



friendship force
S O U T H W E S T F L O R I D A

June & July 2018 Newsletter

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

Friday, June 8, 2018 beginning at 11:30



FF Summer Lunch Get-together

Ginger Bistro

4650 S Cleveland Ave

Ft Myers 33907

41 Dim Sum items on the menu

This month we are having lunch at Ginger Bistro with those who make southwest Florida their year-round home! We've received great reports on the variety of food at this place. Let's have our "cultural experience" eating Chinese food together!



Need a ride? Phone a member friend and you can carpool together. Set your GPS for S Cleveland Ave, Ft Myers. We are looking forward to dining with you there.

We're Back! Brazil Journey Recap

What a wonderful experience the 9 members of our club shared on our trip to Brazil!

Check out some of our pictures on our club's website or click on this link, [Brazil pictures](#). Be

sure to **double click** to view them at a bigger size! Come to the September 7th General Meeting and hear about it. In the mean time, here are some of the highlights.

- We now know the meaning of **FORCE** in our Friendship Force name. It stands for FORCE march and FORCE feeding! We did a lot of walking, often on pretty steep hills with cobbled streets and we were served a lot of food! This allowed us to see lots of things and visit many places and gave us a chance to sample the delicious food of Brazil.
- Our biggest **"take away"** from our two weeks with the Sao Paulo and Nova Lima clubs was that Brazil has such **warm and vibrant** people. We loved all the hugs and kisses. I think that is the ultimate goal of Friendship Force, to introduce us to friendly and open people from around the world.
- We learned a lot about Brazilian history and how Sugar Loaf got it's name. We also will never complain about traffic in South West Florida again, or distances we need to take our ambassadors when we are hosting!
- We met two wonderful FF members, one from Sarasota, John, and one from Sacramento, CA, Christina, who we wish we could keep in our club.
- We enjoyed our extension and especially the **Iguazu** water falls and the large number and variety of butterflies. Taking extra time to do independent travel is rewarding and recommended for any FF trip.
- We came to a better closeness between the members that traveled together. We genuinely like each other and the bonding will serve the club well. Aside from us enjoying each other, we were told by both our host clubs that, as a group, we were well liked and didn't create problems. That is good to know but no real surprise with the people we had!



A butterfly lands on Rob's finger in Iguacu Falls



Christo blesses us



An 88 butterfly - can you see it?

Talk to Michelle Kemps and Lou Rizk about their 2 more weeks with the FF clubs of Suncoast and The Villages! By completing 4 journeys there, they should be citizens of Brazil by now! The others on our trip were, Rob and Sue Linehan, Richard and Joanne Collins, Ginny Dooley, Mary Howard and Bev Harmon.



Sue, Michelle & Lou enjoyed the Nova Lima Farewell Party to the max!



Michelle and Sue pose in Sao Paulo's Japan House as part of the art!

Our goal from this trip is to replicate some of the wonderful hospitality that we experienced and facilitate our visiting ambassadors to have their best experience ever!

*-Journey Coordinators,
Michelle Kemps and
Sue Linehan*

From Lou Rizk ...

Below is a picture of my host, Iolene Andrade Moura , Florileza FF, who makes all her own clothes and painted 3 of the pictures shown in her living room.



Also, here's a picture from my Florianapolis host's condo at the beach. He is an architect who builds many buildings in the area as well as this 72 unit beach complex.



What's Next?

2019 Outbound Journeys to Indonesia and West Michigan April and September

At our last General Meeting in April, two club members stepped up to lead the Journey with the Sarasota FF Club to **Indonesia** next year! Yes, thank you **Carol Nasby** and **Susan Beaudry**, our Journey Coordinators for Indonesia! The two clubs we will visit are **Banjarmasin** and **Malang** Trip #15074 in April 2019. They report that we have 8 slots to fill and they've already received many applications. However, if you want to go, you can still be on the "Waiting List" in case others drop out. Just let them know.

Malang is the second largest city in East Java and is a popular tourist destination. Click on [Malang FF](#) to discover more fascinating info about this club of 40 that was founded in 1997 and who has welcomed many FF clubs throughout the world. **Banjarmasin** is known as a River City because it is located at the junction of the Barito and Martapura Rivers. Its population is 625,000 (2010 census). Find out more by clicking [Banjarmasin FF](#), a club of 27 founded in 2015.



Images of Indonesia





Also, at the May General Meeting, **Linda Supakoff** and **Luvvy Kovacik** volunteered to be joint Journey Coordinators (FF lingo is "JC"s) for the 2018 Fall trip to **West Michigan Club** where we will attend the 2019 **Artprize Festival**. Click on the underlined link to read all about it. This will be *only a one- week Journey unless* we try to coordinate it with other locations. They will be working on the itinerary and will let us know. At this time, West Michigan Club requests us to come the **4th week in September 2019**.

Where in the World are our members traveling?



From Fred & Mary Giddings, our new Associate Members..



"On our way back to Michigan we went to the Midwest regional meeting of FF in Cincinnati. There were approx 150 people there about 8 from Kalamazoo. It was a good and informational time. In June, Kalamazoo (West Michigan) will host Baton Rouge and in September we will host Omaha. In August Kalamazoo (West Michigan) will be going on a journey to Medicine Hat with a few days in Banff."



From the amazing traveler, Maureen Butt...

"We leave on Friday for Maui and will be there for two weeks at Kaanapali beach. We arrive back from Maui and five days later we are on a plane in San Francisco heading off to Amsterdam. We will rent a car for two weeks and visit Hank's family in northern Germany and then drop off the car again in Amsterdam and hop on a cruise ship which takes us to the Baltics.

We will have three days in Port at St. Petersburg, Russia and we are booked for tours of The Hermitage.

