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CALENDAR

- Mar 9, 1 pm - board meeting via Zoom (p 9)
- Mar 20, 2 pm - in-person general meeting at Walnut Community Room, Corvallis (p 1)
- Apr 9, 4 pm - 30th Anniversary Zoom Celebration with FFI (p 4)
- Aug 13, 3 pm - 30th Anniversary Celebration Dinner, Corvallis Community Center (p 3)



First state church in the world—page 7

In-Person Club Meeting - March 20 - Walnut Community Room, Corvallis

Yes, you are reading this correctly. We will have an in-person meeting of our club on Sunday, March 20 at 2 pm in the Walnut Community Room in Corvallis. The Walnut Community Room is located at 4950 NW Fair Oaks Drive. This is just down the road from Martin Luther King, Jr. Park which is off Walnut Blvd on the west side of town. It is a meeting room connected to the currently closed Scott Zimbrick Memorial Fire Station #5. There is ample parking immediately adjacent to the room. We encourage anyone who wishes to do so to bring snacks to share - cookies, bars, fruit, cheese/crackers. If we each plan on food for only six people, we should still have plenty.

We will have 1) a business meeting in which you will be updated about the many activities we have in various stages of planning (see the other pages of this newsletter); 2) a short presentation about our planned Tuxtla Gutierrez Mexico and West Alajuela Costa Rica outbound journey (see p 4); and 3) plenty of time to socialize.

We last met as a large group in North Albany last August - photo at right. COVID is still a concern, so we ask that all be fully vaccinated and symptom free and/or that you take and pass a quick COVID test prior to coming to the meeting. Friends keep each other safe.



*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

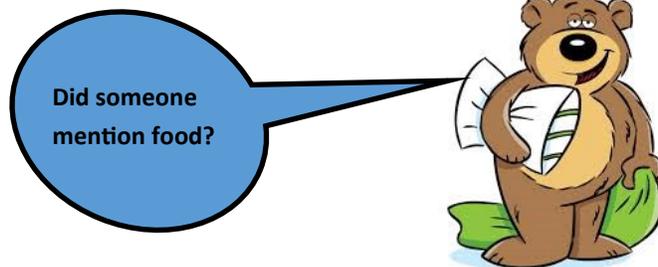
Spring is not too far away! The trees are beginning to bud and the daffodils are getting ready to flower. Our club, after almost two years of COVID hibernation is shaking off the lethargic feelings and preparing for an active year filled with two outbound journeys, an inbound journey from Texas, and the hosting of 12 teenage students and their leader from Armenia. Not to stop there, we are celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of our club that was founded in August 1992. Finally, several of us have been signed up for the Festival at Sea Friendship Force cruise for almost three years and it looks like it will happen late August!

Please give some thought to signing up for the outbound journeys happening this year. There are still openings for Mexico and Costa Rica ambassadors. Kathy, Juanita, and Chris have put a lot of energy into putting this springtime journey together (see p 4). The folks in Costa Rica and Tuxtla are anxious to give us a very friendly welcoming! We will be going to Oklahoma and Georgia this fall. If you are interested in going on this journey, please let me know. We can provide you with information about the Festival at Sea if you are interested.

Hosting is a vital part of what Friendship Force is about. Please give your support to Chris and Mary Ellen in their request for hosts. We have a full contingent coming from San Antonio and Fort Worth, Texas and I know that they have an exciting program planned.

Our March meeting will be in person for the first time since we met outside at an Albany Park for our August General meeting last year. It will be a time for old friends to see each other, talk face to face and share a few treats. It is also a time for us to meet several new members, perhaps for the first time!

In Friendship,
Dennis



MyFFI

We will be going on journeys this year! ***In order to go on a journey, you will need to have an account in the myFFI system.*** Each person must have their own account. To sign up, go to your favorite web browser (it is easiest to use a computer versus a phone or tablet/iPad) and type <https://my.friendshipforce.org> into the search bar. Click on the purple "Sign Up" box. Enter your name, club from the select list (Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley) and your email. Two people cannot sign up under a single email. If you routinely share an email with a partner, in this instance, you will need to create a standalone account. This can be easily done by creating an email account within Gmail. Your myFFI membership will show as 'pending' until our club administrators (Dennis or Kathy) certify your membership. You will receive an email through which you can confirm your signup. Look in your, junk mail if you do not receive an email in your inbox. Marilyn Peterson is available to answer questions about the site, its functionality, future plans or technical difficulties.



