

Friendship Force Flyer

June 27th General Meeting

Where: Portland State University, Smith Memorial Student Union

Room: Vanport Room #338

Time: 3 to 5 p.m.

What Food to bring: If your last name starts with A thru M, please bring a finger food; if it starts with N thru Z, please bring a dessert.



The next meeting of the Friendship Force Columbia Cascade club will be held on June 27th from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. We will be eating first, so please arrive on time. There will be no tables, so walk around and visit with everyone. Please give those people not wearing a Club badge an extra warm Friendship Force welcome, as they are our guests.

On the agenda is a presentation about our last outgoing trip to North Carolina and Florida; a program on "hosting" organized by Marge Terdal who will have several people talk about their hosting experiences and why they love to host; and guest speakers from the International Student Life Department at PSU. These three students, from Mexico, Japan and Brazil, will talk about their surprises when they arrived in America. We'll hear about their culture; the negative and positive culture shock of coming to America; and their problems with English idioms such as "happy hour" and "buy one, get one free." This will be a real insight into the cultural exploration these students have experienced and hopefully, it will help us to be more sensitive to cultural differences while we are traveling to other countries.

Location: The meeting will be held at Smith Memorial Student Union, 1825 SW Broadway, Vanport Room # 338. (Corner of Harrison)

When you enter the building from Broadway, walk forward until you see an elevator on the left. Take that elevator to the 3rd. Floor. Look for the sign for the Vanport room.

Food: Finger food and desserts provided by the Club members. Plates, napkins and forks will be provided. Tea and coffee will be available.

Parking: "Caddy corner" from Smith Memorial Student Union on Broadway is a parking garage for PSU. It is free on Sunday! All PSU parking is free on Sunday. You can enter on Broadway or 6th (depending which direction you are heading). Do not park on the 2nd floor, as these are reserved. The ground floor or other higher floors are available for us to park.

See you there!

Joan Weed

Southwest Florida Incoming Exchange July 17 -22, 2010

There will be 19 ambassadors coming from Southwestern Florida (near Fort Meyers) to visit us from **July 17 to July 22, 2010**, after a week stay with Mid-Willamette FF. (6 Ambassadors are from Minnesota and 1 from Ontario, Canada - they are "snow birds" but belong to FF SW FL)

On Saturday, July 17, the Ambassadors will be arriving by Amtrak train. Hosts will pick them up at Portland Union Train Station at 11:30 a.m. and will take them directly to the **Welcome Party** at Donna Egan's in Vancouver. All members are invited. Please let Hedy know if you are coming so she can order enough Subway sandwiches, which will be provided. Club members are asked to bring drinks, chips, a side dish and/or fruit.

On Monday, July 19 the Ambassadors will go on a full day **Mount Saint Helens Volcano Tour**. EcoTours of Oregon will provide guides and transportation. Club members are encouraged to come along. The cost is \$59.50 per person plus an \$8.00 monument entrance fee (this is waived for those with an "America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass" Senior Pass). There is also a \$10.00 fee for lunch provided by EcoTours from New Seasons Market (sandwich, water, chips and a cookie). Check out EcoTours of Oregon's website for more details and their excellent reviews. www.ecotours-of-oregon.com/sthelen.htm
If we have 30 or more in our group, the cost will be reduced by \$5.00 per person. A final head count is

needed by 7/5. Cancellations are not accepted after that date; add-ons may be possible.

On Wednesday, July 21st there will be a **Farewell Dinner** at the Vancouver Public Utilities Department (PUD) meeting room, catered by the Pacific Rim Bistro. The cost is \$21.00 per person. The menu includes Chicken Teriyaki, Kailua Pork, Steamed Rice, Curry Mac Salad, Garden Salad with Tomato and Cucumber with a choice of Ranch or Balsamic Vinegar dressings.

All Columbia Cascade Friendship Force Members are invited to these events. Please do let us know in advance for all three events and make payments for the Mt. St. Helen's Tour and the Farewell Dinner by July 5.

Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday are free for Hosts or Day Hosts' plans.

For additional information or hosting, please contact Hedy Griffiths www.hedygriffiths@aol.com, 503 235-3264 (out of town from 6/19-6/26) or Betty Miller merbett@comcast.net 503 887-0841.

Please send a check made out for either or both of these events (separate checks per event please) to:
Hedy Griffiths
1306 SE 28th Ave. #2
Portland, OR 97214

New Smyrna Beach, Florida Incoming Exchange

September 7 - 14, 2010

I'd like to thank everyone who stepped forward to host, day host, and/or be on the planning committee for our incoming exchange from New Smyrna Beach. An exchange cannot happen without the willingness of each of you to play a part. We do have everyone placed, but if you find that you will be

available to host in September after all, even for part of the week, let me know. Plans change, and sometimes unexpected situations arise that make it so a person who planned to host isn't able to. It's good to have someone waiting in the wings. We are expecting fifteen ambassadors (friends we haven't met yet.)

