



Friendship Connections

friendship force
OREGON'S
MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY

The Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley
Club of the Year — 2000

October 11 Gathering to Feature Lia Danelishvili

Lia Danelishvili, a native of Tbilisi, Georgia, has lived in Corvallis, Oregon for nearly eight years. In April 2001, after obtaining a PhD from Tbilisi State Medical University, she accepted a post-doctoral position to work under Dr. Luiz E. Bermudez, the world's leading scientist in the mycobacterial field. Her research focuses on Mycobacterium tuberculosis, a disease that kills two million people each year.



Our speaker, Lia and her husband, George, with members Marilyn and Art Bervin

When Dr. Bermudez relocated his laboratory from San Francisco to Oregon State University in 2002, he invited her to make the move with him. She is now a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Biomedical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Because her research is purely medical, she cannot answer questions about your dog or cat.

Throughout her schooling, she has received many academic honors and awards. During her doctoral research she cooperated with the International Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) to implement programs of TB detection and treatment in the Georgian population and in the prisons.

Lia lives in Corvallis with her husband, George Elchibegashvili, and daughters Taona (17) and Salome (13). She has many close cousins in Georgia, where she and her immediate family were visiting in 2008 when the war broke out between Georgia and Russia.

For an interesting story about Lia visit the Corvallis Gazette-Times website at:

http://gazettetimes.com/news/local/article_f0b1b8bc-318f-5ff3-ae2b-01478433516a.html

Save the Date!

Breakfast Scramble: Dec. 7, 9:30am at Elmer's Restaurant in Albany. Bring a friend. Contact: Louise Classen



At the Sept. 13 Gathering in Monmouth, members select from mounds of wonderfully tasty dishes. Marilyn Bervin and John Wyse help with the 2011 exchange voting. Thanks to Warren Harmon for the photos.



Explore
Understand
Serve

**October 11, 2009 Gathering, 3:00pm, Corvallis Public Library
Speaker: Lia Danelishvili, a native of Tbilisi, Georgia**

CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

President's Greetings



September is about over, and we look forward to October and what it may bring. We had a good picnic with the rain holding off. Hopefully next year we will be able to do the picnic in August as usually planned. We voted on the countries that our club would like to visit in 2011 and the three choices were: a tie between Canada and Estonia and third place went to Latvia. These choices will be turned into Friendship Force but we will not be guaranteed a country of our choice but wherever we go it will be exciting as we are about FACES NOT PLACES.

I, Juanita Weigel, volunteered to be the ED for Tbilisi, Georgia. I am hoping that someone will volunteer to be Co-ED so that they get some experience. It is not as scary as one might think. We had ten people sign up and hope to have more who want to join. I have talked to other clubs who have visited Tbilisi, and they have had a great time in meeting these great people. Email me at: rufus2000@comcast.net and let me know whether you would like to join the exchange or be co-ED.

We have two incoming exchanges for 2010, and we will need home and day hosts. If you have not done either please consider volunteering your home or time as this is an experience of a lifetime. It is great fun meeting new people and introducing them to our life styles and our beautiful state.

For our fundraising this year we are going to be doing the same as last year as it was quite successful. We had great fun at all the homes that participated last year. Cheeri Nichols is handling this event so notify Cheeri if you are willing to host an event and let her know the date, time, and what you will charge. She will have clipboards available to have members sign up to attend your event. At each event the people who attend will decide what charity the money will benefit. This can be something quite simple as having a tea in the afternoon, or hosting a dinner, luncheon, mystery trip, overnight at your guest house, game night, cheese and wine—put your brain to work.

Because of the Legacy Fund donations that have been received worldwide to Atlanta, Georgia we now have 25 new clubs in sixteen different countries. FFI has expanded use of the internet and technology for promoting and supporting Friendship Force clubs and exchanges.

I am happy to report that we have a lot of great people in our club who are making our club what it is because they are volunteering for committees. I hope that they will continue—now that I have said that please volunteer to be a co-ED to Tbilisi, Georgia. I am hoping that some of our newer members will get the bug to be more involved and will volunteer to be on some of our committees for incoming or outgoing exchanges. By being involved is a good way to make new friends in the club.

We voted on our three choices for exchanges for 2011. Members first talked about their choices of places they would like to visit and then we voted. We ended up with our three choices being: Canada, Uzbekistan (Baltic States) and Poland. We will be notified next year what our destination will be.

