



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO

FRIENDSHIP FLYER



March
2015

Cindy Paulson—Editor & Publisher

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

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Gary Cummins

The February meeting was lively, and we were certainly not lacking for goodies to munch on while we proceeded with our activities. Once again we enjoyed the company of friends, experienced a wonderful program about Compass USA, and we welcomed Don and Mary Nelson as new club members. Thanks to those who returned the survey feedback form. I'll be collating that data and sharing the results soon.

2016 Exchange Matches from FFI: Our inbound exchange will be in June 2016 with Greater Hamilton and Burlington, Canada. The outbound match will be in October 2016 with our club traveling to Stratford-Saint Mary's, Canada.

We received disappointing news that the inbound Kiel exchange for May has been cancelled due to low numbers.

On March 13 we will be celebrating World Friendship Force Day in place of our regular meeting. Barbara Miller and her committee are planning a wonderful event with special table and room setups, a variety of world foods, international decorations, some international dress (come in your favorite outfit), and a superb program. You won't want to miss this event, and I strongly encourage you to invite someone to come with you who might be interested in learning more about FFNC. We'll also have some excellent FF testimonials that are being customized to highlight the specialness of FF involvement.

We had a very productive board meeting in February. The 2015 budget and goals were approved, programs have been planned through April, our membership roster has been updated, and our 2015 exchange planning is going well.

Our Global Exchange for the Front Range was officially approved and now has a date of September 9-21, 2016. It's exciting to see Kay Thomas' idea come to fruition. Many thanks to Kay for the time and effort she has expended to make this project a reality. Nancy Brigden and Kay are continuing to plan and coordinate this event with representatives from the other participating Front Range clubs. Marilyn Garner will serve as the ED for the FFNC portion of this exchange.

We still have a good number of our members needing to renew their annual dues. If you aren't sure of your dues status, please contact Thelma Slocum.

Well, I've survived my first FFNC meeting as your president! Just before our closing song, I shared this thought with our group, "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice." Sounds like Friendship Force people to me! [I'll see you all on March 13, 2015 at 6 p.m. for our International Potluck, & WFD celebration!](#)

Next Meeting:
March 13
6:00 Potluck &
World Friendship
Day Celebration

First Christian
Church
2000 N Lincoln Ave.
Loveland, CO



WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY MARCH 13, 2015

CHANGING THE
WAY YOU SEE
THE WORLD

Friendship Force of Northern Colorado will celebrate World Friendship Day at 6 pm on Friday, March 13, with an international potluck dinner and activities at First Christian Church 2000 N. Lincoln, Loveland.

Members will bring **main dishes** and **side dishes** with an ethnic flare, as we enjoy the cultural diversity gained from worldwide travel. Our dessert will be a World Friendship Day cake. Members are invited to wear international clothing, display scrapbooks, artwork, on-line books, and souvenirs from their travels.

Interesting things learned through Friendship Force travels will be shared by several members of the club. It should be an entertaining evening. Please come and enjoy... **bring a friend!** This dinner/meeting is a great way to introduce potential new members to our club and its mission!



Our program will include presentations about humanitarian and medical mission travel to Guatemala. See specifics in the article below.

Barbara Miller, WFD Coordinator

MARCH 13 PROGRAM—GUATEMALA

The program for our March 13 FFNC meeting and celebration of World Friendship day will include a presentation by Dr. Robert Kron, a dentist and longtime Habitat leader who has made many trips to Guatemala. Dr. Kron has also served on several medical missions to the country.

Paulette Weaver, who worked on two Habitat for Humanity builds in Guatemala will share her experiences.

Ed and Nancy Brigden will report about their recent exchange with the February All-USA Mission Exchange to the Guatemala Highlands.



KIEL INBOUND CANCELLED

Unfortunately, FF Kiel has decided they must cancel their scheduled May 2015 visit to N. Colorado due to a lack of ambassadors available to travel at this time. We hope to be able to reschedule the exchange with our friends from Kiel at sometime in the future.

Those who were planning to help with the Kiel exchange are encouraged to **contact Barbara Miller to offer assistance with the inbound San Diego exchange June 5-11.**

COMPASS USA

FFNC FEB. 13 MEETING PROGRAM REPORT

Compass USA is based in Northglenn, CO. Julie Togbe, a middle school foreign languages teacher in Loveland and Jessica Cummings who works in the office of Compass USA in Northglenn presented our program.

