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If you have not yet paid your 2025 club dues, please do so now! See p 9 for the form. Paying dues now simplifies our treasurer's job!



2025 CALENDAR

- Jan 9, 12:30 pm** - MEG at the Biere Library, Corvallis (p 1)
Jan 19, 2 pm - Club meeting, CPI Building, Philomath (p 1)
Mar 16, 2 pm - Club meeting, CPI Building, Philomath
Mar 26 - Apr 1 - San Antonio TX outbound (p 8)
May 30 - June 5 - Birmingham AL inbound (p 7)
Sept 11-13 - Hawaii inbound - CANCELLED



First General Club General Meeting of 2025

Our first general club meeting of 2025 will be held on Sunday, January 19 beginning at 2 pm in the community room of the Consumers Power Inc. Building in Philomath - 6990 W Hills Road. Our first order of business will be to induct our new officers - President - Marilyn Peterson; VP - Arnie Abrams; Secretary - Marla Karow; and Treasurer - Chris Kastella



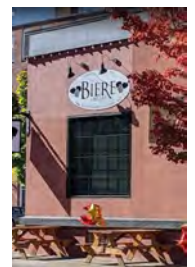
Our thanks to our 2024 officers President Sharon Harr, VP Marla Karow, Secretary Kathy Butler and Treasurer Dennis Murphy. Your hard work and club encouragement over the past year has been greatly appreciated.

At the meeting we will outline journey plans for the coming year and lay the groundwork for other activities.

Members with last names M - Z are asked to bring snacks to share. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own beverage. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

First MEG of 2025 - The Biere Library

Our first MEG (Meet, Eat and Get Acquainted) of 2025 will be on Janu 9 at 12:30 at the Biere Library in Corvallis - 151 NW Monroe Ave. If you plan to attend, please contact Carolyn Powers or Gail Wolcott so that they can assist staff in planning. We look forward to new year discussions with all able to attend.



This Issue of Connections, and more information about our club,

can be found on our website: <http://www.fforegon.org>

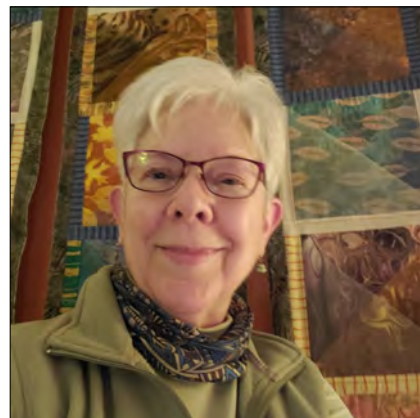
Contact us at: FFOMWV@gmail.com or PO Box 1703, Albany, Oregon 97321

President's Message - Sharon Harr

A very happy and healthy New Year to all! In this, my final message as president, I want to again express my gratitude and appreciation for each and every one of you for your continual support over the past two years. This has been a fulfilling experience and I am delighted to see the torch carried on by our next slate of officers. Please plan to attend the January 19th meeting at Consumer's Power in Philomath, for the induction and year kickoff for our new officers.

Let us all celebrate all new club members. By joining our circle of friendship, they keep our club fresh and dynamic. As outgoing president, I will take on the role of Membership Coordinator and invite volunteers to help me shore up that effort.

Parting thoughts: Keep thinking about ways you may offer as well as participate in Friendship Shared opportunities for this coming year. And, please plan to attend our March 16th General Meeting, also in Philomath at the Consumer's Power building.



Friendship Shared in 2025

Thank you so much for joining with me to offer our Friendship Force members, and hopefully visitors that you invite, Friendship Shared opportunities in 2025! The following is a list of those who have agreed to host to date: Sharon & Peter Harr, new members Craig & Marianna Biegel, Kathy Butler & Marilyn Peterson, Chris Duval, Eileen Minette and Russ & Marla Karow. Dennis and I will also host, so we have seven willing hosts. If you are still considering an offering for our Jan - Mar 2025 series, it's not too late. I need the following information from you as soon as possible so that we can advertise your event as widely as possible:

- Title of your event - if you have one
- Date and time of day in the Jan – Mar timeframe
- Cost such as \$20 - this depends on the type of activity
- Size of group you can accommodate
- Location of the event

Events will be promoted in our monthly newsletters and in emails.

