



friendship force
OREGON'S
MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Friendship Connections

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

Florida Inbound Exchange July 12 - 17

Fun with a capital "F". For all the folks who are looking for summer fun, look no further! Our club loves good times~and there are plenty in the making during our exchange with the folks coming from Florida and Minnesota~plus a couple from Canada and Wisconsin. You won't want to miss these activities.

First: the potluck dinner on July 12 to greet all 20 of them. It's at the Weigels' home. Bring a main dish and either a salad or a dessert. Beverages are being supplied by Juan Ulep. (Thanks, Juan)

Next~ July 13: a trip to the Hatfield Marine Science Center on the coast with a special class where you can learn about sea creatures. Admission and class cost is only \$5 per member. We're going to carpool for this one, and you get to choose where you would like to have lunch. You can get to know the ambassadors in small, intimate groups. Thanks to Kay Macpherson and Barbara Callner for putting this activity together.

July 14 the ultimate piece d' resistance: a trip to the Thyme Garden at 20546 Alsea Hwy in Alsea where you will experience beauty of gardens, woods, babbling creeks, and the most fantastic gourmet meal of your life. Cost is only \$25 per person (and worth much, much more) We will carpool for this one, also. We need to be there by 10:30am.

July 15 is a never-to-be-forgotten trip to the Columbia Gorge, Crown Point and Multnomah Falls with lunch on your own in the Lodge or at the concession stand (if you wish to eat outdoors). Jan Doerfler has planned a spectacular day for us on a comfortable bus. The \$10 cost includes snacks on the bus, and the tip for the driver. You can't beat the cost. You can't even drive there on your own for that.

Friday, July 16, is a day for hosts and ambassadors to do sight-seeing, or go to some-place special, such as Wildlife Safari, Silver Falls, the Capitol, or? This exchange is going to be so much fun that you won't want to miss a single activity.

Deadline for reservations is July 2. Turn in the RSVP form today. Space is limited and we don't want you to miss out on all of the fun. If you have questions, call Exchange Director Dorothy Garrett at 503-838-0274.

**July 12, 2010 Gathering, 4:30pm, Home of Lloyd and Juanita Weigel
Welcome potluck dinner - Please bring a main dish and a salad or dessert**

President's Greetings



Dorothy Garrett and her crew are getting ready to welcome our Florida exchange on the 12th of July. We hope to see all of you at our welcome dinner to greet these ambassadors to Oregon. It should be a fun time as our club has great personalities within. Bring your favorite Oregon dish to share with the group and wear your favorite comfortable clothes as we will be inside and outside.

Thanks, Vonda, for volunteering to organize our holiday party on the 12th of December at the Orchard Heights Winery. This should be a fun time and great food is available for all. On Sunday, Kay Macpherson, told about our fund raising at the Moonfall theatre in Rickreall which will be in September. I know that you will all show your support and sign up to help when she asks. It is always great to hear people volunteering to help make things happen in our club and to participate.

Sunday we voted to accept Saitama, Japan on an incoming exchange to visit us. I need someone to volunteer to be an ED for the exchange in October 2010 when Saitama, Japan comes to Oregon. Oops, as I am writing this I had a phone call from Van Nichols begging to be the ED for this exchange. I told him that at the next board meeting it will be discussed but in the meantime he should start getting volunteers to help him in the planning. FFI is finding another club for them to visit, also, so they will have two weeks in the States. According to FFI, they usually travel in a group of 20 to 25 ambassadors. Van will be making contact with Japan so arrangements can begin for their visit.

Please, if Van calls you to help say yes, you would love to help him.

We need another person to volunteer to be an ED for incoming 2011 from New Zealand. Planning should begin to get the New Zealand ambassadors excited to come and visit us. They will be having a total of 3 exchanges and we are just one of the stops. Since I am on the band wagon asking for ED's I might as well ask for an ED for the outgoing for November 2011 to Taiwan. It is never too early to start planning; the earlier the better. It would be great if we could have our exchange just before the Asian Pacific Festival in Thailand so we could do both.

