



The View from the Peak

Volume 12, Issue 2, April 2019

Issue Highlights

Meetings	2
Journeys	3
Travel Ticklers	4
New Member Intros	7
In Memory – George Greenway	8
Honoring the McClanahans	8
Club & Region Information	11
Calendar	12

Council Coordinator Message

This is a wonderful time to be a member of FFPPR, and we have been welcoming several new members. Your Council has been busy, and we have many inbound and outbound journeys planned for this 2019-2020 year.

We have had two Council members leave. Smith Holt, who was selected to be on our Leadership Council Coordinator for this year, initially delayed stepping into that position after accepting a teaching position at Colorado College, and then last month resigning from the Council because he will be moving later this year. The Council decided that we needed to invite someone with past service to assume this position for the remainder of this year. We asked Steve Tindell if he would take on that role, and he graciously accepted. Thank you, Steve.

Council secretary, Lynn Roulier, was forced to resign due to back surgery and extensive rehab. We wish Lynn a speedy recovery and hope to see her again very soon. Dorothy Schultz agreed to move from membership into the secretarial role. Susan Dilloway has agreed to fill Dorothy's vacated position on the Membership team to serve with Joanne Karlson.

It is so helpful to have such willing people step up and participate in FFPPR to make this such an inclusive, delightful group in which to enjoy club membership. We celebrate the continuing friendships that we enjoy both within our own FFPPR club and those that we experience through our hosting and traveling together.

We welcome home our members who have just returned from an eventful trip to Brazil. We look forward to hearing their stories, and we so much appreciate the efforts of Susan Tindell and Judy Werschky, who were the journey leaders on this trip.

Kaye Brabec

Save the Date

April 23rd – Tuesday

Membership Meeting

5:00 pm at Silver Key

May 26 - Sunday

Fukuoka Farewell Party

4:30 pm – Brush's House

Editor's Apology

Please accept my apology for the late release and cursory editorial review of the newsletter this month. The Brazil Journey and then a cold and flu pushed the date back from the planned April 12 release.

Brian Marsh

Meetings

Details of upcoming Meetings

General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, April 23

5:00 pm in the Silver Key Community Room

1655 S. Murray Blvd. just behind the Silver Key main building.

Menu: Club will provide main course. Members provide drinks (sodas, wine, beer).

Members bring either a dessert, side dish, or salad

Cost: \$5 each

Program: Mike and Kaye Brabec on their December 2018 trip to Cuba

Fukuoka Farewell Party, Sunday, May 26

4:30 pm at the home of Jack and Elaine Brush, 2631 Tristins Grove, 80906

Menu: Club will provide main course and drinks (sodas, wine, beer).

Members bring either a dessert, side dish, or salad

Cost: \$10 per person

Program: Be prepared to sing America the Beautiful and the FF theme song.

Even if you did not host for this visit, please come to the farewell party and general membership meeting and get to know our guest ambassadors. If we do have a reciprocal exchange with their club, you will be more likely to join that journey if you have met some of their members.

Note: The welcome party earlier in the week will be for home hosts, day hosts and dinner hosts, and not the for general membership.

Past Meeting Recaps

Let's Eat Out – Tuesday, February 19

Fourteen of us met at Rocco's (Maizeland and Academy) Italian Restaurant. The food was quite good. We took up two large tables and got better acquainted. Dan Hannaway gave us an excellent presentation on the November 2018 San Antonio Journey, using his photos mixed with those he collected from other travelers.

Let's Eat Out (LEO) – Tuesday March 19

27 people came to Arceo's for 11:30 am

There was no prepared program but Kaye Brabec updated us on the upcoming journeys.

FFPPR Journeys

2019 Plans



INBOUND -- FUKUOKA, JAPAN, MAY 20-27, 2019

FFI offered clubs in Colorado the opportunity to host up to 15 people who will be continuing their journey from Wichita, Kansas. Dan accepted for our club. Host Coordinators are Dick and Barbara Battersby, and they have been in contact with the Fukuoka club Ambassador Coordinator. At this point we expect 8 Ambassadors. Several people have signed up to host or be involved in some way. If you are interested in participating, call the Battersbys.

INBOUND FFI World Conference -- We have agreed to host 15 (or a few more) World Conference attendees between July 27th -29th, after the close of the Conference. This will not be a typical inbound journey and will not include a formal FFPPR schedule of club events. Home hosts may elect to join with others for a group activity if they choose to do so. Dan Hannaway is the coordinator for this event. If you think you might like to attend the conference, it is in our back yard at the University of Colorado in Boulder, July 23-26. It offers a rare opportunity to experience a world conference without significant travel costs. Look on the FFI website for costs and activities and talk with Dan if you are interested.

