



friendship force

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

Officers/Directors

President *Monica Notaro*
Vice President *Patty Sclater*
Treasurer *David Lea*
Secretary *Pam Hokanson*
Directors *Dave Burns, Linda Burns,*
Al Colville, Deb Winslow, Peggy Colville

Committee Chairs

Communications..... *Sally Zabransky*
Events
Fund Raising..... *Dave Zabransky*
JAG..... *Linda Burns*
Journeys *Deb Winslow*
Membership *Peggy Colville*
Outreach *Carol Donahue*
Webmasters..... *Al Colville and Dave*
Zabransky

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

President's Message

Monica Notaro

Hmmmmmmmm.....Is it always good to keep a secret?
 I can't tell you how many times one of our members has told me that when they tell someone about Friendship Force they get a quizzical look, or a response that clearly indicates that person has *never* heard about Friendship Force. That's happened to me many times as well. It appears it can be a well-kept secret, or misconstrued as only a travel club. **Let's not keep Friendship Force a secret! Share** what the mission of Friendship Force means to you. To me, I believe we can contribute to making a more peaceful world by making friendships and breaking down the barriers that separate us. **Share** stories about interesting people you've met here or abroad when you have traveled. Don't keep it a secret...**share**.

While it is true that Friendship Force members *love* to travel, we are definitely NOT a "travel" club. Our member's focus is on personal relationships, building friendships, and finding common ground. That is why Friendship Force members are called "Ambassadors" and act as citizen diplomats.

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One way to enjoy the club more is to get involved in activities in the upcoming year. To mark the end of summer, or the coming of fall a group of us went kayaking on the James River on September 7th, and there will be many more activities during the upcoming year. Invite others to share our activities. Thanks to all of you for attending our July Membership meeting at the Elk's Club who provided us with a whole list of activities you would like to do. Remember, we will keep *upcoming* activities on our website: www.friendshipforcecv.org for your easy reference.

May the Friendship Force be with you.

July Membership Meeting

Peggy S. Colville

If you were not able to make this meeting, you truly missed out on the laughs and enjoyment provided by our guest from Japan, Kanta Okidoitei. Kanta and his wife, Mari, hosted Dave and Linda Burns on our journey to Japan a year ago in May. They were now staying with Dave and Linda for a few days before leaving for the FFI World Conference this year in Boulder, Colorado. Having seen his performance while in Japan, Dave suggested that Kanta could entertain us at our meeting and that he did. Kanta is a true entertainer and talented in making everyone enjoy his performance. He even got our very own Beverly Stewart to join him for even more laughter. Beverly, you were great, you should consider going into the entertainment field yourself.

We had 32 members attending, 3 prospective members and 3 other guests for a total of 38 people. One of our prospects came without his wife nor his hosts, Bob and Laura Keeton, who were away on vacation. What a trooper!! He also read the newsletter and won the "trivia" questions of the month. I have high hopes for him and his wife to become active members of our club. Thanks to Bob and Laura for encouraging him to come.

Beverly Stewart brought Bea Brittain, Monica Notaro had her friend, Shari Campbell, join us and Mary Ann and Barry Doucette had their daughter, Terri Fogg, attend the event as well.

Overall, the meeting went very well, topped off by the wonderful entertainment provided by Kanta. The food was great, the business part of the meeting brought out many ideas for events and ideas on speakers for the rest of the year. It was mentioned that the membership would like to have this kind of meeting every other month. We will be working on that as well as all the other great ideas that came about, very good ideas on how to improve our meetings and increase enthusiasm among our members and prospective members.

All in all, it was a fun evening and we hope to continue with this type of meeting. If you have any ideas for speakers and interesting subjects to have for future meetings --- Please help us out by letting us know your thoughts.

Here are few pictures of this Fun, Fun Evening.



Events Committee in Action

Committee Members: Peggy Colville, Linda Burns, Mary Ann Doucette, Patty Sclater, Joyce Spitler and Dale Walden

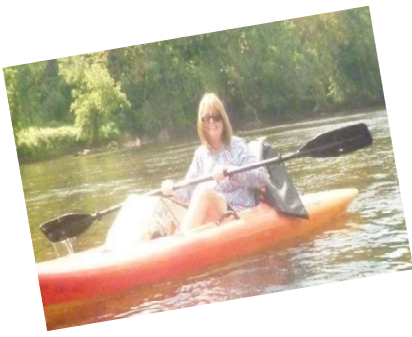
FUN ON THE JAMES

Peggy S. Colville

Eight fun-loving people went out and enjoyed a very nice sunny day leisurely floating down the James River in kayaks. The water was very clear and smooth. The sun kept going in and out of the clouds which gave way for a very pleasant day.

Thanks to Dale Walden and Patty Sclater for organizing this enjoyable day on the river.





Fund Raising

Dave Zabransky, Chair

A big thanks to our volunteers Peggy and Al Colville, Patty Sclater and Steve Cooley who worked the beer cart at our third fundraiser of the year, Fridays After Five, on August 6th. Thanks to all for volunteering.

