



friendship force  
NORTHERN COLORADO



2012

December

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**FRIENDSHIP FLYER**  
**Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland, and Surrounding Areas**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Attending the World FF Conference in Hiroshima, Japan was an amazing experience. Conference sessions and speakers were interesting and informative, and we enjoyed meeting FF members from clubs around the world. However, the most memorable moments for me were the laying of a wreath at the Eternal Flame Memorial, the evening placement in the river of the 250+ candle floats we had all decorated, and the group singing of *Let There be Peace on Earth* in the Peace Memorial Park.

Our guided tour through the Peace Museum, showing the horrific after effects of the A-bomb, was followed by a tour of the Peace Memorial Park grounds. The tour included a visit to the Children's Memorial, which was surrounded by literally thousands of connected strands of the paper cranes FF members and hundreds of school children had folded and brought to the park. There are so many strands donated, they have to change them out daily. Throughout these activities we were standing shoulder to shoulder with our new friends, who were from multiple Japanese FF clubs along with FF members from 28 nations around the world, all in the name of peace. It was a powerful and moving experience. Kay and I wish to thank you for your support allowing us to represent FFNC.

As the year draws to a close (hard to believe!), I've been reflecting on the myriad reasons we've again experienced an outstanding year as a club. Our success is directly related to the dedication, participation, and enthusiasm of our membership. Thanks to each and every one of you for your part in keeping our club vibrant and growing!

I'd especially like to thank the following 2012 officers: Kay Thomas, Vice President; Marilyn Garner, Secretary; and Dennis Miller, Treasurer for their extra efforts and expertise with club business. We're also very fortunate to have had the leadership and the excellent support of the many Committee Chairs and Exchange Directors. I encourage you to take a look at the names listed on page 7 (and those listed in previous newsletters as EDs), and at your earliest opportunity, give those folks each a huge THANK YOU for their time and talents. Many of you may not be on a "list" yet you've also contributed your time and support on various aspects of hosting ambassadors, chairing committees, gardening, and participating in other club events or attending regular meetings. I am so grateful to belong to an organization where the members are willing and eager to make a difference through their active participation!

However you celebrate during the holidays, may your days be filled with an abundance of good health, opportunities to contribute to the happiness of others, and joy in spending time reconnecting with your family and friends. I'll look forward to seeing those of you who can attend the holiday party!

**REMINDER: Starting in January, 2013, our meetings will be at 7:00 p.m. at our NEW LOCATION: First Christian Church 2000 N. Lincoln Avenue, Loveland**

--Marcia Ross

Next Meeting:  
**Holiday Party**  
**December 14, 5:30 PM**  
**Johnson's Corner**  
**See Page 2 for details**  
**Bring \$1 for the**  
**Holiday Extravaganza**  
**drawing.**  
Reminder: In January our meeting will be in Loveland at our new location (See Page 3).

### *Libya and more...*

As usual our November program was a delightful learning opportunity, thanks to Cindy Worayeth and Haneen Fallah. While a student at CSU, Cindy met and married her Libyan husband of 32 years. Together they started Advanced Engineering Professionals. After the birth of their two children, they made it a point to visit Libya every 2-3 years so the children would appreciate their cultural background and know their extended family.



Cindy shared a PPT slideshow with interesting facts about Libya (i.e. 1 gallon of gasoline is 43¢, 3 million people live along the coast, a climate like San Diego, and the Berbers are the indigenous people of the area). She reviewed Libya's historical timeline from the Romans to present day. The people are friendly and reach out to visitors. Since tourism has not been a big industry, visitors are a novelty. Cindy felt Friendship Force was the perfect group to be welcome in Libya.

Haneen, a senior at FCHS, was born in the US; both her parents were from Libya. She, too, has spent time meeting her family and learning about her cultural heritage in visits to Libya. She shared about the recent revolution from her personal family experience. Haneen has been involved in several protests and fundraisers for the people of Libya.

Cindy sees a hopeful future for Libya due to the following strengths:

- Wealthy oil revenues
- A well educated people-- especially the women of Libya. There is a long history of education; it is highly prized
- Recently gold has been discovered in Libya; New oil fields that have an "easier to refine" grade of oil.
- Proximity to Europe--"if they survive financially"
- Tourism – not much has been done in this area, but the country has much to offer tourists.



An interesting evening was had by all who attended. Thank you Haneen and Cindy for sharing Libya in a new way...

