



friendship force

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## February 2020 Newsletter

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

### General Meeting & Program

Friday, February 7, 2020 beginning at 10 AM  
Fort Myers Library Meeting Room  
2450 First Street (near back parking lot)



Last October 10 members of our club participated in a one-week Journey to Western Michigan led by Journey Coordinator, Linda Supakoff. Those participating were: Linda Supakoff, Joanne & Richard Collins, Ginny Dooley, Bev

Harmon, Kev Janiak, Michelle Kemps, Luvvy Kovacik, Sue Linehan and Joanne MacPeek.

Richard Collins put together a great slide presentation of the highlights of the trip. Our snow bird members, Marcia Ellis and Mary & Fred Giddings, put out the **Welcome Mat** as did their other members. Come hear about a great journey that will inspire you to travel either internationally or within the U.S. with Friendship Force. Lunch to follow at The Edison, 3583 McGregor Blvd, Ft Myers, phone (239) 936-9348.

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## Inbound Journey - Niagara, CANADA February 25 - March 2, 2020

### Are you ready for the Canadians?

Cheryle Phelps, our Journey Coordinator, suggests that all Home Hosts **send a picture** of themselves to the Ambassador you are hosting. It's always nice for them to hear from you! The final agenda will be sent to club members once Carol Berry (who now resides in Gainesville, FL) finishes her phone calls regarding setting up the Small Dinners. *Isn't it great that Carol remained a member of our club after her move - AND is doing what she can for us even though she lives 250 miles away?*



Cheryle reminds Home Hosts to **pick up their ambassadors** at the airport. Many are arriving on different flights and times.

**\*\* Please be prepared to sign up at the meeting to participate in any of the Itinerary for the Niagara Incoming Journey. Bring your checkbook! \* \***

Listed below is the Schedule as we know it (without the specific Small Dinner info):

**Tues, 2/25** - Hosts pick up ambassadors. Dinner is with hosts.

**Wed, 2/26** - 11 AM - Edison Ford Guided Tour. 1:30 PM - **WELCOME PARTY** at Colonial Country Club. Afterwards travel to Phelps/Rizk Home for visitation and drinks. Dinner is with hosts.

**Thurs, 2/27** - 10:30 AM - Walking Tour of Downtown Ft Myers. Lunch to follow at Izzy's (included in Tour package). Small Dinner Party that evening.

**Fri, 2/28** - 11 AM - Koreshan Park Ranger Guided Tour. Lunch to follow at Sweet Tomatoes Restaurant. This is the suggested day for Ambassadors to treat Hosts for dinner.

Sat, 2/29 - 10 AM - ECHO Guided Tour. Lunch at pavilion provided by our club.  
Small Dinner Party that evening.

Sun, 3/1 - FREE DAY - Ambassadors should be given options by hosts.

Mon, 3/2 - FAREWELL PARTY - 1 PM - at Vivante Club House, Punta Gorda. Tour Bird Sanctuary before party if time allows. Snack that evening (if required) is with hosts. Ambassadors should prepare for March 3 departure. We must know who is driving to Vivante in advance so the guard at the gate will give you entry. Payment of \$20 pp should be made by 2/17.

Tues, 3/3 - Ambassadors depart for Sarasota. Host to deliver ambassadors to their transportation to Sarasota.

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## 2020 Inbound Journey - Saratov, RUSSIA

### March 21 - 27, 2020

Sue Linehan, our Journey Coordinator, reports the Journey is scheduled for the first day of spring, March 21st for a one-week homestay here.

We have been told that interviews for visas are on February 5th. They will let us know by mid February if the journey will happen and, if so, who is coming.

If you are willing to host, please stand by as it may be some last minute arrangements that need to take place.

We should exercise patience as it is the U.S. government that is causing the delay.

Saratov is a large city situated in the southeast, on the right bank of the Volga River. It is located ~ 520 miles southeast of Moscow. It is an important cultural, economic and educational center of the Volga region.



