



From Anne and John Heard, Co-Presidents

John & Anne Heard,
Co-Presidents
Berta Wagstaff,
Vice President
Inbound Dir-Blue Mtn.
Judith Mead
Secretary,
Outbound-Sarasota
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
Larry Littlefield,
Inbound - Sarasota
Cheryl Lehmborg
Website

First, we send our most sincere appreciation to all concerned for making the just completed exchange with Alajuela, Costa Rica Friendship Force the major success that it was. The "Ticos" thoroughly enjoyed their time with us and have invited us to visit them in Alajuela when we can arrange it. Special thanks go to our Exchange Director Ruth O'Keefe who not only lead our team, but also hosted three Ambassadors and provided a great welcome dinner. Thanks also to Ginger Grossetete for hosting a spectacular Farewell Dinner in her beautiful home and garden. Homes hosts, day hosts and all who worked tirelessly on various events are also thanked for their hard work to make the visit special and rewarding. Finally, we extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Alicia Fletcher for her flawless work as our interpreter. She delivered her translations throughout the visit with passion, high energy,

and great enthusiasm and made sure that all of our guests truly understood and fully appreciated what was going on.

By email, we notified you that FFI has requested we submit our preferences for 2015 outgoing exchanges by November 1 and we attached the list of exchange possibilities. We will vote on our preferences at our next luncheon on October 12. Please keep two thoughts in mind. FFI is likely to send us to a region which we have not visited recently. Since our last three exchanges have been in Latin America, we likely will be assigned Europe, Asia, or Africa. Second, we stand a better chance of getting our preference if we ask for a country with multiple clubs; for example, Canada with 21 and England with 23 are more likely than requesting Ireland or Norway which each have only one club. With regard to incoming exchanges for 2015, we have two

good possibilities – one from the Northwest Territories of Canada and the other from the Sunshine Club in Australia.

Finally, we ask you to check this newsletter's article about the Southwest Regional Conference in Albuquerque next March 21 to 23, 2014. We urge as many of you as possible to attend this interesting and fun-packed event. We need to provide a good showing from our club as hosts and uphold our reputation as one of the best in the U.S. The registration fee helps cover our costs to host the event. In addition, we need volunteers to assist with conference activities and provide home hosting for one or two days following the event. Ruth O'Keefe is Conference Director (ruthintheq@gmail.com) or 505 332-0297 and John Farris is in charge of the home hosting (JohnAFarris@comcast.net) or 505 797-2279.

Trees

*I think that I shall
never see a poem
lovely as a tree.....*

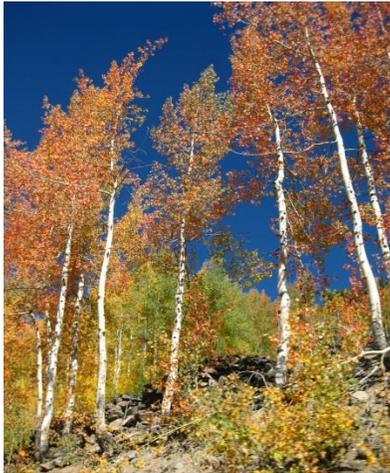
James Joyce

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

At the luncheon on September 14, the following officers for 2014 were elected: Judith Mead, President; Berta Wagstaff, Vice President; Cheryl Lemberg, Secretary; and David and Martha Meister, Treasurers.

LUNCHEON NEWS

AUGUST 10 – George Garcia, Chairman of the New Mexico Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, fascinated us at the August luncheon with his tales of the Spanish Presidio. Six of George's ancestors came to New Mexico with General Don Juan de Onate in 1598. George's patriot 7th generation grandfather, Jose Manuel Garcia de Noriega, was born in 1751 and joined the Presidio in Santa Fe in 1780. He was killed in 1792. George was wearing a replica of the Spanish uniform worn in the 1700's.



George Garcia

SEPTEMBER 14 – We were pleased to host B.G. Burke for a return visit and fascinating look at Billy the Kid in the movies, particularly how a relatively unknown and unremarkable historic figure became the feature of so many Hollywood epics. Member Alicia Fletcher ably translated B.G.'s talk for our Alajuella Ambassadors.



B. G. Burke



The wonderful Ambassadors from [Friendship Force Alajuela](#), Costa Rico and their hosts.



We had a wonderful day in Chimayo learning about weaving and visiting the Santuario.



The Ticos seemed to bring rains of biblical proportions, especially during our open trolley tours...



But they brought sunshine into our hearts with their friendship, warmth, energy, enthusiasm.



Our entire FFNM club got to meet and share lunch with our [Friendship Force Alajuela](#) guests at our monthly luncheon.



