



friendship force
OREGON'S
MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Friendship Connections

The Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley August 2020

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We Continue With Remote Meetings

Given the current COVID situation, we will be meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future. While FFOMWV will not offer a face-to-face meeting option, if members are comfortable with such, we encourage you to reach out to each other to set up masked and socially distanced yard meetings with just a few people. If conditions allow, we may ponder a mixed-format meeting in September.

AUGUST 16 GATHERING PROGRAM - CHRIS DUVAL

Our regular monthly meeting of FFOMWV will be held on Sunday, August 16, at 2pm, via Zoom. Marilyn Peterson will send out the Zoom link the week prior to the meeting.

Our program this month will be a "Talents and Hobbies" program by members. We hope you will share with us evidence of your talents and hobbies and tell us about them. For instance, if you crochet or quilt, you can show us some of your pieces and tell us about what is involved in making them. If you garden, perhaps you can show us some slides of your garden, or even a short video – send them to Marilyn ahead of time and she can put them in a power point. If you collect a certain item from your travels, you could also send Marilyn photos or a video of the items ahead of time. If you sing or play an instrument, or dance, come and show off your talents at our Zoom meeting!

Time limit for each person's presentation will be 5 minutes. Hopefully we will smile, enjoy ourselves, and learn some new things.

Our goal will be to get to know one another better through our individual talents and hobbies. If we practice building friendships among ourselves, we will be better friends to others outside our own club as well. If you have questions about how to present your talents or hobbies, please give Chris Duval a call.

We hope to see you on Zoom!

Calendar

August 13 (4:30 pm) - MEG Zoom meeting
August 16 (2 pm) - General meeting via Zoom



Need Help with Zoom?

Marilyn Peterson or Russ Karow are happy to provide Zoom assistance. If you have questions, give either of them a call.



President's Message - *Juanita Weigel*

Faces Not Places

I am looking forward to when our "places" will be our gatherings face-to-face as I do not do well with Zoom meetings. It takes me forever to connect even though I start 15 minutes early. So I hope some of you who do not connect are not feeling completely stupid with electronics at our age, just challenged.

We had a very interesting speaker from OSU at the last general meeting, though I missed part of her speech due to connection issues. It sounds like the students will be doing a lot of interacting via computer the first semester in the community. Russ Karow has information on the program at OSU if you live in the Corvallis area.

I hope that you have been able to get out a little and safely enjoy this nice weather. We went to a crawfish feed in Silverton at their outdoor market and were pleased to see everyone was wearing a mask (except when eating) and were keeping their distance. It was very impressive.

I was watching a YouTube the other day. It showed the proper way to put on and take off a mask. I have never seen anyone use their method. They said to wash your hand 20 seconds, or use sanitizer, before putting your mask on and then do the same after you have put it on. When you take it off, you repeat the process. Usually you see people pulling them out of their purse or pocket and just putting them on...oops, wrong.

Stay safe. It looks a couple of months before we actually do a meeting face-to-face and then we will be wearing mask and not touching. Stay in touch.

Juanita Weigel, President

Journey Updates

2020 Journeys Cancelled and Rescheduled or on Hold

Due to COVID-19, our 2020 journeys were either cancelled and rescheduled, or put on hold. Once the stay at home orders are lifted, we will see how much of the year is left and determine along with our other club partners how we might schedule our journeys.

Tokyo Japan to Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley

As plans now stand, the Tokyo club will visit western Oregon and Western Colorado June 8-14, 2021. We hope to have some virtual opportunities to meet our guests between now and next year.

Festival at Sea 2020 and 2021

If you are signed up for the 2020 Friendship Force Festival at Sea cruise, you should have received information from FFI about the cancellation of that cruise. There will be a 2021 cruise in northern Europe.

For more information watch the FFI website and especially the blog.friendshipforce.org page for updates.

If you are not receiving emails from FFI, contact Marilyn or sign up on the FFI website at www.friendshipforce.org

Contact Chris Duval with general questions.



July 19 General Meeting Report - Russ Karow

Adria Buncal, International Scholars Advisor with the OSU Office of International Services (OIS), spoke with us via Zoom on July 19. She told us a little about the OIS and then speculated as to what the fall would look like for OSU international students this fall. These are some of her thoughts:

