



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO

FRIENDSHIP FLYER



November
2016

Cindy Paulson
Editor & Publisher

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming
November Meeting
Program 2

October
Program Report 3

FFI World
Conference
In Morocco 4-5

San Diego
Exchange
Recap & Photos 6-7

CHOOSE YOUR OWN
ADVENTURE! 8

Exchange Calendar
—
FFNC Officers &
Leaders 9

Exchange Training
Nov. 12 10
Holiday Party Dec. 9

Next Meeting
Nov. 11, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Exchanges Panel
Presentation

1st Christian Church
2000 N Lincoln Ave.
Loveland, CO

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Barbara Miller, President

I hope the spirit of giving THANKS is upon each of you as we enter into the month of November. On that note, I would like to thank Debby Jones and Paulette Weaver for stepping up to lead our Inbound Exchange with FF of Connecticut, May 22-27, 2017. Mark your calendars! Please consider being the ED for our International Inbound Exchange with FF of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, September 27-October 4, 2017. The Ottawa ED is already making plans and is eager to begin contact with our Exchange Director.

As you are thinking about travel plans for next year, check out the "Choose Your Own Adventure" on page 8. These are upcoming FFI exchanges that are available to you and any of your FF buddies to travel in 2017. Let's all start talking and planning with friends! By the way, FFI has planned a 40th Anniversary Celebration at Sea with President Jeremi Snook and Board Chairman Bob Duncan; cruise the Atlantic visiting Portugal, Spain and Italy. Now that sounds like an adventure!

Please plan to attend the Exchange Director & Leadership Training on Saturday, Nov. 12th from 8:45 to 12:00 at the REA Building in Windsor. We will be joined by members of Friendship Force of Denver, so there will be opportunities for sharing ideas and meeting new friends. Everyone should try to attend, even if you have taken the training before. It is good way to learn about FFI changes, review best practices, and prepare to be a great assistant/helper/host, exchange committee member or exchange director. Please let Marilyn Garner or me know that you'll be there!

Two closing thoughts..... How can we each help FFNC and our new President, Cathie McCallum, in 2017? Let's all sign up and pay our \$15 for the FFNC Holiday Party at the November meeting.....Please remember to bring your checkbook!

~ Barbara

UPCOMING NOVEMBER 11 MEETING PROGRAM

EXCHANGES PANEL PRESENTATION

BY NANCY BRIGDEN, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Are you relatively new to Friendship Force? Or are you a longtime member? Perhaps a recent visitor at a monthly meeting? Our November program may provide you with just the right amount of information to become involved with a cultural travel experience with Friendship Force. For 2017, our club has set the theme of **Choose Your Own Adventure** where each of us can look beyond our club to join in any number of exciting opportunities offered within the Friendship Force.

At the November meeting, you will hear from a panel of our members who have recently enjoyed a variety of cultural experiences. For example, you might join with another US club to learn about another part of the USA or maybe you'll find a **Themed Exchange** that is of special interest to you. That's just what Cindy Paulson, Alice Gibson and Marcia Ross did when they participated in the "Whidbey-on-The-Water" Exchange to Whidbey Island, Washington last June. Their experiences should excite you about unique possibilities for FF travel!

From President Barbara Miller you will learn how special it is to be hosted by friends who recently visited our part of Colorado. In October she led an exchange to explore what is special about San Diego, California and to revisit & strengthen the friendships that began here in 2015.

Or perhaps an **Outbound International Exchange** to another country holds interest for you. From panelist Dennis Miller, assisted by Marilyn Garner and Christine Hall, you will hear about the July outbound exchange to Stratford/St Mary's, Ontario.

And so what qualifies as a "**Global Exchange**"? Kay Thomas, who originated and led the plans for our September Peaks To Plains Global Exchange will provide some answers. FFNC leaders Thelma Slocum and Marilyn Garner will join Kay to share observations of that global experience.

Cathie McCallum will wrap up with a description of how exciting it was to attend the Friendship Force International **World Conference** in exotic Marrakesh, Morocco in early September.