2020 Plans

Outbound: Our international outbound is **New Zealand** in February 2020! We have two home stays identified, both on the South Island. As of yet we have no Journey Coordinator. Volunteers are welcome. This will be a popular destination, so sign up early to secure a place.

NOTE: Journeys have a limited number of spaces, normally 15 to 20, determined by the hosting club. If more are signed up to go than can be accommodated, the journey coordinator will establish a priority according to FFPPR Policy. Your priority will depend on when you signed up and how much you have contributed to past club activities. Special consideration will be given to new FFPPR members. But, to reduce your worries, no Journey Coordinator has had to use this procedure in the last ten years, since some travelers always decide not to go when the time gets close. The 2010 New Zealand Australia Exchange had 30 signed up (10 on the waiting list), but only 15 finally decided to travel.

Outbound: We had planned for a February 2020 journey to **Tucson, Arizona** but the New Zealand exchange forced us to reschedule. We are looking at slipping to March or April 2020 if the Tucson club can support those dates.

Inbound: **Columbia-Cascade, Washington** would like to visit us in 2020, but no schedule is set. It would likely provide us a reciprocal outbound journey opportunity. FFI has indicated that **North Bay, Ontario, Canada** would like to come here in 2020.

Kaye Brabec, FFPPR Journey Liaison

Home from Brazil

The eleven club members who Journeyed to Brazil for nearly three weeks, safely returned on April 16. Without time to prepare a good trip summary for the newsletter, a few words and photos will have to suffice until a later edition.

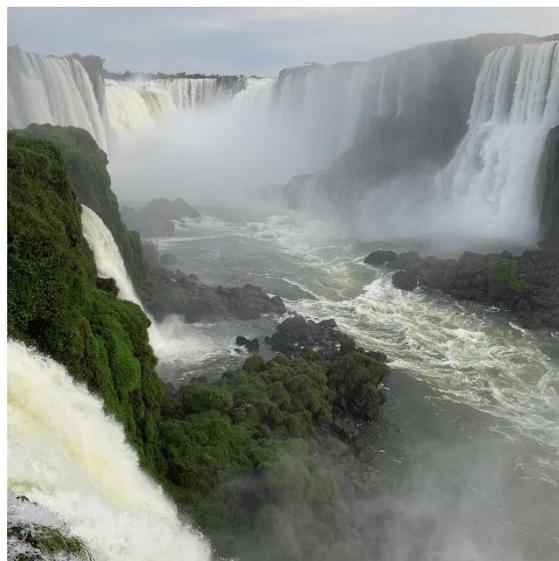


The group arrived in Rio on March 27. Although the trip incurred only a 3-hour time change from Colorado, it required nearly 12 hours flying time. Four days in Rio with a wonderful guide got us to all the standard tourist stops— Christ the Redeemer, Sugar Loaf, Carnaval – as

well a visit to two favelas, Rio’s notorious slums.



Then it was on to Foz and the magnificent Iguazu Falls, which we saw and “felt” from Brazil and, after a brief bus ride, also from Argentina. After two days, one in a five-star hotel,



we were off to the lovely island and city of Florianopolis for our first home-stay. Friendly people, wonderful beaches, and the best oysters you ever tasted were there to greet us.

Then to our final week in Sao Paulo, the largest city in Brazil, with 22.5 million people in its greater metropolitan area. This was a reciprocal exchange from 2017, so many of us got

reacquainted with old friends. We experienced traffic jams like never before, museums, subway jaunts, and great food that seemed to never end. All too soon we were on our way home.

You can look forward to a presentation by Dan Hanaway at our May membership meeting to provide many more pictures along with videos and great tales of adventure from a master storyteller.



Travel Ticklers

Mike and Kaye Brabec visit Cuba – December 2018.

Note: Mike and Kay will talk about their trip and show many more pictures at our April 23 membership meeting. So, read about their Cuban experiences and come prepared with questions.



Here is a brief account of some of the scenes and actions we had in Cuba. Cuba probably isn't a destination for everyone, to quote the State motto of Nebraska, but we had an enjoyable time, mostly because the Cubans are so friendly, helpful, a happy and handsome people, of quite a range of ethnicities. According to several sources, including AAA, American citizens are not allowed to visit Cuba, unless on a tour, or part of a special educational exchange. However, another category is to travel as a friend of the Cuban people.

