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## CALENDAR

- Apr 9, 4 pm - 30th Anniversary Zoom Celebration with FFI (p 1)
- Apr 13, 1 pm - April Board meeting (p 10)
- Apr 29 - May 9 - Mexico outbound (p 6)
- Jun 25 - July 3 - ALEX student hosting (p 4)
- Jul 25 - 31 - Texas inbound (p 2)
- Aug 13, 3 pm - 30th Anniversary Celebration Dinner, Corvallis Community Center (p 5)



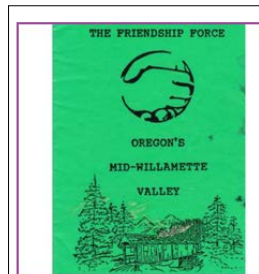
April 29—page 12

## Come to Our 30th Anniversary ZOOM Party on Saturday, April 9, 4 pm!

On Saturday, April 9 at 4 pm, we will officially kick off the celebration of our club's 30th anniversary. This kick off will be a ZOOM celebration in which we document in words, photos and videos the early history of our club, current status, and hopes for the future. We have video memories from Gloria Olson and Sue Stein. We have well wishes from friends around the world. In some cases these are from people who have been engaged with our club for more than 30 years! Do you like Shanty music? If so, we have such as an overlay on a video from Varel Germany.

To participate in this session, you must register at the website below. We hope to see you there.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvc-ytrDguE9V\\_HHJNkud\\_4kRdmoOHUnhO](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvc-ytrDguE9V_HHJNkud_4kRdmoOHUnhO)



### FF Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley 30th Anniversary Celebration



Saturday, April 9, 2022, 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time  
CONVERT TIME ZONE

Host: Russ Karwow, FF Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley

The Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley formally began with a meeting of twenty-two world-peace-thinking individuals. They met on August 17, 1992, at the public library in Albany, Oregon, where we still meet today. Several of those individuals had previously gone on journeys with other Friendship Force clubs and wanted to bring the joys of Friendship Force to western Oregon. In this celebration event, you will learn about some of the club's history, hear from our first president, and enjoy stories from those who have been involved in our club for several decades. Please join us in this celebration of 30 years!

REGISTER

*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](mailto:fforegon@comcast.net) or PO Box 1703, Albany, Oregon 97321*

## President's Message

Our recent general meeting was rewarding in demonstrating that FFOMWV is very much alive and energized. That is only because so many of our members are contributing to its success in as many different ways as they can. Participation, and the willingness to volunteer, are the lifeblood of any club. In looking at the actions of our board members, our journey coordinators, our committee members and their leaders, and all of the other volunteers in our club offering their help, it is very clear to me why our club is emerging from COVID with a very strong spirit of both enthusiasm and friendship.

I personally want to thank every single one of you for the time and energy that you have and continue to give towards the goal of a world of friendship.

Dennis

## Texas Inbound Journey - Chris Duval

We have 21 ambassadors coming to visit us from July 25 through 31, from the cities of Fort Worth and San Antonio, Texas. Chris Duval and Mary Ellen Lind are the Host Coordinators. We are still seeking overnight hosts for this journey. We have three vaccinated individuals who still need hosting in homes with vaccinated hosts. The host application is at: [https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/HOST\\_APPLICATION\\_and\\_agreement.pdf](https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/HOST_APPLICATION_and_agreement.pdf)

We will be setting up small group dinners later on and will need hosts for those events as well as day hosts. We hope to hold a workshop in June for this journey. Thank you for your support.



## MyFFI

We are 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 and its functionality.