It's Our 30th Anniversary!

It seems our first official, organizational meeting was held in August 1992, wow, thirty years ago! Dennis has organized an Anniversary Committee. What great minds we have: Gloria Olson (a founding member and our first president), John and Gail Wolcott, Dennis Murphy, Mary Ellen Lind, Russ and Marla Karow, Marilyn Peterson, Kay Macpherson, Rita Powell and myself, Ted Powell, Committee Chairman. What shall we do to celebrate? We have two big events for you to participate in - an All FFI Virtual Event on Saturday April 9th at 4 PM and a Big Party at the Corvallis Community Center, Saturday August 13th 4 to 6:30 PM. Other exciting events are in the early stages.

Hard but fun work is in progress!

Russ Karow is leading the April 9th all FFI virtual event and shares progress in his article on page 4.

Gail and John Wolcott will Co-Chair the Big Party August 13th.

How Big of a Party? A Big One! We are inviting The Friendship Force of Columbia Cascades and The Friendship Force of Southern Oregon to join us at the Corvallis Community Center, 2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis 97330. We are extending our best hospitality - home hosting Saturday night! This celebration dinner event is evolving. The planning committee is currently thinking we will purchase food items (Costco?) and serve them ourselves versus hiring a cater to handle the meal, but we need your thoughts on this approach. There has been general consensus that we do not want to do a potluck for this dinner. If the purchased food option is used, we envision the ticket price to be a low \$25 including some beverages (yours truly has offered a case of wine).

In addition to your thoughts on approach to food, we need your talents to:

- Set up and take down tables and chairs
- Decorate and undecorate
- Organize food for serving
- Clean the kitchen after use
- Clean the room after use
- Serve beverages, including wine
- Cut and plate the anniversary cake
- Be a guest housing host for the evening



Please respond to Gail and/or John with your willingness to help with any of these tasks!

We also need your good ideas!

We're gonna have a party!

Ted Powell, Committee Chairman



30th Anniversary Zoom Celebration - April 9, 4 pm

As you have already heard and read, our Club is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2022. Our celebration will be multi-part and include both virtual and live activities. The first virtual activity will be a Zoom session hosted and advertised worldwide by FFI staff. "FFOMWV formally began with a meeting of twenty-two world-peace-thinking people who met on August 17, 1992 at the public library in Albany Oregon (we still meet there today). Several of those who met that day had previously gone on world journeys with other Friendship Force (FF) clubs and wanted to bring the joys of FF involvement to western Oregon. In our virtual celebration event, you will learn about some of the history of FFOMWV, hear from our first president, and hear stories from those who have been involved with our club over the past decades. We invite you to join us in this celebration of 30 years past and more to come!"

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

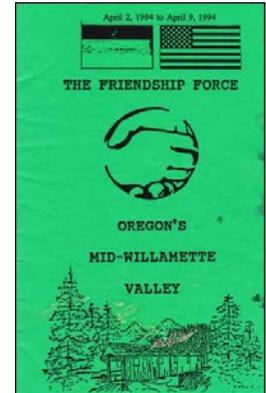
When: Apr 9, 2022 16:00 Pacific Time

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvc-ytrDguE9V_HHJNkud_4kRdmoOHUnhO

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If there are specific people you would like to see talk about our club during this celebration, please provide their name and contact information to Russ Karow.



Our Outbound Journey to Tuxtla-Gutierrez Mexico and Costa Rica

Communications with our two host clubs have been established, and dates have been set for our journey this spring.

Friday, April 29 we leave for Tuxtla-Gutierrez and stay seven nights.

Friday, May 6 we fly to West Alajuela Costa Rica and stay seven nights.

