



DON AND ELIZABETH REA NOMINATED FOR FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley enthusiastically nominates Don Rea and posthumously, his wife Elizabeth (Betty) for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Don and his wife Betty were instrumental in founding our club in 1992. Don and Betty were honored by the club with the Wayne Smith award. In 1994, Don was instrumental in hosting the Shanty Chor from Varel, Germany.

Even though Don is in his 90s and has slowed down due to health issues, he still attends meetings, helps with Journeys and finds other ways to contribute to Friendship Force. For example, although he was unable to host during a recent inbound Journey, he arranged for one of his sons to provide the beverages for the farewell party. He has rented a meeting room in his retirement community for meetings and paid for the venue, refusing reimbursement. While he cannot travel, unlike many others he has remained an active member of our club and. Don embodies Friendship Force in his everyday actions. He still writes eloquent letters to the local newspaper encouraging peace, friendship and international goodwill. His integrity is impeccable. When a visiting ambassador repeated some inaccuracies regarding FFI's finances, Don tracked down the correct figures and phoned the ambassador to discuss his findings. Many folks would not have gone to the trouble to correct the false information nor would they have used the phone to discuss this issue directly.

Don has an extensive history of charitable activities in the community. He continues to be active in local service projects such as Kiwanis (students from Russia project), SMART reading, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, the First Christian Church and Albany Peacekeepers. In 2004 this group took a number of high school students to Hiroshima, Japan. Don participated in the planning of this trip. Friendship Force members were involved both in Oregon and in Japan. He has been honored by his community as the Albany First Citizen and as a carrier of the Olympic Torch when it passed through Oregon. He is especially proud of receiving the Boys and Girls Club Coach of the Year award. Don and Betty exemplified the ideals of Friendship Force in their daily lives. From as early as 1968 their sons were joined by visitors from many countries: Jeff from Australia for about 3 months and Helmut an AFS student from Chile (son Kirby was in high school). Their church brought a Vietnamese refugee family to the community. When other members of the family departed, Don and Betty brought the son, William, into their home. He became their 'fifth son' and changed his name to William Rea An when he became a US citizen. Many others visited and stayed in the Rea home including two young women from Hungary who attended the local community college. Don has stayed in touch with most of the visitors, and they, like William, are 'family'. Our club feels strongly that if anyone deserves to receive the Friendship Force's Lifetime Achievement Award, it is Don Rea and posthumously, his wife Betty.

Written by Rita Powell and Marilyn Peterson and submitted to Friendship Force International on behalf of the Board of the Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley

Calendar of Events

February 13, Wednesday, 1 p.m. Board Meeting - Albany Public Library Conf. Rm.
2450 14th Ave. SE. Albany

February 19, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Gathering - Breakfast Scramble
Elmer's Restaurant, 2802 Santiam Hwy,
SE, Albany (see more information, page 3)

February 20, Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. MEG Luncheon
Cascade Grill, 110 Opal Ct., SE, Albany

No March Board Meeting

March 24, Sunday, 2 p.m., Gathering -
Lakeside Center at Mennonite Village
5353 Columbus St., SE, Albany
Program to be announced at a later time.

Sunshine News

Contact Sue Stein with news.



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL

Experience different views.
Discover common ground.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by CHRIS DUVAL*

Friends:

One of the best things about Friendship Force is making friends from all around the US and the world. Some of us will have the chance to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones on the Festival at Sea coming up in mid-February. Six of us from FFOMWV will be going, and I see on the participant list that a number of our friends in Big Canoe, Georgia will be on the cruise as well. The journey coordinator from my trip to India will be on the cruise too. What a great opportunity to build on these friendships and make more. With 150 FFI members on the cruise, we will be visible to all the others on the cruise, sharing our FFI spark with them.

This summer, FFOMWV will host Atlanta, Georgia club. Some of us were hosted by them last year and got to experience their southern hospitality. It is nice to be able to repay their kindnesses and to share our northwest style of living with them. John Wolcott and Mary Ellen Lind are the Journey Coordinators. Please get in touch with them to help plan this journey and volunteer for day hosting, small dinner hosting, and overnight hosting.

Ted Powell has been approved as the Journey Coordinator for our incoming Edmonton, Alberta, Canada journey in June. Pat Byers will be Co-coordinator with him (pending Board approval of her application). They need help in planning activities, and all the hosting volunteers are needed. June will be here before we know it! Call Ted or Pat and let them know you are willing to help.

