



**March
2014**

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

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE**

March Meeting Kiel, Germany Exch.	2
February meeting	3
Regional Conference	4
Mabel Refer Benson Park Garden Mbr. Manual Updates	5
Regional Rep News Mtn. States Clubs	6
Exchange Calendar Officers & Chairs	7
Mtn. Club Exchanges FFNC Newsletters	8

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



First, the GREAT news! FFI has offered us the Napier, New Zealand Club as our Inbound proposal and Causeway Coast, UK (Northern Ireland) for our 2015 Outbound Exchange. Of course, I accepted with the board's enthusiastic approval. We are very lucky. This is what FFI added to the UK invitation:

Congratulations! You have been assigned to a Priority Destination - a highly sought-after destination for 2015. If you accept this exchange, your program coordinator will work with you to ensure that the exchange is full. This will require following an earlier exchange planning schedule and possibly listing the exchange on the FFI catalog. Your club requested a two-week exchange to one of the most highly requested regions for 2015. Friendship Force International is pleased to announce that your club has been selected for an exchange to this region, however due to the high demand for this area of the world it can be for only one week of hosting, to one club. Most clubs in this situation usually tour for a second week in the region. You can also request to be put on our waiting list. If a week becomes available, we will contact you.

Hopefully in March we will get an email that states "It's a Match!"

THERE IS NO BAD NEWS. March will be a great month including our annual World Friendship Day celebration. We will have a pot-luck dinner at 6pm. Bring your best international dishes to share. Table service and drinks will be provided. If you have exotic costumes from your travels, please wear them to add to the festivities. This is a good meeting to bring guests. A short program will follow.

Membership and Mentoring Chairs, Cindy Paulson and Thelma Slocum, will be welcoming new members at a social on March 7. If you are interested in "mentoring" a new member, call Cindy or Thelma.

Lots of thanks to Mary Lou Selch who will be taking over the job of Historian from Ken Weaver. You will see the work of the Historians displayed. Thanks to Debby Jones and Charlie Cihfield for volunteering to audit the club financials. Thanks to the teachers who met with Dot Cada to support her in a possible project in Myanmar. And thanks to all of you who make the meetings go more smoothly with setting up, taking down chairs, arranging the sound system and seeing to the needs of other members.

In Friendship, *Marilyn Garner*

Next Meeting
March 14, 2014
6:00 PM
World Friendship Day
First Christian Church
2000 N Lincoln Ave.
Loveland, CO

MARCH 14 MEETING—WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY

Put March 14 on your calendar! Our annual World Friendship Day celebration will start at **6:00 pm** at First Christian Church, 2000 N. Lincoln in Loveland, our regular meeting place. This potluck is the opportunity for you to show off your cooking skills with your best International recipe. Please bring a label to identify your dish as well as the recipe if you'd like to share it. Table Service and drinks will be provided. Come and bring a guest. There will be a short program. Esther Johnsen is organizing a meeting to solidify plans. We can always use an extra set of hands, so if you are willing to help, please call Esther.

Marilyn Garner

EXCHANGE TO KIEL, GERMANY & EXTENSION CRUISE/TOUR MAY 21-JUNE 8, 2014

Plans are firming up for the May 21-June 8, 2014 Kiel, Germany exchange and extension cruise to Norway and Sweden. At our first ambassador planning meeting on January 24, we welcomed new FFNC member and exchange participant Karen Elliott, who had come from Nevada to stay with member Cheryl Stevens for a few days. We are very close to finalizing our maximum number of ambassadors, but we welcome new sign-ups to be on the waiting list. Please check out www.ffncolo.com for more specific details on this active exchange, or call Marcia at 970-215-8632 or Cindy at 970-225-2252.



