



friendship force
OREGON'S
MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Friendship Connections

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 - President's Message
- 2 - June 21 meeting report
- 3 - Journey updates
- 3 - OSU international programs need you
- 4 - MEG past and upcoming
- 5 - Friendship Follies—our COVID stories
- 6 - May 13 board meeting minutes
- 7 - Membership form and a bit about July 4th
- 8 - Your leadership team

We Continue With Remote Meetings

As you surely know, the mid-Valley is in phase two reopening. Even though in-person meetings could take place, none of our usual meeting venues are available, so Zoom meetings will continue at least through the end of July. If a face-to-face meeting becomes possible in August, we will query members as to interest, and then plan accordingly.

July 19 Meeting Program - Russ Karow

Our regular monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, July 19 at 2pm via Zoom. The Zoom link is given below and will be sent again by Marilyn Peterson the week prior to the meeting date.

Our program will include a presentation by Adria Buncal, International Scholars Advisor with the OSU Office of International Services. Adria has been asked to talk about three topics and will use a shared Power Point presentation to do so - 1) What does the Office of International Services do?; 2) How will current travel restrictions affect the international community at OSU in the coming year?; 3) Describe OIS and partner programs in which there are opportunities for community involvement - conversation partners through the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center; community partners through the OIS office and Cross Roads International; 3-day home stay program through OIS and Cross Roads. For those who are interested in continuing to make connections to people from around the world during and after these times of international travel restrictions, these programs will afford an opportunity. Join us to hear more!



Zoom link <https://oregonstate.zoom.us/j/93417245002>

A waiting room will be in use for this meeting

Meeting ID: 934 1724 5002

How to Join a Zoom Meeting

You can use a computer, tablet or smart phone to connect to a Zoom meeting. If you do not already have the Zoom application on your device:

And you are **using a computer**, you can a) go to <https://zoom.us>, download the free application, and install it ahead of time; OR b) when you click on the link to join the call, your computer will prompt you to download and install the Zoom application.

And you are using an **Android or Apple phone or tablet**, please install the free Zoom app ahead of time. Then when you click on the link in your email, the Zoom app will launch.

When you have Zoom on your device, all you will need to do is to click the zoom.us link in the invitation you are sent.

Marilyn Peterson or Russ Karow are happy to provide assistance. Give them a call, preferably prior to a scheduled meeting, if you need assistance.



President's Message - *Juanita Weigel*

We had a good “show and tell” on our June 21st Zoom meeting with people introducing themselves and telling something about a collectible from afar. We heard interesting stories about mailboxes, shawls, coffee cups, and other items. You should not be scared of Zoom. I still have problems with it and I was late, as usual, to the June meeting as it took me some time to log into it. It is the new way to communicate and I need to get used to it.

By now I assume you have all got your strawberry jam made and hope you found your Sure Jell faster than me. I had to go to four stores to find it as everyone was out. I went to my favorite strawberry farmer near Lebanon, who is Asian, and grows great berries.