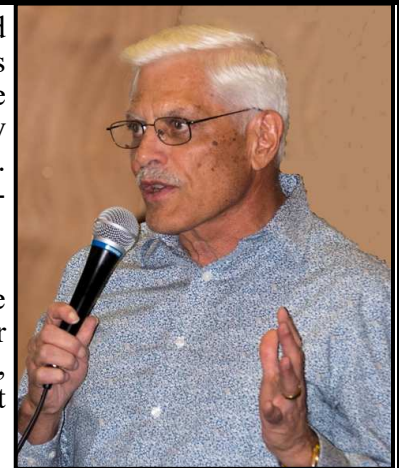
The panel will answer questions and provide tips on how to get connected to a wide variety of exchanges and learn about conference or cruise opportunities open to you through FF.

Don't miss the Friday, November 11 FFNC meeting to shed some light on how you, too, can start your plans for **Choosing Your Own Adventure** for 2017. Invite a friend to join you at 7 p.m.. at First Christian Church, 2000 North Lincoln in Loveland. Hope to see you there!

PALESTINIAN-ISREALI RELATIONS: WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

THELMA SLOCUM, REPORTER

Program speaker for our October meeting was Dr. Robert Tello, board certified physician in Post-Acute Care and Long-Term Care. He currently serves as medical director of Good Samaritan and Green House Homes Long Term Care Facilities in Loveland. He is past president of Larimer County Medical Society and was department chair of Internal Medicine at McKee Medical Center. Dr. Tello is also involved in humanitarian work with Polio Plus, a Rotary partnership with the Gates Foundation to eradicate polio throughout the world.



Dr. Tello has had great interest in the Middle East for most of his adult life. He served as a Naval Commander in the Persian Gulf War and earned a Bronze Star and Naval Commendation Medal while there. After a trip to Israel, the question, "Who exactly are the Palestinians and who are the Israelis?" became the catalyst for an intense study.

Included in Dr. Tello's program was historical background of 3,000 years including Ancient Egypt (3000 BC to 1500 BC), the land of Canaan, home to a tribe of Israel called the Canaanites, and Mesopotamia. The Persian Empire consisted of Iraq, Syria, Persia, and Jordan. The land here was divided between David and Saul. The Roman Empire was 340 BC and 66-73 AD in a Jewish revolt against the Romans, the Jewish temple was left in Shambles. Jewish diaspora was 70-500 AD and Rome changed all the Jewish names of the cities. The Byzantine Empire, 565 AD consisted of the Christian nations of Rome, Turkey and Egypt. Islam began in 632 AD and spread rapidly by 645 AD. Muslim is the people and Islam in their religion.

The Islamization of Palestine happened in 687-691 AD and the Dome of the Rock was built on the temple mount in Jerusalem. This is where it is said Mohammad ascended into heaven.

In modern history before WWI, during the Ottoman Empire a man named Theodor Herzl began the vision of Zionism, a creation of a Jewish State. The League of Nations, France over Syria and Lebanon, and UK over Mesopotamia divided the land into Palestine and Transjordan. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was sympathetic to the Jewish cause and Truman wanted to form a Jewish homeland. In 1948 Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iran, Iraq did not agree to the forming of a country of Israel. In the six day war, Palestinian refugees had their homes taken over by the Jews. There were 5 million Palestine refugees. Today 80% of Israel is Jewish and 20% are Arabs.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Yasser Arafat signed The Oslo Accord in 1993 to set up a framework that would lead to the resolution of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In essence, the accord called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from parts of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, and to affirm Palestinian right of self-government. Since 2007 the Fatah government and Hamas (made up of Sunni and the Muslim Brotherhood) took over the Gaza government with their goal to destroy Israel. Fatah, led by Yasser Arafat wanted their to establish their own country, Palestine in the West Bank. The UK, the United Nations, U.S, China, and India tried to unify the two but Israel disagreed. In November 2014 Hamas refused to work with Fatah. The state of Palestine is treated as a nation by $\frac{3}{4}$ of all countries, but others including the United States do not recognize it as a state. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said definitively that there is no chance of a Palestinian state. President Obama says a two state solution must be kept alive. On October 12, 2016 the United States committed to providing \$3.8 billion annually to Israel for 10 years starting in 2018.

