



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO

FRIENDSHIP FLYER



Ed Brigden—Editor & Publisher

November
2015

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Nov Meeting - Peru Dec. Holiday Party Upcoming Exch Notes	2
October Program FFI Convention Review	3
New Member Orientation "Are You In? "	4
"I'm In" Campaign	5
More Travel Ops CSU Temp. Home Host	6
Exchange Calendar Officers & Chairs	7
Benson Garden Regional Travel Ops	8

Next Meeting
November 13, 2015

7:00 PM

PERU

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

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As we approach Thanksgiving time, I want to tell each of you how thankful I am to be a member of the FFNC and how thankful I am to have fellow members like you. As I enter the 11th month of my presidency, I have to tell you that I've been extremely impressed with the way the FFNC membership steps up to meet a need that arises (emergency hosting need; emergency small group dinner need; etc.) and how positive everyone has been as they fulfilled their hosting duties, their ED duties, their committee duties, etc. I thank you for making my presidential tenure enjoyable, meaningful, and impactful for the ambassadors we have hosted. You have handled yourselves well and have truly expressed the meaning of FFI through your personal actions. Much thanks!

Entering into the holiday season means a lot of socializing and a lot of parties, so remember that each of these events presents a super opportunity to share about the FFNC. The best recruiting effort for FF is our personal invitations to others. When I have followed up with visitors to our meetings, they invariably share with me how much it meant and how important it was to them that a friend told them about the FFNC and invited them to a monthly meeting. Let's watch for opportunities during this festive season.

Please remember, as we approach the beginning of a new calendar year, that coming up with new and interesting programs for our club meetings is a constant challenge. Please think about your potential program contacts and share any possibilities with Esther Johnsen. Thank you, Esther, for your efforts to give us interesting and informative programs each meeting!

Well, the holiday season is almost upon us. Time just seems to fly by. I want you to know that our Holiday Party is being planned by Anne Brown and her helpers. We will be going to Johnson's Corner on December 11, 2015. The food choices are really interesting and you will be hearing more about that. The entertainment is being finalized—we have always had quality programs/entertainment at our parties—especially about three years ago when we had that great speaker on the topic of humor. What was his name? The Holiday Party is also a wonderful time to invite someone that you want to share the FFNC with—be thinking of who you want to invite.

Gary Cummins

November 13 Meeting—Peru



We hope you will join us to hear and learn about the incredibly rich and deep culture of Peru. Ambassadors have pulled together a visual treat and will relate experiences from our July 8-29, 2015 Peru Exchanges.

In July— 14 Ambassadors joined Exchange Director Alice Gibson for a marathon of memories in Peru. Our hearts were first captured in the Spanish colonial city of Trujillo, located some 300 miles north of Lima. There we got an introduction to fascinating Chimu culture, learned about the Peruvian love of dance, and attended an exhibition of the Peruvian Horse show and dance of the Marinera Nortena.

A second jaw-dropping week followed when we joined the capital-city club in Lima for an exchange packed with tours, museums, cultural performances, and friendship.

The last awesome days found us flying off to Cuzco to join a tour that included air, bus, train, and boat travel. This adventure introduced us to Machu Pichu, the Sacred Valley of the Urubamba River, and on between high mountains to Puno and Lake Titicaca on the Bolivian border.

Inca or Inka? Llama or alpaca? Highest Lake in World?

December Holiday Party—Dec 11

The 2015 HOLIDAY PARTY will be held at Johnson's Corner, off I-25 and exit 254, just south of Hwy 402, Loveland. On December 11 at 6 pm we will have a special buffet @\$15 per person. As a reminder, Johnson's Corner does not permit alcohol.

Entertainment will be available for your enjoyment. Please sign up and make payment at the November meeting with Treasurer Duane Sharp.

Final reservation date is December 1, just 10 days prior. Call Anne Brown at 663-3727.

Upcoming Exchanges

Alice Gibson and Cathie McCallum will be the ED's for the Incoming **Greater Burlington/Hamilton Canada** exchange. We have suggested the last 2 weeks of July. We still need to hear from Denver as additional hosts. Please plan to help/host for this 2016 exchange.

We have also heard about our visit to **Stratford-St. Mary's, Canada**. Conversations with the ED assure that he will be very easy to work with, so if you want to participate in this exchange, please consider volunteering to be ED. The tentative date is July 18-25.