Friday, May 13 we fly back to Portland.

To date we have 10 ambassadors. We expect two more from another club. We need at least 12 people. If you have interest, please submit an application.

As soon as we have our ambassador group solidified, we will hold a Zoom meeting to talk about next steps.

We continue to keep a close watch on developments with COVID and will need to make a final decision on whether to travel closer to the travel dates.

Please direct any questions you have to Kathy Butler or Juanita Weigel.

Vamos a Mexico y Costa Rica!

Kathy Butler—Journey Co-coordinator



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuxtla_Guti%C3%A9rez

Help Us Reveal the History and Impacts of FFOMWV

What do you find on your memory lane? With 30 years of memories in our storehouse, we ask you to share some of your stories of friendships gained along the way. Just poke around and search your memory lane for one of those “once in a lifetime” Friendship Force journeys or exchanges.

Why do I ponder these memories? Because I hope you will write about some of your memories and help us build a file of stories from experiences and friendships shared as a consequence of being a part of this organization. Please jot down some of those memories and send to Russ Karow, editor of our monthly newsletter with a copy to Dennis Murphy, We are asking you to share your memories as a way of celebrating our 30th year as a part of Friendship Force International. Let’s read lots and lots of stories from the past 30 years.

Gloria Olson

*Our first president and a continuing FFOMWV Member, Bend OR
Member of 30th Anniversary Celebration Committee*

See below for a memory from Rita Powell



One of Our Hosting Experiences - Rita Powell

As we drove out in the countryside this morning, I saw a couple of folks in a field with their sheep. It reminded me of when we hosted a man from Vietnam in 2009.

He didn’t speak English; we used a translator part of the time. Since he did know French, at times we could talk that way.

When we drove around, he asked, at one point, where all the children were . . . he didn’t see groups of them playing in the streets, or even in back-yards. I think I told him that a lot of kids played on the computer much of the time.

When we were in Salem one day, I pointed out a line of young children walking down the street from the YMCA building. They each held on to a knot in a rope, so they would remain together.

Since the group came in August, we were able to go to the Polk County Fair. Even there, he noticed that there were no young folks just running around playing. They were either watching presentations, looking at items for which they had won ribbons, or were preparing their animals for show.

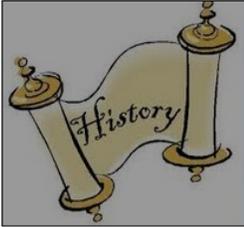
We went up to one girl who was grooming her sheep. This included shaving part of its face. We asked if our guest could pet the sheep and told her where he was from. She offered to allow him to help with the grooming – and he did! The photo below shows him working with her and grinning. What a different experience for that young man!!

When we were eating our final meal (lunch), with our guest, he kept getting up, coming over to each of us and giving us hugs. He was crying . . . and, of course, that made me cry too.

Rita

FYI: Polk County was the 2nd county in Oregon to start a 4-H Program. 4-H is the largest out-of-school youth program in the United States.





A Moment In Our Club History - Second Meeting

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING #2
August 25, 1992

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF OREGON'S MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY
(Proposed name)

The second organizational meeting was held at the Rea home. We were honored to have present Eleanor and Wayne Van Triburg, of the Columbia-Cascades club in Vancouver/Portland. The Van Triburges have been members of The Friendship Force since its inception in 1977. They volunteered to help us understand exactly what is needed to be done to form a club.

Following are the steps needed initially:

- . Form a steering committee
- ..Select officers
- . Complete by-laws within 30 days
- . Add to the board, committee members: (Membership, Newsletter, Membership, Special Events, Host Director, Exchange Director)
- . Choose a name for the club
- . Secure a post office box number
- . Establish dues amount
- . When licensed, plan general meeting of interest to the community
- . Develop membership form
- . Plan for newsletter 4 times a year

Following receipt of license from Atlanta, the Van Triburges volunteered to conduct a training session for the Host Director and the Exchange Director,

We agreed that we would like to be up and running as a club on January 1, the beginning of FF's fiscal year.

