



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO



Sue Cummins—Editor & Publisher

2015
May

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

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How I Got “Stuck”
in World War II

7 p.m.
Friday, May 8th
First Christian Church
2000 N. Lincoln Ave.
Loveland 80538

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,



Wow! I’m impressed. You brought seven visitors to our April meeting. And it was gratifying to hear, and to have our visitors hear, the personal experiences of experienced hosts and ambassadors Esther J., Betty Jean D., Debbie J., Sue C., Marilyn G., and Marcia R. We laughed at some of their stories, and we learned that we have some “actors” among us.

Our program, presented by Jamie Sigley of Wells Fargo, was spot on for international travelers, and it was equally useful for all of us in our daily financial transactions. We may have to have Jamie back to continue enlightening us on safe practices with our financial transactions and card management. Please remember that Jamie told us she is available to help any of us with these issues; just call her to make an appointment.

We know we take you for granted, but thank you to all who volunteer to bring food to monthly meetings for all of us to enjoy. You’re probably not helping my boyish figure, but the variety of foods you bring is always tasty. Let’s all remember to support our refreshment efforts by signing up to bring goodies to a future meeting.

Our inbound San Diego exchange is approaching, and Barbara Miller and her team have planned a wonderful agenda for our visitors. Thanks to all of you home hosts and day hosts. Sue and I have been in contact with the couple we are hosting, and they are truly looking forward to visiting Northern Colorado.

Alice Gibson tells us that there are still spaces available for the upcoming exchange to Peru. It’s going to be one of those trips of a lifetime, so if you have interest, please let Alice know as soon as possible.

Esther Johnsen is always looking for new program ideas, so if you have ideas or know about a speaker that would be good for our club, please contact Esther and give her your lead.

It’s hard to believe that May is almost here—see you at the May meeting.

Gary Cummins

HOW I GOT "STUCK" IN WORLD WAR II

OR

WE CAN DO IT: LESSONS LEARNED FROM A LIFETIME OF WORKING WITH THE GREATEST GENERATION

MAY PROGRAM BY AUTHOR TERESA FUNKE

Teresa R. Funke is the award-winning author of six works of fiction for adults and children based on true stories from World War II, including her multi-cultural series for children and her adult books *Dancing in Combat Boots* and *Remember Wake*. Her short stories, articles, and essays have appeared in numerous publications. Her blog, *Bursts of Brilliance for a Creative Life*, has led to radio appearances and speaking invitations.

Teresa is also a sought-after speaker, presenter, and writer's coach, working with clients all over the country. She is active in the community, sponsoring programs and participating in events that serve at-risk, low-income, and Hispanic children and their families, as well as veteran groups and seniors. You can learn more about Teresa at www.teresafunke.com or visit her YouTube channel, Teresa Funke, to watch her popular writing videos. Teresa is an avid traveler and is visiting her 25th country this year, Wales!



Comment from Sue Cummins: Gary and I and Esther Johnsen have all heard Teresa speak, and we had assumed that since Teresa is usually a paid speaker, we wouldn't be able to afford her. But when we contacted her, we found out that she chooses to speak for five non-profit organizations per year. She liked what she heard about Friendship Force, and she chose us as one of the five. We are honored, and we encourage you to bring visitors to the May meeting. Thanks, Esther, for pursuing this.

Nominations for 2016 Officers

Our superb Nominating Committee, chaired by Larry Clark and also including Marcia Ross and Marilyn Garner, has proposed a superb slate of officers for next year. This slate was accepted by your board at its April meeting.

President: Nita Kopyay - 970-613-2066
Vice President: Barbara Miller - 970-667-7330
Secretary: Kay Sheahan - 970-667-4473
Treasurer: Ray Garcia - 970-669-3699

Members will vote on this slate and on any other nominations (which can be made from the floor) at our June meeting. Any person nominated must have given consent.

APRIL MEETING EXCELLENT!

THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE APRIL MEETING WERE TREATED TO TWO SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS.

Members' Travel Wisdom

First, several members shared advice and wisdom about participating in exchanges.

Betty Jean encouraged us to bring something home—an impression or insight into another culture. She also reminded us to pack light and be prepared to carry our own luggage up a flight of stairs. Her suggested packing list included a positive attitude, a big smile, a willingness to participate fully, curiosity, a sense of adventure, a sense of humor, and an extra dose of patience and tolerance.

Marilyn addressed the apprehension hosts and ambassadors often feel before an exchange. She reminded us that while hosting doesn't always go as expected, it usually ends up being a great experience anyway.

