



friendship force

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

Officers

President	Al Colville*
First Vice President	Linda Burns*
Second Vice President	Monica Notaro*
Treasurer	David Lea*
Secretary	Pam Hokanson*
Directors	Rob Beck*, Margaret Dryer*

*Board Member

Committee Chairs

Event Chairman	Patty Sclater
Fund Raising	Monica Notaro*
JAG	Linda Burns*
Membership	Peggy Colville
Outreach	Linda Burns*
Exchange	Dave Burns*
Communications	Walt O'Connell*

May, 2017 Volume XXVI, No. 3

President's Message

Al Colville

Well, we are off to a great start for the year 2017. After a wonderful 40th Anniversary Celebration Party in March, we are looking forward to a



nice and comfortable Mystery Dinner this month. This event is an excellent opportunity, especially for our newer members, to get to know some of the rest of the club. We hope that lots of you can take advantage of this relaxing evening with friends.

Over the next several months, we will be finalizing plans for a number of Journeys, both Inbound and Outbound. Be on the lookout for our upcoming requests for Home Hosts, Day Hosts, Dinner Hosts and Ambassadors to some exciting places.

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Journey to Mundo Maya-Tuxtla Gutierrez

Deb Winslow, Coordinator

Mundo Maya's hospitality is something I will remember for a life time. Though most of our hosts did not speak English, they found unique ways to communicate with each of us. "I translate" by Google was a wonderful tool to help us delve a little deeper in our understanding of our hosts. This club knows how to throw a welcome and farewell celebration. We had the opportunity to try many of the traditional foods both at the celebrations as well as in the homes where we stayed. Our days were filled with Museums like the Anthropology Museum...







A visit to Marimba park to listen to music and watch people dance and enjoy the evening



A trip to the Pacific Ocean to stick our toes into the water, if you were willing to pay the price of extremely hot sand to get to the water.





Our farewell would not have been complete without a traditional Mariachi Band



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Events Committee in Action

Patty Sclater, Chair

June 15 – Wine tasting at Cunningham Winery - \$10.00 per person, 2-4 pm. After tasting, we can buy wine and snack on the appetizers all of us will be bringing – Watch for the Doodle to sign up.

July 29 – Shakespeare Theatre in Staunton for a tour of the theatre and the play, "Much Ado". We will have lunch after the tour and before the play. We need to have at least 15 people so **mark your calendar and plan to attend.** – Watch for the Doodle to sign up.

Al and Peggy Colville and Dave and Linda Burns will be representing our chapter at FFI's World Conference in Manchester, England August 24 – 28. The annual JAG students' picnic will be hosted by Wayne and Betsy Brady at Lake Monticello. There will be boat rides and a potluck meal, along with an opportunity to meet the international JAG students.

We are hosting visitors from Cornwall, UK for a stopover visit Oct. 17 - 18. This is followed by an inbound journey from Russia October 21 - 28.

It's back to Staunton on November 9 to observe glass blowing and try your hand at making an ornament, if you wish. We'll also take in lunch. Further details will be forthcoming, as developed. Margaret and Mark will once again host us for the annual Christmas Party. It will be at their Charlottesville residence on December 16. What a great way to end the year.

Membership Chairman's Report

Peggy Smith Colville, Chair

We have a great club and several have joined us this year. New members are:

Duncan and Deborah Nixon Orion and Peggy Birdsall Steve Cooley Carol Donahue Ann Neumark (welcome back Ann) Dave and Sally Zabransky

Be sure to introduce yourselves to them and make them feel welcome.

I think all of us know people who would enjoy being part of our group. Guests are welcome to join us at our events and activities to learn more about us. Be sure to invite those who might be interested. We have several events coming up this year: Inbound journeys, JAG picnic, wine tasting, trip to the Blackfriars in Staunton, all of which are great opportunities to introduce potential members to Friendship Force.

News from FFI

As we enter our 40th year, we know that some change and growth is necessary for the health and future of our organization. We hope that you, our members, will embrace these small adjustments in terminology in order to highlight and continue supporting the mission of promoting global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

New Tag Line

The tag line has been changed from "Changing the way you see the world" to "Experience different views. Discover common ground."

