



January, February, 2015

www.thefriendshipforce.org



Club meetings are held the third Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November at the Salt Lake County Government Center at 2001 South State Street, SLC. Use the East Entrance at the north end of South Building where free parking is available.
Social 6:30-7:00 p.m.
Program 7:00-7:45 p.m.
Clean up 8:50-9:00 p.m.

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Newsletter – Lee Flynn
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Cub Reporter – Betsy Heath

February 21, 2015

Social for the Utah Friendship Force

This will be a luncheon at the Sampan Restaurant at 12:00 pm on 2/21/2015.

The address is 675 East 2100 South, SLC



Dear Friendship Force Members,

We are pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2015 FFI World Conference to be held in beautiful Vancouver, Canada from August 28 to 31! The Vancouver host committee is planning a very special welcome reception on the evening of the 28th, complete with live music and entertainment. You won't want to miss this authentically Vancouver experience, with food representing the city and its culture, so plan your arrival accordingly!

All conference details can be found on the Official Conference Website. We encourage you to bookmark the link for easy reference and to check for updates over the coming months. While you are there, check out the "Conference Options" tab to see all of the ways you can explore Vancouver during the conference!

Should you have any additional questions please contact FFI's Conference Director by emailing conf@thefriendshipforce.org.

We look forward to seeing you in August!

From the President's Desk Margret Boes-Ingraham

Hello Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! We have completed an amazing 2014 with a Regional Conference, Russian Visitors, a visit to Wisconsin, South Africa and the Open World Program with the Ukraine delegates! I think back and have many good memories from these programs.

I want to especially thank Cherie and John Wallace and Tom and Mauritia Stephens for helping with the Open World program and all other that helped in MANY ways.

Looking ahead to 2015 it also promises to be a great year with fun and exciting opportunities with the Canadian visitors! Vancouver will host the International Conference and exchanges before and after are being offered. A great fun opportunity I hope many of you will participate in as well.



Always, remember you may travel with other clubs and on other type exchanges. The FFI web site has many interesting opportunities. Please let me know if you would like help looking for some of these opportunities.

Additionally three of our members participated in a Semester at Sea cruise with Friendship Force. Another member traveled with another club to South America.

This time of year it is so fun to hear from folks you have stayed with or who have stayed with you. It REALLY does make the world a lot smaller. Now the Ukraine seems to have many faces I know. I am so glad I was able to be with them daily and get to know them a little better even if I did not host.

I think this an opportunity for all who are not able to host to become involved in an exchange even if you cannot host. Participating in the week activities, being a day host or a dinner host allows you to become better acquainted with them and develop a relationship with them also.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the many Friendship Force programs, socials, parties and the activities associated with our Canadian visitors from Niagara. Thank you all for your help and support!

Cheers!

Margret

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thefriendshipforce.org

Membership Report

Kris Hill, VP Membership

I am happy to report that we have 67 members as we begin the new year. This is a great number, since our goal for last year (which we met mid-year) was 70! So, thank you everyone for taking the time to get your renewals in before the end of the year. (Most were actually in by the end of October.)

My conclusion is to just keep doing what you're doing. Bringing friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives to our meetings, parties, and special events has been the number one most effective tool in recruiting. We will try to have a special drawing later this year for all of you who brought on a new member in during 2015.

Be sure to pick up the updated list of all new people who joined in 2014 to add to your membership directory. If you did not do this in November, I will have copies available at the upcoming meetings.

And as always,



Please remember to wear your name tag to all club events.

Membership Spotlight

I would also like to once again, thank all of our long time members who have supported our club for so many years. It was wonderful to see you at the holiday party and recognize your loyalty. The few people who could not be there that evening have all received their pins.

I would like to specifically mention one of these people. Barbara Chapman, a long time (and one of the club's original) members now lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She renews her membership annually and still travels on domestic exchanges with us at times. Barbara and her husband Gene contributed so much leadership and commitment to our club over the years.



It was fun to look through the old scrapbooks and see pictures of them – always participating, always laughing! She was one of the first people who my mom and I met when we started attending FF. Her wonderful laugh, unbridled enthusiasm and positive spirit were reasons that I decided FF just might be a good experience for me.

Barbara has been a member for some thirty years. Thank you, Barbara.

-Kris Hill, VP Membership kristinhill@sisna.com 801-272-3486 or 801-598-4417

Incoming Exchange – Niagara, Canada June 24 to June 30, 2015

Dasha Prokofyeva has accepted the ED position for our incoming exchange from Niagara, Canada in June of 2015. She is very excited to plan an exciting program to introduce the Salt Lake area to our Canadian friends.

