



The View from the Peak

Volume 12, Issue 6, December 2019

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Council Coordinator Message

As we approach the beginning of a new decade, we can look back on the many great friendships we formed and the fantastic experiences we had! Our club went on a phenomenal international journey to Brazil and recently returned from an unforgettable domestic journey to San Diego. We were also very fortunate to host Friendship Force Ambassadors from Fukuoka, Japan here in beautiful Colorado Springs and, as an added plus, we hosted some Friendship Force Ambassadors from as far away as Tanzania as part of their attendance at the World Conference in Boulder. As good as this past year has been, 2020 will be even better. We will kick off the year with an exciting visit to New Zealand followed by a visit to Tucson, Arizona. Later we will host the North Bay, Ontario Club. I strongly encourage you to participate in some of these great in-bound and out-bound journeys so that you too can experience the friendship aspect of Friendship Force.

Steve Tindell

Save the Date

Dec 17 – Tues - Membership Mtg
4:30 pm at Silver Key
Feb 4 – Tues Membership Mtg
11:30 at Arceo's

Meetings

General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, December 17

4:30 pm in the Silver Key Community Room, 1655 South Murray Blvd just behind the Silver Key main building.

Menu: Club will provide the main dish (spiral sliced ham) and drinks. If you have a special holiday beverage you'd like to bring please do so. Members provide either a side dish (A-L) or dessert (M-Z) as specified in the E-vite.

Cost: Free

Program: Noel Howard will sing accompanied by a pianist.

Annual dues will be collected at the door Singles \$35; Couples \$70

General Membership Meeting and Let's Eat Out (LEO), Tuesday February 4

11:30 at Arceo's Mexican Restaurant, 4608 Rusina Road.

Future Journeys

2020 Plans

Outbound International: Our international outbound is **New Zealand** in February – March 2020! Our first club journey is to the Southland club located at the very bottom of the South Island. We will arrive on February 13 for our six-night homestay. On February 19 we leave our hosts and begin a week-long private tour of the South Island. The next club we will visit is New Plymouth on the North Island, arriving there on February 26 and departing on March 3. We have 12 ambassadors. Dan Hannaway is the Journey Coordinator. Please contact him at dgmh@comcast.net or 719.596.7633 if you have any questions.

Outbound Domestic: **Tucson, Arizona, March 29-April 4, 2020.** They can host 15 members

The Tucson opportunities may include:

- A Sabino Canyon tram ride (new trams) through this unique southwestern natural desert.
- A day at the Kartchner Caverns, picnic lunch, perhaps a short travel to Tombstone.
- Sonoran Desert Museum - fusion zoo, botanical garden, natural history museum, aquarium and art gallery".
- Mission San Xavier del Bac, an historic Spanish mission on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation, founded in 1692 on the banks of the Santa Cruz River.
- Tucson Art Museum Oaxacan woodcarving.
- Drive to the border--Nogales, Tupac, Tumacacori.
- Gaslight Theatre with dinner.
- The DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun Museum, with permanent collections of paintings that trace historical events and native cultures of the Southwest".
- Kitt Peak Observatory.
- Biosphere.

We currently have a list of interested members, but please do contact Kaye Brabec if you would like to know more about this in this trip.

Inbound International: **North Bay, Ontario, Canada** Dates are September 22-29.

Inbound Domestic: We currently do not have a domestic inbound scheduled for 2020 but our summer is open, so something could develop.

2021 Plans

Outbound International: The Leadership Council asked for Japan. This year the Fukuoka club, whom we hosted in May 2019, invited us for a reciprocal journey to Japan. This increased our chances of getting our request.

Fukuoka is the largest city on the southwestern island of Kyushu with a population of more than 4 million in the metropolitan area. The Fukuoka club has 53 members, and there are 26 Friendship Force clubs throughout Japan, which should enable us to do a back-to-back journeys in Japan.

A journey to Japan will introduce you to Japanese culture, foods and experiences such as Sado (tea ceremony), Shodo (calligraphy), Kimono (native dress), and Origami (paper folding art). You will find Japan very clean and modern, with a very efficient transportation system and a rich history and traditions. By being hosted by Japanese club members, you will truly experience Japan.