Journeys

We often hear that calling our travel and hosting programs "exchanges" is confusing, since the word no longer directly explains the programs we offer. We strongly feel that a more transformational term - "journey" - is better suited to the amazing programs our members plan and experience. You will see this new term (planning a "Journey" instead of an "Exchange") used throughout our new website and in FFI communications and materials.

Ambassador Coordinator and Host Coordinator

In line with our incorporation of the word "journey," we also have altered the term Exchange Director to now be called "Ambassador Coordinator" and "Host Coordinator." Not only does the term "coordinator" translate well into the many languages spoken by our members worldwide, but we also believe it reflects the variety of work that our dedicated ambassador and host leaders undertake in planning a Friendship Force Journey.

Mission-Focused Itineraries

For each Journey listed on the catalog, there will be an expanded Itinerary section highlighting the mission of FFI and especially our people-to-people focus of travel and hosting. We want to encourage new members to participate by giving them more clarity about what to expect on a Friendship Force Journey.

In support of this makeover, FFI has also released a new promotional video (https://vimeo.com/194675995) and Web Site (https://www.friendshipforce.org/). We will be incorporating these changes into our club material as well.



Cabin Fever Setting In?

Need to Get Away? Be sure to check the journeys available on the Friendship Force Web site. <u>https://www.friendshipforce.org/journeys/</u>



<u>Check out our Facebook Page</u>

https://www.facebook.com/FriendshipForceofCentralVirginia/

<u>JAG School</u>

Linda Burns, Chair

Our new students that will be coming in arrive for the Basic Course on 19 June and will be here thru 7 September. They are coming from Egypt, Indonesia and Mongolia. For the Graduate Course, arriving 7 August thru 30 May, we have four students coming from Afghanistan, Egypt, Korea and Israel. I need hosts for these students. Please contact me if you are interested in being a host. Graduation is coming soon, Thursday, 1 June at 10:00am in the Decker Auditorium at the JAG School. Please let me know if you are planning on coming. Larry will get us parking passes and usually plans a luncheon at the Darden Cafeteria after the ceremony.

Journey Committee

Dave Burns

2017 Stopover: Cornwall, UK, Oct 2017: I recently communicated with Margie Lundie who will be leading the folks from Cornwall to confirm dates and numbers of people we can expect. Margie confirmed the group will be arriving by car(s) probably late in the afternoon Tuesday, Oct 17th and departing early on Thursday, the 19th. The group will consist of three couples and four single ladies. We have already had a couple of our members step forward to host some of them but we will need several others to host as well. Hosts will be required to provide at least one dinner and breakfast on Wednesday and Thursday mornings; since the group will have their own transportation hosts may not have to provide that service. Margie noted that since the group will only have one full day with us they would like to visit either Monticello or Montpelier and take a look at downtown Charlottesville. Given time constraints, my recommendation is to combine Monticello with downtown. As for Wednesday evening, I will be looking into the feasibility of having a pot luck dinner open to all FFCV

members, more on that later. Again, please think about hosting if you can and expect an email from me regarding this. Should be a great chance to meet some interesting folks/

2017 Inbound: Nizhny Novgorod and Kirov Oblast, Russia, October 2017: I have been working with both clubs through a young lady interpreter, Vicki, who will be accompanying them on their journey to our club and have confirmed the dates they will be here are October 20-27. The last I heard 13 ambassadors plan on coming, with the group consisting of 10 women, two men, and a 12 year old boy, who is coming with his parents. The group is relatively young with the oldest ambassador being 56. Several of the women are in their 20s. In the coming months we will be working up an agenda for our visitors who have professed interest in "more nature and walking will be great (state national park), visiting some museums, historical sites, Universities and one of the wineries." All of these are quite doable. When we initially agreed to this journey, we told FFI we could except up to 20 ambassadors and we may open up the journey to other clubs or individual Friendship Force members to reach that total. A number of our members have stepped forward to host, but we still could use at least two more members to host four ambassadors; more will be needed if we go for 20 ambassadors. Like the group from Cornwall, expect to receive an email from me soliciting your help.

2018 Outbound: Mie and Ota-Gunma, Japan, May 2018: While Al Colville remains in contact with the hosts at both locations, nothing significant has transpired regarding the journeys. However, for those who may have missed the last Ambassador, here is some information on both clubs.