## Yes, An In-person Club Meeting Was Held on March 20

On Sunday, March 20, your Friendship Force club held its second in-person meeting since spring 2020. We gathered at the Walnut Community Room. This is a City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation facility adjacent to the currently closed fire station on NW Fair Oaks Drive in Corvallis. Thirty-two people were in attendance including several possible new club members. President Murphy ably dusted off his last two years dormant meeting management skills and lead us through a packed agenda. We had short presentations on our 30th anniversary celebrations (see page 1 for April 9 virtual celebration; page 5 for our August 13th dinner), the quickly upcoming Tuxtla-Gutierrez Mexico outbound journey (p 6), the ALEX program for which we will be hosts (p 4), and other upcoming journeys (page 9). This said, the official business of the meeting was absolutely overshadowed by the intense social interaction and wonderful snacks. People are more than ready, with necessary precautions, to gather again face-to-face.



### A Moment In Our Club History Betty Rea's Ten Commandments of Travel From a 2002 Club Newsletter

1. Do not expect to find things as they were at home.
2. Leave your troubles behind.
3. Never let other tourists get on your nerves.
4. Remember your passport & know where it is.
5. Take half the clothing you think you need & twice the money.
6. Do not poison your heart. Few problems are fatal.
7. Never judge a country by one fool.
8. Obey local customs, but never be ashamed of being a foreigner.
9. Enjoy delays, for a good trip is soon ended.
10. Honor your host. You are a guest in every land.

## **ALEX Program Update - June 25<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup> - Dennis Murphy**

Efforts to integrate the many suggestions that I have received into a full week of both fun and informative activities for our Armenian students continue. I hope to have a tentative schedule out in the next couple of weeks along with more detailed information on our visitors and exactly how many are coming. My sincere and deep appreciation to everyone who has volunteered to host, and or contacted me and offered their thoughts, suggestions, and assistance in planning. Your input has been thought provoking and very helpful.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> and consider attending the World Beat Festival in Salem. Our students will have a Booth representing Armenia on Sunday, and will be talking to the public about their country. Your visiting the booth, whether you are participating as a host or not, will be very supportive of the students and much appreciated. At 4p.m that day there will be a Parade of Nations where our Armenian students will march with an Armenian flag in front of them!

If you have any interest in driving a small 6-7 person van please let me know. It seems that we may need to rent a couple and while I have a couple of volunteers, it would be nice to know that others are open to helping that way. FFOMWV would rent the vans, pay the gas and the insurance.

While still early in the planning, if you are open to hosting a small group dinner during the week that the students are here, please let me know.

I would like to prepare welcome packs for the students that would include additional information on the places that they will be visiting, additional info on Oregon, and small gifts etc. If you have experience with this and would like to help, please let me know.

Once the preliminary plan for the week is set, I will be asking our hosts and the general membership for assistance in, shall we say, putting the meat on the bones. Helping with the detailed plans for each day of the program. Still early, but time moves fast.

For those of you who may be wondering, our club will be compensated for the costs of hosting these students. The students will have medical and accident insurance, will be fully vaccinated, and will be routinely tested for COVID using rapid tests that will be provided.

I have been preparing a packet of informational articles about Armenia. This will be sent out to those who are on the ALEX mailing list. If you are also interested in receiving this information, please let me know. I do have contacts with some who have worked in Armenia and also one Armenian who lives and works in Portland. Hopefully we can have at least a Zoom session prior to the arrival of the students with one or more of these individuals.

Once again, thank you to those who have volunteered to host, and those of you who have assisted with the planning process. Your assistance is appreciated.



## It's Our 30th Anniversary!

Thirty years ago the space shuttle Endeavour blasted off with seven astronauts, The Mall of America opened near Minneapolis, the first McDonalds opened in Beijing and our Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley began - a great year 1992! Your Anniversary Committee has great plans for an all FF Zoom sharing April 9th at 4pm. We hope our friends new and old will join us from around the world (see page 1). A Big Party is coming Saturday August 13th. We will invite the Friendship Force of Columbia Cascade and the Friendship Force of Southern Oregon to join us. We will offer overnight homestays on a limited basis. It will be just as much fun as Euro Disney opening in France in 1992!

Ted Powell, Anniversary Committee Chairman

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Gail and John Wolcott are Co-Chairing the Big Party August 13th.

WHERE: Corvallis Community Center, 2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis 97330.