Journey Committee

Deb Winslow

Outbounds 2020:

International: Our spring trip to Brazil is in the works. We were assigned Campinas and Blumeneau. Two additional short excursions are being planned. Prior to our journey a visit to Rio de Janeiro and afterwards an exploration of the Iguazu Falls. Our journey dates are March 18 – April 1, 2020. A doodle poll will be coming shortly about interest in journey and the excursions. Below is a small synopsis of our destinations:

The bustling city of **Rio de Janeiro** has been one of Brazil's most popular and frequented tourist destinations for decades. Its vibrant city centre is bursting with culture and pulsating with a deep sense of history and heritage. Rio, as it is commonly known, is the second largest city in Brazil and the third largest metropolis in the whole of South America. It is the most visited city in the Southern Hemisphere, which is no mean feat. This makes for an impressive, memorable attraction for visitors from all over the world.

Campinas is a city in [São Paulo state, Brazil](#), and the core municipality of the [Grande Campinas](#), a metropolitan area with 2.8 million people.. Campinas is a major center of industry, services and research. The city is home to State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), considered the second best university of the country and the third best of Latin America. For a visitor, besides the obvious business/academic opportunities, Campinas offers the shopping, gastronomy and nightlife typical of a large city, but with ease of access to the beautiful landscape and the scenic towns of the Mantiqueira mountain range. Campinas also hosts a considerable historical heritage from the late 19th century, associated with the prosperity of coffee farming during this period.

Blumenau is located in the Itajaí Valley, and is the 3rd biggest city in Santa Catarina State, with approximately 298,603 inhabitants (2006). Blumenau and the surrounding regions became home to a large number of German immigrants in the late 19th century, leading to a culture that's distinctly different from the common image of Brazil. After Germans, the second largest ethnic group is Italians. When coming to Blumenau do not expect it to be a German enclave, it is more of a Brazilian city with a sprinkling of German influence. There are several buildings which are Bavarian styled, and there are a few restaurants, but despite the rumors very few people speak German and most of the people are ethnically mixed. There are, however, still a good number of people of European ancestry and the population looks somewhat different from the rest of Brazil with lighter hair and blue eyes being more common than the rest of the country. Some of the people are bilingual, but they are hard to find. Even the blonde people usually speak no more than a very basic amount of German.

The exquisite **Iguazu** Falls are also known as the Iguassu Falls and the Iguaçú Falls. The magnificent spectacle of these 275 individual drops has awed tourists, locals and indigenous inhabitants for centuries. They originate from the Iguazu River and are located on the border of Brazil (in the state of Paraná) and Argentina. In fact, the Iguazu Falls are what divides the river of the same name into its upper and lower portions, a fact that has given rise to several myths and legends as to their origin.

Harrisburg, PA: A reciprocal short journey is being planned for the fall. Updates will be coming early next year.

Inbounds 2020:

Penticton - Okanagan: We are expecting folks from British Columbia mid to late October.

JAG School

Linda Burns, Chair

We welcomed our new students arriving in August from Korea, Philippines, Egypt and Nigeria. We are still in need of a sponsor for the student from Nigeria. Please consider being a sponsor. You will thoroughly enjoy the time you spend with your student.

We talked about having a picnic with boat rides at the lake on September 28th. Please put it on your calendar. More news will come out about it. It is a special day at the lake to help celebrate our 50th, with boat rides, food, etc.

Other dates to add to your calendar are December 12th, basic graduation and May 28th, graduate graduation. On September 5th we had nine FFCV members come to meet the new Commander, BG Joseph Berger and Associate Dean, LTC Anderson. It was a very pleasant and informative meeting. Please see the message from the Commander and the picture. I gave a copy of our last Ambassador to the Commander.

From BG Berger:

Ladies and Gentlemen - It was a pleasure meeting each of you this morning. I can't convey strongly enough the importance of what you do and our collective appreciation for opening your lives to these great young men and women.

Enjoy the photo!

Thanks -
Joe Berger

BG Joe Berger
Commanding General
The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School
(434) 971-3302
(931) 249-4990



Outreach

Carol Donahue, Chair

As part of our Club's comradeship, the committee sends out appropriate recognition to any member experiencing an illness, or sad/joyous event. If you have knowledge of a member in need, please contact Carol at camd68@gmail.com or 434-589-7613.

A Few Minutes With Bob and Dee Schwagerl

Al and Peggy Colville

We hope to start a new series of articles for the Ambassador Newsletter highlighting some of our long-time members. Here is the first of these, giving you some background information on Bob and Dee Schwagerl, based on our interview with them. Let us hear your feedback on this type of article.

Bob and Dee Schwagerl – What a Sweet and Wonderful Couple.
Did you know they were High School Sweethearts? They met at a “Sweet Sixteen” party in High School. After meeting they found that they had many mutual interests. Both could tell the other was very intelligent and Bob right away realized how attractive Dee was. Not wanting to waste time, they decided to get married on June 16, 1956 and have spent some 63 years together. What a good example for all young and old couples today.

