

Friendship Force of Central Arizona
Nancy Unferth
2007 E. Northview Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85020
MARCH 2024

**FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF CENTRAL
ARIZONA
2023 OFFICERS**

President Ruth Shaw (602) 920-8680
Co-Vice V.P. Larissa Marinelli (480) 272-2179
Co-Vice V.P. Mary Rubert
Secretary - Sandra Jordan (623) 9337563
Treasurer Ruth Shaw
Club Website: <http://ffcenaz.com/>

Committees
Membership, Position Open
Publicity, Bill Kram (602) 793-0478
Historian, Position Open
Newsletter, Nancy Unferth (602) 371-1165
Programs, Special Events, Pat Forsythe (623)
815-1017
Directory, Bill Kram (602) 793-0478

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Maryann Shonk 1
Jan Engbrecht 14
Pete Frazier 14

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 4, 4 Details on Page 3.
April 7 Northern Colorado inbound

Is anyone interested in ride-sharing
from the east side of the Valley? Call
me,
602-920-8680.
Ruth for Friendship Force Club



**MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends:

I do hope that March brings you warm winds to dry you out from the January and February rains. To paraphrase someone else, surely without more clarity, I recently felt this on my body working outside: "March, winter in the shade, summer in the sun."

Our club is off to a great start this year. We have three new members, and I would like to welcome them. Sue LaVacque, Laure and Robert Isaacs, and Molly Herrington. You have joined a great club with an outstanding history and mission.

Welcome again to our new members. We hope to have a short bio about each of you very soon.

Also, thanks for the membership renewals. It is appreciated. And for those of you who have not renewed, please do not leave us, your membership and friendship are important.

Our inbound journey from Mexico has been cancelled. Instead, we have an inbound in April from northern Colorado. Join us in welcoming our neighbors to the north by

Our inbound journey from Mexico has been cancelled. Instead, we have an inbound in April from northern Colorado. Join us in welcoming our neighbors to the north by joining in this journey. Hosts, day hosts, and other volunteers are needed. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter on how you can help.

Today, as I write this short message, twelve members are traveling to Florence AZ to the Greek monastery for a tour, friendship, and finishing with a Greek lunch. We will be anxious to hear about their field trip. What a lovely time of year and this sacred season to enjoy this trip. Thanks, Pat, for all your efforts.

You too can hear about the field trip at the March 4, 2024, four-by-four social gathering. Sharon Overbagh is your host. Call her, 863-370-2064 or 623-215-8638. You may email her with your “yes, I will be there,” sharonoverbagh@gmail.com

If you would like to meet up for coffee, a walk, or a talk, let me know. We can arrange a “Flash” meeting fast.

With the Irish season, spring break, spring baseball training, and Easter for some of you, I am renewed. So many Irish stories I could tell you here, but I will leave those for you to discover and we could get together for an Irish coffee or tea and share.

Let us go forth, the teller of tales, and seize whatever prey the heart longs for, and have no fear. Everything exists, everything is true, and the earth is only a little dust under our feet.” A Teller of Tales, William B. Yeats.

In friendship, Ruth

NO MEXICO, IT'S NO-T HERN COLORADO

The middle name for Friendship Force is Flexible. The airplane prices from Chiapas Mexico were too high and this April 2024 journey was cancelled.

The replacement Journey is an inbound from Northern Colorado. They will spend 4 nights in Tucson and then come to Central Arizona for 4 nights. The arrival date is April 7 in the afternoon.

April 8 a guided tour of Cowgirl Up at the Western Museum in Wickenburg is scheduled from 10-11:30. All club members are welcome. Cost is \$15.

April 9 is an all day driving tour to Sedona with stops at Montezuma's Castle, Red Rock Ranger Station, view points along the way, lunch in Sedona, a stop at Rock Springs for pie on the way home. All club members are welcome.

April 10 includes a full day at the Musical Instrument Museum with a guided tour by Chris O'Brien, Friendship Force member, from 10-11:30. All club members are welcome. \$20.

Details for a welcome gathering, small group dinners, and hosts to be finalized by March 22.

To make this inbound journey successful, we need

== HOSTS who provide a bed and breakfast for 1 or 2 guests for 4 nights, provide transportation to the events, and provide some meals. There is a form to complete to help with matching the hosts and ambassadors.

== DAY HOSTS who provide transportation for guests to assist the full time hosts.

== DINNER HOSTS who host a dinner for 6-10 people.

== FRIENDSHIP FORCE MEMBERS who want to meet and travel with our guests.

Please contact me if you want to volunteer — Nancy Mueller, Journey Coordinator 608-838-3575 or Pat Forsythe at 414-803-570

FEBRUARY 4X4 MEETUP
(things that were talked about)

AZ FFI's 4x4 was held February 4 at the home of Sue LaVacque with 25 people attending. The chocolate shoe was won by Laura Isaacs. Maggie agreed to host April's 4x4 and March's is Sharon Overbagh. We did go around the room introducing ourselves. Ruth Shaw, our president, sends out emails for us and Nancy does the newsletter.

Pat suggested a tour of the Greek Monastery in Florence in February. Bill Kram suggested the movies the Jewish Film Festival is having at Harkins on two Wednesdays starting 2/25 and 3/3.

The Mexico exchange supposed to happen in April has been cancelled and perhaps will happen next November. Nancy and the group discussed perhaps having the Tucson club come up here for three nights and our club going there for several nights in order to become better acquainted with each other.

Richard reminded us there is to be a Polish festival April 16 at one of the Catholic Churches in Phoenix.

Nancy's suggestion was that we try to get 100 new members for our club and several were pleased we have 5 new members for this year so suggested we at least try for an additional five for the next year. A good time was had by all.

Sandy Jordan secretary



I will remind members of the 4 on the 4th

March 4-4

Call Sharon Overbagh at 863 370 2064 and let her know you are coming to her house at 9534 Oak Ridge Dr Sun City on March 4th at 4pm. Bring an appetizer and a friend. The exchange in April will be discussed.

It is important for the life and vitality of our club, to see your wonderful smile at our gatherings. Plan to attend. Bring food to share and an Irish joke, if you have one.

See you there
Friendship Force
Board of Directors

TOUR OF GREEK MONESTERY

Al is pointing out 3 bars on Orthodox Greek Russian Cross



Beautiful grounds at Monastery

9 PERSONS ON THIS TOUR



Jim Trapp, Gail Mccardle, Cheryl Steven, and Gordy Birschach inside a chapel with gold and ornately carved wood imported from Greece .



Following the tour all enjoyed delicious gyro s at Mount Athos's in Florence