Marcia Ross



FEBRUARY MEETING—JEWELS OF CENTRAL EUROPE



Program Presenters

Led by our own pioneer Cinda Clark, 27 ambassadors embarked on a fall tour through Central Europe, enjoying the rich history, incredible architecture and scenic beauty of the region. Participants shared a glimpse into their journey at our February FFNC meeting. Viewing photos from the

Czech Republic, we were treated to an overview of beautiful and historic sites in the capital such as the Prague Castle, the Charles Bridge, Wenceslas Square, and the world's oldest astronomical clock, constructed in 1410. Just outside Prague, the group toured the eerily artistic Kutna' Hora Skull Chapel (Bone Church, 1870) decorated with the bones of up to 40,000 people. They stopped at the beautiful fairy-tale-like Karlstejn Castle, built between 1348-1368 by the King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV as a place of safe-keeping for the crown jewels. Moving on, the group visited Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Poland, and witnessed the somber history of the unimaginable atrocities suffered by the prisoners of war. From there the group traveled to Krakow, Poland, to visit the historic Royal Salt Mines, which house an amazing array of hundreds of galleries of art works, underground chapels and statues sculpted into the salt. Some energetic ambassadors even walked the 380 steps down into the mine, but all rode back up on the elevator!



Joann Winegardner

Next the group travel to Banska' Bystrica, the most important historical, cultural and economic center in Central Slovakia. They visited a magnificent World Heritage Carpathian Wooden Church, where the structure in its entirety was constructed of wood and held together by wood pegs. This was followed by a stop in Budapest, the capital city of Hungary. They viewed the largest outdoor ice rink in Europe, massive ornamental and historic stone structures and many impressive sculptures of various former rulers. North of Budapest, the stops included the small village of St. Andrews for a tour of a diamond factory . Some even did a little shopping. A traditional Hungarian meal followed, complete with entertainment by a gypsy band and folk dancers.

As guests of the FF Bratislava, Slovakia, the group enjoyed a homestay in the capital city, toured the modernized castle which houses the royal residence, walked the beautiful old cobbled streets and attended a local Cabbage Festival. They got spectacular photos of the 13th Century Devin Castle ruins, located at the confluence of the Danube and Morava Rivers.

From there the group headed to their last major destination, beautiful Vienna, Austria. On a city tour, they saw the splendid Belvedere Palace Grounds and viewed one of the most notable pieces of sculpture, the Plague Column (which celebrated the end of the Great Plague of Vienna in 1679). Too, they saw the amazing St. Stephens Cathedral with its incredibly tall steeple and visited the Imperial Treasury, which houses a vast collection of royal garments and religious artifacts plus the Austrian Crown Jewels, dating from the 10th to the 19th century.

Through beautiful photos and interesting stories, the Jewels of Central Europe ambassadors shared a delightful overview of their experiences. Cinda completed the presentation with a poignant tribute to the contributions and companionship of a very special ambassador from the group, the late Ed Jakubauskas, on his last FF journey.

Marcia Ross

REGIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA—MAY 2-4

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Salt Lake City, Utah

Little America Hotel

May 2nd, 3rd & 4th

Friday, May 2nd

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Registration at Little America Hotel

4:30 – 6:00 90 minute city tour – free for those registered for conference - \$20 guests
Board the bus in front of the hotel – bus will return to the hotel after the tour where you can have dinner.
Or, the bus will drop you downtown so you can visit the new City Creek Mall and have dinner downtown.
Volunteers will help you find the Trax train to come back to the hotel.

Saturday, May 3rd

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
Mix and enjoy posters with information about each club

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and introductions of club officers by Kathy Howarth, Moderator for Conference, Longtime member of Utah FF and past President

9:30 – 10:15 Presentation by FFI President Joy Di Benedetto

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:15 **Workshop #1**– “Promotion and Publicity” by Denice Wheeler
Author & Lecturer & former Utah FF President

11:15 – 12:00 **Workshop #2** – “Photography” by Keith Hill
Member of Utah FF and Pres. Wasatch Photo Club

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch provided by Little America

1:30 – 2:15 **Workshop #3** – “Membership Development” by Margret Boes-Ingraham
President of Utah FF and her committee