For more information on Fukuoka: <https://www.japan.travel/en/destinations/kyushu/fukuoka/>

Our second choice was Europe since Steve and Susan Tindell worked with folks in Moldova to help set up a club there, and we would like to visit that club. Romania was an additional requested destination.

Outbound Domestic: We are talking with Columbia-Cascade, Washington about a reciprocal journey there in June 2021 to coincide with their Rose Festival. We would also like them to come here in September.

If you wish to participate in any of these journeys, please contact **Kaye Brabec, FFPPR Journey Liaison, 434-2053.** She has preliminary names, but verifying your interest would be helpful. Making new friends in far-flung places is the essence of Friendship Force. Along the way you become much closer to the FFPPR club members who share your travels. So don't waste these opportunities to live, love, laugh and learn. Be a friend. Make new friends.

Journey Coordinators are always needed If you think you might like to try this role, please contact Kaye. You would start out as a helper to gain experience before taking on the full job.

“If you go looking for a friend, you're going to find they're very scarce. If you go out to be a friend, you're going to find them everywhere.”

Zig Ziegler

San Diego

Journey to “Paradise”, AKA San Diego

By Dan Hannaway & Brian Marsh

Twelve of us enjoyed a wonderfully sunny and warm visit to the San Diego club during the first full week in November. The motely crew was headed by Kaye Brabec (our fearless Ambassador Coordinator), and included Mike Brabec, Jeanne and Brian Marsh, Dorothy and Terry Schultz, Caroline Schlatter and Kyohei Sakuda, Marge Zimmerman, and our three unattached gentlemen, Gil Kover, Werner Carlson, and Dan Hannaway. Everyone except Brian Marsh arrived by air. Brian drove solo and met Jeanne at the San Diego airport, where

she flew in from Barcelona (a story for another day). We arrived on Saturday, the second and settled in with our host families. The first official club function was a champagne brunch welcome at the Old Town



Tequila Factory Restaurant on Sunday. The Mexican buffet was sumptuous, the champagne flowed generously, and we all mingled with the other host families. Following lunch, we walked to the nearby Heritage Park for a talk given by a docent in period costume about the history of San Diego after which she led us on a walking tour of the Victorian Heritage Houses in the Park. When the tour was over, we were free to stroll about Old Town and take in the activities of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). We were surrounded by shoppers, singing, dancing, people with elaborately painted faces, and sheer enjoyment. (Note: Last year when our club visited the San Antonio club it was also during the festival of Dia de los Muertos. What a coincidence!)



On Monday morning we went to Coronado Island to visit the famous Hotel del Coronado and take a seaside walking tour of the famous homes along Ocean Boulevard. You may recall that the Hotel del (as the locals call it) was the setting for the movie “Some Like It Hot” with Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon, and Tony Curtis. Our tour guide was terrific. She was a font of knowledge when it came to the history of Coronado Island and its illustrious inhabitants. In the afternoon we carpoled to the Cabrillo National Monument at the southern tip of the Point Loma Peninsula in San Diego. It commemorates the landing of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo at San Diego Bay on September 28, 1542. It was the first time a European expedition had set foot on what later became the West Coast of the United States.

We set off for Escondido, north of San Diego on Tuesday morning. Our first stop was Queen Calafia's (a mythical warrior queen) Magical Circle, a children's playground built around a bizarre display of brilliantly colored mosaic covered sculptures of fanciful creatures and serpents. From there we drove to the San Diego Archaeological Center. It is a curation facility and museum where we learned the story of how people have lived in San Diego County for the past 10,000 years. The last club activity of the day was a catered lunch, wine tasting and tour of the Orfila Winery in Escondido.



San Diego is home to the second largest Surface Ship base of the United States Navy and is the principal homeport of the Pacific Fleet. San Diegans are justly proud of their navy connection, and it was only fitting that we visit the USS Midway Museum on Wednesday. The Museum is the ship itself which is docked at the Navy Pier in downtown San Diego. The USS Midway was the United States' longest-serving aircraft carrier of the 20th century, from 1945 to 1992. We had a very informative private tour of the carrier conducted by Nigal, a retired naval aviator who had flown F-4's off the Midway. After the tour we enjoyed a two-hour Hornblower Cruise of San Diego Harbor, passing under the San Diego-Coronado Bridge and alongside ships in drydock and

moored at the numerous piers. We even saw some Navy SEALs conducting helicopter-rescue training exercises in the distance.

