

Friendship Connections

The Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley August 2023

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CALENDAR

- July 31 - Aug 6** - Denver Inbound Journey (p 3)
- July 31, 5 pm** - Club picnic & welcome party for FF of Denver. Open to all members. Bring food! (p 1)
- Aug 4, 7:30 pm** - *Much Ado About Nothing* - Bard in the Quad OSU Campus. Denver FF will be present. (p 3)
- Aug 5, 5 pm** - Farewell picnic, Walnut Community Room (p 3)
- Aug 10, 11 am** - MEG (p 2)
- Sept 8, 7 pm** - Moonfall Theatre event for FFOMWV (p 5)
- Oct 2 - 6** - FFI World Conference in Croatia
- Oct 23- 27** - Mini-outbound to Sacramento (p 8)
- Nov 4, 4 pm** - Journey Coordinator Training at the Powells (p 4)

THE DENVER INBOUND JOURNEY BEGINS JULY 31!

WHAT: Welcome picnic for our colleagues from Denver

WHERE: Thompson Shelter, Avery Park, SW 15th St. and Avery Ave. Corvallis

FOOD PROVIDED: grilled burgers (beef, chicken), hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans and watermelon. Beverages - Water, Iced tea, Lemonade.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Food to share - another salad, chips and salsa, cookies, or locally-grown fruit
- Other beverages (including alcoholic) if you wish
- Your own plates, utensils and cups
- Outdoor chairs in case there is need

Our Journey Coordinators Dennis Murphy and Jim Brabeck will present a welcome and an outline of the coming week's events.

Questions or comments? Contact Dennis Murphy, Gail Wolcott or Mary Ellen Lind.



*This Issue of Connections, and more information about our club,
can be found on our website: <http://www.fforegon.org>
Contact us at: fforegon@comcast.net or PO Box 1703, Albany, Oregon 97321*

President's Message - Sharon Harr

Let's begin with a wholehearted welcome to our Mile High Denver Ambassadors. We are delighted for the opportunity to have you here and to make you feel at home here in the Willamette Valley. My husband and I met in Boulder Colorado, so there remains a special place in our hearts based on our wonderful experiences in your state. And, a wholehearted thank you and a bouquet of appreciation to all of our FFOMWV Club members for the many ways each of you support our Journeys: planning, greeting, hosting, driving, attending to all the details, and for your flexibility as unexpected changes occur.

Tom Best's monthly call provided an update for the 2024 US/Canada Conference: It will be the first full week in October and the location will be either Milwaukee, WI or Reno NV. The planners have said they will have a final decision for the location by the end of August.

Often, on these Zoom calls with Tom, good ideas are shared among the regional club representatives. Here are some for us to consider: Include announcements of local events in the newsletter (With thanks to Russ, we learn of events in a timelier manner than our monthly newsletter is able to accommodate). Form Special Interest Groups among clubs, such as Gardening; Movies; Foodies, or Outdoor Activities. This includes the idea that these group members could base a Journey on their respective shared interest. Another special interest group could be Parents/Grandparents and Kids. Finally, and on a different note: the encouragement that Journey Coordinators would have committees, so the work and responsibility is shared.

I hope that, as a club, we are open to considering new ideas, as well as generating new ideas ourselves, to share with other clubs. I am especially for supporting our Journey Coordinators!

A happy and memorable Denver Journey to ALL and best wishes for a delightful Summer here in the Willamette Valley.



MEG - Aug 10, 11 am - Starduster Café in Independence

By popular demand, we will hold a MEG (Meet, Eat and Get Acquainted) meeting in August:

- August 10th -- 11 am - because the menu for breakfast is GREAT
- Starduster Café, 4705 Airport Rd., Independence

This little cafe is short on ambience, but long on quality. Join us for some fancy pancakes (bananas foster, cinnamon roll) or corned beef hash.

If you plan to attend, please contact Carolyn Powers and let her know. Having some idea of head count is helpful as we work with café staff. If you don't know if you can come now, but discover you able to do so later, come on by. We'll find a chair.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Independence "Where Oregon's Story Begins."

Carolyn Powers and Gail Wolcott
Your MEG coordinators



To our Ambassadors of Friendship from Greater Denver

The members of the Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid- Willamette Valley welcome the ambassadors from The Friendship Force of Greater Denver to the Heart of Oregon's Willamette Valley!

