



# Capital Connections

Newsletter of the Friendship Force of Ottawa, Canada

June 2011 [www.friendshipforceottawa.ca](http://www.friendshipforceottawa.ca)

## FFO Board 2011

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Gail Nevraumont

VP, Exchanges  
Pierrette Benoit

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Newsletter Editor  
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## Plenty of events to get you involved!

Glancing through Capital Connections provides a glimpse of a very active club. The outbound exchanges to Budapest & Dallas were a great success as was the incoming exchange from Kauai.

Incoming exchanges from the Carolinas and Santo Angelo Brazil are in the midst of organization. One of the suggestions of the vitalization committee was to have a low cost event for each exchange so that incoming ambassadors could get to meet a good number of our members. The Kauai exchange had low priced parties and the Carolina's exchange committee is planning a pot luck for the welcome party. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities.

Plenty of social events are scheduled also. There are notes in CapCon about bridge, golf, the dinner club, walking club, friendly wanderers and art appreciation. These are ideal opportunities for newer members to get to know other members and break the ice in a club with over 170 members.

Your board is now heavily involved in setting up the exchanges for 2012. We have exchanges confirmed to Helsingborg Sweden, Causeway Coast Northern Ireland and Missoula Montana/ Lower Columbia. One of the incoming highlights will be the exchange from Nashik India, giving us an opportunity to entertain the friends we visited two years ago.

One disappointment was the inability of Gwanjou, South Korea to host us. On a few occasions, I have mentioned the difficulty that some clubs are experiencing since they haven't been able to revitalize. Gwanjou is one example. They felt that since they haven't been on an outbound exchange for eight years, they should concentrate on that item only in 2012.

We are working closely with Atlanta to line up a replacement outbound exchange for Gwanjou. We'll have more info on that at the GM. A number of members showed interest at the last GM in a possible domestic exchange. We are therefore contacting Western clubs with the goal of setting one up for 2012 – stay tuned.

Finally – how about attending the Canadian Conference in Quebec, May 16- 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012? Seems like we have a full calendar for the next year.

*Meru*

## 2011 Exchange Reports

### Past Exchanges

#### FF Ottawa to FF Dallas, April 27 to May 4, 2011

#### EXCHANGES 2011

##### Inbound 2011:

**Central NC &  
Florence, SC,  
USA**  
Sept. 22-29

**Santo Angelo,  
Brazil**  
Oct. 12-19

##### Outbound 2011:

**Lansing,  
Michigan, USA**  
Sept 6-13

**Vina Del Mar,  
Chile**  
Oct. 20-27

**Cairo, Egypt**  
Nov (on hold)

**Please provide  
feedback  
regarding any of  
these  
exchanges to  
ffopres@gmail.co  
m**

##### Christmas Party

Wed Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

Put a reminder on  
your calendar now



Fourteen Canadian ambassadors, 13 from Ottawa and Lorraine Bashforth from Lethbridge, came from four directions to meet our hosts in the Dallas Fort Worth Airport, and began an eventful week in the Texas City. Dallas is much stereotyped - some indeed saw South Fork and others the Cowboys' Stadium - and we all saw the "Grassy Knoll", but the stereotype that is absolutely true is the warmth of the folk of Dallas.

It was a full program that greeted us. There was still much missed or things that needed more time and were worth a return visit, from music to art to theatre to food. Dallas was also surprisingly green, with great efforts made to create parks and gardens - one of them, the Botanical Garden, is world class. Most of the showcases in Dallas are rooted in private endowments and major voluntary efforts, a somewhat different way of going about things. Dallas is a younger city than Ottawa, and not much bigger in population, but is at the centre of a "Metroplex" of 6.5 million souls, linked by an array of superhighways.

We spent a day in Fort Worth, the centre of cowboy culture and also quite recent. The first cattle drive from Fort Worth north was in 1867 when Ottawa was settling in as Canada's Capital.



Lunch in the YO Ranch Steakhouse.

Much of the success of the exchange was owed FFD President Edward Perez (above foreground in purple), and Dallas E.D. Mary Williams, (at right) and their busy and hospitable crew.