Please envision how you can participate in each journey, and let the JCs know how you can help. We are a participative club. It takes everyone to join in and made our journeys work.

May 2019 be the year in which each of us finds meaning and joy in participating in our FFOMWV journeys, incoming and/or outgoing, in whatever ways it works for us. We value the friendship of every member of FFOMWV. Thank you for joining in the FFI mission of building bridges across cultures.

In friendship,

Chris

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.

2019 JOURNEY INFORMATION

Outbound to Missoula, Montana, May 9 – 15

BY RITA POWELL

Four spaces left! If you would like to join this Journey, please send your Ambassador Application to our host Journey Coordinators, Rita Powell or Eileen Minette.

Inbound from Edmonton, Alberta, June 16 – 22

BY TED POWELL

I will be JC with my Co-JC is Pat Byers. We are just getting started so you are on the ground floor to step up for: Welcome & Farewell, Program, Hosting, Day Hosting, Transportation, Matching and Interviewing or what suits You the Participating Member of OUR Club! Don't be shy or tardy, I need help, just ask Rita. How many beds can we get and do you have someone outside of our club we could tap? This is easy, they speak the language, eh? Shoot Pat or myself an email with what you can do for Edmonton!

Inbound from Greater Atlanta, Georgia, August 13 – 19

BY MARY ELLEN LIND

Activity plans are underway for this inbound journey to provide experiences and explore new ventures that give our friends from Atlanta (and ourselves) exposure to the agricultural bounty of our Willamette Valley and to our unique location by the Pacific Ocean. We are telling the Atlanta Journey Coordinator that we can host about 20 ambassadors. We need your completed host applications to assure this number, so please, as soon as possible, send the form to John Wolcott or Mary Ellen Lind. Note the directions for obtaining the host application at bottom of page 5. Thanks!

Outbound to New Zealand, October 13 – 27

BY MARILYN PETERSON

We have 22 ambassadors who are interested in this journey. Please go to the FFI website and fill out the ambassador application. Send the completed copy by email OR by snail mail to Marilyn Peterson **Applications should arrive by Feb. 10 along with a deposit of \$275.** Make the checks out to FFIOMWV. We will not deposit your check until you have been accepted for the Journey. Of the \$275 \$25 is non-refundable. For complete cancellation policies you can refer to the FFI journey policies on www.friendshipforce.org or ask one of the JCs.



Both Chris and Marilyn will be traveling on the FFI Festival at Sea from Feb 16-March 17 (Marilyn will be at an FFI Board of Directors meeting March 20-25) so we will try to accept ambassadors and notify everyone before we leave.

Cost of the journey is approximately \$1,710.00 plus airfare, a possible overnight stay on the outbound flight and travel insurance. This figure includes 1 night on arrival in Auckland, transportation to Whangarei and the week of hosting, Rotorua stay (2 nights lodging, admissions to activities, breakfasts, Maori dinner), transportation to New Plymouth and week of hosting and transportation back to Auckland airport. Airfare is less than \$1900 round trip right now.

Website for Ambassador application:

<https://friendshipforce.azurewebsites.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Ambassador-Application-and-Agreement-1.pdf>

(Or go to www.ffiregon.org, click on member resources and click on the ambassador application form)

Commented [MEL1]:

SUMMARY OF JOURNEYS AND CONFERENCES *BY RITA POWELL*

2019 Inbound

June 16 - 22

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Brenda Kane – President and Acting Journey Chair

Host JC's: Ted Powell and Pat Byers

August 13 - 19

Greater Atlanta, Georgia

Ambassador JC: Judy Hausmann

Hosts JCs: John Wolcott and Mary Ellen Lind

2019 Outbound

May 9 – 15 Missoula, Montana

14 Ambassadors – **1 space left**

Host JC: Michael Flanagan

Ambassador JCs: Rita Powell and Eileen Minette

October 13 – 27

Whangarei and New Plymouth, New Zealand

20 ambassadors +

Host JC's: Peter Geange and Betty Tarrant

Ambassador JCs: Marilyn Peterson and Chris Duval

2019 International Conference

July 23-27: Boulder, Colorado

2020 Outbound

June ? Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Contact: Brenda Kane

JC's not determined

September? Oklahoma

Contact information available

JC's: not determined

What do you want to do?

Our club is scheduling a busy year. We need all of you members to take part in the various journeys in some capacity. Right now, we have need of several Journey Coordinators for 2020.

Remember, you can share this opportunity, so you'll have someone with whom to work. It is an excellent time to learn about what is involved.

