



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO



Sue Cummins - Editor & Publisher

July/August
2016

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	FROM OUR PRESIDENT	A big thanks goes out to Nancy and Ed Brigden for organizing	
June Peace Corps Program 2	the presentation on the 55 th Anniversary of the Peace Corps; their short history and video clips were good background for the Panel sharing. The Peace Corps Panel included our own Cathie McCallum and Paulette Weaver, as well as Susanna Garner from Ft. Collins. Read the article in this Newsletter about their unique stories. The meeting was well attended by members and guests.		
Peace Corps Opportunities & San Diego Exchange 3	There was a brief “Annual Meeting” update from Treasurer Ray Garcia. He provided copies of year-to-date spending and pronounced FFNC to be in a solid financial position for the upcoming year. Membership is currently at 78, with 4 new members. We have lost 12 members over the past year, so need to continue our focus on welcoming guests and including an invitation to become a part of our dynamic international organization, which is focused on <i>Changing the Way You See the World</i> .		
Hamilton/Burlington Exchange 4	Nominating Committee Chair, Gary Cummins, reviewed the process used for reaching out to the membership for this year’s slate of officers. FFNC voted by acclamation to accept the following candidates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathie McCallum as President • Thelma Slocum as Vice-President (President Elect) • Kay Sheahan (to continue as Secretary) • Ray Garcia (to continue as Treasurer) 	
Hamilton/Burlington Exchange Photos 5	We were unable to present the prestigious FFI Wayne Smith Award to someone in our club, as the member was not in attendance that evening. Unfortunately, that’s what happens when you try to surprise someone. We will attempt the medal presentation at our annual picnic with Cheyenne. You won’t want to miss this!		
Benson Garden & Elected Officers 6	Thank you to everyone who provided an outstanding Exchange for our Ambassadors from Hamilton/Burlington, Canada, June 23-29; especially our EDs Cathie McCallum and Alice Gibson . It was obvious a good time was had by all!		
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<p>Picnic with Cheyenne FF Sunday, August 14, 1-4 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Holliday Park Picnic Shelter, 1121 E. Lincolnway, Cheyenne NEW LOCATION!</p>			

Barbara Miller



June Meeting

Peace Corps Veterans Discussed Their Experiences

At our June annual meeting, three articulate former Peace Corps members helped explain why the Peace Corps has been successful for 55 years. Panelists included our President-elect Cathie McCallum, who served in Jamaica from 1967-70; FFNC member Paulette Weaver, who was assigned to a mountain village in Colombia from 1967-69; and special guest Nancy Sturtevant, who entered the Corps with her husband in 2010 for an assignment in Ethiopia. Nancy now works as program manager for international students and scholars at CSU.

All of them enrolled as part of the traditional two-year minimum assignments, with Nancy and her husband joining as empty nesters rather than as young adults. They had always wanted to enroll, she said, and found that the experience after full careers was advantageous. "When you enter the Corps as a young person, you don't know how much the experience will change your life," she said. With a lifetime of experiences beforehand, getting quickly into the work seemed easier than for some of the younger people. She attributed this adaptability to life's teachings that enable most adults to balance idealism with reality. And perhaps career experiences show older adults how to work with ambiguity.

Cathie and Paulette each joined as young adults, shared similar training experiences, and had rewarding assignments. Cathie was able to establish a career day for the young Jamaicans with whom she worked. She also developed a training program on how to apply and interview for jobs. Paulette worked as a community action advocate to help identify and develop projects of importance to her isolated rural town. Both FFNC members describe their Peace Corps experiences as life-changing.

Last year, after our club's exchange to Peru, Paulette and Ken travelled back to Colombia, where they met up with their three adult daughters and were helped by Bogata FF friends of Cinda's. What followed was a thrilling journey to locate the mountain town she had left nearly 50 years ago. Walking the streets, the Weavers were quickly able to reconnect with residents. Some had even been Paulette's students. Others were sons or daughters of those with whom she had worked during the 60's. These joyful experiences illustrate what an impact the Peace Corps can have on the lives of those who serve and those with whom they work.

