



friendship force
Southwest florida

December 2016 Newsletter

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

**Come to our Holiday Brunch
11 AM - Sunday, December 4**



Join us for our Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch at Colonial Country Club, 9181 Independence Way, Ft Myers 33913. Hope to see you at this beautiful location!

Cost is \$22 per person. Thanks to Lou & Cheryle who organized this fun event for us. Please pay your tab individually at the Country Club. Just bring your credit card! Cash is not accepted.

If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring your wrapped gift costing in the \$10 range for some holiday fun. We will also have the Annual Meeting which will feature election of officers for 2017.

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 Kemps

2nd VP

Beverly Harmon

Treasurer

Cathy Cobb

Secretary

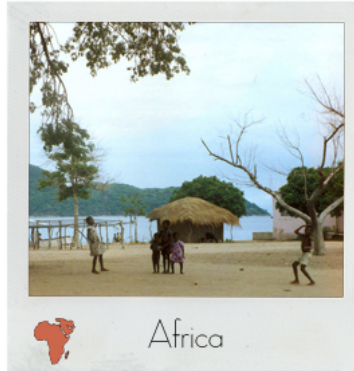
Carol Berry

Non-voting Board

Need a ride? Just phone one of your FF friends who lives close to you!

Update on African Exchange

Alas, most of the 15 Africans from Uganda, Liberia and Ghana did **not** obtain their US visa from the American embassy of their home country. As of this moment 2 women still may come and we will do our best to host them. Of course, this will be a "scaled down" version of our usual exchange. Sue asks those who are still interested in touring the new Vietnam Wall Memorial on **Tuesday, Dec 6**, to meet at 100 Nesbit Street, Punta Gorda, at 11 a.m. A BBQ chicken sandwich plate lunch (cost is \$5) will follow at Sue & Rob's home, 258 Venezia along with a catamaran ride of Charlotte Harbor (open to all club members) weather permitting.



There will be more details at the Holiday Brunch. It is hoped that in the future FFI can develop a close relationship with officials in the State Department to expedite the visa process in Africa. This is a new initiative by FFI *to try to establish clubs in African countries* - a true work in progress! Our thanks to **Judy Carson** who continues to work hard to make it happen!

Our 25th Anniversary - a Party to remember!

We had a fabulous 25th Anniversary Party at **Susan, Lois and Corrine's** Club House in Cape Coral! Thanks so much to them for making this location possible! After introductions by everyone there, we were treated to a history of the club by **Carla Harms**. We also heard from **Eleanor & Bob Hill**, original members of FF, who filled us in on the very beginnings of FFI when plane loads of members took off to surprise destinations.

We thank **Jody Garmon** who tirelessly phoned many of our retired members who came to our Anniversary Party. She was helped by JoAnn Debaugh Robbins and Cheryle Phelps. We appreciate them and their efforts that made such a terrific event! It was so good to see past members - **Dorothy Haynes, Marilyn Kloosterman and Ken Tabler**! Thanks also to those of you who brought interesting historical items for our FF Table. Below are a few of the pictures of the event. More can be accessed on our webpage, www.friendshipforceswfl.org, under the tab **About Us**, then click on **Social Events**.

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



Retirees, Ken Tabler & Marilyn Kloosterman



Dorothy Haynes



JoAnn Debaugh Robbins



Table showing some of our club mementos



*Carla Harms
explains club history*

2017: Outbound to Canada and Japan Inbound Exchanges



Lou reports that some of the info on Canada changed again! The Exchange Dates for Canada are now **June 7 - 14, 2017** for **Stratford-St Mary**. We will then visit **Haliburton Highlands** from June 14-21. **A new addition is a short 4-day trip to the North Bay Club from June 21-24.** 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, 2449 Woodland Blvd., 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.



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?



Joanne & Richard Collins recently returned from Thanksgiving in Beacon Falls & Fairfield, Connecticut. It featured traveling with Joanne's 96 year old Mom and their cat, Bleu Kitty. Both did well on Jet Blue Airlines. They also attended a Christening of Joanne's great niece in Mom father's 126-year old Christening gown on her Mom's 96th birthday!

Maureen & Hank Butt had a great time in Disney World and now they are on the move again, this time on a Royal Caribbean Independence of the Seas cruise!

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

It's time to pay your dues for next year

We are now collecting dues for 2017. The cost is only \$35 per person.

Please bring your check to the Holiday Party or pay at the January meeting.

Alternatively, you can mail your check made out to Friendship Force of Southwest Florida to our treasurer, Cathy Cobb, 2449 Woodland Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33907.



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



January 6 - FF General Meeting featuring Part 2 of Jo & Jack Cooley's fantastic FF trip to Taiwan

February 3 - FF General Meeting featuring Cheryle & Lou's FF Canadian gourmet food & wine trip to

President's comments



We had such a nice anniversary party which was well attended. Thanks go to Susan, Lois and Corrine for arranging for the place and all the set up. Corrine made the barley salad that everyone liked so much but it was my sister's recipe. I am happy to share it with you.

1 cup barley cooked to package directions using chicken broth instead of water

1 orange or yellow bell pepper, chopped

1 medium to large fresh zucchini chopped

1 cup of cherry tomatoes cut in quarters (can adjust to your taste)

plenty of chopped cilantro or parsley if you don't like cilantro

toasted slivered almonds (1/2 to 3/4 cup) Can use sliced almonds too

Vinaigrette dressing - you can make this by using a nice vinegar and mixing with olive oil. Corrine used a bottled vinaigrette dressing with some citrus in it. You can make your own or buy whatever you like. Even an Italian dressing may be good.

Presidents notes:

Well, our December exchange didn't work the way we had hoped. Judy had such a great program lined up and maybe our guest and her host will get to enjoy much of it still. Hopefully we can all come together to welcome our single guest (still possible to have 2 guests) on Tuesday at our house in Punta Gorda. Hopefully it will be a good day for a sail and some of you can enjoy that with us.

I hope to see lots of people at our holiday party as we look forward to wishing each other a happy holiday season and the best of New Years. I have my holiday exchange gifts wrapped and ready for the brunch this Sunday. How about you?

There will be an election of officers at this event but little business, except for last minute information about what will happen next week to modify the exchange. It has been an outstanding year for our club. We traveled to Costa Rica and hosted Belgium in 2016. We are looking forward to Japan's visit and our visit to Canada. What has been the best part though was welcoming new members, having people step up to present programs, become ED's, host events and serve on the board. We have an active, vital club and we hope to get the word out for others to join us. They won't find a friendlier more open group of people anywhere.

See you on Sunday!

Sue Linehan
President

Parting Shots



*Eleanor Hill remembers early days
of Friendship Force*

Do you like our newsletter?

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



Jody Garmon shares a memory

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida | 281-543-9018 | eagleswingsj@yahoo.com |
<http://www.friendshipforceswfl.org>
258 Venezia Court
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

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

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