



May  
2013

**Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland, Windsor and Surrounding Areas**

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**FROM OUR PRESIDENT**



Greetings to everyone, and here's hoping May will bring more sunshine and some good soaking rain, but no more snow!!

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who sent cards, emails, texts, prayers, phone calls, supportive thoughts, flowers and memorial contributions during my trials with the passing of both my mother and father this past month. Your kindness, concern and sympathy have given me comfort and strength as I work through these challenging events.

We have some busy times ahead as a club (but that's nothing new!). Kay Thomas and the outbound Harrisburg, PA ambassadors are all set to depart May 1, the Ramble group members (including the Brigdens, the Weavers, and Marcia) are gearing up for their hiking excursion in Wales beginning May 9, and Anne Brown and committee are busy putting the finishing touches on the inbound Willamette Valley Oregon exchange June 12-18. Anne could still use some help with home hosting and day hosting, so please strongly consider volunteering, and contact her immediately if you are available. Our **June 14<sup>th</sup> FFNC meeting** will be during that exchange, so please plan to attend and participate in the **6:30 p.m. potluck supper**. That will also be the big night for our **RAFFLE!!**

Several members have already donated wonderful, interesting items for the raffle, but the rest of you are still encouraged to donate! Please deliver your donations to Marilyn Garner before May 10, or bring your items to the May meeting. **We must have all of the donations to display at the May meeting!** Remember, 2/3 of the proceeds go to the FFI Legacy Fund, and 1/3 will stay in our own FFNC Special Projects and Activities fund. Tickets will be sold at both the May and June meetings: \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Let's make this project a huge success!

Thank you to VP Marilyn Garner for stepping up to lead the April and May meetings and much more in my absence. Also many thanks to Betty Jean for orchestrating the rewarding "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" events. I am grateful for such positive support from so many of our club members.

*Marcia Ross*

*Next Meeting*  
**May 10, 2013**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Myanmar**

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

## UPCOMING EXCHANGES

**HARRISBURG, PA**

**MAY 1—8**

**OUTBOUND**

This Exchange to Harrisburg from May 1 - 8 is full, with a wait list. Congrats to you early birds!

Harrisburg is the Capital of Pennsylvania and is located near Gettysburg, Hershey and Lancaster, in the midst of Amish Country and near the Appalachian Trail.

**EXCHANGE DIRECTOR**

**Kay Thomas 278-9054**

**[KThomasLvInd@comcast.net](mailto:KThomasLvInd@comcast.net)**

**MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON**

**JUNE 12-18, 2013**

**INBOUND**

Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley Ambassadors, 14-strong, will arrive on June 12. We have planned a schedule that highlights our area well—including Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland and Estes Park. The Oregon Ambassadors will join us at our FFNC meeting on June 12.

**Please call to fill our need for hosts, day hosts, and dinner hosts, and other volunteers.**

**EXCHANGE DIRECTORS**

**Anne Brown 663-3727**

**Nita Koplyay 613-2066**



**PENTICTON-OKANAGAN**

**SEPTEMBER 4-11, 2013**

**INBOUND**

Mark your calendar for the Penticton-Okanagan Exchange from Canada to be held September 4-11, 2013. For information or to volunteer to help out, contact Barbara Miller at [bmill4708@comcast.net](mailto:bmill4708@comcast.net) or by phone at 970-667-7330.



## MAY 10TH MEETING — MYANMAR



Min ga la bar,

This is a Burmese greeting for any time of day. On May 10th, during our evening program, you will be able to see Tanaka faces of these gentle and kind people. Also, we have the faces of people who want to start Friendship Force Clubs in Yangon, Mandalay, and Bagan, and even at Lake Inle. The program we did in these locations stressed the equality of all people and the desire to join together in partnership to make the clubs.

Due to the many needs in this Frontier Society and the willingness by some of the 23 Ambassadors that went on the trip from the U.S., Canada, England and Australia, ambassadors are approaching their club's Board of Directors to see if their club can be mentors also. In discussions, with the ambassadors and the promoter in Yangon Tin Aung Moe, and the evident

willingness to do so, it was decided to form two mentoring clubs for each location. Time will tell if clubs in Texas, California, and , as well as Australia, will be able to add this effort. Adalaide, Australia is already mentoring in Greece and Albania.

You will get a glimpse of why there is such an outpouring to mentor and be mentored at our May 10th meeting. Hope to see you then! However, if you absolutely cannot make that program, there will be a presentation at the Loveland Public Library in the Gertrude Stein room at 6:30 on Tuesday, May 14. Anyone interested in a follow-up trip next February can contact me at [DotCada@yahoo.com](mailto:DotCada@yahoo.com) or by phone at 970-667-7548.