At Sunday's meeting we had several ambassadors talk of their experiences in Georgia. It sounded like everyone had a great time. We had four ambassadors from New Mexico, Nevada, and Virginia clubs. They all seemed to blend into our club quite well and we enjoyed them joining us. While our members were talking about their experiences we were able to show digital photos that many of us had taken while we were there. Although there was not enough time to explain each picture I hope that everyone was able to enjoy the beauty of the country.



John Stefan and Ted Powell making dumplings in Georgia. Picture by Juanita Weigel

Rosemary Kenney who travelled with us to Georgia landed in the hospital up in the hills after an accident at a market place. It was quite a serious accident which required a lot of stitches in her leg

and a visit to a hospital that had no patients. While she was in surgery many of us walked through the hospital and looked into the rooms and it reminded us of the decaying conditions at the Oregon State Hospital in Salem, although I think the hospital in Oregon is still cleaner than this was. We were surprised at the condition of the rooms and beds as nothing looked very clean. When Rosemary was released, we quickly loaded her into our van. Although they wanted to keep her overnight, we took her on a two hour ride to Tbilisi to a very clean hospital where they spoke English which delighted Rosemary. After being in hospitals Rosemary arrived back in Portland on medical transport on Saturday after we had returned home. She has been in the Portland hospital but will be transferred on the 15th of June to Crestview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She will be having more therapy on her leg and hopes to go home shortly.

In Friendship,

Juanita

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.

Adventures in Georgia by Cheeri and Van Nichols

The long flight to Tbilisi was broken up with a 2 night stay in Istanbul. Most ambassadors arrived on May 18 in the bustling city of Istanbul. The traffic made heads swim in the crowded city full of sights, sounds and smells. May 20 we were greeted at the airport with open arms by our hosts and hustled off to homes in and around Tbilisi.

May 21 Each ambassador went with his or her host to visit special sites. We shared stories at the welcoming dinner that night, a never-ending stream of Georgian dishes that left us all loosening our belts. Multiple dishes were on the table for the initial course. That was good; we are full. Then here comes another that we cannot resist. Then there is another, and another and another. Finally the dessert signals the end of the meal. The entertainment started with an energetic Rumba by a brother/sister team, followed by singing and dancing. For our part, Juanita recited a poem about the sites in Oregon and presented a photo album of the scenes covered in the poem. "Let There Be Peace on Earth" followed this. Then one of the hosts took over the piano and held quite a songfest. We all waddled away from a wonderful evening of eating, drinking and partying.

May 22,23 Ambassadors and families had two free days to spend getting to know each other with lots of food and family time. Sightseeing, symphony, picnics....



May 24 Monday we toured the city while our hosts went back to work. The hill above Tbilisi is full of historic sites. "Holy Mountain", considered the necropolis of Tbilisi, is nestled in the courtyard of St. David's church where dozens of artists, scholars, writers, and politicians are buried. During our time here Mukhran Machabaria, a prominent Georgian poet was buried. Healing springs come out of this hill. "Mother Georgia" a tall aluminum statue looks over the city with a sword in one hand and a bowl of wine in the other showing hospitality to visitors depending on their intent. Two walls of the fourth century Narikala fortress still stand.

Next stop the parliament building. In the committee-hearing hall our guide tells us about Independence Day to be celebrated May 26. It was gained in 1918 after 117 years under Russian rule and lasted only three years before Russian reoccupation. (A number of us had been awakened by low flying aircraft practicing their maneuvers in the wee hours of the mornings in preparation for the Independence Day "demonstrations". Our sleepy brains had asked, "are the Russians here?") In another room Georgian youth were holding a parliamentary debate, in English, discussing the future needs of Georgia and Europe.