We encountered no difficulties leaving or returning to the US, or entering and leaving Cuba, although Cuba assesses a \$100 fee for entry. Also, Cuba does not recognize US banks or dollars, and visitors are required to exchange Euros for Cuban Currency (CUC). We were warned that payment or exchange in dollars could jeopardize a Cuban citizen. American visitors are not allowed in Cuban government owned cafeterias or hotels, but private restaurants, street vendors and private rooms are plentiful and cheap. We stayed in apartments, *casa particulares*, in private homes, arranged through AirBnB, although the owners welcomed private arrangements through their websites (escaping the



Our Casa



Along the main street in Prado

commission AirBnB charges). Phone service is largely lacking and only some sites, e.g. big hotels, offer internet.

Cuba is a land of contrasts, struggling to modernize its economy and infrastructure. Considerable time and money has been invested in old Habana, both as a point of pride in Cuban history, and, more pragmatically, to attract and entertain tourists. And yes, most of the cars are old American models, some barely running and some beautifully restored, with shiny paint jobs, and replacements of vital parts. Like the '55 Plymouth and 55' Chevy that we hired to give us a tour of Habana. Beautiful cars, but the engine in the Chevy was a Mercedes

diesel (new) and the Plymouth was running with a new Mitsubishi diesel. But the fancy cab owners earn good money giving tours, which the government allows them to keep.

Cuba has a dark and bloody history, some of it manipulated by the USA and our CIA. Although we certainly met no strident Communists, they were proud of their revolution and what they accomplished. Cuba before Castro was very corrupt (when Battista was finally forced out and exiled to Spain, he was one of the richest men in the world) and infested by the Mafia. Castro cleaned up the corruption, banished the Mafia, instituted universal education and built a medical system that may be the best in Central and South America.

The contrasts were especially obvious in the transportation system. Horse power is the main engine, especially outside of Habana and in the countryside. Horse-drawn carts, carriages and wagons were the most common form of transportation and haulage, especially in the countryside. Depending on where we were, agriculture was sugar cane, dry beans, mango, banana and coffee plantations. Cuban coffee is probably the finest coffee in the world (we were assured by our hosts). We certainly thought that it was good. And, of course, tobacco plantations. I tried a Cuban cigar and, although I have never enjoyed a cigar, certainly found it to be very mild and flavorful. Restaurants are privately operated and do a wonderful job of preparing and presenting the food. Not all items on the menu might be available. Rationing can affect even the fancy restaurants. The food in restaurants is dually priced, we were told, one for Cubans, and one for tourists, but still cheaper than a similar dish in the US. Often musicians play and the staff may do some spontaneous dancing.



National Museum of Art



We spent 5 days in Habana, touring the city, especially old Habana, and visiting museums of art, the revolution and the lovely old plazas. No auto traffic is allowed in the center of the old city, but bike taxis, horse taxis and a curious 3 wheeled motorcycle-cab, help one get around, especially when fatigued.

We traveled by private taxi from Habana to Cienfuegos, taking the scenic route along the Bay of Pigs, which is mostly a national nature park, although a museum along the way celebrates the victory at Bay of Pigs and honors Che. Cienfuegos reflects the struggle to change to a more modern, entrepreneurial spirit. A fertilizer factory sits largely idle, as agriculture is struggling to adopt organic farming practices and the demand for commercial fertilizer by the sugar industry, has faded. Also, the runoff of commercial fertilizer was found to be destroying the coral reef ecosystems off shore. A partially constructed atomic power plant at the edge of town, funded by the USSR, is moth-balled, as funding vanished with the USSR collapse. But the city is neat and clean, and they are repairing or reconstructing buildings in the old square. A private residence, formerly the manor of a sugar baron, is now a combination museum and hotel. Kaye and our



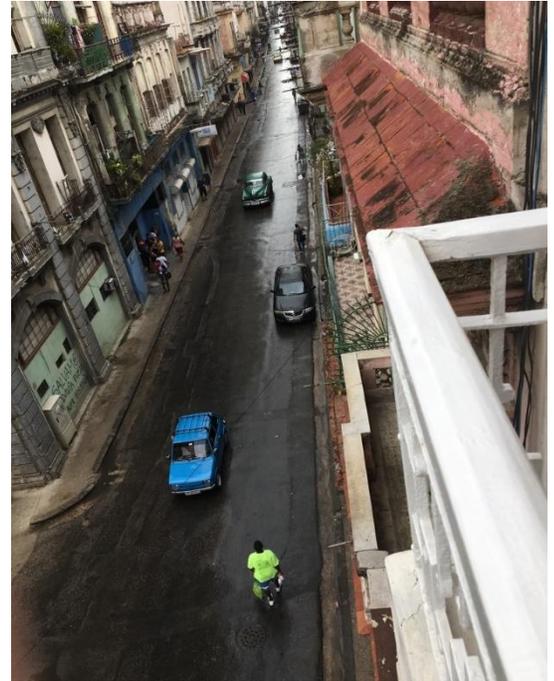
Our Casa

little grandsons drank a beverage from one of the towers.