Barbara Miller, Reporter

### *Get ready to Party...*

Your Holiday Party Elves have been working hard to plan an entertaining evening for socializing and eating with friends. Plan to arrive (using the north door, private entrance) at 5:30 so that we can "mix it up" with a couple of fun activities:

1. Dollar Tickets sales for the **Holiday Gift Extravaganza**★... your number could be called!
2. Using "yes/no" questions only, we'll be guessing our new identities as each receives a new name {i.e. sports, singers, actors, political, real, fantasy, historical, etc.}
3. Final Exam – Carols 101: finding the real names to this unusual "alternative song titles"

Remember **mixers** are only fun if you bring along that "*fun loving attitude*" and mix in with the socializing. We have many new people to help feel welcome and to get to know. We're hoping our mixers will support this welcome.

Dinner is planned for around 6:00 PM. A buffet with roast beef, chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli with cheese, tossed salad, rolls, drinks and for dessert an Ice Cream Sundae Bar. After that yummy meal we'll be entertained by **Gary Cummins, Humorist** (a recently re-joined member to FFNC). We'll conclude with our drawings for those fantastic *surprise* gifts! You could be a winner!

See YOU at Johnson's Corner, Friday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 PM . . . dressed to the Nines!  
Off I-25 at Exit 254, 2854 SE Frontage Rd, Johnstown, CO (970-667-2069).

**Party Elves:** Esther & Dick Johnsen (484-2666), Barbara & Dennis Miller (667-7330),  
Marta Aguayo, Doris Rogers, Jane Willhour, Elle Barr, and Bette Younger



We'd love to have some extra wrapped gifts for our drawing! Remember those travel souvenirs still tucked away in your closet?



## JANUARY 11 PROGRAM



Ed Jakubauskas will bring us a program on Syria in January. He has titled it "Anatomy of a Failed State". This is a "current events" program you won't want to miss.

Emerging from the failing Ottoman Empire after World War I, Syria was a French mandate which included a variety of religions and ethnic groups. After the French mandate, a minority religious sect emerged as a dominant power group. After numerous revolts and rebellions, the family of the Assads assumed power through cunning intrigue and ruthless behavior. Current instability has led to a fierce and bloody Civil War, which in addition to internal chaos, threatens to spread to wider regional conflict. Can there be any hope for the people of Syria, or will the country endure endless strife and bloodshed?

*A course on Syria's Civil War is being offered by the Front Range Forum at the Fort Collins Senior Center in January. This is a part of the series of courses being offered over the past few years on the topic of "Why Nations Fail" by Ed Jakubauskas*

### **Biographical Background and Experience of Ed Jakubauskas in Russia and Eastern Europe: 1980-2010**

My experience in the Soviet Union, Russia, and Eastern Europe covers a period of almost 30 years. It dates back to 1980 when I was a member of a group of University presidents who were invited by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to participate in negotiations for academic exchanges between US universities and Poland. This was a period of time which pre-dated any hint of changes in Socialism. By 1981, "Solidarity" in Poland brought about revolutionary changes not only in Poland but in other countries of Eastern Europe as well as the Soviet Union. By 1989 all of Eastern Europe was in a state of revolution and change.

From this experience I continued to work on academic exchanges with Poland and the Soviet Union, visiting Education Ministries in these countries in 1981, 88, and 91. In 1989 I was head of a delegation of 15 American presidents who were involved in developing more extensive exchanges with the Soviet Union. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, and my retirement from AASCU and a university presidency, I continued to work as a consultant in programs related to economic development, education, democracy-building, and other transformative issues facing the new countries that had emerged from Communist societies.

In 1992 and 1993, I participated as a guest lecturer in continuing education programs with Lithuanian teachers in summer institutes, and in 1994-95 I was awarded a Fulbright to teach economics at two Lithuanian universities in Siauliai and Klaipeda. This was followed up with another Fulbright award in 1998 to teach Public Administration at the University of Latvia in Riga. Courses taught at the Lithuania Christian College included Micro and Macro economics, and Transitional Economics (from Communism to Capitalism).

My early retirement years were noted by consultantships, US State Department assignments, volunteer work with numerous Non-Governmental Organizations, such as the Soros Foundation, US Baltic Foundation, Freedomhouse, Citizens Democracy Corps, International Executive Service Corps, World Learning, and the American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education. I was also invited to work as a consultant in higher education with the Salzburg Seminar in working with emerging democratic universities in Poland, Romania, and Lithuania. I have lectured at Russian universities in Sochi, and Vladivostok.

