



# friendship force Southwest florida

## Newsletter July and August 2015

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

### Have you ever been to *Costa Rica*?



Our club provides a unique exchange opportunity to visit Costa Rica. "Why unique?" Our six day exchange to Turrialba is the home of the Costa Ricans who visited us just a few years ago! We are sure to enjoy their warm hospitality as well as activities that we will share with them in this beautiful region of their country.

Following the exchange, we have the opportunity for a six day tour with Horizontes Nature Tours. Stay at beautiful lodges, enjoy secluded Pacific beaches, float on the Sarapiquí River, view up-close the Arenal Volcano, experience the spectacular rain forest and spend an evening in San Jose, the capital city. The tour includes options for zip lining or sky walking through the rain forest. Horizontes Nature Tours provides transportation, a professional naturalist and a bilingual guide. They are highly recommended having served many Friendship Force clubs that have chosen to add a tour onto their exchange.

### ***Come join us!***

Dates: Feb 1 - 13, 2016

*Approximate* Cost (subject to change until plans are finalized):

Exchange only - \$ 949 (includes RT airfare, exchange fees, transportation, CR

### 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

departure tax)  
Optional Tour - \$ 1,162 (includes transportation,  
lodging (w/double occupancy),  
all breakfasts, most lunches,  
one dinner, most attractions)

Total estimated cost for both segments is \$2,111.

**Interested?** Email me or phone and I will send you more details. A Friendship Force application is required along with a check for \$100 to hold your spot. **Don't delay!** The trip will be opened up to other FF clubs on Sept 1.

## Ice Cream Social



Mark your calendar for Sunday, **August 9**, 3 PM at the home of Bob Kissinger, 309 Washington Avenue, Lehigh Acres, phone 239-910-7635 or 239-560-6353.

**It's free** - it's our Annual Ice Cream Social. Don't forget to notify us if you are coming so that we know how much ice cream to buy. Just email Reta Lanning at [lanningreta@yahoo.com](mailto:lanningreta@yahoo.com) or give them a call (phone #'s in 1st paragraph). Don't miss it!

Dennis Yemma  
**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

## All Florida Conference - Register today Save the Date - 10/10/15



*Meet Joy DiBenedetto*

Have you registered and sent your \$25 to our treasurer for the October 10 **All Florida Conference**? Just sign into our club's website and click on the first page for the forms.

It is our club's turn to host this yearly meeting attended by Florida club leaders and interested members. Let's all turn out to welcome, Joy DiBenedetto, the President and CEO of Friendship Force International. She will be available to answer your Friendship Force questions.

## November Costa Rica Inbound Exchange



*Costa Rican icon*

**Sibby Yemma**, the ED for November Incoming Exchange, reports that there will be 16 ambassadors (3 couples and 10 singles (including the ED) from the West Alajuela, Costa Rica Club. They are planning on visiting us either the week of November 8 or November 15. *Do you have a spare bedroom to accommodate 2 singles or a couple? Can you prepare a meal for some ambassadors and hosts? Can you drive ambassadors to an activity or be a day host?*

As you know, it **"takes a village"** to run a successful exchange. ***How will you help?***

## June General Meeting- All about Germany and Belgium Exchanges



*Lou says,  
"Check it out!"*

*Have you seen Lou Rizk's trip report and our pictures of the latest Germany & Belgium Exchange? It's on our website [www.friendshipforceswfl.org](http://www.friendshipforceswfl.org) Click on the About Us page, scroll down to Exchanges and click on Schwerin Germany Ostende Belgium. Enjoy! **Great job, Lou!***

On June 19 we met at the Punta Gorda Firehouse Conference Room for a club presentation about the Germany and Belgium Outbound Exchanges complete with slides and stories. We then had a delicious lunch at Sandra's, a local German Restaurant. What a great time!

*Don't miss out on our club activities.*

*Save the following dates on your calendar:*

### **July - Summer Break**

**Aug 9** - Ice Cream Social, 3 p.m. - hosted by Reta Lanning & Bob Kissinger, in Lehigh Acres

**Aug 28-31** - World Conference in Vancouver, Canada.

**Sept 18** - 11 AM - General Meeting at Ft Myers Library Program *Traveling Guatemala with FF*, speaker is Sue Linehan

**Oct 10 - All Florida Conference** hosted by our club at Whiskey Creek Clubhouse

**Nov 13** - 11 AM - General Meeting at Ft Myers Library, Program *Traveling Western Australia with FF Fort Worth*, speakers are Joanne & Richard Collins

**Nov** - Incoming Exchange from West Alajuela, Costa Rica

**Late Nov** - Nominations for incoming board for 2016

**Dec 13** - Tentative date for Holiday Party/Brunch, location TBD

## Welcome New Members

We invited some boating friends of ours to the June meeting and we are so happy that they decided to join! **Jo and Jack Cooley** lived on their boat and traveled throughout the Caribbean for many years. They recently sold their boat and are now "dirt dwellers."



© Can Stock Photo - csp11743816

We are so happy you joined us, Jo and Jack, and we look forward to seeing you at our next events!

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

It's summertime and that means many of us are back north and others are out and about. Here's what I've heard.

**Jule and Dennis Yemma** are traveling to the Badlands and Yellowstone with their grandsons. Check out this cute picture!



*Jule & Dennis with Andrew and Matthew*

**Cheryle Phelps & Lou Rizk** just returned from a wonderful trip to Atlanta where they visited family.

**Sue & Rob Linehan** are visiting family in Nebraska and celebrating her Dad's 103rd birthday! He still lives by himself in his farmhouse!

**Reta Lanning** is in Ohio visiting family and having a great time!

**Linda Sadler** is investigating her genealogy in Ocean Grove, New Jersey (NJ shore).

**Michelle Kemps** recently visited Thailand, Vietnam and Japan. See picture below!



**Joanne & Richard Collins** had a great time in the Galapagos Islands in June.

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



*J & R in Galapagos*

## President's comments

Richard and I checked off another line on our Bucket List. In late June we had a wonderful time in the *Galapagos Islands* on a National Geographic 10-day Cruise Expedition. The Galapagos are remote islands located 600 miles west of Ecuador in the Pacific near the Equator. We particularly loved all the unusual animals - blue-footed boobie birds, huge tortoises and soaring frigates and snorkeling with the friendly sea lions. We returned with a unique souvenir - a hat that says, "*I love boobies!*"



*Blue Footed Booby*

The Belgian Coast Club loved having us in May and are approved to visit our club in mid March 2016 for an Inbound Exchange. Dennis is one of the ED's but he is looking for a new member to be co-ED. He will show you the ropes on how it is done! The club is first visiting Sarasota and then will come to us. We want to show them all that our area has to offer!

Don't forget to sign up for the **October 10 All Florida Conference** at Whiskey Creek Clubhouse, Fort Myers. You will meet the leadership of Friendship Force and other Florida club members while discussing common issues and having lots of fun. Don't miss it!

Hope to see you at the Ice Cream Social!

**Happy Travels,**

*Joanne*

*Parting Shot*



*Michelle Kemp rides an elephant on her latest trip!*

**Do you like our newsletter?** Just email me at [eagleswingsj@yahoo.com](mailto:eagleswingsj@yahoo.com). For those who do so, I will put your name in a bowl and draw for a prize at the Ice Cream Social on August 9. Winners must be present to win. Hope to hear from you soon!

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

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*Try it FREE today.*

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