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Following the departure of the Van Triburges, the following decisions were made:

- . Gloria Shibley agreed to be the facilitator to get the club up and running.
- . Other persons who agreed to serve on the steering committee:
 - Vice president - Loy Marshall
 - Treasurer - Bernice Whittemore
 - Member-at-large - Nancy Marshall
 - Secretary - Betty Rea
 - Membership - Don Rea
 - Phoning - Lois Hobbs
 - Host Director - Edla Johnson
- . The by-laws were reviewed, and it was agreed that we could accept basically the sample copy provided us, with the understanding that changes could be made when we become more aware of the needs of our club. The By-laws were adopted.
- . Betty Rea agreed to retype the By-laws and send them to Atlanta.

We will begin plans when the license arrives to have a gathering where we can introduce FF to the community. This will be an effort to build membership. Suggested ideas included using slides of present Ambassadors, together with their personal stories of what FF means to them. It was thought this meeting might be scheduled for early November.

- . Loy Marshall agreed to secure a post office box
- . Loy agreed to take care of the tax ID numbers we will need

Connie Petty has indicated an interest in being Newsletter chair.

It was agreed the name we would submit for approval is:
The Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley

ALEX Program Update - We Will Host Armenian Students - Dennis Murphy

Our Friendship Force Club has been approved by FFI and the American Councils to host 10 to 12 Armenian students and their leader from June 25th to July 3rd of this year! These 17–19-year-old students were originally approved to come to the United States and spend 10 months going to high school with their American host families. The COVID epidemic took that opportunity away from them and because they have aged out of eligibility for the original program, they are now part of the ALEX program that will offer them a two-week experience in our country. The first week will be spent in Washington D.C with 50-60 of their peers in a one-week civic education program. The second week they will spread out across the U.S. and spend a week in host communities.

We are in the initial stages of planning the program for them that will include opportunities to meet their peers, participate in cross cultural activities, community service, experience the natural beauty of our forests and our Oregon coast, and finally some experiences with Oregon agriculture. It will be a fun and educational week for both them and our community. That is a whole lot to accomplish in one week, but I know that our club has the character and commitment to make sure that it happens.

We can always use your help. If you have ideas and suggestions, if you would like to be a backup host, if you are comfortable driving a van, if you would like to help with preparing for a welcoming or departure celebration, or if you just want to help in any way that you can. Please let me know!



<https://www.worldatlas.com/maps/armenia>



Eight Facts About Armenia

1. Chess is a compulsory subject in schools.
2. Armenia was the first country to have adopted Christianity as its state religion.
3. Armenia is one of the only mono ethnic countries in the world. 97% of the people living in Armenia are Armenians.
4. The first church in the world was built in Armenia—Holy Etchimiadzin was the first state church built in the world back in the early 4th century.
5. An estimated 1.5 million Armenians were killed during the Genocide that began under Ottoman rule in 1915.
6. Armenia is one of the oldest wine producing country in the world.
7. The entire country worships Mt Ararat which is also the national symbol of Armenia.
8. The apricot is one of the symbols of Armenia - the orange color of the Armenian flag symbolizes the apricot!



<https://sunriseodyssey.com/12-interesting-facts-about-armenia-that-you-might-not-know>



SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING JOURNEYS (Revised February, 2022)