In closing Dr. Tello said he believes that peace between Israel and Palestine will come from groups like FFI and Rotary and the people, not from politicians.

FFI MARRAKESH WORLD CONFERENCE REPORT

BY CATHIE MCCALLUM



Thank you for providing me the opportunity to represent FFNC at the 2016 Friendship Force World Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco. One hundred eighty participants represented Australia, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Liberia, Morocco, New Caledonia, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States. This was the first time a conference has been held on the African continent and in a Muslim country.

Meeting people and making what I hope will be lasting friendships was the highlight for me. Other special features included the delicious food, being immersed in the colorful culture of Marrakesh, both modern and traditional, and learning about FFI planned changes.

Internationally, FFI will soon make available both printed and audio materials in a variety of languages. International staff will be hired in other areas including Europe and South America.

It was noted that Europe is experiencing a gap between demand for inbound exchanges and the ability to host due to declining membership. They are working on new forms of exchanges with more diversity, lower ages participating, more people-to-people with less emphasis on tourism, and other fresh ideas. Japan would like to have more exchanges to the United States for the purpose of improving their English language skills. I suggest that FFNC also consider ways we want to improve.

In order to survive FFI must change! There is increased competition from private non-profits that feature homestays. The FFI fee structure must change as well as how they do business. Stories are the life force of FF. Please share your own story and pictures with FFI for the web site. Our world is fractured by misunderstanding and ignorance. We must inspire and motivate and wage peace one friendship at a time. Ambassadors from the African nations shared videos and other information and materials representing their respective nations and traditions.

Other suggestions for change include exchanges involving individuals, youth, families, and groups; putting volunteerism and service into exchanges; splitting hosting for longer stays; including at least one leisure day; inviting language students to help serve as day hosts; paying hosts gas money; inviting ambassadors to speak to school groups.

I also attended small group sessions on packing, leadership, nourishing EDs, and recruitment and will gladly share more information and ideas at any time.

FFI WORLD CONFERENCE PHOTOS

BY CATHIE MCCALLUM



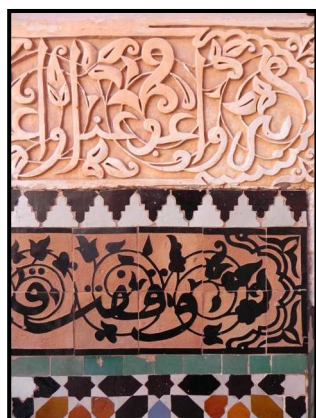
FFI Staff: Jenemi Snook & Maryam Jordan



Baskets in Marrakesh Market



*Kathy DeBlonk, Sacramento
Cecil Roberts, Denver
Sandra Vegter, W.Michigan B.
Dela Quarcoc, Guana
Fred Bombo ,Uganda*



Building Decor



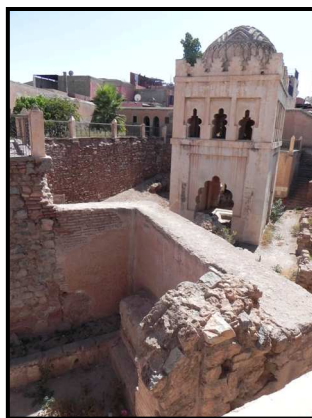
*Linda Sekiguichi, Reno-Tahoe
with helpful locals in Marrakesh
shopping center*



Moroccan Dessert Buffet



Daily Coffee Break



*Multi-hundred year old Moroccan
buildings equipped with
satellite dishes*



*Linda Sekiguichi, Reno-Tahoe
& Lotfi Lamrani, Morocco*

SAN DIEGO EXCHANGE RECAP & PHOTOS

BY DENNIS MILLER, & BARBARA MILLER, E.D.