One mission of this trip was to visit the orphanage that our club had sent money to last year. The school for 120 children is for orphans and special needs children, ages 6-26. Children entertained us enthusiastically with dance and song. Most of them live at the school with some going home on the weekends to their families. We toured the spotless kitchen and dining facilities where big pots sat boiling with pasta, to be complimented with cheese and bread for dinner. We didn't see any other food. The teachers were caring and patient with the children. We donated clothing and some money.

May 25 - 26 We left for a two day trip to the Orthodox David Gareja monastery that straddles the Georgian-Azerbaijani border in Georgia's most arid and barren area. Talk about great hospitality-on our way our guide stopped at her grandmother's house to let us use the

bathroom, and the neighbor wanting to be helpful, volunteered her bathroom as well.

It had been unseasonably wet this year and to us it looked like big rolling plains with lush grass. There were a few people, only some herding many cattle on the way. We ate our lunch on the top of one of these hills exhilarated by the blowing grass, wind and solitude. Our first view of the monastery was the huge stone slab (with a pitch of 45 degrees) that served as a roof and windows and doors carved into the rock. The complex includes hundreds of cells, churches, chapels, refectories and living quarters hewn out of the rock face.

Signaghy, an almost totally restored walled city, sits on the top of a hill with a splendid view of the plains below the snowcapped Caucasus Mountains. The guesthouse where we spent the night showed us how Georgians travel. Two rooms were for men and two were for women. Some of the beds were like cots with metal or rope frames, sagging like hammocks when occupied. Rita really scored on this one; she had a vacuum cleaner underneath for support.

On the way back to Tbilisi we stopped for a demonstration of Kakhetian culture and food. Bread was being baked in round concrete ovens, treats being made by dipping walnuts in a thickened grape juice, and making meat filled dumplings. We were invited to try out our skills and we did. We were shown how wine was stored in great stone tanks under the floor. A huge typical meal was prepared for us while men dressed in native costumes serenaded us the whole meal.

We arrived back in Tbilisi with our hosts waiting with a late evening meal. We missed the celebration of Independence Day (except for those earlier fly-bys). Our Tbilisi exchange is at an end. Tomorrow we wake up for a 6-day tour of Georgia.

Exchange News

Inbound from Southwest Florida and Nature Coast Club, Florida (Sarasota and Ft. Myers areas)

July 12-17, 2010 -

Exchange details on page one. Sign up to participate by turning in the form on page six of this newsletter.

Inbound from Saitama, Japan, October 1 - 8, 2010, ED, Van Nichols

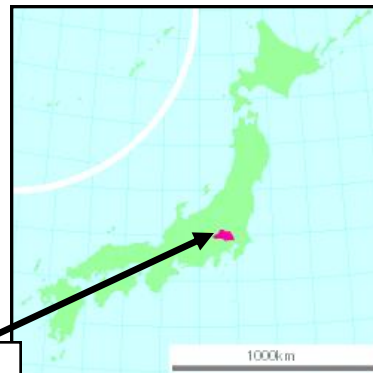
We will have an incoming exchange the first week in October. The group will arrive from Tokyo on October 1 and depart for Dubuque, Iowa on October 8, The ED will start recruiting but hopes to have about 15 ambassadors for the exchange.

I will be asking for volunteers to help put together a set of events in keeping with our hospitable tradition. Juanita Weigel feels that a party with a non-scary Halloween theme would be a fun cultural event. Any other ideas will be welcomed. Hopefully some of the members that have done such a good job putting together the Florida program will volunteer their services for this event. Chairpersons are needed for host/ambassador matching, transportation, welcome and farewell events, and excursions.

Thanks for stepping forward to make this a special exchange.

Van Nichols,
 vpncheer@comcast.net or
 503.581.1414

Saitama Prefecture, capital Saitama



Exchange Directors Needed

Inbound 2011 August exchange from Whangarei and Wanganue, New Zealand

Outbound 2011 November Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Outbound 2011 Northern Colorado

Contact Juanita Weigel to volunteer. Often two people share the exchange director position and the planning is traditionally done as a group. Many hands make the burden of being an ED much lighter and much more fun. Please consider volunteering today.



