



## Friendship Force Olympia, WA

December 1, 2011

Volume 30, No. 4

[www.olympiafriendshipforce.org](http://www.olympiafriendshipforce.org)

Ever dream of visiting Russia? This summer holds a great opportunity to go there with Friendship Force of Olympia. Ted Samland has been working out the details for this trip. It is planned for August 1 until August 15.

We will visit two Russian FF clubs, Novgorod and Korolev. The Korolev club can host two clubs at once so we will be hosted at the same time with a Connecticut club. Then the Olympia club will travel to Novgorod for the second week in August. An exciting 3 to 5 day trip to St Petersburg Russia is an optional part of the trip.

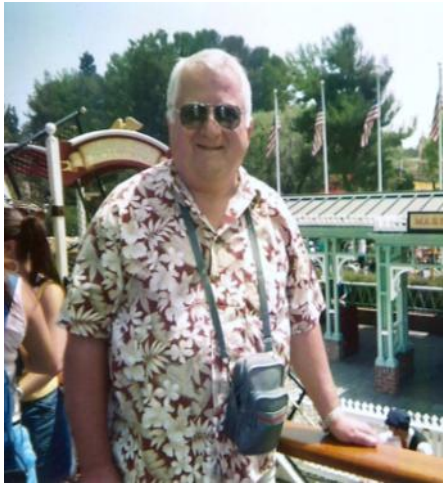
The airfare round trip plus exchange fees, visa fees will be about \$2400.00 per person. If you are interested in going on this exchange please send Lucy Browder, our exchange treasurer, a refundable \$300.00 trip right away. Lucy's address is 2016 Sycamore St. E., Lacey, 98503 The passports will be handled by a company that will get our visas for us. (*You must have 4 consecutive pages that are blank in you passport to obtain the visa*).

This is a trip of a lifetime so start planning.

A regional conference will be held April 20-21 hosted by FF of Lower Columbia in Kalama, WA. The theme is to EXPLORE...PLAY....STAY. It is at the Kalama Community Center, just 30 minutes North of Portland with easy access off I-5. It is a chance to check out St. Helens, the world's tallest totem pole, beaches, antique shops, beautiful Lake Sacajawea and the majestic Columbia River. (The Tulip and Lilac Festival starts the weekend of the conference.) George Brown, FFI President will be there along with representatives from US and Canada. Home hosting is available on first come basis or reasonable hotels are available.

The conference fee includes Friday night appetizers, Saturday breakfast, lunch buffet and dinner banquet and is just \$85.00.

There will be entertainment Friday and Saturday nights. Please let us know if you are interested so the conference hosts can plan on meals, etc.,  
(continued see page 4)



## **The Presidents Page**

**Hello Fellow Travelers I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all the club members and board members who supported me these last two years. You were also very nice and laughed at my jokes/stories.**

**I am confident that you will support Rocky and the new board in the same way.**

**In the second week of May, 2012, we will host Hiroshima, Japan.**

**Our club visited their club in November 2007 and we were hosted in such a wonderful and gracious way. Rocky Perrott has agreed to be the Exchange Director. It will be an exciting adventure for Rocky and the club. I know that the club will support Rocky 100% in his first ED role.**

**The second week of June 2012, our club will be hosting two FF clubs from Mexico, Xalapa and Veracruz. They joined together to fill the exchange. Janice Kennemore will be lead ED with Randi Moe and Gwen Harfst as assistant EDs. This is also their first times as being ED's. as well as being new members. I am sure that we will pitch in and volunteer to help. Judy Filip will be their mentor ED.**

**August 1 through August 15, our club has been invited to visit two clubs in Russia, Korolev,(a suburb of Moscow) and Novgorod (southwest of Moscow). I will be ED for this exchange and I am planning to spend some extra time and visit St. Petersburg, Russia, while we are there so the exchange could last up to 18 to 20 days. Now is the time to make a decision and join the exchange.**