- With the start of COVID shutdowns, most consular services were suspended in foreign countries and travel bans were instituted. Given this, any international students who did not have a current visa were not able to obtain one. Hence, it is likely there will be few new international students at Oregon State University (OSU) this fall.
- Those international students who stayed at OSU, or in the US, will be able to remain as active in their class and research activities as OSU allows. At this point in time, OSU plans to offer some in-person classes and to allow research and extension activities on a limited basis.
- OIS offers a program where community members are paired with international scholars - the international friendship program. In a typical year, there are 30-40 scholars looking for partners. Given the current visa situation, that number will be much smaller. As a community partner, you are expected to meet with your scholar at least once a month for conversation at a coffee or meal location, at your home, while participating in some local activity (Farmer's Market, hiking the Greenbelt, etc.), taking them shopping, etc. Matching will take place once OSU is back in session this fall. Contact Adria Buncal to be added to the partner list.
- The Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center organizes conversation circles. At present these are Zoom drop-in meetings where community members and international students, scholars or their family members chat. See <http://www.cmlcenter.org/conversation-circles/> Sessions are held on Mondays 1-2 and Thursdays 10-11. If you email the CMLC, they will share the Zoom code.
- Crossroads International offers a 3-day Homestay Program. The 3-day homestay program welcomes new international students to Corvallis. Homestay hosts give new arrivals a 'soft landing' in Corvallis and help them get started in their life at OSU. Again, this program is likely to be limited this fall given the COVID situation. Send an email to crossroads.homestay@gmail.com
- The International Mom's Group offers an array of activities for international mothers and their children. See <https://www.internationalmoms.net/> Community members are welcomed to participate.

We had a delightful and informative conversation with Adria. Please contact her if you have any questions. Please also feel free to contact Marla or me if you have questions about our experience with these programs.



Did you know that in a typical year (2020 will not be typical), OSU has approximately 4000 international students, some with families, from ~95 countries?

Did you know that in a typical year, OSU hosts ~500 international scholars from ~60 countries to teach, conduct research and collaborate with OSU faculty in other ways?

MEG Lunches - Meet, Eat, and Get Acquainted

July 16 MEG Meeting Report - Sharon Harr

On Thursday, July 16th, a small group of us gathered on a ZOOM MEG for “toast and coffee.” This time, each participant told about their first international trip. Enjoyable, and many humorous, stories were told, deepening our appreciation of one another as we shared our mutual satisfaction of travel.



The Next MEG/ZOOM Offering

ZOOM HAPPY HOUR

Thursday, August 13th

4:30 – 5:30

Conversation Topic:

Share your experience of taking unconventional travel modes,
or about how you handled a unique hosting situation.

Hope to “see” you all soon!

Cheers, Sharon, MEG Coordinator

P.S. Thanks to Caye for sharing her ideas for a MEG topic!

Zoom Link - contact Marilyn Peterson

You Are the Rainbow - A project of possible interest to FFOMWV members

Gloria Olson, a long time FFOMWV member, brought a Zoom meeting series to our attention. The series affords an opportunity for learning more about the people of the Marshall Islands. As you may know, three islands in the Pacific were places of practice bombing as a part of the US role in World War II. The host for the series, Loyd Henion, has devoted a huge part of his time, energy and financial support toward changing legislation to better serve the needs of our neighbors from these Islands. What the US did to the Marshall Islands and its people was and is inhumane. Loyd has been working with Pacific islanders now living in the United States, a number of them living in the Albany, Corvallis or greater Willamette Valley. This zoom series will open up a small window to their experience and offer Friendship Force some ideas for further study about our local cultures. Zoom sessions will be held at 10 am on Sunday mornings. Professionals with expertise on the Marshall Islands and Islanders themselves will share information. Watch for emails from Marilyn Peterson regarding Zoom connection information for each session. Those with specific interest can ask to be added to Loyd’s email list.

It's Not Too Late to Help FFI Help You Post-COVID

Thank you all for your generous contributions to the Friendship Force International fundraising campaign. If you have been planning to donate, but have "not gotten around to it", the DONATE button is still active on the Friendship Force website www.friendshipforce.org. Donating now will help the FFI Board plan for the next 18 months. Thank you! *Marilyn Peterson, FFI Board Vice Chair*



Travel From the Comfort of Your Home! - Marilyn Peterson

Are you sitting at home muttering about not being able to travel? Has your passport started to complain that it needs attention?

While "virtual" is definitely not the same as actually traveling, there are some excellent options available. Friendship Force staff and various clubs have created "virtual experiences". To find out more and to sign up to participate in these events, surf on over to blog.friendshipforce.org and check out the news.

The catalog of possibilities will be found by clicking on "Access FFI Virtual Experiences" or at <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/>

If you have some ideas of what our club could offer in the way of a virtual experience, contact any of our club's board.



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.

Are You Receiving FFI Emails?

