



The View from the Peak

Volume 13, Issue 1, February 2020

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Council Coordinator Message



Recently, as many of you know, we had an incident where someone sent an e-mail to many of you requesting that you purchase gift cards to donate to a charity and used my name as the originator. A second incident involved an illegitimate e-mail to our treasurer requesting an unusual action which appeared to have been sent by me. Another Colorado Friendship Force Club experienced a similar scam recently. As scams such as these increase around the world, we should all question any request that seems unusual or out of the ordinary. Please take the time to call or e-mail me to verify any request that you feel is unusual or inappropriate in any way, especially if the request is for you to provide any financial or personal information. Your awareness is our best weapon to protect our club from attempts by those that would rather make a living by stealing instead of doing an honest day's work.

Steve Tindell

Save the Date

Apr 21 & June 16 – Membership Meetings
4:30 pm at Silver Key
Aug 18 – Picnic
Location & time still TBD

Meetings Coming Up

General Membership Meetings – Tuesday, April 21 and Tuesday June 16

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

Picnic, Tuesday, August 18. Catered.

Carol Jefferson is heading up the planning for these events. If you could help set up prior to meetings, if you have entertainment/speaker suggestions, or if you have ideas for a picnic location or menu, please give Carol a call. **815-867-7704.**

Meetings We Hope You Attended

Christmas Celebrations – Dec 17, 2019

If you didn't make our Christmas gathering at the Senior Center you missed a fine opportunity to celebrate with friends, enjoy great food for FREE (a good use of your FFPPR dues), and listen to Noel Howard sing.



Kay & Mike do Double Dessert Duty

Let's Eat Out – LEO Feb 4, 2020

A great FFPPR participation of 35 members and guests met at Arceo's Mexican Restaurant on Tuesday, February 4, to kick off the new year. Our Leadership Council Coordinator, Steve Tindell, presented membership badges to three of our new members, Frank Wright, JudyAnne Light, and Geri Bowman. Of course, Steve got to hug the ladies in the process



We had a great meal, and maybe a margarita or two. Then Dan Hannaway provided a slide show and running commentary on our recent journey to San Diego. Even those who had participated in this journey learned some new things from Dan's narration. How many animals are in the San Diego Zoo? We never did figure out if Dan had memorized all of these factoids or was using a cheat sheet on his computer.



Future Journeys

2020 Plans

Outbound International: The twelve ambassadors participating in our international outbound journey to **New Zealand** are set to rendezvous in Southland, located at the very bottom of the South Island, on February 13, to start a six-night homestay. On February 19 they will leave their hosts and begin a week-long tour of the South Island. After touring, they will take a ferry to Wellington on the North Island, and then a bus to New Plymouth arriving there on February 26. Most will depart for home on March 3, with a few hardy souls extending for more Kiwi adventures on their own. Dan Hannaway is the Journey Coordinator.

Outbound Domestic: **Tucson, Arizona, March 29-April 4, 2020.** We have 12 signed up but they can host 15 members, so consider coming on this journey.

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.

Please contact Kaye Brabec if you would like to know more about this trip.

Inbound International: **North Bay, Ontario, Canada.** Dates are September 22-29. If you are interested in home hosting for this event, please contact Kay Brabec.

Inbound Domestic: We do not have a domestic inbound scheduled for 2020.

2021 Plans

Outbound International: The Leadership Council has asked for Japan. This year the Fukuoka club, whom we hosted in May 2019, invited us for a reciprocal journey to Japan. This increases our chances of getting our request. We expect word from FFI later this month and are keeping our fingers crossed.

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 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. Since we went to the northwest in 2017, we are also talking with the Knoxville Tennessee chapter about visiting them in 2021.

Being an ambassador is what we are all about.

If you wish to participate in any of these journeys, please contact **Kaye Brabec, FFPPR Journey Liaison, 434-2053**. 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. FFI has a very good guidebook on what you need to do. And in this role you get to either find new and interesting activities for our inbound visitors, or be in the driver's seat for visiting a new location.