September 12-15, 2016 we will be hosting the **Global Exchange, Peaks to Plains**. This is only a 3-day exchange with our club so please consider volunteering to host and help out. Thelma Slocum and I are the ED's.

Our exchange to **San Diego** will be October 12-18, 2016. Please let Barbara Miller know that you would like to participate in this Outbound exchange.

Marilyn Garner

OCTOBER 9 PROGRAM—VANCOUVER CONFERENCE RECAP

Cinda Clark did an excellent overview of the FFI Conference with supporting help from attendees Doris Rogers, Cindy Paulson, Marcia Ross and Jean Porter (FF Houston). For anyone interested in more specifics, a summary of each conference session is listed on the FFI website (www.thefriendshipforce.org). Highlights are included below:



- **Then & Now** detailed aspects of how Friendship Force started to where it is today.
- **How to Lead Effectively** addressed **the importance of using digital media and electronic sources** to reach a broader audience for recruitment and member retention. This also keep current members abreast of club events and news. Successful clubs provide **“addictive” social activities and experiences** (so that members feel more of a connection with other club members - like we do by inviting participation in some of the wide variety of social events Rona Baer advertises to our membership). Other sessions discussed new member orientation, mentoring and coaching. It was recommended that we continue to **“grow” our leadership pool by involving many members on committees** and utilizing Assistant Exchange Directors or Co-EDs to spread the workload and provide guidance to newer EDs. Another leadership idea, to develop individual skills and an information base for future leaders, was to provide shadowing opportunities a year prior to taking office,
- **For Successful Exchanges, develop a data base of the common exchange activities** offered during exchanges. (We have useful Exchange Notebooks as resources---we just need to remember to refine and update them after each exchange! **Use Facebook to post photos and captions after exchanges;** (thanks to Barb Miller and Ed Brigden, our club does similar postings). To grow our club, we were **encouraged to enrich our marketing by having an attractive brochure available on our club website**. Brochure could also be handed out to potential members we meet in a variety of community settings. Clubs were also encouraged to **add a humanitarian aspect to our inbound exchanges**.
- **Club Matching Process**, revealed that we **need to submit more detail with our annual exchange preference request** (rank order, any prior agreements made with other clubs, etc). We also learned an attempt to solicit an exchange with another club is not out of order, and if both clubs agree, FFI gives a very strong (though not guaranteed) consideration to such preference requests.

FFI Board members shared the two main goals of FFI for the coming year:

To support the continuance of FF, failing computer systems must be replaced. This requires extra financial support from the membership.

To attract participants for exchanges from outside our current club membership and to spark broader interest, each club is encouraged to develop and lead themed Global Exchanges. (Thanks go to Kay Thomas, Nancy Brigden and Marilyn Garner for their current leadership for the 2016 Peaks to Plains Global Exchange and to Betty Jean DeMersseman for the pioneering 2012 Sustainability Global.)

At International Conference sessions we meet new friends, reconnect with world-wide friends, and are inspired about the importance and amazing opportunities our membership in FFI provides. We return re-energized to continue to do what is necessary to keep this organization vibrant and current.

See pg. 5 for review of FFI goals and our FFNC campaign.

Marcia Ross

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION

Three new members and a potential member attended an orientation meeting at Marcia Ross's home on Friday morning, October 2. The new members attending were Kitty Greenlee from Greeley, Nancy Lawton from the Denver club who has recently moved to Fort Collins, and Pam Wolfe from Berthoud. Nancy Lawton brought her son-in-law Mike Kelly, newly retired, who lives in Fort Collins. He was delightful and we hope he also joins our group. Cindy Paulson showed the FFI video as an overview to Friendship Force and Thelma Slocum and Marcia Ross filled out the meeting with handouts and booklets that covered: monthly meeting information, International programs, special events of our club, exchanges of outbound and inbound travel, communication, website and newsletter information. Light refreshments, tea and coffee were served. Marcia and Thelma are very enthused about these newest members of our club so be sure to introduce yourselves to them as they attend our meetings.



Marcia Ross



"ARE YOU IN?" CAMPAIGN

Remember that first time you connected with a new friend as a Host or as an Ambassador? Remember how amazing it was to discover that no matter the language barriers, you could laugh and even cry at the same things? No matter where you were raised, what political beliefs you hold, how different your food tastes are, you could rejoice in each other's company. Remember that empty feeling after your new friend's departure? Oh what joy you felt when you received a thank you, a wedding or birth announcement, or an e-mail holiday letter from your new friend!

