

# Friendship Connections

**The Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley January 2024**

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## 2023- 24 CALENDAR

**Jan 6, 3-7 pm** - Journey Coordinator Training - **POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY** (p 5)

**Jan 16** - MEG, Territory Restaurant, Independence (p 1)

**Jan 21, 2 pm** - general meeting, Pringle Creek Painter's Hall (p 2)

**May 31 - June 6** - Tokyo Inbound Journey (p 2)



## MEG - Tues Jan 16 - Territory Restaurant - Independence

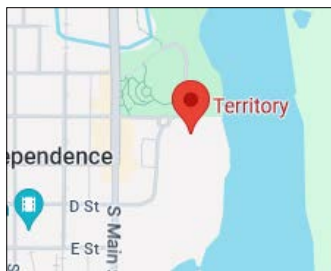
Our first MEG (meet, eat and get acquainted) meeting of 2024!

**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 16 at 12 noon

**WHERE:** Territory Restaurant in Independence - 201 Osprey Lane, on the river

**WHAT:** Good food and conversation to start our new Friendship Force year

If you plan to attend, please contact Carolyn Powers as she will confer with restaurant staff on setup. If your plans are fluid, feel free to stop by if you are able. There will be room.



*This Issue of Connections, and more information about our club,  
can be found on our website: <http://www.fforegon.org>*

*Contact us at: [FFOMWV@gmail.com](mailto:FFOMWV@gmail.com) or PO Box 1703, Albany, Oregon 97321*

## January 21, 2 pm - General Meeting Pringle Creek Community Painter's Hall

Our January club meeting will be held on the 21st at 2 pm in the Pringle Creek Community Painter's Hall, 3911 Village Center Dr SE, Salem, OR 97302. Club members Jonathan and Lisa Schachter are members of the Pringle Creek Community. At this meeting, we will induct new officers for 2024, receive updates on 2024 club journeys, continue our conversation about recruiting and on-boarding new members and hear a short presentation on the 2023 World Conference in Croatia. Community members will be invited to participate in in our meeting.

We are also interested in identifying other locations at which we can hold general meetings. We have routinely met at the Lakeside Center in Albany and Salem Public Library. Member Chris Kastella can give us access to the Consumer Power building in Philomath when she is in town. Please put on your thinking cap and ponder ideas. Suggest these to VP Marla as well. "No charge" is nice but not essential.

A- M members are asked to bring a snack to share. All are asked to bring their own beverage.

Painter Hall - there is parking nearby



## Initial Planning for Tokyo Inbound

Our 2024 international inbound journey is a visit from Tokyo, Japan May 31-June 6. We need overnight hosts, day hosts, and dinner hosts.

- All home hosts need to complete a hosting application and send the completed document to Kathy Butler before Feb. 15. Need help finding or completing the hosting application? Contact Kathy Butler, Marilyn Peterson, Russ or Marla Karow.
- We are planning a Columbia Basin excursion as part of this journey with Multnomah Falls, the Hood River Experiment Station and Bonneville Dam among the sites to be visited. If interested in being part of this tour, please let us know.
- If you can serve as a day host or a small dinner host (and have not already signed up), please contact a member of the planning team as well.



Your planning Tokyo team - Marilyn, Kathy, Russ, Marla (see contact and address information on last page)

## Incoming Journey Home Host "Tentative" Signups

One of the most nerve-racking parts of a journey coordinators (JC) job is to find home hosts for incoming travelers. The number of home hosts sets the size of the incoming journeys we can organize. To ease this job component for JCs just a bit, we ask club members to make tentative commitments to host incoming journey guests in 2024. We passed clip boards at the Dec 8 holiday gathering and had some people sign up. If you were not at the lunch or now have a better idea as to whether you can make a tentative commitment, please sign up at the January 21 general meeting (see page 2) or send an email to President Harr indicating your availability. We do not have final dates for our 2024 journeys but do have the "ball park" dates shown below. **Please make home hosting a component of your plans for 2024.** And yes, we do know that plans change but are asking people to make a tentative commitment at this time to allow for more informed planning.

- May 31 – June 6 - international inbound from Tokyo
- Late April - domestic inbound from Charlotte, NC
- Aug or later - domestic four-day mini-journey from Sacramento, CA



## FRIENDSHIP SHARED IN THE NEW YEAR!

A number of giving and ambitious members in our club have volunteered to provide a delicious meal as well as joyful post-holiday conversation for club members and interested potential member.

