



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

December 2017 Newsletter

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

Sunday, December 3, 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Brunch and Election of Officers

Isles Yacht Club

1780 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL



We are looking forward to our Holiday Brunch at the Isles Yacht Club, 1780 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda 33950. This year 34 members are coming - probably the largest group to attend this event in the club's history!

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 2018.

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

It's time to pay your dues!

The new year is just about a month away and that means it's time to pay your dues. The cost is \$30 per person or \$60 per couple. What a great value for a super club!

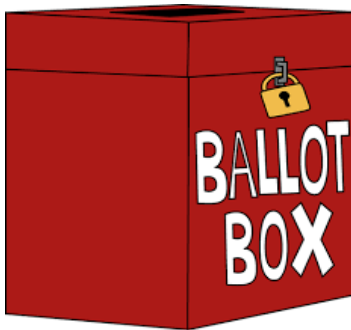
Pay Dues



Only \$30

Make out your check to Friendship Force of Southwest Florida. **Bring it with you to the Holiday Brunch.** That will save you postage. If you can't attend, mail your check by 12/31/17 to our current treasurer, Cathy Cobb, 2449 Woodland Blvd, Ft Myers, FL 33907.

Results from Nominating Committee



Lou Rizk and Joanne Collins recently completed their task of locating members to serve on next year's elected board. These members' names will be put in nomination at the December 3 Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch. We will vote at that meeting and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. We are still seeking volunteers for non-elected positions. These positions do not require attending meetings - you help as needed.

For 2018 Elected Board Positions:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| President | Michelle Kemps |
| Vice President | Beverly Harmon |
| Second Vice President | Ginny Dooley |
| Secretary | Linda Supakoff |
| Treasurer(s) | Jack and Jo Cooley |

For 2018 Non-Elected Positions:

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Membership | Carol Nasby |
| Publicity | Kevin Janiak |
| Newsletter | Joanne Collins |

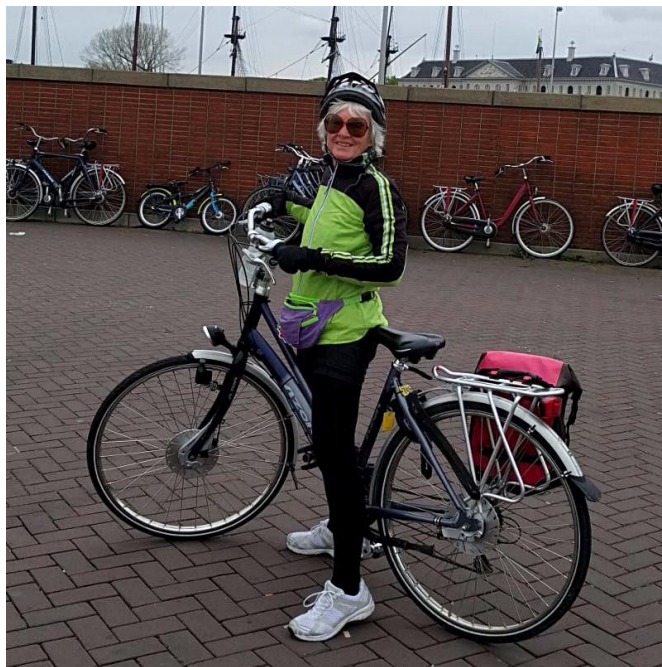
| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Website, club photographer | Richard Collins |
| Social (new this year) | Maureen Butt, Carol Berry, Bev Harmon |
| Email, club roster, sunshine | Your name here? |
| Host & journey mentoring | Cheryle Phelps |
| Historian | Your name here? |

Friday, January 5, 2018 10:30 a.m.

General Meeting & Journey Presentation Location to be determined

Michelle Kemps, our new club president, will give an interesting presentation about a recent friendship force journey she took to the Netherlands. Learn all about her bike and barge adventure on this trip.

Make a resolution to attend our meetings and mark your calendar or electronic device for this one, the first of the new year!



Michelle biked the Netherlands with FF

Welcome New Club Members



Hope everyone welcomes our brand new club members, **Cindy and Dwight Haldeman** and **Marcene Greif** of Punta Gorda. Please look for them at the Holiday Brunch and introduce yourself.

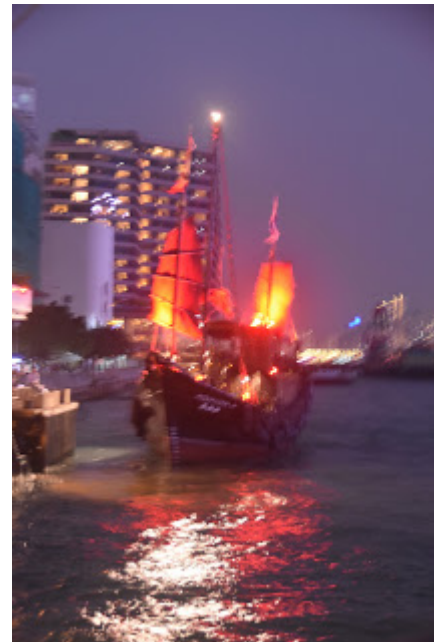
Where in the World are our Club Members Traveling?

Joanne and Richard Collins traveled on a 17-day journey to China and Hong Kong with Gate 1 Travel.

When they heard Jack Cooley's talk at Friendship Force meetings, they moved China up higher on their "bucket list" and went! It was a glorious time, the highlights were climbing the Great Wall of China and seeing the Hong Kong Harbor at night all lit up. Just gorgeous!