Please contact Rita Powell at to obtain a Journey Coordinator application.

NOTE: You must complete an application to be an Ambassador for an outbound journey or to be a Host for an inbound journey. You can get the forms by downloading address below or by going to the web and downloading: thefriendshipforce.org. Click onto Member Resources. Next, click on to Best Practices Resources. You will find a listing that includes both Host and Ambassador Application Forms. You can select to download either form. Mail the completed form to our JC, as listed above.

MEG – MEET, EAT, GET ACQUAINTED LUNCHEON

The next MEG luncheon will be on Wednesday, February 20th at 11:30 at the Cascade Grill, 110 Opal Ct. SE in Albany.

Give Jane a call by Monday, February 18th if you plan to come so she can make the proper number of reservations. You are welcome to bring friends who may be interested in Friendsahip Force as well.

We hope to see you there!



FRIENDSHIP SHARED CHAIR NEEDED

As you all know, Van Nichols has chaired our Friendship Shared program for many years, along with his late wife Cheeri. Van needs to take a break and we are asking for your help. Friendship Shared is a way to benefit local charities by having FFOWMV members host activities in their homes, and charging a small fee for those who want to attend, then donating the proceeds to charity. The board would like to continue our Friendship Shared tradition in 2019 but we need a volunteer to chair the program. If you have an interest in benefitting our local charities and have some organizational skills, this might be the position for you. Let Chris Duval know if you can take this on. We don't want this valuable program to go away.

CLUB MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY and MARCH

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING. Wednesday, February 13, 1 p.m.
Location: Albany Public Library, Main Branch. 2450 14th Ave. SE.
Members are welcome!

NO BOARD MEETING IN MARCH_due members being on the Festival of Sea cruise.

FEBRUARY GATHERING. Tuesday, February 19, 9:30 a.m.
BREAKFAST SCRAMBLE
Elmer's Restaurant, 802 Santiam Hwy SE, Albany, OR 97322

Please contact Louise Claassen if you are planning to attend the Scramble.
This is an opportunity to invite your friends or family to meet and get to know other members of our group. And it is lots of fun also!

MARCH GATHERING. Sunday, March 24, 2:00 p.m.
Lakeside Center on the campus of the Mennonite Village
5353 Columbus St., SE., Albany
Program to be announced at a later time.



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL

Friendship Force Welcomes New Directors

Beaupré of Montreal, Goldfarb of Washington, D.C. and Peterson of Oregon join international board

ATLANTA, Jan. 10, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Friendship Force International (FFI), the world's pioneer in promoting global understanding and peace through the citizen homestay experience, is proud to announce three additions to its international Board of Directors. Christiane Beaupré of Montreal, Canada, Chuck Goldfarb of Washington, DC and **Marilyn Peterson of Albany, Ore. begin term on the board this month.**

Christiane Beaupré has been involved with Friendship Force Montreal since 2009, holding a number of positions with the local organization, including secretary and president. Christiane holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, spending her professional career in federal public service in Canada.

Chuck Goldfarb is a second-generation Friendship Force member. His involvement in the National Capital Area (Washington, D.C.) club began in 2006. A public policy economist, Chuck spent 39 years in both the public and private sectors specializing in telecommunications and media.

Marilyn Peterson started out her professional career as a high school Latin teacher in Oregon, before leaving teaching for a career at Hewlett Packard (HP). She held a variety of positions at HP before retiring. While residing in Albany, Ore., Friendship Force has become an important part of Marilyn's retirement, and she has traveled to numerous countries, served as a Journey Coordinator, and as a Field Representative for the Pacific Northwest/Northern Rockies Region, which includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

The governing Board of Directors of Friendship Force International consists of volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to overseeing the global operations of the organization. Each board member serves a four-year term.

ABOUT FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL

Friendship Force International is a non-profit organization with more than 15,000 volunteer members in more than 300 clubs in 66 countries across six continents. Friendship Force has been promoting global understanding across borders for more than 40 years by arranging short homestays, called journeys, that blossom into lifelong friendships. Members are "citizen ambassadors" with the power to promote good relations at a personal level, bringing peace through friendship to an increasingly divided world.

To learn more, visit <http://friendshipforce.org/>.

Contact:

Andrew Bowen

Congratulations Marilyn Peterson!



Marilyn Peterson of Albany, Oregon, USA, has been a member of the Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley since 2003.

