



friendship force
CENTRAL VIRGINIA
Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

March 2023

President's Message

Your board has been quite busy, as evidenced by the club calendar elsewhere in this newsletter. We're planning a combination of meetings with speakers, activities, travel and, of course, lots of good food. All kidding aside, we aspire to provide members with chances to become familiar with and appreciate cultural differences.

Deb Winslow will share information on two journeys, one incoming and one outgoing, in this newsletter. The former offers numerous opportunities to interact with Ambassadors from elsewhere in this country. The latter enables journey participants to immerse themselves into the culture of the country visited. And Deb always arranges for us to experience independent excursions in addition to the homestays. This year's is particularly exciting!

There are a few activities for which details have not yet been hammered out. As these are finalized, you will receive emails from the event facilitator. Look over the calendar and see if there are activities you would like to help plan or host. Thank you in advance.

In friendship,

Patty Sclater, President

MEMBERSHIP

January FFCV Membership Meeting

WOW – what a great turnout! Thank goodness for Mary Ann Doucette taking over the attendance list and checking off members and guests. With expected 14 attendees and, with 24 actually showing up, she could not have been more helpful to me in getting us started off for a wonderful time together. Thanks also to Susan Roberts, who brought Linda Breslau as her guest. Linda became one more FFCV Member after the meeting.

We had a short business meeting with Patty Sclater, our President, welcoming everyone and giving a few reports. Afterwards, I took the floor and really made a mistake in introducing new members. I should never start acknowledging people without first making a list. By not doing so, I totally forgot Vicki and Mike Argie, new to our club, and Dale Walden, a returning past member. So sorry to the three of you.

Deborah Winslow did a wonderful job in her PowerPoint presentation of the club's trip to the cities of Prague, Vienna and Budapest. It was nice hearing from LeRoy and Helen-Ida Moyer and David Lea, who also went on this exchange, on some of their experiences. I was sorry to have had to cut Deb short before finishing her presentation since we only had a short amount of time left before having to give up the room.

Thanks to all, it was a great meeting.

Mystery Dinner on the Rise

Bringing back an "Oldy but Goody." We touched on it at the January membership meeting but let me try to explain it here with a bit more detail. It is known as a "Mystery Dinner" and it will take place on Saturday, March 25th.

Host duties - provide a dining area for themselves and four guests, entrée and beverages for the meal. The host will decide what time the four guests should arrive. (Food for thought – the host can be two singles working together hosting in one of their homes or a couple.)

Guest duties - provide two vegetables or bread and dessert. It is always nice to provide an extra bottle of wine for the evening, but optional. They should also indicate any special dietary needs that they have (i.e., gluten-free, vegetarian, etc.)

After I sort out the hosts and guests, I will start calling the guests to ask what they would like to bring and tell them what time they are to arrive. The day before the event, I will call each guest with the address of their host.

The Mystery - The host will not know who will be coming nor what dishes will be provided for dinner. The guest will not know who they will be eating with, and in most cases, what the entrée will be.

The beauty of the evening is - it provides an evening of conversation among a small gathering over food and drinks. It has, in the past, provided great friendships among our members. I hope each of you will consider it, and if I can answer other questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Name Badges

Name Badges have been ordered and expected to arrive by the end of February. I will try to always have them with me, so I can get them to you at any of the upcoming events.

Peggy S. Colville, Chair, Membership Committee

Upcoming Exchanges

Outbound 2023

International: We are in the final planning stages for our trip to Africa. We will start out with a northern Tanzania Safari on October 8, then off to Iringa, Tanzania for a seven-night homestay. We will then fly on to Cape Town, South Africa for an additional seven-night homestay. There is a possibility of a short stay on Zanzibar Island prior to our safari.

Inbound 2023:

Domestic: We are expecting a visit, which was postponed from 2022, from the Western Montana Club on May 9 for seven nights. Anyone interested in helping to plan for the visit or would like to be either a home host or day host, please let me know.

Deb Winslow, Chair, Journey Committee

JAG School International Students



JAG Student, Major Chen Schmallo Mantzur and her husband Chananya Mantzur, welcomed Eitan (Ethan) Mantzur, on February 10, 2023. He was born at 11 a.m. at Martha Jefferson Hospital and weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 oz.

This is one of the joys of sponsoring a JAG student while they are here. Upcoming, for the three-month short course are three more students that need sponsors. The new

students are from Japan, Jordon and Nigeria. If you would like to join in the fun, please contact Bing Spittler as soon as possible.