Thursday was Zoo Day. The world-famous San Diego Zoo is located in Balboa Park and houses more than 3,500 animals of more than 650 species and subspecies. A single day is insufficient to do the zoo experience justice, but we did our best. In addition to the usual lions, tigers, elephants and giraffes we were introduced to the takin, serval, a klipspringer and the bonobo. (You can look those up on the Zoo website (<https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/animals-plants>)). In the evening the host club offered us “Friendship Dinners” in various members homes.

Friday was set aside for a “Free Day” so that we might tour various sights of San Diego and the surrounding area with our home hosts or day hosts. Moreover, that evening gave us an opportunity to take our home hosts to dinner.

Everyone except the Brabecs and the Marshes flew directly home on Saturday after the farewell lunch at the Chula Vista Golf Club. Kaye, Mike, Jeanne and Brian continued on to Laguna Woods (about an hour north of San Diego) for three more days as an “extension” to our San Diego journey. Laguna Woods is a gated community for the 55 and older, covering some 3.5 square miles with 18,500 residents - an area of calm amidst the surrounding megalopolis. Interestingly we were told “couples only” since our hosts were single women. But, after they realized the exemplary caliber of our unattached men, several of the hosts said they would have been happy to take all three. Sadly, propriety won out, and it was too late to make changes.



Our Unattached Gentlemen

Theaters, museums and beaches. In a nutshell, that’s what we were shown in the three days we were in Laguna Woods. We started with the Segerstrom complex in Costa Mesa. Opened in 1986, the theater seats 3,000, and is fronted by red granite and a huge metal “firebird” sculpture. Across the courtyard was the 1,700 seat Segerstrom Concert Hall with its 4,300-pipe organ, and four huge acoustic chambers with concrete doors to adjust the reverberations. Our day-host is a volunteer usher, so she gets to see the shows and concerts, even if she is standing up most of the time. In the afternoon we drove to the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, which celebrates current and historical world cultures through collections of their art. The Polynesian sharks-tooth war club looked vicious. For dinner we enjoyed a taco bar with our hosts at the Dana Point Yacht Club.



Monday was beach day. We rode the bus 15 miles to Laguna Beach, walked on the beach, and watched the kids, young and old, playing in the water. We took the free trolley about ten miles down the coast, stopping for lunch at the Ritz Carlton and walked the beach below the Montage resort with its beautiful gardens. Back in Laguna Beach we found the Marlon Holden photo



Beach at the Montage

gallery. A 150 megapixel camera, a patented printing process, and endless patience produces large, exquisitely detailed landscape photos. The Vladimir Kush Fine Arts Gallery took us through his imaginary world with large metal sculptures of a Knight Beetle, a dragonfly riding a motorcycle, and paintings of ships with butterfly sails. We stopped for a three-flavored cup of gelato, watched the sun set over the ocean, and then caught the 5:30 bus back to Laguna Woods. This day was a fitting addition to our San Diego time, where we did not have the opportunity to explore the California beaches.



The Getty was our final day. What can one say about such a museum? Huge, unfathomable wealth, opulent, like another world we can only imagine. We only



Laughing Rembrandt

had four hours to see it all, since even with our 11:00 am arrival, traffic mandated either a 3:00 pm departure or supper in the area after the museum closed and a much later departure. We chose 3:00 pm. We picked up our audio tour phone and headset and started with the Edouard Manet exhibit. We hit all four of the three-story exhibit halls, gazed, read some of the information, and listened to most of the great explanations provided by the audio sets. We saw giant tapestries, recreated French parlors, Rembrandts, Titians, sculptures, furniture, and made it back to the gift shop about 3:00 to meet our

day host, get to our car and set out on the 60-mile drive back to Laguna Woods. Kaye and Mike then headed north by car to see more of California and Oregon, while Jeanne and Brian repacked for a visit with friends in Oceanside and then the long drive home.