A preliminary check of airline costs suggest a roundtrip ticket to Tokyo from Dulles is about \$900-\$1200 but that obviously could change one way or another over the next year. The following is what is available on the FFI website in regards to the two clubs, note both clubs can host up to 15 ambassadors:

Mie

- Official club name: The Friendship Force of Mie
- Closest major airport: Central Japan International Airport (NGO)
- **Cost of transportation** between the airport and our city: by high-speed ferry: 2,470 yen per person (~\$21.50), a 10% discount applies to groups more than 15 people.
- The maximum number of Ambassadors our club can host: 15
- About the club: The Friendship Force of Mie was chartered in September of 1989. We have approximately 40 members from 30 families. Nearly half of the members live in Tsu city, the capital of Mie prefecture, where we generally have monthly meetings and exchange activities. The other half of the members lives in the surrounding areas. Usually we host one or two inward exchanges and have one outward exchange every year.
- About the region: Mie prefecture is located almost at the center of the Japanese main island on the Pacific Ocean side, blessed with not only a variety of natural beauty from the mountains to the ocean but also a variety of good food. Due to its close proximity to Nara and Kyoto, the old capitals of Japan, this region historically had been an important part of the culture and economy. These backgrounds make this region attractive and worth visiting. (Among the sightseeing spots, Ise Shrine, Ise-Shima National Park, the Ninja Residence, the Akame 48 waterfalls and Gozaisho mountain are famous.)
- About the exchanges: We want our members and the ambassadors to get to know each other over the language and culture barrier. That is our priority but we often schedule a couple of sightseeing days and a visit to the mayor of Tsu city and a school. We always hold a

welcome or farewell party. Please talk directly to our ED for details. Our ED will give you some practical suggestions.

Ota-Gunma

- Official club name: The Friendship Force of Ota-Gunma
- Closest major airport: TOKYO NARITA
- Closest regional/ local airport: TOKYO / NARITA Airport.
- **Cost of transportation** between the airport and our city (based on 20 people) by bus: about 4,300 yen / person (~\$37.50). By Train: We have. But very difficult to use for beginner
- Maximum number of Ambassadors our club can host: 15 people
- About the club: Our club consists of 22 families Age of the members is 70 years old from 50 years old
- About the region: Ota city is north of Tokyo, about 80 Km. (Ota city, Gunma prefecture), the northern part of Gunma is a mountainous area. There are a lot of volcanoes. Therefore we have many hot springs.

2018 Inbound: Bundaberg, Australia, October 18: We have been in contact with the Bundaberg club and it appears they will be on quite a journey with them visiting three FF clubs in the U.S. Their plan is to start off spending a week in central North Carolina, followed by a week with us, a few days in Washington, DC, another week with the FF club in Baton Rouge, and finally a few days in New Orleans. Not sure yet exactly when they will be visiting us but it will likely be either late September or early October. This will be the third club from Australia we have hosted in the past four years, and based on our experience with the previous Australian ambassadors and what is on the Bundaberg website we should be hosting a lively bunch and be in for a good time. Recommend you go to the FFI website and check out the club's website: https://friendshipforce.azurewebsites.net/clubs/bundaberg. Don't know about anybody else but I'm already prepared to request a reciprocal visit there!

2018 Possible Inbound Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico: At our last Board of Directors meeting following our journey to Mexico we discussed the feasibility of inviting our host club there to visit us either this year or in 2018. Given we are already involved with the Russian and Cornwall clubs this year, the Board agreed to have me work with FFI and the Mexican club to try and work out a visit by them next year during a period that would not interfere with our outbound and inbound journeys in May and October, respectively. More on this in the future.

2018 Mid-Atlantic & Northeast Regional Journal Assignments

The following is a repeat of information originally posted in the March 2017 Ambassador. Another way our members can experience an outbound journey is to participate with one of the clubs in our region to visit the places they have been assigned. The following is a list of all the clubs in our region and their assignments for 2018. Contact information for each of the clubs is located on the FFI website.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF	OUTBOUND	INBOUND
1. RICHMOND, VA	None	None
2. NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA	2/18 Christchurch, Taupo, Wellington (Stopover), New Zealand	4 or 5/18 Regional Conference 11/18 Ottawa, Canada