2022 April 29-May 13	OUTBOUND INTERNATIONAL: Outbound to Tuxtla Gutierrez and West Alajuela #22729; Ambassador JCs, Juanita Weigel and Kathy Butler
July 25-30	INBOUND DOMESTIC: Inbound from Ft. Worth (Linda Doyle) and San Antonio, (Corkie Playfair) #22513, coordinated with their journey to Southern Oregon club (Amy Lepon); Host JCs: Mary Ellen Lind and Chris Duval
August 21-28 August 28-Sep 10	Pre-extension to the FFI Festival at Sea - Viking Sagas FFI Festival at Sea – Northern Isles
October 2 - 14	OUTBOUND DOMESTIC: Outbound to Oklahoma (Rose Schultz), combine with our assigned outbound to Lake Hartwell, Georgia (DeeDee Sabo) – 22764. Tentative JCs: Mary Ellen Lind and Dennis Murphy.
2023 April or May - TBD	OUTBOUND DOMESTIC 4 DAY MINI-JOURNEY TO SACRAMENTO
June (tentative)	INBOUND DOMESTIC 4 DAY MINI- JOURNEY FROM SACRAMENTO: The board will decide on this journey in April, depending upon COVID status and hosting availability.
Late June (tentative)	OUTBOUND INTERNATIONAL: Outbound to Edmonton, Canada, (Brenda Kane), possibly combined with our outbound to Manitoba #20151, (Jean Hyrich) Tentative JCs: Mary Ellen Lind and Chris Duval.
Tentative Date TBD	INBOUND DOMESTIC: Inbound Denver, Colorado (Ilene Americus) 20403 to be combined with their visit to San Francisco, California; Host JCs Dennis Murphy and Chris Duval;
September (tentative)	INBOUND INTERNATIONAL: Inbound from North Bay, Ontario, Canada #20326; to be combined with stop in Flathead Valley, Montana and Colorado Springs, Colorado, by North Bay.
2024 June TBD	INBOUND INTERNATIONAL: Inbound from Tokyo, Japan #22501 Host JCs: Marilyn Peterson and Eileen Minette
Not Scheduled Yet	INBOUND DOMESTIC: Inbound from Charlotte, North Carolina, (Tommie Craig) #21116.



Cardinal—the state bird of North Carolina

Ilona L on Flickr - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/woolcarderbee/>

See <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/> for a full listing.



FFI Book Club:

“Gods of Jade and Shadow”

by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

Thursday, March 10, 2022, 11 am Pacific

Host: Kerstin Hogan, FFI Staff

The sixth book we are reading together is “Gods of Jade and Shadow” by Mexican-Canadian writer Silvia Moreno-Garcia (nominated for the Nebula Award, Best Novel, 2019). It is a historical fantasy novel and has been described as a one-of-a-kind fairy tale inspired by Mexican folklore. [Find out more here](#). Register [here](#).

“A magical novel of duality, tradition, and change... Moreno-Garcia’s seamless blend of mythology and history provides a ripe setting for Casiopea’s stellar journey of self-discovery, which culminates in a dramatic denouement. Readers will gladly immerse themselves in Moreno-Garcia’s rich and complex tale of desperate hopes and complicated relationships.” — *Publishers Weekly Starred Review*

The Modoc War – 150th Anniversary

Sunday, March 27, 2022, 3:00 p.m. Pacific

Host: Cheewa James, FF Sacramento

Friendship Force Sacramento member Cheewa James is a great-granddaughter of Modoc warrior Sh-ke-itco (renamed Shacknasty Jim by settlers unable to pronounce his name!). She is the author of “MODOC: The Tribe That Wouldn’t Die” and was the primary consultant of the PBS documentary “The Modoc War,” which aired across the United States.

Come and hear a fascinating story about the Modoc War, fought in north central California involving between 50-60 Modoc warriors against over 1,000 U.S. Army soldiers by the 8-month war’s end 150 years ago.

It’s a story you will not easily forget. Read more and register [here](#).



Recorded virtual experiences can be found at the **FFI Virtual Experience website**

<https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/>



March Zoom Board Meeting - March 9 at 1:00pm

Members are always welcome to attend board meetings and to participate in discussions regarding club business. If you would like to attend, please let Marilyn Peterson know. She will send you the Zoom link to the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting - January 12 2022

Attending: Dennis Murphy, Marilyn Peterson, Chris Duval Caye Poe, Mary Ellen Lind-

Previous minutes approved

Treasures report— Not provided

Sacramento Short stay visit in June for 4 days is possible. Will decide at April Board meeting. We would visit Sacramento in 2023.

Mexico and Costa Rica planning is proceeding. Invitations will be sent out in near future for the journey. April/May. COVID could put a stop to the journey but we will be ready to travel if possible.

