



friendship force Southwest florida

February 2017 Newsletter

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

General Meeting & Presentation Ft Myers Library Meeting Room 10:30 AM - Friday, Feb 3, 2017

Come to the General Meeting this Friday and hear a delightful presentation by Lou & Cheryle about their Canadian Friendship Force Gourmet Wine & Food trip.

Of course, we will have a business meeting - the main topic will be the upcoming Japanese Exchange that will occur from March 1-7.

Afterwards we will have lunch at the Edison Restaurant, Bar & Banquet Center, 3583 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers.

Address of where we are meeting? Fort Myers Regional Library, Meeting Room, 2450 First Street, Fort Myers (close to back parking lot).

Need a ride? Just phone a member who lives close to you and carpool together.



Cheryle & Lou

Quick Links

[FFI Website](#)
[FFI Exchange Catalog](#)
[Our Club Website](#)
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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

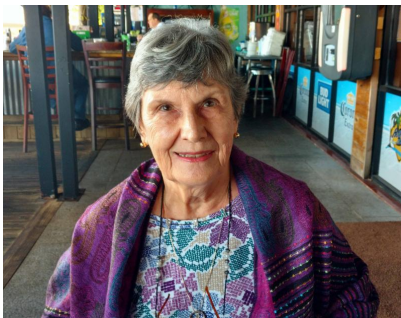
Carol Berry

Non-voting Board

Welcome New Members



Welcome new members, **Mary Howard** of Port Charlotte and **Teri Martin** of Cape Coral. They attended January's meeting and we enjoyed having lunch with them afterwards at Hurricane Charley's. Both have hobbies of cooking and reading. Introduce yourself and get to know them!



Mary Howard



Teri Martin

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

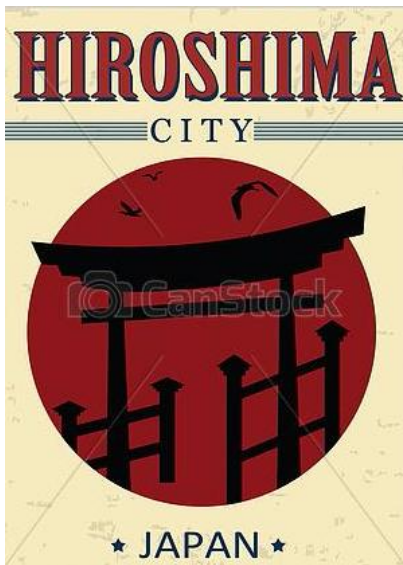
Japan Inbound Exchange - March 1 - 7, 2017

Are you ready?

Cheryle reports that 18 ambassadors from Hiroshima, Japan will arrive on March 1st, on United Flight 1593 coming in at 10:49 p.m. By this point all of our hosts should have received their ambassador information and hopefully made email contact with them.

We have a wonderful itinerary that should be distributed to you by Friday's meeting. Hopefully, you will attend to be briefed by Cheryle on the specifics.

All club members are strongly encouraged to attend the Welcome and Farewell Parties. Bring your checkbook to Friday's meeting to pay for these and other



fantastic Exchange events. More updates at Friday's meeting!

Canadian Outbound Exchange June 14 - 28, 2017

*Attention Attention Attention!
Dates have changed!*

The dates are now **June 14 - 28, 2017.**



The first week will be in Stratford-St Mary. The second week is Haliburton Highlands. Lou Rizk and his assistants, Susan Beaudry and Kevin Janiak, will be contacting those who have sent in their deposits with the details.

FF International 40th Anniversary Conference Manchester, UK August 24 - 28, 2017

Are you thinking about going to the World Conference this year?

According to Jeremi Snook, FFI President and CEO, "This milestone conference is already shaping up to be one of the most unusual and exciting conferences Friendship Force has put together in years, filled with nostalgia, inspiring speakers and truly enchanting events." And there is more ... "Suzy Smith Bennitt, daughter of our founder Wayne Smith, will be there in her bellbottoms and flower-power headband to tell us in her own words about her father's vision and the birth of Friendship Force."

Need to know more? Check out the FFI website (click on address in upper right hand corner of the newsletter.)

Save the Dates 2017



March 1 - 7 - Japanese Exchange; therefore, no meeting, but plenty of activities to attend!

April 7 - Meeting & Program, 10:30 a.m.
Punta Gorda - Speaker: Maureen Butt

May 5 - Lunch Out - Place TBD

June 14 - 28 - Canadian Outbound Exchange - no meeting

July - Summer Break

August 6 - Ice Cream Social with Pool Party in Estero. Bev & Kev are hosting.

September 1 - Meeting & Program, 10:30 a.m. Speakers and Location TBD regarding Canadian Exchange.

October 6 - Meeting & Program, 10:30 a.m. Punta Gorda
Speaker: Michelle Kemps regarding FF Holland Bicycle Exchange

November 3 - Meeting & Program, 10:30 a.m. Punta Gorda
Speaker: Carol & Chris Nasby regarding FF Exchange to New Zealand

December 3 - Christmas Brunch and Yankee Swap. 11 a.m.,
Location TBD

Check out our Website!