WHEN: 3-4 for set-up, 4-5 social period/announcements, 5-6:30 dinner/speeches, 6:30-7 clean-up.

WHAT: This celebration dinner event is evolving. The planning committee is currently thinking we will purchase food items and serve them ourselves versus hiring a caterer 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. The Powells have offered a case of wine! We plan to offer overnight accommodation for out-of-town guests and still need some home hosts.

HOW: We need your assistance 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



If you did not already sign up at the March 20 general meeting, please respond to John and/or Gail with your willingness to help with any of these tasks.

We're gonna' have a party and we need you there!

## Help Us Reveal the History and Impacts of FFOMWV

With 30 years of memories already in hand, we ask you to share some of your stories of friendship. Poke around and search your memory for a "once in a lifetime" Friendship Force story. Send it - and a photo or two - to Russ Karow, editor of our monthly newsletter. We'll publish stories in newsletters throughout this anniversary year for all to read.



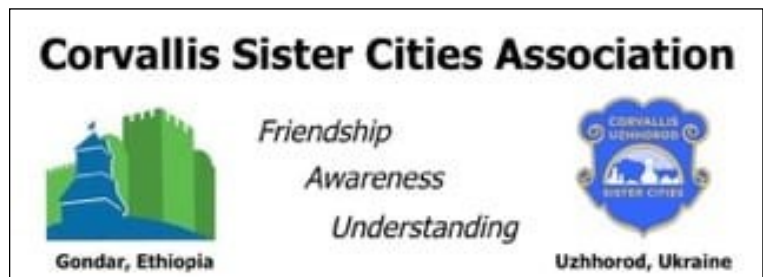
## Our First Post-COVID Journey ! - Kathy Butler

Yes, folks, it's really true! We are going to Tuxtla-Gutierrez after several months of wondering if this journey would ever take place. COVID-19 certainly didn't make it easy for us. In fact, as most of you likely know, Costa Rica was not able to host us because too many of the places they would ordinarily take us are still closed due to the pandemic. But the Tuxtla-Gutierrez Club was happy to extend our time with them. They are so enthusiastic about their beautiful part of the world and are excited about showing it to us. Twelve ambassadors, two of whom are from the Spokane Club, are heading south of the border on April 29, and will return May 9. It's been quite a while since we have had a journey, and it feels really good to get back to traveling and meeting new friends.



## Support Refugees in Uzhhorod Ukraine

Because Uzhhorod is located in the most western region of Ukraine, thousands of refugees are fleeing each day to our sister city. The citizens of Uzhhorod are mobilizing to provide comfort, support, and humanitarian aid to those who have fled the violence. To help alleviate the needs of these individuals, we are raising funds to send to friends and colleagues in Uzhhorod. There are two ways you can make donations.



### Way #1

Checks and cash can be dropped off at any Citizens Bank branch in the Willamette Valley. Checks need to be made out to **Uzhhorod Refugee Fund**.

Donations can be mailed to

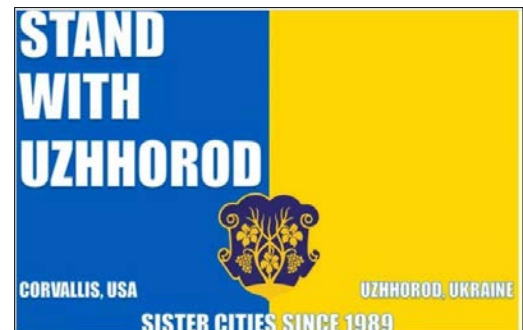
Citizens Bank  
978 NW Circle Blvd  
Corvallis Oregon 97330

### Way #2

A [GoFundMe](#) for those who desire to “click and give.”

Note that due to the urgent nature of this fund and for expediency of the transfer of money, donations are not tax deductible.