The details for five events are already in hand! See the next two pages for these offerings.

Thank you so much for joining me in this winter FF activity!

Mary Ellen Lind, Your Friendship Shared Coordinator



FRIENDSHIP SHARED EVENTS

Friendship Shared Event - Pizza & Game Party - Jan 4

One of our first Friendship Shared Events for 2025 will be a pizza and game party at Chris Duval's house on Saturday January 4 at 12 noon. The cost will be \$20 per person plus at least two cans of food or other nonperishable items to be donated to the local food bank. Six guests can be accommodated. Chris lives at 5026 Riley Ct SE, Salem, Oregon. Please contact Chris to reserve your spot



Friendship Shared Event - Mexican Lunch - Feb 22

Kathy Butler and Marilyn Peterson will host a Mexican Lunch on Feb 22 at 12:30pm at Kathy's Home (4712 Becker Circle SE, Albany) for 6 guests. The menu will include yummy homemade green chile chicken tamales, chili, salad and dessert. Nothing too spicy, just tasty. Price is \$20 per person. To reserve your place at the table, please contact Marilyn Peterson before February 10. You may bring your payment to the dinner or mail it to Marilyn Peterson, 2913 Ivy Loop SE, Albany, OR 97322.



Friendship Shared Event - Saint Patrick's Day Preamble - Mar 16



Craig and MariAnna Biegel will host a St. Paddy's dinner at their home at 33073 SE Peoria Rd, Corvallis OR 97333 at 5 pm on the 16th of March, one day before the actual St. Patrick's Day - 6+ people. The wearin' o' the green by guests will surely add to the festive spirit. Donations of \$20.00 from each guest will go directly to the charity chosen by the group. Bring an Irish ditty, song or joke to share. Please contact the Biegel's

if you would like to attend. Slan go foil! That's bye for now in Gaelic.

Friendship Shared Event - Saint Patrick's Day Lunch - Mar 17

Dennis Murphy and Mary Ellen Lind will host 6 people for lunch at 1 p.m. on St. Patrick's day, Monday, March 17. Location - 2851 SE Linda St Corvallis. Wear green and bring a limerick to share! Donation amount: \$20.00. The group will decide where donations will be sent. Please contact Mary Ellen if you wish to attend this event.



Friendship Shared Event - Bed & Breakfast at the Coast

Marla and Russ Karow will host a bed and breakfast at their Lincoln City house on Mar 7-8/9. Space is available for 3-6 people depending on how bedrooms are used. The address is 5423 NW Keel, Lincoln City. People can arrive anytime after 2 pm on the 7th. Heavy appetizers will be served at 4 pm. If desired, people can explore food offerings in the city that evening or plan for meal. Breakfast will be served Saturday morning - time to be determined by the group. Breakfast will include gluten and gluten free items and foods with dairy products.

Three bedrooms, each with their own bath, are available. People will need to specify the bedroom(s) in which they have interest when making their reservation. The downstairs bedroom has twin beds which can be pushed together for king size bed or used as two twins if people are interested in sharing a room. One upstairs bedroom has a queen bed and the other a double.

The cost is \$30 per person. People can stay Saturday night (no later than noon Sunday departure) for an extra \$10 per person. People will decide Saturday morning which organization to donate money. Please bring a check with the payee name to be filled in or cash to the event.

People are responsible for their own meals except Friday appetizers and Saturday breakfast. A fully stocked kitchen is available for use with participants responsible for cleanup.

If interested, please send an email or call Marla Karow. Priority will be given to people who didn't participate in last year's B&B.



