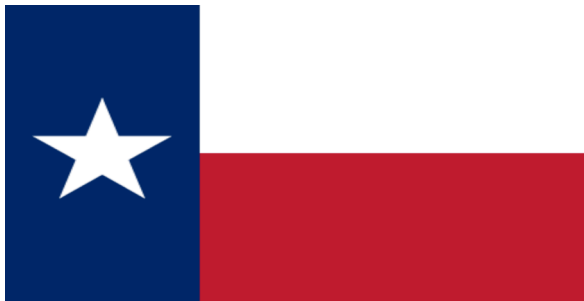




Minnesota Ambassador

Evelyn Pallas has taken on the role of Exchange Director for the Austin, Texas exchange that is planned for February 11-17, 2015. A day trip to San Antonio is also being planned as part of this exchange.

Thirteen FF-MN/TC members are planning to join this exchange and this includes one member from the Las Vegas FF club.



Austin Texas Exchange February 11-17, 2015

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+ Breaking News...

Let's Go Down Under:

Outgoing Exchange to Australia and New Zealand

Our club is working on an out-going exchange to Australia and New Zealand with one-week stays in each country. An optional pre or post exchange tour may be added. Because we are still in the initial planning stage, the regions/cities of these countries are not certain yet. It most likely will take place in November of 2015, just as we begin to face the cold weather and, happily, they will be well into their spring.

As of this writing, twelve members are on the list and if you think you might be interested, let me know and I'll include you on all emails going forward. There is no obligation or payment required at this time. If there isn't sufficient interest within our club, we will open this up to other clubs and also try to generate some new members. So pass the word to friends, relatives, neighbors, etc. about this exciting opportunity to visit two fascinating countries – and at a reasonable price also.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.
Barb Emer, bemer@usfamily.net or 651-787-9791

Incoming Exchange Planned with Comitán, Mexico

Our Exchange Director, Barb Emer, is working with the Milwaukee Friendship Force Club President on an incoming exchange with the Comitán Mexico Friendship Force Club. The Comitán FF club will spend a week in Milwaukee and then come to the Twin Cities for a stay with our club. The exchanges will likely occur in late June or early July of 2015.

Barb will be seeking members for a committee to begin planning for the activities of this exchange. New members are encouraged to become involved for it is a good way to meet other club members.

Look for more information on the website as it becomes available. You can also contact Barb Emer for more information at:

bemer@usfamily.net or 651-787-9791



Comitán is the fourth largest city in the Mexican state of Chiapas. It is located in the east central part of Chiapas, near the border of with Guatemala. It's population is 141,000 and is a popular tourist destination with Mexican nationals.



Election of New President

Louise Anderson was elected President of the FF-Twin Cities chapter at the Holiday Party and semi-annual meeting of December 7, 2014. Louise's first experience with the FF was in 1980 when she participated in an outgoing exchange with South Korea. Louise is married to Godfrey Peterson and they have two sons. In this photo Louise is hugging her Bichon-Poodle dog, which she rescued in 2008. Louise is a social worker working in a private practice in the field of mental health and aging.

Louise embraces the mission of FFI and prefers to view herself as a citizen of the world rather than a tourist. She also serves as the Vice President of the USA chapter of the Council of International Fellowship, a professional social work exchange program.



Jim Collins Steps Down

Collins has served as President of FF-TC for the past two years and is opening the door to new adventures. Jim has plans to travel to Seattle and Hawaii this winter. Many thanks for his dedication to FF-TC these past years.

**Changing The
Way We See
The World**

Willis
Unke

Winner of First
Annual
Don Wolter
Award

Volunteer
of the
Year



Willis and his wife, Martha at the Holiday Party. As the saying goes, “ Behind every great man there is a great woman.”



Willis Unke and Susanne Wolter.

Willis Unke Wins 1st Don Wolter Award

Willis Unke was the recipient of the first annual Don Wolter award for outstanding volunteer activities. The award was presented at the Holiday Party on December 7, 2014. President Jim Collins indicated, “Willis and Martha are always there when we need help, whether hosting or leading exchanges, or other help”. Willis has been part of a team of many willing to volunteer for incoming exchange teams and to lead outgoing exchanges.

Willis recently showed his on going commitment by his willingness to take extra guests into his home in 2014 by hosting one Turkish judge in April and hosting four guests from our Incoming Brazilian exchange in August of 2014. Additionally, Willis served

as Exchange Director for our Outgoing Exchange to Turkey in 2007.

Barb Emer reports “Willis comes through when needed. Several years ago I was on the nominating committee and was having an awful time finding a candidate for president. Someone suggested Willis and I located him in Vietnam. I hated to bother him, but when I asked him he said yes, right on the spot. This fits so well with the FF motto to serve.”

