



# friendship force

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

# The Ambassador

## May 2023

### President's Message

Spring's Greetings! As I write this, the rhododendrons and peonies are putting on quite a show here this year. Of course, other regions of this country and other countries offer nature's beauty, as well.

Christine Hohlbaum's April presentation on her travels through Thailand and Laos was both entertaining and informative. Christine, who lives in Germany, also responded to questions on that county's role in supporting Ukraine.

Wonder why we sponsor international JAG students, and what does "sponsor" mean? Our May meeting speaker will be Colonel Tanya Blackwell. Dean of the JAG School, she will discuss why it hosts international legal military students, differences in cultures and the relationship between FFCV and the JAG school.

Like Dorothy, I always think, "There's no place like home." However, whenever and wherever I go, I always learn something new about the people and their culture. During our June meeting, we will view a video on why we travel and then discuss insights gained through our wanderings.

In friendship,

*Patty Sclater,*

President - [patriciafromva@gmail.com](mailto:patriciafromva@gmail.com) – (434) 981-8963

### FUNDRAISING

Tom Baughn, Lita Flowers, and new member, Vicky Aries volunteered to sell sodas and water at a Hip Hop concert, free to all UVA students, on Saturday, April 15th. It was a young, happy crowd! We were there from 5:45 PM to around 10:00 PM and earned funds for our club at \$12/hour per person.

The next volunteer opportunity is at Fridays After Five on May 19<sup>th</sup>, when we are scheduled to check ID's. So far five (5) people have volunteered to help: Deb, Lita, Dale, Tom and me. We need three (3) more volunteers, so please consider doing so. It's a festive experience on Friday nights with free, live music and a great chance to make money for our club!

*Linda Gehle,*

Chair, Fundraising - [lgehle@yahoo.com](mailto:lgehle@yahoo.com) - (434) 964-1671 (home) – (703) 944-6912 (cell)

## UPCOMING TRAVEL

### Outbound 2023:

**International:** We are off to Africa in October. A few of us will visit the island of Zanzibar. Then we will do a northern Tanzania Safari. The, it's off to Iringa, Tanzania for a seven-day home stay. We will then fly on to Cape Town, South Africa for an additional six-day home stay.

### Inbound 2023:

- **Domestic:** Our domestic inbound from Montana was postponed to 2024.

### Outbound 2024:

- **International:** We received our match for 2024, We will be doing a two-week Journey to Peru - Lima and Northern Peru.
- **Domestic:** We will be receiving the club from Montana that was postponed from 2023.

*Deb Winslow*

Chair, Journey Committee - [da.winslow@gmail.com](mailto:da.winslow@gmail.com) – (434) 825-5502

### April Membership Meeting

For those of you who did not make it to the April Membership meeting, you really missed out on a wonderful speaker and great treats. Christine Hohlbaum, Willow Drinkwater's daughter, talked to us about her travels to Thailand and Laos this past winter and the effects of the Ukraine War. It was an excellent presentation. She showed slides on her trip throughout those very interesting countries, which were amazing. There were many questions, and she handled each one with her knowledge of the country.



Willow and her Daughter Christine at the April Membership Meeting

Linda Gehle also added some remarks pertaining to her Friendship Force trip to that area, and that added so much to the meeting. Willow and Christine also provided for all of us treats from those countries. The good eats brought the meeting to a close. Vicki Argie won the door prize, which was none other than Christine's book entitled Power of Slow. Thanks to Willow and Alan for sharing Christine with us.

Please mark your calendars for May 20th Membership meeting at the JAG school. Colonel Tonya Blackwell, Dean of the school will be our speaker.

*Peggy Colville*

*Membership Chairperson*

[peggysmith1@hotmail.com](mailto:peggysmith1@hotmail.com) - (434) 589-2844 (Home) – (434) 989-8665 (Cell)

### **Mystery Dinner**

First, let me thank the hosts once again for stepping up and making our Annual Mystery Dinner a great success. Just about everyone in the club participated one way or the other either as host or guest. We had a few who had to drop out at the last minute. But I must say our hosts adjusted very well with the change in numbers for dinner. It was too late to move people around, so the guest were not as even as I had hope they would be. They really took on one of my favorite quotes for FFCV – “you sometimes have to bend with the wind”.



I only have pictures from two of our dinner parties – One from Deborah Winslow house where Leroy and Helen Ida Moyer and Al and myself attended. What a spread.

The other two are from Patricia Sclater's dinner party. If you look closely, you will see she even had a “butler” all dressed up for the evening. She hosted Peggy Birdsall, Carol Donohue, Steve Cooley, Pam and Paul Hokanson.

Sorry the other two dinner parties were having so much fun they forgot to take pictures. Tom Baughn and Linda Gehle co-hosted Willow and Alan Drinkwater and Willow said it was such a lovely evening getting to know a little more about Tom and Linda.

Then Judith Lesiak and Susan Sutherling co-hosted Susan Roberts, Linda Breslau and Dale Walden.

All in all, everyone I heard back from had a wonderful time and would like to see our club continue to have this event in the future.

*Peggy Colville*

*Membership Chairperson*

[peggysmith1@hotmail.com](mailto:peggysmith1@hotmail.com) - (434) 589-2844 (Home) – (434) 989-8665 (Cell)

## JAG SCHOOL

### Graduations

International students from Jordan, Nigeria and Japan graduated from the 219<sup>th</sup> OBC three-month course on May 9, 2023.

Upcoming are graduation ceremonies for the 71st ten-month Graduate course. Students hailed from Israel, Czech Republic, Iraq, Japan, Korea and Mexico. Reserved seating and parking passes will be provided upon receipt of sponsors' attendance confirmation.

### New Students

On Tuesday, May 23, 2023 three international students will arrive for the 220<sup>th</sup> OBC three-month course. They are from Zambia, Mongolia and Indonesia. We will need FFCV sponsors for these students.

*Bing Spitler*

*JAG School Liaison Chair*

[bspitler@spitlergroup.com](mailto:bspitler@spitlergroup.com) – (434) 207-3023 (Home) – (513) 382-7675 (Cell)

### 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 Sutherland	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 Mover	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		

## 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	20	2:00	FFCV and JAG School Relationship	Dean Tanya Blackwell	JAG School	Club Members	Patty Sclater
June	24	2:00	Breaking Down Cultural Barriers through Travel	Video and Discussion	TBD	Club Members, Guests	Patty Sclater
July			Summer Break – No Program				
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 – 10/27		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