Visitors from Australia

Our first ever Friendship Force hosts from Bundaberg, Australia, are coming to the valley. Odette and Tony Linedale will be attending our August Friendship Force meeting (August 8, North Albany Park, 3pm).

Would you help me compile a list of those who went on that exchange? Here is what I remember: Donna and Dick Young (EDs), Ebba and Harry Clawson. Dorothy Garrett, Doris Woodfield, Darlene and Bob and Darlene Arthur, Theresa Groshong, Nancy and Loy Marshall, Lid-die Belle and Tony Sedivy, Rita and Ted Powell, Wanda and ? (who lived SE of Albany). Who else? If you went or know others not listed, please let me know, We are hoping some of the members who went to Australia with us on that trip will come to the August FF meeting to greet our guests: Odette and Tony Linedale. Thank you.

Rita Powell powellfam4@hughes.net 503.831.3755

Membership Application or Renewal

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.

Memberships expire on December 31

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

This is a NEW _____ or a RENEWAL _____ Application
 (please print clearly)

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City : _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Dues enclosed: (\$27.00 individual or \$50.00 per couple)
 \$ _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

June 4, 2010, Board Meeting Minutes

Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley Board Meeting June 4, 2010, at Monmouth OSU Credit Union. Meeting is convened at 1:00 by president, Juanita Weigel. Others in attendance were Marilyn Peterson, Dorothy Garrett, Rita Powell, Van & Cheeri Nichols, Bun Doerfler, and Kathy Butler.

Newsletter- Deadline will be June 20. Needed: Article on Tbilisi, Dorothy G. –Florida exchange. The July meeting will be the welcome party. Results of nominating committee. Information on August general meeting. Request for someone to chair holiday event.

Florida Exchange-RSVP form for Florida will be at June 13 meeting and will go out electronically. We all need to be at Weigels' by at least 4:30. Uleps will do beverages.

Minutes for April 6 meeting approved: MSP/Kathy, Rita.

Treasurer/Van: We donated the \$155 to the LBCC choir and received a thank you from James Redden, director. Van had to put the Georgia/US and Oregon club pins (he ordered 1,000 pins @ \$1.25 each on a charge card and wrote the check to Cheeri for reimbursement. While we have a large saving account, we are spending \$1,000 a year more than we are taking in.

Tbilisi Exchange-Bun wants to finalize the monies spent for the exchange. He is going to reimburse the club's money out of the exchange fund. If pins are to be included in the exchange, they must be budgeted. Three people need refunds.

Rosemary Kinney was injured in Georgia and was sent from a Tbilisi hospital to Istanbul and finally to Portland. Fortunately she had travel insurance.

Need EDs- Outgoing Colorado, outgoing Taiwan. Incoming New Zealand has cancelled.

We need workshops for EDs and ambassadors to help determine the level of activity, expectations, target audience. Make budget.

Holiday Event- Orchard Heights on Dec 12 pm \$14.00

FFI has increased fees on all exchanges. We need committee to look into our club finances.

Sunshine- Dick Stewart, Sue Stein, Don Rea. Send in names to Marilyn Bervin of those who need cheering.

Bun to look into a different bank for our exchange fund that is less than \$55 per international wire transfer

Juanita received a thank you from the orphanage in Tbilisi.

Marilyn P.- Opportunity at Albany Lion's Club in the fall to speak on FF for 20 min. Includes dinner at Pop's Branding Iron.

Meeting Programs: June 13,- Tbilisi ambassadors to talk with DVD of photos from trip on screen at Weigels' with strawberry shortcake.

July 12 - Florida exchange welcome potluck Monday, July 12 at Weigel 4:30 pm.

August 8 - Annual meeting picnic, North Albany Park, at 3pm. Election of officers.

Sept.-Powells'

October 16-18- Washington DC International Conference.

Moonfall- Kay Macpherson

Adjourned 2:30 by Juanita.