Can you afford to lose future opportunities for such friend-building and cultural exchanges?

Following the International Conference, all of us have come to realize that we must individually and collectively commit to keep Friendship Force strong and adopt specific goals towards our growth. The future of Friendship Force depends on the seeds we are planting now. To that end, our International Board has adopted two goals.

One goal is a **retooling goal** and the other is a goal for **creating the moments we love**.

To keep our worldwide network of members connected, up to date, and informed, we must update our outdated/at risk technology. So Goal #1 is to raise \$40,000 before the end of 2015 for a **one-time data management investment** to keep FF functional for the years ahead. Already our Northern Colorado Club has 10 families who have pledged \$50! And Past President and former Mountain States Field Rep Betty Jean DeMersseman has pledged to match the first \$2,000 received from our club's members.

The second goal is about **creating the Friendship Force moments we love**. Knowing that global and themed exchanges are popular, we need more Exchange Directors to lead them. If you have a great idea for one, bring your passion to the task! The time frame for this goal is 24 months (or, until the end of the 2017 exchange cycle). Our founder, Wayne Smith used to say that each exchange should have 40% new people on them – a target we aim to achieve.

Are You In?

See next page for particulars and Signup Card

FFNC's "I'm IN" Campaign

Friendship Force International is facing a crisis. FFI has launched a 2-pronged challenge to help meet this situation.

The first prong: Replace the outdated (and in fear of failing) software.

The second prong: Create a Global Exchange (similar to Kay Thomas' Peaks to Plains Exchange)

To satisfy the first prong, make a commitment to help Friendship Force, **"I'm IN!"**

Below is a CHALLENGE CARD to guide you. Makes checks payable to FFNC and the club will forward a large check to FFI. Either bring to the November meeting or mail card and check directly to:

Betty Jean Demerssman
 5151 W. 29th St. #1301
 Greeley, CO 80634

There is an added bonus—all donations are tax deductible.

Make it personal—What does FF mean to me?

My own personal commitment is to match any contributions from FFNC members, up to a total of \$ 2000.

Thanks for your support!

Betty Jean DeMersseman

Commitment Card

**I'm IN !!
 Commitment Card**

It Starts with Me

Name: _____

Email: _____

I will work toward one of these FF Goals to help ensure Friendship Force International grows into a stronger, more vibrant organization.

I will raise or personally donate \$50 for a new database and website development by December 31, 2015. This will allow FFI to increase our recognition worldwide. (If making a donation at this time, please attach your check payable to FFNC)

And/Or

I will create and lead a fun global special exchange in 2016-2017 and be open to new ambassadors and hosts.

The exchange can be NextGen, humanitarian, multi-club, tandem, part home-hosted/part non home-hosted, or whatever model works best for the target group.

Friendship Force of Northern Colorado

ADDITIONAL CULTURAL TRAVEL

Taiwan and China—April 7—27, 2016

Join an excellent itinerary with Sarasota's international outbound to Greater Taipei, Taiwan with a two week tour/cruise to China April 7-27, 2016. Three ambassador slots remain and members of other North American FF clubs are invited to join. Gate 1 Travel will be releasing unfilled slots and opening them to non-FF members soon.

Judi Stratton
 FFI Florida Field Rep
 FF of Sarasota
 email: jaspetite@comcast.net
 phone/fax: [941 497-5684](tel:9414975684)
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Fortaleza and Belem, Brazil—June 4-18

The Santa Barbara Club's Brazil exchange is not yet full, and they very much need a few more folks.

Co EDs are Sandy Hartley, hartleyrs@cox.net
 and Dick Falk, heinrich.falk@csun.edu

Estimated cost \$1400 plus air and any pre/post optional tours.
 Email for more information.

KUDOS TO CINDA

We are very fortunate to have Cinda Clark dedicate so much of her personal time and energy as a member of the FFI Board. She was an active participant in the search for new FFI President/CEO, Jeremi Snook. Cinda told us she felt very good about his selection. Thanks, Cinda, for presenting at our meeting, and for all of your amazing efforts to support Friendship Force over the last 30+ years.

