



friendship force

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

Officers/Directors	Committee Chairs
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<i>Secretary..... Joanne Harris</i>	<i>Journeys..... Deb Winslow/ Susan Roberts</i>
<i>Directors..... Peggy Birdsall, Dave Burns, Al Colville, Peggy Colville, Deb Winslow</i> <i>Communications..... Sally Zabransky</i>	<i>Membership..... Monica Notaro</i> <i>Outreach..... Carol Donahue</i> <i>Webmasters..... Al Colville and Dave Zabransky</i>

MARCH/APRIL 2020

President's Message

Patty Sclater

Well into 2020, and our club has been busy. We've made a virtual trip to Russia, and as you read this, 13 intrepid club members are visiting Brazil. It will be the first Friendship Force trip for six of them. I look forward to hearing all about their experiences in the near future.

I guess you could call me a travelogue junkie. I enjoy reminiscing when watching presentations on places I've been as well as learning about places I hope to someday visit or ones I realistically know I'll only visit vicariously.

Learning through others' experiences is a way for me to broaden my horizons, dispel false assumptions and

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break down cultural barriers. Will I visit every country on my bucket list? Probably not, particularly as I'm always adding to it. But I can learn about all of them, their culture and their people. And, to me, that's what Friendship Force is all about.

Membership

Monica Notaro, Chair

Congratulations to Peggy Birdsall who was the winner of the membership contest.

Walt O'Connell will be placing an order for metal name badges around March 26th. If you are interested in purchasing a metal name badge, please send Walt (walt.oconnell@gmail.com) a notice with how you would like your name printed and that type of clip (magnet, alligator, pin) you would like. The cost will be \$10 plus shipping (the more name tags ordered, the lower the shipping cost). Payment will be due upon delivery.

If you would like a paper name tag in a plastic holder, the cost will be \$1.

Fund Raising

Dave Zabransky, Chair

At its March meeting, the Board approved donating the \$500 raised through last year's fund-raising efforts to Doctors Without Borders.

We will notify you of events and seek volunteers once events are scheduled.

Journey Committee

Deb Winslow, Co-chair

Outbounds 2020:

International: Probably when you receive this we will be on our trip to Brazil. We start with a tour of the Iguaza Falls from both the Argentina and Brazil side. Then off to our first journey in Campinas on March 18 for a week, then onto Blumenau for an additional week. We will finalize our trip with a visit to Rio de Janeiro / Paraty.

Harrisburg, PA: We are invited to do a reciprocal visit in May. Please see Al & Peggy Colville's article with all the details.

Inbound 2020:

Penticton - Okanagan: We are expecting folks from British Columbia October 7 - 14. They will arrive at Charlottesville Airport on Oct 7th, leave on the 14th via train to Philadelphia.

Journey to Harrisburg

Update

Submitted by Al & Peggy Colville

We hope that you can join us. In April of 2018 we had an Inbound Journey from the Greater Harrisburg Friendship Force Club (FFGH). Many of our members enjoyed hosting them while they visited the Presidential Highlights that we have to offer in our area. Now they want to return the favor and have us join them for a brief three-day Journey to their area at the end of May (May 28 – June 1).

Highlights of this visit include:

A day at Hershey Chocolate World and the Pennsylvania State Capitol

A flex day with multiple interesting options

A day at Gettysburg including the Cyclorama

Also included are a Wine and Cheese Welcome Event and a Potluck Wine and Cheese Farewell Party. The overall fee for this Journey is \$210 per person, \$60 for FFI and \$150 for the Greater Harrisburg Club for their expenses.

While FFGH can only accommodate 12 Ambassadors on this visit, there still are several openings available so we have recently opened up this Journey to other Friendship Force Clubs in the area. We have, however, met the minimum requirement. If you have any interest in filling any of the available openings, you need to let us know as soon as possible by clicking on the link below to our Doodle Poll:

<https://doodle.com/poll/ue258dxdx8yy4257>

JAG School

Bing Spittler, Co-Chair

On March 7th, I joined Larry Moore and students of the JAG School on a day trip to Washington, D.C.

As a licensed DC tour guide, I was able to help provide information regarding a number of local sites in Washington including: Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, Congress, the Supreme Court, the White House, and a number of memorials. The Washington Tour is a part of the JAG training for International Students.

Just a reminder to mark your calendar for May 28, 2020. That is the date for our graduate students' graduation.

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.

Events Committee in Action

Laura Keeton, Chair

I do hope many of you were able to attend the February meeting with Patty sharing her experience in Russia while sipping Russian tea and eating Russian tea cakes. My understanding is that several individuals shared their stories as well. Since we are a friendship and travel group, I'm sure there was keen interest in sharing the travel experiences.

We will not have an event in March since many will be on an outbound journey to Brazil. (Hopefully the coronavirus will be behind us by then.)

Mark your calendars for the April event to the Schuyler Quarry Gardens. I have been many times and can assure you it is well worth a visit. We will meet at Tavern on the James at 1:00 for lunch on Sunday, April 19 and then proceed to the gardens. We will be met by Bernice and Armand Thieblot, the owners, for a slide presentation and guided tour of the gardens. It is approximately a 1-mile hike around the 3 quarries. Even if you don't want to make the walk, you will enjoy their slides and historical presentation. You can then either leave or wait for the group at a beautiful overlook. I will be sending out a doodle poll so that I can get the count for lunch reservations and so that the Thieblots will be prepared.

Happy traveling and friending.

February FFCV Membership Meeting

Russian FFI Trip

Submitted by Peggy Colville

Thanks to all the members who came out to the February Membership Meeting. It was a full house including several prospective members, one couple who joined and one or two other people who took home applications.