**In the third week of September 2012, our club will be hosting the FF club from Gold Coast, Australia. I am in need for an ED for this exchange with an experienced mentor for guidance.**

**Our club is about making and exploring new adventures. We are a very active, interesting, vibrant, and dynamic club and other clubs are excited to come and visit us. We are doers and excited to try innovative ideas, events and have a positive can do attitude.**

**I would like to leave you with this Irish Toast: "May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live".**

**YOUR TRAVELING BUDDY**

2

**TED SAMLAND**

## A LETTER FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT

One afternoon 5 years ago, Hillary and I were sitting across from a woman (Carolyn Adams) at a wedding reception and were talking of traveling and meeting different people and cultures. She mentioned a group in town that we could be interested in and were invited to our first sighting of Friendship Force International. I did not know something so special existed let alone here in beautiful Olympia. In the short time since joining FF, I've traveled to and seen parts of our area I would not have experienced without my involvement in FF.

I have shared many experiences with members of our FF family and peoples from Egypt, Azerbaijan, Arizona, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Oregon, New Zealand and most recently Romania. Sharing time with these different cultures and religions has enlightened me personally. I have formed friendships that may last a lifetime with many memories of extraordinary peoples.

I am honored to take the helm of this ship for the next year. I know that this group of wonderful people will help guide all of us, the membership, through to monumental memories. As I anticipate the upcoming meeting and wonder who might be invited to dinner next, I hope more people get the opportunity to hear what we all do for the world. This group is in the direction to sustain growth and contribute to the world in the next 50 years. My vision for the future of FF is "connectability". To keep finding extraordinary members, to incorporate a method for introducing high school and college students to the world of travel and cultural exchange and to form more international and national ties. This will include but not be limited to ideas to expand our FF experience at home and abroad.

In Friendship,

Rocklin "Rocky" Perrott

## **Last Fun Of Summer? The 2011 Romanian Exchange With Olympia!**

**By Dave Milne.**

**On September 2, 2011, a group of 12 ambassadors from Romania arrived at SeaTac Airport for a week of visits with our Olympia FF members. Most of the visitors had been hosts to our Olympia Club members when we went to Sibiu, Romania, in 2010. So, unlike many exchanges, this one was in part a reunion of old friends.**

**Although our guests were pretty tired much of the time (from lots of air travel, 10 time zones from home, etc) they really enjoyed their stay! They had several experiences that were “lifetime firsts” for most of them. One was a chance to go kayaking at Miller-sylvania Park, thanks to Oly FF members Gwen Harfst and Leslie True (new, just joining). (Also to go swimming there and throw water balloons at each other, probably not “firsts” for these fun loving folks.)**

**Another “first” was a cruise on the ship Lady Washington. A high point of that experience was raising the Romanian flag on the ship’s signal halyard. And of course there were the more familiar exchange activities, such as dinners with our whole club, small friendship dinners at members’ houses, free day activities, and sight seeing.**

**Our members enjoyed it as much as did our guests! If you doubt it, look at the grins on everyone’s faces! The exchange ended all too soon, our guests continued to a second exchange in San Diego, and all of us look forward to meeting again.**

**Most of these & many other photos are available on a DVD commemorating this Exchange. See separate notice, this newsletter, if you’d like to obtain one.**

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***Continued from Page 1 Pacific NW Rockies 2012 Regional Conference***

**This is one of the best FF experiences you can attend, as it is meeting people and making friends from our region and in a lovely area of our state. Please let us know if you are interested in attending and then e-mail or call Herb Pecha, President of the Lower Columbia FF club. [herbpеча@gmail.com](mailto:herbpеча@gmail.com) or Yvonne Pecha at [hypecha@comcast.net](mailto:hypecha@comcast.net).**

**All conference fees are requested in advance. Send to 5 St. Helens Lane, Longview, WA 98632. Phone numbers are 360-577-8963, 442-8567, or 560-8085. Check out these links:**

