



friendship force  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## June 2017 Newsletter

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

Join us for Dinner - Wednesday, June 7, 6 p.m.



**How about some BBQ?** Join us at Bubba's Roadhouse, 2121 SW Pine Island Rd, Cape Coral (just east of Burnt Store Road) at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7. New member, Linda Supakoff, organized this fun event for us. Let her know if you are coming by June 5 so that

she can tell the restaurant how many tables they need. Her phone is 941-637-4887 or email her at [supakoff@aol.com](mailto:supakoff@aol.com) Car pool with a friend! Hope to see you there!

## CANADA here we come!



Can you believe it? Twenty of our club members are going to Canada soon to visit the Ontario clubs of Stratford-St Mary's and Haliburton Highlands from June 14 - 28. Don't forget your passport and be sure to pack some insect repellent, sunscreen, rain jacket, hat - you know the routine!

By now, you should have heard from your ambassadors and like us, are looking forward to some cool Canadian air and beautiful scenery, not to mention making new friendships.

Don't forget to come to Lou & Cheryl's home on **Sunday, May 28 at 4 p.m.** with a snack to share. Lou will fill us in with last minute info and tips. It's a great way to spend the Memorial Day Weekend with your friends! Don't miss it!

## Were You There?

What a great lunch and fun time we had at the Tarpon Lodge! Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and most went on to the tour of the Calusa Heritage Trail. Thanks, Carol Berry, for organizing it. We all agreed that it was fun to be a tourist in our own area and we will keep the location in mind for English speaking ambassadors. Check out the pictures below!





## Save the Dates 2017

**June 7** - Dinner at Bubba's Roadhouse, 6 p.m.

**June 14-28**- Canadian Outbound Journey - no meeting scheduled

**July** - Summer Break

**August 13** - Ice Cream Social with Pool Party in Estero. Bev & Kev hosting! **Note: Date changed from Aug 6**

**September 1** - Meeting & Program, 10:30 a.m. Canadian Exchange discussed. Speakers and Location TBD

**October 6**- Meeting & Program, 10:30 a.m. Punta Gorda. Speaker: Michelle Kemps regarding FF Holland Bicycle Journey

**November 3**- Meeting & Program, 10:30 a.m. Punta Gorda. Speakers: Carol & Chris Nasby regarding FF Journey to New Zealand.

**~November 11-18** - Inbound Journey with San Jose do Rio Presto, Brazil

**December 3** - Holiday Brunch and Yankee Swap, 11 a.m., Isles Yacht Club. Contact: Joanne Collins

**Do you know of a host family?**



Our club received a request from Kim Muchmore who spoke to our club last year. Her organization hosts European and Asian children every summer for two weeks. They are looking for a Home Host in Ft Myers to host one female Taiwan leader. Your only obligation is a bed and breakfast. If you know of someone who can help, please contact her. See below...



*I wanted to touch base with you about our organization. We had connected in the past about our exchange students and teachers from Europe and Asia that come each summer. We still have a need for a host family for a leader from Taiwan to be with a family in Fort Myers around the Daniels Road area or Gateway. Do you happen to know of anyone who could host her? She will be here for 2 weeks, July 21 to Aug. 5. Any help you are able to give to get the word out and find a nice host home for her, would be greatly appreciated!*

*Kindest regards,*

*Kim Muchmore, Site Director  
EF Educational Homestay Programs  
239-340-5164*

## Jody & Russ retiring from the club

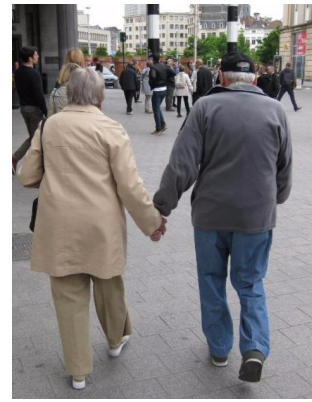


*Jody & Russ traveling on train on Belgium Exchange*

The club paid tribute to Jody & Russ Garmon at the Tarpon Inn as they announced their decision to retire from the club. We were able to give them a good "send off" and the club was happy to pick up the cost of their lunches. They even joined the rest of the group for the walking tour of the Calusa Site.

