

Start your new year with FF!



## January 2018 Newsletter

Our Website [www.friendshipforceswfl.org](http://www.friendshipforceswfl.org)

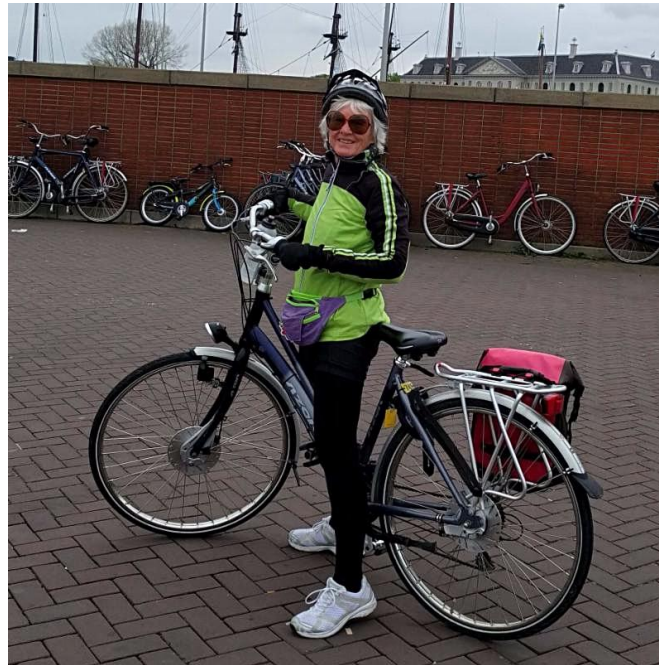
Friday, January 5, 2018 10:30 a.m.

**General Meeting & Journey Presentation**  
**Police & Fire Station Conference Room**  
**1410 Tamiami Tr (Rt 41N), Punta Gorda**  
**Across from IHOP**

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.

Afterwards, we will have lunch at one of PG's restaurants.

Make a resolution to attend our meetings and mark your calendar or electronic device for this one, the first of the new year! Need a ride? Phone a member friend and you can carpool together.



*Last year Michelle biked the Netherlands with FF*

## Presenting the 2018 Board



*Michelle Kempfs, Linda Supakoff, Bev Harmon, Ginny Dooley, Jo and Jack Cooley*

We had a super turn out for our annual Election of Officers and Holiday Brunch. We tried a new location - the Isles Yacht Club and we got rave reviews on the food and separate dining area. Browse the lovely holiday pictures by clicking on this link that will take you directly to our web page - [Holiday Pictures](#) Too small? Just click on them to make them larger and hit the right arrow to see them all.

Check out the fine looking talented board that will lead the club in 2018.

## A few easy jobs

**Help! With the new year, we have unfinished business. We need members to handle the following areas ... Let Michelle know if you will pick a job up... See below**

**Sunshine** - Send members a card when they are ill or have a loss (we could even expand it to birthday greetings). This could be done with an electronic greeting program or the "old fashioned" way



**Club Historian** - Keep a small box of memorabilia and add to it when we have a club visit (by including a program) or significant memory

**FaceBook** - post club info on our FB page and/or remind others to do so

### Last call to pay your dues!

If you'd like to continue to be part of our club, please send in your dues today. The cost is \$30 per person or \$60 per couple. What a great value for a super club!



Only \$30

We are preparing a new roster of 2018 members. We would like to distribute it by the next general meeting on January 5, 2018. Send your check to Friendship Force of Southwest Florida, c/o Jack & Jo Cooley, Treasurers, 24464 Riverfront Drive, Port Charlotte, FL 33980.

### 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



Our trip to Brazil is now full. Fourteen of our members are set for fun, adventures and new friendships with two different clubs. A few more of our members are even doing an additional add on trip with the new club in the Villages.



## Images of Brazil

### President's Comments



Michelle

I meant what I said at the Christmas Party. The only reason I accepted to be your President is because I LOVE all you guys. I have only been a member for 4 years and I have never experienced such a happy, generous, cooperative club. I will never forget my very first meeting...Joanne was President and she needed volunteers for something and bingo the hands went up. I was so impressed!

I will need all of you to help me as I have NEVER been president of any organization. Let's work together as friends.

My goals are:

1. Like Joanne, when I ask for volunteers, I hope to see your hands wave high.
2. I really would like to build up our Bonding Social Committee. When Irma hit last September I was without electricity (like many of you) for 8 days. Suddenly I was getting calls from members of FF to come spend the night at their place. I went to 7 different homes that week to 'sleep'. With each night I felt bonds of friendship strengthening. Life is not a dress rehearsal; let's make the MOST of our friendship with one another. Come have lunch with me, let's go to the movies, let's visit someone you know in the hospital or nursing home, and/or let's go to a bluegrass festival (heard it was FANTASTIC). Invite a fellow friendship member and don't forget your neighbor who does not (yet) belong to FF....bring them along. Let's show them what FRIENDSHIP is all about.

So with Joanne and Sue as the role model presidents I have observed for the last four years, I hope I can make this a pleasant two years for all of you.

Lastly I want to THANK the new board. We did not have to twist any arms. The Nominating committee asked for volunteers and BINGO we have a new board. Please

each of you club members get involved with your club. There are so many ways you can help. And if you can't think of anything call me....I will have no problem giving you suggestions!

I serve you in friendship,

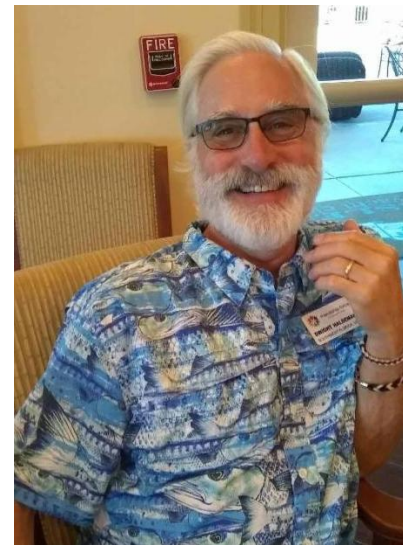
*Michelle*

## Parting Shots

The gift of new members!



*Meet Cindy Haldeman*



*Meet Dwight Haldeman*





*Meet Marcie Grief*

## 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](#)

### 2018 Elected Board

(voting members):

President

***Michelle Kemps***

1st Vice President

***Beverly Harmon***

2nd Vice President

***Ginny Dooley***

Treasurer

***Jack & Jo Cooley***

Secretary

### 2017 Non-voting Board

Membership & Publicity

***Carol Nasby***

Publicity

***Kevin Janiak***

Host & Journey Mentoring

***Cheryle Phelps***

Email, Club Roster, Newsletter

***Joanne Collins***

Webmaster, Club Photographer

*Linda Supakoff*

*Richard Collins*  
**Social Committee**  
*Maureen Butt, Carol Berry &  
Bev Harmon*

Experience Different Views.  
Discover Common Ground.

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida, 3772 Peace River Dr, Punta Gorda, FL 33983

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