- Barb Callner, Eileen Minette and Rosella Workinger will host a meal on January 24 at 12 noon, "Slurps, Soups And Smiles". The meal will be at Barb's house in Albany. They want you to bring your favorite giggles to share (i.e. jokes, cartoons, anecdotes, stories, etc.)! Cost is \$20. 7 guests.
- Ted and Rita Powell will host a Valentines Dinner at their Deerpath home on February 14 at 1 p.m. Bring a funny Valentine to swap! Cost is \$20. 12 guests.
- Juanita and Lloyd Weigel will host a lunch on February 17th at 1 p.m. at their home in Salem. The meal will include "Soups from around the World"! Cost is \$15. 15 guests.
- Kathy Butler and Marilyn Peterson will host a brunch on Feb. 24, 2024 at 11 a.m. at the home of Kathy Butler. Cost is \$20. 6 guests
- Mary Ellen Lind and Dennis Murphy will host a St. Patrick's Day dinner on March 10 at 4 p.m. at their home. Wear green! Bring limericks to share and big appe-tite! Cost is \$20. 6 guests

We have a few more members who have indicated interest in providing a meal or activity. Please stay tuned for additional opportunities.

To sign up to attend one (or more) of these events you need to notify Mary Ellen Lind which meal(s) and prepay the cost. Mary Ellen will let you know if space is still available. For prepayment, send a check made out to FFOMWV to Dennis Murphy (2851 SE Linda St., Corvallis, 97333). At the event your group will decide on the charity to receive your group's total donation. Dennis will write a check for the host to give along with a note written by the host about the Friendship Force mission. If you want to go to more than one event, please indicate your first and second choice. Any questions? Call or email Mary Ellen Lind.



## Journey to Brazil with Lower Columbia FFI - April 2024

Starting on April 16th, 2024 the Lower Columbia club is being hosted by the FF clubs of Belo Horizonte and Campinas, Brazil. The Journey begins in Belo Horizonte, the sixth largest city in Brazil on April 16th. It is a planned city and known for its parks and architecture. It is also a very vibrant city with a vast interconnected social scene. Weekly block parties in nearly every neighborhood and streets lined with restaurants. While they do not have a complete agenda yet you can expect excursions to historic buildings, museums, churches and more. The stay in Belo Horizonte is five nights before flying on to Campinas on April 22nd.

Campinas is just north of Sao Paulo and is well known for its nightlife, beautiful parks and colonial architecture. It is a university town with the State University of Campinas ranked 2nd in the country. We don't have an agenda from this club yet but anticipate great food with many interesting sites and activities. You will have six nights in Campinas arriving on April 22nd and departing on April 28th.

For more information contact Curtis Clifford, President of the Lower Columbia club.





## Party at the Powell's - Dec 8

Our clubs 2023 holiday party was held at the Powells on Friday Dec 8 with a 1 pm launch time. Club members brought appetizers, desserts and a white elephant gift. The Powell's provide hot cider, hot Gluewein (which many topped with a little brandy), homemade German spaetzle and beef stroganoff . Per usual great conversation and enjoyment was had by all. THANKS TED AND RITA!



## **Journey Coordinator Training - POSTPONED**

Chris Duval, Marilyn Peterson, Ted Powell, and Rita Powell, will be providing Journey Coordinator training. This session was scheduled for January 6, but due to conflicts must be rescheduled. Chris Duval will send out a survey checking on possible dates in February.

The need for Journey Coordinators is integral to our club, providing leadership and management of the journey process. In order to plan future journeys, we must have Journey Coordinators assigned in advance. Serving in this capacity is an excellent way to get to know other FFOMWV members and have a say in what we do on our journeys. We typically assign one seasoned JC to a journey, along with one less experienced or new JC. This provides all the support needed for those trying this for the first time. We hope to be able to assign JCs for all 2024 journeys within the next several months.

This will be an informative and entertaining training session. We have nearly a century of Friendship Force experience among your instructor group, so they do know a thing or two about FFI journeys. We hope to provide training that helps each potential JC feel confident about serving in this team leadership position.