In Friendship,

Juanita

2009– 2010 Calendar

- October 2 - 1pm Board meeting OSU CU Monmouth
- October 11 - Gathering Corvallis Public Library
- November 6 - 1pm Board meeting OSU CU Monmouth
- December 7—9:30am Elmer's, Albany, Breakfast Scramble
- Jan. 20—31, 2010 - Outbound to Florida
- May 2010 - Outbound to Tbilisi, Georgia
- June or July 2010 - Inbound from Florida
- September 2010 - Inbound from Rijnmond, Netherlands

Membership Application, Renewal and Newsletter Subscription

Annual dues cover the cost of the monthly newsletter and expenses for exchanges and activities of the Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley, as well as membership in Friendship Force International, which provides discounted prices on exchange travel and other benefits.

Annual dues: Individual: \$27.00 Couple: \$50

This is a NEW or a RENEWAL Application

I wish to receive the *Friendship Connections*, without joining

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City : _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Dues enclosed: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

(please print clearly)

Mail To: Friendship Force, PO Box 1703, Albany, OR 97321

Friendship Force Gifts

The following items are available from Dorothy Stewart, 503-364-3969 dstewart854@msn.com or at each monthly gathering. For more products with the new FFI logos, visit the FFI website and the new online store where you can order FFI products directly.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Friendship Force name pins | Friendship Force ball point pens |
| Friendship Force aprons
(one size fits most) | Friendship Force Story |
| Friendship Force note cards | Friendship Force mugs |
| Friendship Force luggage
straps | Friendship Force tote bag |
| Friendship Force T-shirt | Club lapel pins |
| Friendship Force Logo magnets | International Cookbook |
| | Fabric for Vests |

Tales from the Vietnamese Woods

Carl and Carolyn Wilhelm had the pleasure of hosting the Vietnamese ED, Giang, and Van, a senior security official from a "sensitive" northern province.

Giang was fluent in English and even though Van did not speak English, we think he understood more than he was given credit for. They were both unfailingly cheerful and polite. Giang tirelessly translated for us and we learned a lot about them and their families. One morning after a discussion of Vietnamese men's aversion to household tasks, we observed Van in the kitchen doing dishes (on another occasion, he even helped prepared breakfast for us all!). When we voiced surprise, we were told that he is from a minority (one of 54 ethnicities in Vietnam) and there the men do housework and cooking!! The largest ethnic group, with over 86%, is Viet; while Van 's group is probably Tay with less than 2% of the population.

We did learn at least as much about Vietnam as Giang and Van learned about us.
By Carolyn Wilhelm



Carl, Giang, Carolyn and Van

During breakfast at Juanita's, enjoying delicious home-made pho, discussion arose regarding the amount of work that goes into its preparation. Pho is a delicious broth with many tasty ingredients, to which is added fresh bean sprouts, basil and other items.

We were informed that one has rice at home and pho away from home (in cafes or street stalls). Our guests then told us that rice is called the "wife," while pho is referred to as the "girlfriend," because one has rice at home and the girlfriend away from home! You can imagine the hilarity following this pronouncement.



It went on from there when Rita and Ted Powell's guest, An, using extreme body language, demonstrated how the wife would shoot the husband if she found out, ending with a dramatic and loud "death" of the husband. Now, that's something that anyone can relate to - common language or not.
By Rita Powell

From the Editor

Looking for information for a planned trip? Preparing for our next exchange? Here are some good sites for learning about those **places** behind the **faces**. Both of these sites are updated frequently and contain current information.

The BBC offers profiles of most countries. Start at this link to find the country in which you are interested:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

The Lonely Planet publishes guide books, but it also has an excellent web presence. To learn more about Tbilisi and Georgia, visit:
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/georgia>

Have you visited our website lately?
WWW.ORGsites.org/or/friendship

Contact the editor at: peterston.marilyn@comcast.net or at 541.926.7431.

Board of Directors 2009

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Club Exchange Directors—Outbound

January 20 -31, 2010 - Florida, Dorothy Garrett

TBD - May 2010 Tbilisi, Georgia

Club Exchange Directors—Inbound

August 1 – 7, 2009 Vietnam - Louise Claassen

June/July, 2010 Florida - Dorothy Garrett

September 2010 Rinjmond, Netherlands - Joan Rodgers

Exchange News

Outbound to Southwest Florida and Spring Hill, Florida (Sarasota and Ft. Myers areas)

Jan. 20-31, 2010 - ED Dorothy Garrett

Inbound from Southwest Florida and Spring Hill, Florida (Sarasota and Ft. Myers areas)

Summer, 2010 - ED Dorothy Garrett

Coming and Going

We're GOING on January 20 to Florida. Whatever the temperature there, it will be warmer than in the Willamette Valley. We have six from our own club and four from a club in Minnesota signed up for the trip. (They really know what cold weather is like in Minnesota.) The exchange is scheduled to finish on Jan. 30. Folks may extend after that.

