



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO

FRIENDSHIP FLYER



Mary Nelson—Editor & Publisher

2016
May

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

No May Meeting
Exchange Help Needed
Membership Report 2

April 8th Program -
"Fenced In" 3

FYI - ED Training,
Overnighters, Car Pool-
ing, FFNC Store 4

Outbound and Inbound
Exchanges 5

30th Anniversary Letter
from FF International 6

Exchange Calendar
Officers & Chairs 7

Benson Park Sculpture
Gardens 8

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Our evening with **Dr. Enas Alsharea** and her family was delightful, yet sobering, as she shared growing up in war-torn Iraq. We learned about the plight of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and the devastating effects of giving up a comfortable lifestyle to survive in a tent community. The plight of these IDPs seems hopeless at times. Dr. Alsharea and her young family are currently living in Denver after waiting two years for "papers and interviews" to clear screening.



The **Nominating Committee** (Gary Cummins, Nancy Brigden and Marcia Ross) gave their report to the board and the club on April 8th. Their recommendations for next year's **Slate of Officers** include:

- Cathie McCallum as President (current Vice-President)
- Thelma Slocum as Vice-President (or President Elect)
- Kay Sheahan (to continue as Secretary)
- Ray Garcia (to continue as Treasurer)

The club will be voting on the 2017 officers at the June 10th annual meeting, which is to be held at the REA Building (from I-25 take the Windsor Exit, turn S. at REA Parkway-Cty. Rd. 5) at 7:00 PM. Nominations from the floor can be given on the 10th. At that meeting, we will also be presenting the prestigious **FFI Wayne Smith Award** to someone in our club.

FFNC's international exchange to Germany has been canceled due to over-commitment from the small German club. FFI has given us some possibilities, and the board is suggesting several options:

1. Using the "FFI List of Open Exchange Locations" (passed out at the 4/8/16 meeting). The list happens to be places we've visited recently, so members might not be excited to visit again; thus not having a full exchange. This option requires an enthusiastic Exchange Director from the club to take a leadership role in planning and recruiting for the exchange. Is that YOU?
2. A "Choose You Own Adventure" Exchange in which we review the FFI Catalog of Exchanges and plan to join another club's exchange ... thereby making it an "adventure" with new friends to a place we're excited about visiting.

If you want to travel in 2017, please be ready to provide feedback at our next meeting about what would work best for you.

Barbara Miller

No May Meeting!
Next Meeting:
June 10th
Annual Meeting
Program - Peace Corp

Poudre Valley REA
7649 REA Parkway
Windsor

***NOTE THE CHANGE**
IN LOCATION!

No May Meeting - June Meeting at REA Bldg.

REMINDER!



There will be **NO May meeting** of Friendship Force because of the Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting being held in Grand Junction on May 13-14. We don't have nearly as many participating as we had hoped, so there is probably still room for more to go. Anyone interested would have to call to find out if they can still sign up - the info is on the webpage ffncolo.com. You could also call Marilyn Garner (493-4137) and she will look into it for you.

The **FFNC Annual Meeting is June 10**, and will be held at the REA Building at 7:00 PM. Take I-25 to the Windsor Exit (CO 392, East) to 7649 REA Parkway (Cty. Rd. 5, South). The Board will meet at 5:30 PM. Since this is the annual meeting, committees

should turn in written reports at the Board Meeting.

The program that evening will be a presentation about the Peace Corp and a panel of former Peace Corp participants. Peace Corp offers "Opportunities for Retirees and Youth." Come and enjoy!



Help Still Needed for 2016 Exchanges

Planning for our 2016 exchanges are well on the way to completion. We still need volunteers for hosting, day hosting and small dinners. Please look at your calendar and see if you can help if you haven't already signed up. **The Peaks to Plains INBOUND in particular would really like to have some volunteers for small group dinners!**

Remember, we also need participants in group events like the Welcome and Farewell parties. Many of the exchange activities are open to members for another opportunity to get better acquainted with our Ambassadors.

To see the dates and ED's for our exchanges, please see Page 7 of this newsletter.

As for 2017, our plans are not yet finalized. We got very few responses to the offerings that FFI gave us, but the majority of those were interested in Australia. There are some interesting global exchanges being organized by the Australian clubs that would add a different flavor to a "basic" exchange. If you have ideas, please contact Barbara Miller or Marilyn Garner.

Marilyn Garner

Membership Report

To date we have 79 members for 2016. Last month we had 26 visitors for our March 30th Birthday celebration. This month, April, we had 14 visitors for our speaker from Iraq.



April 8th Program - "Fenced In"

Our Guest speaker for the April 8th meeting was **DR. ENAS ALSHAREA**. Dr. Alsharea was born and raised in Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq War. She graduated from the University of Almustansirya with a degree in dentistry and the University of Baghdad with a master's in orthodontics. She and her family now live in the United States.