ED John Taylor

## Calendar 2011

### **General Meeting Dates for 2011**

Thursday June 16  
7:00 -9:30 p.m.  
Tom Brown Hall

Tuesday Sept.20  
7:00 -9:30 p.m.  
Tom Brown Hall

### **AGM**

Friday, Dec. 2,  
(Date to be  
confirmed)  
7:00 -9:30 p.m.  
Tom Brown Hall

### **Suggestions & Feedback**

Your board always  
welcomes feedback  
and suggestions.  
Contact Merv  
(ffopres@bell.net)  
or any other board  
member.

## **Kauai Exchange**

May 24 to May 31 our club welcomed twelve ambassadors - eleven of whom were from Kauai, Hawaii and one from Sacramento, California. Ottawa was at its prettiest with blossoms everywhere even some tulip beds, thanks to our cool wet spring. The ambassadors were impressed.

Thanks to our hard-working committee and hosts the week was a great success. The ambassadors expressed satisfaction with our more relaxed schedule which provided the opportunity to explore areas of personal interest.

Once again our club members demonstrated their commitment to forging friendship and understanding by participating in an exchange.

EDs Kay and John Knobel

## **Upcoming Exchanges**

### **Outgoing Lansing Michigan Exchange Update, Sept 2011**

The Lansing Exchange outbound group met for the second time on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The number of ambassadors remains at 16 and the exchange can accommodate more members. The committee members gave their reports and the preparation for the exchange is proceeding according to plan. We are having good communications with the host ED and we are looking forward to a wonderful exchange. Our hosting club has a costed activity program in place and now we are waiting to be matched with hosts. If you interested in joining us please contact Raymond & Eleanor Cote at [rj.cote@rogers.com](mailto:rj.cote@rogers.com)

EDs Raymond & Eleanor Coté

### **Incoming Central N Carolina & Florence, S Carolina, Sept 2011**

AUTUMN ADVENTURES! That's the theme chosen for our incoming exchange from North and South Carolina, September 22 to 29. We expect to welcome a total of 23 ambassadors; 13 from the Friendship Force of Central North Carolina (CNC) including one couple from Arizona who has travelled with CNC in the past, and 10 members of the Florence, South Carolina club. They will arrive by train, car and plane on September 22 in time for our welcome pot luck at St. Basil's Church Hall that evening. Mary Cajka who is organizing the pot luck will have more information and sign-up sheets at the June 16<sup>th</sup> FFO general meeting.

I'm working with a remarkable planning committee that is organizing a terrific exchange. Committee members have chosen activities which showcase some of Ottawa's highlights while allowing ambassadors to spend one day in the Ottawa Valley and another day on a car rally in Gatineau Park. As we venture into the countryside, we may see some colourful fall leaves. We expect that Ralph Cauthen and Duane Rupert, Incoming Exchange Directors, and their ambassadors will have a great

## **Responsibilities of Ambassadors**

- Do research
- Communicate with host
- Participate in all activities
- Be punctual
- Bring pictures
- Be respectful of resources
- Bring a gift
- Treat hosts to dinner
- Discuss problems with ED

## **Night Hosts**

- Communicate
- Welcome ambassadors
- Attend welcome & farewell parties
- Accompany
- Partner
- Collaborate

## **Day Hosts**

- Work as a team
- Have a vehicle
- Spend 2-3 days
- Attend events
- Collaborate

## **Dinner Hosts**

- 1 evening meal
- Team up or share preparation
- Consider traditional Canadian meal
- Collaborate

time in Ottawa and at the Farewell dinner on Sept 28. Lucy Nelms is organizing the dinner which will be held at the Hungarian Community Centre, 43 Capital Dr., Nepean.

Our committee supports the policy, made by the Board following the club's visualization exercise, to plan lower cost activities that appeal to all club members. The welcome pot luck meets this policy and the farewell dinner, which costs \$25 per person, is relatively inexpensive. Lucy Nelms will have dinner tickets for sale on June 16. You may contact Lucy if you can't be at the meeting and want to purchase a ticket.

Please attend the pot luck and the Farewell Dinner. Welcome our ambassadors to Ottawa. Bid them good luck as they prepare to leave.

ED Elizabeth Bowen

## **Outgoing Vina Del Mar, Chile Update, October 2011**

Nothing new to report at this time.

