



friendship force
CENTRAL VIRGINIA
Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

July 2023

President's Message

Can you believe the year is half over? The club has been busy, with activities most months; the next six months will be equally eventful. After a break in July, we're back to an old favorite – the summer picnic. Willow and Alan Drinkwater will host FFCV members and their guests/potential new members as well as the three-month JAG students on their farm on August 12th. The club will provide the entrée; guests will bring a salad, side dish or dessert and swimwear to take a dip in the swimming pool, if desired.

September brings the annual picnic for international JAG students and their sponsors. Bing Spitler takes the students and interested sponsors on a boat trip around Lake Monticello. This event alone is a great incentive to be a JAG sponsor.

In October, five FFCV members and four individuals from other clubs in the US and India will participate in two one-week journeys in Africa. Club members in Iringa, Tanzania and Cape Town, South Africa will introduce us to their cultures. See Deb Winslow's article on upcoming journeys for additional information.

Last year's "Friendsgiving" meal was so successful, we're having it again. And December brings the annual Holiday Party. We can always use help in planning and hosting these events. Please let me know, if you are interested in helping.

In friendship,

Patty

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FF Summer Picnic

Save the date of August 12 so that you can attend the summer picnic at Willow and Alan Drinkwater's home. The pool will be open, and all the JAG students will be attending.

Fundraising Report

At Fridays After Five, there were five members volunteering to check ID's: Lita, Deb, Judy, Tom and me (we were short three people) There was a wonderful local R and B band playing -- I loved their music -- and a happy crowd! Thank you, again, to those volunteers who are earning money for our club to donate to a worthy organization at the end of the year.

Our next opportunity to volunteer is this-coming Friday, June 30, again at the Fridays After Five event. We will serve beer at a draft truck. So far there are six volunteers: Dale, Al, Peggy, Lita, Tom and me. We need two more to meet the request and could even have an additional two to give everyone a break.

Please consider donating your time and effort to help!

Linda Gehle
Chair, Fundraising Committee
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703-944-6912 (call or text)

Upcoming Exchanges

Outbound 2023:

International: We are off to Africa in October. A few of us will visit the island of Zanzibar, followed by a northern Tanzania Safari. Then, it's off to Iringa, Tanzania for a seven-night home stay. We will then fly onto Cape Town, South Africa for an additional six-night 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. We are awaiting to hear from our hosts about dates. We are hoping to go in June, 2024 during the dry season and before the tourist season begins.

Domestic: We will be receiving the club from Montana that was postponed from 2023. We will determine the dates for their visit when we firm up the dates for our Outbound to Peru.

Deb Winslow
Chair, Journey Committee
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Membership Meeting

Our June meeting focused on "Breaking Down Cultural Barriers through Travel." After viewing Rick Steves' video, "Why We Travel," attendees discussed the topic, sharing meaningful experiences as well as humorous anecdotes. Attendees brought a variety of munchies reminiscent of favorite travel locations, from Maine blueberries to Aussie bites. We had three guests join us at the meeting.

JAG Graduation

Hope you enjoy the pictures we took during and after the UVA Judge Advocate General Graduation. It is always a pleasure to attend this occasion and hear from the international students. Each of the International students gave a little talk, and each one mentioned how great the Friendship Force experience was for them. Of course, Larry Moore had a section reserved in the front for us, so we could all sit together; that was special as well.

After the graduation ceremony we went to the Sedona Tap House for lunch. It was so nice to have additional time to talk and wish them safe journeys on their way back home. If you have never attended one of these ceremonies, you really should try next time around. It is always so uplifting and makes you feel so glad to have had the experience and opportunity to sponsor one of these students.

Peggy Colville
Chair, Membership Committee
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FFCV international student sponsors: From left, front row: Dale Walden, Patty Sclater, Steve Cooley Larry Moore (our liaison with the JAG School). Back row: Alan and Willow Drinkwater, Peggy and Al Colville



Above, left: Graduates hailing from the Czech Republic, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Israel, and Iraq being addressed by Dean Tonya Blackwell.



Above right: The student from Japan addressing the attendees. He, like the other students, expressed gratitude for our club's support of them.



Our Israeli student, left, had a baby while here. Students and some family members as well as sponsors enjoying a meal at the Sedona Taphouse after the graduation ceremony.

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 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/Prospective Members	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	Nahor Clubhouse	Club Members, Guests/Prospective Members	Patty Sclater
July			Summer Break – No Program				
August	12	12:30 – 4:00	Membership Picnic		Gordonsville	Club Members, Guests/Prospective Members, JAG students	Willow Drinkwater
September	4	Mid-day	JAG Picnic		TBD	JAG Students, Sponsors	Bing Spitler
October	10/08 – 10/28		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