Our Good Friend and FFI Colleague Ted Powell Has Died

For those who did not receive these emails:

From Ted on Dec 18:

Hello Friends and Family,

2024 has been a rough year for Ted and an okay one for Rita. I write today that Friday will be my last dialysis as I enter hospice care. My kidney cancer has spread in some form to my liver. My oncologist says it will be over in a week, possibly two. Rita will be living at Dallas Retirement Village by the early weeks of February when Grand Niece Alexis and her husband Arkadiusz move to our home and become greyhound owners. They already love Deerpath. We will miss our January 16th 54th Anniversary but hey, 53 isn't bad. We will have a Christmas turkey dinner this Saturday. Summer will be here with Britt and Michael and old friends Rich and Charly. I have had a very rich life surrounded by the best people on Earth. I wish all of you a joyous holiday and a wonderful 2025!

Ted Powell

From daughter Brittany on Dec 27:

Dear Family and Friends,

I wanted to let you know Dad died in the night last night. He was not in any pain, and he wanted to go quickly, so we are grateful for that. You are all people he cared about - thank you for being part of his life.

If you knew Dad, you know he was a planner. He requested we wait until it isn't the middle of winter to hold a memorial, so don't expect an update on that for a while.

Love - Britt (and Rita, Summer, and Michael)

We will keep the club posted as we learn more. Gods of the world speed to you Ted and hugs to Rita and all the Powell clan.



MEG Report - Dec 12 at El Patron

Our last MEG (meet, eat and get acquainted) of 2024 was held on Dec 12 at El Patron Mexican Restaurant in Corvallis. Thirteen people were able to attend. The young brothers -- sons of the owner -- had set up the back room attractively for us with 'candlelight' on a table. Food was excellent and everyone said they would like to return. Per usual, table talk was also delightful.

Specific dates for the first events of 2025 have yet to be set, but planning is underway with The Bier library (downtown Corvallis) and Long Timber in Monroe as possibilities for January and February, respectively. If you have suggestions for possible meeting locations, please contact Gail Wolcott or Carolyn Powers. Thanks to all for your participation in our MEG events. These are one of our recurring club activities to build our world of friends.



Board Meetings

The date for the next FFOMWV Board meeting is Wed January 15 at 3:30 pm. All meetings are held by ZOOM. All current and prospective club members are welcomed to participate. If interested, call or send President Sharon Harr an email and she will send you the ZOOM link.

Last board meeting screen shot



December 8 Holiday Party

Per plan, FFOMWV held its annual holiday party at the Powell's Deerpath Chateau. Over 20 club members were able to join the celebration that included heavy appetizers provided by the participants, libations provided by Rita and Ted and joyful conversation. The usual white elephant gift exchange was held and Chris Duval lead the group in song. Ted and Rita have hosted numerous FFOMWV events at Deerpath. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, this celebration will have been their last large group affair. Thanks Ted and Rita for your foresight in design of your home for events like ours and your ever willingness to share with others. Perhaps there will be future celebrations if we can bring Alexis and Arkadiusz into the FFI family.



Journey Organizer Report - Dennis Murphy

2025 Journey Schedule

For additional information contact the coordinators or Dennis Murphy

Mar 26 - Apr 1 **Outbound** San Antonio, Texas Journey #25132

Ambassador Coordinator: Chris Kastella

May 30 - Jun 5 **Inbound** Birmingham, Alabama Journey 25130

Host coordinators: Russ and Marla Karow

Oct 6 - 13 **Festival on the Mekong** Friendship Force International

Additional Information to be announced by FFI

Late October to Nov. **Outbound** New Caledonia Journey 25194

Ambassador Coordinators: Not assigned Contact: Dennis Murphy



Birmingham AL Inbound

FFOMWV will host the Birmingham AL FF club May 30 - June 5, 2025. Russ and Marla Karow are our host JCs. They will get initial information to those who have indicated hosting capability as well as general information to club members in mid-January. We are awaiting more information from our Birmingham ambassador JC. Communications between clubs is underway. At this point we will have at least 10 ambassadors, maybe more. Given that the Honolulu inbound journey has been cancelled, there is a possibility that several of the people from that club who were *interested in visiting Western Oregon* may join the group from Birmingham - an advantage of FFI membership!