ED Frank Mayda

## **Outgoing Cairo, Egypt Exchange Update, November 21-28, 2011**

On May 5, 2011, the Cairo group of ambassadors met at the home of Pat Cianfaglione to review the situation in Egypt and the Canadian government's travel warning that is still in effect for Egypt, with the exception of major tourist destinations, such as Luxor, Aswan, and Red Sea resorts. With this advisory in effect, most Canadian travel insurance policies would be void if travel arrangements were made while it is in effect or if travel were commenced during this advisory.

A majority of ambassadors present felt that FFO should refrain from making any decision regarding the Cairo ex-change until Fall 2011. Over the summer, we will continue to assess the situation. As soon as the warning has been lifted, opportunities for group travel will be determined. At present, the Cairo exchange is no longer oversubscribed and there are still three spaces available that could be filled by FFO members.

EDs Jaap & Maria Schouten

## **VP Exchanges Report**

### **2012 EXCHANGES:**

There have been some modifications to proposed Inbound and Outbound exchanges for 2012, but the schedule is almost finalized. You will note that one Inbound and one Outbound exchange remains outstanding; as such, we are not in a position to start sign-ups for organizing committees, hosts and ambassadors until the September General Meeting.

**INBOUND:** Three Inbound Exchanges have been confirmed, and we are working with FFI for the identification of a 4<sup>th</sup> exchange.

### Responsibilities of Ambassadors

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- Bring pictures
- Be respectful of resources
- Bring a gift
- Treat hosts to dinner
- Discuss problems with ED

### Night Hosts

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- Collaborate

### MAY

Hiroshima, Japan: the situation in Japan is such that this club is not able to visit with us.

Nashik, India: will be visiting with us, tentatively May 20 - 26; as a second exchange they will be going Lethbridge Alberta .

### AUGUST:

Eastern Washington – Northern Idaho will be visiting with us.

### OCTOBER:

Florianopolis, Brazil will be visiting with us

**OUTBOUND:** Three Outbound Exchanges have been confirmed, and we are working with FFI for the identification of a 4<sup>th</sup> exchange.

### JUNE:

Bushmills, Causeway Coast: this exchange has been confirmed. This club can accept 20 ambassadors.

### JUNE:

Helsingborg, Sweden: this exchange has been confirmed. We are waiting for confirmation as to the number of ambassadors this club can accommodate

### SEPTEMBER:

Missoula-Western Montana AND Lower Columbia, USA: this double exchange has been confirmed. The Missoula-Western Montana club can accept 20 ambassadors, and the Lower Columbia club can accommodate 25 ambassadors.

### OCTOBER:

Regrettably, Gwanju, Korea cannot receive us on an exchange. We are working with FFI to identify an alternate club destination.

Pierrette Benoit, VP Exchanges

### VP Membership Report June 2011

67 singles (37%) 57 couples (63%) - 181 members as of June 1, 2011.  
2010 members - 182

We lost 17 members & gained 16. There have been 5 information sessions in 2011.

I have prepared 200 flyers that I am trying to distribute to possible sites that might result in potential members.

For anyone who wants a hard copy of the directory, please order it from Gail ASAP & I will try to have them at the June meeting. B & W - coils - about \$7 Colour - coil -about \$21.

The vitalization committee suggested that we develop a FAQ section so I will be including a few in each newsletter (see page 7). If you have any questions that you think might be useful to members, let me know.

\*\*\*\*\*

Gail Nevrumont, VP Membership

## In Memorium – Una Allen



Una, an elegant lady and our friend passed away March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 of Myelodysplasia Syndrome, a bone marrow disorder which needs to be treated frequently with blood transfusions (no relation to her 2010 open heart surgery). During her final months, when able, Una chose to continue to celebrate life as usual, enjoying the company of many good friends.

An active member of The Friendship Force, she took pleasure in the walking and bridge clubs as well as travelling. She will be remembered for hosting Friendship dinners where she served her famous Guinness Beer Stew and Irish soda bread. Una was always a welcome dinner guest, sharing her tales of travels. In her younger years when she travelled alone and saw so much of the world, she referred to herself as a 'premature (or early) flower child'. She was blessed with an extended family and a circle of friends that stretched around the globe. She cherished the arts, especially ballet and each year she looked forward to attending the Ottawa Chamber Festival. Her exceptional sense of style often led to her designing, sewing and wearing her own creations.