Paulette told us about the fascinating direct link from Northern Colorado to the Peace Corps through Pauline Birky-Kruetzer. At CSU in the early 1960's, Birky-Kruetzer worked with Dr. Maurice Albertson on a proposal to create a national youth service corps with a goal of teaching people in third-world countries how to help themselves. In time, she and Albertson were consulted by President Kennedy's team that was assigned to form a similar national corps. In 1961, Pauline coordinated the first training (in empty CSU Quonset huts) for the newly formed U.S. Peace Corps volunteers.

Nancy Brigden

***Please turn to page 3 for information
about how you can serve the Peace Corps,
even at a ripe old age.***

PEACE CORPS OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER AMERICANS

At the June meeting, Nancy and Ed Brigden showed a short film clip that provided testimonials from a retired couple about the specialized Peace Corps Response Program. Designed for Americans over age 50, this program (see information below) offers specialized short assignments of 3 to 12 months working in areas that match and utilize retirees' training and career experiences. Career educators or administrators, for example, might apply for a position abroad that would design and train teachers. Retirees with food bank administration experience might fill a short-term assignment to help establish a program for meeting food security in one of the 70 or more countries working with the U.S. Peace Corps. Applicants apply specifically for these short-term positions through a stream-lined process with the Office of Peace Corps Response. *Nancy Brigden*



Cathie McCallum, Nancy Sturtevant, Paulette Weaver, Nancy Brigden presented Peace Corps experiences and opportunities at June meeting

Peace Corps Response Program To Attract Experienced Professionals

- Short application for specific assignment
- Open positions advertised online
- Assignments match career experiences
- Often work with other professionals
- Relaxed training and language requirements
- Short tenure of 3-12 months
- 2,500+ have served, 38% of them over age 50

San Diego Here We Come...

As the summer heat continues to drain our energy, many of our members are looking forward to the October Exchange to San Diego. Some are taking a "road trip" and others are flying Southwest #1649 on Oct. 12 at 2:10 PM and returning on SW #2252, arriving back in Denver at 2:55 PM, Oct. 18th.

We'll begin with a welcome dinner in a favorite club restaurant. The next morning, we'll be touring the famous San Diego Zoo. The Midway Museum will give us a realistic view of naval working and living conditions as we traverse the various decks of the ship. A guided Walking Tour of downtown San Diego is planned, with a visit to the Library and possibly the Nature Preserve or a unique Guitar Concert. Other interesting activities are in the works ... Sunday will be our FREE day so you may wish to visit Balboa Park for its international food booths and free afternoon performances. Plan ahead for YOUR Sunday interests.

Ambassadors, watch your email for our SAN DIEGO EXCHANGE MEETING to be held at Dennis & Barbara Millers' home in Loveland. Items to bring to that meeting would include: Copies of **Medical Insurance Cards**, a **Medications List**, cell numbers, emergency contacts with phone numbers, and your checkbook to pay the fee to San Diego (amount will be in the email). There is a copier available at the Millers' home.

Barbara Miller, ED (667-7330)

Successful Hamilton/Burlington, Ontario Exchange June 23-29, 2016

Thirteen ambassadors arrived to meet us on June 23rd, 11 from the Greater Hamilton FF and two from the San Francisco area. In addition, Cindy Paulson's guest Marie, a FF member from Australia, also participated.

Many FFNC members took active leadership roles to make this exchange so successful. Home hosts included the Gossards, Brigdens, Millers, Cummins, Cheryl Stevens and Sam Uhrick, Marcia Ross, Cathie McCallum, and Nita Kopylay. Dinner hosts were Alice Gibson, Cathie McCallum, the Gossards, and the Cummins. Anne Brown organized the Loveland activities, Barbara Miller organized the Hoedown, and Alice Gibson made the reservations for the Fort Collins activities. Cathie organized the Boulder activities and made the meal reservations for Loveland, Boulder, and Estes Park. The Brigdens hosted the Welcome Party at their home with about 45 guests.

Denver FF members drove the ambassadors to meet us at the Cracker Barrel Country Store in Loveland and joined us for lunch. Individual gift bags were distributed to the ambassadors. Home hosts drove their guests home before reconvening at the Brigdens at 6:00.