Tucson Desert – A Preview

A reason to consider going on our March 2020 Journey

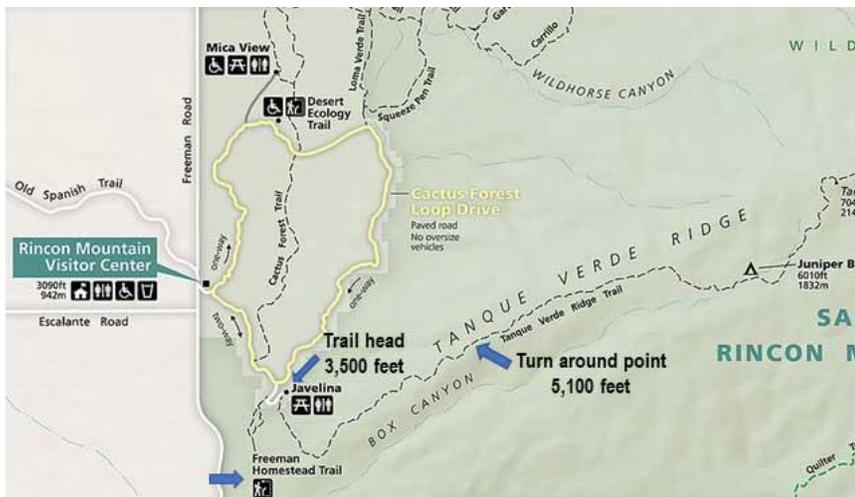
by **Brian Marsh**

For those of you considering or already committed to traveling to Tucson in March, the Arizona desert offers a stark contrast to our semi-arid Colorado high country. I had a chance to tramp through the Tucson desert and look at it closely on my way out to San Diego last October. I'll try to give you a flavor of what I experienced and what you could see in March 2020 if you join the Tucson journey.

Jeanne was cruising the Mediterranean in luxury with our son, something I had elected not to do. So, as an avid hiker and photo junkie, I decided I would drive to San Diego for our Friendship Force journey and meet her there, rather than fly. That way I could explore some of the western national parks I had never visited. My sights were set on the north rim of the Grand Canyon and Navajo National Monument.

I headed out at 6:00 am on October 28 to avoid the predicted blizzard. However, it was still snowing horizontally when I reached Walsenburg, so instead of heading west as planned, I continued south through Albuquerque, finding my first camping spot at Elephant Butte Reservoir State Park north of Truth of Consequence, NM. Of course, some route recalculation was then in order. My new destinations became Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument in southwestern New Mexico, Saguaro National Park just east of Tucson, and Joshua Tree National Park in southern California.

My plan was to camp in Saguaro National Park, but the long, winding side trip to the Gila Cliff Dwellings put me into Tucson after dark. I did not investigate enough before-hand to understand that there are two parts of Saguaro, East and West, and there is no camping in the eastern part. I found this out when I



Near the end of the loop I stopped and walked down to the old Freeman Homestead. I met a man along the trail who lived nearby and had been hiking the southwest desert all his life. He told me to look for owls down near the old homestead and told me where to find the well the family had dug. I did find the well, but no owls. He also told me, sadly, of many hikes near the Arizona border that he can no longer take due to the danger from the influx of illegal migrants. He suggested I try the Tanque Verde Trail if I wanted to see the change in desert vegetation as you gain altitude. It also offers a wonderful view of Tucson and the surrounding mountains. So, after exploring the homestead site, off to the Javelina trail head I went.

As I started up the trail, I did notice from the visitor log that two other hikers were in front of me, giving me some small comfort that I would be found if I ran into trouble on the trail. Late October was a good time to hike in the desert. The air was cool and there were still a few shrubs blooming. But I imagine in late March the flowers and shrubs will be prolific, particularly if there has been rain.

arrived at the closed gate after dark. So, I retreated to the guest quarters at Davis Monthan AFB, a much more luxurious alternative than sleeping another night in the back of the Subaru.

The next morning I headed out just at sunrise on the 20-minute drive to Saguaro. What a great time to see the desert. I started slowly around the 7-mile, paved Cactus Forest Loop, stopping whenever something caught my eye. And with no other cars on the narrow, one-way road, I could park anywhere I pleased. I did encounter a couple of hikers, and one man flew past me on a bicycle. But the quiet and the unique smell of the desert sage brush was magical. Of course, I took lots of pictures.



Saguaro Stickers



I managed about 4 miles up the trail and 1,800 feet vertically when I decided time and minimal remaining water suggested I start back. The views at the top and along the way were marvelous. And by then I had



passed the other hikers who were on their way down, so I was alone. But the trek down was much easier with the weight of my camera gear working for me. When I was almost back to the car, I did encounter one couple on their way up the trail. Tired that thirsty I headed for a rendezvous with a barbershop quartet mate who now lives in Green Valley, about 40 miles south of Tucson, anticipating home-brewed oatmeal stout.