The meeting started with our very own Patty Sclater talking about her trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia in 2018. This is a trip Patty had wanted to take for some time, ever since she took Russian history in college. Much to our surprise, Patty welcomed everyone in Russian as she began her presentation.

After the welcome, she quoted “Russia is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma” a famous quote by Winston Churchill. She began her presentation with many slides displaying some beautiful artwork and some of Russian architecture. I, for one, was really impressed on her memory of each building, artist and her over all acknowledge of the cities.

What a host she had there, she could not have been more accommodating. Not only did her host provide Patty with her favorite vegetarian meals, she also took note of the fact that Patty’s ankles were swelling from all the walking she was doing during the day, so she gave Patty compression socks to help with her health problem, last but not least, she made sure Patty was always on time for her daily activities. She was a very busy lady. Early morning excursions to late in the evening activities (very long days).

Even though Patty had studied Russian in college, she was very thankful for Google Translation through her iPhone to carry on conversation with her host and guides. She admitted that she is not so naïve to think her experience was universal and relayed the story of a friend who went to Moscow and St. Petersburg several weeks after her trip. The friend was followed by two “thugs” each of her days in Moscow and, when she left the city, all her pictures disappeared from her iPhone – scary.

Refreshments at the meeting included delicious Russian teacakes made by Laura Keeton and Russian tea prepared by Patty.

After the break there were many questions for Patty and other members shared their experiences in Russia. Attendees perused books and tchotchkes provided by Patty and Laura and checked out a Russian military jacket Dave Burns brought. Would Patty go again? – “in a heartbeat!”
Thanks Patty what a wonderful presentation.



FFCV CALENDAR FOR 2020

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER (if applicable)	LOCATION	COORDINATOR
JANUARY	19	3:00 PM	SOUP/SALAD KICKOFF	BOARD	NAHOR VILLAGE CLUBHOUSE	LAURA KEETON
FEBRUARY	23	3:00 PM	RUSSIAN FFI TRIP PRESENTATION	PATTY SCLATER	NAHOR VILLAGE CLUBHOUSE	PATTY SCLATER
MARCH	14 - April 5		OUTBOUND TO BRAZIL			DEB WINSLOW
APRIL	19	1:00 PM	LUNCH AT TAVERN ON THE JAMES, THEN QUARRY GARDEN TOUR	BERNICE THIEBLOT	SCOTTSVILLE, SCHUYLER	LAURA KEETON
MAY	28 - June 1		OUTBOUND TO HARRISBURG, PA (reciprocal journey)			AL AND PEGGY COLVILLE
JUNE	13		D-DAY MEMORIAL, BEDFORD		BEDFORD	LAURA KEETON
JULY	19	3:00 PM	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY TBD		NAHOR VILLAGE CLUBHOUSE	PEGGY BIRDSALL
AUGUST	TBD	TBD	THEATER TRIP			PEGGY COLVILLE
SEPTEMBER	TBD		JAG PICNIC	JAG STUDENT(S)	TBD	LINDA BURNS
OCTOBER	7-14		INBOUND FROM PENTICTON-OKANAGAN, CANADA			
NOVEMBER	TBD	TBD	SPEAKER FROM POLAND	SLAWEK WITKOWSKI	NAHOR VILLAGE CLUBHOUSE	LAURA KEETON
DECEMBER	20	3:00 PM	CHRISTMAS PARTY		KEETON HOME	LAURA KEETON

FFCV – FRIENDSHIP FORCE CENTRAL VIRGINIA


FFI – FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL

JAG – JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

TBD – TO BE DETERMINED

BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT NAHOR VILLAGE CLUBHOUSE (2-3:30 PM DURING EASTERN STANDARD TIME; 3-4:30 PM DURING DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME). ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Member News




Happy Birthday!

David Burns	3/11
Barry Doucette	3/12
Patricia MacNicoll	3/21
Linda Burns	3/25
Pam Hokanson	3/29
Sally Zabransky	4/4
David Winer	4/15
Patsy O'Connell	4/24
Barbara Drinkwater	4/26
Paul Hokanson	4/27


Copies of the Ambassador Newsletter are available on our website: www.friendshipforcecv.org

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



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Walt and Patsy O'Connell	3/14
Al and Peggy Colville	3/17
Laura and Bob Keeton	3/20



Welcome New Members

Lucy Burnette
 Jean Chapman
 Josh Hung
 Donald MacNicoll
 Patricia MacNicoll
 Kathy Stacy
 Susan Sutherling

Did we miss your special day?

Let Monica Notaro know so we can update our records
 608-358-0352 or salandmonie@yahoo.com

Club Merchandise



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://ffc.v.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 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.





*Friendship Force of Central Virginia
2020 Membership/Renewal*

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

County*: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone(landline): _____

**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 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 2020. (Partners do separately when your interests diverge). **Do you want to:**

Exchange Activities

	Go on an Outbound Journey
	Outbound Journey Planning Committee
	Inbound Journey Planning Committee
	Inbound Journey Home Host
	Inbound Journey Day Host
	Inbound Journey Small Dinner Party Host

Other Club Work and Activities

	Serve on Communications/Publicity
	Serve on Fund Raising including Fridays After Five
	Serve on Member Meeting Organizing
	Serve on Event Planning and Organizing
	Serve on Membership Committee

Community Activities and Service

	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_MiddleEast_Africa____South Pacific_USA_____

Annual Dues: \$35 per member. Please include a check made out to **FFCV with your application**. Please submit application/renewal and dues to membership chair, Monica Notaro, 22 Fairwood Place, Palmyra, VA 22963