Friday, June 24 was a Fort Collins Day starting with a 90-minute Magic Bus tour of Old Town, Grandview Cemetery, CSU oval, Overland Trail, and Horsetooth Reservoir with narration about local history. After lunch on their own in Old Town, ambassadors and some FFNC members toured New Belgium Brewery, where they sampled several beers, then the CSU Vet Hospital where they observed actual surgeries.

Saturday, June 25, we met at the Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse for brunch before touring and tasting at Celestial Seasonings Tea, then browsing

–and buying cards at Leanin' Tree Western Art Museum and shop. Ambassadors treated their home hosts to dinner that evening.

Sunday, June 26 was a free day with some people choosing to visit the special events in Greeley.

Monday, June 27 was the day to drive to Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park and for hosts and guests to choose their own activities before meeting at 6:00 at The Other Side Restaurant for a preordered light dinner.

Tuesday, June 28, featured a tour of Art Castings, a box lunch at North Lake Park, time to walk



through the Leanin' Tree Museum and its Sculpture Garden. The Farewell Dinner and Hoedown in Berthoud that night capped off the exchange.

On Wednesday, June 29, one couple drove home and the others took the Super Shuttle from Loveland to DIA for their flights home to Canada and California.

The weather cooperated with sunshine every day! THANKS to all members who helped make this exchange so successful, so much fun.

Cathie McCallum

FUN WITH HAMILTON/BURLINGTON



Presidents Barbara & Heather



Magie Bus Stop Overlooking Horsetooth Reservoir



Welcome at the Brigdens



Jill & Doris at Celestial Seasonings



Dushanbe Teahouse



Margaret & Marcia at Learn Tree

BENSON GARDEN

by Nancy Brigden



Five hearty souls worked on June 4 at the All-Volunteer Planting Day sponsored by the City of Loveland. This skinny crew followed Cinda Clark's efforts to keep our spaces as bindweed-free as possible. Thanks to her regular assaults, the monthly volunteer job is much easier. Then Work Round #2 came the following Saturday, when Kay Sheahan, Dwayne Shields, and Ed Brigden added some new plants to finish off the garden for early summer.

On planting day, we were visited by the garden manager, Ed Harris, who had sent these

words of encouragement to FFNC earlier in the week, ***"You and your group has adopted one of the biggest, hottest, and most variable gardens in all of Benson. I have heard some horror stories about the way that garden looked before ... You do a wonderful job ... I really, really appreciate it."***

While at FFNC's site, he and the garden planner briefed us on plans to redo our south garden and clean up the east entry in 2017. Those plans include (1) add drifts of day lilies to the south garden and replace the old grasses and plants there; and (2) replace the limping coreopsis plants to the east of the statue with new, varied color sedums.

Please let Nancy Brigden (352-3829) or Kay Sheahan (667-4473) know if you would like to join volunteer teams for August 6, preceding the Sculpture Show on August 12-14.

Our thanks to Kay Thomas, who solved the mystery of what seemed to be sign vandalism at the garden. We are fairly certain now that during the March blizzard, the blade of the snowplow caught the post and yanked the sign out and onto the sidewalk under the plow. The sign is replaced and all is well.

2017 Elected Officers

by Gary Cummins

At our June meeting, the membership elected the slate of officers as presented by our 2017 Nominating Committee. Three of our 2017 officers will be serving our club for a second consecutive year. Such continuity will greatly benefit both our club and our membership. Cathy McCallum is moving from being our current vice president to president, a smooth transition, as Cathie will have completed a solid year of mentoring by our current president, Barbara Miller. Thelma Slocum is bravely stepping into the vice president role. Kay Sheahan and Ray Garcia will be continuing a second year in the positions they were elected to. Both are extremely conscientious, detail-oriented people, qualities you desire in the Secretary and Treasurer roles.

During the nominating process, the committee initiated the following:

Contacted current officers to assess their willingness to serve a second year.

Reviewed the FFNC Membership Roster to assess membership involvement in recent years.

Reviewed the 2015 Membership Survey to see which members indicated a desire to serve.

