



Friendship Force Olympia, WA

June 1, 2011

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www.olympiafriendshipforce.org

Indonesian Middle School Principals Exchange – Changing the Way We See Each Other

Between May 6th and 13th eighteen Indonesian middle school principals and their two exchange directors visited some ten middle schools and a high school in the Olympia and Rochester area. They asked hundreds of questions of state public instruction staff, district superintendents, their peers, teachers, students and their hosts. What they took home was (from what they said) a much different –more positive – picture of Americans.



One was asked. “What did you think of Americans before you came and now?” The answer, “We didn’t like Americans; I’m not sure why we didn’t, but now we like you!”

They fulfilled their primary goal of seeing American teachers in action and noted the biggest difference in teaching styles and approaches:

Here there is much more individual help where teachers actually walk around the room and check to see whether their students understand what they are trying to get across. In Indonesia, teachers (even at the middle school level) still “keep their distance” with a lecture oriented approach.

On the other hand, Indonesian principals need to at least try to keep their teaching skill up to date, as they are required to return to the classroom as teachers after an approximately eight year appointment as principals. Several of our principals voiced concern about that approach working here, but at least one of our local principals said he’d like to do that because he loves teaching.

On the lighter side their exchange director, 23 year old Farah Fadillah, had a really great time seeing snow up close and personal for the first time ever. On a side road on Mt Rainier, she got to walk on (and in) four feet of snow, make and be hit by numerous snowballs, build a snowman, and create a snow angel (all the time getting very wet and cold – but loving every minute of it). Snow just doesn’t happen in Indonesia, which is bisected by the Equator. Submitted by Dan Filip See pages 11 and 12 for more



Dear Fellow Travelers, For as long as I have been participating in events in friendship force, this year is the first time for me that we had three major inbounds and one major outbound exchanges all within a year. Way to go FF of Olympia, I am proud of each of you. The theme exchange, is new to our club (educators from Indonesia) that we just completed was a tremendous success I really appreciate the huge efforts that Judy and Dan put into this exchange. Great job by you and all of your helpers. Many, many thanks!.

A short term committee that is coming up for this summer is the nomination for club officers. Dan Filip has agreed to chair this important committee and turn in the report at the September quarterly meeting. He will be assisted by Tia Pennell and Rocky Perrott. If you would be willing to help and/or provide some input please let Dan know.

I want you to remember that you are invited to attend the no host 4@4 group which meets on Saturday the 4th of June, at 4PM at the Sizzler restaurant. Come as you are and enjoy visiting with other members of our FF club stay for dinner or just a drink.

As most of you know I am a member of Kiwanis Club of North Thurston. One of the many fund raisers we do is a golf tournament every year. This year our tournament will held at Capital City Golf Course, on Saturday the 30th of July, starting at 8 o'clock AM. The reason I am mentioning this; is that I am sponsoring a hole in the name of Friendship Force of Olympia. We have the opportunity to hand out information and talk about our FF club on that sponsored hole. The second reason is to invite any golfers in the club to put together a team to participate or go as a single and join a team. Let me know if you are interested and/or willing to help.

For all the activities that are coming up (see elsewhere in the news letter) I need everybody to pitch in and help in any way possible let the EDs or the social committee know where you would like to help out. Any help will be greatly be appreciated. The social outing for May, was a real fun event, although there was only nine members that represented our club at "Wrinkles of Washington" on Sunday afternoon (May 22nd) we had a wonderful time. It was a really good show. Our treasurer, Sharon Ruhl had a clogging solo. Some talk about doing it again next year. We had supper at a restaurant just a few blocks away and were home before dark.

Check out the activities on page 11 of this newsletter and you will see that there are many activities in which to participate. Write them on your own calendar and join us for fun and adventure. Let me know how we are doing or if you have suggestions. See you soon

Happy Trails to you Ted

FF Home Hosting Apprehension

One of the newest members sat in her car at the Big Tree in Sears parking lot and was thinking to herself, “This is going to be hard. This is going to be really hard! Why do I get myself into these situations?” Then the school bus pulled up and the Indonesian junior high school principals piled out—their first stop in the US after many long hours on the plane. Then Gwen Harfst held up her card with her guest’s name and a woman turned and smiled at her. “Then I knew it would be OK. Now we are like sisters. We have laughed and talked and I miss her. It was so much fun and I am anxious to host again.” (Thanks to all the new members who joined in the exchange activities. You made a difference.)