Thinking back, it was a marvelous day. The low angles of the early morning sun created an ever-changing picture across the desert landscape. The noise of traffic was replaced by the hum of insects. Snakes were less active in the cool morning hours. But walking off-trail, which I tend to do, can be painful if you get careless. Teddy Bear cactus look soft and fuzzy, but bite if only slightly disturbed.

Travel Travails

Shaken and Stirred

by **Jerry Sabolik**

We had never travelled to Albania or Montenegro, so when Jeanette saw a travel deal from Gate 1 featuring these two countries and more, we jumped on it. Furthermore, we had never been on an organized tour, and this seemed like a good time to give one a try.

Our flight was a long one. Denver to Chicago. Chicago to Vienna. And finally, Vienna to Tirana, Albania. Central Tirana turned out to be a surprisingly enjoyable city, despite Albania's recent past and the Maoist aligned regime of Enver Hoxha. Our first day was mostly free time and ended with an orientation meeting and an excellent dinner at the Rogner Hotel, where we were staying.

The Rogner Hotel was the creation of Austrian builder, Robert Rogner. Mr. Rogner built his hotel on a sheep pasture near the President's office in Tirana. He imported building materials from Austria and shipped them via Trieste to Albania. He also trained 120 Albanian workers and employees in Austrian



technical colleges to build the first hotel in Tirana according to international standards. The hotel opened in 1995. Both Jeanette and I are greatly appreciative of Mr. Rogner's efforts.

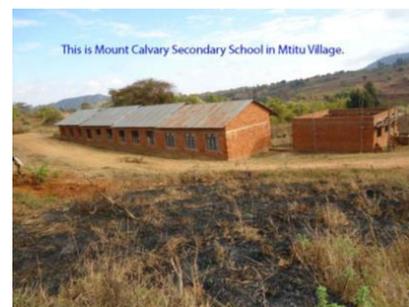
At the end of our second day in Tirana, after a very nice walking tour and a delightful dinner at a local restaurant, we retired to our hotel to get a good night's sleep. Then, right around 4:00 A.M., we were awakened by a violent shaking of our bed. During the first 1 ½ seconds, I thought that Jeanette was having a nightmare and was kicking the bed, but I soon realized that was not the case. The whole building was shaking. This was probably an earthquake! I got out of bed and stumbled to the window to see what was going on. Not much was happening except for an occasional siren. The shaking continued for what seemed like several minutes, but it was probably only 30 seconds. There was no hotel alarm, no phone call. The electricity was still on, so we stupidly decided to take our showers and get dressed. As an afterthought, I wondered what I would have done if the electricity and/or plumbing went out while I was naked and soaped up.

After our showers, we went down to the lobby to find out what had happened. Yes, it was an earthquake. We later learned it registered 6.4 on the Richter scale, and the epicenter was in Durres, about 20 miles away. Several people died in Durres, and hundreds were injured. Some buildings completely collapsed. Our hotel experienced some minor damage. A recessed light fixture was dangling from our entry way, and the bathroom had some ceiling flakes on the floor. There were a few very minor aftershocks that set the chandeliers swaying in the dining room, but that was about it.

We left Tirana on schedule later that morning and headed for Montenegro. Of course, there was a bit of joking about the earthquake. Some asked why it wasn't mentioned in the Gate 1 itinerary, and would we have another (we didn't). On the more serious side, I note that you can't really prepare for an earthquake under these circumstances. It is sudden. There were no alarms, no forecast. I don't believe the hotel staff had any idea of what to do in an earthquake. We had just begun our tour and were probably still a little jet lagged. And it jolted us out of a sound sleep to boot! But Jeanette and I thank Mr. Robert Rogner for his foresight in building a solid hotel.

Update on Tito Kilale's School

At the general membership meeting in October, Susan Dilloway (supported by a slide show by Dan Hannaway) told us about Tito Kilale, the Friendship Force member from Tanzania whom she hosted after the international conference in Boulder last summer. Tito, a teacher and Lutheran pastor, is building a badly needed secondary school in his home village of Mtitu, Tanzania, with donations from friends and organizations. Donations collected at our meeting, plus checks sent later added up to \$550, which Susan sent to Tito's bank in early November.



In response, Tito wrote; "I would like to inform you that I received a message from my bank that the amount of 1,235,497 Tanzanian Shillings is in my account. Thank you so much for this generous amount of money for school building. The money will be put in good use and I will share with you photos of the completed work. Thank you so much my friend. May God bless you abundantly."

