

June 2013



friendship force
NEW MEXICO

JUNE 15 – LUNCHEON – 11:30 am

PLEASE NOTE – THE MONTHLY LUNCHEON IN JUNE
WILL BE THE **THIRD** SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.
A ONE-TIME CHANGE ONLY. DETAILS BELOW.

From Anne and John Heard, Co-Directors

We thought that we would dedicate this piece to reminding ourselves and you what Friendship Force is all about. We belong to a truly wonderful organization, dedicated to furthering the cause of friendship, love and peace as emphasized in the pledge we repeat before every luncheon.

In our organization we have luncheons every month with good food, fellowship and entertaining speakers. This is a great activity and something that sets us apart from other clubs that don't meet nearly so often. But it is also important to remember that our core purpose is to carry out international and domestic exchanges to bring different peoples and cultures together. This is where what we

do can really pay off in terms of international and inter-cultural understanding.

For many of us international travel is difficult due to the cost, although FFI is clearly one of the least expensive ways to travel, and the rewards of getting to know other peoples on a personal level are without doubt greater than an average tourist vacation. For others, the physical requirements of international travel may preclude participation. Home hosting visitors can provide a similar experience - a highly rewarding and educational experience and one that can bring great joy to visitors and hosts alike. It's also a great way to get to know our own community when we participate in visits

and excursions in Albuquerque and New Mexico in general.

Finally, we urge each member to take advantage of opportunities and resources available at the FFI's Website – thefriendshipforce.org. The "World of Friends" catalog, for example, lists current FFI travel opportunities that you can access through a simple application process. Today there are more than 300 Clubs in 60 countries; people willing to open their doors in the name of hospitality and friendship.

On the website there is also a mechanism for obtaining basic information about any club in any country with descriptions in each case of the club and the area, often with indications of what you can

John & Anne Heard,
Co-Presidents
Berta Wagstaff,
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Inbound Dir-Blue Mtn.
Judith Mead
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Nell Conway,
Treasurer
David & Martha Meister
Past Co-Presidents
Evelyn Thole,
Membership Chair
Carolyn Sedberry
Program
Peggy Birmingham
Historian
Ruth O'Keefe
SW Regional Conf.
Inbound Dir.-Alajuela
Cheryl Lehmborg
Website
Sue Bowersock
Newsletter

Co-Directors, cont.

The Seasoned FF Traveler

*I am fully aware that my
Youth has been spent,
That my "Get Up and Go"
Has "Got Up and Went."
But I really don't mind,
When I think with a grin,
Of all the grand places
My "Get Up" has been!!!*

expect to see in a visit. There are many other offerings as well, including interesting blogs, language learning and special educational opportunities.

This is a unique organization with multiple benefits and we should strive to take maximum advantage of what it has to offer. We will attempt to keep you

more informed of opportunities down the road through announcements at luncheons and email communications.

-----John and Anne

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

All luncheons are at 11:30 am
at the Hotel Elegante, 2020 Menaul NE.
Reservations may be made with David
and Martha Meister, 881-7359, JMeister20@comcast.net.

JUNE 15 – THIRD SATURDAY (please note the date change) – Our speaker will be **Wally Gordon**, journalist and local author, discussing his book, "A Reporter's World." Wally has reported for the New York Times,, Baltimore Sun, and was editor of his own paper in the East Mountains, covering stories from the Watergate scandal to the potential for nuclear disasters in New Mexico. His first-hand history lesson teaches us that the truth is so wild, no fiction is needed.

JULY 13 - We welcome Baker H. Morrow, author, UNM professor, award winning master architect (Journal Center, Big I), who has translated Fray Alonso de Benavides' book "A Harvest of Reluctant Souls" concerning 17th Century New Mexico. His presentation will include slides and a discussion of the life and times of this fascinating priest and his chronicles of the Spanish frontier, its life, myths and legends, including the legendary "Blue Lady" or "Blue Nun."

AUGUST 10 – Our topic in August is the Santa Fe Presidio Soldiers and their contribution to the American Revolution. George Garcia, Chair of the New Mexico Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Education and Americanism Committee, will be our guest speaker. Mr. Garcia's seventh great grandfather was a member of the Presidio in 180. At that time, Nueva España included present-day California, Arizona, Santa Fe and San Antonio. Member John Farris recommended we invite Mr. Garcia and it promises to be an interesting discussion of this early time period.