Escondido Feather Cloud

New places were fun to see, but the new friends provided the icing for our visit. We were treated to the life story of an outspoken Jewish lady who married an ex-Catholic priest, remarried after his death, took over her second husband's chimney sweep business after his passing, won the "boss" battle and doubled the company's annual revenue. Good conversation over a glass of wine with new friends is much better than hotel rooms and restaurants.

And if you noted the quotation marks around "paradise" in the header, they mean the term is subject to the eye of the beholder. Mild temperatures, ocean beaches and marvelous facilities are wonderful, but packed freeways and traffic noise are the price to pay. Thankfully people can find their paradise where they live.

Travel Travails

Traveling is a joy but can also bring unexpected and unpleasant deviations from well-laid plans and schedules. Here are a few instances from our club members. They are sobering, but also often amusing in hindsight. They reinforce the Friendship Force requirement for trip insurance, and prove it is well worth the money.

Crusing. In October I took a 14-day cruise of the Mediterranean with my son Alan. Brian is not a fan of cruising on large ships with thousands of passengers. While walking the picturesque cobblestone streets of Portofino, I had a dizzy spell and fell, raising quite a goose egg on the back of my head. I immediately attracted the attention of our tour guide who called an ambulance. I refused transport to the hospital, but I did decide to go back to the ship to rest, while Alan continued the walking tour. I agreed to see the ship's doctor, who proclaimed I must have a CT scan. So, to the hospital in the little town of Lavagna I went, without even the opportunity to stop by my room for money or passport. When Alan got back to the ship, he figured I was still with the ship's doctor so went to dinner. They finally did get a message to him about my situation, allowed him to collect my essentials, and took him to the hospital. The CT scan showed no concussion and I was free to go. But by that time, the ship had already departed.

I was very fortunate. Stranded in an Italian hospital with no money and no passport, the ship's Harbor Master had handled everything. He filed an initial insurance claim for me, then found us a little hotel near the hospital. He got us there just before the rain began. He also got us a van the next day for the three-hour ride (in the rain) to re-board the ship in Nice. Thankfully the ship had not gone to some island in the Mediterranean as its next port of call. We missed our tour in Nice, but we got our money back because of my mishap. And the tour would have been very unpleasant in the rain. The rest of the cruise brought clear skies.

I am still working the details of my claim with Allianz, encountering the usual hurdles. But my experience convinced me of the value of trip insurance. By the way, my doctor did have a bit of trouble interpreting the hospital reports, all in Italian.

Jeanne Marsh

Purloined purse. I never expected that leaving our rental car parked for 10 minutes in San Francisco would be a problem. But it did provide the opportunity for someone to break a window, rifle through the car, and steal my purse. What a bother! What was supposed to be a relaxing stop required phone calls to alert my credit card companies to the stolen cards and to get replacement meds. When I got home, I faced the task of replacing my lost driver's license and other IDs. So far, I haven't seen any indications that someone is on a wild shopping spree posing as me. I'll keep my fingers crossed.

Kaye Brabec

New Member Profile



Greetings, Happy Holidays and New Year! My name is Carol Jefferson and I have accepted the position of events planner from Mort Monroe. I would be delighted to have suggestions and assistance in this new position

I was introduced to FF by Mike Brabec while riding a ski bus to the mountains! Pete, my husband, and I joined the club in the spring of 2018. We were happy to see Dick and Barbara Battersby whom we met at square dancing. In May 2019, we were fortunate to host two Japanese ladies and enjoyed getting to

know more members at dinner parties and trips that week.

I am originally from the Midwest and grew up in a very rural farming community in central Illinois. I am the youngest of 4 children and my parents were 44 & 51 when I arrived!

I graduated college at Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor's in Nursing. I have worked in many areas to include Intensive Care, Emergency Room, Health Dept, Med-Surgical, and Hospice. I spent 24 years in the AF Reserves, retiring as a Lt. Colonel in 2005.

Pete and I met while in the military and have been married since 1985. We were lucky to have gone to Italy for 3 years after our wedding! After Italy we were in Omaha, Nebraska where Pete retired from the AF in 1993. We moved to central Illinois in 1995 to take care of my mother.