We look forward to a week of enjoyable activities, good food, and great conversations. We are confident that our time together will bring our different cultures and communities closer in understanding and friendship.

In the days ahead, you will meet many of our fifty-eight members. Over twenty-five of those members have been and are actively involved in the planning, hosting, driving, cooking, and working in whatever ways needed, to provide you with an experience, that leaves no doubt about our spirit of welcoming you in friendship.

When we gather for our farewell, on Saturday, August 5th, we will be celebrating the Friendships made, along with the learning and understanding that was gained, from our invaluable time spent together. Thank you for making the effort to visit, and sharing your knowledge, culture, stories, and friendship with us!

Denver Journey Schedule

- Arriving on Monday July 31st. Pickup at Eugene airport and drop at host homes. 5 pm welcome pot-luck at the Thompson Shelter in Avery Park, Corvallis - see page 1 of this newsletter for details.
- Tuesday will be a free day for our hosts and our ambassadors to get to know each other better. The day will end with small group dinners or alternative community events.
- Wednesday and Thursday is coast time - Marine Discovery boat ride, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Yaquina Head Natural area and beach time.
- Friday morning will be an immersion in Oregon's horticultural industries. At 9 am that day, we will meet with the OSU HORT Farm manager, the leader of the OSU hazelnut breeding program and a student leader of the OSU Organic Growers Club. These conversations are open to all FFOMWV club members.. Lunch will follow then free time until the 7:30 pm Bard on the Quad theater production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. All club members are invited to attend the Bard theater. Tickets can be purchased on-site or at <https://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/svpda/theatre/events/bard-quad>
- Saturday morning and afternoon will be additional free time. Saturday 5:00 pm will be our Farewell Dinner at the Walnut Room just South of Martin Luther King Jr. Park in Corvallis. This will once again be a hybrid pot luck with some main dishes provided.
- Sunday - our friends return to Eugene for flights home

Our deepest appreciation to all those who have volunteered to open their homes to our hosts, to host small group dinners, to day host, to coordinate the potlucks, to offer their ideas and suggestions, and to assist with the matching and planning for things like the small group dinners. It takes a village!

We are Friendship Force! Thank you!

Dennis Murphy and Jim Brabeck



Journey Coordinator Training - November 4, 4pm

In response to interest from members and the need for more trained Journey Coordinators, we will be holding a training for Journey Coordinators on November 4, at 4pm at the Powells'. We hope to have information both from our FFI World Conference as well as our Sacramento Mini-Journey, to share with participants.

If you are interested in being trained to serve as a Journey Coordinator, either as a Host Coordinator for inbound journeys, or an Ambassador Coordinator for outbound journeys, please put this date and time on your calendars. Also, we will need you to RSVP to Chris Duval so that we have enough handouts.

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 far 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 have a large cadre of JCs ready to take on our future journeys by providing this training.

Ted and Rita have graciously offered to serve dinner following the training on November 4. Please consider participating in this Journey Coordinator training event - we promise to make it fun and rewarding.

Chris Duval



July 16 General Meeting

A general meeting was held on July 16 at Lakeside Center in the Mennonite Village, Albany. President Harr lead the group of 20 through business items, Marilyn Peterson did a pictorial review of the inbound Belgium journey and Jim Brabeck provided an overview of our upcoming Denver inbound. Two new members were in attendance. Good conversation was had by all.



Moonfall Theatre - Fri Sept 8, 7 pm

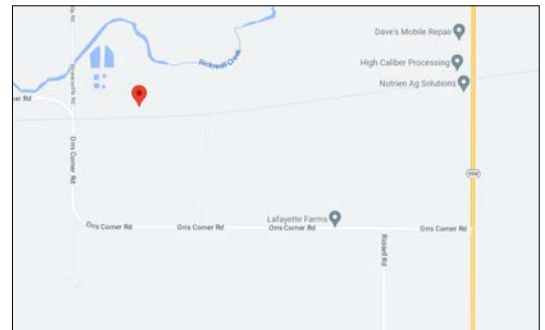
Save the Date, Buy Your Tickets, Invite Your Friends

Moonfall Theatre is a fund-raising event for FFOMWV. The Cox's create the show, host it in their home theater and manage the event. All you need to do is come:

