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2025 CALENDAR

- Feb 6, 12:30 pm** - MEG at Long Timber in Monroe (p 1)
Mar 16, 2 pm - Club meeting, CPI Building, Philomath (p 1)
Mar 26 - Apr 1 - San Antonio TX outbound (p 9)
May 30 - June 5 - Birmingham AL inbound (p 8)
~Oct - Nov - New Caledonia international outbound (dates TBD)

CLUB DUES ARE PAST DUE. IF NOT PAID BY THE END OF FEBRUARY, WE WILL NEED TO DROP YOU FROM CLUB MEMBERSHIP PER OUR BYLAWS. SEE PAGE 10 FOR THE MEMBERSHIP FORM AND INSTRUCTIONS!

Second MEG of 2025 - Long Timber Brewing - Feb 6th

We are confirmed for 12:30 on Feb 6th at Long Timber Brewing in Monroe. In order to use their large, party room, we've promised a group of twenty. So, prove us right! Everyone enjoys the fish and chips, chili, burgers at Long Timber. Take the time to peruse their historical displays and enjoy the beautiful building by the real Bob Grant -- the last one before he retired and sold his business. If you plan to attend, please contact Carolyn Powers or Gail Wolcott to assist in planning.



Next General Meeting - March 16 - CPI Community Room, Philomath

Our second general club meeting of 2025 will be held on Sunday, Mar 16 beginning at 2 pm in the community room of the Consumers Power Inc. Building in Philomath - 6990 W Hills Road. Members with last names A- L are asked to bring snacks to share. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own beverage. We will conduct general club business and have a presentation by OSU international scholar Belén Ojeda Bernal who will tell us about her home country of Chile and her path to studying abroad. Please mark your calendar and plan 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

February 2025! Time flies when you are having fun.

FFOMWV has a busy calendar for the year. Currently happening are a number of Friendship Shared events. If you have not signed up to attend or host, see the announcement regarding available places on page 3 of this newsletter. Another great way to get to know some of our members better are the MEG events organized by Carolyn Powers and Gail Wolcott. Feb. 6 at Long Timber is the next MEG. Don't forget our next gathering on March 16 at 2PM.

Thank you to all the new officers for 2025 and to our various committee chairpersons/coordinators for your willingness to support our group. It does take a village to make all of our activities happen. But, we need to grow our village. My challenge for 2025 is for each of us to do something that promotes our Friendship Force mission. Perhaps you can offer a Friendship Shared event and invite a neighbor who might be interested in joining our club or invite a member that you have not seen in some time to come to an event or meeting. By the end of 2025 could we have 10 more active members? If you have some ideas for expanding our visibility and membership, please let me know.

In friendship,

Marilyn Peterson, FFOMWV President



It's Not Too Late - Friendship Shared in 2025 -

It is still not too late to offer a Friendship Shared event in the coming months. See the next page for current offerings and events already filled. If you would like to host, please send me the following information as soon 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

Pizza & Game Party - Jan 4 - at Chris Duval's - "in the bag" - see page 4 for an event report



Soup Lunch – Feb 16



Sharon and Peter Harr will host a soup lunch Sunday, Feb 16 beginning at 1 pm at their house - 845 NW Sundance Circle, Corvallis - minestrone soup, garlic bread, salad, tiramisu, and an assortment of beverages. **ONE SEAT IS STILL AVAILABLE.** Price is \$20 per person. Please contact Sharon to reserve a place.

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). **TWO SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE.** Price is \$20 per person. To reserve your place at the table, please contact Marilyn Peterson before February 10.



Lunch Near Central Park – Mar 11



John and Ruth Wyse will host a Friendship Shared lunch at their new apartment opposite the Corvallis Library. All seats are taken

Saint Patrick's Day Preamble - Mar 16

Craig and MariAnna Biegel will host a March 16th St. Paddy's preamble dinner at their home at 33073 SE Peoria Rd, Corvallis OR 97333 beginning at about 4:30 pm - specific time TBD. **ONE SEAT IS STILL AVAILABLE.** 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.



Saint Patrick's Day Lunch - Mar 17



Dennis Murphy and Mary Ellen Lind will host a lunch at their house on St. Patrick's day, Monday, March 17. All seats are taken.