We did it! Climbed Great Wall!



Boat on beautiful Hong Kong Harbor

Upcoming Inbound Michigan Journey February 1 - 8, 2018

The committee has been hard at work and here is the tentative schedule for the Michigan ambassadors:

Thursday, Feb. 1

Ambassadors will arrive at **Fort Myers Airport** at 2:40 p.m. They will be greeted by their host



families. Some of the ambassadors will arrive by car and meet at the host families home.

The rest of the evening is to relax and get to know each other and perhaps the neighborhood.

Friday, Feb. 2

Hosts and Ambassadors will meet at the **Fort Myers down town library** for the clubs monthly meeting. The program will be a cross cultural class. After the meeting and program, the group will drive to **ECHO**, an experimental farm that provides resources to third world agricultural development for single family farmers. We will have lunch there and a tour of the farm and the "technology" area. After the tour, we will visit **Manatee Park** and hopefully see some manatees in the river. Evening is free with hosts.

Saturday, Feb. 3

Arrive at 10:45 at the **Peace River Wild Life Refuge** in Punta Gorda for a tour. Adjourn to the home of Sue and Rob Linehan for a lunch, followed by a **sail in the harbor** on the catamaran, Catalyst. Evening is free.

Sunday, Feb. 4

Have a relaxed morning, enjoy a brunch, go to church if that is something you would like to do. Visit **Koreshan State Historic Site** in Estero at 1:30. Enjoy the farmers market and then we will have a tour of the site at 2:00. We will adjourn to our **small dinner parties** that evening.

Monday, Feb. 5

This is a **free day** with your hosts. Discuss what activities might be in their area and what your interests might be. This is a good day to treat the hosts, either to lunch or dinner. Discuss this with your hosts so that they can make appropriate advance plans.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

Drive to Pine Island where we will meet for a tour of the **Calusa Indian Mounds** and have a guided tour. We will then have lunch and do some shopping at some of the funky old Florida shops in **Matlasha**. Evening is free.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

Drive to Punta Gorda's new **Botanical Sculpture Garden** for a presentation and tour. After lunch we will visit a **rum distillery**, **Vietnam Wall replica**, **Hurricane Charlie Memorial** and see a very large **banyan tree** before heading to the farewell party.

Thursday, Feb. 8

Ambassadors depart.

More specific details will be made available to our members closer to the journey date. **We still need help**. Please volunteer to host, to help set up the lunch on Feb. 7 at the Botanical Gardens, Lunch on Feb. 2, at ECHO and especially, help with the farewell party.

Plans have been developing but we need someone to make sure it all comes together. If you are not hosting and can volunteer to help in these ways, it is appreciated. If you are not hosting, consider offering to do a small group dinner. This program is a departure from the norm and we are looking forward to sharing some new experiences in our area with our visiting ambassadors.

Outbound Brazil Journey

April 8-21, 2018 with add on package to Rio and Iguazu Falls



Images of Brazil

We've had a good response and deposits are coming in for the outbound Brazil journey next year. We still have openings! If you want to join us, let Michelle and/or Sue know. Apply on the FFI site under "Member Resources." Since a visa is required, plane tickets must be purchased during January 2018.

President's Comments



This will be my last meeting as your president. It has been such a pleasure to serve these last two years. I had a tough act to follow with Joanne Collins but we have continued to make good strides. Without the support and hard work of your board, Michelle Kemps as First Vice President, Bev Harmon as Second Vice President, Carol Barry as Secretary and Cathy Cobb as treasurer, the job would have been difficult. They have not only supported my efforts but have been creative and proactive in getting things accomplished. I feel privileged to have worked with them.

In addition to the board, Joanne and Richard Collins have continued to keep us up to what is happening with the news letter and web site. They will continue in those positions despite having taken on leadership roles in other clubs. We are also grateful for the contributions dealing with journey work that has been lead by Lou Rizk and Cheryl Phelps. We have all been aided by the general membership who have attended journey's, hosted, and worked on committees. I feel that I am handing over a viable, active, interesting, supportive club to the next board and I plan to be one of those continuing as a supportive member to be sure that we continue to grow and enjoy the rewards of membership in this organization.

I am sure there will be a unanimous vote of approval for our new board at the brunch meeting this Sunday. In addition to confirming them, I hope you will pledge your

support in keeping the club strong.

With great appreciation for the opportunity to serve as your President, I say Thank You.

In Friendship,

Sue

Parting Shot



Just last year we welcomed our African ambassadors, Doreen from Uganda and Theresa from Kenya. Here they are with Michelle and Sue getting ready to ride on a float as clowns in the Holiday Parade.

Quick Links... help you find info fast!

Just put your curser on what you want and click away! See below links...

[Friendship Force International \(FFI\) Website](#)

[FFI Journeys Scheduled for 2018 Worldwide](#)

[FFI Stories of Friendship](#)

[Order our Club Shirt](#)

[Join our Club](#)

**2017 Elected Board
(voting members):**

President

Sue Linehan

1st Vice President

Michelle Kemps

2nd Vice President

Beverly Harmon

Treasurer

Cathy Cobb

Secretary

Carol Berry

2017 Non-voting Board

Membership & Publicity

Joanne Collins, Michelle Kemps

Host & Journey Mentoring

Lou Rizk

Email, Club Roster, Sunshine

Cheryle Phelps

Webmaster, Club Photographer

Richard Collins

Newsletter

Joanne Collins

Historian

Carla Harms

Note: Programs & Fundraising - Entire Board

Experience Different Views.
Discover Common Ground.

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida, 258 Venezia Court, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

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