3. CHARLESTON WEST VIRG	INIA None	None
4. CONNECTICUT	2/18 Kapiti Coast & New Plymouth, New Zealand 11/18 San Antonio, Texas US	None
5. SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY	4/18 Campias & Belo Horizonte, Brazil	6/18 La Serena, Chila
6. GREATER HARISBURG	5/18 Nizhny Novgorod, Russia	None
7. NEW HAMPSHIRE SEACOA	AST 10/18 Greater Hamilton & Niagara, Canada	5/18 Greater Hamilton & Burlington, Canada
8. SOUTHERN CONNECTICU	TNone	6/18 La Serena, Chile
9. CENTRAL VIRGINIA	5/18 Mie & Ota-Gunma, Japan	10/18 Bundaberg, Australia
10. LONG ISLAND	6/18 Flathead Valley, USA Hope, Burlington, Canada South Africa	5/18 Greater Hamilton & 10/18 10/18 Cape of Good 9/18 San Diego County, USA

<u>Outreach</u>

Linda Burns, Chair

Margaret Dryer is going in for knee surgery May 22nd. Our thoughts and prayers will be with her. We still need to keep Patsy O'Connell and Elizabeth Beck in our thoughts and prayers. They are still working on recovering. Also, the Beck's will be moving to Illinois this summer. Make sure you say how much we will miss them.

Ann Bearden sent this on to us:

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Peter's address is:

Peter Almonte 2211 Emmons Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11235

You are welcome to pass it along to anyone who wants it. When you contact Peter, do remind him who you are --ie., Friendship Force friends. He has not seen you in a long time and memory does become dim.

Thanks so much for contacting him. I know he will appreciate your doing so.

If you know of any other member who needs an "outreached hand" please let me know. You can contact me @ toeheadva@yahoo.com or 434-589-8724.

Concerned about traveling in these uncertain times? You might want to check out this article http://www.wendyperrin.com/7-keys-traveling-without-fear-despite-terrorist-attacks/

Help Wanted



2017 International Conference

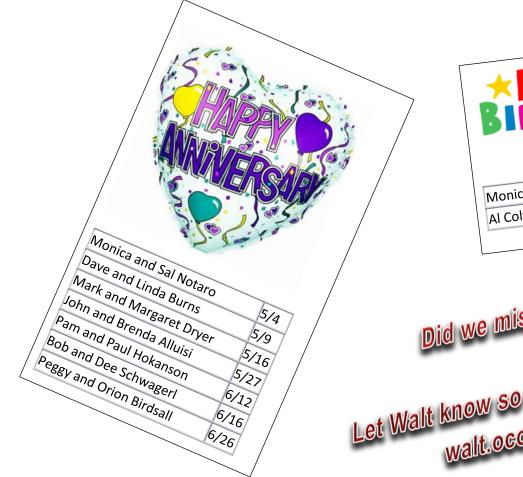


For the official conference Web site click <u>here</u> or visit <u>https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170&</u>

Do you need a name tag or business cards?

Drop an email to Walt (walt.oconnell@gmail.com) and let him know what you need. The minutes of the BOD meetings and copies of the Ambassador Newsletter are available on our Web site, <u>www.ffc.avenue.org</u>

The BOD meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. We welcome you participation







2016 Calendar Meetings and Events

<u>Month</u>	<u>BOD</u> <u>Meeting</u>	Event Date	<u>Events</u>	<u>Participants</u>
May	2	Sat, 5/13	Mystery Dinner	FFCV Members
June	6	Thurs, 6/15	Cunningham Creek Winery - Details TBD	FFCV Members, Their Guests (New Member Initiative)
July	11	Sat, 7/29	Blackfriars Playhouse Tour, Play, Lunch - Details TBD	FFCV Members, Their Guests
August	7	Thurs, 8/24 - Mon, 8/28	FFI World Conf. Manchester, UK	Al and Peggy Colville, Dave and Linda Burns
September	5	Mon, 9/4	JAG Students' Picnic - Brady Residence, Lake Monticello	FFCV Members, Their Guests and JAG Students & Family
October	3	Tues/Wed 10/17-18 Sat, 10/21 - Sat, 10/28	Stopover Visit from Cornwall UK Inbound Exchange from Russia??	FFCV Members, Their Guests
November	7	Thurs, 11/9	Glass Blowing, Lunch in Staunton - Details TBD	FFCV Members, Their Guests
December	5	Sat, 12/16	Christmas Party - Dryer Residence, Charlottesville	FFCV Members, Their Guests

Show Your Club Logo with Custom Merchandise



your orders.