Teaching, research, and consulting assignments took place in cities and rural areas of Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Belarus, Armenia, and Romania. I also served as a Board member of a Mennonite college established in Lithuania, as well as a Board member of a Higher Education Council in Latvia. Academic articles have been published in "Lituanus" and the "Journal of Baltic Studies" I have a working knowledge of Russian and German, and am reasonably fluent in the Lithuanian language having lectured in that language for one semester in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

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## FFI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Kay Thomas in the Peace Park beside paper cranes



Marcia & Kay dressed in kimonos for a formal tea ceremony



Joseph from FF Hiroshima and George Brown, after placing a wreath at the Peace Memorial



Marcia Ross & Kay Thomas on Miyajima Island



Rieko and Takao from FF Osaka, and Kay in front of Osaka Castle



Marcia & Kay with members of the FF Osaka

## OPEN WORLD GROUP OCT 26-NOVEMBER 3.2012

What a great experience! We had 4 from Siberia and a facilitator from St. Petersburg. Our United States translator used simultaneous translation and it just opened up an extra 25 minutes a meeting for Q & A. The Loveland Reporter Herald did an excellent job describing the dialogue. Yes, we had a lot more of that with this group due to the time saved in translating. One of the highlights for all was getting into the labs at NREL. It took Anne Brown a few hours of typing in security cards to get the group in. The government even wanted the places they were born. This group had a very high ranking government official--2.5 lines of a title--basically, Minister of Energy for Eastern Russia. He was so easy to work with that when I set up a conversation at NREL with the Head to work on Collaborative efforts, he later told me that "we aren't that ready for this yet, but we can work with Innosphere"--a Ft. Collins incubator business.

This same Minister wants to come back this summer to follow up on working for 2 weeks in the Loveland High Plains Arts Council. He plans to start preparations and meet with contacts about setting up two "Sister City" programs and the Innosphere negotiations.

I got 4 host outside our membership, all younger than most of us and hope they will be encouraged by the club members to join. At our Wrap Up party these hosts liked the Barn Dance activity and showing our guests a lot of different ways to celebrate Halloween. Hope you can make the February 8 program when I will tell you more about the exchange. Barbara Englehardt and Tom Ryan were Co Chairs with me. Helen Criehtfield helped keep us on track during trips to and from Denver, so the hosts knew when to pick up their guests.

--Dot Cada

We have 7 new members for 2013: Phil and Linda Smith, Ingrid Bowden, Phyllis Kennell, Dorothy Cuneo (from California and will be traveling with Dot Cada to Myanmar) Cindy Kenna, and Rod McCormick. Hopefully we will meet some of them at our Holiday party. We welcome all our new friends!



**Phil and Linda Smith** have joined the Friendship Force of Northern Colorado. Phil & Linda are experienced Exchange Directors and have been involved in Friendship Force in a wide variety of capacities with the Friendship Force of Western Colorado (Grand Junction) where they were members for several years.

Phil & Linda's interests include travel, RVing, jeeping, reading, learning, art, music, food and entertainment. We welcome Phil and Linda to FFNC, and look forward to their involvement in club activities and leadership!



**Cindy Kenna** will be traveling to Costa Rica with us. She is a retired program and people manager. One of her interests is swimming. (editor note: I imagine there are some lovely pools in the tropical rainforest of Costa Rica in which to indulge....)



ANOTHER WAY WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS IS TO BRING REFRESHMENTS FOR MEETINGS! SEE MARY RINEY TO SIGN UP. 970-330-5248

## COSTA RICA IN JANUARY



## COUNT DOWN TO COSTA RICA!



On January 6, twenty six members of FFNC will head to Costa Rica. We will have a week-long homestay with the Friendship Force of Turrialba in SE Costa Rica. After our exchange we will travel together throughout Costa Rica for 10 days, enjoying Atlantic and Pacific beaches, hiking in rainforests, cloudforests, hot springs, volcanoes, exotic birds & wildlife, national parks, cruises through biological reserves, river cruise and much more!

**If you are interested in being an alternate on this exchange in case of a cancellation, please call Cindy Paulson, exchange director at 970 581-6801 to be put on the alternate list.**

### Friendship Force Pledge

As a member of Friendship Force, I recognize that I can make a difference. I recognize that I have a mission and that mission is to be a friend to the people of the world. As I embark upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching me. I know that through my example to my fellow citizens and the people of other nations, the cause of friendship, love and peace can be furthered. I can make a difference.



### MYANMAR GLOBAL DISCOVERY

Feb 16-March 1

We have 21 ambassadors going for the entire trip. A doctor and his wife, a nurse, will attend for 5 days only as they are putting on an Asthma Clinic in Cambodia after they do the Asthma Clinic for our "trusted Partners" in Yangon.