Our casa was a new enterprise, started by an Ob-Gyn physician and his son, a medical student who both spoke excellent English. They bought and renovated an abandoned building to contain 5 large apartments and a balcony dining area. Simple but very comfortable. The price of the rental included a breakfast prepared by a cook (who turned out to be the mother-in-law of the Dr.), and an evening meal prepared by a chef. The food was excellent. The casa stood across the street from a Catholic church, also undergoing reconstruction. Sunday services were heavily attended by well-dressed parishioners, often arriving by taxi.

New Year's Day Kaye and I rode a taxi (arranged by our host) to Trinidad, one of the oldest cities in Cuba, indeed, in the western hemisphere. The central area of the city is paved with cobble stones, the remnants of the ballast carried by trading ships. They are durable but hard to walk on and made for a rough ride. We were discouraged by our host from going out on New Year's eve as the place, we were warned, got pretty ribald. Trinidad is located near one of the main mountain ranges of the island. The mountains are rough and served as hideouts for smugglers, bandits and Castro, in the early days of the revolution.

We took taxis back to Habana and went through customs in Miami with no problems.



View from our balcony along Neptuno Blvd

New Member Introductions



I joined in November 2018 because I like the concept of staying with local families. As a semi-retired Money Coach/Financial Advisor, I work with children in elementary and high school. I tell them their best investment is education, and the best education comes from travel to other cultures. My first foreign trip was an all-expense paid adventure – the Marine Corps sent me to Vietnam. I've lived overseas for six years, four in Africa. Brazil will be country # 73 with 123 more to visit. I've lived in Colorado Springs 20 plus years. In mid-2019 my first book will be published – “Money Sense for Young Professionals” - career number # 7, author. I'm no longer pretty, so I try to be interesting.

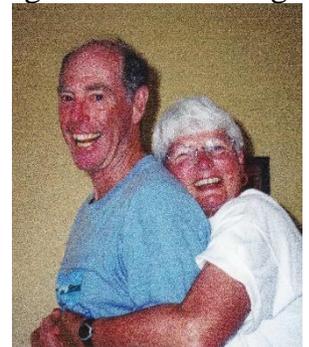
Bill Stanley

In Memory – George Greenway

On December 5, 2018 we lost a long-time FFPPR member and friend, George Greenway. Karlyn, his wife of 48 years remains an active FFPPR member.

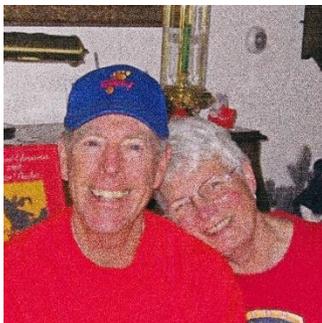
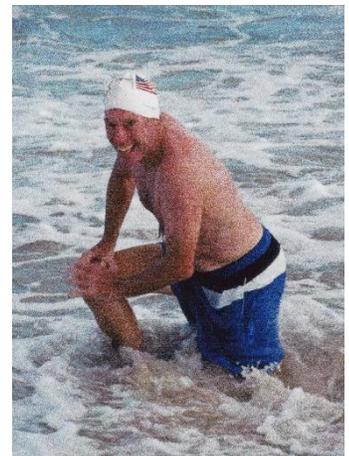


George was born on June 2, 1937 in Jersey City, New Jersey. He graduated from high school in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, earned a bachelor's degree in German from Ohio Wesleyan and a Masters in Public Administration from George Washington University. He served 26 years in the US Air Force as a budget officer and Comptroller, retiring as a full Colonel.



George used his money savy after retirement, serving as treasurer of St Michael's Episcopal Church, and treasurer of FFPPR. He was the executive director of two Olympic sports – weight lifting and archery.

