



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

June & July 2019 Newsletter

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

Summer Lunch Get-together



Friday, June 7, 2019 - 11:30 am
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! Let's have our "cultural experience" enjoying 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 lunching with you there!

Announcing 2019 Outbound Journey to Zittau, Germany

Did you read Michelle's email or attend last month's meeting? If so, you were advised that a **brand new journey opened up** to Germany in September of this year! Allison of Friendship Force International invited our club to travel to a new club in Zittau. This club is just getting started and would like to host a group from the USA. **We were chosen!**



Bird's eye view of Zittau



Will you co-lead & help Cassandra?

Cassandra Wooden volunteered to be the Journey Coordinator. She asks for someone to step up and be a *co-leader* to help her with all the details. Those interested in going besides Cassandra are: Maureen Butt, Cindy & Dwight Halderman, Linda Supakoff, Richard Copeland, Jo & Jack Cooley, Lou Rizk & Cheryle Phelps. If you want to join this great adventure, now is the time to let Cassandra know by emailing her at woodindia@aol.com (phone 941-258-8522) FYI - About 20 years ago Cassandra read about the Baltic countries and her interest was peaked. Finally, she is touring Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia (with a stop in Warwaw, Poland) with her sister, Ramona. She'll be gone 2-3 weeks so expect to hear from her by the end of June.

Want to know more about the lovely city of Zittau located near Dresden near the border of Poland and the Czech Republic ? Just click on [Zittau info](#)

Announcing 2020 In-Bound Journey - Saratov, Russia

Every year Friendship Force International (FFI) in Atlanta lets us know who matched to visit our club. Next year, in 2020, we will welcome a group from Saratov!

It is a large city (region's population is 2.5 million) situated in the southeast, the *European part* of Russia, on the right bank of the Volga River and located about 520 miles southeast of Moscow. It is an important cultural, economic and educational center of the Volga region.

The city is known as a center of higher education, research and scientific activities. Beside one of the oldest universities in Russia, there are over a dozen colleges in the city. Saratov is an important industrial center of the Volga River area. Its industries are machine-building, oil and chemical. Saratov climate is moderately cold in the winter and it has hot, often dry summers.



Scenes of City of Saratov, Russia

There are 28 members of their Friendship Force Club. They are scheduled to visit Brazil and then they will travel to Florida to visit our club.

Sue Linehan has agreed to be the co-Journey Coordinator with new



Russian flag

member volunteers. Those who have volunteered are **Maureen Butt, Marla Burkland and JoAnn Robbins**. Sue is contacting them for details of when they can travel here. Stay tuned for the details in the coming months.

West Michigan Outbound Journey



Linda
Journey Coordinator

Linda Supakoff, our Journey Coordinator, will be giving you information soon about who has been chosen to travel as club ambassadors to West Michigan. Date is Oct 1-7, 2019.

Marcia from West Michigan says that they can take 12-14 people; cost is \$180 for the week; you can fly into Grand Rapids (GRR) or Kalamazoo (AZO). Allegiant also has routes from Punta Gorda to Grand Rapids, making it very convenient for those living in P.G.

Stay tuned!

Do you have some travel tips?

Cheryle Phelps discovered SHOUT "color catcher" so that you can wash your colors with whites while on a trip (or at home), in only ONE load of wash. Easy to pack in your luggage!



Michelle Kemps says, "When returning from a trip, only remove your dirty clothes. LEAVE your converter, umbrella, deck of cards, traveling cosmetic bag, important papers (copy of passport, health shots, credit cards, passwords etc). Note - I have documentation on evacuation insurance by the year, contacts for relatives in case of emergency, and of course, the empty SPACE bags that do not require a vacuum cleaner.

You might even consider leaving in your suitcase, a favorite travel sweater and jacket.

Then, you are almost ready for the next trip!

So if you haven't used the Space bags they are great....buy at Walmart. They **DO NOT** need the vacuum. They only problem is they are **SO GOOD** you end up taking more clothes than needed."

Send me your travel tip for next newsletter!

Where in the World are our members traveling?