If you miss a meeting, check out the club and board meeting minutes on our website under [Membership, Meeting Minutes](#). It's a great way to keep up with all the past happenings of the club. Check out FAQs.

There are lots of other helpful things on the website. Take a look!

Postscript on African Exchange

Doreen (from Uganda) sent her thanks.

Sue & Rob drove Doreen part way to Port St. Lucie where she had some friends and she was going to take a bus to Atlanta and home. What happened instead was amazing...



"I have to say that my trip was the best I have ever had in my entire life. I may not write to everyone I met at our house and at the different dinners we had, but please, when you see them, tell them they made our stay feel like home. I felt loved and welcome and appreciated just the way I was.

Back here my family is good and the house has been filled with laughter since I returned a week back. (This was sent on January 16 so you can already see, she stayed on longer than planned) The nights have turned into story-telling times, as everyone gathers around the table to hear these stories about the American dream, hahaha. I have had a lot to tell, from the wonderful people I met to the classy dinners I had been to, the big beautiful houses by the river and lakes, and to everyone's surprise, they have one or two or three people living in them, as apposed to Uganda and particularly my house, where it is ten of us and some times more. The boat rides we had, on boats so big and self contained, the beautiful cities and last but not least the wonderful souls I met, beautiful people, not only physically but also at heart. People who treat you as one of their own, regardless of age or where you come from or class. I mean, who am I to receive such a welcome. For that, all I have to say is thank you, and may God reward you all.

When I left Punta Gorda, I went to meet friends in Port St. Lucie who also took me to see places like West Palm Beach and Miami. They also took me as far as Pennsylvania through North and South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, Georgia and other places I do not remember. We went to Maryland and Washington and New York where we had Christmas and New Years. On the 1st, I sat on a bus to Atlanta for 24 hours, where I was hosted by Allison for about 3 days, after which I returned to Kampala, Uganda. I saw big cities I did not think I would ever see in life, tall buildings and very big and busy roads. That for a moment as unbelievable. I still tell a new story every day

and cannot wait to meet you people again, be it here in Africa or the the USA or anywhere in the world."

In Friendship,
Doreen Namayanja

And here is a note from Theresa in Kenya who flew to Connecticut after staying with us...



"My trip to Connecticut was fine and my friends were waiting for me at the airport lobby with warm clothing. It was quite a drastic extreme change for weather. It was like from the oven to the deep freezer, but all in all, it was a wonderful experience and I got to love it. I left on the 19th, against my friend's will, but had to come back to be with my daughter at Christmas. I found my dad sick and have been busy getting him to the hospital. I thank God he is responding to treatment and now he is recuperating at home. He is 97.

I wish to convey my heartfelt gratitude for your kind hospitality. I truly do not know how to express this because I still feel overwhelmed. Let me say in all my 16 years in Friendship Force, Inbound and Outbound all combined, I have never experienced the kind of feeling of belonging, love and generosity like the one I got from Florida. It was awesome. I have this nagging weakness of feeling homesick whenever I am away from home, even if it is for just one week. But this time, I should say, I felt so much at home, I never missed home. May God bless you, my wonderful friends. May I now say that you are most welcome to visit as friends or as an exchange to my country. Please my prayer is that may God reward you with all the blessings promised for those who welcome strangers in to their homes. Kindly pass my love and warm regards to all the wonderful members of FF."

Sending love and blessings,
Terry Gichuiya

President's comments



By now, I hope you read the wonderful words from our African Ambassadors. It ought to make you feel great about what a warm and open club we are!

It is a good tone to set for our upcoming ambassadors from Japan. I am enjoying getting to know about the two men we are hosting. I hope you all are meeting your guests on e-mail.

Cheryle and her big committee created a great plan which allows not only wonderful tours, but also time to get together to know each other as well as "down time" with each host.

You might try to include friends, family and neighbors in what you do with your guests as that was a wonderful aspect of our African exchange. Meeting people

is what our club is all about. It is good tool to interest people in joining our exciting group.

I announced an opportunity to join me for shell crafting at my home and many of our FF members did just that! It was **so much fun** and I was impressed with everyone's first time efforts. I am doing it again in February on **Tues. Feb. 7** any time after 1:00, **Friday the 10th** any time between about 9:30 and 4 and again the **13th** from 9:30 to 4. Should we need to continue, I have a couple other days saved. If you would like to come make some more items or attend for the first time, just let me know. We need to talk and plan ahead so that you are sure to bring exactly what you need to make the creation of your choice. I provide the shells, but if you would like to bring your own, that's fine too.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on Friday!

In Friendship,
Sue

Parting Shots



Friendship Force shell girls displaying their creations

Carol Nasby, Michelle Kemps, Maureen Butt, Sue Linehan, & Joanne Collins



Friendship Force Kampala Club

P.O. Box 14268 Kampala Tel:0704 505590 / 0782 681338 / 0704 505590

Certificate Of Appreciation

This is to appreciate

Friendship Force South Florida Club

*for the friendship and support during the all
African exchange No. 12741*

Merry christmas and happy prosperous new 2017

*President
Friendship Force Kampala Club*

***Frederick, President of Kampala Club, Uganda sent
appreciation for hosting Doreen***

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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<http://www.friendshipforceswfl.org>
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Punta Gorda, FL 33950

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

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