2:15 – 2:30 Break

2:30 – 3:15 **Workshop #4** – “Packing & Travel Tips” by Becky Hale
Travel Specialist from Travel Outfitters

3:15 – 4:15 Wrap-up – Discussion and opportunity for FFI President Joy DiBenedetto to answer questions

5:30 – 6:30 Social – cash bar

6:30 Closing Banquet and entertainment

Sunday, May 4th

9:00 a.m. Meet at the Tabernacle on Temple Square for the Mormon Tabernacle Broadcast

9:30 Temple Square tour for those who are interested

Pick up by hosts for those who choose to stay on for two or three days with Utah FF Club hosts

Visit our website, ffncolo.com, for the Conference flyer, Conference schedule and the registration form. See **Regional** for the flyer and schedule, and click on **Forms** for the Conference Registration Form.

MABEL REFER—94 YEARS YOUNG



Mabel Refer, a long-time FFNC member in good standing, recently celebrated her 94th birthday. She was recognized with a “Happy Birthday” and best wishes at the February meeting.

Although Mabel does not travel great distances any longer, she still attends most of our monthly meetings. She holds many wonderful memories of the years that she and her husband spent living and traveling overseas.

At any coming meeting, be sure to engage Mabel in a conversation about her travels and experiences abroad. You are in for a treat!

OUR FFNC BENSON PARK GARDEN

Regardless of the fact that March came *roaring* in, there will be good garden days ahead! Even if the temperature reads 6° this morning, weeds will sprout soon in our adopted Friendship Force garden in the Sculpture Park. Please mark your calendars for the following dates this spring.

- April 19 Initial Clean Up and Assessment
- April 26 Possible Plant Division Day
- May 10 First Weeding Session
- June 7 All Volunteer Day To Spread Mulch and Plant New Sets



Rumor has it that we have an all-new Bindweed Killer Recipe that doesn't impact surrounding plants!! Now that's reason enough to grab your garden bucket and join the crew on the east entry of Benson Park in Loveland.



MEMBERSHIP MANUAL UPDATE DEADLINE—MAY 25

Updates for our FFNC Membership Manual were distributed at the February meeting to all manual owners.

With many new members and current members submitting personal information changes, another update will be warranted in a few months. If you have new information or a picture (or do not think that your current picture does you justice), please **notify me by May 25**. I shall make the appropriate changes and additions.



The Member Manual, a project undertaken in 2005, has now grown to a club resource that weighs in at 130 pages. For a copy, see or **contact Debby Jones at the FFNC Store** on each meeting night. On sale for \$20, the manual includes free updates thereafter. Get to the head of the line; then you can choose your favorite color binder.

Ed Brigden

MTN. STATE FIELD REP NEWS

Mountain States Region

6 Clubs

423 Members

FFI's Exchange Assignments for 2015 were sent to club presidents in February. Cheyenne was among the clubs who received no International or Domestic Exchange. Where does that leave a club? FFI encourages clubs to get in touch with Kristen Harrison, the new staff member who will be taking over the planning position, to let her know of our plans. Actions include: join another club's Exchange, find a domestic exchange, or be placed on a waiting list. In May a new survey will be sent out to clubs for domestic exchanges. Clubs will fill out the surveys about where they would like to travel, how many potential Ambassadors, and number of Exchanges. Canada is considered an international destination.

A new membership survey will be sent the middle of April. Joy DiBenedetto needs all members to complete the survey and get it back to Pallie Savoie by July so that FFI strategic planning includes the responses of the entire membership. Clubs are encouraged to clean up their data bases and submit names to Pallie before April so that all current members receive the survey.

For Outbound Exchanges, clubs are encouraged to offer available slots to their members first, then to members of our regional clubs before opening up the travel to FFI. We seek the largest Friendship Force Family possible. Joy reported on negotiations with twenty world airlines who will be discussing contracts with FFI.