Bed & Breakfast at the Coast - Mar 7-8

Marla and Russ Karow are hosting at their Lincoln City house. All spots taken.



Donation Details - guests should bring a check with them to their event. Checks will be written to FFOMWV and given your host(s). Hosts will coordinate with Mary Ellen in having funds sent to the appropriate organization. **THANKS TO ALL FOR HOSTING AND PARTICIPATING IN THESE EVENTS!**



January 4 Pizza & Game Party Friendship Shared Event Report

We had a pleasant Friendship Shared pizza event on January 4. So sorry that Marilyn and Kathy missed it. There was much talk of Game of Thrones, Lord of the Rings, 3-d printing, and such, and the pizza was delicious. My son, Noah, joined us for lunch, so that was good.

Cliff suggested that we donate our \$60 to the Elks in Salem, where he is a member. They have a program to assist un-housed veterans in settling into homes, purchasing household goods for them. This sounded good to me, so I have contacted them and found out how to make the donation. I have sent the funds to Dennis who is handling things until our treasurer Chris Kastella returns from Arizona in the spring.

Thank you all for your generous donations, especially Kathy and Marilyn, who didn't even get to enjoy the pizza!

Warmly, Chris Duval



Friendship Shared Impact

If you ever have wondered if our small contributions have an impact in our world. Friendship Shared funds were donated to Educare-Africa last year

From Pavla Zakova-Laney,
Founder, President, Executive Director &
Full-time volunteer of Educare-Africa

Dear friends and supporters,

Warm greetings to you and your loved ones! I am forwarding you this letter for your information and to thank you again for your tremendous support. In addition, I wanted to inform you that the 200 donated backpacks with school supplies already arrived in Cameroon and our coordinator is working on their distribution.

With much gratitude, Pavla & Educare-Africa Team

From: GIFE YEMANGONG DONALD _____
Subject: A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Dear Madam ,

On behalf of myself, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the kind donors of Educare Africa for your incredibly generous support. I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for your contribution towards the completion of my Master's degree in Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases at the University of Buea. Your contribution has covered 50% of my remaining tuition fees, a truly significant amount that has alleviated a considerable financial burden. This support has lifted a huge weight from my shoulders, allowing me to fully focus on my studies and pursue my passion for public health without the constant stress of financial constraints. I am profoundly indebted to Educare Africa and its donors for this opportunity to continue my education and contribute to improving healthcare outcomes in my community. I want to assure you that this act of generosity will not be in vain. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity by excelling in my studies and applying my newfound knowledge to improve the health and well-being of people in Cameroon. I pray that God grants you, Madam Pavla, good health and a long life so that you may continue to harvest the abundance of kindness you have sown. Thank you again, from the bottom of my heart, for your belief in me and your unwavering support.

Sincerely, Gife Yemangong Donald

Ted Powell Memorial Get-Together

Saturday, April 26

12:00PM - 3:00PM PDT

Cascade Commons, Dallas Retirement Village

225 NW Jasper St, Dallas, OR 97338

Drop in anytime from 12-3. Ted told his family to tell everyone a definite time for the meal because he hated it when that wasn't included, so, FYI, food will be available the entire time.

If you have not already done so, please RSVP before the end of the day on April 18 to Ted and Rita's daughter Brittany at



Edward "Ted" Schuyler Powell

February 26, 1948 - December 27, 2024

On December 27th, 2024, Ted Powell, beloved husband and dad, died at the age of 76. Ted was born in Evanston, IL to Hazel and Sky Powell. He and his sisters, Nancy, Lea Anne, Ellen, and Alice, grew up in Illinois. Ted excelled at mechanical tinkering from a young age, and frequently landed himself in trouble for "improving" vehicles with his lifelong best friend, Rich. The Vietnam War inspired Ted to attend college, earning his Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering at Bradley University in Peoria, IL.

In Peoria, Ted met his future wife, Rita Kirk, who taught at Bradley. It took Ted all of one month to propose, and they married on January 16th, 1971, two and a half months after they met. The pair traipsed through Europe on a shoestring that summer in an MG Midget. This marked the start of a life filled with travel and making connections.