She shared with us how she was an internally displaced person (IDP) within the boundaries of her own country. She and her family were forced to leave their home as they were under

threat by their own government. They had to flee with only the clothes they had on and anything they could carry. The first signs of trouble were when their water and electricity were cut off, so food spoiled in their refrigerators; they had to use batteries and dried foods. They were in a camp with 168,000 Syrians, Lebanese, Jordanians and Kuwaitis.

She described the area where her home was as having highlands, mountains, rolling land, desert and fertile land areas. When the Iran/Iraq War (1980-1988) began she was 5 years old. She was in a family of 7 - Mom, Dad, 3 brothers and 2 sisters. She remembers being 7 years old in 2nd grade and hearing sirens and seeing rockets flying over her playground at school. Then, in 2003, when she was in her 20's, the Iraq invasion occurred. She had graduated with top honors in her high school and was in her 2nd year of college when sanctions and embargoes were set against her country, and medicine and food were hard to get. When ISIS came and invaded in 2014 she and her family were in a camp waiting for applications, interviews and papers to leave the country. They did not feel safe; they had left all their

money and jewelry so it was hard to buy anything. Many of the refugees were not poor people but middle class people who now had to live in muddy tents. They were not used to this kind of life and it was



very difficult for them. But as Dr. Alsharea said, "Life must go on". She was married and had two children when they got 2 weeks' notice that they were going to America. They had two weeks to say goodbye to family and leave. Her uncle had lived in Arizona since 2007 and shared his house with his family members.

Dr. Alsharea said they have adapted and adjusted to the U.S. and have become productive, successful people. She can't drive as she doesn't have the right papers for that yet. She wishes she could practice her dentistry and orthodontics profession here but she's told she needs to go back to school here to become certified in the



United States. She would have to start over again, first getting her bachelor's degree, even though she already has a master's and doctorate in Iraq. It would cost her approximately

\$200,000. In the meantime, she has been working with IDPs to help other refugees.

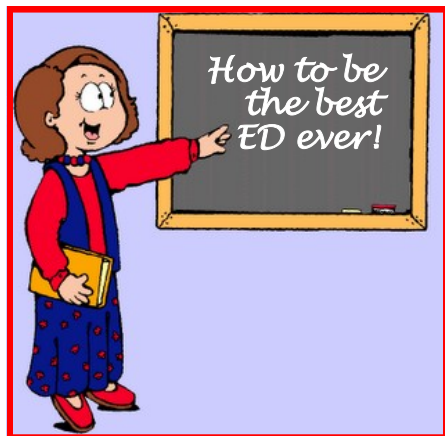
One thing that stuck with me is she said America is more like a "bowl of salad" than a "melting pot." We have many different cultures here and we can all appreciate each other and live together in harmony.

Thelma Slocum

FYI

Mark Your Calendar!

We are planning a multi-club **Exchange Director (ED) Training** for club members on Saturday, November 12, 2016, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Place to be determined.



Watch for more details, but PLEASE come to this training, even if you think you'll never be an ED You can always be an efficient Assistant ED.

Need a Ride?

We want to encourage carpooling to meetings, especially if night driving is a problem for you. Please call **Barb Turnbull, (970) 493-0787**, so she can arrange a ride for you.



Friendship Force Store



Be sure to check out the wide variety of gifts at our Friendship Force Store. **Store Manager Debby Jones** has many items, including several new choices. You'll find Friendship Force and Colorado themed treasures that make wonderful gifts to take with you on exchanges, or to give to ambassadors whom we host.

"Over-Nighters"



We have a number of members who do not feel comfortable driving home on a stormy winter night (most of us). The Board would like to encourage **Loveland Club Members** to open their homes for an evening

guest if needed. Pack an emergency bag if you live out of Loveland.

Members, please DO NOT drive home if you feel unsafe due to weather or night driving up the canyon. Remember, we are friends and you are welcome!



Fall Outbound Exchange

The fall exchange to San Diego is well on its way in planning and happening. There are 20 signed up at this time. There will be a meeting at the home of Barbara Miller, ED for the trip, sometime in early June. We hope to hear from Gary Alongi, the Exchange Director from San Diego, soon with the names and information about our hosts. Once we've heard from him, the meeting will be scheduled.