**Let's stand with Uzhhorod and Ukraine! This is being sponsored by the Corvallis Sister Cities Assoc - Uzhhorod Council.**



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

### Music Festival for World Peace

Friday April 1, 5 pm Pacific

Host: Japanese and Taiwanese Club Members

Taiwanese and Japanese Friendship Force members who are ardent music lovers offer you a warm welcome to this special event. They will be playing songs from around the world, accompanied by guitar or saxophone. Please join with us and feel free to just listen, sing along, or share your own live or pre-recorded performance with us. Let us deepen our friendship through music and hopefully meet again someday.

Register [here](#).



### FFOMWV 30th Anniversary ZOOM Party

Saturday, April 9, 4 pm - see page 1

Register [here](#).

### FFI BOOK CLUB: "Flights" by Olga Tokarczuk

Thursday, April 28, 2022, 11 am Pacific

Host: Kerstin Hogan, FFI Staff

The seventh book we are reading together is "Flights" by Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk. She was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature. Her fragmentary novel "Flights" won the Man Booker International Prize in 2018. Set between the 17th and 21st centuries, the novel is a "philosophical rumination on modern-day travel". Register [here](#).



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

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



Meet our new English Teacher!



Paella Day  
Host: Alito Andino, devoted friend of FF Biggie



Recruitment Workshop  
Hosts: Pierrette Benoit & FF Eastern Canada Club

## **Outbound journey to Oklahoma (October 2 – 8) & to Lake Hartwell, Georgia/South Carolina (October 8 -14)**

We are in communication with the Journey Coordinators at both clubs and they extend a warm welcome to us. Because one of the clubs can take 15 ambassadors, that is our number, so we invite you to join Dennis Murphy and Mary Ellen Lind, Journey Coordinators, on this fall adventure. We are gathering information about each club and will be sharing it over the summer to entice you to want to get-acquainted with our Southern Friendship Force partners. Below is interesting information about Lake Hartwell provided by our hosts.

### **Greetings from Lake Hartwell**

Lake Hartwell borders Georgia and South Carolina where the Tugaloo and Seneca Rivers join to form the Savannah River, creating a reservoir and Hartwell Dam. It is one of the Southeast's largest recreation lakes comprising 56,000 acres of water and 962 miles of shoreline. Avid fisherman sign up for the annual Bass Tournament and there are vintage boat festivals. You can kayak, water ski, bring your SeaDoo, swim on the beaches, and enjoy a mountain view in state parks with camping sites. In South Carolina, we are nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains, have numerous waterfalls, hiking trails, zip lining, horseback riding, bike trails, camping sights, golf courses...opportunities are endless.

History abounds in the area. The lake was named for Revolutionary War figure Nancy Hart. There were more Revolutionary War battles fought in South Carolina than elsewhere, the 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Vice President John C. Calhoun lived in Clemson, SC, now home to Clemson University. There is evidence of the antebellum south with stately plantations showing the past amidst a modern evolving culture.

Friendship Force of Lake Hartwell was chartered in 1995 due to Kay Cleveland, still active in the club, heard a report about FFI on TV. Kay thought 'impacting world peace through international travel & homestays' was a great concept. She met Gloria DeMetrotion, who had recently moved to Lake Hartwell and was a member of the Atlanta, GA club. They gathered a group of interested individuals, wrote the club bylaws and FFoLH was established. Since its beginning the club has hosted ambassadors from 13 different U.S. clubs and 19 international clubs, hosted the 1999 FFI Conference and participated in an Open World Program in 2005.

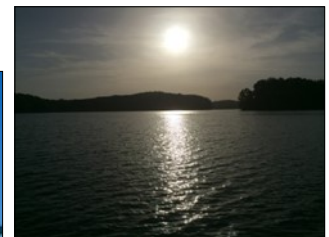
We look forward to hosting the Oregon-Willamette Club and working with you on planning your trip to the Sunny South!