- The action starts at 7 pm. We get ourselves seated at 7:20 pm. The show begins at 7:30 pm!
- Buy tickets! We have 50 seats to fill. Tickets are \$20 apiece. We pay a "house" fee and for kitchen help. All other funds go to our club for inbound and outbound journeys and other expenses.
- Plan to bring friends. You may sell tickets/seats to others as well. Tickets must be reserved and *paid for in advance by check* (made out to FFOMWV), if at all possible. We will check people in at the door. Tickets will not be mailed to you. Russ Karow is coordinating reservations. Contact him to reserve your seats. We have 50 total seats still available!
- Volunteers for the evening:
 - Ticket collector - Chris Duval has agreed to service in this role the night of the event.
 - All attendees, please bring finger desserts for the intermission (~8:15 pm). These must be ready to serve. Cut as needed. Bring items with tooth picks if you like. Plan to bring enough to serve 8-10 people. Paper plates and napkins will be provided.
 - Anyone want to bring table decorations? We need two rectangle tablecloths and whatever other creative additions you choose. Let Russ know if you have interest.
 - Ted Powell has agreed to be our bartender for the evening. Drinks are by donation - you set the price. This is another part of our fund raising for the evening.



Moonfall Theatre is located at 11140 Orrs Corner Road, Rickreall, OR, 97371. Orrs Corner Road is a west turn off of Highway 99W just south of Rickreall.



Board Meetings

The next FFOMWV Board meeting will be on Wednesday, August 9 at 1 pm. All members are welcomed to participate. If interested, send Marilyn Peterson or Russ Karow an email and they will send you the ZOOM link.

Board ZOOM meeting screen shot



July 11 MEG Report



Our July MEG was held at Castor in downtown Corvallis. Seventeen club members attended and sampled local faire from cold beet soup to poor boy crab sandwiches and steak fillets. Per usual, conversations were wide-ranging and lively. Thanks for Carolyn and Gail for organizing.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING JOURNEYS (Revised July 2023)

2023

July 31 – 8/6	INBOUND DOMESTIC: Inbound Denver, Colorado (Ilene Americus), #23573; Host JC's: Dennis Murphy and Jim Brabeck
October 2-6	FFI WORLD CONFERENCE: Dubrovnik, Croatia, with pre- and post-excursions
October 23-27	OUTBOUND DOMESTIC: 4-day Mini-journey to Sacramento, #23574; Ambassador JC's: Rosie Brabeck and Jim Brabeck

2024

Not Scheduled Yet	INTERNATIONAL INBOUND OR OUTBOUND: To Be Determined
Not Scheduled Yet	INBOUND DOMESTIC: Inbound from Charlotte, North Carolina, (Tommie Craig) #21116. Need Host JCs
Not Scheduled Yet	INBOUND DOMESTIC: 4 day Mini-Journey from Sacramento; Need Host JCs
Not Scheduled Yet	OUTBOUND DOMESTIC: Outbound to Cedar Rapids-Iowa City; Need Ambassador JCs



FFI Virtual Experiences

FFI virtual offerings are mostly book clubs and language learning classes these days, but a number of exceptional virtual recordings are also available. To see a listing, visit this website in your FFI portal - <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/> Recordings are at the bottom of the page.

Friendship Force Virtual Experience Recordings:

Click on the images or titles below to view recordings of these past Friendship Force Virtual Experiences!



Discover Vietnam Tour and Homestay

Host: Vietnam-USA Society (VUS), Hanoi, Vietnam

This event was organized by our longstanding partner, the Vietnam-USA Society (VUS), based in Hanoi, Vietnam. In addition to learning about Vietnamese culture, you can find out more about next year's Special Journey "Discover Vietnam Tour & Homestay" (April 5 – 16, 2023). Please click on this link to view the presentation slides. Check out the proposed itinerary by clicking on this link.



Quest for Japan

Hosts: Chizuru Marion (FF Dayton), Kikumi Shiga (FF Olat), Aki Takahashi (FF Tokyo)

In this event, you are introduced to FF Dayton's Journey plan for 2023. Which destinations were chosen and what can first-time visitors see, observe and experience? You also learn about some characteristics of Japan – geography, history, environment, lifestyle and the people and much more.



Friendraiser Kick-Off Message

Jeremi Snook, CEO, and Dana Jackson, VP of Fund Development, share an overview of what to expect from the 2022 Friendraiser event where members will receive packaged information to help them rebuild their clubs after the pandemic.