Ted and Rita moved to Corvallis, OR in 1972 in search of a simpler life, hoping to opt out of the industrial complex as much as possible. They welcomed daughters Summer in 1972 and Brittany in 1977.

Ted was hired to repair lawnmowers at Albany Magneto Equipment in 1972 and the Powells purchased the business in 1975. Over 50 years with Ted at the helm, Albany Magneto became AM Equipment, a controlled motion systems designer and manufacturer that provided jobs for 40 people. Ted was known for his forward vision, ability to see solutions, and brilliant mechanical mind, as evidenced by his four patents.

About 35 years ago, the Powells joined Friendship Force International, a grassroots peace organization that facilitates homestays worldwide. The Powell home hosted dozens of international guests through the Friendship Force and as exchange students. Ted spent countless hours volunteering with the organization, showing visitors the beauty of Oregon and organizing exchanges to other countries. He traveled to more than 50 countries and was awarded the Friendship Force's Wayne Smith Medal for his exceptional leadership. This love of travel and friend-making is one of the biggest gifts Ted and Rita have passed to their kids.

Ted's family and friends enjoyed his kindness, generosity, advice, storytelling, love of animals and nature, and willingness to invite lunch guests at the drop of a hat. Ted is missed by his wife, Rita; his daughters, Summer and Brittany; his son-in-law, Michael; and his greyhounds, Chase and Fig. Donations may be made to the Oregon Humane Society.

MEG Report - Jan 9

Our first MEG (meet, eat and get acquainted) of 2025 was held on Thurs Jan 9 at The Bière Library on Madison Ave in Corvallis. Nine people were able to attend. The Bière Library is a craft beer bar and restaurant serving Belgium inspired food and beverage. They had an interesting array of drinks and the food was great. They offered a hot “vegan” salad at lower left below. Definitely a place to try if you have not been there. The table topic was “tell us about a new year resolution you kept.” This did not take much time but conversation was grand per usual .



Board Meetings

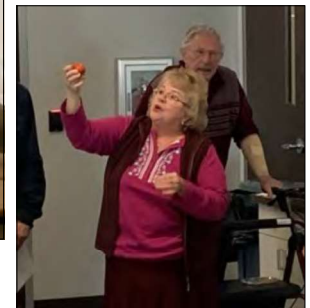
The date for the next FFOMWV Board meeting is Wed February 12 at 12:30 pm. All meetings are held by ZOOM. All current and prospective club members are welcomed to participate. If interested, call or send President Marilyn Peterson an email and she will send you the ZOOM link.

Last board meeting screen shot



January 19 Club General Meeting Report

An amazingly well-attended general club meeting was held on Sunday, Jan 19 at the CPI Building outside Philomath. 34 club members were in attendance! We are able to use this community room free of charge as many club members are CPI customers. Last year's club officers were thanked - Sharon Harr (Pres), Marla Karow (VP), Dennis Murphey (Trsr) and Kathy Butler (Sect) - and new officers installed - Marilyn Peterson (Pres), Arnie Abrams (VP), Chris Kastella (Trsr) and Marla Karow (Sect). Thanks to these and all the other leaders in our club who make what we do possible. Dennis Murphy talked about upcoming journeys and queried the group about 2026 international travel interests. A few details of the incoming Birmingham AL journey were shared. Rita Powell had several tote boxes of FFI gear that she brought and shared with the group. Several shirts and other items are still available. Contributed food was great as always and included a lesson on what a cashew fruit actually looks like - see Peggy Hoecker photo middle right. Conversation was joyous.



Journey Organizer Report – Dennis Murphy

February 2025

Incoming

Birmingham, Alabama Journey and Honolulu, HI. Journey #25130

May 30 – June 5 Host coordinators are Russ and Marla Karow. Additional details provided separately in this newsletter.

Outgoing

San Antonio, Texas Journey #25132

March 26 – April 1 - Ambassador Coordinator is Chris Kastella

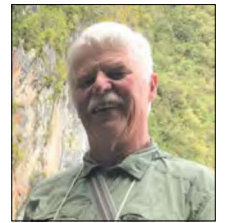
Additional details on this journey are provided separately in this newsletter.