A native of Northern California, she received a bachelor's degree in Classics (Latin) from the University of Oregon. She taught high school Latin and Public Speaking for a number of years before "retiring" to raise her daughter. She returned to the work force as a computer programmer at Oregon State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. During her employment at Hewlett Packard Company, she held a number of positions in the Information Technology department. At the time of her retirement she was the manager of the operations side of the site telecommunications department in Corvallis, Oregon.

Marilyn and her late husband enjoyed traveling the United States. Friendship Force has been an important part of her retirement. With the organization she has traveled to numerous countries including Cuba, Jordan, Japan, India, New Zealand, Romania, Taiwan and Indonesia.

Marilyn is a former Friendship Force Field Representative for the Pacific Northwest/Northern Rockies Region (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana). Within her club she has hosted and day-hosted guests, been the Journey Coordinator several times including an outbound to Romania and the Moon Shadow Over Oregon inbound Journey for the 2017 total solar eclipse. Currently she is the webmaster and provides other forms of club communication materials.

In addition, Marilyn is a volunteer at the Albany Public Library and member of AAUW (American Association of University Women), ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League), BRAINet (outreach for Oregon Health Sciences University), Oregon Railroad Heritage Foundation and University of Oregon Alumni. Other interests include knitting, reading, astronomy and music.

Message from Marilyn:

By now you have received the official announcement about the new members of the Friendship Force International Board of Directors. Thank you to each and everyone of you who nominated me and encouraged me to accept this position. Being on the FFI BOD is a real honor and privilege. I am excited to be part of this group while at the same time I recognize there is much work to be done. There will be challenges and opportunities along the way. Chris Duval asked me to make a few comments about being on the Board.

Here a few random answers to questions that I have been asked.

Board members come from around the Friendship Force globe. It is a working board (not just a name on some letterhead). Consequently, board responsibilities sometimes may have to take precedence over club activities. We meet 2 or 3 times a year for several days face to face. The other meetings and committee work use virtual tools such as Skype and Go to Meeting. I am part of the Club Support and Innovation committee, the Policy Review committee and the Nominating committee. Board meetings in 2019 are March 20-25 in Houston and in October. The nominating process: in the spring (northern hemisphere) the nominating committee sends an email to the membership asking folks for board nominations (current term is 4 years). You may nominate yourself or someone else (with permission of course). The nominating committee reviews the nominations and then have virtual interviews with some of the nominees. After the interviews the nominating committee presents the final slate to the entire board for approval.

Please do not hesitate to ask questions. There will be times when matters are in discussion but are not ready for publication. Most importantly the Board of Directors are responsible for strategic planning and should not get into the operational day to day sorts of Friendship Force matters.

Thank you again for your good wishes and encouragement,

Marilyn

Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley Membership Application or Renewal

Please complete one form for each member. Annual dues cover the cost of the monthly newsletter and expenses for Journeys and activities of the Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley, as well as membership in Friendship Force International, which provides discounted prices on Journey travel and other benefits. Memberships expire on December 31 of each year.

A reminder that 2019 dues are DUE!

Annual dues: Individual, \$30.00

Please print clearly:

This is a NEW _____ or RENEWAL _____ application.

Date: _____

Name: _____ (one person per form, please)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Members have opportunities to participate in some of the following activities: travel on international and domestic Journeys; host incoming Ambassadors overnight and participate in planned activities; day host Ambassadors; provide small group dinners; provide rides to non-driving members to meetings and events; enjoy lunches together; and serve in leadership roles. We invite you to become involved!

Mail to: Friendship Force, P.O. Box 1703, Albany, OR 97322



Our mission is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people. Each individual can make a contribution to global goodwill. The Friendship Force worldwide network of clubs and individuals seeks to overcome differences among people and natio

FFOMWV Board Minutes October 10, 2018

Present: Kathy Butler, Chris Duval, Peter Harr, Sharon Harr, Mary Ellen Lind, Eileen Minette, Dennis Murphy, Marilyn Peterson, Rita Powell, Gail Wolcott, John Wolcott

Absent: Van Nichols, Ted Powell

President Chris Duval called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

September Board **Minutes** were reviewed and approved. (Kathy/Rita) **MSP**

Treasurer's Report: Bank statement reconciled; no activity since last report. Ending balance: \$3988.91; CD Value: \$5,145.25.