Willis is a life long learner and in 2012 he participated in a FFI Semester at Sea, a round-the-world cruise with home stays in Morocco, Ghana, and South Africa.

FFMN/TC Board of Directors

President: Louise Anderson

louisemarieanderson@yahoo.com

Home: 612-333-2713 Cell: 612-354-0927

Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary: Rita Mays

ritamnffi@yahoo.com, 612-730-5129

Treasurer: Ken Scherber

kenfargo@yahoo.com, 651-487-4001

Co-Chair of Activities:

Dagmar Runyon

651-698-7956

Donna Leak

djwleak@aol.com, 952-474-9685

Membership and Member-at-Large: Carol "Ben" Szyplinski

mnbenher@aol.com, 763-588-1158

Exchange Coordinator: Barb Emer

bemer@usfamily.net, 651-787-9791

Webmaster: Marge Runnakko

mrunnakko@gmail.com, 612-210-8417

Past President: Jim Collins

idicollins@aol.com

Cell: 612-325-6424 Home: 612-869-1587

Non-Board Positions

Sunshine Coordinator: Doreen Kloth

dskloth@earthlink.com or 952-974-9308

Photographer: Vacant

Ambassador Editor: Vacant

Serving the Cause of Peace



Election Results: Board of Directors

At the Holiday Party and membership meeting of December 7, 2014, incumbent officers re-elected to their positions included: Secretary Rita Mays, and Treasurer Ken Scherber. Barb Emer, Exchange Coordinator, Dagmar Runyan and Donna Leak, Activities Co-Directors, and Marge Runnakko, Webmaster. There was not a nomination for the position of Vice President and it remains open. Louise Anderson was elected President and Doreen Kloth agreed to volunteer as our Sunshine Coordinator.

LEO'S

LEO is an acronym for Let's Eat Out

Upcoming FFMN/TC LEO Events

When: Friday, Jan 9, 2015 meet at 10:45am

Where: American Swedish Institute, Turnblad Mansion, 2600 Park Av, Minneapolis, MN 55407 Phone: 612-871-4907

What: "Christmas by Design", ASI's Christmas Rooms Celebrate the Holiday traditions of the (5) Nordic countries-Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden in ornately decorated rooms throughout the Turnblad mansion. In addition, a sixth room has been added this year, which showcases Minnesota's local Scandinavian design. 1 hour in length.

Cost: \$11/per person for a tour guide (must have 10 people or more) DEADLINE for signing up was Dec 26, 2014. Without a tour guide, arrive by 10:45-11am and begin tour on our own at a cost of \$7/seniors, \$9 all others.

Contact: Dagmar Runyon 651-698-7956

When: Sunday, March 1, 2015 2PM

Where: History Theater, Cedar Avenue at 30 E. 10th Street, St Paul, MN 55101 Phone 651-292-4323 For More Information: www.historytheatre.com

What: "God Girl", a play about a bright and spirited Macalester College graduate who was one of the first women accepted to the Master of Divinity program at Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1975 an idealistic and determined young woman decided to change the world, starting with her ordination to ministry. She dared to break through the stain glass ceiling within the Protestant church.

Cost: 12 or more-group \$28 each, any age. Individual tickets \$36-seniors, \$38 adults.

Contact: Dagmar Runyon 651-698-7956 for group tickets by February 9, 2015. Otherwise, call History Theater (above) and secure your own tickets.

LEO: After theater performance - bring your suggestions and we will decide together.

When: Sunday, May 3, 2015 2PM

Where: History Theater, Cedar Ave at E. 10th Street, St Paul 55101 651-292-4323 For More Information: www.historytheater.com

What: "River Road Boogie: The Augie Garcia Story" A musical that blends the sounds of his Mexican heritage with rhythm and blues. The Augie Garcia Quintet found their groove at the River Road Club in Mendota. They opened for Elvis Presley in 1956 at St Paul Auditorium.

Cost: 12 or more- group-\$28 each. Individual tickets \$36/seniors, \$38/adults. To buy individual tickets call 651-292-4323

Contact: Dagmar Runyon 651-698-7956 for group tickets.

LEO: After theatre performance – bring your suggestions and we will decide together.

Doreen Kloth

Will Serve As Our Sunshine Coordinator

Sunshine light has a large psychological effect on human well being and Doreen will lighten and highlight the transitions that our members encounter over their lifetimes. Doreen has agreed to acknowledge member's hospitalizations and illnesses as well as acknowledging special awards and special recognitions that our members receive.

Please keep Doreen informed of significant events: Her contact information is:

Doreen Kloth

dkloth@earthlink.com or 952-974-9308



Special Thanks

We want to give special thanks to Gordon and Mary Elscott for hosting our Holiday Party at their party room and for assisting in the set up and clean up.

Consider Volunteering Today

Give Back to Your Community