More at [www.burmesefriendship.wordpress.com](http://www.burmesefriendship.wordpress.com)



## APRIL 12TH MEETING - PURA VIDA FROM COSTA RICA



shared many facets of the culture of these warm, friendly, peaceful people. Memories of visiting, eating, and dancing will be theirs for years to come.

There was much to learn, and learn they did, as they explored

cloud forests, rain forests, volcanos, butterfly sanctuaries, a national park, ancient ruins, coffee plantations, a sugar cane factory, the ocean, a chayote plantation, parks, a small family dairy, churches, a pineapple plantation, great local restaurants, intriguing plant and animal life on land and river, hot springs, and soooo much more.

Ah...I have not mentioned the numerous souvenir shops that people just couldn't stay away from, and took full advantage of, whenever possible. The color, the beauty, the tastes, and the warmth of this unique country was delightful!

Put it on your Bucket List.

*Donna Clark*

### Pura Vida!

Yes, life was good for the 26 Friendship Force members who ventured to Costa Rica in January from the 6th to the 22th. The weather cooperated and was so very pleasant for the entire time.

A slide show presentation at our monthly meeting allowed us to share in treasured moments of our incredible journey to this colorful country. We were entertained and educated by presentations from Cindy Paulson, Thelma Slocum, Anne Brown, Mary Lou Selch, Linda and John Giles, Barbara Miller, Anita Kopyay, Rona Baer, Brenda Wiginton and Rod McCormick. They gave us fascinating information about this small, but amazing, country.

Time spent with their new friends from Turrialba was definitely a highlight, and our ambassadors



# COMPANY FOR DINNER

Three more dinners were held in April. Special thanks to our hosts, Dick and Esther Johnsen, Richard and Suzi Gossard, and Betty Jean DeMersseman. Guests brought the total to 20 members enjoying great food and lively discussions.

So far, 48 of you have participated in Company for Dinner, and our Legacy Fund donations collected at these events total about \$ 600 so far.

The Legacy Fund has been established by Friendship Force International to use for establishing new clubs throughout the world. Fourteen clubs are in their second year of

existence, and 45 new clubs are in the planning stages (see Myanmar on page 3). The Legacy Fund also promotes the expansion of themed Exchanges and new programs, leadership for tomorrow, and efforts to promote Friendship Force globally.

Saturday, May 25, and Sunday, May 26, will be the dates for the last Company for Dinner gatherings this spring. If you'd like to participate as either host or guest, please call me at 304-0267, email me at [bettyjean1301@gmail.com](mailto:bettyjean1301@gmail.com), or sign up at the May 10th meeting.

*Betty Jean DeMersseman*



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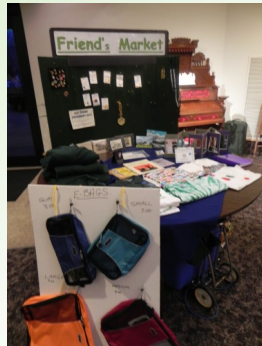


## SHOP THE STORE—E-BAGS PACKING CUBES

Wow! Check out the FFNC Store! We have a great selection of e-bags packing cubes to keep your belongings organized



inside your suitcases. We offer a great selection of sizes and colors. You can mix and match those colors and sizes.



Stock up for yourself or buy some for gifts. For travel for school, for graduations and weddings, or just to use for organization around your home. acquire some as gifts. And our prices are the best we've seen.

### Sizes and Prices:

Small	\$ 7.00	11x6.75x3"
Medium	8.00	9.75x13.75x3"
Large	9.00	12.75x17.5x3.25"

## RAFFLE COMING UP

Get your checkbooks out! Starting at the May meeting, we will be selling raffle tickets to benefit the FFI Legacy Fund and our local Special Projects and Activities fund. The raffle will be held at the June meeting. Tickets will be \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20. The proceeds will be divided; 2/3 for FFI and 1/3 for FFNC. In order to meet our goal, we hope to sell at least 150 tickets! BE GENEROUS!

So far, some of the lovely items donated are artwork and keepsakes that International travelers have brought back from Egypt, Russia, New Zealand, Myanmar and more. There are handmade craft items, artwork, and even classes, such as computer training or making a hardbound photo keepsake to immortalize your favorite exchanges. A professional massage has also been donated.

