



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

March 2020 Newsletter

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

General Meeting & Program

Friday, March 6, 2020 beginning at 10 AM
Punta Gorda Fire & Police Station Conference Room
1410 Tamiami Trail (Rt 41), Punta Gorda

**Special Note*: There will be a short tour of the Firehouse (lots of unique murals to view!) at 10:15 am so please arrive on time if you'd like to see it!*

World Friendship Force Day is officially recognized on March 1 each year by the United States Senate and other governing bodies around the world that encourage average people to get to know one another better because, as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter once said, "International friendship is a powerful antidote to war."



The Dramatic Opera House on Oslo Fjord

What a great way to honor World Friendship by coming to our Friendship Force meeting! Carol & Chris Nasby will discuss "**Beautiful Norway !**" They will share their extensive knowledge of Norway at the meeting. They have traveled to Norway many times when they visit their son and his family once or twice a year. It is an incredible country in so many ways. This photo is of the Opera House on the Oslo Fjord. Hope to see you there! Lunch will follow at Phil's 41 Restaurant, a close-by location with great food!

Inbound Journey - Niagara, CANADA Wrap-up of a terrific week

Cheryle Phelps, our Journey Coordinator, did a terrific job organizing and arranging housing for 19 lovely Canadian ambassador visitors from Niagara, Haliburton, St Mary's and other close-by areas. Lou Rizk was her invaluable assistant who helped her with finances, photos and miscellaneous duties.



Our Canadian ambassadors were treated to an extra special Welcome both at Colonial Country Club and afterwards at the Phelps/Rizk residence. They learned Fort Myers history on the Historic Walk, Edison Ford Winter Estates and later, on the tour of Koresham State Park in Estero. There were many dinners and

opportunities for all of our members to get to know them! The hosts in Punta Gorda area pooled their efforts and put on a fabulous Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday picnic.



Canadian Ambassadors meet Edison

Pictures were posted in real time on our Group Facebook Page and will also be posted on our website. Please send pics to Michelle Kemps, our Web Master, for inclusion. Thanks to all those who hosted, drove Canadians and hosts to destinations, cooked for them and contributed in helping with the Welcome and Farewell activities. It truly takes a Group Effort! Thank you FF of Southwest Florida, one great club!

2020 Inbound Journey - Saratov, RUSSIA March 21 - 27, 2020 - Cancelled

Sue Linehan, our Journey Coordinator, with co-coordinator, **Maureen Butt**, report the Journey was cancelled by the inbound Russian ambassadors. They had difficulty receiving visas. We are hoping for an alternative time, perhaps in November. We will let you know if these plans materialize.

Welcome New Members

Here are some of the pictures of recent new members. Please introduce yourself and welcome them to our club.



Barbara Robinson



Connie Anderson



Collette Ericsson



Terese Libby

New Club Leadership and Remembering Bev

The Board met to resolve the leadership problem after the sudden resignation of Joanne MacPeck. It was decided that the two Vice Presidents, Ginny Dooley and Maureen Butt, would share the presidency for this year. They are looking for one Vice President to help them on the board. The Bylaws stipulate at least 5 people so that there is at least one tie-breaking vote. We ask all members to seriously consider stepping up so that the club can continue to thrive. This is a great opportunity to learn about the club's inner workings and contribute to its

success.



We will miss the leadership of dear Beverly Harmon who passed away suddenly from a heart-related event. She loved our club! She served as 1st and 2nd Vice President and helped with Out & About Events, and anything else that needed doing.

Many members attended her memorial service on the lanai in the community where she lived and had so many friends. Her family expressed their appreciation to our club for their attendance. There were beautiful pictures and a slide show of many of the significant events in her life.

As Sue remarked, let's all keep her memory alive by adopting some of her great qualities, especially in volunteering to help our club.



Bev's son, Chuck, with Lou



Bev's two daughters - Robin & April



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

April 3

*FF Romania Habitat Build by
Michelle Kemps*

May 1

TBD^

June

Social with Lunch

July

No meeting

August

Ice Cream Social TBD^

September 4

TBD^

October 2

TBD^

November

TBD^

changed for this meeting only to second Friday in January

^TBD = To be determined

CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

Michelle Kemps went to India from Nov 27 - Dec 31. with OAT (Overseas Adventure Travels). She did what is called *The Soul of India: The Colorful South*.

They specialize in interacting with the local people and donating money to a good cause i.e., education, sanitizing issues, in villages. The photo here shows how she tried to help the 25 ladies in sarees digging a reservoir with pitch forks, shovels and bowls to carry the dirt and stones on their head. She wasn't much 'help' but she sure brought a lot of laughs.



Michelle balancing a Bowl of Dirt

Presidents' Comments

Dear Friends,

HELP WANTED !

As you see in the picture, we have two new presidents. It takes this and more to keep our club going.

We are looking for a Vice President.

Maureen Butt has stepped up to the plate. THANK YOU Maureen, for being president with me!

With help from our members, we are solving and working on new ideas. This is everybody's club. Let's all work together!



Presidents, Maureen & Ginny

*In Friendship,
Ginny*

*Can you help?
Our club needs a Vice President. Maureen Butt and Ginny
Dooley will share the President position for 2020.
Nominations and suggestions appreciated.*

*In Friendship,
Maureen*

Parting Shot



Canadian Inbound Journey Welcome Party

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 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](#)

2020 Elected Board

(voting members):

Presidents

Ginny Dooley

Maureen Butt

Vice President

Open Position

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 Kemp

Social Committee

Maureen Butt, Open Position

Club Photographer

Maureen Butt

Sunshine, FaceBook, Ice Cream Social

Open position opportunities

Experience Different Views.

Discover Common Ground.