You now have the ability to purchase quality merchandise with our club logo embroidered on it from Queensboro. Some of us have purchased this merchandise in the past and have found it to be very good quality.

We have our own "store front" that uses our approved logo and ordering products through it is quite easy. Go to

http://ffcv.qbstores.com and to see the selection of products. To make a purchase, set up an account and then select from the products available, specifying your size and color preference.

A flat fee of \$6.50 per order applies regardless of the order size so team up with a friend and consolidate

Queensboro offers many more products than we have placed in our store front. If you are looking for something in particular you can view their entire site at http://www.gueensboro.com. You can order directly from that site but you won't have access to our logo. If you

see an item you would like with the logo, let Walt know (walt.oconnell@gmail.com, 434-591-0532) and he will add it to the store front.



BOD Minutes

Friendship Force Central Virginia Inc. Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 7, 2017 Clubhouse at Villages at Nahor, Palmyra, VA

Board Members Present:

President Al Colville, First Vice President Linda Burns, Second Vice President Monica Notaro, Secretary Pam Hokanson, Dave Burns, Margaret Dryer, Walt O'Connell

Board Members Absent:

Treasurer David Lea, Rob Beck

Guests:

Membership Chair Peggy Colville, Mundo Maya ED Deb Winslow, and Events Chair Patty Sclater

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm by President Colville. **President's Comments:** None

Secretary's Report:

The February 7, 2017 FFCV, Inc Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report:

Approval was postponed, as the treasurer was not present.

Old Business:

Mundo Maya Exchange:

- Deb Winslow needs photos and bios of those going to send in. David Lea sent a check to cover the fees.
- David Lea needs to clarify the numbers on the main account and the outbound account. The monies for the outbound exchange were deposited in the main account by mistake.

FFI 40th Anniversary Celebration

Our celebration will be at Tavern on the Green in Spring Creek on March 19 from 2:00-4:00. It is open to all members, past presidents, interested guests, as well as the public. Publicity includes the NBC Community Events, the LM newsletter, the Fluvanna Review and the Rural Virginian. Patty will send a reminder to club members requesting that they respond on the Doodle. Patty presented the printed program and asked President Colville to present a 10 minute overview of Friendship Force, Dave Burns will present a 5 minute talk about different exchanges, Linda Burns will speak for 5 minutes about the JAG program, Patty Sclater will review our events calendar and Peggy Colville will speak about membership. Pam Hokanson and Linda Burns will have a map depicting both the inbound and outbound exchanges in which our club has participated. Walt O'Connell will have a computer set up to show the FFI CD and another displaying photos from our various exchanges.

Russian Inbound Exchange is scheduled for October 21-28 with 10 ambassadors. Dave sent them a list of possible activities we will provide. We have been asked to open it up to regional clubs for up to a total of 20 ambassadors 90 days out.

Hosting FF Cornwall, UK: We have agreed to host 9 people from FF Cornwall, UK on October 17-18.

New Business:

World Conference: Al and Peggy Colville plan to attend along with Dave and Linda Burns.

2018 Outbound Journey to Japan: We have been offered a 2-week journey to include 2 locations in Japan in May 2018. One week north of Tokyo, and a second week in southern Japan between Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Al has volunteered to be the Ambassador Coordinator for the outbound journey. Dave is also looking into adding a possible trip to Taiwan.

2018 Inbound Journey: We also have a possible inbound journey from Bundaberg, Australia (north of Brisbane) in October of 2018.

Atlanta encourages FFI changes in terminology: Inbound and Outbound Exchanges will be referred to as Journeys. Exchange Directors will now be called Journey Coordinator for all inbound journeys and Ambassador Coordinator for all outbound journeys.

Need to update our web site: Al will be asking members with computer experience and/or web pages to work with LeRoy Moyer to take over this responsibility. Suggestions included John Alluisi, Dave Wirth, and Betsy Brady.

Feedback from Atlanta: Allison Lindsay reported they are pleased with the activities our club has undertaken especially the Open World Exchange. Dave Burns will follow up with Dale Walden to see if she will pursue recognition for our club as club of the year.