Journey Organizer Reports – Rita Powell

- ❖ 2019 Atlanta Inbound: Communication between clubs is continuing and Summer dates of Journey are pending. Applications for JC received from John Wolcott and Mary Ellen Lind. Applicants excused from meeting. After board review and discussion both were accepted for the JC positions. (Kathy/Peter) **MSP** It is understood that respective spouses, Gail Wolcott and Dennis Murphy, will provide support and assistance to John and Mary Ellen.
- ❖ 2019 Montana Outbound: Montana club expressed interest to come May 8 – 13 as tentative dates. Rita & Eileen are JCs.
- ❖ 2019 Fort Worth Inbound: Eleven ambassadors from Ft. Worth club are interested to visit in early September. They would like to split time with Southern Oregon Club (Medford/Ashland). JC needed.
- ❖ 2019 New Zealand Outbound: Details and dates pending. JC needed.
- ❖ 2020 Edmonton Inbound: our last Mutual. No arrangements yet.

Committee Chairperson Reports:

- ❖ **Journey Treasurer Reports & Notes:** Chris conveyed Van's report: The Moonfall fundraiser brought in \$661 after expenses. Journey account 's balance is \$9,000. Discussion followed related to these being unencumbered funds: Previously, our club donated proceeds from Friendship Shared events to charity, although last years' proceeds were voted to be donated to FFI's website improvement. At this time, the board expressed interest for a decision to be made for designating the proceeds prior to the initiation of Friendship Shared events in 2019. December board meeting agenda to include discussion for designating where the Friendship Shared funds will go in 2019.
- ❖ **Membership:** Eileen Minette - Peter will update the current Membership Roster as soon as possible so that is ready for the incoming 2019 membership renewals.
- ❖ **Internet Communication:** Marilyn said that the new website is in edit form. She will renew the domain registration (FFOregon.org) with the hosting service. Marilyn requested that a web assistant be designated to have web access information should an unforeseen event occur involving the web master. She asked that this request be brought up at the October General Meeting to solicit a volunteer.
- ❖ **Newsletter:** Mary Ellen requested that material for the next newsletter be received by October 20th. She agreed to continue in her position for 2019, although conveyed that, due to her travel plans (Dec. 17 – Jan. 9th), some newsletters will be skipped or time adjusted. Mary Ellen said that she would like to continue to report on new members and also asked that members share information from any other FF travel they take.

Old Business:

- ❖ **2019 Membership Renewal Updated Form:** Chris said she received lots of feedback on this form. Chris will revise the form per the discussion and submit to Mary Ellen to be included in the newsletter, and to Marilyn to include on the new website.
- ❖ **Archives Update** –Chris read a report from Russ Karow: He has heard from the Benton Co. Historical Society and that they have declined to accept our club archives, and that the State Historical Society asked us to contact another resource. Chris will ask him to continue to follow up with options, including contacting both the Columbia Cascade club and the Southern Oregon club to see what they are doing with their archives.

New Business:

- ❖ **Field Representative News** – Chris summarized the report from Judi Smith: An offer for an Inbound from Detroit Michigan was declined due to our club's full schedule already planned. No interest was expressed for a hosting opportunity after the Boulder, CO meeting. Suggestions of Portland/Seattle/Spokane were made for holding the 2020 Super Conference. Chris will pass on our suggestions to Judi.

Upcoming Meetings:

October Gathering: October 21st Rita and Marilyn will present on New Zealand.

No November Board Meeting: Chris and Eileen will be away.

November Gathering: November 18th. Chris will develop a meeting agenda and Eileen will secure a location. Marilyn will chair the meeting. FFI's Laura Romero will be the speaker.

December End of Year Gathering: December 14th, 4-8 p.m. Chris conveyed Ruth Wyse's offer for the program: To have a speaker whom she knows who is an author and has lived in Iraq. Chris will respond to Ruth. Further information to be discussed to determine location and menu for this event.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Harr

FFOMWV Board Minutes

December 12, 2018

Present: Kathy Butler, Chris Duval, Peter Harr, Sharon Harr, Mary Ellen Lind, Eileen Minette, Dennis Murphy, Marilyn Peterson, Rita Powell, Gail Wolcott, John Wolcott

Absent: Van Nichols

President Chris Duval called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

October Board **Minutes** were reviewed and approved as corrected. (Kathy/John) **MSP**

Treasurer's Report: Checking Account reconciled through the end of November. Ending balance: \$4,356.96; CD Value: \$5,145.25. He noted that membership dues are still coming in.

Journey Treasurer Report: no report received

Journey Coordinator Reports: (Journeys in date order) Rita Powell. She submitted completed JC applications to Chris.