A tentative list of activities include:

- World famous San Diego Zoo
- Midway Museum
- Guitar making factory
- Nature Preserve
- Walking Tour and the
- San Diego Library

Barbara Miller, ED
970-667-7330



Inbound Exchange in June



Get ready for another busy week with 15 ambassadors arriving June 23 to 29. The group includes three men and nine women from the Greater Hamilton, Ontario, Canada FF, two women from California, and one man from Boston. At this time we seem to have enough home hosts, dinner hosts and assistants, and day hosts to meet the needs of the group. If you want to be more directly involved, please contact Cathie McCallum or Alice Gibson. All members are welcome to participate throughout the week. Activities are planned for Loveland, Fort Collins, Boulder, and Estes Park (RMNP). Ideas for activities in Greeley will be included as suggestions for the Free Day, Sunday, June 26th.

30th Anniversary Letter from FFI



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL

Wayne Smith
Founder

February 1, 2016

Jeremi Snook
President and CEO

Friendship Force of Northern Colorado

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Cummins, Club President

Robert Duncan
Chair
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

3450 Lost Lake Place

Unit C-1

Fort Collins, CO 80528

Jyotsna Custead
Vice Chair
Saskatoon, Canada

Dear Friends,

Loes Epping van den Bosch
Secretary
Lobith, The Netherlands

First and foremost, on behalf of Friendship Force International clubs and members worldwide, I am thrilled to celebrate the Friendship Force of Northern Colorado's 30th anniversary with you!

Edward Ekis
Treasurer
Chicago, Illinois, USA

While every year your club participates in Friendship Force exchanges and programs is significant, this anniversary gives you the opportunity to reflect and take record of all the moments you have each experienced with Friendship Force over the years, both as individuals and as a group. It also gives you a milestone moment in time to look around at the friendships that have been forged and, perhaps most importantly, how your perspective of the world has been impacted by these new relationships.

Cecile Latour
Past Chair
Ontario, Canada

Vivian (Viv) Caulfield
Carrara, Australia

Kurt Haefeli
Solothurn, Switzerland

Lyn Hargreave
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Dave Kalan
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Simone Lanzoni
Ribeirao Preto, Brazil

Ramona McGee
Sarasota, Florida, USA

Ivan Ng
Nanyang, Singapore

Hiroshi Onishi
Nara, Japan

Fred Opondo
Nairobi, Kenya

Therese Vilovar
Petit-Bourg, Guadeloupe

Clubs of your tenure have singularly facilitated numerous worldwide exchanges over the years, brought hundreds of people from diverse cultures together and quietly impacted thousands of lives. Your club and members hold a special place in the Friendship Force family. You are, quite simply, the best example of the force of friendship in action.

As you celebrate these past 30 years, I hope you will also be looking to the future. With the continued work of clubs like the Friendship Force of Northern Colorado around the world, I am convinced Friendship Force International will continue to succeed in helping build a world of friends that can be a world of peace.

In friendship,

Jeremi Snook
President / CEO

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR

2016 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2
0
1
6

2
0
1
7

Rocky Mtn. Regional Conference
Grand Junction, CO May 13 & 14
Get Registered ... and a place to stay!

Hamilton/Burlington, Canada
Inbound June 23-29

Alice Gibson 310-8848 Aligibsc@gmail.com
Cathie McCallum 223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

Stratford-St. Mary's, Canada
Outbound July 18-25
Christine Hall 402-0433 christinehalle@aol.com

Peaks to Plains Global
Inbound Sept 12-15 w/ FFNC
Marilyn Garner 493-4137 garner.marilyn@gmail.com
Thelma Slocum 223-9855 thelmaslocum@comcast.net

FFI International Conference
Marrakech, Morocco Sept 16-19 (Revised dates)

San Diego
Outbound October 12-17
Barbara Miller 667-7330 bmill4708@comcast.net
Elle Barr 204-9722 shilohbelle@gmail.com

Lubeck, Germany
Outbound April 2017 **Cancelled!**

Ottawa, Canada
Inbound September 2017 **ED Needed!**

PRESIDENT: Barbara Miller
667-7330 bmill4708@comcast.net

VICE PRES: Cathie McCallum
223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

SECRETARY: Kay Sheahan
667-4473 kay6568@peoplepc.com

TREASURER: Ray Garcia
669-3699 raybruin@msn.com

Programs: Nancy Brigden
352-3829 Brigden@comcast.net

Exchange Coordinator: Marilyn Garner
493-4137 garner.marilyn@gmail.com

Newsletter Editors/Publishers:
Ed Brigden, Cindy Paulson, Sue Cummins, Mary Nelson
381-5809 brigden@comcast.net
225-2252 cdp225@msn.com
682-2266 sue@gscummins.com
685-4037 mary.nelson625@gmail.com

Newsletter Reporters:
Thelma Slocum 223-9855 thelmaslocum@comcast.net
Dennis Miller 667-7330 dmill5050@comcast.net
Patti Stickler 227-5040 patti4chat@gmail.com
Marcia Ross 377-0512 mross377@msn.com

