MUTUAL RESPECT, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, CULTURAL EXPLORATION AND SERVICE!** Thank you to all the Exchange Directors... past, present, and future... you make it happen!

Barbara Miller

January Meeting

ORPHANS OF WWII

January 13, 2017

7:00—9:00 PM

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

JANUARY 13—GERMAN "ORPHAN" OF WWII

This is Ruth Cooper's true story of her parents who left their two girls in Germany at the beginning of WWII. Her parents felt compelled to go to China to be missionaries and left the two daughters behind to fend for themselves. There are few left who can relate this type of story regarding WWII.

First Snapshot: A six-year old girl at an old-fashioned train station, imploring her mother to stay in Germany, not to go to China; not put her in a children's home; not leave her with strangers. To boot, it is raining torrents, matching the tears gushing from her frightened face and the thunderclaps in the dark grey clouds promising a future full of danger.

Second Snapshot: The same girl; at the same train station; running toward the last train leaving, suitcase in hand; fleeing North; away from the battle front of WWII; away from the children's home. North; anywhere north of her home; destination unknown.

Third Snapshot: The same girl with her sister; walking toward a military train, forbidden to ordinary citizens; having survived the high jump out of this train's window; the bombing by US planes; the downpour of clods of clay from the huge bomb craters, now descending like charged missiles; happy though filthy - and alive.

Fourth Snapshot: Come and hear Ruth Cooper . . .

Please join us for our first Friendship Force of Northern Colorado meeting of 2017. Meet and hear Ruth share her personal stories of the decisions and challenges of survival that she and her sister faced in Germany during World War II.

Editor

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

FFNC's December meeting was actually an upscale holiday gathering at the Clubhouse of Adriel Hills in Fort Collins. Nearly fifty of our members attended the festive affair planned by Esther Johnsen and Suzi Gossard. They and their committee members produced a warm and delightful atmosphere for fellowship, food, and music. The fellowship came as we gathered by a roaring fire to enjoy mixed nuts, wine, and conversation. The food for the evening was the culinary creation of Mr. Tom Wilberton. He served turkey meatballs in tomato/whipped cream sauce, poached chicken in lemon juice with coconut, three choices of scrumptious salads, and egg nog and chocolate custards for dessert. Yum!

The music came with a visit from the Acapella Choir from Fossil Ridge HS, directed by John Garner (son of our own Marilyn Garner). The young men and women in the group performed *Blue Christmas* and *Baby It's Cold Outside*, before inviting all of us to join them in a sing-along including: *Deck The Halls*, *Frosty the Snowman*, *Here Comes Santa Claus*, *Let It Snow*, *Holly Jolly Christmas*, and *Silent Night...to name a few*. We ended the entertainment phase with an upbeat rendition of *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*.



Party Organizer, Suzi Gossard



Thelma Slocum & Cindy Paulson

A raffle ended the night's activities. Winners were treated to their own white spruce trees in a jar with a tiny Charlie Brown tree ornament. What fun!



Cathie McCallum, Rona Baer & Marcia Ross

As this would be the final meeting report for the year and in consideration of the season, I decided to ask several members what their wish for the Holiday Season would be. Here are some of the responses:

“I hope our country comes together in a peaceful and fruitful manner.” (Bob Willhour)

“Peace in the world.” (Jane Willhour)

“Reconciliation.” (Marilyn Garner)

“Peace.” (Marian Sparks)

“No drama.” (Debby Jones)

“I’m just thankful for friends and friendship through the years.” (Helen Crihfield)

Kudos go out to both the Chairs who planned and delivered such a wonderful evening: Esther and Suzi. Recognition also goes to the great support crew who came early to decorate and stayed late to clean up: Marcia Ross, Cathie McCallum, Barbara Miller, Rich Gossard, Dick Johnsen, Diane and Don Locke and Dennis Miller.