The homestay philosophy is an appreciation of one's culture. It was started in 2000 by a group of experienced homestay colleagues to provide educational opportunities for youth and adults. Living inside a foreign culture is key to international understanding. Compass USA offers group homestays involving cultural and academic experiences in a 10 day to 4 weeks time frame. They also provide individual home stays immersed in culture. Students attend a local high school for 3 months, living and learning about that country. They may have private tutors in the language, go to sports camps, be home schooled, and learn leadership skills. Students from France, Spain, Japan and China, as well as US states: Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, Utah, Missouri, & Texas.



Julie Togbe



Jessica Cummings

A scholarship program called AILI was started in 2009 to provide opportunities to deserving American and international students. Families who have hosted a foreign student may apply for AILI. 68 scholarships have been awarded so far.

During the summer of 2014, a group from Spain came to Loveland to share their culture and language and to learn about the US culture. No matter where you are on earth there are friends to be made no matter how many miles separate you. These experiences bring the world closer one student at a time.

Thelma Slocum, Reporter

FFNC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of February 13, we have 59 paid members. If everyone rejoins we will have a 2015 membership of 97. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership by mailing your \$35 check to:

Thelma Slocum; 5025 Bluestem Ct.; Ft. Collins, CO 80525

New members for 2015 are:

Lannie Christensen from Thornton – was a member of FF Central AZ for 8 years

Burt Coleman from Durango

Dell Manners Early Childhood Special Education teacher from Durango

Barbara Moore from Loveland – HR manager who loves to hike, bike, travel, entertain

Phyllis Scott a retired teacher from Loveland who likes grandkids, travel, reading and theater

David McClain from Sterling, CO

Don and Mary Nelson from Loveland



EXCHANGE TO MYANMAR

MARCH 20-APRIL 4, 2015

DOT CADA, ED



Our club is the mentoring club for Myanmar Friendship Partners. The trip to teach at Aung San Suu Kyi's Education Network schools is the result of the "pilot" 6 of us did in January of 2014. This trip has 16 strong ambassadors including lawyers, social workers, financial planners, a theatrical production manager, a Harvard administrator for foreign students and eleven professional teachers. All will teach conversational English at a very poor rural monastery near Yangon in the small community of Dali. This will be their first exposure to native English speakers from Australia (5), New Zealand (2) and the USA (9) for these middle school level students. Each team of 2 is developing their own curriculum based on the goal of helping students to acquire practical conversational English, and to feel confident to speak English. The students can read English, but they have no speaking experience what-so-ever.

Volunteer teachers from the Edu Network and interns from the Diplomatic School will be involved in this project. There are two new language schools started by our former interns. Students learn by rote and we give them just a taste of critical thinking in the games and activities. All love it!

So, I will see you all at the March 13 World Friendship Day meeting and then off to Myanmar. March 21 begins our 8 days of teaching, followed by 7 days of touring in Bagan and Inle Lake with an extension to Mandalay and Maymo-old British Hill station. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers during our time in Myanmar where we hope to make a real difference, as we help students to acquire conversational skills in English, the international language of business.



FRIENDSHIP IN ACTION: GUATEMALA EXCHANGE

NANCY & ED BRIGDEN



You won't believe the amazing amount of donations you have supplied for the "Friendship in Action" journey to Guatemala! We have now packed 27 pairs of athletic shoes in child and adult sizes. Other donations include over 100 tubes of toothpaste, an assortment of dental floss, about 75 toothbrushes, and more than 30 pairs of reading glasses. Then there are the stacks and stacks of children's books including a Loveland Rotary dictionary with great pictures and graphics to help with language learning. For the schools that we will visit we also have pencils, boxes and boxes of crayons, markers, pens, and colored pencils.



Thanks to each of you who have been so generous for the upcoming special service group project. Sixteen, including 2 Canadians, will go to the Guatemala highlands. We will visit 1) Lavoisi School for the Deaf; 2) a home for the elderly, Hogar Casa Maria, where many of the residents previously worked at the dump until no longer physically able; and 3) two other schools - all near Antigua and all serving indigenous Mayans.