Come Visit GA/SC



Lake Hartwell, GA 30643



Lake Hartwell



## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING JOURNEYS (updated March 2022)

<b>2022</b>	April 29-May 9	OUTBOUND INTERNATIONAL: Outbound to Tuxtla-Gutierrez #22729; Ambassador JCs, Juanita Weigel and Kathy Butler
	June 25 – July 3	INBOUND ALEX PROGRAM FROM ARMENIA: Dennis Murphy, Journey Coordinator
	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: Chris Duval and Mary Ellen Lind
	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; Ambassador JCs, Dennis Murphy and Mary Ellen Lind
<b>2023</b>	April or May - TBD	OUTBOUND DOMESTIC 4 DAY MINI-JOURNEY TO SACRAMENTO
	Late June (tentative)	OUTBOUND INTERNATIONAL: Outbound to Edmonton, Canada, (Brenda Kane), possibly combined with our outbound to Manitoba #20151, (Jean Hyrich) Tentative JCs: Chris Duval and Mary Ellen Lind.
	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.
<b>2024</b>	June TBD	INBOUND INTERNATIONAL: Inbound from Tokyo, Japan Host JCs: Marilyn Peterson and Eileen Minette.
	Not Scheduled Yet	INBOUND DOMESTIC: Inbound from Charlotte, North Carolina, (Tommie Craig) #21116.



How did Japan get its name “land of the rising sun”? Japan lies to the east of the Eurasian continent, and beyond Japan lies the Pacific Ocean. From the continental point of view, Japan is in the direction of the sunrise. This is why the Japanese began to call their country Nihon or Nippon, literally meaning “source of the sun” and often translated as “land of the rising sun.”



<https://web-japan.org/kidsweb/faq/society01.html>  
<https://www.jluggage.com/blog/japan/why-is-japan-called-land-of-rising-sun/>

## FEBRUARY 9, 2022 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Attending: Kathy Butler, Dennis Murphy, Van Nichols, Marilyn Peterson, Chris Duval, Caye Poe, Mary Ellen Lind, Russ Karow, Juanita Weigel

Caye Poe was sworn into office as Secretary for 2022.

January meeting minutes - approved as presented. Minutes for 2021 should be placed on the club archive site in Google Drive.

Treasures report - approved

Minutes approved as presented for January meeting. Minutes for 2021 will be placed on the archive site.

### March General Meeting

March general meeting inside or outside? Will be held at the Walnut Community Room in Corvallis  
March general meeting topic: Possible Costa Rica, Alex program. regular business, visit, bring munchies.

### Journeys

Costa Rica/Mexico applications due Feb. 18th. Kathy calling for interest. Mostly getting no or possible. 7-or 8 applications currently. Probably small group. Let them know how many then we will know activity level. Thank you for your work on this Kathy.

Alex report by Dennis. Kathy Butler and Marilyn Peterson volunteered to host, giving us the capacity to host an ALEX group.

Edmonton-Manitoba international will be our choice for 2023 outbound as it was delayed due to the pandemic.

2023 outbound to Sacramento possible.

### Membership

47 members currently have paid. Un paid members will be removed. Calls will be made prior to removal

### New Policy for Membership applications MSP

“New members, joining on or after August 1st shall pay the membership fee for the coming year and their membership will be valid thru December 31 of that following year.”

Tom Best suggested every club should have a COVID policy. Should we have a policy for meetings/travel? It should be in writing. Worth having conversation next board meeting to discuss policy. Dennis will pursue this issue further. Will look at other groups policies. Will discuss this issue one month from now.

## April 13 Board Meeting—1 pm

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. The next board meeting will be April 13 at 1 pm.



## 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 - Chris Duval & Mary Ellen Lind  
June 2023 - Outbound to Edmonton, Canada - Chris Duval & Mary Ellen Lind (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

April 29 is International Dance Day, so put your dancing shoes on and get ready to step out. Dancing is universal — woven into virtually every society all over the world. Humans simply love dance. It brings us together whether we are the ones on the dance floor or are watching the professional performance of others. Dancing is exhilarating and impressive. Let's honor the world of dance today, together!



<https://nationaltoday.com/international-dance-day/>