



Friendship Force Olympia, WA

March, 2011

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. www.olympiafriendshipforce.org

We are hoping that you have already invited friends to the World Friendship Day Celebration happening this Sunday, February 27, 2011 at the Elks Bldg., next to Ralph's Thriftway. 1818 4th Ave east Come to see and hear the International Students perform telling stories of their homeland, dancing and singing. Our own great lady and first President, Jerry Bailey, along with Lucy Browder will describe the beginnings of our club in Olympia. She will have her travel map with her so you can see all the places she has gone. That may be why she is so vibrant and alive as she in the 90's years of life.

There will be treasures from other cultures for you and your guests to look at it . We hope to have lots of cookies, (hope you you can bring some) coffee and lemonade. All this is from 2– 4 pm. February 27.

Soon eight members of our club joining eight new friends to travel to LAX and then on to Panama, there we will visit the Panama Canal, have a picnic there and a tour of the city. We will stay in a lovely Italian inspired hotel. The next day we will visit an Embera native village. Karen Langlois is familiar with our guide and please contact her if you wish to bring some gifts for the the villagers, particularly the children.

On April 5 we will fly to Chile for a home stay followed by a flight to Costa Rica on April 12 for a home stay and a visit to a resort and tour of the active Arenal Volcano. We will return on April 20 just in time to celebrate Easter with our families.

This trip is another indication that many Ambassador trips will be a combination of different groups and themes. In Costa Rica we will spend some time with a club visiting there also from Pennsylvania. When Ted and Marjorie went to Las Vegas, they were with Ambassadors from all over the US and Canada. It makes for a wider spectrum of experiences as you meet your host club and people from other clubs. We learned that there will be many themed exchanges, whether it be golfing, gardening, environmental or service projects, or chess for example. What a way to go. Visit a country, following your interest or hobby but staying in a warm home with new friends.

To keep up with each other and our travels we are meeting for short chats at the Sizzlers at 4 PM on the 4th day of the month. Come and get to know us if you are or not already familiar with the nice friends in Friendship Force. .



Dear Fellow Travelers,

There are many exciting events happening in our club. A new idea that we are going to explore is 4 X 4. This means that on the 4th day of every month our Friendship Force group will meet at Sizzler's Restaurant at 4 PM just for social talk. You can eat or drink or just drop by and say Hi!

This Sunday, February 27, we will be meeting at the Olympia Elks (next to Ralph's Thriftway) to take part in our World Friendship Day Celebration. We will celebrate with St. Martin's International students- songs, stories, dance and displays. *(if you can come early- by 12:30 to 1 to help set up let me know) Please seat yourself so that we have a FF member at each table . Be sure to wear your FF badge and bring cookies) Of course, the most important part is invite or bring a guest.*

Fast forwarding to 2012—in February we will host the Gold Coast club from Australia. I need someone to step up to take the lead ED to begin the communications between clubs. In April we hope to host Cheyenne club from Wyoming. In June we will be outbound to Hertfordshire, England. And tentative plans are to host the San Diego club and or Lawrence, Kansas club in September

As you can see there is a lot happening in our club and I want you to feel needed and want to help out. Of course, ED's are the first need and they need support. Elsewhere you will see articles about our inbound exchanges. Each ED needs support or help. At the March 19th quarterly meeting there will be 3 different active exchange groups holding discussions and you can join to learn about the exchanges and how to participate See you at the next 4 X 4 Ted Samland, President

Vice Presidents's Page

Friends –

The Spring Quarterly Meeting of the Friendship Force Olympia Chapter will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Facility on Saturday, March 19. !!! It's a potluck! Social Mixer and Mingler! Also a brief business meeting, then some scheming about this summer's inbound exchanges, and finally a fun dance lesson that we can take with us to show our hosts when we go on out-bound exchanges! We'll start at 11:00 AM and finish up by about 3:00 PM.

Our main business will be exchange planning. After lunch, we will break up into three groups for this. Take your choice; help plan (1) the incoming exchange with Indonesian teachers scheduled for May 6 - 13, OR (2) the incoming exchange with New Zealanders for June 14 - 21, OR (3) the incoming exchange with our Romanian hosts of last year for Sept. 2 – 8. The respective Exchange Directors are Judy Filip, Jo Ann Young, and Dave/Dee Milne.

Then ... a dance lesson! We may even get good enough to call it a real "dance," a line-formation that gives all couples a chance to mix it up and have fun. Not the minuet that Dave has hoped for, but close.

The UUC Facility is located at 2300 East End St. NW, in West Olympia. From the corner of Harrison and Division, go north on Division about 1 mile. At "20th/Elliott" street (the small grocery intersection) turn left. Go about 1 block, then turn right on East End Street and follow it a few blocks to the end. Lo, there resideth the Facility!! (There are signs at the 20th/Elliott and East End turns.)