The last six weeks of Una's life were spent with her two nieces, Lorna and Rosie who had come from Ireland to attend to her every need which, in Una style, included daily afternoon tea served in nothing less than a china cup. They returned to Ireland with Una's remains after sprinkling ashes at several of her well loved locations around Ottawa.

## FAQs for FFO Members

If you have a question that you think might be helpful to other members, send it to Gail Nevraumont,

[ffomembership@gmail.com](mailto:ffomembership@gmail.com)

## Some FAQ's for Newer Members

### **1. How do I get on a committee?**

The easiest way is to sign up on the volunteer sheets at a GM, indicating that you would like to serve on a committee. Second step - introduce yourself to the designated ED (Exchange Director) of an incoming exchange & ask if you can serve in that capacity. Develop skills in the area that may make you more sought after as a committee member (accounting, computer booklet skills, leadership, etc).

### **2. How do I access the sub groupings (i.e. bridge, dinner party, arts?) within the club?**

Contact the club member responsible for the sub group. Their names are in the 'Capital Connections' newsletter and on our web page <http://www.friendshipforceottawa.ca/>. Their contact information is on the membership list.

### **3. What do I do as a Day Host to make it a great experience?**

Given that you have volunteered & been contacted that you are filling that role,

- try to keep the week that your group is incoming, relatively free of appointments & commitments
- attend the 'hosting' meeting & liaise with the other day hosts & the night hosts
- show up on time, ready to 'host' the ambassador for the day. (water, camera, extra jackets, sun screen, etc.)
- participate in any 'pot luck' arrangements with your group if possible
- be pleasant, accommodating, flexible

### **4. How can I increase my chances of being selected for an outgoing exchange?**

Participate in at least 2 incoming exchanges every year.  
Volunteer for odd jobs.  
Contribute to the club.

### **5. How can I get my friend to join?**

Have them contact the FFO Membership chair, either by phone or email ([ffomembership@gmail.com](mailto:ffomembership@gmail.com)). See Capital Connections or our website, <http://www.friendshipforceottawa.ca/>

### **6. What happens to the \$125 US exchange fee?**

This is what collects as operating capital for the International Friendship Force organization. They maintain the central offices in Atlanta, pay the salary of the president & several staff.

Gail Nevraumont, VP Membership

## Technical Support/Info

FFO Webmaster:  
John Nelms

FFO Website:  
[www.friendshipforceottawa.ca](http://www.friendshipforceottawa.ca)

FFI Website:  
[www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)

ED Training Coordinator:  
Pierrette Benoit

FFO Newsletter Editor:  
Donna Nicholson  
Send your text and/or pictures to: (see membership list)

Friendship Force Membership Directory

Contact Gail at [ffomembership@gmail.com](mailto:ffomembership@gmail.com) to obtain the link to view or print the most current directory.

## Social Activities

### Bridge Club– Mark your calendars

We're coming to the end of bridge for this year. As mentioned previously, I'll need your total score and best night score by **August 15<sup>th</sup>** so that I can determine a winner and have our plaque updated before the wind-up. Based on the majority feedback, next year we will be playing the same format as this year. If you are not planning on playing bridge next year please let me know. Anyone interested in joining the bridge group contact me before August 15 at (see membership list) or 613-828-0047.

This year the bridge dinner will be on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, at Capone's Restaurant, 2369 Carling Ave, cocktails at 6:00, dinner at 6:30. (reply 'yes' or 'no' to me by **August 23<sup>rd</sup>**). Each person will be ordering and paying for their own meal. Also, we will be playing bridge after dinner. I will not be collecting for prizes this year as we have enough money in the bank to cover this cost.

Lorna McKenzie Coordinator, FFO Bridge Club

### Dinner Club

This is an invitation to join the dinner clubs starting late summer. It is not a gourmet club but the dinners are oh, so good! It is a terrific way to meet and become known to other Ottawa FF members. There are four dinners (groups of 8) per year/round, ending each August. If you are hosting, you'd prepare the main course, tea and coffee. In turn, you would be responsible to the other hosts for appetizers or salad or dessert. What could be easier? Couples or singles are all welcome. Current members are asked to let me know if you plan to continue. Contact Lucy Nelms @ [613-729-6357](tel:613-729-6357) or see membership list).