Nametags - Order New Ones Now if Needed

I will be ordering nametags for three new members of our club. I have requests from three members of our club for replacement nametags. Tags for new members are free. Tags for existing members are: Magnet style - \$11.54 ea; Pin Style - \$10.54 ea

Shipping and costs run about \$10 to \$15 per order.
The more we order the lower the total cost.

If you are interested in ordering, please send me your name exactly as you would like it spelled and whether you want a pin or magnet style. I will be ordering these the first week of January 2025.

Thank you!

Dennis Murphy



Adventures in San Antonio #25132 - March 26 - April 1

Join us for an upcoming journey where we will learn about the past, present and future of beautiful San Antonio, TX! We'll experience local culture, beautiful scenery while building friendships with our hosts.

Our visit will possibly include visits to:

- Alamo
- Riverwalk
- Museums
- Missions
- Hill Country with bluebonnets in bloom and more.

Limited to 12 ambassadors with a price of only \$575!

- \$350 for TX
- \$150 for FFI fee
- \$75 for application and contingency fee
- travel to be coordinated by individual ambassadors

Applications must be received by January 30th, 2025 and should be emailed to Journey Coordinator Chris Kastella (please write "San Antonio Journey #25132 Application" in the subject line) or if you have questions please call Chris

Please make checks for \$575 payable to FFOMWV and mail to FFOMWV, P.O. Box 1703, Albany, OR, 97321 also by January 30. Checks will not be cashed until members are accepted as Journey ambassadors and you are notified of acceptance.

I look forward to leading our group to San Antonio.

Chris Kastella



President Jimmy Carter Has Died



It is with profound sadness that FFI announces the death of President Carter. President Carter passed away today, December 29th, surrounded by his family. On March 1st, 1977, the newly inaugurated President Carter in support of his long-time friend, Friendship Force founder Wayne Smith, took the monumental step of formally introducing Friendship Force at a White House gathering of State Governors. The two men could not have known how much this decision and the vision behind it would impact world communities in the next 45 years. What began as an experiment has become a global phenomenon, with thousands of people from more than 80 countries having participated as hosts or citizen ambassadors to date. Post-presidency, Carter continued with his gracious support of the organization for many, many years and the late First Lady Rosalynn Carter served as its Honorary Chairperson until 2002. The Carters attended the International Friendship Force Conference in 2000, in Wisconsin, USA, to celebrate the retirement of Friendship Force's then-president, founder Wayne Smith. President and Rosalynn Carter visited the offices of Friendship Force several times to show their support for the staff who were headquartered there. Despite the Carters officially parting ways with the organization in 2003, their championing of human rights and their core message of peace continues to be upheld by Friendship Force to this day. In lieu of flowers, President Carter requested that those wishing to honor his memory do so through contributions to The Carter Center for continuation of his good works. Visit www.JimmyCarterTribute.org to make a memorial gift, sign a virtual condolence book, and learn more.

A Moment in Club History

Dennis Murphy found this article in our August 2014 FFOMWV newsletter while looking for another item. Well worth the read.

JIMMY CARTER ON THE BEGINNINGS OF FRIENDSHIP FORCE, MARCH 1, 1977

Finally, I'd like to say that we are going to do some things that we hope that you will share with us. When I was Governor of Georgia, we had a sister state in Brazil named Pernambuco. Recife is the capital. And Rosalynn and I went down to visit Brazil, I think, the first year I was in office. We formed a lot of friendships. And when we got back, we organized just on our own, with the help of other people in Georgia, of course, an exchange of citizens. We chartered a plane. I think it cost \$200 per person, about, and we loaded about 200 people on either a 707 or a plane of that size and flew down to Brazil. I didn't go. Rosalynn did. And those 200 people, Georgians, unloaded in Recife, and 200 Brazilians got on the plane and came back to Georgia.

None of them ever stayed in a hotel or motel. They all stayed in each other's homes. And the 200 Georgians had made arrangements while they were gone for 200 of their neighbors to take in the Brazilians. And the same thing had happened in Brazil.