Now the COMING part: Floridians will come to visit us in either June or July, 2010 when it is sweltering down there. Please contact Dorothy Garrett if you are willing to host, be a day host, and/ or serve on one of the many committees. There will be plenty of fun things to do.

Please consider becoming a more active member. Hosting is really fun, and helping plan the exchange is part of the fun of being a member of Friendship Force.



International Exchanges in 2010:

Outbound to Tbilisi, Georgia - May, co-Exchange Director, Juanita Weigel who needs a co-ED

<http://www.gefriendshipforce.org.ge>

Kate, ED, has offered our exchange a two day trip to Svaneti where you will see unspoiled nature, original architecture, ancient customs and artisanship combine to impress the visitor with the wealth of Svaneti culture. This province of Georgia has remained largely unaffected by the pace of modern civilization.

We will have dinner and overnight in a private home. We will be in a region that is known as a birthplace of viticulture and wine-making. The reach land, burning sun and hard work have developed about 500 varieties of vine in Georgia. The history, culture and lifestyle of Georgians are embodied in Georgian wine. It is a symbol of Georgian hospitality, friendship, tolerance and a key to the mystery of Georgian longevity. In this tour we will be staying in private homes.

OR

A 3 day trip to Kutaisi – Borjomi. Here we will stop and see a ceramic market and try pieces of honeycomb. We will overnight at a hotel then proceed to the Gelati monastery and architectural complex. We will travel to the west of the country via towns of Gori (Stalin city), Surami, Zestaponi and picturesque Rikoti Pass. On day 2 they offer a visit to a Rehabilitation Center Borjomis Kheoba, and a visit to Samtavisi Church and Vardzia.. On the third day we would be visiting the Rehab center which the price of this center at an extra charge. In this tour we stay in hotels.

Inbound from Rijnmond, Netherlands - September http://www.friendshipforce.nl/Club_gegevens.htm

From ED Joan Rodgers:

I received an email from the Rijnmond FF club president saying that as yet they do not have an exchange director, but, as soon as they get one, they will be in contact with our club.

It is still early days, but the time will go quickly, so we need to be forming committees to prepare for our guests' arrival. If you are interested in being on any of these committees, or if you would like to be a chairperson, please let me know by email at: rodgers3652@comcast.net, or at our monthly meeting in October at Corvallis Library on October 11 at 3 pm. These are some of the committees we will need:

- Transportation – Arrivals and Departures
- Workshops and Orientation
- Hosting Selection and Preparation
- Activities – Welcome Dinner/Get-together and Farewell Party

Also, please consider being a host or a day host. Everyone can have a part in making our friends from Rijnmond welcome! So please join Shelly Ann Lokan and myself, as we start to brainstorm about this upcoming exchange.



Board Meeting Minutes, September 11, 2009

The meeting was called to order on Sept. 11, 2009, at the OSU Credit Union 1:01 p.m, by Juanita Weigel, president. Also attending were, Marilyn Bervin, Van and Cheeri Nichols, Marilyn Peterson, Dorothy Garrett, Sue Stein, Rita Powell, and Louise Claassen.

Corrections to minutes from August meeting: Marilyn Bervin is not exploring options for December's general meeting.

Treasurer's report: One check for merchandise was used in the last month. Two CDs are in the bank each for \$5000.

Newsletter: Submission deadline for articles for the October newsletter to Marilyn Peterson is September 20.

Membership: No activity in the last month. A photo of the FF display at Footwise was passed around.

Sunshine: Sue needs get well cards

Florida exchanges: outbound- 6 of our members and 4 members from Minnesota with other clubs interested. We need committees for inbound (May or June) and outbound (Jan) need committees.

Netherlands: inbound-September 2010, Joan Rodgers will ask Shelly Ann Lokan to assist.

Tblisi, Georgia- Juanita Weigel was approved as ED (Rita/MS/Louise) with hope of a novice co-ED to assist her. The exchange approximate dates –after Sept. 19, 2010 - 3 days in Tblisi- a "holiday" for 2-3 day-return to Tblisi club for 2-3 more days. Juanita will communicate by SKYPE as emails don't get through. Information to be found on Tblisi at BBC.com and Lonely Planet.

Northern Colorado reciprocal exchange (inbound) for 2011—no activity so far.

The September general meeting—picnic at Monmouth park at 2pm. Music and games. Voting for 3 countries for 2011 outbound exchange (by members interested in going on an outbound exchange) Talk about Vietnam from ambassadors.

October general meeting speaker Lia Danelishvili, from Tblisi, Georgia, will speak on culture. She's a research associate at OSU in the college of veterinary medicine. The meeting is October 11 at 3pm at Corvallis Public Library, members to bring finger food, Joan to coordinate refreshments.

