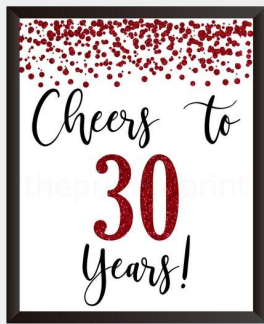




friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

May 2021 Newsletter

Celebrating 30 years



Did you know? We are now 30 years old!

Our Club was chartered on April 17, 1991 as the Lee County Friendship Force Chapter with 20 members. Its first outbound journey (formerly known as exchange) was to New Zealand and also, it welcomed its first inbound ambassadors from Derbyshire, England. Today, we have 51 members and in 2022, we will welcome **Detroit Club** and will travel to **Sacramento Club** and **Edmonton and Medicine Hat Clubs** in Canada.

Who led our club through the years? Fabulous volunteers! The past presidents are Don McCourt, Tom Crick, Bob Douglas, Jody and Russ Garmon, Luvvy Koviack, JoAnn Robbins, Daryl Anderson, Lou Rizk, John Janiak, Joanne Collins, Sue Linehan, Michelle Kemps and co-President, Ginny Dooley. Of course, you know the current terrific co-presidents are **Maureen Butt and Linda Supakoff**. We've also had many volunteers who filled club positions and helped with Inbound and Outbound Journeys.

Where have we journeyed? In the last 30 years, our chapter visited clubs in Manchester & Leicestershire, England; Jena & Herne, Germany; Manawatu, New Zealand; Sydney & Cairns, Australia; Korolev, Russia; Minsk, Belarus; Yamaguchi, Japan; Belgian Coast; Schwerin, Germany; Turrialba, Costa Rica; Stratford/St. Marys and Haliburton, Canada; in 2018, Sao Paulo and Nova Lima, Brazil; and in 2019, Indonesia. You need not travel with our chapter to travel with Friendship Force; you can travel with other chapters as well as many of our members



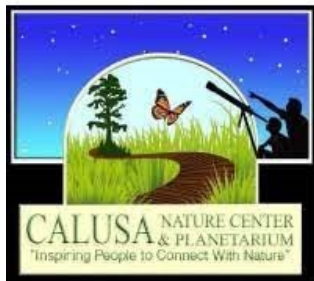
have.



Who have we welcomed into our homes and community? We have hosted many chapters including those from: Hamburg, Germany; England; Belarus; Russia; Uzbekistan; Korolev, Russia; Alejuela, Costa Rica, Belgian Coast; All Africa (Uganda and Kenya); Hiroshima, Japan, Australia Central Coast; and from the United States, Willamette Valley, Oregon; Denver & Colorado Springs, Colorado; Lincoln, Nebraska and West Michigan.

Our club embraces the Friendship Force slogan "**Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.**" We do this by connecting people from different countries at the personal level through inbound and outbound journeys. In these visits, members share conversation, meals and the routine of daily life. We are so glad you are part of our wonderful club!

Happy Birthday, Friendship Force of Southwest Florida! You are awesome!



Mark your Calendar

Wednesday, May 12, 10 am

Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium Field Trip

Lunch following at Buckingham Farms at 1 pm

Cheryle has stepped up to plan an event for us in the Fort Myers area.

Let's meet at 10 am for a Field Trip to Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium, 3450 Ortiz Ave, Fort Myers. We'll go on a guided walk followed by the planetarium show and animal encounter. Cost is only \$8. Please have the exact change so that Cheryle can pay for everyone all at once. The current COVID-19 policy is that facemasks must be worn inside all buildings, so please make sure you have your mask.



Next up - Buckingham Farms, **12931 Orange River Blvd**, for a farm to table lunch experience. It is a Hydroponic Farm with a country store offering American fare using ingredients grown on-site. Cost is \$9 - \$16 for salads; \$11 - \$14 for sandwiches. There are also 4 options from the grill for \$12-17; drinks are \$2.50 +

Please look at the on-line menu and let Cheryle know your choice so that our wait will be minimized. Click on **Buckingham Lunch Menu**. Click on **Cheryle's email** or phone her at 239-561-9164 with your lunch selection by 5/9/21.