From Wednesday, October 12th through Tuesday, October 18th, twenty-one members of FFNC spent a glorious week in Southern California with the members of Friendship Force San Diego County (FFSDC)! Ten of us flew to the Golden State and the other eleven drove there. We were greeted by our hosts upon arrival and, shortly afterward, shared dinner with our friends at the Apolonia Greek Restaurant in La Jolla. We had a scrumptious meal and got our first peek at the slate of events scheduled for us by FFSDC. Their ambassador bags were chock full of goodies including water bottles, sunscreen, and beer nuts! After a good night's sleep, we were ready for our first full day of adventure at the world-famous San Diego Zoo!

The most renowned zoo in the world, the San Diego Zoo, was the focus of Day 2. We began our visit with a group picture at the entrance and then a jump onto a bus tour that took us all around the immense grounds. It was a very helpful overview of the zoo, and helped us get our bearings for the walking to come. Then, we took the Aerial Lift for a high-altitude view of the zoo as we traveled end-to-end. Our walking tour took us to the natural environment exhibits of a plethora of species from polar bears to pandas, and lions to leopards. We watched elephants play and giraffes stretch to pluck leaves from feeding baskets twenty feet high. There were birds, snakes, monkeys, and orangutans. The weather was perfect, seventies and sunny!

Day 3 took us to two very different sites – both spectacular. Our morning venue was the USS Midway Museum, located on the ship itself in San Diego Harbor. The Midway served our country for almost fifty years, longer than any other carrier. Its immensity was surpassed only by the efficiency by which every space was used to accomplish the mission. There were acres of runways on the flight deck and huge storage spaces in the hangar below. We saw the bridge, control room, chart room and many crew spaces in the lower decks. It was a truly remarkable tour that over 5 million others have enjoyed since the museum opened in 2010. Our second destination was the San Diego de Alcalá Mission. This was California's first church, established in 1769. It was the first of twenty-one missions built by the Spaniards up the California coast from San Diego to San Francisco. We heard the history of the mission and walked the campus. The sanctuary was designated a basilica by Pope Paul VI, an honor reserved for historically significant facilities in the Catholic Church.

Saturday was spent on a walk-around in the resort town of Coronado. We had a professional tour by two very knowledgeable native Californians who have been conducting such tours for over thirty years. The town's birth, growth, and survival through the decades makes for a fascinating story. The sites were eye-popping: from hotel to multi-million dollar residences and along the most pristine beaches imaginable. Oh, and did I mention that the weather was perfect? Friendship dinners completed our day at FFSDC member homes. Delightful!

We spent a good part of Sunday exploring Balboa Park. Our first stop was at the theatre complex including the Old Globe theatre. Two theatre experts shared the history of live theatre in Balboa Park. We went into the theatres and also behind the stage and into the lower levels where dressing rooms, costumes, and props were located. Following the tour, we were free to explore the multiple museums, international houses, and quaint happenings in the park. A big treat was a concert played on a phenomenal outdoor pipe organ. It was a Handel-Bach "shootout". Which is your favorite? Once again, the weather was picture-perfect.

To end our week, we trekked to the Scripts-Birch Aquarium in La Jolla. We spent the morning there viewing the underwater magic of hundreds of oceanic species. It was a great way to finish and lead into our farewell dinner at the Bahama Bend Clubhouse in Coronado Cays. This was a wonderful Mexican meal with lots of laughter, fellowship, and reminiscing of the times we spent together in the preceding week. FFNC presented a three-part show for our hosts. Part one was a completion between the men and women that demonstrated the multiple applications of the western bandana. The men prevailed. Next, we reminded the beach-dwellers about the gems we had in our state of Colorado, a review for those who have visited us and a beckoning for those who haven't. We ended with a Roy Rogers/Dale Evans sing-along of "Happy Trails To You". It was a great week!



We're off to San Diego!



Welcome dinner...great food and fellowship



The World-Famous San Diego Zoo



USS Midway Museum



San Diego de Alcalá Mission



Coronado Hotel and Beach



Balboa Park concert



International House



Great weather; great friends



Birch Aquarium



Happy trails to you, 'til we meet again.