Sue encouraged us to participate even when an activity might not seem fun or interesting to us. Sometimes those activities turn out to be the most memorable, and the people you meet, rather than the activities, may be the highlight of the trip.

Dick, Esther, and Doris portrayed a scary situation to illustrate the wisdom of always having names and addresses with you during your exchange. They reminded us that we can't guarantee no one will ever get lost or separated from the group, but we can be prepared in case it happens.

Debby addressed the fear of not being able to communicate in a foreign country. She advised us to bring a language guide or translator and reminded us that a smile, a hug, and a laugh is the same in any language. With several exchanges coming up, the information shared by experienced club members will help us all.

Jamie Sigley

Business Specialist, Wells Fargo

Jamie spoke to us about ways we can protect ourselves from fraud and identity theft. She became interested in the topic when her mother became the victim of identity theft and fraud after her purse was stolen. While spending countless hours and thousands of dollars trying to help her mother, Jamie developed a passion for helping others protect themselves from becoming victims.



Jamie advised us to be aware of the ways that criminals get our information and to take steps to protect our private information. She reminded us to guard our purses and wallets, to limit what we carry with us, and to make a copy of everything we carry to make it easier to take the necessary steps if our purse or wallet is stolen.

She also pointed out that our cell phones are vulnerable and that we should be careful about what information is stored on our phones. We learned about data breaches and about problems with checks, debit cards, and ATMs. Jamie suggested several steps we can take to be safer in our financial transactions. Once criminals obtain our private information, they can cause a lot of damage in only a few minutes, so prevention is the best way to protect ourselves from becoming victims of identity theft and fraud.

Diane Locke

Photos from April Meeting



Doris Rogers brought her son, Doug, and his wife, Tricia, all the way from Wisconsin.



Kay Sheahan, Nita Kopyay, and Barbara Miller



Cheryl Stevens brought two guests,



Marcia Ross brought two guests, to Pam Wolfe (new member) and Marilyn Huber.

Matt Stegeman and Kitty Greenlee



And Susan Mathre was also a first-time visitor; sorry, no photo.



48 Members and Guests Enjoyed the April Meeting. Why are so many of the men hiding in the back?

BENSON GARDEN FUN

Volunteers from The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado adopted a garden in Loveland's Benson Sculpture Park in 2011. We invite you to join us for one or all of the work sessions listed below.

Here's the upcoming schedule, Weather Permitting:

-Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. Regular Work Day

-Saturday, June 6, Tentative All-City Work Day to spread mulch and plant

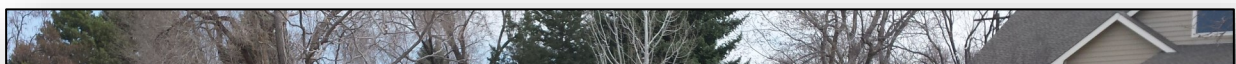
-Saturday, June 13, 9:00 a.m. Regular Work Day

The FFNC garden is on the east side of the Park just north of 29th Street at the Park's east entry. You'll know you are there when you see the fat ladies of the *They Are Waiting* Sculpture off to the right at the entry from Beech Street. There are also several signs to denote that FFNC volunteers take care of this entryway.

Crew times are flexible. Come when you can, stay for as long as you wish, but usually not for more than an hour or two. So grab your hat, tools, gloves, and a water bottle and come on out. Call Nancy Brigden at 970.352.3829 if you have a question.



Marilyn Garner, Nancy Brigden, Barb Miller, Nita Kopyay, Pam Wolfe (with Buddha), & Patti Stickler at the April work day.



NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Thanks to the membership committee and the board for researching and developing this new policy for members who would like to belong to two clubs.

Affiliate Memberships for Individuals:

Individuals who belong to another FF club and have paid that club full dues, will not pay to FFNC the \$15 that we would normally send to FFI. However, those individuals would pay FFNC half of our regular FFNC dues, or \$10, for a half-year FFNC affiliate membership. Alternately, an individual may pay dues, including FFI fees to FFNC, for half a year and then pay whatever dues the other club charges for an affiliate half-year membership. In that case, he/she will pay our club \$15 for FFI individual fees plus \$10 for half-year FFNC dues, for a total of \$25.

