



friendship force Southwest florida

Newsletter May and June 2015

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

Club Members participating in Outbound Exchange to Belgium and Germany this month

Lou Rizk, our Outbound ED has his bags packed and reports that those going are eagerly looking forward to their visit to beautiful Schwerin, Germany and Bruges, Belgium. Most of the group have communicated via email with their hosts.

Those going from our club are **Lou** and **Cheryle**, **Dennis** and **Jule**, **Jody** and **Russ** and **Joanne** and **Richard**. We plan to take lots of pictures and will be reporting our adventures at the June meeting to be held in Punta Gorda. See you soon!



Bruges Belgium canal

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

Have you registered and sent your \$25 into our

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



Meet Joy DiBenedetto

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.

We 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? or
 Can you welcome fellow Florida members at the check in table?* Email **Dennis Yemma** and **Sue Linehan** to let them know how you will help.

November Costa Rica Inbound Exchange



Sibby Yemma, incoming ED, heard from Costa Rica's ED. They asked if we have hurricanes in November? They heard it might be a "bad weather" time. After Sibby assured them that November is the **end of our tropical storm season**, they are finalizing dates.

The West Alajuela 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."

As you know, it **"takes a village"** to run a successful exchange. When Sibby gets a count from them on the number coming, we will let you know and begin to plan for this fun time. It will be either the week of November 8 or November 15.

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

April Speaker from TSA - an interesting talk!



New member, Michelle Kamps, attends her first general meeting

Shane Pickwick; Assistant Director of Screening at SWFL International Airport and former Marine was our April meeting speaker. He discussed advanced imaging technology; pre-screening, pre-check, and answered questions from the group.

We also welcomed **Bev Harmon** and **Kevin Janiak**, who were fresh off their 5-exchange trip with a Canadian Club to Australia and New Zealand. They had a marvelous time and can't wait to "give back" to our club for the kindnesses extended to them. It seems we all feel that way once we've been on a Friendship Force Exchange.

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

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. - 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

Late Nov - Nominations for incoming board for 2016

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

Welcome New Members

We have two new members who joined us at our April meeting.

Susan Beaudry is a full-time Floridian. She is an Aircraft Insurance Agent who resides in Cape Coral. She speaks a little Spanish and enjoys golfing, kayaking, bocci and boating.

Her friend **Lois Crawford Bonwell**, is a part-timer who spends 7 months in beautiful Cape Coral and 5 months in Tom's River, New Jersey. She is a

retired teacher and her hobbies are traveling, genealogy and reading.

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



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What in the World are our members doing?

Besides our group that is going to Belgium and Germany, others are traveling. This is what has been reported to me...

Dianne & Larry Van Beek will be heading back to spend the summer in Wisconsin. They are snowbirds who spend a half year in Punta Gorda.

Sibby Yemma is currently in Las Vegas, taking care of her cousin's dog, Beau. Coincidence isn't it that its name is the same as Dennis & Jule's puppy? Sibby recently moved and is very happy in her new place - still in Fort Myers!

Pam LaFontaine reports that her friend, Al, has been having a rough few months. He is currently in the hospital. She hopes that he will recover and be home soon.

Sue & Rob Linehan are in Eleuthera, Bahamas on their catamaran, **Catalyst**. Last reported they were waiting out some rainy weather, but will be moving on soon to another gorgeous anchorage in the island chain.

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

Did we learn a lot about the TSA?
Check out the picture for something that is NOT OK!

WOW! We were surprised to hear from our hosts whom we stayed with last November in Perth, Australia.

Colin & Linda Allen decided to visit us before going on their first outbound exchange with clubs in Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska.



How wonderful to see them again and show them around Southwest Florida. Of course, they wanted to see the Everglades and the gators! We had a blast with them and cried lots of tears when they left, just 4 short days later.

This is what Friendship Force is all about. *Changing the World with One Friendship at a time! AND before you know it, you have friends throughout the world. It is so much FUN!*

Richard and I heard via email from our hosts in Belgium and Germany. They sent us pictures of themselves and are ready to show us their countries! We can't wait to show you our pictures at the June meeting.

Happy Travels,

Joanne

Parting Shot



Perth, Australia FF members, Linda & Colin discover airboat riding in Everglades with Joanne & Richard

Do you like our newsletter? Just email me at 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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