Plans for Use of Funds in 2017:

- Monica suggested "Families Learning Together" an organization that helps ESL and low literacy adults with job and parenting skills. She will look into this further and provide necessary information.
- Use to pay for anniversary event and for other membership recruitment events
- Purchase of host gifts for Outbound Journeys so all hosts receive the same gifts.
- Margaret Dryer moved that Registration fees and hotels for the world conferences be paid by the club for the club's official representatives if treasurer funds are available. Seconded by Linda Burns. Motion carried unanimously.
- Monica Notaro moved that Registration fees and housing for regional conferences be paid by the club for the club's official representatives if treasurer funds are available. Seconded by Margaret Dryer. Motion carried unanimously.
- It was brought up to inquire if the club's official representatives can claim travel expenses on their taxes.

Committee Reports:

Communications: newsletter deadline is now. Get information to Walt within the next couple of days. Walt will also put together slides for anniversary celebration.

Events: Patty will resend doodle for anniversary event. Dave Burns will post in LM Facebook page. Brady's have agreed to host the JAG picnic.

Exchanges: Dave will send all regional journeys to Walt for brochures and newsletters.

Fund Raising: Monica has contacted Broocks Meade and has submitted our information. She is awaiting our assignments. She will also be sending out a "short notice" Doodle seeking volunteers who are available to work on short notice. It was suggested that members also invite friends as we can use these activities as a recruitment tool.

JAG: Linda received an email that we will have 3 students for the 3-month program from June 19 – Sept. 7, 201. They are from Egypt, Indonesia and Mongolia. We will have 4 students in the 9-month program from Aug. 7, 2017 – May 30, 2018. They are from Afghanistan, Egypt, Korea, and Israel. **Membership**: Peggy encouraged everyone to bring guests to the 40th Anniversary celebration and the Cunningham Creek winery events. She will have applications and brochures available. **Outreach**: Mary Ann Doucette is improving, Elizabeth Beck has been ill, and Patsy O'Connell has ongoing health issues. Members are encouraged to let Linda know if someone is ill or has surgery.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, Apr. 4 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm at the Villages of Nahor Clubhouse

Meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Hokanson, Secretary



2017 Friendship Force Central Virginia

Membership/Renewal Application



Name:		Email:	
Address:		City:	
County*: *Note: in city = C'ville; else	State: ZIP: Albemarle, Fluvanna, etc.	Phone (land line):	
Cell:	Preferred Badge Name:	New Member Sponsor	
For Family Application:	^D artner's Name:	Email:	
Partner's Cell:	Preferred Badge Na	me:	Children Under 21
We like to recognize our m	embers on their special days if you c	hoose (month and day only, we overloo	ok the year).

Your birthday: ___/ Partner's birthday: ___/ Anniversary: __/___

It is important that you have a good understanding of The Friendship Force, what we do, and what to expect. The Web site for Friendship Force International is a good source of information about the history and mission or our organization. Please review the information at www.friendshipforce.org, paying particular attention to the tabs "Who We Are /History and /Mission" and "FAQs" and our club at www.ffc.avenue.org. If you don't have access to the Web, please contact a member for information about our FFI and our club.

To make our club successful, all members contribute as they are able to our various activities. Please check the activities in which you would like to participate or learn more about in 2017. (Partners do separately when your interests diverge). **Do you want to**:

Exchange Activities	Other Club Work and Activities
Go on an Outbound Exchange	Serve on Communications/Publicity (newsletter or press)?
Outbound Exchange Planning Committee	Serve on Fund Raising including Fridays After Five?
Inbound Exchange Planning Committee	Be on Social Program Planning and Organizing?
Inbound Exchange Planning	Help Plan Bi-monthly Club Meeting Programs?
Inbound Exchange Home Host	Serve on Membership Committee?
Inbound Exchange Day Host	Be nominated for Exchange Director
Inbound Exchange Small Dinner Party Host	
Community Activities and Service	
Invite an International Student to Dinner	
Sponsor a JAG student	
Work on a Community Project (e.g., International Refugee Committee, World Friendship Day, or outreach to community?)	

 What areas of the world are of particular interest for an Exchange?

 Asia_____Canada_____Europe____Eurasia____Latin America____Middle East____Africa____South Pacific____USA____

Annual Dues: \$32 for single, \$60 for a household. Please include a check made out to FFC with your application. Please submit application/renewal and dues to our treasurer, David Lea, 139 Stribling Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22903 or at a meeting.