



friendship force Southwest florida

November 2016 Newsletter

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

All Florida Conference News



Our President, Sue, poses with Jeremi Snook, FFI President & CEO

Six members of our club attended the All-Florida Friendship Force Conference last Saturday, October 22nd, hosted by the Florida Suncoast Club in Clearwater. It was a fast-paced informative day and it is fair to say that we were all very impressed with Jeremi Snook, the new Friendship Force International (FFI) President.

His remarks focused upon the highlights of his first year and his vision of where FFI is going. He stated that Friendship Force (FF) is the "best kept

Quick Links

- [FFI Website](#)
- [FFI Exchange Catalog](#)
- [Our Club Website](#)
- [Visit Us on Facebook](#)
- [Order our Club Shirt](#)
- [Join our Club Application](#)

Mission

To promote global understanding across barriers that separate people

Values

*Mutual Respect Cultural
Diversity Cultural
Exploration Service*

Elected Board (voting members)

President

Sue Linehan

1st VP

Michelle Kempf

2nd VP

Beverly Harmon

Treasurer

Cathy Cobb

Secretary

Carol Berry

Non-voting Board

secret out there," but he plans "to put it in the limelight." He stated that we need to re-connect with our core message and find a way to describe what we do in a clearer way. He presented a new video that will be available on the FFI website that was well received. One of the tag lines was that FF helps us "Experience Different Views - Discover Common Ground." He is developing ways to market FFI more effectively and plans to arm clubs with materials to help us in our recruiting (of new members) efforts.

In the Atlanta office, he is trying to put "the *right* people in the *right* seats of the bus." In other words, he is clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the national office so that their employees are placed in positions using their talents most effectively.

He is looking at ways to open up the FFI message to the world and thus, encouraged us to write our *Stories of Friendship*, of our unique experiences on our exchanges. These stories show that FF is still relevant in our divided world. He thanked us for the support of the new FFI website which will be rolled out by the end of this year.

Both he and Allison Lindsey, informed us that FFI has recently negotiated travel insurance with a new company with good rates. He reminded us that 2017 is the 40th Anniversary Year of FF and encouraged us to participate in the Manchester, England Worldwide Conference and/or the Celebration at Sea Cruise - Transatlantic Voyage Florida to Rome, March 30 - April 13, 2017.

Come to November Monthly Meeting

Join us for lunch first on

Friday, November 4

11:00 a.m.

Captain's Table

Fishermen's Village

Membership/Publicity

Joanne Collins
Michelle Kemps

ED Coordination

Lou Rizk

Email, Club Roster, Sunshine

Cheryle Phelps

Historian

Carla Harms

Webmaster, Club Photographer

Richard Collins

Parliamentarian

Jody Garmon

Newsletter

Joanne Collins

Programs/Fundraising

Entire Board

1200 W Retta Esplanade, PG

And then come to the monthly meeting & program at 1 pm

Prior to the lunch, come early and browse the shops in Fishermen's Village and then have lunch at the lovely Captain's Table that overlooks the Peace River.



After lunch we will relocate to the Punta Gorda Police Conference Room for our November monthly meeting. Featured speakers are *Michelle Kemps* and *Joanne & Richard Collins* who will discuss their travels in Africa. Let us know if you are "in" for lunch so we can give the Captain's Table a "heads up" - Just email Joanne at eagleswingsj@yahoo.com by 11/3/16.

Let's Celebrate our 25th Anniversary!

Do you know that this year is our club's 25th Silver Anniversary?

Come and celebrate with us!



Yes, we formed in 1991 and were originally known as the Lee County Friendship Force chapter. Let's Party!

**Friday, November 18, 11:30 a.m.
Party Room of Lois Bonwell & Susan Beaudry's condo
4280 SE 20th Place, Cape Coral**

We are having a **free** (no cost to you) catered lunch. We've invited some of the original members of our club for you to meet. Hear about how it all started and thank these members for their past efforts in establishing the wonderful club we have today!

Bring your pins and mementos of your FF trips. Share with us some of your special memories. Feel the love!

Since we need to plan for the food, please RSVP as soon as possible to Susan Beaudry, email Copertuz@gmail.com or phone 214-533-6755. Don't delay - do it today!

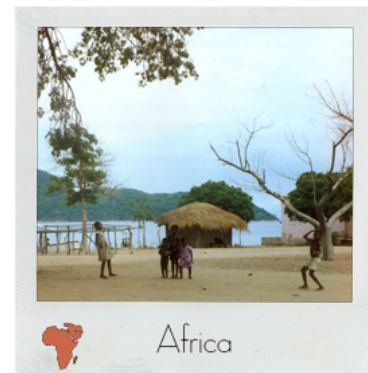
P.S. If you need a ride, call someone in your "neck of the woods" and ride together to Cape Coral. It will be FUN

Inbound Africa Exchange Dec 5 - 12, 2016

*The Africans are coming and our
December Incoming Exchange will
happen!*

We received the news recently that the African Inbound exchange will happen and our Exchange Director, Judy Carson and her co-ED, Joanne Collins, are busy pulling it together! **We can expect 20 Africans from Uganda, Liberia and Ghana from Dec 5-12, 2016.** They are currently trying to obtain their visas; therefore, we will not know the final number until shortly before the exchange. They will first visit the Orlando FF Club and when finished there, will drive or fly to visit us.

We need your support for this exchange. If you cannot host, think about being a day-host or host a dinner or help with the Welcome or Farewell Party. If we all pull together, the Exchange will be easier for everyone involved! If you have suggestions for activities for them, please let us know. There will be more information on how you can help at the November meeting.