Announcing Sacramento, California Journey 2022



Joanne Collins is our Journey Coordinator for this trip and is working with **Kathy DeBlonk**, Sacramento's Host Coordinator, for our trip next year. We asked them to accommodate us for one week sometime between Mid May and Mid June 2022. They usually house 20-22 ambassadors. For planning purposes, you might want to start thinking about whether this journey is for you!

What can you expect for the week when you visit the Sacramento Club?

As mentioned previously the club has approximately 100 members. From their website ([click on https://www.ffi-sacramento.org](https://www.ffi-sacramento.org)), "You can expect to see historic sites in Sacramento's Old Town and busy governmental center. The world-class Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento is a possible destination. Other oft-visited sites are the nearby wineries of El Dorado and Amador Counties, the giant Sequoias at Calaveras Big Trees State Park, and the former gold mining sites in the Sierra foothills such as the Empire Mine and Coloma Gold Discovery Site. A day long excursion to Lake Tahoe, visiting historical and vista points along the way, is an optional activity. Another possibility is a trip into San Francisco, about 2 hours away.

You can expect a home hosted dinner or brunch party during your stay. A visit to one of the myriad of ethnic restaurants is another possibility. We also take advantage of local festivals and events if they occur during your visit."

We will let you know when you can apply to go on this journey. The first step will be to complete a form found on the FFI website under Member Resources, Journey Documents, [Ambassador & Journey Agreement](#).

Save the Dates 2021

June & July - Summer Break - No formal



club activities, but feel free to organize a movie night or anything else. Contact [Joanne](#) and she can email out an announcement to our members.

August 15, 2 pm - Ice Cream Social
with optional swimming in pool at
Michelle Kemp's home on the Peace River

Greetings from Kenya Africa Friendship Force



Dear friends,

It's been a while but trust God has been gracious to you.

I've been sending greetings without any responses causing me to worry about my friends.

Well, here in Nairobi we are fine. We are managing by God's grace through this trying times of universal pandemic.

Kenya as at yesterday recorded a 135,000 cases with over 2000 fatalities. Its now toning down and schools are scheduled to reopen on Monday 10th.

Please know I think of you often as I pray the pandemic will be eradicated soon so that we will be able to travel and interact with our friends.

I hope once all of these is over you will consider doing a journey here in Kenya. May God bless and protect you and your family. Keep healthy and stay safe.

In loving Friendship,

Terry

*For those of you new to our club, Terry visited our club a few years ago.

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**

Co President's Comments

It was wonderful to see everyone at our club's birthday



party. We have a great team working very hard to plan events for our group , and I hope to see you again very soon.

The zoom meetings are also a great way to stay in touch and I recommend that you try one, if you haven't already.

Stay well and see you soon .

In Peace and Friendship,
Linda

Parting Shots

We had a great turn out for our 30th anniversary picnic and tribute to Bev Harmon in Gilchrist Park, Punta Gorda. Check out all the pictures!

Please note the next newsletter will come out in August (summer break!)



New member, Moirá, enjoyed the sandwich lunch



Two Past Presidents, Joanne and Ginny



One of our club's original members and Past President, Luvvy



Pretty in Pink, our club co-President, Maureen



Club members Katherine, Joanne, Luvvy, Michelle and guest



Co-President, Maureen, and Vice President, Carol



Judy, Joanne, West Michigan President, Richard, Marcie and Roy



Margie, Katherine and Moira enjoying the party



Some FF guys - Dennis, Chris and Hank

**Friendship Force of
Southwest Florida**

[Email Us](#)



*Check us out &
contribute to Group
Facebook Page! Click
FaceBook icon above!*