Lucy Nelms

### Friendly Wanderers

Our last presentation was given by Peter Turner (and Grace Strachan) on their tours in Africa titled Airfields, Mud Huts and the Big Five. We enjoyed the talk and the amazing photos of the African wild life. Thanks again to Peter and Grace. We are always looking for people to share their worldly travel experiences with us. The next meeting will be in the fall.

Raymond Coté

### Art Appreciation

The Art Appreciation group meets at the National Gallery 5 or 6 times a year on Thursdays for excellent 1 hour tours of areas of the gallery hosted by a gallery staff member.

For next season, beginning in the fall of 2011, the original Art Appreciation group will have a cut off of 16 members. There needs to be at least 10 other interested people for a second group to form. We also need a volunteer to handle the paperwork and liaise with the gallery. A sign up sheet for the second group will be available at the June 16 GM.

**For your  
Calendar**

**Canadian  
Conference 2012**

Quebec City  
May 16-19, 2012.

There will be  
workshops and  
plenty to see and  
do in Quebec

**Walking Club**

**FFO Boardwalkers Explore the Wonders of Ottawa's Mer Bleue**



On June 9, twenty heat-resistant FFO walkers went hiking in Mer Bleue. Ignoring very high humidity, we walked to parking lot 22 from where we took the beautiful Boardwalk Trail. Observing the tundra-like vegetation of the Mer Bleue bog, it felt as if we were transported to Newfoundland's Gros Morne National Park. Afterwards, Chris Jones invited us to her home in Blackburn Hamlet for delicious snacks, drinks, and a great rum cake.

There will be no Walking Club activities during July and August. Our next outing is scheduled for September and in October we will once again hike in Gatineau Park to admire the Fall colours there. Stay tuned for detailed announcements later this summer. Creative proposals for future outings are most welcome. Please contact Maria Schouten at [see membership list](#))

Maria Schouten

**FFO ANNUAL GOLF DAY**

Get ready Golfers! Plans are being made for a duffers afternoon in July at the Irish Hills Golf Club.

Tentative date is Wednesday July 13.

I propose the same format as last year, hopefully minus the deluge. Details as soon as possible.

Rheo Brunet

General Meeting

Thursday April 14, 2011 socialize 7 p.m., meeting 7:30 p.m.

Tom Brown Hall, 141 Bayview Road, Ottawa

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

President Merv Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

- 1) Introduction of New Members & Guests:** Merv introduced new members George & Janet Steeves and guests Alain & Donna Dawson.
- 2) Approval of the Agenda: MOVED** by Carolyn Masleck. **SECONDED** by Bob Machacek that the agenda be approved. **CARRIED**
- 3) Approval of Minutes January 27, 2011: MOVED** by Carol Lundy. **SECONDED** by Jaap Schouten that the minutes be approved. **CARRIED**
- 4) Membership Report:** VP Membership, Gail Nevraumont, gave the following report:

Current membership is 177: 54 couples & 69 singles.

There are 7 New Members since Christmas 2010: Eve Elliott; Gordon & Cynthia Walker; Jan Jones; Anne Marie Sarazen; Kitty Green; Sandra Mohr.

The Directory is completed, with just one photo missing. That will be added as soon as possible.

The draft was sent to all members & the final product was uploaded to Gmail space, for any of our club to access. Those who ordered hard copies can pick them up from Ulysse or Gail at the table.

If you need help in using any of these pictures for booklets, contact Gail, who will enlist Ulysse to help.

Gail has entered the renewal forms on a data base, collected the names of the volunteers for the incoming exchanges and sent that information out to the ED's. We will be adjusting these as we get the reports back from the ED's on participation.

Gail has collected a few names for a 'membership committee' so hopes to use those offers to make the work lighter.

Richard sent out a membership list this week. There are already several corrections and changes, so another one will be sent out in a week or so.

There are address changes for: Suzanne Gumpert and Joyce Hodgins

There are new emails for: Jill Moll and the Stolariks.

There were information sessions held in Feb, Mar. The one scheduled for April was cancelled because of lack of prospects being able to make it. Gail will set up one in May and another in June.

Gail has been trying to determine the dates that people have joined FFO. She has about half the membership so far and will put it on the last membership list.

The Travel show was not available for us again this year. At a cost of \$1500 + electricity, it seems to not be a viable recruiting tool for FFO. Gail received some free tickets which she tried to get to those who had signed up to work at the show. We will need to find another similar venue to start recruiting members other than our friends.