Festival on the Mekong

October 6 -13 - Additional details to be announced by FFI

New Caledonia Journey #25194

Late October/Early November –The political unrest of a few months ago has passed and the island is returning to normal. Tourists and cruise ships have returned and our friends in New Caledonia are looking forward to welcoming us. Suggestions to extend the trip include combining it with the FFI Festival on the Mekong, a stop in Australia, and or a stop on Fiji. If interested in participating in this journey and giving input and suggestions for it, please contact me immediately.



2026 Outbound Planning

On January 16, all FFOMWV members were sent a request for input on our outbound journeys for 2026. If you have not provided input, and are interested in participating in journeys, domestic or international, please complete the form promptly and then email, mail, or call me with the information. Your input is valuable to us having successful journeys and building friendships around the world.

Birmingham AL Inbound

FFOMWV will host the Birmingham AL FF club May 30 - June 5, 2025. Four ambassadors from Honolulu may join this group for a total of 13. Russ and Marla Karow are our host JCs. Plans are to visit the Saturday Farmers market and local stores, Silver Fall State Park and Willamette Valley Vineyard, Hatfield Field Marine Science Center and Yaquina Head National Park, and to do an OSU campus tour including two lab stops. Small group dinners will be held the evening of May 31 and a farewell dinner on June 4. Two members of the Columbia Cascade Club plan to join us at the coast. Once the final schedule is established, we will let club members know where there are opportunities to join the group and encourage you to do so. While home hosts and day host slots are filled, we still need people to host small group dinners and to help with the farewell event. If you are interested in assisting with this inbound journey, please contact Marla. We are looking forward to this hosting adventure!



**Last Call for San Antonio Journey # 25132
March 26 - April 1, 2025**

FFOMWV will journey to the San Antonio Texas. Cost of \$575 per pseron

Electronic application(s) are due January 30th, 2025 to Please write “San Antonio Journey #25132 Application” in the subject line.

Make checks payable for \$575.00 to FFOMWV and mail to FFOMWV, P.O. Box 1703, Albany, OR, 97321 also by January 30th. Checks will not be cashed until members are accepted as journey ambassadors and you are notified of acceptance.



Transportation will be the responsibility of each Ambassador. San Antonio is served by several major airlines. Plan to arrive in San Antonio by 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2025. This will provide time for your host to pick you up at the airport and bring you to the Welcome Party/dinner.

Like most journeys, the days will be active meaning several hours on one's feet and walking 30 to 45 minutes. Walking may not be flat yet should not be difficult.

Only 9 spots available (3 couples and 3 singles)

Itinerary Activities include -

Wed, March 26 – Pick up Ambassadors by Hosts. Welcome party at 6 PM at MacArthur Park.

Thurs, March 27 - LBJ Ranch 1472 State Park Rd. 52, Stonewall, TX, wildflower farm, lunch and shopping in Fredericksburg, Texas. Dinner at The Dodging Duck Brewhouse in Boerne, Texas.

Fri, March 28 - Visit Mission San Jose and others with lunch either a nearby restaurant or box lunch on the grounds in one of the missions. Visit McNay museum. Small group dinners.

Sat, March 29 - Riverwalk barge ride, Briscoe Western Museum, Buckhorn Museum, Alamo tour, Denman State Park.

Sun, March 30 - Brunch at MI Tierra Market Square then shopping in the area and visit Japanese tea garden.

Mon, March 31 – Free Day and Farewell Dinner

Tuesday, April 1 - Ambassadors to the airport

“Free Day” activities could include –

Tower of America (observation deck)

San Antonio Shoe Factory

Visit the Historic Pearl. Historic brewery

San Antonio Art Museum

Small quaint towns such as Bandera or Luckenbach

Natural Bridge Caverns

Cascade Caverns

Hiking trails

2025 Membership dues are now past due. Dues not paid by the end of February will result in members losing their membership in Friendship Force per the club Bylaws.

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



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

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Journey Organizer

Newsletter Editor/Archives Russ Karow

Activity Leads

Friendship Shared Mary Ellen Lind

Internet Communications Marilyn Peterson

MEG Coordinators Gail Wolcott
Carolyn Powers

Sunshine "Committee" Sharon Harr

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 - JC(s) TBD

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.