We are back here (CA) for all of July August and middle of September we take off again to Hawaii but this time to Kauai for two weeks..... and then the big trip! My first outbound journey to Israel with Friendship Force of Dallas club. This trip will be three weeks and I will fly round-trip from San Francisco."

From Carol Berry...

She recently completed a
Road Scholar trip to
Copenhagen and



Sweden. On the right, our group poses in front of the Stockholm City Hall, where many of the Nobel prize events take place.

The other picture is Carol posing in Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen.



From Carol & Chris Nasby...



"Chris and I will be traveling in June to Maine for a one week sailing excursion, and then we will journey on to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Looking forward to great lobster and mussels!"

Quotes from Jack Cooley...



"I expect to pass this way but once;
Any good therefore that I can do,
Or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature,
Let me do it now.
Let me not defer or neglect it,
For I shall not pass this way again."
~Etienne Griellet~

"Every day should be passed as if it were to be our last"
~Publilius Syria

Here come the Aussies -2019 Inbound Journey next February

We recently received word that we've matched to host the Central Coast Australia Club next February. Joanne Collins and Bev Harmon stepped up to co-chair this inbound journey. They've both been on FF journeys to Australia and want to "give back" some of the fun times they experienced.

Central Coast Australia Club was chartered in 1986, the first in New South Wales, and the second in

Australia. It is a small, but growing club, that currently has 20 members. Central Coast is an urban region in New South Wales, located approximately 1 hour north of Sydney. The region is a network of towns that have been linked in recent years by expanding suburban development. The main urban cluster of the region surrounds the northern shore of Brisbane Water and includes the Coast's largest population center, Gosford. Central Coast has a campus of the University of Newcastle and many theaters in the region.



Australian Icons

Stay tuned for more information as it develops and think about what you can do to help us welcome the fantastic Australians. G'day Mates!

Welcome New Member

We are happy to welcome one new member of our club...

Kathleen Sawin is a snow bird who lives in Naples part of the year and in Wisconsin during the summer. Here's her intro...



"I reside in Fiddler's Creek in the winter months (December to May) and in the summer/fall return to Wisconsin. I am a retired nursing faculty (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) and still work part time as a nurse researcher at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. My love of travel began as a "air force brat" --I graduating from high school in Japan and my sister in Belgium. One brother and sister-in-law also live in Fiddlers and my sister and husband visit often as do my other brothers-- We all enjoy traveling. In the last few years I have been to Panama, Cuba, Spain, Denmark and Norway and will be off to Italy in late May. My adult children and 2 grandchildren live in the DC area so I frequently travel there. I am especially interested in Friendship Force because of the "connections" both in "in-bound" and "out-bound" travelers and look forward to participating in "hosting" visitors to SW Florida."

302 Sabin

Welcome to our Club, Kathy!



Travel Insurance with FF - Did you know?



The Friendship Force Travel Protection plan is available for *non FF related travel*. Just enter the number **14000** for the Journey number. Click on the Quick Links below under FF International Website, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on FF Travel Protection Plan (underwritten by Nationwide).

Do you FaceBook?



Susan Beaudry has conquered FaceBook and we now have it up and running! There are a few older versions "out there" so be sure you look for the one with us all under the tree ! It is called: [Friendship Force of Southwest Florida Group](#). Check it out by clicking underlined address in previous sentence or clicking it in [Quick Links](#) (see box below).

Keep the online conversations going by adding your own posts and pictures. Use the power to Social Media to promote our club. Hey, let's get "with it", keep up with the grandchildren by embracing the technology of the 21st century. **You can do it!** Contact Susan with questions. Be sure to **LIKE US!**

Save the Date Event & Travel Quote



August 7 - Ice Cream Social

Prado Movie & Topsy Cow
25261 Chamber of Commerce Drive, Bonita Springs, FL 34135
Homemade Ice Cream infused with alcohol
Fresh Sorbets/Italian Ice *No sugar added options*



"You learn a lot about your country, by leaving it" - Rick Steves

President's Comments



Michelle with her Brazilian host, Edilea

Brazil was fantastic; Sue did a great job writing the summary. I was so proud of all our ambassadors. We were together for 25 days, we did not have one problem or complaint, and we took a great risk with a travel company which turned out super!

I am so excited about our club. While I stayed in Brazil 2 extra weeks, Beverly and Ginny took over the May meeting, again with no problems and I heard lots of compliments! I am so proud that we had members volunteer and all the JC (journey coordinator) and AC (ambassador coordinator) slots for next year's journeys have been filled.

When you travel like we do, you meet other Friendship Force clubs, there is no question in my mind, we are one of the best! Thank you everyone for all your participation. Inbound is just important as outbound. I love you all.

In Friendship,

Michelle

Parting Shot



The Happy 11 ambassadors pose before magnificent Iguacu Falls, Brazil side

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](#)

[Friendship Force of Southwest Florida Group on FaceBook](#)

[Order our Club Shirt](#)

[Join our Club](#)

2018 Elected Board

(voting members):

President

Michelle Kemps

1st Vice President

2017 Non-voting Board

Membership

Carol Nasby

Publicity

Beverly Harmon
2nd Vice President
Ginny Dooley
Treasurer
Jack & Jo Cooley
Secretary
Linda Supakoff

Kevin Janiak
Host & Journey Mentoring
Cheryle Phelps
Email, Club Roster, Newsletter
Joanne Collins
Webmaster, Club Photographer
Richard Collins
Social Committee
Maureen Butt, Carol Berry &
Bev Harmon
Sunshine & FaceBook
Corrine Larson & Susan Beaudry

Experience Different Views.
Discover Common Ground.

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

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