Botanist and Member Larry Littlefield takes the Ambassadors on a hunt for flowers in the Sandias.



Member and Docent Alicia Fletcher leads a tour of the National Hispanic Cultural Center.



Our last goodbyes at our final get together at Ginger Grossetete's home.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXCHANGES

WORLD CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS (November 2013)

INBOUND EXCHANGE FROM SARASOTA, FLORIDA (April 23, to May 1, 2014)

Larry Littlefield will be the Exchange Director for this event. Those of us on the 2012 Outbound Exchange to Nepal and Bhutan shared that experience with several FFI members of the Sarasota Chapter and responded positively to a proposed exchange of our two chapters in 2014/2015. We are beginning our preparations to host the Floridians this coming April. Please note the dates on your 2014 calendars and consider hosting one or more of the ambassadors in your homes. More information will be made available as planning progresses. Thank you for your help.

Larry Littlefield

INBOUND EXCHANGE FROM BLUE MOUNTAIN, AUSTRALIA (May 25 to June 1, 2014)

Berta Wagstaff will be the Exchange Director for this inbound exchange. This puts two exchanges very close together, but we are confident our members will volunteer to home host and day host.

WORLD CONFERENCE, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND (October 2014)

OUTBOUND EXCHANGE TO SARASOTA, FLORIDA (November 2014)

Judith Mead has stepped forward to lead this outbound exchange.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

March 21-23, 2014

Time is drawing close for the Friendship Force Southwest Regional Conference which will be held March 21 to 23, 2014 in Albuquerque at the Embassy Suites. 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. We understand it goes against our New Mexican way to sign up early for an event, but the sooner you sign up, the easier it will be for Ruth O'Keefe who is heading up this venture, to make plans. A copy of the sign up form is attached to this newsletter. Thank about it!!!!

The Regional Conference will include a silent auction with proceeds offsetting the cost to our club for hosting this event. We would like to get 15 or 16 items donated for the auction and are hoping to find items that will not be too difficult for purchasers to carry on a plane, as many of the participants will be flying to Albuquerque. We are also looking for items for Albuquerqueans, such as gifts certificates, which can be used here. Jewelry, art work, crafts, articles of clothing are all suggestions. Please keep this in mind as we move toward the conference. If you have item(s) you would like to donate or that you can solicit please call Dee Bailey (884-1686) or Judith Mead (323-2253). Thank you.

FF-NM TO VISIT WHEELS MUSEUM

We will be visiting the **Wheels Museum** on **Wednesday, September 25**, at **10:00 AM**. It is about a two hour tour, so for those who so desire, we could go somewhere for lunch afterwards. So far, we have 15 people signed up to go. If you want to go and are not signed up yet, please **call Martha Meister at 881-7359**. She will give you directions.

AL ABBOTT, ORIGINAL MEMBER OF FRIENDSHIP FORCE, PASSES AWAY AT 101

Alfred Achille Abbott, Lt. Col. (Ret.), born in Castelmezzano, Italy who came to the U.S. when he was 9, passed away peacefully on September 7, 2013. Al was one of the original members of the Friendship Force who zealously recruited others to join, particularly on the first FF-NM trip to Korea. He enlisted in the US Army as a private and retired 28 years later as a Lt. Col. and then taught Spanish, English, and History in California and Albuquerque schools. Al was inducted into the Albuquerque Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1998 because of his work with many civic organizations, including the Good Shepherd Brothers, Friendship Force, Retired Officers Association, Albuquerque Philosophers Unlimited Club, and the Albuquerque Public Schools Volunteer Board. In addition he generously funded scholarships at UNM, CNM and several other colleges. He will be buried at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe.

A memorial service will take place at La Vida Llena where he had lived since 1996 on Tuesday, October 1 at 10:00 am.

Donations in lieu of flowers are requested for Good Shepherd Center, PO Box 749, Albuquerque 87103 or ARCA, 11300 Lomas Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, 87112.

NEW MEMBERS

We are please to welcome new members

**Darlene Esquibel
Jane Parks
Kenneth & Chris Fenner**

***** 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?

September is.....

National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Childhood Cancer Month

National Guidedog Month

National Fish Month

National Bourbon Heritage Month

"My favorite poem is the one that starts 'Thirty days hath September' because it actually tells you something."
Groucho Marx

October is.....

National Book Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

LGBT History Month

National Chile Month

"There are things I have learned never to discuss with people: religion, politics and The Great Pumpkin."
Charles M. Schulz

November is.....

National American Indian Heritage Month

National Novel Writing Month

International Drum Month

Real Jewelry Month

"It is not what we say about our blessings but how we use them that is the true measure of our Thanksgiving."
W. T. Purkiser