2017: Outbound to Canada and Japan Inbound Exchanges

Lou reports that some of the info on Canada changed a bit. The Exchange Dates for Canada are now **June 14 - 28, 2017** for our Outbound Exchange to Ontario, Canada. We will first go to **Stratford-St Mary from June 14-21 (Wed to Wed) and then**

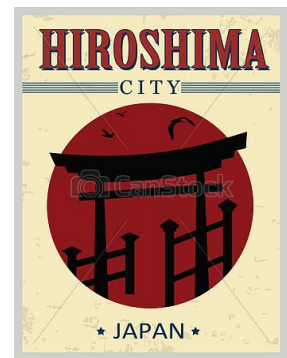


onto Haliburton Highlands from June 21-28. Lou checked with the Ottawa Club, but they cannot work us into their time frame. The current thinking is we'll spend a few days in Toronto before or after the two scheduled weeks.

Canada has their 150th Anniversary Celebration on July 1, 2017 so that may be a very good time to be in Montreal. He will investigate further and have more information later. The additional time (it seems now) will be each person on their own schedule. If you are interested, please act quickly since this exchange is almost full. Please get on the FF site (see Quicklinks above) and fill out your ambassador application. Mail it to Lou Rizk at 9035 Prosperity Way, Fort Myers, FL 33913, but send your \$200 check deposit to our treasurer, Cathy Cobb, 2249 Gorham Ave., Fort Myers, Florida 33907. You won't want to miss this fun time with your fellow club members.

Regarding our international incoming exchange, we anticipate 21 members of the Hiroshima, Japan Club to visit us in early March 2017.

Cheryle has been in contact with the Ambassador ED Toshiro Inohara. She learned that we will have 3 married couples - all others are single men and women (mostly women). They will visit us for 6 nights. (They are not going to any other Florida Club). Cheryle developed a tentative itinerary that she sent them in August. She also sent them the Health and Mobility Checklist so they are aware that we need information on any special diets, etc.



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At this point, Cheryle needs a volunteer to set up the **HOME HOSTING and DAY HOSTING!** Please call her at 239-561-9164 or 678-469-8171.

Where in the World are our Members Traveling?

Cathy Cobb recently returned from 3 fantastic exchanges in Australia. We can't wait to hear all about them.



Cheryle Phelps and Lou Rizk returned from a wonderful Friendship Force exchange in Canada. Check out their cute picture!

plan to be back in town just in time for the next general meeting. They are thoroughly enjoying their grandchildren and the fall colors.

Maureen & Hank Butt drove here all the way from California after a wonderful Hawaii birthday trip. Welcome back!

Where have you been? Just send me an email and I'll share your travels in the next newsletter.



40th Anniversary Celebration at Sea Cruise March 30 - April 13, 2017



Join Friendship Force International CEO, Jeremi Snook, and Board Chairman, Bob Duncan, on a 40th Anniversary Celebration at Sea, sailing from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to Rome, Italy. Be part of an international delegation traveling together across the Atlantic! Enjoy time with old friends and new, while experiencing Spanish and Italian culture.

The ship, Holland America's Westerdam, is a premier mid-sized cruise ship with all the amenities and activities you expect: multiple restaurants, daily entertainment, expert lectures on Spain and Italy, physical fitness options, and much more. With a total of nine days at sea, you'll enjoy the leisurely pace of a transatlantic voyage. After crossing the Atlantic, explore Funchal, on the delightful Portuguese island of Madeira, before entering the Mediterranean with three stops in Spain. Explore on your own or join shore excursions to Seville, the Alhambra in Granada, and Roman ruins in Cartagena. Your destination is Rome, gateway to all of Italy and Europe beyond.

Cabin prices for the 14-day voyage, including taxes, fees and the full Friendship Force program, begin at \$1,335 for an inside cabin (per person/double occupancy), a balcony cabin for \$1,553 and ocean view for \$1,573. Book by November 15 and receive a bonus of up to \$75/cabin onboard credit. Prices are subject to availability at time of booking.

For more details click on [40th Anniversary Celebration at Sea Cruise](#)

Save the Dates



Nov 4 Monthly Meeting focusing upon African travel adventures

Nov 18 25th Anniversary Luncheon

Free to all members! Please let us know if you are coming!

**Dec 4 Holiday Brunch Colonial Country Club, 11 AM - 2 PM \$22 pp
with Annual Meeting**

Dec 5 - 12 Inbound African Exchange - help needed

President's comments



What a wonderful regional conference we attended and it stimulated so many ideas for our club. I can't wait to share them with all of you. It was especially gratifying to have Ginny Dooley, our newest member present. It was a lot for her to take in since she really has had no experience with the club yet at all, but it will get her oriented quickly! As first officers, Michelle and I were invited for a leadership conference the afternoon before. It was very useful to attend and Michelle and I completed the form to make requests for 2018 outbound. I will explain the process and discuss our requests when we see you all on November 4. Michelle is such a support to me and a treasure to the club. It was fun to share a host family with her on Friday night before the conference.

At the conference, I met someone who just got back from Halliburton, Ontario. It is the club we are visiting in June. She said it was such a great club and we can learn a lot from them. She also said that there was one beautiful scene after another, one of the **best** exchanges she has experienced! Makes me glad I am signed up for June in Canada!

Don't forget to suggest to friends and others you meet, to come join us for our November meeting. I have seen the Collins pictures and story about their trip and I know you won't want to miss it. I am looking forward to seeing what Michelle has to share. The lunch at Captain's Table in Fisherman's Village should also be a treat. Come on to Punta Gorda for a wonderful day!

Yours in Friendship,

Sue Linehan
President

Parting Shot



Rob & Sue Linehan, new member, Ginny Dooley, Michelle Kemps, Joanne & Richard Collins attended 2016 All Florida Conference in Clearwater

Do you like our newsletter?

Just email Joanne 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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