



friendship force  
Southwest florida

## Newsletter March & April 2015

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

### Joy DiBenedetto FFI will speak here at All Florida Conference Oct 10, 2015



Joy DiBenedetto

Joy DiBenedetto, President and CEO of Friendship Force International, will speak here at the **All Florida Conference**. It is our club's turn to host this yearly meeting attended by Florida club leaders and interested members. Please save the date and mark your calendar to attend on Saturday, 10/10.

Behind the scenes Dennis Yemma and Sue Linehan are working on making this a significant worthwhile event. The meeting place will be Whiskey Creek Clubhouse. We are keeping the cost low to attract as many people as we can. Our club will be in the spotlight. We'll need everyone's help to make this a success. Can you host someone on Saturday night if the drive home is too long for them? Can you welcome fellow Florida members at the check in table? You get the idea! Let's show them the small, but mighty, club we are!

### Inbound Exchanges set for 2015 & 2016

#### 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

## Costa Rica and Africa

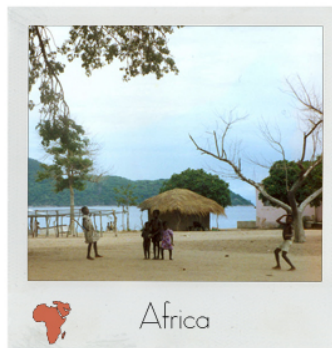
We received word from Atlanta that we now have two inbound exchanges!

Later this year, in November we will host another group from [Costa Rica - West Alajuela](#). The club was chartered 1997 and has 50 members between the ages of 30 and 80 years. The region is not far from the capital, San Jose and many members speak English. Their website states that "friendship is a special trait of the population."

[Sibby Yemma](#) received board approval to be the incoming ED for this fall exchange. We hope that you will help in some manner either by hosting, being a "small dinner host" or "day host" or one of the other tasks needed to make it a success.

In 2016 we are matched for an inbound exchange in December with members of clubs in different parts of [Africa](#). Some of the countries that may have members visiting us are: [Ghana](#), [Kenya](#), [Burundi](#), [Tanzania](#), [Uganda](#), [Sierra Leone](#) and [Liberia](#). Each country will select 2 or 3 ambassadors to join the

exchange and in case one country cannot recruit, the spots will be filled by another country. All of the countries' ambassadors speak English except Burundi, which is French speaking. However, Burundi does have a bilingual speaker who is planning to come and will be able to translate. This will be an exciting opportunity and I hope that everyone will enthusiastically support us in running this exchange. [We will need a ED so please think about volunteering and let one of us on the board know soon.](#)



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

## World Friendship Day at the Yemma's home

Thanks, Dennis and Jule, for hosting the March meeting and World Friendship Day! As you can see by the picture, many came and dined on ham with all the wonderful sides - it felt like Easter!

It was nice to see new member, Joanne MacPeck

along with her Buffalo friends. We also celebrated Jule's birthday!

*Don't miss out on our club activities. Save the following dates on your calendar*

**April 10 - 12:30 PM** - General Meeting at Ft Myers Library. Program *TSA Speaker* **Note the change of time! Library not available until 12:30 p.m.!!**

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

**June 19** - 11 AM - General Meeting at Punta Gorda Firehouse, Program *Traveling Belgium and Germany with our FF club* - speakers are our club ambassadors

**July** - Summer Break

**Aug 9** - Ice Cream Social, 3 p.m. - **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** - 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

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

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



*Yemmas host World Friendship Day*

## New Feather Flag

*What fits in a zippered bag and sets up in a jiffy?* It's our club's new feather flag! Have you noticed all the feather flags along the highways and byways? They are now quite popular and easy to transport and set up. We hope to use it for our club meetings and events.

We also have a new projector that we've already put to use at the last exchange. We need it also for recruitment presentations. Sue Linehan, our Membership Chair,



*Our new portable feather flag*

and I recently addressed a women's group in Naples. We hope to gain a member from that effort.

If you know of any groups that might enjoy hearing about Friendship Force, let us know. Let's all recruit members and **GROW!**

## 2015 Outbound Exchange to Belgium and Germany May 12 - 26, 2015



*Belgium flag*

Our club ED, **Lou Rizk**, had a meeting of our outbound ambassadors to Belgium and Germany.

As of this writing, we are close to filling all our spots. We are all watching the airline reservation websites for the best fares. The Euro is very favorable to the US dollar and we are grateful for that news.



*German flag.*

We hope to post on our Friendship Force Facebook while over there. Look for a presentation and a "show" complete with pictures at our June meeting. Those going from our club are Lou and Cheryle, Dennis and Jule, Jody and Russ and Joanne and Richard. See you soon!

## Welcome New Members

We have a new member from the east coast of Florida, West Palm Beach - **Gail Tomei**



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



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## What in the World are our members doing?

Did you know that **Bev Harmon** and **Kevin Janiak** are currently on an exchange to New Zealand and Australia with a Canadian FF Club? She has been posting beautiful pictures on her Facebook page. Also, **Sue Linehan** and her granddaughter are visiting Guatemala with a FF tour. We look forward to hearing all about their adventures upon their return in the near future.

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

Wow - what a nice time we had at the Yemma's house for World Friendship Day! We are rolling along and lots of things are happening in our club.

What a wonderful news to hear that the President and CEO of Friendship Force is coming to us in October! Then, what a surprise to hear that we are matched with Africa next year! If that was not enough, we learned that **after all, we are hosting a foreign inbound exchange from Costa Rica this November!** Thanks so much to Sibby for quickly stepping up to take on the ED position. Please help us out next November in some manner. After all, this is what we are all about - *Changing the World with One Friendship at a time!*

Richard and I are looking forward to visiting Belgium and Germany - our first exchange with our own club! Yeah!

Happy Travels,

Joanne

*Parting Shot*



*Last Month's Farewell Party with Denver Ambassadors and Our Club*

**Do you like our newsletter?** **Oops** Forgot again to have the drawing at the last meeting so don't despair! I will put your name in the bowl for last month's newsletter! But, you can have your name in three times if you let me know your comments on **this** 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 June meeting. 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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