



FRIENDSHIP FORCE
NEW MEXICO
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Newsletter

***SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ENCHANTMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST***

**March 21-23, 2014
Embassy Suites Hotel, Albuquerque**

The Friendship Force of New Mexico will host the Southwest Regional Conference of Friendship Force International on March 21 to 23, 2014 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1000 Woodward Place NE. Clubs included in this region are Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

Conference Director Ruth Anne O'Keefe has planned an exciting array of social gatherings and learning opportunities. In addition, we are pleased that Friendship Force International's President, Joy DiBenedetto, will be attending and speaking to the delegates.

We encourage each of you to sign up for and participate in this exciting event. All events take place at the Embassy Suites and highlights of the conference are:

Friday, March 21, 6:00 – 8:00 pm – Welcome Reception

Saturday, March 22 – All Day

Addresses from FFI President Joy DiBenedetto and FFI Consultant Laurie Ann Scott

Presentation by Jeff Gilkey of amazing photos and videos of New Mexico Landscapes

Breakout Sessions with the following topics: Successful Exchanges (Judith Mead), Photography on Exchanges (Roger Baker), Wildflowers of the Southwest (Larry Littlefield), and an Open Dialogue with Joy DiBenedetto and Laurie Ann Scott exploring new ideas for FFI.

General Session with Club Reports

Cocktail gathering, followed by Dinner, a silent auction, and Keynote Speaker Tom Chavez discussing New Mexican and Southwestern historical topics.

Sunday, March 23, 11:00-12:00 – Docent led tour of Old Town

Please consider attending this wonderful event. All-inclusive fee is \$190 per person. Contact Ruth Anne O'Keefe for details, ruthintheq@gmail.com or 505-332-0297.

NEW OFFICERS TAKE THE REINS

Newly elected officers now guiding FF-NM are:

Judith Mead, President; Berta Wagstaff, Vice President;

Cheryl Lemberg, Secretary; and David and Martha Meister,

Treasurers.

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LUNCHEON NEWS

Monthly luncheons are held on the second Saturday of the month at 11:30 am at the Hotel Elegaté, 2020 Menaul NE.

February 8 – Our speaker is Bob Julyan who will speak on "Lost Treasures of New Mexico." He is a very popular speaker with the Humanities Council and we were thoroughly entertained when he spoke to Friendship Force a few years ago about "The Place Names of New Mexico."

Bob Julyan is an Albuquerque-based writer and lecturer specializing in the connection between human and natural history. He has been Chair of the New Mexico Geographic Names Committee for many years, and has written guides to the wilderness and the Continental Divide Trail.

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SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEEDS *YOUR* HELP

The Regional Conference will include a silent auction with proceeds offsetting the cost to our club for hosting this event. Organizers 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. Jewelry, artwork, crafts, or unique articles of clothing are all suggestions. We are also looking for items which Albuquerqueans can use here, such as gifts certificates. The time is drawing near, so please let Dee Bailey (884-1686) or Judith Mead (323-2253) if you have item(s) you would like to donate or that you can solicit. Thank you for your help.



San Felipe de Neri Church-Old Town



Nat'l Museum of Nuclear Science & History



International Balloon Fiesta



Bio Park's Botanical Garden

UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXCHANGES

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

Larry Littlefield - Exchange Director

Planning for the Inbound Exchange from Sarasota is well underway. Ambassadors arrive Thursday, April 24 and will spend a week in Albuquerque. A tour of Old Town, the National Hispanic Cultural Center, Acoma Pueblo, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, a trip to the Crest via the Tram, a Rail Runner trip to Santa Fe with guided trolley tour of the city, a tour of Intel and a tour of Casa San Ysidro are on the schedule over the week the Ambassadors will spend in Albuquerque. Exchange Director Larry Littlefield indicates that there are sufficient home hosts (Wagstaff, Farris, Willis, O'Keefe/Studer, Grossetete, Mead and Pardee), but there may be a need for some day hosts.

In addition, the Ambassadors will have a welcome dinner at Garduños at Winrock and farewell dinner at St. Chad's Episcopal Church. Larry thanks Berta Wagstaff and Julie Littlefield for their help in organizing the program and says that as the Exchange gets closer they will know if more day hosts are needed. Sounds like a fun-filled and packed itinerary.

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

Berta Wagstaff - Exchange Director

WORLD CONFERENCE, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND (October 2014)

OUTBOUND EXCHANGE TO SARASOTA, FLORIDA (November 2014, dates to be confirmed)

Judith Mead – Exchange Director

Did You Know?

February is.....

**American Heart Month
National Black History Month
Marijuana Awareness Month
Bird Feeding Month
Spunky Old Broads Month**

- 1 National Freedom Day
- 4 Thank a Mailman Day
- 7 Winter Olympics **Opening ceremony**
- 10 Clean out Your Computer Day
- 13 Get a Different Name Day
- 16 Do a Grouch a Favor Day
- 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 20 Love Your Pet Day
- 22 International World Thinking Day
- 26 Tell a Fairy Tale Day
- 28 Public Sleeping Day

March is.....

- 1 Peanut Butter Lovers' Day
- 3 If Pets Had Thumbs Day
- 5 Multiple Personality Day
- 8 International (Working) Women's Day
- 10 Middle Name Pride Day
- 14 Learn about Butterflies Day
- 16 Everything You Do is Right Day
- 20 International Earth Day
- 20 Extraterrestrial Abductions Day
- 22 National Goof Off Day
- 26 Make Up Your Own Holiday Day

**Who Chooses These Themes,
Anyway?**

Toasts to the New Year

To Health: May you be in good health, and may you enjoy the blessings it brings to your life.

To Happiness: May you be rich in blessings, poor in misfortune; quick to make friends and slow to make enemies. May you find joy in little things.

To Prosperity: May you be rich with gratitude for all life has to offer. May your dreams meet with reality.

To Peace: May you be at peace within your soul and find comfort where you are in life.