From our Membership Committee:

A Hearty Welcome to all the Additional Members since January 2011

Add to your Membership Booklet

Chris Stegman, 360 705 3528 Cell: 360 489 7058;

chris.stegman@comcast.net

David and Laura Anderson, 360 352 9179;

email: traveling2come@hotmail.com

Mary Lael, 360 491 1353; email: Konshara@q.com (that is a q not a g)

Janice Kennemore, 360 250 0590. email: janicekennemore@comcast.net

Patricia Tinsley, 360 791 5340, wk. 360 754 335 x6208, email:

pltinsley@comcast.net

Barbara Markham, 360 785 1805 Cell: 402 1665, No email given

Also new since February, but already in the membership book are Tim and Pamela Anderson, Sharon Bennett, Gwen Harfst, Klaus/Linza Hartmann, Barbara Hodgeboom, Jan Walsh, Leon Wilhelm. If I have missed anyone, please contact me at donnaconnors@comcast.net . If you would like to be a mentor to one of these new ambassadors, call me.

Donna Connors, Chairperson

NAMETAGS

For all members that wish to have the new nametags which are white background, rectangular in shape and have the new recommended international logo on them, they are available for you to order at TAGS 3643 Pacific Ave. SE, Olympia, WA 98501, ph. 491-2525; ask for Aileen. I still have nametags that were made for new members. Hope to see you at one of upcoming events so I can give them to you. ...Donna Connors, Membership Chairwoman

Hey there! What a lot of fun it will be to ride a train pulled by a steam locomotive engine through lush forests and over spectacular bridges. We will stop at lovely Mineral Lake for a Barbecue dinner while enjoying music. We will leave Elbe, WA at 4 pm on August 20, 2011. But we need to make reservations for this very popular summer activity. Please send a check to Sharon Ruhl, 3129 Wilderness Dr. SE, Olympia, WA 98501 for \$45.00 to hold your place on the train by July 15 or ASAP. Make a notation that your check is for the train ride on August 20. Call Marjorie 360-250-2927 or email at masebesta@aol.com. (please put FF in subject line) for more information.



Note from New Zealand ED to Jo Ann Young

“Sorry for the delay in replying, Colin and I drove our 1957 Belair Chevy down to Wellington to attend the AmeriCARna car show. This was a 3 day event based in Wellington. All cars have to be American and we cruised to various outlying towns in the area. The towns that we stopped at all dressed their shops and businesses out in red, white and blue, American flags etc. The cruise route would try to incorporate driving past as many schools as possible. The children would be waiting to see us drive by, they were all waving American flags and some had painted their faces. The kids would give us such a great reception as we drove by.”

New Zealand is Coming! New Zealand is Coming!

25 Ambassadors from the Friendship Force of Whangarei, New Zealand are coming to spend the week of June 14 to 21 in Olympia as guests of our club. Seven busy days of fun and friendship have been planned. Plan to join in welcoming our guests by attending the special dinners that are a part of the week. In order to be certain there is a place for you at each, PLEASE RSVP to the names which follow each dinner.

Whangarei Welcome Dinner--A "Partial" Pot Luck: Wednesday June 15, 5:00 at The Olympian Unitarian Universalist Church, 2300 East End Street, Olympia A "partial" pot luck with the meat, beverages, rolls and dessert provided. Members bring either a salad or side dish. Help introduce our guests to typical American fare Free to the Ambassadors. \$3.00 to members (such a deal for a great pork dinner!). RSVP to Sybil Jones at: sybjones@hughes.com

Picnic and Sing-a-Long at Tumwater Heritage Park: Saturday, June 18, 6:00, Tumwater Heritage Park (NOT Tumwater Falls Park):

Come help make a memorable evening for our New Zealand guests at an old fashioned American picnic, complete with a fun sing-a-long of American folk songs maybe some from New Zealand), led by our own Dave Milne on the Yamaha Piano Keyboard. Free to Ambassadors. \$3.00 to members (not a pot luck,---an even better bargain!). Alternative location if it rains: Olympia First Baptist Church on Franklin Street. RSVP to Jo Ann Young at: drjo.annyoung@gmail.com

Farewell Dinner at the home of Ken and Charlene Robinson and Sweet Home Arabian Horses:, 2628 58th Ave., NW Olympia 98502 Monday, June 20, 6:00 p.m. If you haven't attended one of our wonderful Farewell Dinners at Ken and Charlene's home, or even if you have, you will enjoy this evening of friendship. In addition to good food (members are to bring a salad or side dish, all else provided) and beautiful surroundings, those who wish to will have the opportunity to meet the beautiful, champion Arabian horses raised and shown by the Robinsons! Don't miss what will be a gala evening and our final opportunity to feté the folks from New Zealand. Free to Ambassadors \$3.00 for members. (Meat, beverages, rolls and dessert provided). RSVP to Velda Miller at: veldamiller@worldnet.att.net

Jo Ann Young, Exchange Director

ROMANIAN IN BOUND EXCHANGE

Wow and Yahoo! Eighteen GREAT Ambassadors from Romania will visit our club in Olympia on Sept. 2 – Sept. 8 next summer! These Romanian friends were hosts to members of our Chapter when nine of us Olympians and three folks from Nebraska and Lynnwood, Washington, went to Sibiu, Romania, during May/June 2010. The dates of their visit are from arrival Friday of Labor Day Weekend to the following Thursday when they depart – five days and two partial (travel) days in all.