**[www.visitMtStHelens.com](http://www.visitMtStHelens.com), [www.ci.castle-rock.wa.us](http://www.ci.castle-rock.wa.us), [www.kelso.gov](http://www.kelso.gov), [www.portokalama.com](http://www.portokalama.com), [www.portofwoodland.com](http://www.portofwoodland.com), [www.opwa.com](http://www.opwa.com)**

**[IF YOU WISH TO HOME STAY WITH NEW FRIENDS THERE, CALL NOW!!!](#)**



**Laura Anderson goes aloft.**



*Desteapta te, Romania!*, the first words of the national anthem, which some people started singing when they saw the flag go up.



Janice Kennemore FF member and hostess at the Dinner at the Flight Museum



Gwen in her natural habitat

From Dave<sup>6</sup> and Dee Milne     **DVD AVAILABLE!!**

**Friends – A commemorative DVD describing last September’s Exchange with Romania is available! All of the fun and festivities of that event, from the arrival of our guests at SeaTac Airport to their departure, is shown on this Disk. All hosts, guests, and Olympia members who participated in the picnic, dinners, cruise, Seattle trip, or other events are in there somewhere! With a rousing Dixieland music back drop!**

**Copies have been given to all hosts and a few others. Two copies have also been mailed to Sibiu. I’m not sure whether the DVD’s can be played on Romanian equipment and am waiting to find out.**

**Want one for yourself, or a Christmas gift, or to send to your Romanian guests? If so please send a check made out to “Friendship Force of Olympia” for \$10 to our treasurer, Sharon Ruhl [3129 Wilderness Drive SE, Olympia WA 98501]. Write “DVD” on it. For more than one, it’s \$5 for each additional DVD. This payment method is “Honor System.” Tell Dave (<dave.laddie@gmail.com>) you sent a check and he’ll hand you the DVD’s in person at our upcoming Quarterly Meeting/Christmas Party on December 10. (If you need them sooner, let Dave know.)**



*“Maria Novac and Vera Motronea say “A-OK” at the Farewell Dinner at Olympia’s Flight Museum.*



*Iulia Opruta with Dave & Laura Andersen on the Lady Washington.*

## Keeping Christmas

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**Henry Van Dyke**

**Six Days of the Week,**

**NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1924 and 1952**

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is keeping Christmas.

*Are you willing...*

to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you;

to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world;

to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground;

to see that men and women are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy;

to own up to the fact that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life;

to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness.

Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

*Are you willing...*

to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children;

to remember the weakness and loneliness of people growing old;

to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough;

to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts;

to try to understand what those who live in the same home with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you;

to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;

to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open-

Are you willing to do these things, even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

*Are you willing...*

to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world-

stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death-

and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

Seasons Greetings from your editor, Marjorie Sebesta 360-250-2927

A.



**Wrinkles of Washington**

**presents**



## **The Puget Sounds of Christmas**

**Proceeds to benefit Senior Services for South Sound**

**Saturday, December 3, 2011  
Olympia Senior Center  
222 Columbia Street NW, Olympia**

**Musical Christmas Show  
Bazaar & Bake Sale  
Pictures with Santa**

**Bazaar and Bake Sale opens at 11 AM  
Show begins 1 PM**

**Tickets are \$10  
Available from:  
The Lacey and Olympia Senior Centers  
Yenney Music  
or call 491-4434**

**Sunday, December 4 at 4 pm at Sizzler's 3315 Pacific 'Ave SE we will meet again for . 4X4. Last month 11 FF friends joined for information, conversation and fun.**

**December 10, 2011 Come and join us for our Christmas Party on at 3 PM at the First Baptist Church of Olympia on 904 Washington Street.**