They have a wonderful family of two boys and one girl, who have given them seven grandchildren to cherish. All their children are most successful in their own way. Their oldest son, Robert, is a Construction Manager with a firm in Charlottesville and their youngest boy, Paul, is working in the mental health clinician. Their daughter, a graduate from Villanova Law School, is the Chief Counsel for a local real estate development firm. She and her husband have two adopted sons. Bob and Dee also have five granddaughters, one of whom just graduated from Virginia Tech. Good job, you two, for bringing into this world such very successful people. What an example you have given to your children for, as they say, "the proof is in the pudding." Bob was very successful as a field representative in Manhattan prior to establishing an office for a supply and interior design dealership. Dee and Bob move to Virginia after Bob retired in 1990.

They did not stay still very long since in 1995 Bob and Dee were introduced to Friendship Force by George and Patricia Travers. What sparked their interest was an exchange to New Zealand and Australia. That started a wonderful relationship with our club. Bob and Dee have been very active down through the years. Bob, with Dee by his side, has held many positions: President, Field Representative for three years with Friendship Force International, Chairman for two years at Regional Field Meetings, received the 2007 Outstanding Achievement Award at the FFI International Convention and last but not least, he received the Wayne Smith Medal Award in 2012. With his involvement as Field Representative, Bob was able to provide opportunities for expanding FFI and growing the Organization throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Bob feels that the Past FFI President George Brown, a graduate of UVA, was a most enjoyable person to work with. Why, because as Bob puts it, "George, dreamt on a large scale his hopes for the Friendship Force organization." Bob and Dee have taken advantage of their involvement with Friendship Force in getting to meet people from around the world. They have traveled with the Friendship Force to Central & South America, UK, France, Belgium, Italy, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand. Of all these countries, they believe that their favorite trip was to Ireland. They were also in Belgium on 9-11 and that was their scariest, but most warming time with Friendship Force people. The out-pouring of affection from the people in Europe could not have treated the entire group with more sympathy and love. Bob and Dee have hosted many F.F. people from around the world, way too many to mention. But one of their Ambassadors really stands out in their memories and that was the husband of the couple from East Germany. He had served in the Wehrmark during World War II. I am sure there were some very interesting conversations together enjoying free time and a glass of wine together. In conclusion Bob and Dee's wishes for our great organization would be to "Do more than travel, create relationships." How true, it could not be put any better than that. Bob and Dee, thank you both for being so active in our organization, the Friendship Force of Central Virginia, and setting a great example for us all.




TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. To what country is our club planning to have a journey in March of 2020?
2. The clubs who will host us are in what two cities?
3. On what river did a group of our members kayak?
4. What event is planned for September 28th?

Find the answers to the above questions and be the first to email Monica at: salandmonie@yahoo.com for a prize.

Member News




**Happy
Birthday!**

Joanne Harris	9/1
Mary Till	9/6
Henry Haefele	9/7
Susan Roberts	9/7
Laura Keeton	9/17
Robert Harris	9/20
Peggy Colville	9/27
Patricia Sclater	10/3
Mary Ann Doucette	10/5
Joyce Spitler	10/5
Deborah Winslow	10/22

Copies of the Ambassador Newsletter are available on our Web site, www.friendshipforcecv.org

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



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Alan and Willow Drinkwater	10/6
Barry and Mary Ann Doucette	10/29

Did we miss your special day?

*Let Peggy Colville know so we can update our records
434-589-2844 peggy-smith1@hotmail.com*

**Friendship Force of Central Virginia
2019 Membership/Renewal**



**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

County*: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone (land line): _____

**Note: in city = C'ville; else Albemarle, Fluvanna, etc.*

Cell: _____ Preferred Badge Name: _____ New Member Sponsor _____

For Family Application: Partner's Name: _____ Email: _____

Partner's Cell: _____ Preferred Badge Name: _____

We like to recognize our members on their special days if you choose (month and day only, we overlook 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 of 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.friendshipforcecv.org. If you don't have access to the Web, please contact a member for information about 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 2019. (Partners do separately when your interests diverge). **Do you want to:**

Exchange Activities

<input type="checkbox"/>	Go on an Outbound Journey
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outbound Journey Planning Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Journey Planning Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Journey Home Host
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Journey Day Host
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Journey Small Dinner Host

Other Club Work and Activities

<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on Communications/Publicity Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on Fund Raising Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on Event Planning Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on Membership Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Community Activities and Service

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsor a JAG student
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work on a Community Outreach Project

Annual Dues: \$30 per member. Please include a check made out to **FFCV with your application**. Please submit application/renewal and dues to membership chair, Peggy Colville, 315 Village Blvd. Palmyra, VA 22963.

Show Your Club Logo with Custom Merchandise



Embroidery

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.gbstores.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 your orders.

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.queensboro.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.



Embroidery