See you all there! Dave and Dee Milne

It is time to grow —————



Our First Themed Exchange:

Middle School Principals from Indonesia,

From May 6-13, 2011, Olympia will host 21 middle school principals from Jakarta. The heart of the exchange will expose our ambassadors (and us!) to what's going on in our area middle schools. The Indonesians view this as a chance for professional development. We have a chance to learn why we should be proud of our local schools.

This exchange is not our traditional program so it gives us a chance to grow and reach out to the community. The exchange planning committee includes others in the community with an interest in education as well as our own members. We will be asking non-members to help with the home hosting. Your recommendations are encouraged. Specific groups we will contact include the principals and teachers who welcome us to their classes, members of the World Affairs Council and the Thurston County School Retirees Association. Of course some of us may be hosting too.



Some things will still be familiar; the welcome at the capital and the Friendship dinners in our homes, and the Farewell potluck dinner will be the same. The Farewell dinner is a "must attend" event, and not just because we have lots of guests to feed. Word is that the Indonesians love to cook and entertain so you'll want to be there.

There is lots for us to do as we get acquainted with international ambassadors and their Olympia hosts. We have lots of lunches to provide. Day hosts are needed for local transportation. Who knows, maybe when the Olympians find out how much fun we have, we can recruit some new travelers.

Dan and Judy Filip and helping persons

I want to thank all of the membership for the wonderful retirement gift. It is not a real retirement from the club but only from the position of treasurer for many years. This was a complete surprise to me. I didn't know what to say to Ted when he gave me the gift. I also want to thank all the membership for the help and encouragement through the years.

Lloyd Berry

Whangarei, New Zealand Exchange Director's Report

The Exchange with Whangarei, New Zealand will be from Tuesday, June 14, (arrival) until Tuesday, June 21 (departure). No one from Wanganui was able to join the group. ED is Marge Wrack. For several weeks, she and I have been corresponding at least once a week by email.

Currently there are 25 paid Ambassadors, all from Whangarei 11 couples and three singles. To host them we will need 12 host homes and several Day Hosts.

A planning/coordination committee is being assembled for the Exchange and will have its first meeting this month. The following activities are being considered:

6/14 Arrival and afternoon/evening with hosts

6/15 Olympia Day (still in planning stage) and Welcome Dinner in the new Commons of the Unitarian Congregation (scheduled)

6/16, 17, 18, 19, A variety of possibilities will be planned with the committee---one of these days we will visit Blake Island and Tillicum Village, for which they are paying an additional \$50.00. Our club members are welcome to join the group (cost about \$78.00 for round trip transportation to Seattle, ferry to Blake Island with guide, delicious buffet dinner and excellent professional Native American show).

6/20 Farewell Dinner at the lovely home of Velda Miller's brother and sister-in-law, Ken and Charlene Robinson

Reported by JoAnn Young

Did you know that we are interested if you or someone you know is ill or needs a little cheer? Karen Langlois is happy to send a card, call the membership if we can help the person, or send a birthday, sympathy, or get well wish. Call her .

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.

Any other ideas? Bring ‘em to the March 19 meeting! Think of sights our guests would love to see here and around Olympia and “American” activities that show how we live, work, and play. We will try to get a running start on our schedule of activities and free days and perhaps identify some hosts for our visitors at that time.

As they say in Romania – “numai bine!”** ”only the best to you”

Dave and Dee Milne

Save this program

February 27—World Friendship Day Celebration—Elks Club bldg 2-4 PM ***

March 4—4 PM 4X4 at Sizzlers on Pacific Ave. JUST COME FOR A CHAT

March 19—Quarterly Meeting 11-3 PM details on page 3 Milnes

March 31—Adventurers on exchange to Panama, Chile and Costa Rica leave

April 4—4 PM 4X4 JUST COME FOR A CHAT

May 4—4 PM JUST COME FOR A CHAT

May 6—13 Our First Themed Exchange—A very excited, fun, musical, and intelligent group of middle school and principals are with us. (Check page 4 Filips)

June 4—4 PM JUST COME FOR A CHAT June Quarterly TBD

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

July 16—Saturday 11-4 pm Picnic at Hammersly Inlet Sharon Jeffries

August 4—4 x4 JUST COME FOR A CHAT

August - Train ride TBD Marjorie Sebesta

September 2—8 - Romania visits here Page 6 Milnes

September Quarterly no date—Nominations

September 17—Tokeland Hotel Social—Come for lunch or stay the night \$65.doubles, \$55 singles includes wonderful dinner and music show.

October 4—4 X 4 JUST COME FOR A CHAT

October 15—Quarterly meeting TBD

November 4—4 X 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

******All paid up members will be able to pick up the new membership list at the Feb. 27th World Friendship Day Celebration.**

President	Ted Samland	360 491-6348
Vice-President	David/Dee Milne	360 427-6675
Secretary	Mary Warner	360 456-7964
Treasurer	Sharon Ruhl	
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 JoAnn Young

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

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

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 pro-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