Marcia Ross

TEMPORARY HOME HOSTS FOR CSU INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Former FFNC member Barbara Stallings spoke to those in attendance at the October meeting about the need for temporary home hosts for CSU International Students. These students arrive a few days before classes begin in both the Fall and Spring semesters, and are in need of home hosts to help them get oriented to the campus and wade through the transition into "The American Way of Life". Volunteers provide 3-5 nights of housing, most meals and support to the students help them learn how to find their classrooms and their way around downtown Fort Collins. Volunteers receive training prior to home hosting. If you are interested, please contact Barbara at: bjs7112003@yahoo.com.

Marcia Ross

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR

2
0
1
6

Hamilton/Burlington, Canada
Inbound May 6—13
 Alice Gibson 310-8848
 Cathie McCallum 223-0436

Stratford-St. Marys, Canada July 18-25
Outbound
 ED Needed

Peaks to Plains Global Sept 12-15
Inbound Hosted by all Mountain
 Reg. clubs Marilyn Garner 493-4137
 Thelma Slocum 223-9855

FFI International Conference
 Marrakech, Morocco Sept 15-18

San Diego, CA Oct 12-18
Outbound
 Barbara Miller 667-7330

WHAT DOES FF MEAN TO US?

What does the Friendship Force experience mean to us? Is it getting to know our host people personally? Is it seeing the area people and sites through the eyes of our hosts? Is it learning more about the culture firsthand? Is it an opportunity to get answers to our variety of questions about culture, country, history and people? **THE ANSWER IS YES!**

“Hotels are a wonderful invention, but not the ideal window to the soul of a nation. They are designed to do the opposite—to keep you and the country at a comfortable distance.”

2015 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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225-2252 cdp225@msn.com

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Store: Debby Jones 686-0303 dsj55@aol.com

World Friendship Day Comm.: Barbara Miller 667-7330

Annual Picnic Comm: Marcia Ross 377-0512

Historian: Mary Lou Selch

226-1902 pjselch@hotmail.com

Greeters/Hospitality: Willie Westdorp 667-6525

Rosemary Donovan 669-8818

Ways & Means: Dick Johnsen

484-2666 RNEjohnsen@aol.com

Photographers: Cathie McCallum, Ed Brigden,
& Cindy Paulson

Reporters: Donna Clark, Barbara Miller, Thelma
Slocum, Marion Sparks

Music: Rosemary Donovan, Larry Clark

669-8818 donovanged@aol.com

669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com

Tablecloth Mgr: Kay Sheahan

667-4473 kay6568@peoplepc.com

BENSON GARDEN CLEANUP—NOVEMBER 14

We're Late, We're Late, We're Late!!

Remember all those summer and fall Exchanges both inbound and out going? Add to those activities the FF International Conference, personal travel schedules, an extra late fall season, and you cannot be surprised that we are late for fall garden chores.

A brief check of our FFNC plots at Benson Sculpture Park, assures us that there won't be a lot to accomplish before winter. But, a few collective hours will be well spent to enable us to coast through springtime next year.

Can you lend a hand? Weather permitting, join us on the day after our November meeting – that's **Saturday, November 14 at 10 AM**. We will hope for decent weather and confirm at the regular November club meeting if it's a go for the work day.

Let's hope Mother Nature continues to deliver comfortable outdoor temperatures. Should we need a snow date, please hold November 21 at 11 AM.

Nancy Brigden

REMEMBER OUR SISTER MTN. STATES CLUBS

Have a "hankerin'" to visit other countries and cultures? Remember you have many options through Friendship Force. Follow these easy steps: (1) check our local club. (2) check on our sister Mountain States Regional Clubs. (3) check on exchange offerings through FFI. In each case you would file an application with the specific Exchange Director to join that exchange as an Ambassador. Many options!

Check the other clubs in our region for information; review their monthly newsletters for the latest. Visit our website, ffncoloro.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.

Alajuela, Costa Rica—February 10-17 with FF Pikes Peak

Lake Hartwell, GA—April/May with FF Denver

Cleveland, OH—May with FF Pikes Peak

Central NC—July 13-20 with FF Pikes Peak

Kolokov and St. Petersburg, Russia—September with FF Western Colorado

Hamilton/Burlington, Ont., Canada—2016 with FF Utah

Penticton/Okanagan, BC, Canada—2016 with FF Cheyenne

Charlotte, NC—October 23-29 with FF Western Colorado

Miyagi and Shizuoka, Japan—November with FF Denver