I ask for your support of Dasha in the committees needed for this exchange. Many of you remember Dasha helped us learn a few Russian phrases at our May, 2014 meeting and assisted with the Russians at the parties with our Russian guest. The dates for Niagara have been confirmed for June 24-30, 2015.

You may call Margret at 801-424-2850 or e-mail UtahFriendshipForce@gmail.com with your interest in the exchange.



October 2014 Exchange to South Africa BY Nona Bressler, Exchange Director

Seven members of our Utah Club, five from Seattle, four from Phoenix and one from the Wash. DC area were treated to a very enjoyable week of home hosting by the Mispah, South Africa club last October.



Our hosts all lived in the area of beautiful Cape Town, South Africa and were most warm and welcoming. During the week we traveled by bus with different members of the club and usually Brenda, the Exchange Director, who served as our tour guide. We saw many interesting things, including a tour of an elementary school in a poor area where the well behaved children in their school uniforms were being served breakfast – we all took school supplies for this school. Then a high school in a more affluent area where the Mispah Club President teaches, it was an impressive campus. Afterward we drove to downtown

Cape Town for a tour of the Parliament House.

One day we drove out to the Cape of Good Hope to the lighthouse where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Indian Ocean. From the top we had a fantastic view and it appeared that a circling airplane must be making a movie. Then we stopped at a most unusual “Tea Bag Factory” which was started by a British lady who wanted to provide work for poor village people and it has grown into a successful non-profit business. They make all kinds of crafts, incorporating used tea bags, from stationery and trays to purses and dresses – you have to see it to believe it!



Another day we sailed out to Seal Island to see thousands of seals, all sizes and shapes. It was especially fun to watch the young ones frolicking playfully in the water.

Another day we visited the wonderful Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, I could have spent the whole day there - then after lunch it was a cable car ride to the top of Table Mountain for a scenic overview of Cape Town.

On another day we took a drive through the beautiful wine country with a tour at the Bergkelder Winery and of course those of us who chose had to taste the different wines and buy some to take back to our hosts. Our last day was the sobering boat ride out to Robbin Island where we heard the painful story of the oppression during Apartheid and saw the cell where Nelson Mandella spent many years. To lighten the day, upon return to the mainland, we had a couple hours to shop in the very upscale mall along the waterfront.



One thing especially stood out for me on this exchange – the club members hosted group dinners almost every night of the exchange in someone's home – part of the group in one home and the rest in another home, sometimes the meal must have been catered, but other times it was pot luck. They held a very nice welcome gathering at a church and a lovely farewell party at a casino with delicious Chinese food.

The exchange wasn't without a few issues – the four from Seattle had gone to Madagascar prior to

the exchange and had gotten food poisoning which made them so sick they were a day or two late joining us, but thankfully they were all able to make it and were delightful to meet, as were the others who joined us from other clubs!

And as most of you know, Gerri Nielson broke her wrist on the escalator the day of arrival and spent the rest of the time in a cast, one handed and very stoic and non-complaining, she amazed all of us. I was thankful she was hosted with us at Brenda's house so we could all help her a bit.

I received this from Brenda and I will share here: "I remember all of you as if you are still here. This exchange taught me more than you will ever realize. It taught me patience, how to handle different situations and above all it taught me the true meaning of FRIENDSHIP and LOVE. The daily trials and tribulations opened my eyes to what could happen on any exchange. Thanks for the lessons taught. God and I knew what had to be done at the time, but now only HE knows how I managed."

After the exchange we all took a marvelous four day safari which we would recommend to everyone and then eight of us flew on to Livingston, Zambia for an unforgettable walk along Victoria Falls and a delightful elephant ride.



OPEN WORLD REPORT by RON TOTH

The Open World Program, sponsored by the Open World Leadership Center in Washington, DC in conjunction with Friendship Force, sent six young Ukrainian delegates (and one US-based interpreter) to Salt Lake City from December 5-13. 2014. These young professionals were here to explore how our for-profit, non-profit and governmental entities, utilize media and social media to enhance access to their target populations. The delegation was met at the Salt Lake Intl. Airport by their Friendship Force hosts and taken to their homes for a well-deserved dinner and rest.