Sacramento Here We Come - October 23 - 27

We are still on for a mini journey to Sacramento at the end of October of 2023. It was originally thought that most of us would travel by train, however, due to the cost and scheduling, most have now opted to fly or drive. **That being said, our hosts have extended their offer for us to spend 4 nights Oct 23, 24, 25 and 26.** We should try to arrive early enough on the 23rd to attend the welcome dinner.

Given that Sacramento has capacity to host 12 ambassadors and we only have 7 signed up from our club, we are extending the sign up date to Aug 31 **AND will be opening up the journey to other clubs.** If there is anyone else that would like to make this journey, please submit your application and \$25 fee to Rosie or Jim Brabeck ASAP.



Please note that the FFSac does require verification of up to date COVID vaccination including the most recent bi-valent booster for ambassadors and hosts.

Please contact Rosie or Jim if you have questions - contact information is on page 10.

Spring, Sprang, Sproing — Moonfall, 2008

The June 14 Moonfall Theater presentation was, as always, a resounding success! Playing to another sold-out house of eager and smiling Friendship Force folks and friends, the cast of five plus accompanist Dobie Long, performed their little hearts out.

One of my personal favorites was Jan Rickert who sang Rolf Harris's *Kate The Peg*...about the curious experiences of Kate born with a third leg. Rolf Harris, I'm told by Joan Rogers, was seen regularly on British TV with witty songs and a puppet.

A Menopause Medley from *Menopause the Musical* sung by Marlene (Penny) Cox, Bev Shein and Jan Rickert hit home with most folks. Included were parodies of *The Great Pre-*

tender, My Thighs (to the tune of *My Guy*) and of course, *Hot Flash* (to the tune of *Heat Wave*).

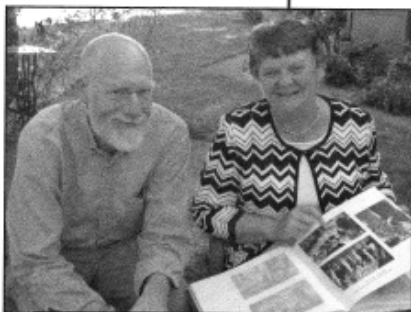
Particularly sweet was Bill Brown, who sang *So In Love* from *Kiss Me Kate* to his wife (coaxed on stage) on the occasion of their 22nd anniversary.



Bev Shein and Bill Brown, members of the talented Moonfall cast

After the show Penny Cox shared that this last performance of the season was dedicated to Gerry Marshall who had passed away on opening night this year. Gerry was the grand dame of volunteers who 19 years ago, helped create Moonfall Theater. Some of her sensational vintage dresses were on display at the entrance into the theater.

By Barb Callner



John Hansen and Kay Macpherson review our scrapbook maintained by historian, Warren Harmon



Pat Byers helps with the preparation of the delicious food



Nancy Robb and Marilyn Bervin bring goodies out from the kitchen

A Moment in Club History

Membership Application or Renewal for 2023

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, 2023.

Annual Dues Rate for 2023 is \$40.00 per person (please print clearly). It is not too late to renew your membership or to join our organization.

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 2023 Leadership Team

Board Members

President	Sharon Harr
Co Vice-Presidents	Rosie Brabeck Jim Brabeck
Secretary	Chris Kastella
Treasurer	Dennis Murphy
Journey Organizer	Chris Duval
Member At Large	Marilyn Peterson
Newsletter Editor/Archives	Russ Karow

Activity Leads

Friendship Shared	Sue Stein
Internet Communications	Marilyn Peterson
Inventory & Merchandise	Rita Powell
MEG Coordinators	Gail Wolcott Carolyn Powers
Membership	The Brabecks
Navigators	Barb Callner
Sunshine "Committee"	Sue Stein
Welcoming Committee	Rita Powell

Journey Coordinators

May 2023—Inbound from Leuven Belgium - Marilyn Peterson & Kathy Butler
June 2023 - Outbound to Edmonton, Canada - Chris Duval & Mary Ellen Lind
July-Aug 2023 - Inbound Denver - Dennis Murphy & Jim Brabeck
June 2024 - Inbound from Tokyo - Marilyn Peterson & Eileen Minette

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.