Mary Gayle Van Ingen - Exchange Director

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Last Exchange to Charlotte, North Carolina

We had a busy week in Charlotte, North Carolina from May 16 to 21. Sunday was a travel day for most of the 18 of us that took part in the exchange. Our hosts met us at the Charlotte Airport which happened to be the day that 17,000 NRA members were trying to leave town at the end of their national convention. The airport looked like everyone in Charlotte was evacuating the city. I am glad we were coming in and not trying to leave.

On Monday morning we had a walking tour of downtown Charlotte. We got to walk across sky bridges and visit Bentley's Restaurant on the 27th floor (top floor) of the Charlotte Plaza. The downtown core has several new large buildings that are corporate headquarters for financial businesses. We took photos with our group in front of several large sculptures.



We went to the Billy Graham Library for lunch and a tour. To finish out our day we had a welcoming potluck dinner at a local church. We were entertained by clog dancers (think square dancers with steel taps on their shoes). Some of our members were even brave enough to get up and participate in couple of dances.

On Tuesday we had a tour of JAARS, a nonprofit organization that provides technical support and transportation services for Bible translators. They have a fleet of airplanes, helicopters and vehicles that venture into remote places to provide support for staff that are learning obscure languages so the Bible can be translated for the local population. We also toured the Alphabet Museum

that shows how all the different language groups were developed and are related. That night we broke into small groups and had dinner at the homes of local FF Members.

Wednesday was a free day and people went in all different directions. We had brunch at a cabin on a lake outside of Charlotte followed with a tour of the wonderful Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden.

Thursday started with a visit to the Reed Gold Mine where the first gold was discovered in 1799. The day ended with a barbecue farewell dinner at Jim & Ann Hawk's beautiful home on the shores of Lake Norman.

Friday was time to say goodbye to our good friends in Charlotte and head out to Florida, home or to other adventures.

Opportunity to Participate, Have Fun and Meet New People

With such a busy year next year, we are starting early looking for people to volunteer for our Exchange Committees. We need experienced members and new members (with new ideas). Since hosting and traveling on exchanges is the main purpose of Friendship Force, this is a great way to get involved. We need your help, your ideas and your time. We will be hosting and entertaining two international clubs next year. A club from New Zealand will be coming in July, with a club from Brazil coming in August. They will be a great opportunity to make friends from around the world. Our experienced members will help train the new members on how we organize an incoming exchange. It will be a great way to get to know each other, too. Please call Joan Weed (503) 946-8896 to discuss which exchange committee you want to join.

Highlights of Our May Exchange to Greater Orlando

Fern Momyer, Emily Smith, Thelma Diggs, Sharon Dawson, and the Van Ingens met in Florida on May 21st to be hosted by the Greater Orlando Club. This was a smaller exchange, different because of its intimacy.

We first attended the local Winter Park History Museum and Farmers Market, had a guided tour of the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens which had over 200 examples of this Czech-born sculptor's work on display. There just happened to be an orchid show on the premises, so of course, Dick Van Ingen wandered right off. That evening we met up with the Taste Travelers, local FFI members who like to meet for dinner at various ethnic restaurants. We just happened to meet them at Black Hammock Fish Camp where we tourists were introduced to deep-fried alligator (tastes just like chicken, right)? We saw our first alligator, but not our last.

We attended a lovely harp soloist's performance at Casa Feliz, the signature residential work of noted architect James Gamble Rogers II and an historic home that was saved from demolition and moved from its lovely lake setting to a piece of property nearby. There is more water than you might think in the area; many of the lakes are connected by canals dug in the early days to facilitate logging. We went on a scenic boat ride through some of the canals connecting three of the lakes. Many Winter Park homes face these canals. The boat ride was followed by a progressive dinner: Appetizers at one home, over-the-top entrees at another, desserts at a third. Each of these hosts outdid themselves in variety and presentation.

Next day we left for Gatorland, a pretty amazing and very educational place. A surprise was finding white alligators, not albinos but leucites, characterized by reduced pigmentation but with regular colored eyes. They happened to have four from a litter of thirteen. A plus was that the raised walkways gave us an opportunity to see the many hundreds of nesting egrets and other types of birds at eye level. We saw tended nests, untended nests, eggs being turned, a chick hatching, so close you could almost "reach out and touch them."

We met another day at the Harry P. Leu Gardens where a very knowledgeable docent and local FFI member gave us a personal tour. While there, we went through the 1888 home and enjoyed a picnic lunch on the grounds. This garden has a Wollemi Pine, recently known to science and very rare. Dick Van Ingen went running off to find it.....

