



# friendship force Southwest florida

## Newsletter December 2015

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

### Holiday Party and Annual Meeting Sunday, December 13th at 11 AM



Join us for our **Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch** at Colonial Country Club, 9181 Independence Way, Ft Myers 33913. Hope to see you at this beautiful location!

Cost is \$22.90 inclusive of tax and tip. Thanks to Lou & Cheryle who organized this fun event for us. Please pay your tab individually at the Country Club. Just bring your credit card! Cash is not accepted.

If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring your wrapped gift costing in the \$10 range for some holiday fun. We will also have the Annual Meeting which will feature election of officers for 2016.

### FFI announces new President & CEO

Welcome to our new President and CEO

Cecile Latour, as  
Chairperson of the Friendship

### Friendship Force

#### Mission

*To promote global understanding across barriers that separate people*

#### Values

*Mutual Respect  
Cultural Diversity  
Cultural Exploration  
Service*

#### Tell Your Friends

*Your friends and the public are always welcome at our meetings. Keep your friends informed about our happenings by forwarding this newsletter to them.*

### Elected Board (voting members)

#### President

Joanne Collins

#### 1st VP

Dennis Yemma

Force International board, announced the appointment of Jeremi Snook as FFI's sixth President and CEO, effective November 9, 2015.



*Jeremi Snook*

Jeremi has a Master's degree in Business Administration and experience as a senior executive in the non-profit sector as well as the experience of starting a small business that quickly earned him and his partner the Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies' award. He worked successively with United Way, with the Uptown Emergency Shelter and most recently as Chief Operating Officer with Spaulding Youth Center in Northfield, New Hampshire, a leading community-based provider of educational services for children with neurological or behavioral challenges. Those on the Search Committee who have met him believe that he has the vision and management skills to lead FFI to the stability and sustainability we want for the organization. Most importantly, he has the values to embrace the mission that matters enormously to all of us.

Welcome aboard, Jeremi.

#### **2nd VP**

Sibby Yemma

#### **Treasurer**

Rob Linehan

#### **Secretary**

Jule Yemma

#### **Non-voting Board**

##### **Membership**

##### **ED Coordination**

Sue Linehan

##### **Email, Club Roster, Sunshine**

Cheryle Phelps

##### **Historian**

Carla Harms

##### **Club Store**

Pam LaFontaine

##### **Webmaster, Club**

##### **Photographer**

Richard Collins

##### **Parliamentarian**

Jody Garmon

##### **Newsletter**

Joanne Collins

##### **Publicity, Programs**

##### **Fundraising**

Entire Board

## **West Alajuela, Costa Rica Exchange Nov 15-21, 2015**



*The 2 gorgeous Exchange Directors*

Have you seen the wonderful Costa Rica Exchange pictures on our website? Once you sign in, click on **About Us**, then go down the page and click on **Exchanges**. Go to Costa Rica Exchange - click and up comes the pictures! Enjoy the memories!

As for me, I really liked meeting Mayor Randall Henderson, Jr. of Fort Myers. He was so personable and welcoming to our group. I also appreciated the support of the Hispanic American Business Alliance's President/CEO, Leonardo Garcia. He and his assistant were helpful in translating and welcoming our group. Richard and I so

enjoyed the Friendsgiving Celebration with the PGIslander Boating Group in Punta Gorda. Their members went the extra mile in developing and presenting a video slide show about the history of Thanksgiving with cute pictures and explanations of how the traditions developed. Just awesome! I thought the Farewell Party was exceptionally nice - Lou and Cheryle did a fantastic job in picking the catered food and providing games with prizes. Such an enjoyable evening.



*Meeting the Mayor*



*Going into Friendsgiving*

Thanks so much to Sibby and Sue in coordinating and pulling off all the exchange activities so flawlessly. I as told that the West Alajuela President commented that it was the best exchange they ever had! Our club keeps getting better and better. It takes help from all of us.

***Muchas gracias!***



*Costa Ricans & Club Members with the Mayor - lovely time!*

***Outbound Costa Rica Trip is full!***

Nineteen ambassadors will travel to Costa Rica from Feb 1 - 13, 2016.

The final payment is due Dec 20th. I will be sending out an email reminder.

Questions? Just contact ED Joanne.



***What a great time we'll all have!***

## **Slate of Officers for 2016**

Lou Rizk and the rest of the Nominating Committee put forth the following club members to be officers for 2016:

President	Sue Linehan
1st Vice President	Michelle Kemps
2nd Vice President	Beverly Harmon
Secretary	Carol Berry
Treasurer	Cathy Cobb

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.  
Hope to see you at the meeting and brunch on December 13 to elect our leadership for the coming year..

## **Generosity to FFI**

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU  
SEE THE WORLD**

WOW! Thanks to your generous donations, our club was able to send \$1,040 to FFI's "I'm In" campaign raising funds for a new database and website. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and helped them reach their fundraising goal. We look forward to seeing the results in the coming year.

## **What in the World are our members doing?**

Jule and Dennis Yemma are on the move! They plan to move to Avon Park, FL to renovate a home they own. The renter left the house and now they want to sell it. They still



plan on being club members and depending upon their luck selling this property, may be forced to move there permanently. Good luck - you will be missed!



*Julie & Dennis will be missed!*

If you'd like to share what you "are up to," please email Joanne and we'll publish it in the next newsletter.



## President's comments

***What a wonderful two years I've had as president of our club!***

I'm proud that with your help, we've increased membership, began the newsletter in a program called Constant Contact and revamped our website.

More importantly, we've had general meetings with interesting topics and wonderful exchanges. It was so great to welcome clubs from Costa Rica, Lincoln, Nebraska, and Denver, Colorado. It was an even greater joy to travel with club members to Schwerin, Germany and Bruges, Belgium. And the fun continues - in just 2 short months, Richard and I will fly to Costa Rica with a large contingent of club members.

Another highlight was the great cooperation I received enabling us to pull off a wonderful All Florida Conference and to have Joy DiBenedetto, FFI President, as our guest speaker. Thanks so much to Sue, Dennis, Julie, Rob, Sibby and Richard for their help this year. What a dedicated group - it was a pleasure to work with you in rebuilding our small but mighty club!

I will continue on doing the newsletter and Richard says he is "in" for maintaining the website.

**Happy Travels,**

*Joanne*



## Parting Shots



*Farewell Party Dancing*



*Costa Ricans and Club Members Cruising on the catamaran, Catalyst*

### ***Do you like our newsletter?***

Just email me at [eagleswingsj@yahoo.com](mailto:eagleswingsj@yahoo.com) with any suggestions and stories. Hope to hear from you soon!

257 Lido Drive  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Experience the World with Friendship Force  
You can change the world, one friendship at a time!

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