Dennis Miller



Ken Weaver, Marian Sparks & Helen Crihfield



Debby Jones, Barbara Miller, Cathie McCallum, Suzi Gossard & Esther Johnsen



High School Choir Entertainment



Marcia Ross, Nita Kopyay & Marilyn Garner

REGIONAL REP'S REPORT

Greetings ----- Here's some news from the November Field Rep Conference Call.

Website and Database Update – should be complete before the end of December, 2016. On-Line training will be available on the new website for all club members. Field Reps will be trained and available to help with inquiries about the new website.

Effective November, 2016, **FF Travel Insurance** has changed to Nationwide Insurance. FF Headquarters is ending the partnership with Travel Guard, however all policies that have been purchased will be honored. Nationwide Insurance offers the same type of travel insurance – cruise, single-trip, and annual travel plans. The new insurance will be available for people outside the US. Access the **Travel Insurance Tab** on the FFI “Home Page”.

Stories of Friendship promotion – everyone is encouraged to “tell their story”. Whether it's short or long, funny or moving, from three weeks or three years ago, please share it along with photos! Our Friendship Force stories are a great testament to promoting the organization and sharing with the world. Submit your story on the FFI website.

*Sue Palmer
FF Western Colorado*

FFNC Membership Report

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: **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*

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.

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, 848.115.4454, 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, 5 ÷ 05 6 39786708, 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**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 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

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Nita Kopyay 613-2066 kopyay@comcast.net

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

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

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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**

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

FFI ... AND FFNC

“As a member of the Friendship Force, I recognize that I can make a difference. I recognize that I have a mission. That mission is to be a friend to the people of the world. As I embark upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching me. I know that through my example to my fellow citizens and the people of other countries, the cause of friendship and peace can be furthered.” - The Friendship Force Pledge

Do you recognize this? Sometimes the power of the pledge that Friendship Force members have been reciting for decades gets lost to familiarity. Yet make no mistake - friendship has the power to heal our pasts, bring greater understanding to our present, and positively influence the future of our world.



You are part of a movement to write a counter-narrative to the fear, prejudice, violence and injustice that the news industry causes us believe is now commonplace. Your stories of friendship and your everyday work of overcoming the barriers that separate us are testaments to that.

Thank you for continuing to stand for the power of friendship.

Jeremi

Explore your world.

Understand its people.

Serve the cause of peace.

Ten Reasons to Explore the World with the Friendship Force

- 1. Go where you've never been** Take a journey into the heart of a country and its people. FFI conducts over 300 programs every year, in 377 communities in 60 countries. Hosts are eager to welcome you into their culture, sharing sights and experiences that are not available to tourists.
- 2. Get off the beaten track** There's no better way to see a new place than with a friend who knows its "best kept secrets."
- 3. Cultural immersion** Through the unique FFI program of home hospitality, international travelers are hosted in the homes of local families. In this way, you can get to know a new culture from the inside.
- 4. Personal friendships** When you travel or host with the Friendship Force, you get to know real people by sharing real life. Often, friendships are formed that last a lifetime.
- 5. Bring the world to your doorstep** As a host, you can explore the world without leaving home by extending the hand of friendship to international guests. Give your guests an up-close, insider's view of life in your country, either through overnight home hospitality or daytime cultural activities.
- 6. Represent your country** You have the opportunity to share knowledge of your country and culture with new friends from around the world. Through friendly conversation and everyday experiences, you become part of changing the way others see your culture and the world.
- 7. Make a Difference** Make a difference in communities around the world. For example, you can help your new friends practice your language, bring supplies to a needy school, or host foreign teachers attending a professional development program in your city.
- 8. Pursue your passions around the world** Themed programs allow participants to come together to explore a common interest. Explore the gardens of England, study biodiversity in Costa Rica, tour vineyards in New Zealand, or cycle the Niagara Falls region, with international friends.
- 9. Lifelong learning** FFI promotes lifelong learning through a variety of travel and hosting programs. Programs especially for teachers and students promote education across borders. Language learning programs: a week in a foreign country with a host family, for full language immersion.
- 10. Promote Global Goodwill** FFI participants greet the world with an open mind and respect for other cultures, an individual contribution toward global goodwill.

