



friendship force
Southwest florida

Newsletter October & November 2015

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

Nov 13 General Meeting
11:00 AM
Ft Myers Library

Friday, the 13th will be your lucky day!



With a Wombat & Zoo Handler in Perth
seen the west coast of this amazing country!

Come to the Ft Myer's Library for a fast flowing travelogue of Joanne & Richard Collins' trip to Western Australia. A lot of people may have been to Australia, but *only a few* lucky ones have

Last year Joanne & Richard visited two FF clubs with the Fort Worth, Texas FF Club - the cities of Albany and Perth, Australia and then continued onto Uluru (Ayer's Rock). We have never given this presentation before and you will be the first to see it. So, come along, bring a friend and enjoy it, *mates!*

We will also have a short general meeting. *Welcome home* to our snowbird members. *We hope to see you there!*

Time is 11:00 a.m. Place is Ft Myer's Library. Check out our website for directions (Under *About Us, Our Calendar, Directions to Ft Myers Library*).

Friendship Force

Mission

To promote global understanding across barriers that separate people

Values

Mutual Respect Cultural Diversity Cultural Exploration Service

Tell Your Friends

Your friends and the public are always welcome at our meetings. Keep your friends informed about our happenings by forwarding this newsletter to them.

Elected Board (voting members)

President

Joanne Collins

1st VP

Dennis Yemma

2nd VP

Recap of All Florida Conference

What a wonderful club turn-out!



A full house for the All Florida Conference - 64 participants!

Twenty-six of us outdid ourselves in welcoming the Florida clubs and sponsoring a fabulous All Florida Conference. We received excellent feedback and it was a wonderful opportunity for us to see the "big picture" of Friendship Force International and discuss common issues.

Outgoing President Joy DiBenedetto gave the keynote address and Allison Lindsay, Educational Project Coordinator, showed an amazing exchange presentation that was given at the Vancouver World Conference last month. We also met and heard from our new regional representative, Judi Stratton. We had breakout sessions in focus groups, shared ideas and there was even time for a Q&A Session with the FF leaders.



Joy loved the shell wreath!

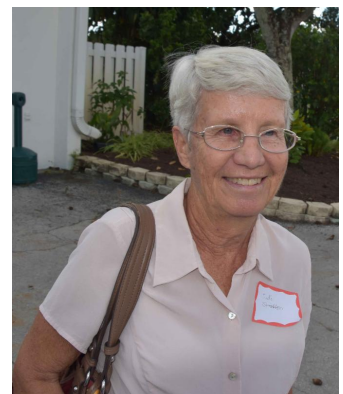
Thanks so much to *Dennis Yemma* who did a fantastic job with obtaining the clubhouse and organizing the schedule. Special thanks to *Sue Linehan* who coordinated the home hosts, kept up the registrants lists and even had time to make shell wreaths for FFI leaders! Thanks to all our local committee members who helped as facilitators - *Cathy Cobb*, *Elin Derickson*, *Rob Linehan* and *Joanne MacPeck*. Thanks, *Bev Harmon* and *Kev Janiak* for running the registration desk.

Thanks to *Pam LaFontaine* and *Sibby Yemma* for being superb greeters. Lastly, thanks to all for coming and supporting our wonderful **small**, but **mighty** club!

Sibby Yemma
Treasurer
Rob Linehan
Secretary
Jule Yemma

Non-voting Board

Membership
ED Coordination
Sue Linehan
Email, Club Roster, Sunshine
Cheryle Phelps
Historian
Carla Harms
Club Store
Pam LaFontaine
Webmaster, Club Photographer
Richard Collins
Parliamentarian
Jody Garmon
Newsletter
Joanne Collins
Publicity, Programs Fundraising
Entire Board



Judi Stratton, our new regional rep

The Costa Ricans are coming! The Costa Ricans are coming!



Costa Rican flag

Nov 15 - 21

West Alajuela, Costa Rica Inbound Exchange

Sibby Yemma, the ED for our November Incoming Exchange, reports club members have stepped up and we now have home hosts for everyone. Phyllis Becker helped us obtain dinner hosts for Wednesday evening. Thanks, Phyllis!

Sibby and Sue Linehan have planned a fun exchange. Here's the agenda:

Nov 15 - 3 pm - Costa Ricans arrive at Yemma's home. Welcome pizza party!

Nov 16 - 10:15 am - Mayor's reception at City Hall, 2200 Second St., Ft Myers.