Our prospective visitors include mostly retired professional people; doctors, lawyers, teachers, and some business owners. All are adults. They constitute seven couples and four single individuals, the latter all women. About three quarters of our prospective visitors speak English. We know from firsthand experience that ... they love fun and fellowship! Dr. Doru Moraru, for example, is famous for his jokes with hilarious unexpected punch lines, all told in English in his disarming gentle voice. Most savor “*tzuica*,” best described as a blend of 200-proof tequila with a few drops of grape juice. Our farewell dinner in Sibiu was a cheerful blast, with our hosts demonstrating some Romanian dances. They will love it if we reciprocate in kind – say, with an American square dance and potluck. As they say in Romania – “numai bine!”** ”only the best to you”

Dave and Dee Milne

A Cruise Exchange by Mary Warner

Troyce and I recently participated in the first FF cruise exchange, led by our International President George Brown. In spite of the short notice, 38 other FF members from 5 countries and 11 states took advantage of this unique opportunity and great price to travel to Central America and the Panama Canal on the M/V Explorer. The ship is used for the Semester at Sea global study program most of the year, but 3-week Enrichment Voyages fill the gap between semesters. The next one goes up the Amazon River in December (see www.semesteratsea.org/enrichment voyages). While at sea we heard presentations by top-notch professors and scientists on the history, culture, biology, geology, and current issues of each country before we docked. We also took classes in arts and crafts, Spanish, and photography. The food, entertainment, and fellow passengers were all fantastic. In addition to evaluating the cruise for future FF use, our goal was to promote the organization, and indeed we did. So many people were curious about Friendship Force. At each port of call we enjoyed either a ship-sponsored excursion or something we arranged on our own. Our favorites were an overnight in beautiful La Antigua, Guatemala, the rain forest in Carara National Park, Poas Volcano, and Troyce zip-lining over the canopy. After transiting the Panama Canal, 16 of us left the ship for a lovely 4-day home stay in San Jose, Costa Rica (with the remaining FF members finishing the cruise on the Caribbean side of Central America). All agreed the cruise exchange was a great experience and one that I'm sure will be offered by Friendship Force in the future.

Friendship Force Exchange to Panama, Chile and Costa Rica

April 1 - April 19, 2011

After boarding the plane in Los Angeles at 2:00 AM we arrived in Panama at 10:24 AM. The group of 15 consisted of 7 members from Olympia Friendship Force and members of Friendship Force from Sacramento CA, San Francisco, Portland OR and Winnipeg Canada. Some of the group were awake enough to take a Panama City tour after arriving, others walked around the area near the hotel or took a nap until evening when it was cool and the humidity not as apparent. There were many good restaurants in the vicinity of our hotel for dinner. The next morning our guide came with the bus to take us to Gamboa where we boarded the Pacific Queen for a half day tour of three locks of the Panama Canal. The tour boat was comfortable, shady if you chose or up front the sun and the view were more intense. The cool breeze was welcome as we experienced the awesome experience of being raised in each of the three locks. We shared the locks with two beautiful sail boats. The passage was leisurely and lunch was served as we moved along. At the end of the third lock we disembarked with insight into the wonders of the 48 mile canal that connects the Pacific to the Atlantic in an 8-10 hour journey saving half of the miles it would take from New York to San Francisco if using the route around Cape Horn. We observed major construction of a third set of locks which will enhance the capacity of the 1914 original. Larger cargo ships will be accommodated by this project.

The next day, bright and early, our guide arrived at the hotel to take us on a bus to Gamboa where we climbed into two dugout canoes (with motors) and crossed Lake Gatun and onto the river on a 1 1/2 hour boat ride to the Embera Indian Village where we spent a fascinating day. Our guide, Ann Gordon, had grown up in Olympia and after working as a photo journalist in the area had married one of the Embera men and is now a member of the village as well as running the tour company. We were entertained with information, tours around the village, crafts displays, a walk through the jungle to examine medicinal plants, lunch of fish and plantain wrapped in a banana leaf and dancing and music. It was a memorable day.

We used free time in Panama City for tours and shopping and good food everywhere. The Caribbean influence in Panama was more striking than the other places we visited and there was construction going on everywhere in Panama City.