*Scenes of City of Saratov, Russia*



*Russian flag*

Sue Linehan is the co-Journey Coordinator with co-coordinators, Maureen Butt, and JoAnn Robbins.

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## Welcome New Members

Welcome to new member, **Bobbie Henhapl**, who lives in Bonita Springs and is a realtor. She is a



snow bird, but is with us 7 months of the year.

We are so happy you joined our club and look forward to getting to know you!

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## Out and About



Do you like outdoor music venues? If so, join Luvvy and the gang in Bonita Springs on Tuesday, January 29 at Riverside Park, 10451 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs from 7-9 pm for an outdoor concert featuring Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw.

There is a \$5 per person "suggested contribution." Call a friend and carpool! Questions? Contact Luvvy at 239-789-

0879



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## Save the Dates 2020 -Events & Meetings Starting time 10 AM

**February 7**

**FF Outbound Journey to West Michigan Club by Richard & Joanne Collins**

**Inbound Canadian Visit  
February 25- March 2**

**Cheryle Phelps & Lou Rizk - JCs+**

**March 6**

**Norway by Carol Nasby**

**Inbound Russian Visit  
March 21 - 28**

**Sue Linehan & Maureen Butt**

**April 3**

**FF Romania Habitat Build by Michelle Kemps**

<i>May 1</i>	<i>TBD^</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>Social with Lunch</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>No meeting</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>Ice Cream Social TBD^</i>
<i>September 4</i>	<i>TBD^</i>
<i>October 2</i>	<i>TBD^</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>TBD^</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Holiday Event TBD^</i>

*\*changed for this meeting only to second Friday in January\**

*^TBD = To be determined*

*+JCs = Journey Coordinators*

## CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

Jack Cooley sent these words of inspiration:

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."  
~Ben Franklin~

### President's Comments



Dear Friends,

Greetings, Gratitude and Grace to ALL FRIENDS - MEMBERS - AND MEMBERS TO BE!

I joined Friendship Force in 2014 because I love to travel and I love people! This club has given me new friends and wonderful experiences. My trip to Michigan this October was inspiring, exhilarating and fun!

**Inspiring** because my home hosts do so many good works, *e.g.*, opening a FREE CLINIC in the poor section of Grand Rapids. They were wonderful hosts who drove many miles so we could participate in the amazing activities including Gerald Ford Museum.

**Exhilarating** because we toured a home by Frank Lloyd Wright; visited amazing Mejher Gardens, had lunch in a home of an Amish Family.

**Fun** because we laughed while taking pictures under a giant horse sculpture, sharing dinner with dinner hosts, and our home hosts.

Friendship Force makes travel a rewarding experience of God's love among us!  
Please spread this Good News

*In Friendship,  
Joanne*

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## Parting Shot



*From Left to Right, Chris & Carol Nasby with Marci Ellis & husband, Tom, at our December Out & About Event. It was a lovely night strolling the gardens. The work the volunteers put in on lighting the gardens was fantastic! The visit was topped off by a Meteor Shower in the night sky. Wow!*

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**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 2020 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](#)

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## 2020 Elected Board

(voting members):

### President

*Joanne MacPeck*

### 1st Vice President

*Ginny Dooley*

### 2nd Vice President

*Maureen Butt*

### Treasurer

*Richard Copeland*

### Secretary

*Sue Masters*

## 2020 Non-voting Board

### Membership

*Carol Nasby*

### Publicity

*Luvvy Koviak*

### Host & Journey Mentoring

*Cheryle Phelps*

### Newsletter

*Joanne Collins*

### Webmaster

*Michelle Kemps*

### Social Committee

*Beverly Harmon & Maureen Butt*

### Club Photographer

*Maureen Butt*

### Sunshine, FaceBook, Ice Cream Social

*Open position opportunities*

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Experience Different Views.  
Discover Common Ground.