She has tried to get notices of meetings into local papers, with some but scattered success.

There was a suggestion that FFO could have a small booth at WESTFEST. Gail will investigate.

It was suggested that there should be a list of members who leave from one year to the next.

It was reaffirmed that there is no category of "associate" member.

**5) Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Richard Hatherill presented a budget update. Revenues are down slightly as they are based on 177 members.

**Website:** Richard also reported on the developments for the new website. John Nelms was recognized for the work he has done on the website in the past. Conrad Grégoire will be the new webmaster when the new FFO website is up and running. There is a committee of members composed of Susan Aiken, Garry Bowes and John Taylor who will decide on content and format for the new website. Richard Hatherill will work as an adviser.

**6) Vitalization Committee Report:** President Merv Sullivan spoke to the report. He thanked the committee members: David Williams (leader of the visioning exercise and summarization sessions), Elizabeth Bowen, Jaap Schouten, Ian Wilson, Jackie Harris (member until February 2011) and Merv Sullivan. Merv gave a background to the Vitalization Process leading to the report. He spoke to items #3 (Vision, Mission, Goals) and to #4 (High Priority Objectives) giving the rationale for each objective. He pointed out that this was a first attempt at a Vision and Mission statement for FFO and that the current document could be modified.

Question, Answer and Comments Session included the following:

- Are there any criteria for accepting members into the club? Gail pointed out that we have tried to be very inclusive. Gail also said that in the information sessions, she tries to emphasize the negatives so people don't join with false assumptions about the club's expectations. Merv stated that the main criterion was to be involved. Vitalization statements 4.4 & 4.5 underline this. Jaap suggested that people uncomfortable with hosting in their homes should not join FFO. It was pointed out that at one time, membership was limited to 150 and no new members could be accepted before a member left the club.
- 4.4 & 4.5 (involvement in the first two years of membership) could be difficult on people still in the work force. Merv suggested that if people joining can't get involved in inbound exchanges (see mission statement #1), they should not be joining the club.
- There is a difficulty for night hosts in the work force: the club must ensure that adequate day hosting is available for ambassadors.
- Communications – ongoing updates are needed from ED's

- Lists of committees should be distributed so members know how they can contribute.
- Not all new members want to be involved in outbound exchanges.
- There is a need to mentor new members to encourage their involvement.
- The Mission Statement limited to hosting is too limiting.
- The wording of the Mission Statement would seem to eliminate the possibility of domestic exchanges.
- New members can have difficulty breaking into travel cliques.
- Although people join to meet like-minded people who want to travel, it is important to meet people in Ottawa through other activities available through the club.
- Other club activities are optional – one joins to travel.

After the Q,A,&C session, the following motion was proposed:

**MOVED** by Judy Whyte **SECONDED** by Brenda Worswick that the FFO Vitalization Committee Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED** (with two “nays”)

Merv mentioned the Quebec City Convention (2012) where Vitalization could be one of the workshops suggestions made by FFO to the organizers.

## 7) Exchanges: ED's for the 2011 exchanges gave the following reports:

### 2011: Inbound:

Global Exchange (Feb 9-16) Vic Hudon gave an animated and amusing review of this exchange where over 80 people from FFO and FARCC worked to give the ambassadors a Canadian Winter Experience.

Kauai, Hawaii (May 24- 31) Kay Knobel reported that there will be 11 ambassadors from Kauai and 6 others from California, Tanzania and Kenya. The Welcome Reception (May 25) will be at a Seniors' residence and cost \$15.00. The Farewell Banquet (\$35.00) will be May 30 and is a BYO wine evening.

Central North Carolina (Sept 22-29) ED Elizabeth Bowen reported that it will be called “Autumn Adventures”. We expect 22 ambassadors including 6 singles. She asked for more people to host due to the number of singles. The program will be ready for the June 16 GM.

Santa Angelo, Brazil (Oct 12 – 19) Carol Lundy reported that there is a communications problem, so the commitment is not yet definite. We expect 15 ambassadors. The Santa Angelo ED is under 25 years old.

### 2011: Outbound:

Dallas, Texas (April 27-May 4) ED John Taylor reported that all is in order for the 14 ambassadors.