Jody and Russ are charter members who served in every capacity of leadership within FF. Russ was treasurer up until approximately 4 years ago. They traveled extensively with the club and hosted ambassadors and served dinners on countless occasions. You could always count on them to do whatever was needed!

While they are retiring from active participation in the FF, they hope to join us for some of our major events such as the Holiday Brunch.



*Holding Hands*

## Update on Brazil Journeys



*Brazil's flag*

By now, you should be aware that we will host an **INBOUND** Brazil exchange from Sao Jose do Rio Preto about November 11 - 18, 2017 (this year!). Then, in ~April 2018, our club will go on **OUTBOUND** journeys to 2 Brazilian clubs, Sao Paulo and Nova Lima. Sue Linehan and Michelle Kamps volunteered to be the Ambassador Coordinators. They also hope to have add on excursions to Iguacu Falls or other destinations.

Carol Berry and Joanne McPeck will be co- ACs (Ambassador Coordinators) for the INBOUND group. They are already "on point" working on this journey. While both will be gone a good part of the summer, they will be accessible by phone and email. If you are willing to help them, please let them know. Things you can volunteer for are: helping with the program schedule, organizing the Farewell Dinner, arranging hosts for the ambassadors, arranging dinner hosts, or creating the booklet (itinerary of events). If you haven't done any of these tasks in the past, please step up and you will receive guidance on how to proceed. It is one of the best ways to get to know your fellow members and feel a big part of the club. We've been fortunate to have people step up and we'd like to see that continue. If you think you'll be available to host, please drop a note to Carol or Joanne. We have many members still up North in November - so we HOPE those who can, will volunteer. We are limited to 14 ambassadors because of the club restrictions they are visiting prior to us. That will help compensate for those who have not yet returned to SW FL.



It appears that Michigan FF will accept the offer to visit us for one week this winter. We are looking at dates now. That will be a fun time and two of our newest associate members, Fred and Mary Giddings, will be able to be part of the exchange since they are members of this club in the summer months! If you are interested in being the Ambassador Coordinator for this journey, please contact our president, Sue.

## President's Comments

I was so excited to see such a good turn out for our lunch and tour at our last meeting. Thanks to Carol Berry for making it all happen. The lunch and service and room were excellent and the tour was very interesting. It was a fun afternoon and we hope to have more gatherings like this with more fun and less business! Any ideas?

We had several guests of late who have not yet joined. If you brought those guests, please follow through to see if they wish to join. Sometimes, it takes several invitations and reminders. It is difficult now that we are not so busy in the summer but contact them again in the fall and see if they wish to join us for a very active season next year. We lose people for various reasons each year and need to replace and build the club. FF has so much to offer people and we hope people have the option to participate with us. You are doing them a favor!



*Our President, Sue*

I also wish to say how pleased I am that we were able to fill our trip to Canada with our own members. Twenty of us will be traveling to Ontario in mid June to spend 2 one week home stays with FF. We are still finalizing our dates for the trip in April to Brazil. We are excited about the two cities we are visiting and some of the possible side excursions we will have as an optional part of the trip. Time to get on Duo Lingo on your phone or computer and start learning some Portuguese!

Have a great summer!

*Sue*

## Parting Shot





*Enjoying lunch together at the Tarpon Lodge*

## **Quick Links...** help you find info fast!

Just put your curser on what you want and click away! See below links...

[Friendship Force International \(FFI\) Website](#)

[FFI Journey Catalog](#)

[FFI Stories of Friendship](#)

[Order our Club Shirt](#)

[Join our Club](#)

## **2017 Elected Board**

**(voting members):**

**President**

*Sue Linehan*

**1st Vice President**

*Michelle Kemps*

**2nd Vice President**

*Beverly Harmon*

**Treasurer**

*Cathy Cobb*

**Secretary**

## **2017 Non-voting Board**

**Membership & Publicity**

*Joanne Collins, Michelle Kemps*

**Host & Journey Mentoring**

*Lou Rizk*

**Email, Club Roster, Sunshine**

*Cheryle Phelps*

**Webmaster, Club Photographer**

*Richard Collins*

**Newsletter**

*Carol Berry*

*Joanne Collins*

**Historian**

*Carla Harms*

**Note: Programs & Fundraising - Entire Board**

Experience Different Views.  
Discover Common Ground.

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida, 258 Venezia Court, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

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