November 8, general meeting- ask Shelly Ann Lokan if her Norwegian exchange student can talk.

December meeting Holiday Breakfast, first two weeks either a Wednesday or Friday. Louise to look into it with Sue and check with Barb.

February 12 meeting is Chinese New Year. Invite Columbia – Cascade to share a celebration with us.

Fundraiser – on order of dinners from last year. Suggestions- appetizers, game night, breakfast, brunch, wine tasting, dessert. Cheeri to write up for newsletter.

We received a thank you from Mbinkar Benoit Shalanyey, a 17 yr old student who received 3 ledgers and 24 pieces of paper through Educare-Africa, a beneficiary from one of last year's dinners.

Respectfully submitted by Cheeri Nichols.

2009 Dinners For Good Helped a Student in Cameroon

The following is a letter from a student who received school materials as a result of last year's dinner donation to Edu-care Africa.

Mbinkar Benoit Shalanyey
GHS Tatum
Lower Arts Class
June 13, 2009
To the Friendship Force, Albany
Dear Friends,



Warm greetings and many loving thoughts to you, your entire force and your neighbours, from Cameroon. I am very grateful to write to you and appreciate you for your kind assistance. I was very lucky to be among the first three students of our class, and I received a prize. I therefore thought it wise to write to you and appreciate it. I received, three ledger books, and about two dozen typing sheets> I really appreciate this, together with my entire family members and friends.

I am 17 years old, and I was born in a town of Kumbo. In the entire family of six people, I have been the only male child so far. My parents through their farming activities, and the hard struggle of my father in particular, enables them to educate us in school.

Our school is an institution suitable for learning, with both the secondary and high schools in the same environment. Our school has only limited sporting activities and only concentrates on football and hardball, whereas volleyball and basket ball are ignored.

Presently my parents live in a village of Talkijah. During holidays, we go back home and stay with them.

I always have dreams of being a religious servant in future, and I forecast being a priest in particular. I love Teaching especially subjects like Geography, Economics, History, Religion and Philosophy. These are the subjects that I am offering presently.

Please Extend my gratitude's to every one, in Albany and I hope we communicate frequently,

Sincerely Yours.

Mbinkar Benoit Shalanyey

October 11 Gathering, 3 PM

Corvallis Public Library, 645 NW Monroe (corner of 6th and Monroe)

The Oct. 11 gathering will be at 3 p.m. at the Corvallis Library, located at 645 NW Monroe in Corvallis. We will meet in the large community room on main floor by the front entrance. This event will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the people and culture of Tbilisi, Georgia which is the location of our next international outbound exchange.

Accessibility: The main library entrance has both a ramp and stairs. Lower level parking has an elevator.

Parking: There is some parking on Monroe in front of the library and by Central Park. There is a parking lot on the north (or Jackson St) side of the library. On that side you can also access lower level parking beneath the library. You can reach the main floor by stairs or by an elevator. Parking meters at the library are free on Sundays. See you there.

Will members whose last names begin with A - M please bring finger food to share, with enough for any guests attending. Coffee/tea and punch will be provided. Be green; bring your own cup.

Trivia Question of the Month

What country is officially known as Sakartvelo?

Friendship Force Pledge

As a member of the Friendship Force, I recognize that I can make a difference. I recognize that I have a mission. 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.

Dinners to Aid Others: We had so much fun --let's do it again!!

People who participated in the dinners last year enjoyed themselves so much that we are going to do them again this year!! Ideas for this year include: breakfast, appetizers, brunch, a game night, wine tasting, dessert. In other words -- get creative. The idea is to get together for a function at a reasonable price, have a good time, and vote as a group on a solid charity. Let Cheeri and Van know the results, and they'll get the money sent.

We need hosts! We need guests. We need fun in our lives! We need to make a difference!

Do you want to host? Please contact Van and Cheeri Nichols at vpncheer@comcast.net or call 503-581-1414 Let's get started!! Hosts—let us know what type of gathering you want to have and how many places are available for guests. Hey everybody—we need a name for this activity— it was called “dinners for good” last year by default—Can we come up with a better name?? If you have any ideas please contact us. We'll put up appropriate ideas up for vote.

Mother Teresa once said that not to look at the masses of people in need but by looking at individuals, you can make a difference one person at a time. A letter of thanks sent by one individual whose life we touched ever so gently when we donated to Educare-Africa based in Albany is on page 5 of this newsletter. Cheeri and Van have an Educare-Africa newsletter available for anyone interested in reading it.

This Issue of Connections, and more information about our club, may be found on our website: <http://www.orgsites.com/or/friendship>

Contact us at: fforegon@comcast.net or PO Box 1703, Albany, Oregon 97321