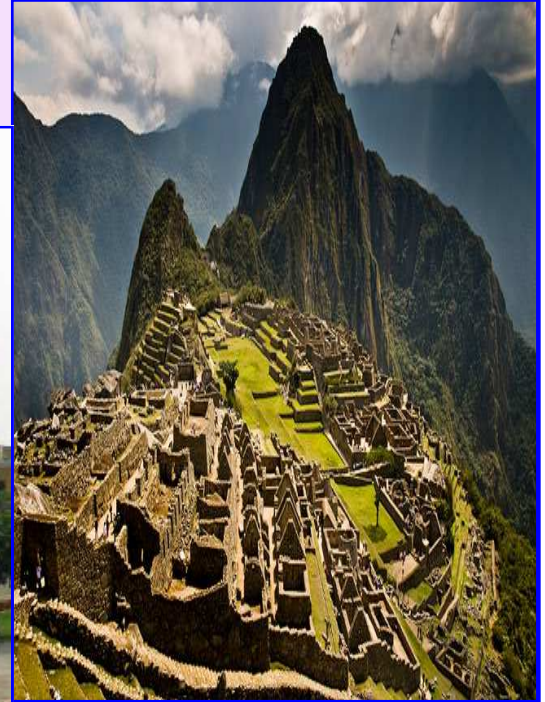
LAST CALL FOR PERU JULY 8-30, 2015

It's not too late to apply for this Peru Exchange & tour. We can accept five more ambassadors. We will be leaving on July 8, and returning on July 30. We'll have two home stays, in Lima and Trujillo, and a tour of the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu. The cost is \$3500 plus international air. Refer to our FF Northern Colorado website (Exchanges) [ffncoloro.com] for a multi-page flyer with the full itinerary.

Contact Alice Gibson at 970 310-8848 aligibsc@gmail.com



Plaza de Armas in Trujillo, Peru



Machu Picchu



Lima, Peru

MTN. STATE FIELD REP NEWS

Sandy Gourdine, Florida, queried Field Directors in early February about club reimbursements and compensations for ED's, home hosts, day hosts or dinner party hosts. I replied on behalf of our Region. Comments were returned to Sandy who collated the comments. Presidents or others wanting these comments can get in touch with me and I will forward the file after February 26.

I will be traveling February 19 to 25 to Phoenix. Minutes of the February 19 Conference Call will be available February 26.

Please let me know what your club is planning for World Friendship Day. Cheyenne FF is having an International Dinner and inviting the International Students from Laramie County Community College. (See page 2 for N. Colorado plans)

I would also like to know names of club members who are registered for the Vancouver conference.

Cooperation continues with Regional clubs in regard to the Plains to Peaks International Exchange in 2016. 2015 Exchanges are beginning to unfold with exciting visits to great destinations around the world. Listing in FF catalog seems to be working. Try something new! Then remember to -- "Look Up" as 2015 has been designated as the International Year of Light!

Barbara Guilford, Field Representative, Mountain States

SAN DIEGO INCOMING EXCHANGE: JUNE 5-11, 2015

BARBARA MILLER, ED

The San Diego exchange planning team met in February and continued planning and preparation for an interesting and fun-filled week with the 25 ambassadors for the FFNC visit (7 couples & 11 singles).

SMALL GROUP DINNER HOSTS are needed. Please call BJ Demersseman (970-303-0267) to volunteer to host a dinner at your home or assist with a dinner. We are scheduling small group dinners for two evenings, Saturday, June 6 and Wednesday, June 11. These do not need to be fancy dinners! Our joy is being together meeting new people...not just eating! This is a wonderful way to help when you are unable to home host an ambassador.



There are numerous opportunities to help with the many exchanges happening in 2015, so plan to be a part of all of them! **YOU** are needed! Call ASAP so we know the help available.

Barbara Miller, 667-7330
San Diego In-bound ED

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR

Myanmar (Burma) Mar 20—Apr 4
Outbound
 Dot Cada dotcada@yahoo.com

San Diego, CA June 5—11
Inbound
 Barbara Miller 667-7330

Lima, Peru July 8—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

Hamilton/Burlington, Canada
Inbound June 2016

Peaks to Plains Global Sept. 9-21, 2016
Inbound to Mt. States regional clubs
 FFNC Exchange Dir: Marilyn Garner
 Coordinator: Kay Thomas

San Diego, CA Dates TBD
Outbound ED Needed

Stratford-St. Mary's, Canada Oct. 2016
Outbound

FFI International Conference
 Marrakech, Morocco October 2—5

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 226-1902 pjselch@hotmail.com

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 Rosemary Donovan 669-8818

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 667-4473 kay6568@peoplepc.com

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MOUNTAIN CLUBS' EXCHANGES

Biarritz, France—FF Denver

Join the wait list for this intriguing cultural Exchange from **April 28—May 15** with FF Denver.

Nineteen of the twenty four group members have opted to go on the week-long extension tour to 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 **October-November** to Oklahoma City, OK and then on for a second week in Fort Worth, TX .

Contact Dan Hannaway through the FFPP website at friendshipforcepikespeak.com.