Respectfully submitted;

Cheeri Nichols, Secretary

Board of Directors 2010

Officers:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| President: | Juanita Weigel 503-375-9967 rufus2000@comcast.net |
| Vice President: | Marilyn Bervin 541-929-5633 bervins@peak.org Louise Claassen 541-928-8057 louclasen@comcast.net |
| Secretary: | Cheeri Nichols 503-581-1414 vpncheer@comcast.net |
| Treasurer: | Van Nichols 503-581-1414 vpncheer@comcast.net |

Standing Committees:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Past Presidents: | Kathy Butler 541-926-9897 f4192butlerkw@comcast.net Dorothy Garrett 503-838-0274 globetrek3r@yahoo.com |
| Sunshine: | Sue Stein 541-928-4003 sstein123@comcast.net |
| Membership: | Marilyn Bervin 541-929-5633 bervins@peak.org |
| Historian: | Warren Harmon 503-3991654 warrenharmon@q.com |
| Archivist: | Rosella Workinger 541-926-4105 rworkinger@comcast.net |
| Newsletter/website: | Marilyn Peterson 541-926-7431 peterson.marilyn@comcast.net |
| Merchandise: | Dorothy Steward 503-364-3969 dstewart854@msn.com |

Club Exchange Directors—Outbound

May 2010 Tbilisi, Georgia Juanita Weigel
Oct. 1 - 8, 2010 Saitama, Japan Van Nichols
2011, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
2011, Northern Colorado

Club Exchange Directors—Inbound

July 12 - 17, 2010 Florida - Dorothy Garrett
2011 Whangarei and Wanganue, New Zealand

Sunday, July 12, Welcome Party, 4:30pm

The home of Lloyd and Juanita Weigel
3450 Emerald Way NW, Salem, Oregon

This gathering will welcome the inbound ambassadors of the Florida exchange. Please bring a main dish and a salad or dessert to share. Let's provide our guests with an abundance of Oregon treats.

Directions to the home of Lloyd and Juanita Weigel Phone: 503-375-9967.

In Salem go west across the West Salem bridge. Stay in the right hand lane and turn right onto Wallace Rd. Turn left on Orchard Heights. Stay on Orchard Heights Road (at the fork with Orchard Heights Place NW stay to the right); go 2.9 miles to 38th, turn right. Turn right on Echo. Go to end of Echo and turn left on Simmons (only way you can turn). Go to two story house on the corner of Simmons and Emerald, right hand side.

*Dear Juanita , How are you?
I hope your are well. I will express
my huge love to you.. I have desired to
send you the letter of gratitude from or-
phanage. You could make these chil-
dren happy. Thanks you. I love you
and I respect. You fine pair of whom I
met in my life. I wish your many good
luck and love and health. Executions of
all desire. My house always is opened
for you*

*Best regards,
KATE MAISASHVILI President
Friendship Force Tbilisi Georgia & Crea-
tive Association "BUMA"*



Letter from Georgian ED, Kate Maisashvili and picture of children at orphanage in Tbilisi. Picture and letter contributed by Juanita Weigel

Florida Inbound Exchange RSVP Form

Reservations are required for Mid-Willamette members only. Do not count ambassadors on this form. Please fill out the form below, detach and return to **ED Dorothy Garrett** by **July 2**. Full payment must accompany the form. Make checks out to: FF of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley

Name(s): _____

Welcome Party _____ number attending (head count needed)

Coast trip _____ number attending at \$5.00 per person = \$ _____ enclosed

Thyme Garden lunch _____ number attending at \$25.00 per person = \$ _____ enclosed

Columbia Gorge trip _____ number attending at \$10.00 per person = \$ _____ enclosed

Return to Dorothy Garrett by July 2 _____ TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____ enclosed

306 Cherry Lane S

Monmouth, OR 97361

This Issue of Connections, and more information about our club, may be found on our website: <http://www.fforegon.org>

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