UPCOMING EXCHANGES

INBOUND EXCHANGE FROM ALAJUELA, COSTA RICA

Ruth O'Keefe is Exchange Director for this September 11 to 17, 2013 Exchange. We expect 20 Ambassadors who will first visit FF-Pikes Peak. On their "request" list is a trip to Santa Fe, Taos, Sandia Peak Tramway, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Hispanic Cultural Center, shopping and more. These go-getters don't want any "down time" and should make the most of their visit with us. Many of the Ambassadors have visited the States before, but Colorado and New Mexico will be a first. They want to "learn and share as much as possible" and we plan on doing just that. If you are available to host, day host, help with transportation, or have any good ideas for this exchange please call or email Ruth O'Keefe, 505-450-3658, RuthintheQ@gmail.com.

INBOUND EXCHANGE FROM BLUE MOUNTAINS, AUSTRALIA (May or June 2014)

Berta Wagstaff has stepped forward to lead this event. Many thanks, Berta.

INBOUND AND OUTBOUND EXCHANGES TO SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Our club will be involved in a pair of exchanges with the Sarasota, Florida club. The Outbound Exchange (April 2014) and the Inbound Exchange (November 2014) are both in need of Exchange Directors. If you can volunteer, please contact John and Anne Heard, 344-3255 or JohnHeard2@msn.com.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

March 21-23, 2014

The Friendship Force Southwest Regional Conference will be held March 21 to 23, 2014 in beautiful Albuquerque. All members of the Friendship Force Clubs of Austin, Baton Rouge, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and San Antonio are invited. The theme will be "Enchantment of the Southwest." The conference lecture schedule will feature our beautiful, multicultural Southwest, as well as topics related to Friendship Force activities. Our current FFI President, Dr. George Brown will attend unless a new president has been selected by then.

Friendship Force Southwest Regional Conference will focus on the "Enchantment of the Southwest"

The conference will be held at the Albuquerque's Embassy Suites Hotel which is offering a special room rate for the conference weekend and a few days beyond, not to mention that they serve the best hot breakfast in town. In addition, FF-NM will offer one or two-day home stays after the conference. We will include a tour of Old Town Albuquerque on Sunday morning following the conference.



The Conference will also feature a silent auction and if you have any items to contribute for this please contact Ruth O'Keefe. The registration fee, including all food, Friday reception, and Saturday banquet is \$175 if paid before February 1, 2014. Ruth O'Keefe is in charge and will be requesting volunteers, 332-0297 or RuthintheQ@gmail.com.

OUTING TO THE JERSEY BOYS



A group of 16 met and enjoyed the outstanding presentation of the Jersey Boys! Many reminisced the good old times when the uplifting and feel good music was played and sung! The Jersey Boys was held at Popejoy and lasted for almost 2 hours!!!

The group met at Yanni's for a great dinner and camaraderie! Everyone was encouraged to think of other special events that might be a good opportunity to gather, share good times and get better acquainted with members! Think about joining us next time!!!

PERSONALS

From Longtime Members Jean and Jim Genasci.....

Jean writes that they will be moving soon to a retirement community close to their daughter in Denver. "Saying goodbye to our many friends in Albuquerque is very difficult, after two winters, and fifteen full years here, but living close to our daughter is becoming more necessary as we continue to age." Their new address, effect June 7, is 3091 Mill Vista Road, Unit #1601, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129. Jean and Jim plan on transferring their membership in FFI to a group in southwest Denver. We wish them well.

Dee Bailey writes

I am now "opening my cabin in Colorado for friends. It is a large cabin surrounded by the pines near Vallecito Lake - a private Get-Away, perfect for celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. To see more details visit their website www.cabindee.com. You can reach Dee at 505 884-1686 or her cell, 505 980-8067.

REMINDERS...

***** Thanks to John Farris, the Albuquerque Public Library has three author signed copies of ***The Other Side of the Mountain: Bridging the Great Divides: the Friendship Force Story***. The book describes the founding and growth of Friendship Force and the active involvement of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter in the organization. Check it out for a real understanding of how and why FFI began.

***** Finally, remember to check out two websites – the first is for our club, www.friendship-force-new-mexico-usa.org and the second is FFI, www.thefriendshipforce.org.

Did You Know?

June is , , ,

Adopt-a-Cat Month

European Hedgehog Awareness
Month

Motorcycle Awareness Month

National Safety Month

Skin Cancer Awareness Month

July is . . .

Lakes Awareness Month

National Hot Dog Month

August is . . .

Allergy Awareness Month

Hair Loss Awareness Month

Child Support Awareness Month