Actually there will be 2 medical docs and they will treat about 100-150 patients free, as well as train 8-12 medical personnel in Yangon. This is a dream of mine since the 2006 Mission to Burma. This doctor is a Rotarian friend and so he is giving them equipment which we must take to Yangon for him, costing \$1200-2,000. Also there will be inhalers and other medicines. My Rotary club is buying the medical box and we are trying to get ICA to request Merck to provide the inhalers. We will see on that one.

Our effort now is to get the Aid recipients to understand that the project to start a club is important to them and all of us. We hope that then they will sign the "trusted partners" agreement which I developed with input from George Brown. We think that each trip should have this agreement, with the goal being to work toward the friendship club formation and home hosting when the government allows.

Ambassadors are enjoying collecting other aid for the Diplomat school, working on getting scholarships for students at universities in Wisconsin, California and (I'm working on) CSU. There is an on-line program at CSU in civil society that the president of one of my favorite Charities in Myanmar graduated from while I was there in November. So it all starts slowly.

I can't thank the club Board enough for their endorsement of this program and hope that when I get back and get a chance to show you what was done with just one Discovery group, you can see the value of Friendship Force International.

Dot Cada

### JEWELS OF CENTRAL EUROPE

Come join us as we Discover the Jewels of Central Europe! The cities we will visit are known for their beauty and ancient history. The countryside is green and rolling, and we'll spend one night in the Tatra Mountains!

The exchange itinerary is set. The fee is \$2,345. The flight cost is additional. We may, however, be able to get group air.

Northern Colorado members, if you are interested in this exchange, and have not yet submitted your application and \$500 deposit, please do so before December 15<sup>th</sup>. After that time, you will be in competition with people from other clubs. We will need to pay airline deposits soon, in order to get the best price, so things will move quickly after the first of the year.

If you have not yet seen the itinerary, one can be emailed to you. Our tour operator has done his best to get good hotels for us, and he is very knowledgeable about the sights we will see. The original itinerary he sent was very good, and he has been quite accommodating about the additional places requested to be included.

Our tour agent is actually a member of the club which will host us for two nights in Bratislava. After our assignment, his club was nice enough to invite us. So, we will have the opportunity to make new friends! Remember, we will probably also meet with locals along the way to interest them in Friendship Force.

Meet the people, and experience a part of Europe you may have been missing, while learning about its culture and history. It should be most pleasingly memorable.

### SPRINGTIME IN PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
Outbound - May 1 to May 8, 2013

We just received news that the dates for the outbound exchange to Harrisburg, PA will be May 1 to May 8, 2013. We hope to have more information by our January newsletter. If you are interested in Pennsylvania, please consider joining us. It should be a fun exchange.

Exchange Director:

Kay Thomas

phone: 278-9054

[KThomasLvind@comcast.net](mailto:KThomasLvind@comcast.net)

### HEALTH UPDATE

Margaret Beckman is recovering from her 2nd knee replacement which unfortunately had the secondary consequence of severe back pain. Dale is hopeful that the cortisone shot she had will alleviate the pain so that they can join us for the Holiday Party.

**EXCHANGE AND ACTIVITY CALENDAR**

**2012 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Incoming	Outbound
<b>TO: COSTA RICA</b> January 6-22, 2013 Turrialba homestay plus tour extension Co-EDs: Cindy Paulson & Marcia Ross <a href="mailto:cdp225@msn.com">cdp225@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:mross377@msn.com">mross377@msn.com</a>	
<b>TO: MYANMAR</b> February 2013 Global Exchange for Aid & to Assess New FF club Dot Cada 667-7548 <a href="mailto:dotcada@msn.com">dotcada@msn.com</a>	
<b>TO: Harrisburg, PA</b> May 1 to May 8, 2013. <a href="mailto:kthomaslvnd@aol.com">kthomaslvnd@aol.com</a> 278-9054	
<b>FROM: Mid-Willamette Valley, OR</b> June 12-18, 2013 ED Anne Brown, Asst ED Nita Kopylay	
<b>FROM: Penticton, BC, Canada</b> Sept. 2013 ED Barbara Miller Asst ED Kay Thomas	
<b>TO: DISCOVER EUROPE</b> Sept 23-Oct.8, 2013 "Jewels of Central Europe" Prague, Krakow, Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna. ED Cinda Clark <a href="mailto:clarksmail@msn.com">clarksmail@msn.com</a> 970 669-5426	