INDIA January 20 to February 9, 2017 \$3800

Explore five of India's most fascinating cities: Delhi, made up of a mixture of modern and ancient architecture, Jaipur, the "Pink City," Agra, home to the Taj Mahal, Varanasi, where you will see why Indians worship at the sacred Ganges River, and Nashik. Between these 5 cities are stopovers to highlight as many aspects of Northern India as can be packed into 21 days.

Contact Celia Accorsi , FF Sao Jose do Rio Preto, celiaaccorsi@hotmail.com

Discover the Wild West February 24 to March 10, 2017 \$1080

Cowboys and Native Americans, gold miners and oil workers, country music and wineries--You'll enjoy all this and more on the Discover the Wild West Exchange with the FF clubs of Bakersfield and Sacramento, CA, and Tucson, AZ, USA

Contact: Chris Smith, FF Sacramento, vp@ffsacramento.org (916) 712-6979

40th Anniversary Celebration at Sea March 30 to April 13, 2017 Beginning at \$1625

Join Friendship Force International CEO, Jeremi Snook, and Board Chairman, Bob Duncan, on a Leaving from Fort Lauderdale, FL. After crossing the Atlantic, explore Funchal, on the delightful Portuguese island of Madeira. Explore the Mediterranean with three stops in Spain where you can join shore excursions to Seville, the Alhambra in Granada, and Roman ruins in Cartagena.

Contact: Laura Romero, FFI laura@friendshipforce.org +1 404 965 4353

The Netherlands and Belgium April 15 to 26, 2017 \$2460

Come and join us on an intimate bike, barge, & explore trip. Spend eight days and seven nights on a barge that will take us to several wonderful cities that we will explore by bicycle. There will be cycling everyday, seeing beauty of spring in Europe and making new memories with friends. We will follow up the barge trip with three days in Belgium experiencing the beautiful history and culture and enjoying a homestay with the local FF Brussels club. This exchange will bring us together as strangers and see us depart as family.

Contact: Shawn Decareaux FF Western Montana shawn@biketernity.com +1 860-428-9301

Global: Discover Armenia and Georgia June 5 to 19, 2017 \$2590

Travel through Georgia and Armenia where you will explore The Caucasus region, from Yerevan to the Black Sea. See Georgia's tallest mountain, Kazbegi, and participate in a traditional bread making lesson, where you will learn how to prepare the country's national dish. You will taste organic qvevri wine, and explore some of Georgia and Armenia's oldest cultural, religious, historical, and archaeological sites. This exchange presents you with the opportunity to explore and learn about these cities on a guided tour coupled with a traditional, Friendship Force homestay experience.

Contact: James W. Kerr, Jr. Judgejwkerr@juno.com +1 214 987 4411

Inbound

Outbound

EXCHANGE CALENDAR**2017 Outbound Exchange Options**

Gather your friends &
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Look at the **Catalog of Friends**
 on the FFI Website

&

See p. 8 of this newsletter

Connecticut Inbound

May 22-27, 2017

Ottawa Inbound

Sept. 27-Oct. 4, 2017

ED needed

2016 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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VICE PRES: Cathie McCallum

SECRETARY: Kay Sheahan

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667-4473 kay6568@peoplepc.com



EXCHANGE DIRECTOR & LEADERSHIP TRAINING

SATURDAY, NOV. 12, 8:45-12:00

REA BUILDING, WINDSOR

ALL FFNC MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

COME TO LEARN ABOUT HOW THE MANY WAYS
YOU CAN BE INVOLVED IN EXCHANGE PLANNING AND LEADERSHIP!
TRAINING IS FOR VETERAN MEMBERS AS WELL AS NEW MEMBERS!
PLEASE LET MARILYN GARNER KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.
493-4137

Holiday Social

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Make your reservations and
mark your calendars

Friday, December 9, 2016
6:00-9:00 PM
Adriel Hills Club House
(north Fort Collins)

Featuring: Festive Food, Wonderful
Wine, Fun Fellowship, and
Enjoyable Entertainment!

\$15/per person
Details to follow!

Sign up at the October or November
Friendship Force Meeting
or with Suzi Gossard:

970-412-0691 or
suzi.gossard@gmail.com