At both the May and June meetings, you will have the opportunity to put your raffle ticket(s) in the cans beside the item(s) you wish to try for. The more tickets you put in a can, the better your chance of winning. It's for a good cause, and we can have a lot of fun while we're raising money. AND you might take home a treasure. If you still have items for the raffle you wish to donate, please call Marilyn Garner at 493-4137 or email her at [garner.marilyn@gmail.com](mailto:garner.marilyn@gmail.com) BEFORE the May 10 meeting.





Registrations are flooding in for the 2013 World Conference in New Orleans, November 23 -25. More than 500 people are already registered, and only about 100 spaces are left. **So don't delay!**

Some optional events and home stays are already filling up, as are conference hotel rooms, so please contact the hotel to book your room soon. Ask for the Friendship Force discounted rate. Register soon on the conference website.

International Guests will have the opportunity to participate in an American Thanksgiving, and our Northern Colorado club has signed up as one of the host clubs for this event.

<http://www.eventbee.com/v/ffiworldconference2013>



Watch for the green arrows in your newsletter. Each of them points to something you can do, an action you can take, to participate with the group of friends that is the Friendship Force of Northern Colorado. Whatever you choose, you're guaranteed to make more friends while doing it.

#### PROGRAM CHAIR ANYONE?

Esther Johnsen has served as our Program Chair for a loooooong time, and she won't abandon us, but she'd really appreciate if someone would volunteer to help her out (at least temporarily). Of course, she'd let you try out the job for a year, too. Call Esther at 484-2666, or our president, Marcia, at 377-0512, if you'd like to know more about the job.



#### REPORT OF MOUNTAIN STATES FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

New Field Reps will join in the June Conference Call, and there will be no conference call in July. An orientation for new reps will be held in Atlanta August 7-9. It is hoped that the new CEO will participate in this meeting.

The search committee for the new FFI CEO has identified three or four candidates who are set for interviews. The committee hopes to submit a name to the Board of Directors some time during the first half of May.

There was a discussion about some kind of re-

imbursement for the Domestic Exchange EDs. Many regions felt that this is needed to get qualified EDs for these positions. Some clubs reimburse their domestic EDs at \$ 15 per Ambassador (this from the club treasury). Other domestic clubs offer domestic EDs a flat fee ,such as a \$ 300 credit toward their next travel. Co-EDs would share that. Some have a use restriction of "within 3 years." These people work hard or even harder than an outgoing ED.

*Betty DeMersseman*





## BENSON GARDEN—SPRING AND SUMMER SCHEDULE

Calling All Friendship Force Gardeners!

**Please reserve June 8<sup>th</sup>** for our all city volunteer work day at the annual Benson Sculpture Garden clean-up this year. Our first inbound ambassadors of the year will arrive in mid-June. (Great timing by the city to schedule the clean-up day, especially for our ambassadors from Oregon!) Much was done last fall, as well as at our first gardening session on April 13<sup>th</sup>. While there will be mulch to spread on June 8<sup>th</sup>, we won't need as much, so it will not take nearly as much time this year. Come help make us all proud of the garden our Friendship Force club sponsors.

You are welcome to consider pairing up with another gardener to work for an hour or two at times other than those on the schedule. As of this writing, these few tasks still need to be tackled:

- \* *dry grasses on a few big clumps need to be cut back (carefully) so that the new growth can emerge*
- \* *Russian sage stems should be cut back (see where the cut line was last year for a "go-by")*
- \* *new weeds need to be dug out before they can establish deeper roots*

Should you need guidance, give Cinda Clark a call at 669-5426. If you want a gardening buddy, just email your name to Cinda (clarksmail@msn.com), who will handle the volunteer names, and you can pair with whomever you wish. Please submit your name right away. There will be plenty of cool mornings or afternoons available.

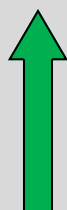
Our next scheduled work day is May 11. Even if we have teams of two working before and after those dates, please help make our club proud of our name attached to the garden, and plan to **help on June 8<sup>th</sup>**. (Note: The 8<sup>th</sup> is a change from the date in the last newsletter.)

Cinda Clark



May 11	8:30-9:30	May work date
June 8	8:00-noon	All-city volunteers work day
July 13	8:00-10:00	Weeding date
July 27	8:00-10:00	Prep for sculpture show
August 3	8:00-10:00	Prep for sculpture show
August 31	9:00-11:00	Prep for Canadian exchange
October 12	9:00-11:00	Last Fall work date

If you have not yet renewed your Friendship Force membership for this year, please mail your \$35-per-person check to:



**Thelma Slocum**  
**5025 Blue Stem Court**  
**Fort Collins, CO 80525**