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**Exchange Coordinator:** Kay Thomas  
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 225-2252 [cdp225@msn.com](mailto:cdp225@msn.com)  
**Telephone Tree:** Barbara Turnbull  
 493-0787 [b.turnbull493@gmail.com](mailto:b.turnbull493@gmail.com)  
**Music:** Rosemary Donovan, L. Clark  
 669-8818 [donovangcd@aol.com](mailto:donovangcd@aol.com)  
 669-5426 [clarksmail@msn.com](mailto:clarksmail@msn.com)  
**Store:** Debby Jones  
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**Historian:** Ken Weaver  
 356-5068 [interweaver@greeleynet.com](mailto:interweaver@greeleynet.com)  
**Greeting Table:** Willie Westdorp 278-9054  
 Carolyn Crowley 377-1299  
**Hospitality:** Mary Riney 356-8311  
 Marta Aguayo 377-1456  
**Tablecloth Mgr:** Kay Sheahan  
 667-4473 [kay6568@peoplepc.com](mailto:kay6568@peoplepc.com)  
**Lge. Drink Containers:** Cindy Paulson 226-2262  
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 & Cindy Paulson  
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 Thelma Slocum, & Brenda Wiginton

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Marilyn Garner, Editor & Publisher  
 Photos: Marcia Ross, Ed Brigden  
 Reporter: Barbara Miller

## FIELD REP NEWS



The biggest surprise was the George Brown Announcement.(see below) What will FF be like without George? Who will be our leader? I, for one, will miss him. I was always energized by his speeches and could find ways to implement his suggestions.

Second, my term as Field Representative is coming to an end. Who among you will step up and take on this position? The two biggest duties are to remain the liaison between FFI and the Mountain States Clubs, and to keep up with the many Exchanges from all the Mountain States Clubs.

Please contact me if you are interested or contact Pallie Savoie at FFI, [psavoie@thefriendshipforce.org](mailto:psavoie@thefriendshipforce.org). Recommendations will be accepted from all. 2013 will be a year of change. Let's make our replacement a good one. All of our Mountain States Clubs have their requests for 2014 in. Yea! Open World has funded for 14 groups for 2014. A few have asked for specific clubs (such as from a state capitol) but contact Kathy Thomas if your club is interested. Come January, the FFI Web Site will include a Tool Kit for "How to" about membership. We saw the preview of the short "POLICY" video that will be posted there.

*-Betty Jean DeMeressman*

## LETTER FROM GEORGE BROWN

November 16, 2012

Dear Friendship Force family,

I have decided to retire from my position as President of FFI effective June 30, 2013. This is something I've been considering for some time. There are both personal and professional reasons that have led me to the decision at this time.

At the personal level, I will turn 68 years old in June. I am looking forward to slowing down a bit and enjoying a long retirement with family and friends. I plan to stay active with some limited professional activities, but I will not be considering another fulltime position. In the years ahead I look forward to continuing my passion for international travel—but with a more leisurely schedule that can also include my wife, Jill. We are hoping to visit many of our Friendship Force friends in the years ahead.

This is also a good time for me to step down professionally. Having worked on the FFI staff for a combined total of 23 years, the past nine as president, I can look back with satisfaction on many great things we've been able to accomplish together. Our new Global Expansion Plan is well underway, and FFI is in very good shape. Now is a good time for the Board to select a new president to build on this foundation.

In my remaining months at FFI I will be working with Kathy Thomas, our newly promoted Chief Operating Officer, and the Board of Directors to ensure a smooth transition for new leadership. I will be traveling less, spending my time preparing the office for the next president. In addition there are elements of the Expansion Plan that I will be devoting time to as well, working with the Board and staff to use my remaining months as president to the greatest advantage for the Friendship Force. I will also be taking some time off to prepare for the next stage in my life.

Looking back over all my years at the Friendship Force there have been many great moments, but none more meaningful than the recent conference in Japan, with the theme "Hiroshima for Peace and Friendship." I wish all our members could have shared that experience as we reaffirmed the original goal of Wayne Smith and the Carters to use friendship as a powerful force for peace and understanding in the world. Our mission is as relevant today as it was 35 years ago, and I urge all of you to continue on this road we have travelled together.

This is not a goodbye letter, as I will continue to be in the office on a regular basis in the coming months. More importantly, I look forward to continuing the friendships I've made on six continents through this incredible global family we call the Friendship Force.

With gratitude for the opportunity to work with all of you over the years, I remain,

In friendship,

George Brown



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