The Morse Museum, which features Tiffany glass, was closed, but at home on Antiques Roadshow Orlando we saw some clips of what we missed. A must see for another time. We were treated to a wonderful potluck at the home of the Gatlins complete with a boat ride around the lake - saw Shaq O'Neal's house and David Siegel's unfinished 66,000 sq. ft. home. Certainly lifestyles different from ours!

We had a very filling brunch at the Disney Animal Kingdom Resort Boma, rode the monorail to the Grand Floridian Hotel, and in between got a general idea of just how much land Disney really encompasses. Later that day, a member who lives in the Disney planned community of Celebration explained the layout of the city, took us on a walking tour, and even bought us ice cream on a very warm day.

It was a most wonderful experience. I think we must have been seen every sight while being royally "wined and dined." Our hosts were wonderful in every way. Reed was a car buff, and Mary Jane had lots of irons in the fire. In addition to being ED, she does volunteer work, and she had just finished her second china painting class. We went outside several nights to watch satellites being launched, but each time, they were scrubbed. Fern stayed with a woman who does incredible beading and weaving, Emily had her sketchbook everywhere we went, and we even got to make our own feeble entries, Sharon and Thelma walked everywhere(!).

Winter Park and Orlando are places that are truly worth a visit, and that's not even taking into account Disney and related attractions.

Mary Gayle Van Ingen - Exchange Director

Update on Friendship Force International's Organization

The following is an excerpt of an article from Mid-Willamette Newsletter with updated information about FFI.

Regional Conference, Spokane, Washington
Article by Rita Powell

In his keynote speech, FFI President, George Brown, talked about the FFI organization and finances, among other things. The following pieces of information were shared with us:

"The central office in Atlanta has a full time staff of nine, with several additional part-time employees." In comparison, FFI had 22 full time employees in 2002. The office has been able to reduce its size by delegating more responsibility to volunteers (like Field Reps), and because of increased efficiency through automation. The staff numbers were also reduced because 20% fewer ambassadors traveled on exchanges in 2009, due to a variety of reasons. FFI will be moving to a smaller office soon, as well.

What does the FFI staff actually do? On behalf of the global Friendship Force network, they:

- 1) maintain a strong international organization that is governed by a Board of Directors,
- 2) maintain and support the global club system and the exchanges, including involvement in new club development, and

leadership training, 3) develop new programs, such as the teacher exchanges, language learning exchanges, humanitarian exchanges, and eco-exchanges, 4) manage the "partnership" programs (These are ones conducted in countries where the Friendship Force cannot operate as it does in countries where regular exchanges are organized), and 5) promoting Friendship Force globally - creating stronger visual and written messages that focus on our mission.

The Ambassador fees, club affiliation (membership) fees, donations, grants and some income from sale of Friendship Force merchandise all help to keep the FFI office going.

The 2009 FFI expenses totaled about \$1,020,000. This is a 20% reduction from 2008, made possible by budget cuts including reductions in all staff salaries. The FFI Board and management are committed to maintaining an organization that is financially solid. This means fee increases as needed. They are also looking more aggressively for other sources of revenue. Most importantly, it means every club recruiting the maximum number of participants in exchanges. In this way the Friendship Force will successfully continue the mission to which we are all committed.

Are You Planning to Participate in an Exchange in 2011?

We are now starting our selection for Exchange Directors for two incoming international exchanges and one outgoing international exchange. This is what Friendship Force is all about and we are so fortunate to have our plate full with international exchanges. If you are new to the club or not so new and you want to get involved with club activities, this might be for you. The ED (Exchange Director) will have lots of help and information from FFI. You will have a committee to work with you. So, if you plan to go to Brazil in June, this would be an opportunity to pay for part of your trip. The two incoming exchanges are from New Zealand in July and Bela Horizonte, Brazil in August. This is a great way to get involved with the planning and coordinating of an exciting exchange. If interested, please call Joan Weed (503) 946-8896

Membership Application

Annual dues cover the cost of the newsletter and expenses for exchanges and activities of the Friendship Force of Columbia Cascade, as well as membership in Friendship Force International.

Single Membership \$25

Couple Membership \$30

Dual Membership \$12.50

New Member? YES NO

If new member, we need name for name tag. _____

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Questions: Call Sharon Dawson:
503-234-4530

Please circle Interests:

Hosting incoming ambassadors

Activities, planning committee

Attending local activities

Speakers' bureau

Send to:

Sharon Dawson, FF

3275 SE Ankeny Street

Portland, OR 97214

Please send your photos of Columbia Cascade activities for possible publication in the next newsletter to ffnewsletter@yahoo.com

FRIENDSHIP FORCE COLUMBIA CASCADE

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Address Correction Requested

Bringing Friendship From Our Community To The World!