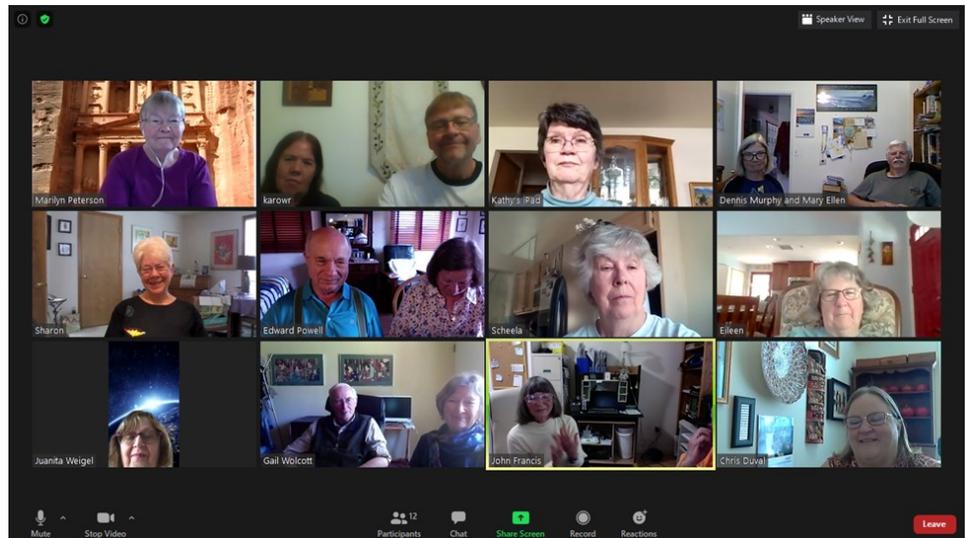
I am still getting used to wear a mask everywhere and sometimes I have to walk back to the car as I forgot it. I try to make it the first thing I put on when I get out of the car and hope everyone else is doing better at remembering than I. I had hoped we would be able to meet in person in August, but it now looks like we will be lucky to have a regular meeting in September. We do need to stay connected through this and not lose touch. If you have any ideas for connection options, tell me or other board members. Russ Karow has arranged for a speaker from OSU for our July meeting (see the article on page 1). We hope many will be able to join us via Zoom. Stay safe as much as possible.

Juanita Weigel, FFOMWV President

June 21 General Meeting Report - *Russ Karow*

Our June general meeting was held via Zoom on Sunday, June 21. Seventeen club members were able to participate. After a few brief club business items and updates, time was spent with participants sharing information about an object or remembrance of an international trip. Clothing and apparel were common memory items—shirts, shawls, necklaces. Handmade goods offered immediate ties back to places traveled - small statues, flowers made from water weeds.

Ted Powell has a mailbox collection that you will want him to show and describe to you the next time you are at his house. Several of the mailboxes were gifted to Ted with an accompanying admonishment to not ask where they were obtained. We had a delightful conversation and learned much about each other and other parts of our world.



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL

Calendar of Events — to be determined

Journey Updates (sort of)

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

Unfortunately our planned visit by the Tokyo club for June 2020 has been cancelled. Actually, it has been postponed until June 8-14, 2021. Tokyo will visit our club and Western Colorado. 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.

OSU International Scholars Need You - *Russ Karow*

You will hear more about these opportunities in our July 19 Zoom meeting, but if you want some background or to check out the programs now, try the links below:

- Be matched this fall with an international scholar as part of the community partners program. You would be 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 (farmers market, hiking the Greenbelt, etc.), taking them shopping, or to the Bottle Drop to recycle their soda cans. Matching would take place once OSU is back in session (physically or virtually) this fall. Contact Adria Buncal with OSU International Scholars or info@cmlcenter.org Marla and I have had a Thai scholar partner for nearly two years and had a great time mutually sharing our cultures.
- Conversation circles organize by the CMLC. They are drop-in meetings that have about 13 community and international people chatting. <http://www.cmlcenter.org/conversation-circles/> They are on Mondays 1-2 and Thursdays 10-11. If you email info@cmlcenter.org they will share the Zoom code.
- Another option is the Crossroads 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:
<https://internationalservices.oregonstate.edu/crossroads/homestay>

Please feel free to contact Marla or me if you have additional questions.



MEG Lunches - Meet, Eat, and Get Acquainted

June 18 MEG Meeting Report - *Russ Karow*

Eight club members were able to participate in the June 18 MEG meeting. Our discussion topic was remembrances of first travel as a child or FF member. Caye Poe told about the lovely quilt she made from fabrics pieces gathered from around the world. John Francis told about being a journalist in Africa in the 1960s. Russ Karow revealed his parent's history as smugglers—of yellow margarine. Marla Karow told of road trips from Minnesota to the west with her maternal grandparents—no seat belt days. Kay Macpherson spoke of the steps in her farming life – little for dinner, paying for your own dinner, paying for others. Sharon Harr talked about her and Peter's many years of living in Egypt. I think all agreed Chris Duval had the most interesting stories as the daughter of a minister who moved every three years - dust angels, "vacationing" in a condemned building with no running water, etc.

