

Michael English about the future of FFI on May 9th

At our regular meeting Friday, May 9th, we have the privilege of hearing from Michael English, FFI Board of Directors member, who directs the Peace, Conflict, and Security Program at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Prior to joining CU Boulder, Michael taught at George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution and as a visiting lecturer at the University of Malta's Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies. Michael is the author of The U.S. Institute of Peace: A Critical History, and the former editor of Unrest Magazine. His research explores social interactions that create and maintain violence-generating systems, as well as opportunities for groups to develop more peaceful social orders.

Michael will lead us in a lively conversation about FFI's next decade. In February he led the FFI Board of Directors in identifying *three pillars the uphold our vision based on our mission*:

- Strengthening intercultural connection and friendship through journeys and events;
- Education and training to cultivate better global citizens;
- Engaging community and organizational partnerships and projects to extend our reach;

Of the fourteen members of the International Board of Directors, Colorado can be proud to have two of us, Michael and myself (Ken). We're eager to hear from FF Northern Colorado members how FFI can renew itself as an international movement that adapts to these times.

Our vision is to be a worldwide movement of inspired people building bridges for a more friendly world. Our mission is to promote peace and understanding across barriers that divide. How can we best practice civil discourse and continue our person-to-person peacemaking?