Our first hosted home stay was in Santiago Chile. This city of 5 million people in the last 2 years has suffered an 8.3 level earthquake and a large aftershock. The effects are visible everywhere and the people are still coping with the aftermath of this frightening experience. Our host was an American woman and her Chilean husband. Barbara has lived in Chile for about 40 years so she could share comparisons of cultures and help with problem solving related to communications and expectations of our host group. We spent one day visiting the old seaport town of Valparaiso, perched on a hill and sweeping down in crooked houses to the busy seaport. The history of this town included Spanish explorers and Dutch and English pirates, all seeking gold and treasures from the indigenous groups, some who gave in and the Mapuche who strongly resisted. Much of this history was demonstrated beautifully in a later visit to the Military Museum in Santiago.

During our visit we also watched the changing of the guards in Constitution square, visited a variety of cathedrals and museums and spent an interesting Saturday in the country at an organic vineyard and winery followed by a fun afternoon at a Chilean wine festival celebrating the harvesting of the grapes. There was music, wine tasting, booths selling everything related to the grape and everyone was in the mood for a celebrating the harvest. Our final party was at a historic old restaurant where we had steaks or salmon and Chilean wine and were entertained by music and dancers in the costumes of the various sections of Chile.

Our last stop as ambassadors was in San Jose Costa Rica. We found the Costa Rican hosts warm, fun loving and willing to do anything to make our stay enjoyable. San Jose is a vibrant city with a positive attitude. It is the most advanced country in Central America with good health care and a high rate of literacy. It has the lowest poverty level in Central America and the positives relate to the fact that there has been no military in Costa Rica since 1948 and money that would have gone to the military is used for the good of the people. A strong desire to be a leader in environmental issues has been a focus and ecotourism is a major source of income in this lush, green country of fruits, flowers and coffee production. The Friendship Force of West Alajuela hosted us as well as ambassadors from Friendship Force of Harrisburg PA. Alajuela is a city near San Jose. The hosts were well organized and did a magnificent job hosting two clubs at once. One of the highlights of our visit was an overnight stay in a beautiful resort near Arenal Volcano, which was clearly visible on our visit. We enjoyed warm pools for swimming and a boat ride on the lake where we saw many kinds of birds and lush green and had another view of the Volcano. Palmeres Park (Friendship Park) has an area maintained by the West Alejuela Club where there are markers for each club that has visited and flags of each nation hosted. Olympia Friendship Force had a plaque placed on a marker to commemorate our visit during a ceremony in the park. (see photo) The music of Costa Rica made us all want to dance and there was music, food and dancing at both our welcoming party and our farewell party. The memories will always bring a smile.

By Margaret Choate







WaHeLut Indian School Principal, Harvey Whitford (left) asked if the staff of the school and students could perform at the farewell event. (The Indonesians and their day hosts visited the school earlier in the week). Wow – what a treat! Native American drummers



In the US, teachers, and in this case, the principal herself (Linda O'Shaughnessy) actually talk to the students one on one to see if they are understanding the material being taught.

At the sea!

The beautiful sea!

In Costa Rica!!!



SAVE THESE DATES

June 4 4 PM 4@4 JUST COME FOR A CHAT Sizzlers Restaurant.

June 14—21 The Exchange with Whangarei, New Zealand Page 5 JoAnn Young

July 23—Saturday 11-4 pm Picnic at Hammersly Inlet, Low tide for beach walking is best at 1 pm so come eat first Sharon Jeffries, 3323 SE Stotsberry RD., Shelton, 98584 , 360-426-6660

August 4—4 @4 JUST COME FOR A CHAT

August 20—, Mount Rainier Scenic Train Ride and Dinner, More information inside on page 4 Marjorie Sebesta

September 2—8 - Romania visits here Page 6 Dave and Dee Milne

September Quarterly no date—Nominations

October 4—4 @ 4 JUST COME FOR A CHAT

October 15— TBD

November 4—4 @ 4 JUST COME FOR A CHAT

November 13—Dinner and Play or Play and Dinner, Emily Harvey Time TBD

December 4—4 PM JUST COME FOR A CHAT

December 11—Christmas Party and Quarterly Meeting

Remember: 4@4

Want to have an easy, relaxed time to chat and catch up with your FF friends. Just remember "4@4."

On the fourth of the month, every month we will gather at The Sizzler Steak House on Pacific Avenue at 4:00 pm. No need to RSVP, just come when you are able.

It doesn't matter what day of the week the fourth falls on, the Sizzler will have a spot for us. Enjoy a drink or stay for dinner, whatever your pleasure. See you there!

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: New Zealand, August 2011 Jo Ann Young

Outbound: Santiago, Chile— April , Ted Samland /Marjorie Sebesta

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

Be sure to check out the FFI website at www.thefriendshipforce.org to see the new changes.

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 367clubs 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 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.