The Next MEG/ZOOM Offering - *Sharon Harr*

Thursday, July 16th, 10:30 a.m.

Toast & Coffee

It was so enjoyable learning about one another at our last MEG. This time, let's each tell about our first international trip, whenever and wherever that was. We can each contribute our first impressions and experiences within another culture, different foods, sights, sounds, and smells. Looking forward to seeing you all again! Zoom connection information will be sent in the days prior to the meeting.

Questions—contact Sharon Harr MEG Coordinator

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

Are You Receiving FFI Emails?

FFI has sent a number of emails out to all members in the past few weeks. If you are not receiving these 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 up to during the shut down?



Kathy Butler has found time to do one of the tasks on her “someday” list – painting her big, ugly computer desk.



Many are familiar with this COVID activity. Oregon set an all time liquor sales record in March. Marijuana has done well too. These two may be the one bright spot in Oregon tax receipts.



Rita Powell continues her quilt making work. This is a quilt made from Indonesian Batik fabric and is for Rita and Ted’s newest niece, to be born this month!



Marilyn Peterson has been knitting and knitting and...- for charity and for herself. This is her new shawl. The color changes are achieved by knitting magic that Marilyn will be happy to share with you if asked (buy the right yarn).

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

May 13, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Ted Powell at 1:00pm

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

Not present: Juanita Weigel, Van Nichols

April minutes were approved: MSP Russ/Dennis

Treasurer's report attached to the minutes — Dennis Murphy

Journey Treasurer's Report—Van Nichols

No activity in April. The check made out to the Unitarian Church for \$60 has been shredded. The \$4000 to the FFI COVID-19 campaign has been sent

Journey organizer—Chris Duval: Discussion on when travel can/will open up.

Communications Chairperson—Marilyn Peterson

Report on donation to FFI from our members and club. The club has sent the remaining \$4000 for a total club match of \$5000.

Newsletter —Russ Karow June newsletter: May 25 copy deadline

Old Business

May 19 meeting – Member check in “how are you doing”, Chris will write notification, moderator of meeting needed. Volunteers will divide up the current roster to connect with each other during Sunday's meeting.

June board meeting - virtual

General meeting in June will be virtual Ted and Juanita will make the arrangements. Program will be member show and tell.

New business -

Possible Thyme Garden meeting in September, possible picnic with Columbia Cascade in August

Report from FFI: be sure to read the blog site articles, especially the 2021 journey planning blog.friendshipforce.org

Meeting adjourned at 1:33

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



Fun Facts Related to the Fourth of July

- Congress made Independence Day an official unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870. In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.
- Only John Hancock actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All the others signed later.
- The average age of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. The youngest was Thomas Lynch, Jr (27) of South Carolina. The oldest delegate was Benjamin Franklin (70) of Pennsylvania. The lead author of The Declaration, Thomas Jefferson, was 33.
- The only two signers of the Declaration of Independence who later served as President of the United States were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.
- President John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe all died on the Fourth. Adams and Jefferson (both signed the Declaration) died on the same day within hours of each other in 1826.



<https://acei-global.blog/2013/07/03/20-fun-facts-about-the-4th-of-july/independence-day/>

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

September, 2021, TBD - Oklahoma and possibly Denver, CO and Lake Hartwell, Georgia - JC's needed

Outbound Journey Coordinators

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

August, 2021, TBD - Ft. Worth, Texas - JC's needed

Not currently scheduled: potential outbound to Winnipeg, Manitoba

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

Contact us at: fforeign@comcast.net or PO Box 1703, Albany, Oregon 97321