The participants in the Conference Call also discussed a "template" for building a web-site for clubs. Those in the region are encouraged to check with clubs who now have a web-site. Only 120 of all clubs (1/3) have a web-site.

We also discussed World Friendship Day. I mentioned our Cheyenne "Get-Acquainted With FF" after hours on March 3 at Laramie County Library (with scrapbooks, keepsakes, finger foods and friendship opportunities). It is our first step in building up our membership. How about other clubs? Perhaps you have an idea you would like to share before we all get together in Salt Lake City— OUR CONFERENCE WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU.

Barbara Guilford—FF Cheyenne

REMEMBER OUR SISTER MTN. STATES CLUBS

As Barbara mentioned in the article above, 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 to join the 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, fncolo.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; only the most current issue will be available on our website.

Currently selections include newsletters from the Denver, the Pikes Peak (Colorado Springs) and the Western Colorado (Grand Junction) clubs. As others become available, they will be added.

Ed Brigden

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR

2
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1
4

Myanmar Feb 20—Mar 5

Dot Cada 667-7548
dotcada@yahoo.com

Mtn. States Reg. Conference May 2-4
Salt Lake City

Kiel, Germany May 21—June 9
& Cruise/Tour

Marcia Ross 377-0512
Cindy Paulson 225-2252

Curitiba, Brazil August
Inbound

Debby Jones 686-0303

St. Louis, MO 5 nights TBD,
between Sept 21—Oct 4

Alice Gibson 310-8848

FFI International Conference

Auckland, NZ October 14—16

Registration available online with FFI

2
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1
5

Harrisburg, PA Fall
Inbound

ED Needed

FFI International Conference

Vancouver, BC, Canada TBA

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Miller, Thelma Slocum, Marion Sparks

MOUNTAIN CLUBS' EXCHANGES

Oregon Outbound—with FF Western Colorado

FFWC is joining Baton Rouge to fill an exchange to Willamette Valley, Oregon from **July 7—14**. There will be an optional overnight trip to the Oregon coast. More information on numbers, agenda, cost and contacts will be forthcoming.

Connecticut and NYC Outbound—with FF Western Colorado

FFWC (Western Colorado) has a confirmed outbound Exchange to Connecticut from **October 5—11**. Plans include: foliage tour (including corn maze); Winery tour; State capitol tour; Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art (oldest in US); Norman Rockwell Museum; Sturbridge Village (Colonial village); Mashantucket Pequot Indian Museum; Mark Twain House and museum.

An optional second week from **October 12—18** will take the group to New York City. EDs are currently checking hotel rates, Broadway plays, and tours of historical landmarks in the City.

EDs Sue Palmer 970-260-4653 alfshouse12@hotmail.com
Nancy Galbraith

Hamilton & Wairarapa, New Zealand—FF Denver

Join the Denver FF club for an outbound exchange to New Zealand: Home-stays in Hamilton and Wairarapa and an 8-day tour of the South Island. Arranged from **September 18—October 13**, prior to the FF annual Convention in Auckland.

For a trip of that distance and time, arrive early and enjoy the Kiwi culture, friendliness and countryside prior to the Convention festivities.

EDs Anita Smith anita.smith22@gmail.com

Mispah, South Africa—FF Utah

Check out this opportunity to visit FF Mispah (near Cape Town) South Africa from **October 13—20** with planned side trips. EDs Nona Bressler 801-261-1561 don_nona@comcast.net and Lotti Wann.

QUOTE FROM THE LATE ED JAKUBAUSKAS

“While governments conduct diplomacy and businesses are involved in trade and commerce, individual citizens can build friendships across cultures and nations and most importantly, each individual can make a difference in this turbulent world of ours. Our experience has led us to believe that while nations and cultures present a variety of models for living, there is an untapped “core of goodness” and goodwill that awaits development. It is very difficult to wage war with countries where you have friends in Friendship Force who have visited your local community and stayed in your home.”

Ed Jakubauskas at 2nd World Friendship Day