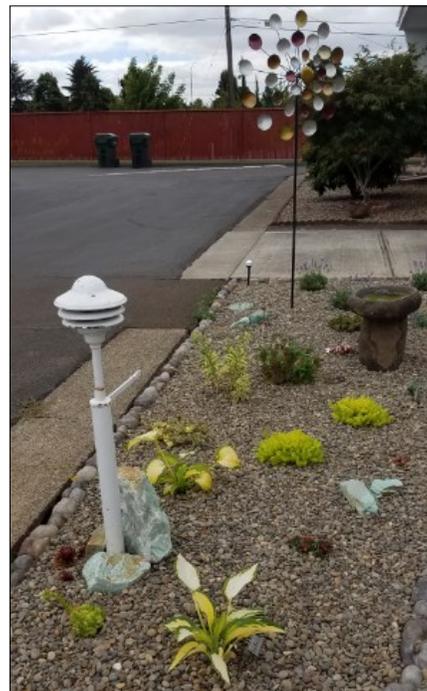
FFI is using email as its primary mode of communication. If you are not receiving emails, please contact Marilyn Peterson who will ensure that your email address is in the database. Be sure to check your junk, promotions and spam folders periodically. Mail systems sometimes think for their users and file emails in mysterious places.

Friendship Follies—What have we been doing?



This is likely a familiar sight in many kitchens in the past weeks. With Oregon's berry and tree fruit season in full swing, lots of jams and jellies are now in jars or the freezer.

And for the stargazers, Marilyn Peterson and Kathy Butler drove to Marys Peak to get a mountain's eye view of comet NEOWISE. It could be seen without binoculars. This photo was taken with Marilyn's iPhone. Did you have ever think your phone would be a high quality camera? The stars above the comet are the 'pointers' of the Big Dipper.



Like many, Chris Duval has spent time working on her yard. She replaced the bedraggled sod in her front yard with a lovely succulent garden, rocks, and kinetic wind sculpture. She can now sit on her front porch and enjoy looking out at her estate!

Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley Board Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Ted Powell at 1:07pm

Attending virtually: Russ Karow, Rita Powell, Ted Powell, Marilyn Peterson, Dennis Murphy, Chris Duval, Juanita Weigel

Not present: Van Nichols

May minutes were approved: MSP Chris/Rita

Treasurer's reports attached to the minutes — Dennis Murphy operating account
Journey Treasurer's Report—Van Nichols

Journey organizer—Chris Duval: nothing to say. Ft Worth wants to come 2021

Communications Chairperson—Marilyn Peterson

Newsletter —Russ Karow July newsletter: June 25 copy deadline Follies, MEG Need pictures from activities

Juanita joined the meeting.

Old Business

June 21 gathering

MEG June 18

June – Show and tell

July board meeting - virtual

Discussion on July meeting on whether have face to face meeting. July will be virtual.

Russ will contact the OSU International Scholars Program for July 19 speaker.

In August perhaps a hybrid (combine in face to face with Zoom).

New business—

Marilyn will send new roster so that board members do meeting reminders.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Peterson, Secretary

Membership Application or Renewal

Annual dues cover the cost of the monthly newsletter and expenses for exchanges 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 exchange travel and other benefits. Memberships expire on December 31, 2020.

Annual dues: Individual: \$35.00 (Please print clearly)

This is a NEW _____ or a RENEWAL _____ Application

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Dues enclosed: (\$35.00 individual) \$ _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

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



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Did You Know August 2 is National Friendship Day?

National Friendship Day was originally founded by Hallmark in 1919. It was intended to be a day for people to celebrate their friendship by sending each other cards. However, by 1940, the market had dried up, and eventually, it died out completely. Then, in 1998 Winnie the Pooh was named the world's Ambassador of Friendship at the United Nations. In April 2011, the United Nations officially recognized 30th July as **International Friendship Day**; although most countries celebrate on the first Sunday of August.

The official declaration invites us to "observe this day in an appropriate manner, in accordance with the culture and other appropriate circumstances or customs of their local, national and regional communities, including through education and public awareness-raising activities." Perhaps email, text or send a card to an international friend on August 2 in recognition of the day.

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com>

**INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF
FRIENDSHIP**

Inspire Peace & Build Bridges



Your 2020 Leadership Team

Elected Officers

President	Juanita Weigel
Vice-President	Ted Powell
Secretary/ Internet Communications	Marilyn Peterson
Treasurer	Dennis Murphy
Past President	Chris Duval

Activity Leads

Friendship Shared/ Sunshine News	Sue Stein
Journey Organizer	Chris Duval
MEG	Sharron Harr
Membership	Eileen Minette
Navigators	Barb Callner
Newsletter Editor/Archives	Russ Karow

Inbound Journey Coordinators

June 8-14, 2021- Tokyo, Japan - Eileen Minette & Marilyn Peterson
Early August 2021, tbd - Ft. Worth and San Antonio, Texas - JC's needed

Outbound Journey Coordinators

End of June, 2021, TBD - Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico and West Alajuela, Costa Rica - Juanita Weigel & Kathy Butler

2021 Festival at Sea: August 15 - 29 (with an possible extension to September 8).

All journeys are contingent on our ability to host and travel in 2021. We hope for the best!

***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***