



friendship force
Southwest florida

Newsletter January 2015

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org



New Web Site Launched

Want to Meet the Locals, Near and Far? That's the opening message that visitors to our newly revised website read. We hope that this website will be a persuasive tool in acquiring new members ... **and** a resource for our current members. There are tabs (sections) on FF Terminology, The FF Name Explained, Frequently Asked Questions and other

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

FF Clubs. There is **enticing** visitor info on our club locales and surroundings - Punta Gorda, Fort Myers, Naples and the Everglades. Additionally, you can view photos of our past events, download expense reimbursement forms and read the newsletters and minutes. *Oh, but there is more!* Come to the next General Meeting and webmaster, Richard, will give a demo to you! Oh, but you cannot wait and the suspense is killing you. OK then, just click on www.friendshipforceswfl.org

Holiday Brunch well attended and FUN

Almost half the club attended the

Holiday Brunch at Colonial Country Club last year on Dec 14th. What a beautiful venue and the food was delicious! We had a fabulous time at the gift exchange and many items exchanged hands during the fun!



Reta enjoys the gift exchange!

Pictures are posted on our website under the tab **About Us** (on top of page) and then click on **Social Events**. Double click on the photos to enlarge them and enjoy viewing them all. This was lots of fun and many thanks to Lou and Cheryle for organizing this great event!

Officers were elected unanimously. For the listing, check out the side panel of Board Members. Happy New Year!

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

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

1st General Meeting of the Year and Schedule for 2015 January 16, 11 AM, Ft Myers Library



Mark your calendar for **Friday, January 16th, 11 AM** at the Ft. Myers Library located on the corner of Lee and 2nd Street. Entrance and parking in rear.

Those hosting Denver Ambassadors should make every effort to attend since Cecilia will be answering questions and finalizing plans. As mentioned above, our webmaster will have a "live hookup" of our revised webpage and will walk you through its many features.

Save the following dates on your 2015 calendar for this year's future activities

Feb 6 - Farewell dinner for Denver Exchange with talk about Denver

Mar 1 - World Friendship Force Day - Club Pot Luck - **need location**, if you would like to volunteer your home, please let us know soon!

April 10 - General Meeting at Ft Myers Library. Program TSA Speaker

May 12-26 - Club's Belgium & Germany Outbound Exchange

June 19 - General Meeting at Punta Gorda Firehouse, Program Traveling Belgium and Germany with our FF club - speakers are our ambassadors

July - Summer Break

Aug 9 - Ice Cream Social - **need location**, if you would like to volunteer your home, please let us know soon!

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

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

Oct 10 - Tentative date for **All Florida Conference** hosted by our club

Nov 13 - General Meeting at Ft Myers Library, Program Traveling Western Australia with FF Dallas, speakers are Joanne & Richard Collins

Late Nov - Nominations for incoming board for 2016

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

Denver, Colorado Inbound Exchange February 2 - 7, 2015

Cecilia Bridge, Jonnie Sprimont and Gloria Thompson are working on finalizing the Denver Exchange, coming up next month.. This is your chance to meet 19 incoming ambassadors.

Everyone is invited to participate in the events and we hope that you will join in the fun.

Here is what is planned:

Monday Feb 2, 2 - 3 PM Ambassadors arrive by bus at Cheryle & Lou's house for welcome pot luck dinner
 Tuesday Feb 3, 9:30 AM Echo tour, Edison Estates with Lunch by river, dinner with hosts
 Wednesday Feb 4, 10:30 AM Naples Botanical Garden with lunch at Park or Beach, Lovers Key, Evening - Small Dinner Parties
 Thursday Feb 5, Free Day
 Friday Feb 6, Activities at Punta Gorda, Sailing, Farewell Dinner at Lake Fairways, North Fort Myers

Note: We are in need a dinner host for Wednesday, Feb 4th for 3 ladies, (Jonnie Sprimont's ambassadors). Please call Phyllis Becker if you can help us out - her phone number is 239-995-1239



Denver, CO

2015 Outbound Exchange to Belgium and Germany

May 12 - 26, 2015



Our outbound ED, **Lou Rizk**, advises that 12 people put down a deposit on our club's outbound exchange to Schwerin, Germany and Bruges, Belgium. There are 3 openings remaining. If you want to take part in this exchange, don't delay in putting down your deposit. The first exchange is scheduled May 12-18 in Schwerin; the second begins May 20 and ends May 26 in Bruges. Depending when we leave Germany, we will have part of the 18th, all of the 19th and part of the 20th in Amsterdam, Netherlands. We will have a meeting of all the outbound ambassadors sometime in March at Lou and Cheryle's home at which time details will be finalized.

Have you paid your dues?



If you have not paid your dues by now, you are overdue!

You can fix this immediately by sending a check to our treasurer, Rob Linehan, for \$25 per person made out to FF of Southwest Florida.

Mail to him at 258 Venezia Ct, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Welcome New Members

Dianne & Larry Van Beek of Punta Gorda recently joined our club. They are snowbirds who reside in Wisconsin for the summer and former sailors. They both enjoy traveling and we had a wonderful time visiting Israel with Dianne.



© Can Stock Photo - csp11743816



Dianne at Holiday
Brunch

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

President's comments

It seems the older I get, the *faster time goes by!* My 94-year old Mom says that's because I'm busy and having a great time! I think she's right. This is my second year as your president and I am having FUN!

When I took the position last year, I wondered about the viability of our club. We had **38** members and were one of the smallest in the state. *What to do?* With the help of some of our board and dedicated members, we sponsored relevant programs featuring countries that FF members hosted or visited. We collaborated with the Sarasota Club (they sent us an excellent speaker and we returned the favor by traveling there and speaking about Australia). We developed a newsletter through a email program called **Constant Contact**. We updated our website to include more information in a slick new format. Hurrah, at the end of the year our membership numbered **52**.

We still have work to do. Most successful clubs number 75 members plus.

This spreads the hosting opportunities and work around and that is my goal for this club. Yes, we will advertise, but the proven fact is that **you**, the membership, bring in new people.

This year our club hosts the **ALL FLORIDA CONFERENCE**. That means that the leaders and interested club members from the entire state will come here. We will invite a speaker from Atlanta and develop programs of interest to them. Dennis Yemma, with the help of Sue Linehan, have volunteered to spearhead this meeting. Again, we will need your help in volunteering and showing up!

It's the time of year for resolutions. Why not resolve to become more involved in our wonderful club? We have several things that you can do for us. **We need a dinner host for Feb 4. We need a host for the summer Ice Cream Social. How about hosting the World Friendship Force Day Pot Luck on March 1st?** You get the idea!

Most of all, take advantage of all that Friendship Force offers. Travel with our club or with other FF clubs. Make new friends at the exchanges and spread our message around the world! It starts with YOU.

Happy Travels,

Joanne

Parting Shot

Do you like our newsletter? If you've read it to the end, email me at eagleswingsj@yahoo.com with your comments and suggestions. For those who do so, I will put your name in a bowl and draw for a prize at the January General Meeting. Winners must be present to win. Hope to hear from you soon!



**Retiring Member,
Marilyn Kloosterman**

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

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