The next day, the group met at the downtown Salt Lake City Library to hear presentations by Kathy Howarth about three NGO's for which she volunteers: Utah Friendship Force, National Alliance on Mental Illness and the English Skills Learning Center; Joanie Daily, Director of the Community of Caring at Skyline High School; and Alicia Gleed, Marketing Specialist at the Road Home agency. Then, Safi Safiullah, one of the Library's one of the Library's Managers took the group on a great tour of the new facility – from the roof to the basement. In the afternoon, some delegates and hosts had a Mexican lunch at the Rio Grande Café, took the time to view an art exhibit in the Rio Grande Depot; and several also had time to visit the Natural History Museum for a tour before returning to their hosts' homes.

That evening, the delegates, along with Friendship Force and Utah Servas members gathered for a pot-luck dinner at Wasatch Commons. The delegates were asked to informally stand and talk about themselves, their interest and their future dreams for Ukraine.



On Sunday, everyone met at the Temple Square Conference Center to hear the Mormon Tabernacle Choir broadcast and to tour Temple Square. The afternoon and evening was open for hiking, shopping, and relaxing.

Over the next five days, Open World delegates had the following carefully selected planned visits, tours and presentations:

- The Family Search and Genealogical Library
- US Senator Hatch's SLC office
- The Utah State Capitol (Lt. Gov's Office & meeting Senate Chief of Staff, Ric Cantrell)
- The Lights at Temple Square
- The new Salt Lake Public Safety Building & Salt Lake Police Headquarters
- The Hinckley Institute of politics on the U. of U. campus
- KUER Radio
- The UDOT Traffic Center

- The Rio Tinto Regional Center (Kennecott Copper)
- Intermountain Health Care (in the SLC Key Bank Bldg.) with a presentation by Dr. Brent James
- A tour of the SL City & County Bldg. and a visit with Mayor Ralph Becker and presentations by Tyler Bugden (Peer Court Project) and Gina Russo (Lowell Bennion Community Service Center)
- The recently remodeled Salt Lake Community College (the former South High School)
- Spy Hop (a non-profit agency) which for the past 15 years has mentored Utah's young people in the digital media arts as a vehicle for their free expression, self-discovery, critical thinking, and skilled participation thru after-school and community programs in film, audio, design and music production.

In addition to the planned visits, tours and presentation, the delegates found time to shop, dine at a variety of restaurants/pubs, experience some mountain hiking, enjoy some home-hosted dinners, and even get some sleep!



As for the Host families, we learned more about the Ukraine, more in-depth knowledge of our city/state, and more about the very effective uses of media and social media through-out our city, county and state. We received as much of an education as did our professional Ukrainian guests!

We had a Christmas/Ukrainian farewell party at the La Jolla Groves Restaurant on December 12th.

OPEN WORLD REPORT by PAM GRANT

We were approached by Friendship Force members, Polly and Ron Toth, to consider hosting a young professional delegate from the Ukraine. It sounded intriguing as I had been following the political events in the Ukraine for the past year. Having recently retired with a more flexible schedule, the timing in December was ideal.

Alexander "Sashko" presented with remarkable English despite his earlier email warnings. He was so engaged and eager to share about himself, his life, and especially about his country and their recent struggles. His passion as a young activist with an anticorruption think-tank in Kiev reminded me of my own youthful political energy during the Vietnam War. He absorbed all the educational activities offered, eager to take back what he had learned to positively impact his country.

We learned so much from our experience with him and the other delegates. Their energy and commitment were inspiring. Hosting this young man opened our world. We have remained in contact with him and his family through skype. His wife shares my same profession, so we are doing some international networking. We look forward to hosting again. We have truly been enriched by the experience.

The link for Open World closed group on Facebook is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/987559414593517/988980514451407>

The following letter was presented at the Capital by Franz Kolb, Director of Diplomacy & Protocol School of Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development.



STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 9, 2014

Margret Boes-Ingraham
President of the Utah Club
Friendship Force International

Dear Members of Utah Friendship Force and Honored Guests,

It is my pleasure as Governor to welcome you to the Open World event. In particular, I extend a warm greeting to delegates from Ukraine. I regret being unable to join you this year due to a prior engagement.

I commend your commitment to create bridges of understanding and friendship between people throughout the world. Nothing brings down barriers of prejudice and fear more effectively than communication and personal relationships between individuals and families from different cultural, religious, racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other."

Thank you for providing opportunities for Utahns to build goodwill and promote peace by hosting foreign visitors as well as by being guests of host families abroad. During these perilous times when hatred and mistrust seem prevalent in the world, each new relationship that develops into a true friendship helps reduce hostility between nations. As Dr. King said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

Best wishes for your continued success in filling our world with light, friendship, and peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert".