Discussed ALEX Program. Need to be able to host 10 to 12 students and one group leader. Timing could be anytime this year based on our willingness to put together a program.

Chris and Dennis to work on list of members that may be willing to be JC's for Oklahoma and Georgia out-bound journey later this year. We will then contact those members and ask for their assistance.

With regard to Hosting there is a real need to make this process easier. Dennis has started a spreadsheet on hosting events, contact information, description and cost. This needs to be expanded so the JC's for inbound journeys have a resource to assist them and ambassador clubs in planning a journey. Will need to look for a committee of people to help with this.

Location for meeting General meeting in March. Need to try to have an in person meeting in Salem area in March. Possibly the Salem Library. It is important that once we start to have in person meetings to alternate locations. Until the current COVID situation improves, we will have general meetings every other month and MEG meetings on the months there is no general meeting. There will be no general meeting in February.

We need to send out reminder notices to members who have not renewed their membership for 2022. Members who do not renew will be suspended on the new FF website and will not be eligible to travel on FF out-bound journeys.

Swear in officers for 2022 at next meeting.

General Meeting - January 16, 2022

Our January general meeting was held via Zoom on January 16. We installed officers for 2022 (thank you leadership team!). Barb Callner presided over the installation of:

Dennis Murphy, president
Kathy Butler, Vice President
Van Nichols, treasurer

In addition we had the good fortune to be able to interact with Jeremi Snook, FFI CEO and President. Jeremi outlined the current state of affairs at FFI. While the past COVID years have dramatically changed FFI operations, FFI continues to thrive. Thank you to Jeremi and the other FFI staff who have "rolled" with the times and made the changes needed to carry our organization into the coming decades. Thanks too for the generous support and financial donations from Friendship Force members and friends worldwide. The reduction in travel has provided the opportunity for big changes in technology for Friendship Force. In the past, the entire journey matching and oversight process was managed with paper documents in paper folders in filing cabinets. The entire process is migrating, albeit slowly, to data residing in the cloud with online payments and secure data storage.

In the very near future you will see a new, cleaner, modern website which exists to attract new members to our organization. A second site, called myFF, is the members only repository of re-sources and information needed by members. If you have not logged into myFF and created your member ID, now is the time. You will need that number to join future journeys.

Membership Application or Renewal for 2022

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, 2022.

Annual Dues Rate for 2022 is \$40.00 per person (please print clearly). Please send form and payment by December 1 if at all possible.

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 2022 Leadership Team

Board Members

President	Dennis Murphy
Vice-President	Kathy Butler
Secretary	Caye Poe
Treasurer	Van Nichols
Journey Coordinator	Chris Duval
Member At Large	Marilyn Peterson
Newsletter Editor/Archives	Russ Karow

Activity Leads

30th Anniversary Committee	Ted Powell
Friendship Shared	Sue Stein
Internet Communications	Marilyn Peterson
Inventory & Merchandise	Rita Powell
MEG	Sharon Harr
Membership	Kathy Butler
Navigators	Barb Callner
Sunshine "Committee"	Sharon Harr

Journey Coordinators

April - May 2022 - Outbound Tuxtla Gutierrez and West Alajuela - Juanita Weigel & Kathy Butler
July 2022 - In bound Ft. Worth and San Antonio - Mary Ellen Lind & Chris Duval
June 2023 - Outbound to Edmonton, Canada - Mary Ellen Lind & Chris Duval (tentative)
TBD 2023 - Inbound Denver, combined with their visit to San Francisco - Dennis Murphy & Chris Duval
June TBD - Inbound from Tokyo - Marilyn Peterson & Eileen Minette

February 10 MEG Meeting Report

A MEG (Meet Eat and Get Acquainted) meeting was held via Zoom on February 10. Eleven club members, including new member Stella Athon, attended. Conversation included football reminiscences (Stella's husband had been involved with collegiate and professional football coaching and recruiting for decades), tales of current and past travel, and instructions on how to play Wordle (<https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.html>), to name a few. As usual, a good time was had by all.