George loved classical music and opera. He planted a vegetable garden wherever he lived. He was an avid runner and hiker. Body surfing was another passion, which he practiced each summer on family trips to North Carolina



His traveling began in college and continued in the Air Force with tours in Italy, Turkey, Vietnam, Germany and Greece. With Friendship Force, he and Karlyn, went to New Zealand, England, Northern Ireland, Germany, Hungary, Peru. In 2011 he was Exchange Director for our trip to Izmir, Turkey.

His memorial ceremony was held at St Michael's Episcopal Church on January 26, 2019 with many from FFPPR attending.

Celebrating our new Honorary FFPPR Members

The FFPPR has invited **Etta and Larry McClanahan**, who have been members since 1989 and decided not to renew this year, to continue with FFPPR as honorary members.

Larry and Etta were high school sweethearts, having grown up in Alamosa where they also attended Adams State. After Larry's graduation, they moved to Colorado Springs where he began his 32 year teaching career at Widefield School District. Their family consists of three daughters and one son. They now have grandchildren, great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild.

Very soon after joining Friendship Force, they agreed to home host during the inbound exchange from Tbilisi, Georgia that was scheduled for November 1990. There would be 150 coming to Colorado and



150 ambassadors from Colorado going to Tbilisi simultaneously. They had no idea what all this entailed, but they were up for it!

During the months leading up to the arrival of the ambassadors, the Denver club hosted representatives from all other clubs in the state to instruct them in language, culture and hosting tips. “On the big day that the Georgians arrived, hosts from all over the state and the 150 incoming ambassadors met at a large hotel in Denver. Governor Roy Romer welcomed the Georgians as did many other dignitaries.

Following the meet and greet, the Georgians went home with their Denver area home hosts. Larry and I did meet our ambassadors whom we would host the following week, which was Thanksgiving week. Our ambassadors, Meia Kubanishvili and her son, Archil Abashidze spoke English

very well, to our surprise.

Since we were so new to FFI, we did not pay attention to what the week’s program was and decided to take our new friends to Taos, NM. They had told us that they were very interested in ‘American Indians’. We didn’t even tell anyone what we were going to do! Besides, our waterline sprang a leak at the beginning of the week, and we had no water. We called the plumber and left town with our friends while the necessary excavation and repairs were being made. We had a wonderful stay in Taos at a B & B which Meia called a ‘cowboy house’. We returned home to find that we had water, just in time to prepare for Thanksgiving.

Meia and Archil had always heard of ‘Big Turkey Day in America’ and were very curious. Also, this was very shortly after the breakup of the Soviet Union. We had no idea that they had almost no food in Georgia. There were so many things that they could not obtain, and we had no idea of the culture shock that they were experiencing. There were no bread lines, because there was no bread.

They did, however, bring with them some Georgian wine that they served on Thanksgiving. Our whole family of about 25 members were in attendance, including my mother.

A couple of our members had signed up to host the farewell party, although the hosts were in Cancun during the exchange. While in Cancun, they saw television coverage of the Denver welcoming party and when they returned to Colorado Springs, they were shocked that those same people were now in their home. This exchange in Denver was well covered by Denver’s Channel 9. They later made a documentary about the exchange.”

Larry and Etta’s first outbound exchange was to New Plymouth, New Zealand on the north island. They were home hosted there for a week. The following week to ten days the ambassadors toured the South Island in 15 passenger vans and stayed in hotels along the way. “It was a wonderful time, not only meeting the Kiwis, but being together with our own group.”

Larry and Etta have not traveled so much as many of our other members. They have been to England, Northern Ireland, Germany, Hungary, Brazil, Ontario Canada, as well as several “domestic exchanges”. They have done a fair amount of day hosting and have served in many capacities as well as inbound and

outbound exchange directors. They have served in every capacity of the Leadership Council as well as every other job in FFPPR. In addition, Larry has served as the trainer of exchange directors.

Larry and Etta believe that a good thing about Friendship Force travel, “other than meeting new friends” is that ambassadors are shown places of local importance and interest instead of the local tourist traps. The best thing, though, is making lifelong friends. As the founder of FFI, Wayne Smith always said that you never learn to know someone until you put your feet under their table and eat their food.

Larry and Etta will tell you that becoming a part of FFI changed their lives for the better and forever. Etta is concerned that there isn't enough emphasis on continuing friendships after FF visits. They are still in touch with the friends that they have made over these thirty years, and they visit back and forth with several of them.

Airplane Food. There's more than one reason that airplane food tastes so bland and unappetizing, but one reason may not be what you expect. Cabin pressure can reduce your sense of taste by up to 30%. Pressurized cabin air can also dry out your meal, making it taste as if it's been sitting around for hours, or even days. Maybe the trend toward fewer airplane meals isn't such a bad thing after all.