We moved to Colorado Springs in January 2017 after retiring. We have 3 sons living in Colorado and a granddaughter in Illinois. We have really enjoyed the area! We have military friends here and I have been skiing here since 1978.

I am keeping busy volunteering for hospice and church, traveling, being involved in a book and card club, American Legion, PPOTHG, SAFN, Pikes Peaks Pat's, Theaterworks, and of course FFPPR.

Looking forward to getting to know more club members! Thanks!

Carol Jefferson

Pikes Peak and Rocky Mountain Region Contacts

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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/

2019-20 FFPPR Calendar

Nov	Dec	2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
	1	Sun			1 N-Plymouth							
	2	Mon			2 N-Plymouth			1				
	3	Tue			3 N-Plymouth			2 Lead Council			1	
	4	Wed	1 New Year's		4	1 Tucson		3	1		2	
	5	Thu	2		5	2 Tucson		4	2		3	1
1	6	Fri	3		6	3 Tucson	1	5 Newsletter	3 Ind DayHol		4	2
2 San Diego	7	Sat	4	1	7	4 Tucson	2	6	4	1	5	3
3 San Diego	8 Lead Council	Sun	5	2	8 Daylight Sav	5	3	7	5	2	6	4
4 San Diego	9	Mon	6	3	9	6	4	8	6	3	7 Labor Day	5
5 San Diego	10	Tue	7	4 LC/Memb Mtg	10	7 Lead Council	5	9 Memb Mtg	7	4 Lead Council	8	6 Lead Council
6 San Diego	11	Wed	8	5	11	8	6	10	8	5	9	7
7 San Diego	12	Thu	9	6	12	9	7	11	9	6	10	8
8 San Diego	13	Fri	10	7 Newsletter	13	10 Newsletter	8	12	10	7 Newsletter	11	9 Newsletter
9 San Diego	14	Sat	11	8	14	11	9	13	11	8	12	10
10 Laguna Woods	15	Sun	12	9	15	12 Easter	10 Mothers' Day	14	12	9	13	11
11 Laguna Woods	16 Newsletter	Mon	13	10	16	13	11	15	13	10	14	12 Columbus Day
12 Laguna Woods	17 Memb Mtg	Tue	14	11	17 St Paddy's	14 Memb Mtg	12	16	14	11 Memb Mtg	15	13 Memb Mtg
13	18	Wed	15	12	18	15	13	17	15	12	16	14
14	19	Thu	16	13 New	19	16	14	18	16	13	17	15
15	20	Fri	17	14 Zealand	2-	171	15	19	17.00	14	18	16
16	21	Sat	1	15 Southland	21	8	161	20	18	15	19	17
17	22 Hanukka	Sun	19	16 Southland	22	19	7	21 Fathers' Day	19	16	20	18
18	23	Mon	20 MLK B'Day	17 Southland	23	20	18	22	20	17	21	19
19	24	Tue	21	18 Southland	24	21	19	23	21	18	22 N Bay, Can	20
20	25 Christmas	Wed	22	19 Tour	25	22	20	24	22	19	23 N Bay, Can	21
21	26	Thu	23	20 Tour	26	23	21	25	23	20	24 N Bay, Can	22
22	27	Fri	24	21 Tour	27	24	22	26	24	21	25 N Bay, Can	23
23	28	Sat	25	22 Tour	28	25	23	27	25	22	26 N Bay, Can	24
24	29	Sun	26	23 Tour	29 Tucson	26	24	28	26	23	27 N Bay, Can	25
25	30	Mon	27	24 Tour	30 Tucson	27	25 Memorial Day	29	27	24	28 N Bay, Can	26
26	31 NY's Eve	Tue	28	25 Tour	31 Tucson	28	26	30	28	25	29 N Bay, Can	27
27		Wed	29	26 N-Plymouth		29	27		29	26	30	28
28 Thanksgiving		Thu	30	27 N-Plymouth		30	28		30	27		29
29		Fri	31	28 N-Plymouth			29		31	28		30
30		Sat		29 N-Plymouth			30			29		31 Halloween
		Sun					31			30		
		2020								31		