***If you have questions or interest in attending***, please contact Chris. THANKS!



## **And Directly Related - Journey Organizer Recruitment**

The board of FFOMWV is seeking a volunteer to fill the appointed post of Journey Organizer effective immediately. For a number of years, Chris Duval has filled this position and she will be retiring from the duties as soon as a volunteer is identified to take on the position. Chris has agreed to provide training for the new Journey Organizer.



The duties include: completing the forms required by FFI on an annual basis to report our club's capacity to host and our interest in where to travel for future years; managing our club's schedule of incoming and outgoing journeys; communicating with other clubs to which we are matched in order to set dates for upcoming journeys; recruiting Journey Coordinators to serve for each upcoming journey; and providing updated journey schedules for publication in the monthly newsletter.

This position is essential for journey operations of our club. If this volunteer opportunity appeals to you, please contact President Sharon Harr.



## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING JOURNEYS (Revised Dec 2023)

**PLEASE NOTE – JOURNEY COORDINATORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED BEFORE 2024 JOURNEYS CAN BE CONFIRMED WITH FFI. WE NEED JOURNEY COORDINATORS! PLEASE SEE THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3 ABOUT JOURNEY COORDINATOR TRAINING.**

### 2024

May 31 – June 5	INTERNATIONAL INBOUND: Tokyo, Japan, #24086 (Yukie Tsutsumi); JCs – Marilyn Peterson, Kathy Butler, Russ & Marla Karow
Late April TBD	INBOUND DOMESTIC: Inbound from Charlotte, North Carolina, #24137 (Dana Hicks); <b>NEED HOST JCs</b>
TBD	OUTBOUND INTERNATIONAL: Outbound to Biarritz, France, 2024 travel dates to be determined soon; <b>NEED AMBASSADOR JCs</b>
TBD	INBOUND DOMESTIC: 4 day Mini-Journey from Sacramento, #24170 (Linda Basuki); <b>NEED HOST JCs</b>
Aug 23-Sept 1	FFI Festival at Sea: Holland America cruise from Athens to Rome; there is an opportunity to tour Italy and Hungary on a post-cruise journey
Sept 30 – Oct 6 TBD	OUTBOUND DOMESTIC: Outbound to Cedar Rapids-Iowa City, #24164 (Judy Frascht-Miner); <b>NEED AMBASSADOR JCs</b>
October 7-10	North American Conference: Milwaukee, Wisconsin; there will be opportunities to take part in pre- and post-conference hosting and tours



Biarritz France

### Board Meetings

The date for the next FFOMWV Board meeting is Friday, January 19 at 4 pm. All meetings are held by ZOOM. All current and perspective club members are welcomed to participate. If interested, send Russ Karow or Marilyn Peterson an email and one of them will send you the ZOOM link.

Board ZOOM meeting screen shot



**FRIENDSHIP FORCE OREGON'S MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY  
ZOOM BOARD MEETING - NOV 8, 2023**

President Sharon Harr called the Zoom meeting to order at 1:03. Present: Sharon Harr, Dennis Murphy, Chris Duval, Rosie Brabeck, Jim Brabeck, Russ Karow, Kathy Butler.

Russ moved to accept the minutes of the August board meeting as corrected. Also accepted board minutes of Oct. 20 meeting. Chris seconded. Minutes accepted.

Treasurer's report: Dennis had emailed the report to the board on Nov. 7. There were no questions. Dennis pointed out that he distinguished between dues from last year and this year. Suzanne Strite had asked about a tax deduction for her expenses for the ice cream social for the Denver journey. Russ has a form for deductions that he will send Dennis. Dennis will prepare a budget for next year. He said the club is in good financial condition. He has a Quicken backup file for financial records of the club that is stored on the club's archive website.

Journey Coordinator Report: Chris Duval - we need volunteers for the incoming North Carolina journey in late April, 2024. She has emailed everyone in the club asking about this. Dennis asked if we could use the N. Carolina workshop as a training for J.C.s, but Chris said the JC training will be in January. Chris has a form from FFI to fill out about how many people we can host and when (what time of year) we can host. Dennis may be the one to receive forms from FFI.

The Tokyo club is coming to us on May 31. The Charlotte N. Carolina club is coming in late April.

Chris said she will no longer be the Journey Coordinator in 2024, as she has done it for several years.