Contacted members under consideration for office to assess their willingness to serve, if elected.

Discussed and finalized a slate of officers to present to the FFNC Board; the members of the nominating committee were unanimous in approving these four nominees.

Please congratulate our 2017 officers for their selection and for their willingness to serve our FFNC.

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR

2016 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

September 9-29 Inbound
Peaks to Plains Global Exchange
 Exchange Director: Marilyn Garner
 493-4137 garner.marilyn@gmail.com

October 2-5
FFI International World Conference
Marrakech, Morocco

October 12-17 Outbound San Diego
(full, thanks)

September 2017 Inbound
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Exchange Director Needed

Ireland!!! Outbound
Exchange Director Needed

*We travel not to escape life,
 but for life not to escape us.*

Greeters/Hospitality:

Willie Westdorp 667-6525
Rosemary Donovan 669-8818
Elle Barr 204-9722
Dennis Miller 667-7730

Ways & Means: Dick Johnsen & Larry Clark

484-2666 RNEjohnsen@aol.com
 669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com

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 Ed Brigden, Cindy Paulson**

Music: Larry Clark & Rosemary Donovan

Audit Committee: Debby Jones & Dennis Miller

Tablecloth Manager: Kay Sheahan

President: Barbara Miller

667-7330 bmill4708@comcast.net

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223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

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Store: Debby Jones

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Historian: Cheryl Stevens

231-4392 cheryl2204@msn.com

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Cheyenne & Northern Colorado Picnic



Our annual picnic with the Cheyenne Friendship Force will be on **Sunday, August 14th from 1:00-4:00 pm**. It will be in a **different location** this year. We will be at the Holliday Park Picnic Shelter near the tennis courts and the Big Boy Steam Engine. The address is 1121 East Lincolnway. Coming in on I-25, take **exit 8D** to merge onto I-80 E toward Sidney/Omaha. After 2.5 miles, take **exit 362** to US-85/I-180 toward Central Ave/Greeley. **Turn left** onto I-180/I-25BL/US-85N. Go 1.1 miles (over the viaduct) and **turn right** onto E 16th St/E Lincolnway. After .5 mile, **turn left onto Morrie Ave**. Then turn right into the park and go as far as you can to the far parking lot. You will see the shelter, tennis courts, and steam engine. You have arrived!

The Cheyenne club will provide chicken, drinks, and tableware, and their members will bring salads/sides. The **FFNC (that's us!) club is to provide desserts, chips, and rolls**.

Please RSVP to Judy Flatley (970-223-1037 or flatleyjl@msn.com) so that she can give the approximate number to Sue Eatmon by August 5th. If you would like to carpool, please let Judy know, as s

Upcoming Exchanges

We still have three exchanges left in 2016!

There are 10 members participating in the Outbound Stratford St Mary's Exchange July 18-25, 2016. Christine Hall, at 970-402-0433, or christinehallep@aol.com, is the ED.

Our portion of the Peaks to Plains inbound is September 12-15, 2016.

Marilyn Garner 970-493-4137 garner.marilyn@gmail.com

Thelma Slocum 970-223-9855 thelmaslocum@comcast.net

We are in the process of assigning ambassadors to hosts, so if you meant to sign up to get acquainted with one or more of the 21 Ambassadors coming to visit us, please give Marilyn or Thelma a call. We can use backup hosts as well as small group dinner hosts. You are also welcome to sign up on the waiting list for possible openings on the Extension September 21 to 29th which includes Grand Junction and Salt Lake City clubs. Read about it on our website: <http://ffncolo.com/exchanges.html>

See page 3 for information about our San Diego outbound, October 12-17.

As for 2017, we are still working on an outbound exchange, since our Germany assignment from FFI fell through.

We encourage you to go to the FFI website and check out exchanges that you might be interested in and then call a couple friends and get them to join you in a "Choose Your Own Adventure" exchange. There's a humanitarian exchange in Kenya in February and a biking adventure in Belgium in April. Also you could see Morocco in April, and in June, you could travel to Armenia and Georgia! Check it out with this link: http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/all_list/

Marilyn Garner