Gary R. Herbert
Governor

**LETTER FROM Jack Mullen, Outgoing Chair, FFI Board of Directors and
Cécile Latour, Chair, FFI Board of Directors, as of January 1, 2015**

Dear Presidents, Club executives and Club members,

As you will recall, outgoing Chairman, Jack Mullen, wrote to all club presidents on October 6, inviting your views on three measures your Board was proposing to set FFI on a sustainable course. You responded with useful feedback and suggestions, in all 176 responses from 135 clubs, by and large well distributed geographically thus adding validity to the feedback. Here is how you responded and the steps and timetable leading to implementation.

1. Fill-the-seat policy - In a nutshell, you gave a robust 84% endorsement to the introduction of a fill-the-seat policy whereby under-subscribed exchanges must be listed on the FFI catalogue 100 days before departure. This measure is so critical to the achievement of our mission and the growth and sustainability of FFI that we will pilot it as of 2015 with a starting date of April 1st that will give the Atlanta office a chance to provide detailed guidelines. It will not be perfect the first year, we will have to learn along the way, but the sooner we make a start, the sooner we will reap the results. A few points to respond to questions and suggestions:

1.1 *Defining a full exchange for the purpose of this fill-the-seat policy* - A full exchange will be defined by the hosting capacity of a club, subject to a maximum of 25. The requirement to post under-subscribed exchanges on the FFI Catalogue 100 days before departure will apply to international exchanges only.

1.2 *Hosting capacity* - The most recent listing will be provided in late January from the process of the 2016 planning exercise. For multi-club exchanges, the hosting capacity of the smaller club will determine the overall hosting capacity. Expanding hosting capacity will take far more effort and creativity and will be addressed under the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

1.3 *Giving priority to regional or same-country club members*: Many of you have cited the successful website and regional specific efforts such as 'E-Flyer' models and national council groups put in place by FFI leaders in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil as a way of publicizing under-subscribed exchanges and giving priority to same-country clubs or regional members in filling such exchanges. This approach is encouraged and we have asked the responsible leaders to put together a short document outlining the steps to take to set up a focused website or 'E-Flyer' and run it effectively with the anticipated availability of such a document by the end of February.

1.4 *Lead time for listing under-subscribed exchanges in the FFI catalogue*. The great majority of respondents agree that 100 days before departure date is about right. This step will require vigilance on two counts: a) that clubs set definite exchange dates earlier in the process; and b) that host clubs confirm programs ahead of the 100 days. FFI program managers will work with you to meet those targets by focusing on communication.

1.5 *Minimizing Exchange cancellations*: In addition to the '100 days' listing policy, in order to minimize exchange cancellations, Exchange Directors (be they Host or Ambassador ED's) will be required to contact and alert FFI (ideally your Program Manager or the Planning Manager) BEFORE cancelling an exchange on their own. The sooner FFI is informed of a possible exchange cancellation, the better the chances to save that exchange and avoid the disappointments engendered by such cancellations.

2. E-membership - The proposed introduction of an e-membership also got a strong 73% endorsement with many respondents commenting that 'we have to move with the times'. This being said, vetting the applicants and clarifying the responsibilities and privileges of e-members are so critical to our mission that implementation of this initiative will be postponed to January 2016. A full e-membership policy will be announced at the Vancouver International Conference in late August, 2015.

3. Adopting an equitable user-fee policy for domestic/in-country and EU inter-club exchanges – 77% of respondents agree that applying user fees to all exchange ambassadors is the most equitable way of

supporting overhead costs. Likewise, you have told us that \$10 a night strikes a reasonable balance between sustaining the organization we love and favoring in-country cooperation. Accordingly, the Board will endorse this revised fee as part of a comprehensive fee review at the March Board meeting for implementation in January 2016. At that meeting, the Board will also review what constitutes a domestic exchange. Before we conclude, let us say that a few individuals questioned whether setting a sustainable course are not at risk of overshadowing our mission to build friendship and peace around the world. The Board decided to take action and seek your input precisely because club-hosted exchanges are losing ground to other FF programs while 80% of you indicated in the June Survey that home hosting is paramount to your interest in FFI and paramount to the achievement of our mission. This made clear to us that numerous opportunities to participate in exchanges were being missed for lack of better planning, better communication and better inclusiveness. On behalf of your CEO and the Board, we thank you for the efforts you have made to engage your club members in this search for sustainable solutions to the challenges we face. We stand a far better chance of sustaining our mission of friendship and peace by opening up to diversity in exchange participation and thus ensuring economic sustainability.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Mullen, Outgoing Chair, FFI Board of Directors
Cécile Latour, Chair, FFI Board of Directors, as of January 1, 2015