**Everybody bring a friend and a wrapped White Elephant gift.**

**Meal start time will be 5 PM. Pot luck!!! so bring a fantastic, month watering entry.**

**Program will start right after the meal, and clean up**

**Program**

**1.A rendition of the "Bag Lady and her new friend" by Sharon Bennet.**

**2.A story written and told by Randi Moe.**

**3. Appearance from Santa Clause, and his helpers who will pass out the gifts Call Ted if you have ??? 491-6348**



Dues are due any time now for 2012. They are \$20 for a single membership and \$35 for family or couple membership. Please make the check to Friendship Force of Olympia but mail it to our treasurer (Sharon Ruhl) at 3129 Wilderness Dr SE, Olympia 98501 or bring to the Christmas Party .



## <sup>10</sup>Remember these dates

Dec. 3—Wrinkles of Washington, see inside

Dec. 4—Sunday 4X 4 Club at Sizzlers, see inside

Dec. 10—Christmas Party and Quarterly Meeting, see inside

Jan. 4 4X4 at Sizzlers

Second Thursday of Jan at 6:30 pm Board meeting. All are welcome

Feb 4 4X4 at Sizzlers

Second Thursday of Feb. at 6:30 pm Board meeting.

March—Quarterly meeting—TBA

April 20 21 Pacific NW/Rockies 2012 Regional Conference in Kalawa, WA

May—the second week, host Hiroshima, Japan

June—the second week, host clubs from Mexico

August 1 –15 —Exchange to Russia with possible St. Petersburg add-on

September—3rd week, host Gold Coast Australia

*Be sure to go to Friendship Force International web-site often and check out what is going on. There is a wonderful convention happening in Hamburg Germany this year. There are many add on and side trips that are offered. Our own local web site has loads of information for browsing.*



President	Ted Samland	360 491-6348
Vice-President	David/Dee Milne	360 427-6675
Secretary	Mary Warner	360 456-7964
Treasurer	Sharon Ruhl	360491-4434
Exchange Treasurer	Lucy Browder	360 4916291
Past Presidents	Velda Miller	360 413-7954
President Emeritus	Jerry Bailey	360 438 5628

### Committee Chairs

Membership	Donna Connors	360 438 6721
Newsletter	Marjorie Sebesta	360 250 2927
Sunshine	Karen Langlois	360 438-3991
Publicity Chairman	JoAnn/Mike Young	360 491-1637
Social Activities	Marlene Buffington	253-209-5482
Quarterly Activities	David/Dee Milne	360 427-6675
Community Events	Alan Jacobs	360 866 6842
Historian	Sybil Jones	360 426 1857

### Exchange Directors

**Inbound: Hiroshima, Japan—Rocky Perrott**

**Mexico—Janice Kennemore, with Randi Moe and Gwen Harfst**

**Need ED for incoming Goldcoast, Australia in September**

**Outbound—Russia—Ted Samland**

**Callers for Board Meetings and Quarterly Meetings: Chair: Libby Penney**

**Be sure to check out the FFI website at**

**[www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)**

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL FFI, a nonprofit international cultural exchange organization, headquartered in Atlanta, GA, was founded with a single mission to promote peace, understanding and friendship on a one –to-one personal basis around the world. A 1992 nominee for The NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, it has 367 clubs active in 55 countries promoting friendship and goodwill through an extensive program of home stay exchanges. Supported by membership and exchange fees, donations and foundation grants, FFI was founded in 1977 by its first president, Dr. Wayne Smith and was announced on March 1, 1977, by President Jimmy Carter at a White House gathering of state governors. Today's president is Dr. George T. Brown.

**The Board of Directors for the Olympian chapter Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Lacey Fire Department meeting room. The full membership meets quarterly at designated locations.**

[www.olympiafriendshipforce.org](http://www.olympiafriendshipforce.org) is our web-site.

Any news articles, photos should be submitted to editor, Marjorie Sebesta, 502 DuPont, DuPont, WA 98327 masebesta@aol.com

**Thanks for the articles and photos for this month dear friends.**