



Friendship Force New Mexico Newsletter

July 2015



Hay River explores Jemez: Members of the Hay River Friendship Force test the waters of the hot springs at Soda Dam on the Jemez Mountain Trail. See more on page 2.

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS, JOHN AND ANNE HEARD

For us, the past few months have been a whirlwind of activity outside of the club, including a five-week-long trip for John in Washington and Colombia working on a proposal for his outfit, the Pan American Development Foundation, and another week in Miami for the graduation of our granddaughter from the University of Miami. We are scrambling to get up to speed all around, but are happy to be back in the saddle and ready to make the rest of the year as interesting as we can for all of you.

As you see on the calendar below, our next incoming exchange is from La Serena, Chile, comprising 17 women. Alicia Fletcher, our own Ecuadorian-American, is the director. It will be a great program and a lot of fun for hosts and visitors alike. We hope many of you will meet them one way or another.

On June 10, Anne and I met with a group being spearheaded by Adelle Lees, a program manager for Global Ties (the old Albuquerque Committee for International Visitors – ACIV). The group included representatives from Sister Cities, the Albuquerque Committee on Foreign Relations, the

Diplomat in Residence at UNM, and several others. We will be meeting regularly from now on. The benefits from this can be multiple, including cooperation on shared programs, new members, and new opportunities for enjoyable and enriching learning experiences.

We now have 18 responses to our member survey and a bunch of helpful suggestions and ideas for improvement to share with you, which we will make available once we have them tabulated. This is the commencement of our effort to develop a strategic plan for the club.

We also have a bunch of new members, listed at the end of this newsletter, including folks in Las Cruces, Santa Fe and Taos.

We hope as many of you as possible will attend the July luncheon. John will speak on Colombia and cover the war on drugs as well as the ongoing peace talks and ex-combatant reintegration programs.

RECENT EXCHANGES AND EVENTS

Hay River Exchange



A Hay River Ambassador climbs to a cliff dwelling during the visit to Bandelier National Monument.

From April 22-29, Albuquerque hosted 12 Canadian ambassadors: 11 members from Hay River in The Northwest Territories and one from Toronto. They had spent the first week of their trip in Bakersfield, Calif.

Hay River has hosted numerous exchanges but this was their first outbound exchange. They had asked to visit Albuquerque during the Gathering of Nations. The 10 who attended the powwow were blown away by the experience; many spent the entire day and much of the evening at The Pit.

The group visited Santa Fe and Acoma as well as the ruins of San José de los Jemez and Bandelier National Monument. In Los Alamos, Judith Mead led a tour of Fuller Lodge Museum. One ambassador said she would not have appreciated the tour as much as she did if it had not been for what she learned on the earlier tour Judith gave at the National Nuclear Museum.

Albuquerque welcomed the Canadians with a New Mexico dinner prepared by Berta and Don Wagstaff held at Ginger Grossetete's house. Tom Seamon, exchange director for

the very successful week, hosted the farewell dinner. Small group dinners were hosted by Denise Coleman, Veronica and Homer Dale, Jo Margaret and John Farris, Cheryl Lehmberg and Julie and Larry Littlefield. -- From Lenore Pardee

Liz Buckley of the Hay River group sent this very kind note in the wake of the exchange:

On behalf of the Hay River Ambassadors, I would like to send our gracious thank yous to all your amazing hosts! You certainly planned an exciting and whirlwind type of trip for us all. You did a fabulous job putting together a schedule for the events we saw, learned, and appreciated in one short week!

The dinners were excellent, all the friends we met, and the tours we went on were fabulous!

The knowledge gained by all was astounding! The museums, pueblos and memorial sites we visited will not be easily forgotten. Our tour guides have to be acknowledged and appreciated for their brilliant and historic knowledge on events of your beautiful city and state!

Thanks so much once again for hosting us. Hopefully we can do the same for your group if you ever decide to visit us here in the North. I know a lot of us will be wanting to return to your beautiful city and state!!!

God bless

Yours in friendship,

Liz Buckley

Regional Conference hears about N.M. Pueblo Culture-themed exchange

Judith Mead, one of several members of FFI New Mexico who attended the Southwest Regional Conference in Houston in March, gave a presentation there on the New Mexico board's proposal for hosting a themed exchange in 2017 that could only be done in New Mexico.

The presentation was part of a workshop providing information on various exchanges that would be different from the usual one-week stays with host families. These included themed exchanges, global exchanges, exchanges that would appeal to physically active younger people (Next-Gen) and other innovative ideas.

FFI New Mexico's theme would be "Pueblo Culture, from the Ancestral Puebloans to Contemporary Pueblos." New Mexico is full of possibilities for this exchange. It would cover two weeks with some nights out of Albuquerque, and would take advantage of our access to knowledgeable speakers and to venues where visits can be made to see places and people in person. The first week would be a study of the Ancestral Puebloans and the second would focus on the contemporary pueblos, their lives, art and even concerns. This exchange would be limited to 20 participants. A proposed itinerary was part of the presentation.

Judith says the talk was very well received and six people that attended the workshop wanted to sign up immediately for the exchange.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXCHANGES

Saturday, July 11. Monthly Friendship Force luncheon at the Hotel Elegante. The speaker will be John Heard. He will cover the war on drugs in Colombia in addition to ongoing peace negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and programs for demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants. He spent April of this year in Colombia working on a reintegration proposal for assistance to the Colombian Government.

July 21-24. Field Rep meeting with FFI headquarters in Atlanta. John will attend and report back to the club on the latest news and progress of worldwide efforts to create a more dynamic program.

August 28-31, 2015. Friendship Force International World Conference in Vancouver. Anne and John will attend. So will Lenore Pardee. We will return with the latest FF news from around the world.

September 14-20, 2015. Incoming Exchange from La Serena, Chile. Alicia Fletcher is the exchange director. The group is made up of 17 women. Home hosts have been identified. There is still a need for day hosts.

March 2016. Austin Conference for Southwest Clubs.

June 2016. Outgoing exchange to Tarapoto and Lima Peru. Lenore Pardee is the exchange director. Tarapoto visited us in 2012. They are a wonderful group of people living in a beautiful place between the jungle and the Andes. Lima, of course, is a truly fascinating city with an amazing history and is full of magnificent art and culture. Lima is also the jumping-off point for tours of Machu Picchu and Cuzco.

September 2016. Incoming exchange from Melbourne, Australia. We visited these folks in 2010. They are likewise a wonderful group of people. We do well with the Australians, like the Blue Mountain group we had last year.

Spring and fall 2016. Reciprocal outgoing and income exchanges with the Napa-Sonoma Club. Dates remain to be worked out. This is sure to be popular.

Fall 2016. World Conference in Morocco. We understand this is to be in Marrakesh, an amazing opportunity.

New Members

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Friendship Force New Mexico officers:

Co-Presidents: John and Anne Heard
 Vice President: Lenore Pardee
 Co-Treasurers: Martha and David Meister
 Secretary: Cheryl Lehmberg
 Membership Chair: Evelyn Thole
 Membership Development Chair: Berta Wagstaff
 Social: Cheryl Lehmberg
 Communications: Gary and Shelley Carter

Please send contributions for the next newsletter to garycarter74@yahoo.com. In addition to matters dealing with FSNM activities, we're eager to see accounts of any experiences members have of an international nature, whether traveling abroad for pleasure or business, or meeting people from around the world here in the United States. Photo submissions are welcome as well.