Bev Harmon stopped in San Francisco on the way home from her Indonesia adventure. She went to the Orpheum Theatre to see the play **Hamilton**. Her comments were, *"The theatre was beautiful. Grateful the lyrics were distinct and could easily be understood. The diverse cast gave a modern vibe to the historical story. Loved it!"*

Bev says that in July, she and **Kev** will attend the FF Conference in Boulder, CO. Afterwards, they will visit grandson, Max and sister-in-law in Denver. In September, they are traveling to New Orleans to meet family there for Kev's granddaughter's birthday. In October, they hope to go on the Michigan Outbound Journey.



Bev with her brother's family

Carol & Chris Nasby told us that in June, they will be visiting the Utah National Parks, and Grand Canyon with family.

In August they will be in Europe doing a Tour of the Baltic Capitals and St Petersburg, Russia. Afterwards they will go on a 3-day visit to Paris and a 4-day visit to Oslo, Norway.

Then in October, they will do the Viking River Cruise from Passau to Budapest. And...then add on a week in Oslo to visit their son and family. They will see us in November to rest up!

Marla & Dan Burkland are going on a Baltic cruise leaving June 13th. The cruise will begin in Stockholm with stops in Estonia, St Petersburg, Russia, Helsinki, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and ending in Denmark.

Where are you traveling? Send me an email and pictures so that I can include it in the next newsletter.

What Are YOU doing this summer?

SAVE THE DATE

2019 FFI World Conference
New Location and New Dates



BOULDER, COLORADO, USA JULY 23-27, 2019

Workshops/Plenaries: July 23-25 | Social/Local Activities: July 26-27

Due to Hurricane Maria's lasting impact on Puerto Rico, our 2019 World Conference location and dates have been changed.
Please save the *new* date and location, and plan to join us in Boulder, Colorado next July!

Friendship Force is having a **World Conference** in Boulder, Colorado. To register, click on [REGISTER NOW](#). At the last meeting, we learned that some of our members are planning to go (Bev, Kev, Ginny, Cindy & Dwight). Will you join them?

Save the Dates 2019 -Events & Meetings

August 4 - Sunday Ice Cream Social 2 pm
Home of Jo & Jack Cooley



September 6 - Program on Indonesia FF Journey - Estero Library

October 4 - Program on Egypt Journey - Punta Gorda

November 1 - Program TBD* in Punta Gorda

December 8 - **Holiday Brunch & Change of Officers**
Isles Yacht Club, 10:30 am, Punta Gorda

CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD



" The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams. "

- Oprah Winfrey

What have you learned about the world since you joined Friendship Force?

President's Comments



Very Interesting.....I have just returned from a River Cruise from Budapest to Prague. There were 150 passengers on the ship. It was a great trip and the places and tours were well done and enjoyable.

But, I realize how much I prefer our Friendship Force Journeys. I spent 14 days trying to meet and bond with 150 passengers, it just does NOT compare the the bonds we form by having a home stay and club chaperones through out our visit. We are **so very lucky** to be members of such an outstanding organization. And, I say to all you 'newbees'...sign up, try it, you, too, just might fall in love with this concept of cultural journeys.

*In Friendship,
Michelle*

Parting Shots



Our club ambassadors were on a television show In Banjarmasin, Indonesia; a morning talk show to explain Friendship Force and the benefits to the community. A very fun morning!

Quick Links... help you find info fast!

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

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

[FFI Journeys Scheduled for 2019 Worldwide](#)

[Journey Application and Agreement Form](#)

[FFI Stories of Friendship](#)

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

[Order our Club Shirt](#)

[Join our Club](#)

2019 Elected Board

(voting members):

President

*Michelle Kemp*s

1st Vice President

*Beverly Har*mon

2nd Vice President

*Ginny Do*oley

Treasurer

*Jack & Jo Co*oley

2019 Non-voting Board

Membership

*Carol Nas*by

Publicity

*Kevin Jani*ak

Host & Journey Mentoring

*Cheryle Ph*elps

Email, Club Roster, Newsletter

*Joanne Coll*ins

Secretary
Linda Supakoff

Webmaster, Club Photographer
Richard Collins
Social Committee
*Maureen Butt, Carol Berry &
Bev Harmon*
Sunshine & FaceBook
Susan Beaudry

*Experience Different Views.
Discover Common Ground.*