President's report: Sharon reported on a conversation with Tom Best.

The 2024 World Conference will be Oct. 7-10 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

FFI dues will go up from \$25 to \$30 next year.

The question of what to charge people who join in mid-year will be settled by FFI.

There has been some discussion about the word "Force" in our title. Many people don't like it.

The problem of people getting too old to travel is international. Clubs world-wide are dealing with it.

Tom Best encourages themed journeys. This is a topic we could investigate in the coming year. Open World is no longer available for this year.

Our bylaws say officers can only serve 2 year terms. The general feeling is that this is healthy.

Newsletter editor report: Russ needs information for newsletter by around Nov. 25. He has been putting announcements about our activities on the radio. Sharon will explore how to get publicity in the G.T. /D.H.

Nov. 19 general meeting: Sharon will bring pies for refreshments. She will ask Rita about plates and silverware.

We will vote on the slate of officers. Russ will announce the slate and ask for nominations from the floor. New officers will take office in January.

Chris will tell about Ted Powell's invitation to a club-wide dinner at their house on Dec. 8 with a \$20 white elephant. Russ suggested having the white elephant be a used object.

Sharon will ask for a Friendship Shared coordinator for next year.

Dennis suggested having a brief review of the year's activities. Russ offered to do this, including a few slides on the Croatian World Conference.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56. Minutes taken by Kathy Butler, temporary secretary

## Membership Application or Renewal for 2024

Annual dues cover the cost of the monthly newsletter and expenses for activities of the Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley, as well as membership in Friendship Force International. Memberships expire on December 31 of each year.

Annual Dues Rate for 2024

- \$45 January 1 through June 30, 2024
- After June 30, rate will be increased to reflect 2025 FFI

**New members** who join after August 1st but before December 31st of a given year will pay at the current rate and their dues will be extended through December 31 of the following year.

This is a NEW \_\_\_\_\_ or a RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Dues enclosed: (\$40.00 per person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Friendship Force, PO Box 1703, Albany, OR 97321



### Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
The peace that was meant to be.  
With friendship as our mission, Family all are we.  
Let us walk with each other In perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, Let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment,  
And live each moment, In peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me.

### Friendship Force Pledge

As a member of the Friendship Force, I recognize that I can make a difference. I recognize that I have a mission. That mission is to be a friend to the people of the world. As I embark upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching me. I know that through my example to my fellow citizens and the people of other nations, the cause of friendship, love and peace can be furthered.  
I can make a difference.



## Your 2024 Leadership Team

### **Board Members**

President	Sharon Harr
Vice-President	Marla Karow
Secretary	Kathy Butler
Secretary Assistant	Suzanne Strite
Treasurer	Dennis Murphy
Journey Organizer-interim	Chris Duval
Member At Large	Marilyn Peterson
Newsletter Editor/Archives	Russ Karow

### **Activity Leads**

Friendship Shared	Mary Ellen Lind
Internet Communications	Marilyn Peterson
Inventory & Merchandise	Rita Powell
MEG Coordinators	Gail Wolcott Carolyn Powers
Membership	Looking for volunteers to work with VP Marla Karow
Sunshine "Committee"	Sue Stein

### **2024 Journey Coordinators -**

Tokyo Inbound, May 31-June 5 - Marilyn Peterson, Kathy Butler, Marla & Russ Karow  
Charlotte North Carolina Inbound, Late Apr - Need Host JCs TBD  
Sacramento Mini-Journey Inbound, Aug TBD - Need Host JCs

## **COVID And Our Club**

COVID is still with us and is likely to be an on-going concern for some people. COVID is not the flu, and can do serious and sometimes permanent damage to its victims. Members of our FF club are dealing with some of those long lasting effects. The board encourages all of the members of our community to get vaccinated if no other medical conditions prevent or make it dangerous. We encourage you to wear a mask in crowded situations. It is one of the best forms of protection available to all of us. Along with the face masks, washing your hands especially after having been in crowded situations with unknown people. While COVID home tests are not always accurate, especially in the early hours of COVID, please test yourself prior to attending FFOMWV events in the coming months, and please, even if you test negative, but do not feel well in even the slightest way, do not attend. We all need to do our very best to protect ourselves and each other in every way that we can.