Publicity: Anne Brown 663-3727 abby144@aol.com
Sue Cummins 377-0512 sue@gscummins.com

Membership/Mentoring/Directory:
Thelma Slocum 223-9855 thelmaslocum@comcast.net
Marcia Ross 377-0512 mross377@msn.com

Communications:
Website & Mbr. Dir.: Ed Brigden 381-5809 brigden@comcast.net
Facebook: Barbara Miller 667-7330 bmill4708@comcast.net
Teleph. Tree: Barb Turnbull 493-0787 b.turnbull493@gmail.com

Small Grp. Social Events: Rona Baer 744-9974 baerextremes@gmail.com
FFNC Club Store: Debby Jones 686-0303 dsj55@aol.com
Historian: Cheryl Stevens 231-4392 cheryl2204@msn.com

World Friendship Day Potluck, Mar. 11, 2016 (Mbrs. Invite guests)
Pat & Duane Sharp 720-218-2299 m6sharp@aol.com
Rosalie Summers 303-887-2681 eisoro1@gmail.com
Nancy Lawton 303-907-1181 nanLawton@aol.com

Annual Picnic, Aug. 2016 in Cheyenne:
Judy Flatley 223-1037 flatleyjl@msn.com

Holiday Party, Dec. 9, 2016:
Suzi & Rick Gossard 412-0691 suzi.gossard@gmail.com
Esther & Dick Johnsen 484-2666 RNEJOHNSEN@aol.com

Greeters/Hospitality: Nita Kopylay 613-2066 kopylay@comcast.net

Greeters/Hospitality: Nita Kopylay 613-2066 kopylay@comcast.net
Willie Westdorp, greeter 6676525 willie.westdorp@gmail.com
Elle Barr, greeter 204-9722 shilohbelle@gmail.com
Rosemary Donovan, refreshments 669-8818 donovangcd@aol.com
Dennis Miller, set-up 667-7330 dmill5050@comcast.net

Ways & Means: Dick Johnsen 484-2666 RNEjohnsen@aol.com
Larry Clark 669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com

Photographers: Cindy Paulson 225-2252 cdp225@msn.com
Ed Brigden 381-5809 Brigden@comcast.net
Cathie McCallum 223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

Nominating Comm: Gary Cummins 682-2266 gary@gscummins.com
Marcia Ross 377-0512 mross377@msn.com
Nancy Brigden 352-3829 brigden@comcast.net

Audit Comm: Debby Jones 686-0303 dsj55@aol.com
Dennis Miller 667-7330 dmill5050@comcast.net

Music: Larry Clark 669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com
Rosemary Donovan 669-8818 donovangcd@aol.com

Tablecloth Mgr: Kay Sheahan 667-4473 kay6568@peoplepc.com

Benson Park Sculpture Gardens

FFNC HELPING OUT IN NORTHERN COLORADO SINCE 2010

With each FF visiting exchange, we get to show off what our club does as “payback” for the pleasant venue offered to us and our guests at Benson Park Sculpture Gardens.

We usually work on the day after our monthly meeting. In April, 5 FFNC members worked for an hour on a Spring Cleanup for our gardens. Other members helped last fall to prep our gardens for winter. That made this spring's chores much easier. We've come a long way since we adopted our spaces in 2010.



Can you spare an hour or so to drop in and join the team this year? Here are a couple of upcoming dates that you may want to circle on your 2016 calendars.

Saturday, May 7

9:00 - 11:00 AM

Regular Second Saturday Workday

Bring gloves, a small shovel, and a bag or bucket. And don't forget water and sun lotion or sun hat.

Saturday, June 4

9:00 - 11:00 AM

**Special All-Volunteer Workday
(See letter at right)**

We will add mulch and plants as needed. Add a cart or bucket for mulch and a fork or shovel to the May list above.

Call Nancy Brigden at 352-3929 or Kay Sheahan at 669-4473 if you have any questions.



Dear Adopt-a-Gardeners,

I saw the first dandelion blossom of spring a few days ago. That means it is time to let you know that this year's Planting Day will be held on Saturday, June 4, starting at 9 a.m. Please mark your calendars, gather your teams, and plan to join us for a day of planting, weeding, and cleaning at Benson Park.

Thank you from the Loveland High Plains Arts Council, and from me, for the time and effort you spend tending your gardens. They play an important role in making the Benson Park experience unique and special.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Ruth Scott at the LHPAC office, or me at [\(970\) 568-3401](tel:9705683401) or eharris@frii.com. I look forward to seeing you at the park on Planting Day.

Sincerely,
Ed Harris
Adopt-a-Garden Coordinator
Loveland High Plains Arts Council