Budapest, Hungary (April 28- May 5) ED Ralph Baker reported that there are 15 ambassadors including two new members. The Budapest members are young. Program costs are \$262.00 as Budapest is an expensive city. There is no post-exchange travel organized. The Ottawa ambassadors will be hosting their Budapest hosts on a river cruise.

Lansing, Michigan (Sept 7-14) ED Raymond Coté reported that there are 16 ambassadors, although Lansing can take 25. The costs for some specific events are up.

Vina del Mar, Chile (Oct 20-27) ED Frank Mayda reported that there are 16 ambassadors. The ED from Viña del Mar has resigned from the exchange and the club; there have been no communications. A few of the members will make a post-exchange trip to Machu Picchu.

Cairo, Egypt (November (after 20<sup>th</sup>) ED Jaap Schouten reported that there are excellent communications with Cairo and their club is enthusiastic about the FFO visit. The Foreign Affairs Travel Advisory of April 6 states that tourist sites are "warning free". There are 21 ambassadors who have signed up.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Prior to intermission, Merv stated that there is a problem with refreshments. We need two couples who can handle refreshments at GM's. A sign-up sheet is available during intermission and if no one signs up to convene refreshments, they will be dropped from the meetings.

### Intermission

#### At the Tables

GM Refreshments

Incoming Exchanges - Kauai

Central NC & Florence SC

Santa Angelo Brazil

Interest in Domestic Exchanges

Art Appreciation

Video & Audio Equipment Training

Directories

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*

**8) Exchanges 2012:** in the absence of VP Exchanges, Pierrette Benoit, Merv Sullivan presented the following proposed program for 2012:  
FFI proposals for exchanges in 2012 were reviewed by FFO Board members in February, and an e-mail sent to FFI agreeing to the exchanges. We are now waiting for the formal "It's a Match" confirmation from FFI and expect to receive this in time for our June General Meeting.

The exchange requests submitted for 2012 were as follows:

#### **OUTBOUND**

- Causeway Coast, UK – June 2012. **Confirmed**
- Missoula-W Montana & Lower Columbia, USA – September 2012. **Confirmed**
- Gwangju, Korea – October 2012

For a 4th outbound exchange, FFI is proposing a "Discover" exchange. We have indicated an interest and have provided input as to possible options. Further discussions will be taking place with FFI in the next few months. Information will be forthcoming.

#### **INBOUND**

- Hiroshima, Japan – May 2012
- Eastern Washington-Northern Idaho, USA – August 2012. **Confirmed**
- Florianopolis, Brazil – October 2012

Once a decision is made regarding a 4<sup>th</sup> outbound exchange, we may explore options for a 4<sup>th</sup> inbound exchange. We will keep you informed in this regard.

**9) Grace At Club Functions:** Merv spent some time explaining the rationale behind the Board's motion and the article in Cap Con. As a result of the Board's Policy motion of Feb 22, 2011 and the publication of the policy in Cap Con April edition (see appendix for both documents) the following motion was brought to the meeting:

**MOVED** by Michael Lundy and **SECONDED** by Bob Machacek that the Friendship Force Club of Ottawa continue to refer to God in our grace before meals at the Welcome and Farewell Dinner Parties. For private FF dinners, grace can be said or not said at the discretion of the host.

Prior to the vote, Merv accepted comments and questions from the assembly:

- 1) Michael Lundy read a statement with the rationale for his motion.
- 2) It was pointed out that as the club grew and accepted a wider range of members, grace said at club functions should be more inclusive.
- 3) A letter from Rhéal Brunet was read by Brenda Worswick rejecting the Board's policy and supporting the motion.
- 4) Speakers against the motion pointed out that what brings us together is a love of travel, not religion and we should be as inclusive as possible.  
At recruitment sessions new members would need to be informed regarding this policy in case they are opposed to the religious practice.

A motion by Doug McGregor to refer the issue back to the Board was declared out of order as questions had been called on Michael Lundy's motion.

The motion was re-read three times to make sure that the wording was clear.

The vote was held on Michael Lundy's motion. Results: 50 yeas and 8 nays. The motion **CARRIED**.

**10) Other Business:** none

**Adjournment:** **MOVED** by John Taylor **SECONDED** by Marie Thompson that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

**Next General Meeting:** Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Tom Brown Hall.