It was a tremendous exhibition of the yearning of people in another country who spoke Portuguese--none of the Georgians spoke Portuguese--to learn about us and for us to learn about them. So we're going to try to do this on a nationwide basis and ask those of you who are interested, either the Governors or their spouses, to be thinking about it, and later on you'll get a letter concerning it. And perhaps your own State this first year would like to just take one airplane, and we've asked the State Department to give us advice. And we would like to have somebody go, maybe a couple of hundred folks go from, say, Idaho, to perhaps Morocco, and let 200 Moroccans come back.

There won't be any public funds involved at the State or Federal level. We're going to try to join in and raise enough money in private places to finance these trips.

But I want to see the ties of our own country with other foreign countries--large and small, powerful and weak, very friendly and not so friendly--strengthened. I think it will be an exciting thing.

Perhaps the first time, you might get some fairly affluent people to go who could not only pay their \$300 or \$400 or whatever it is these days but could also help pay the price of a Moroccan to come back to one of the homes.

We're going to try to work it out in detail. But we will hope that we can get you to help us with it. You can either wait till you get a letter maybe a few trips this first year. But eventually, we'd like to have it be kind of a massive effort from the United States of America and for the other countries around the world.

And from Government. The only thing that we'll provide is mine and Rosalynn's personal funds, yours and the help from the State Department in giving us advice on where to go. And as who volunteer to go, about the country to which the visit will be made.

In contact Rosalynn directly, or we'll be writing you a letter soon. There is a volunteer in a Presbyterian minister, who was a missionary in Brazil. He was the one who had the idea first volunteer to kind of coordinate the whole effort.

So you can do that is a little above and beyond Government--kind of nice, that perhaps you can

For more information, visit www.index.php?pid=7101#axzz1u4Ps0RUh (National Governor's Conference Dinner)



Membership Application or Renewal for 2025

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 of each year.

The Annual Dues Rate for 2025 is \$45, the same as 2024. We have been told that FFI international dues rate for 2025 will not increase.

New members who join after August 1st but before December 31st of a given year will pay at the current rate and their dues will be extended through December 31 of the following year.

This is a NEW _____ or a RENEWAL _____ Application

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Dues enclosed: (\$45.00 per person) \$ _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

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



New Members!

We have three newer members - **Marianna & Craig Biegel and Glenda Baker!** We will provide more information about these folks in coming newsletters. If you know of people who may have interest in Friendship Force, encourage them to visit our website <http://www.fforegon.org> or to send an email to our club email address to obtain more information - fforegon@comcast.net

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 2025 Leadership Team

Board Members

President	Marilyn Peterson
Vice-President	Arnie Abrams
Secretary	Marla Karow
Treasurer	Chris Kastella
Journey Organizer	Dennis Murphy
Newsletter Editor/Archives	Russ Karow

Activity Leads

Friendship Shared	Mary Ellen Lind
Internet Communications	Marilyn Peterson
MEG Coordinators	Gail Wolcott Carolyn Powers
Sunshine "Committee"	Sue Stein

2025 Journey Coordinators

March 26 - Apr 2 - San Antonio TX outbound - JC Chris Kastella

May 30 - Jun 5 - Inbound from Birmingham AL - JCs Marla & Russ Karow

~Oct - Nov (dates TBD) - New Caledonia international outbound - still some question as to whether this journey will occur given political unrest in the country

COVID And Our Club

COVID is still with us and is likely to be an on-going concern for some people. COVID is not the flu, and can do serious and sometimes permanent damage to its victims. Members of our FF club are dealing with some of those long lasting effects. The board encourages all of the members of our community to get vaccinated if no other medical conditions prevent or make it dangerous. We encourage you to wear a mask in crowded situations. It is one of the best forms of protection available to all of us. Along with the face masks, washing your hands especially after having been in crowded situations with unknown people. While COVID home tests are not always accurate, especially in the early hours of COVID, please test yourself prior to attending FFOMWV events in the coming months, and please, even if you test negative, but do not feel well in even the slightest way, do not attend. We all need to do our very best to protect ourselves and each other in every way that we can.