Note: At the current exchange rate, one dollar will get you 2,310 Tanzanian shillings.

New Member Profile

Setsuko Segawa Dunphy



Since Setsuko was 12 years old, she was tutored in flower arranging, tea ceremony, cooking and other Japanese skills by her mother and grandmother who were masters in these arts.

Setsuko graduated from Tama Art University in Tokyo, Japan. She developed a unique quilt designing style and taught and lectured at conferences, symposiums, craft schools, and on TV shows in Japan and the U.S.

Setsuko has had six books published on Japanese quilt art, and has exhibited her quilting ability in England, Australia, Canada and the U.S.

She studied extensively in Japan as well as in several European countries where he learned European style flower arranging, gourmet cooking, "tablescape" and formative art. She attended culinary schools in France and Belgium. Her displays of tablescape have been used by TV Studios, show rooms, Living Magazine, and World-Famous Table Ware shows.

Setsuko now lives on Colorado Springs with her husband Paul. They have transformed the back yard of their house in Garden Ranch into a handcrafted landscape of fanciful topiary figures. Before moving to Colorado Springs, the Dunphys owned a nursery in Orange County, California, near Disneyland.

Rocky Mountain Regional News

Western Regional SUPER 2020 Conference - The conference is hosted by Portland, Oregon and clubs located in the US Lower Columbia Region. In 2018, the first SUPER Conference was hosted by the club in Sacramento California. This type of conference replaced the Regional Conferences that were held in each region in the US. This conference not only gives you a chance to visit Oregon and surrounding areas; but offers opportunities for us to learn, share and connect with the clubs in the western region.

Participating Regions are: West Coast, Pacific NW/Northern Rockies, Rocky Mountain and Western Canada. The Conference will be held at the Shiloh Inn Portland Airport Hotel in Portland.

- This year's theme is **"Embracing Diversity through Friendship Force"**.

A welcome reception, workshops, panel discussions, and Gala Dinner are being planned.

I hope you can join me at this SUPER conference in May 21 through May 23, 2020. Please mark these dates down on your calendar.



Thank you. Sue Palmer, Field Rep – Rocky Mountain Region alfshouse12@hotmail.com

Western Regional Conference Details

May 21st through May 23rd, 2020

Shiloh Inn Portland Airport. 11707 NE Airport Way. Portland, OR 97220

Call 503-252-7500 for Reservations (Mention Friendship Force for special rate)

Participating clubs from the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rockies, Rocky Mountain, West Coast, and Western Canada Region clubs including: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah Washington, British Columbia and Alberta. All Friendship Force members are invited. Hosted by the Friendship Force of Lower Columbia.

Schedule of Events:

Thursday, May 21st 1:00 pm Registration

3:00 pm President's Meeting

7:00 pm Welcome Reception

Friday, May 22nd 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Conference

Panel discussions; workshops

6:00 pm Gala Dinner

Presentations by Friendship Force International Staff

Saturday, May 23rd 9:00 am - 4 pm Conference

Workshops, and wrap up

Participate in fun, stimulating workshops for all members whether you are a new member, club leader, journey coordinator or just an enthusiastic member. Topics include New Member Q and A, Planning Global Journeys, Building Memberships, Future Planning, Vetting Ambassadors, Websites and much more.

Registration Fee if paid by February 15, 2020 **\$ 150**

Registration Fee if paid between Feb. 16 and April 15 **\$ 175**

Gala Dinner (not included in registration) **\$ 55**

Steve and Susan Tindell are planning to attend the conference. If you think you would like to go, give them a call. They can provide you with the application form. You can also email Sue Palmer for an application form.

Note: The cost goes up if you register after February 15.

Thoughts and Prayers



Bob Werschky reports that Judie is making progress in rehab and hopes that, after an appointment next Thursday or hopefully sooner with her cardiologist, she will be allowed to go home. Meanwhile, she would welcome phone calls (661-1874) and visits. Her room is 312 at the Centennial Rehab Center near Fillmore. Try Bob's cell (661-1883) if Judie doesn't answer

Pikes Peak and Rocky Mountain Region Contacts

FFPPR Leadership Council

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Phone numbers are cell unless
 otherwise noted as (H) home

Friendship Force of the Mountain States Region

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Sue Palmer alfshouse12@hotmail.com

Club Websites

Cheyenne	http://www.friendshipforcecheyenne.org/
Denver	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/

2020 FFPPR Calendar

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