- ❖ 2019 Montana Inbound – May 9 – 16. JCs: Rita Powell and Eileen Minette. Five of 14 spaces left. Mary Ellen will send an email to advertise remaining spaces.
- ❖ 2019 Edmonton Inbound – June 16 – 22. JCs needed. Rita will clarify Edmonton's earlier expressed interest in going to the Rose Festival.
- ❖ World Conference in Boulder, Colorado – July 23 -27. Apply on-line to attend.
- ❖ 2019 Atlanta Inbound – August 13 – 21. JCs: John Wolcott and Mary Ellen Lind.
- ❖ 2019 Fort Worth Inbound – September. Ambassadors expected to be here less than a week. No JCs.
- ❖ 2019 New Zealand Outbound – Oct. 10 – 27. JCs: Marilyn Peterson & Chris Duval. There are 25 spaces. Projected costs may vary related to respective flight arrangements. Projected costs, applications, and deposit amounts to be available in January.

Committee Chairperson Reports:

- ❖ **Membership:** (Eileen) Rita will prepare new members newsletter articles.
- ❖ **Internet Communication:** Marilyn described that a "rogue website" was set up, although has now been taken down. She will register the domain, FFOregon.org, when it is released Dec. 20th. (Marilyn/Rita) **MSP**. She will ask other Oregon FF clubs if they would like this website to redirect to their respective club, and whether they will be willing to share the fee for this website. Chris expressed that she would like to have **Facebook** postings on each outbound journey.

- ❖ **Newsletter:** Mary Ellen. There will be no January or March issue because she will be traveling; there will be a February newsletter. Marilyn will give email addresses to Kay Macpherson for posts while she is away. Chris asked board members for their support to Mary Ellen by providing her with articles pertinent to our area related to travel, packing tips, activities, local events, etc. for inclusion in the newsletter.

Old Business:

- ❖ **2019 Membership Renewals:** Chris will send out an email to remind members to bring their renewal form and checks to the Dec. 14th event.
- ❖ **2020 FFI Dues Increase:** Just a "heads-up" for consideration of increasing our dues for 2020 to cover this increase for budgeting purposes.

New Business:

- ❖ **Option to host a 2019 Open World Journey:** Board determined that we are not an ideal location for professional seminars for either of the 2019 events. Chris will review the lead time and topics for 2020. Our club may consider hosting an Open World Journey in lieu of a Journey in 2020. Chris noted that it is not necessary for local hosts to be FF members.
- ❖ **2019 Board Meeting Scheduling:** Chris opened exploration of options for holding meetings on a day other than Wednesday to enable other board members to attend; no changes at this time.
- ❖ **Friendship Shared:** Proceeds for 2019 events to go to a charity, or charities, selected by attendees of each event. (Marilyn/Kathy) **MSP**. Recommendation made that each charity organization be checked on Charity Navigator website.
- ❖ **Call for 2019 FFI Awards:** Long-time member, Don Rea, was proposed for nomination for a Lifetime Achievement Award. Kathy and Marilyn offered to interview Don and complete the form on the website. Deadline for nomination application is January 15th, 2019.
- ❖ **2019 FFOMWV Leadership Positions:** Continuing will be: Mary Ellen (Newsletter); Eileen Minette (Membership); Rita Powell (Journey Coordinator) and Marilyn Peterson (Internet Communication). Chris will ask Van (Journey Treasurer), and check regarding other positions. Someone will be needed as MEG Coordinator.

Upcoming Meetings: December Holiday Event at Powell's, Dec. 14th: Members to bring a wrapped, white elephant gift, and their check and for membership renewal

January Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 9th, 1 p.m., Albany Public Library

January Gathering & Installation of Officers – Sunday, January 20th, Albany Public Library, 2:00 p.m. John Wolcott to lead installation; Chris will present program on global journeys.

February Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 13th, location tbd.

February Gathering: Breakfast Scramble proposed.

March Gathering to be scheduled on the 24th, as many members will be away for March 17th date.

Motion: John made a motion that our club give a gift of \$200 to the Albany Library for our 2018 use of the room. (John/Eileen) **MSP** A card will be circulated for signatures at the Dec. 14th Gathering.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon, Harr, Secretary

Our club is on Facebook!

Please "Like" us at the Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley



NOTES FROM NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Mary Ellen Lind

Due to my traveling in February and March there will not be a March, 2019 issue of Friendship Connections. Immediate news and reminders that need to be sent to members may be emailed by Kay Macpherson.

The deadline for the April, 2019 issue will be March 25, 2019.

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