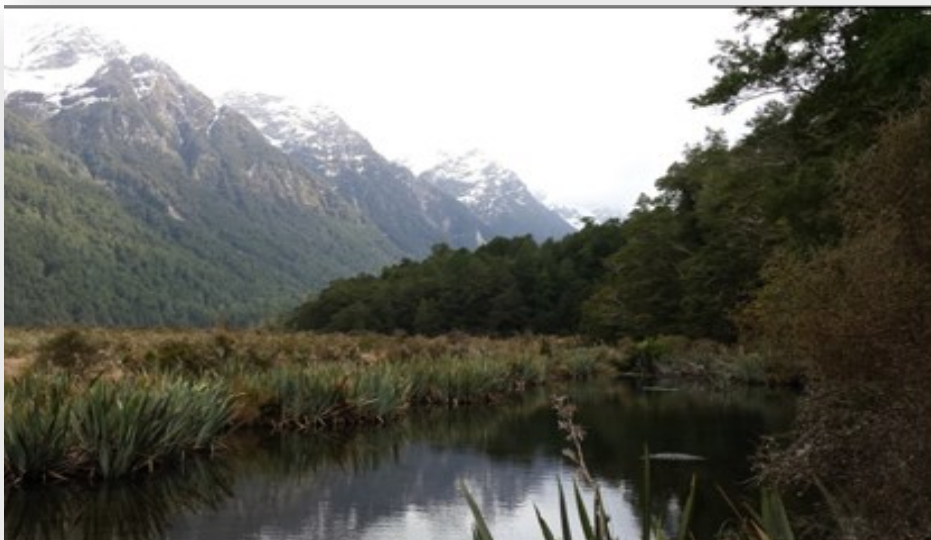
Affiliate Memberships for Couples:

Couples who belong to another FF club and have paid full dues to that club will pay to FFNC \$20 per couple (half of our regular dues) for an affiliate membership with FFNC. Alternately, couples who choose to pay for a half-year affiliate membership in another club may also pay FFNC half-year affiliate dues, including FFI fees, in which case each couple would pay \$45 (\$25 for FFI couple fees and \$10 each person for half-year FFNC membership.).

Note:

These rates will only apply to people who have dual membership, not people who were gone somewhere half the time but didn't belong to another club.

Refer to our website, ffncolo.com for newsletter issues and information on programs, exchanges, leadership contacts, upcoming events, and for opportunities to apply for other regional club exchanges.



Mirror Lake
and Mountains on the
South Island of
New Zealand

Photo taken by
Sue Cummins while on
2014 FF exchange to New
Zealand

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR

2015 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

June 5-9; San Diego; Inbound
Exchange Director: Barbara Miller,
bmill4708@comcast.net 667-7330

July 10-30, Lima, Peru; Outbound
Exchange Director: Alice Gibson
aligibs@gmail.com 310-8848

August 21-27; Napier, New Zealand;
Inbound
Exchange Director: Sue Cummins
sue@gscummins.com 682-2266
Home Hosts, Day Hosts, and Dinner

August 29-31
Friendship Force International World
Conference; Vancouver, BC, Canada.
Check with FFI to see if more registra-

September 23-30
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Inbound
Exchange Director: Nita Koplyay,
koplyay@comcast.net 613-2066

San Diego Outbound, dates TBA
Exchange Director needed.

June; Greater Hamilton and Burling-
ton, Canada ED needed

September 9-21 Inbound
Peaks to Plains Global Exchange
Exchange Director: Marilyn Garner
garner.marilyn@gmail.com 493-4137

October Outbound
Stratford-St. Marys, Canada

October 2-5
FFI International World Conference
Marrakech, Morocco

President: Gary Cummins
682-2266 gary@gscummins.com

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669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com

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Friendship Force International
800-554-6715; www.thefriendship force.org

Membership and Dues

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

If not, please send your dues with a check made out to FFNC to our treasurer,

Duane Sharp 825 Glenarbor Circle Longmont, CO 80504.

Sorry, but this will be the last newsletter sent to those who have not paid their dues by May 25th.

FFNC/Cheyenne Regional Picnic

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO JOIN US FOR THE FFNC & FF CHEYENNE REGIONAL PICNIC

DATE & TIME: Sunday, August 23, 2015, noon to 3 p.m.

LOCATION: North Lake Park in Loveland Shelter House #3 (nearest Lake Loveland)

BRING: A side dish or dessert to share. FFNC will provide chicken, drinks, and table service.

We will be hosting FF Napier, New Zealand that week, so they will participate in the picnic, too!

Some results of our survey

What you like about our club...

Friendliness

Talks and presentations by members and guest speakers

Chance to catch up with FF friends

Outstanding programs

Socializing with friends and travel companions

Programs are usually interesting

Meetings are operated with integrity

Meetings are professional

Members are caring and kind

Meetings are focused

Most guest speakers are excellent

Snacks are excellent