Fundraising

Our group has been asked to serve at the Pavilion on the downtown mall at the following events this spring and summer:

- Saturday, April 15, 2023 -- UVA Hip Hop Concert -- serve at soda carts -- four volunteers
- Friday, May 19, 2023 -- Fridays After Five -- check ID's -- eight volunteers
- Friday, June 30, 2023 -- Fridays After Five -- draft beer truck -- six volunteers
- Friday, August 11, 2023 -- Fridays After Five -- bottled beer carts -- four volunteers

Please consider serving at some of these events, as it will raise funds for our club to give to worthy groups. Last year, our club donated \$500 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC). We are now paid \$12/hour per person working and a little more for the ticketed events, such as the concert on April 15. We can also bring two extra volunteers to each event to give each volunteer a break (and make more money for our group!)

Let me know as soon as possible if you can commit to some of these events, especially the one on April 15, so I can report to the coordinator that we can serve then for sure.

Linda Gehle Chair, Fundraising Committee

Birthdays

Judith Lesiak	Jan 15	Steve Cooley	Aug 13	Joyce Spitler	Oct 05
Helen Ida Moyer	Jan 31	Linda Gehle	Aug 27	Deb Winslow	Oct 22
Peggy Birdsall	Feb 24	Vicki Argie	Aug 31	David Lea	Nov 02
Barry Doucette	Mar 12	Susan Sutherling	Sep 04	Michael Argie	Nov 04
Alan Drinkwater	Mar 19	Henry Haefele	Sep 07	Dale Walden	Nov 15
Peggy Birdsall	Mar 24	Susan Roberts	Sep 07	Tom Baugh	Dec 10
Pam Hokanson	Mar 29	Bob Harris	Sep 20	Vicki Argie	Dec 26
Willow Drinkwater	Apr 26	Lita Flowers	Sep 21	Michael Argie	Dec 26
Paul Hokanson	Apr 27	Peggy Colville	Sep 27	Carol Donohue	Dec 26
Al Colville	Jun 16	Patty Sclater	Oct 03	Bing Spitler	Dec 30
Josh Hung	Jul 07	Mary Ann Doucette	Oct 05		
LeRoy Moyer	Jul 07				

Anniversaries

Al and Peggy Colville	Mar 17	Mary Ann & Barry Doucette	Oct 29
Pam and Paul Hokanson	Jun 12	Vicki and Mike Argie	Dec 06
LeRoy and Helen Ida Moyer	Aug 03	Bing & Joyce Spitler	Dec 27
Willow & Alan Drinkwater	Oct 06		

FRIENDSHIP FORCE CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Q & A's

Q: I like the concept of breaking down cultural barriers, but international travel is not of interest to me right now. Does this keep me from becoming a member?

A: Absolutely not! There are many ways you can participate in club activities.

Q: What are some of these roles?

A: Here's a partial list.

- Day Host for an incoming Ambassador or two (pick up the Ambassador at the Home Host's house and accompany them on that day's scheduled activity, such as visiting Monticello, Luray Caverns, etc.)
- Host a small (6-8 *people*) dinner party for a visiting Ambassador or two and their Home Host(s)
- Home Host (house a visiting Ambassador or two in your home for the duration of their stay)
- Participate in a fundraising activity (serving beer at *Friday's After Five* concerts)
- Host a member's *Mystery Meal* for six to eight FFCV club members
- Coordinate a club activity or facilitate a member meeting (summer picnic, procure a speaker, etc.)
- Sponsor an international Judge Advocate General's (JAG) student (three or nine months)
- Host the annual catered holiday party

Q: Does the chapter ever travel domestically?

A: Definitely! We visit other US clubs, in addition to international trips.

Q: Are there committees that I could serve on to ease into membership participation?

A: We could not accomplish nearly what we do without volunteers to help on the various committees. A few include:

- Events Planning
- JAG School Picnic Planning
- Incoming Journeys Activities Planning

Feel free to approach any of the club officers or member further details

FFCV Calendar for 2023

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER/PROGRAM (if applicable)	LOCATION	OPEN TO	COORDINATOR
January	21	2:00	Membership Meeting	Deb Winslow/Vienna, Budapest, Prague Travels	The Independence	Club Members, Guests	Peggy Colville
March	25	Lunch	Mystery Lunches		Host Members' Homes	Club Members	Peggy Colville
April	22	2:00	Membership Meeting	Christine Hohlbaum/ Thailand, Laos Travels	Nahor Clubhouse	Club Members, Guests	Willow Drinkwater
May	TBD		Incoming Journey, Western Montana Club	Various Events	Various	Club Members	Deb Winslow
June							
July							
August	TBD	TBD	Membership Picnic		Gordonsville	Club Members	Willow Drinkwater
September	4	Mid-day	JAG Picnic		TBD	JAG Students, Sponsors	Bing Spitler
October	10/08 - 11/1		Outgoing Journey		Iringa, Tanzania; Cape Town, South Africa	Club Members	Deb Winslow
November	TBD	Mid-Day	"Friendsgiving" Meal		TBD	JAG Students, Club Members	TBD
December	TBD	TBD	Holiday/Christmas Party		TBD	JAG Students, Club Members	TBD