Pikes Peak and Rocky Mountain Region Information

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**Temporary due to LC changes
Phone numbers are cell unless
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<http://friendshipforcedenver.org/>

Northern Colorado

<http://ffncolo.com/>

Utah/Salt Lake City

<http://www.friendshipforceofutah.org/>

New Mexico

<http://friendship-force-new-mexico-usa.org/about-ffnm/ffnm-officers/>

Western Colorado

<http://www.ffwcolo.com/>

2019 FFPPR Calendar

2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2019
Sun												1	Sun
Mon				1 Brazil			1 Canada Day					2	Mon
Tue	1 New Year's			2 Brazil & LC			2 Lead Council			1 Lead Council		3 Lead Council	Tue
Wed	2			3 Brazil	1		3			2		4	Wed
Thu	3			4 Brazil	2		4 Independence	1		3		5	Thu
Fri	4	1	1	5 Brazil	3		5	2		4 Newsletter	1	6 Newsletter	Fri
Sat	5	2	2	6 Brazil	4	1	6	3		5	2	7	Sat
Sun	6	3	3	7 Brazil	5 Cinco de Mayo	2	7	4	1	6	3 Fall Back	8	Sun
Mon	7	4	4	8 Brazil	6	3	8	5	2 Labor Day	7	4	9	Mon
Tue	8 Lead Council	5 Lead Council	5 Lead Council	9 Brazil	7 Lead Council	4 Lead Council	9	6 Lead Council	3 Lead Council	8	5 Lead Council	10	Tue
Wed	9	6	6	10 Brazil	8	5	10	7	4	9	6	11	Wed
Thu	10	7	7	11 Brazil	9	6	11	8	5	10	7	12	Thu
Fri	11	8 Newsletter	8	12 Brazil nws let	10	7 Newsletter	12	9 Newsletter	6	11	8	13	Fri
Sat	12	9	9	13 Brazil	11	8	13	10	7	12	9	14	Sat
Sun	13	10	10 Daylight Sav	14 Brazil	12 Mothers' D	9	14	11	8	13	10	15	Sun
Mon	14	11	11	15 Brazil	13	10	15	12	9	14	11 Vets' Day	16	Mon
Tue	15 LEO	12	12	16 Brazil	14	11	16 Memb Mtg	13	10	15 Memb Mtg	12	17 Memb Mtg	Tue
Wed	16	13	13	17	15	12	17	14	11	16	13	18	Wed
Thu	17	14	14	18	16	13	18	15	12	17	14	19	Thu
Fri	18	14 Valentine's	15	19	17	14	19	16	13	18	15	20	Fri
Sat	19	16	16	20	18	15	20	17	14	19	16	21	Sat
Sun	20	17	17 St. Paddy's	21 Easter	19	16 Father's D	21	18	15	20	17	22 Hanukka	Sun
Mon	21 MLK Day	18 Presidents'	18	22	20 Inbound FJ	17	22	19	16	21	18	23	Mon
Tue	22	19 LEO	19 FF LEO	23 Memb Mtg	21 Fukuoka	18	23 World Conf	20 Memb Picnic	17	22	19	24	Tue
Wed	23	20	20	24	22 Fukuoka	19	24 World Conf	21	18	23	20	25 Christmas	Wed
Thu	24	21	21	25	23 Fukuoka	20	25 World Conf	22	19	24	21	26 Kwanza	Thu
Fri	25	22	22	26	24 Fukuoka	21	26 World Conf	23	20	25	22	27	Fri
Sat	26	23	23	27	25 Fukuoka	22	27 WC Hosting	24	21	26	23	28	Sat
Sun	27	24	24	28	26 Farewell	23	28 WC Hosting	25	22	27	24	29	Sun
Mon	28	25	25	29	27 Fukuoka	24	29 WC Hosting	26	23	28	25	30	Mon
Tue	29	26	26 Outbound	30	28	25	30	27	24	29	26	31 NY's Eve	Tue
Wed	30	27	27 Brazil		29	26	31	28	25	30	27		Wed
Thu	31	28	28 Brazil		30	27		29	26	31	28 Thanksgiving		Thu
Fri			29 Brazil		31	28		30	27		29		Fri
Sat			30 Brazil			29		31	28		30		Sat
Sun			31 Brazil			30			29				Sun
Mon									30				Mon
	LEO - Let's Eat Out												