County commission greeting to follow at their office, a short walk away. Lunch in River District. Shopping following lunch.

Note: Latin American Business Association will provide translators.

Nov 17 - 10:00 am - Guided tour of Peace River Wildlife Center, 3400 Ponce de Leon Parkway, Punta Gorda. Lunch at Linehan's, 258 Venezia Ct, Punta Gorda. If

weather permits, sailing on Linehan's catamaran and Collins' sailboat. Another option: Fisherman's Village for shopping and people watching.

Nov 18 - 11:00 am - Bowditch Point Park Beach Picnic Lunch with swimming or shelling, sunbathing. 6:00 pm - Host dinners

Nov 19 - 7:45 am - Meet at Enterprise car rental at 10100 Daniels Pkwy, Ft Myers for trip to Everglades.

Nov 20 - Free day to recover. 5:30 pm - arrive at Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association at 2001 Shreve, Punta Gorda for Thanksgiving dinner with host members of the PGIslanders boating club. Everyone invited!. Bring a dish to pass.

Nov 21 - Free day. Farewell dinner at 4:00 pm at Susan Beaudry's Clubhouse, 4260 SE Pl, Cape Coral. Everyone invited!

Outbound Costa Rica Trip is full!



Eighteen ambassadors from our club will travel to Costa Rica from Feb 1 - 13, 2016. We have 5 people from other clubs on a Waiting List.

Emails were sent out and the first payment is due before November 1, 2015. Questions? Just contact ED Joanne.

What a great time we'll all have!

Upcoming Events

Don't miss out on our club activities.

Save the following dates on your calendar:

Nov 13 - 11 AM - General Meeting at Ft Myers Library, Program *Traveling Western Australia with FF Fort Worth*, speakers are Joanne & Richard Collins

Nov 15 - Incoming Exchange from
West Alajuela, Costa Rica

Dec 13 - **Holiday Party/Brunch** 11 AM, Colonial
Country Club, Fort Myers.

Cost is \$22.90 (which includes tax and
gratuity) - cash is NOT accepted. Only
credit cards can be used and billing will be
done individually.



What in the World are our members doing?

It's fall and that means our snowbirds are coming back!

We hope they had a great summer and look forward to
hearing all about their adventures.

Sue & Rob Linehan are visiting Williamsburg, VA to
spend time with their daughter's family.

If you'd like to share what you "are up to," please email
Joanne and we'll publish it in the next newsletter.



President's comments

The succession plan for our wonderful club has been on my
mind. I've talked to members of the Nominating Committee and
they report we still need a 2016 Club President. I'm saying my
prayers for one of you to step up and lead our group. Don't forget
- I'm here for advice and any help you might need.



As mentioned, the All Florida Conference exceeded all
expectations! We will be a hard act to follow for the next club,
Suncoast (near Tampa) next year! Thanks so much everyone!

When Richard and I visited the Perth, Australia Club, we were blown away by the
Mayor's Reception for Friendship Force. The reception involved press coverage
with a delicious luncheon in her private Conference Room. She explained a little
about how Australia governs and the important relationship it has with America.

That being said, one day Sue and I decided to "pop in" on the Fort Myers Mayor
to ask if he would greet our Costa Ricans and explain about American local
government. We were surprised by the friendliness of his Administrative
Assistant. She arranged for the Mayor to address our Costa Rican ambassadors
in City Council Chambers on Monday, Nov 16, 10:15 am. Feel free to come

along with us. She also gave us an important contact with the Spanish American Business Association. They have kindly agreed to provide translators for the occasion as well as gift bags for our visitors. When I recounted this story to Joy at the All Florida Conference, she told me that we were fearless! That really felt good! **Let's all be fearless** as we greet the Costa Ricans and plan for the future of our club.

Happy Travels,

Joanne

Parting Shots



A great turnout and support from our club at the All Florida Conference!



Florida Suncoast (Tampa area) club representatives - They get to do it next year!



Sarasota Club representatives - closest to us geographically



Greater Orlando FF representatives - Elaine Henrich (in pink) is their president



Tallahassee/Ollie/FSU club reps



East Central Florida (New Smyrna Beach area) club reps



Our new member, Gail Tomei, drove all the way here from West Palm Beach. Welcome to our club, Gail



New members, Jo and Jack Cooley, attended the Conference

Do you like our newsletter?

Just email me at eagleswingsj@yahoo.com with any suggestions and stories. Hope to hear from you soon!

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Experience the World with Friendship Force
You can change the world, one friendship at a time!

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