

Make 2018 great with FF!



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

February 2018 Newsletter

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

Friday, February 2, 2018 10:30 a.m.

General Meeting & Cultural Presentation
Fort Myers Library Meeting Room
2450 First Street (near back parking lot)

Don't miss speaker, Margie Khan, who will present a cross cultural seminar for us to all enjoy. It starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Down Town Ft. Myers Library. We will be introducing our ambassadors from Michigan. Following the meeting will be a boxed lunch at ECHO at their gazebo prior to our tour of their farm. Members will need to make a reservation for lunch by Thursday, Feb. 1 with Sue Linehan. Cost is \$10.



Margie Khan

Need a ride? Phone a member friend and you can carpool together.

Issac Visits from Volta Lake FF Club, Ghana, Africa



Issac and club members enjoy lunch by the Peace River at Michelle's home

When Issac K. Teye, Vice President, Volta Lake FF Club in Ghana, Africa contacted Sue last year requesting a visit, she immediately said "yes." After all, he missed out coming on the All Africa Exchange, as many of the Africans had, because of their visa issues. But now he had his visa and could visit. Issac went to the Dallas, Texas club first, followed by a visit to his older brother who lives in Houston, Texas and finally, visited us from January 6-13, 2018. Many club members were involved and Issac stayed with Sue & Rob Linehan, Joanne & Richard Collins, Cindy & Dwight Haldeman and ended up his journey with Judy Carson and her two dogs!



Two FF Presidents do shell crafting

To welcome Issac, our club president, Michelle Kemps, organized a terrific salad luncheon and shell painting extravaganza at her lovely home. Many club members participated in the fun and Sue & Rob even brought along some German visitors. We were delighted that Marcia Ellis, president of the West Michigan FF Club came, too, and she even brought some potential new members. Now, that was exciting!

Issac was very touched by our hospitality and invited us all to come to Ghana. His contact information is Issac K. Teye, email address issackwakuteye@yahoo.com, 233 244 416946. *Is a visit to Ghana in your future?*

Out and About



Maureen Butt, Carol Berry and Bev Harmon are organizing social activities for our club. Maureen says "Many of these get together will involve being "out and about" getting some exercise as well as seeing some of our hidden Florida, checking out some of our "off the beaten paths" not just tourist spots. We have so many places that are so beautiful in her own backyard that many times are overlooked.

Look for emails about activities coming up. In January they visited Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary and afterwards enjoyed lunch at the restaurant located in Babcock Ranch.

What's next? Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, February 20, 10 a.m.**

Put on your walking shoes for a nice morning walk in Punta Gorda to see murals. Read all about them at [Punta Gorda Mural Society](#). Meet at Fisherman's Village (plenty of parking) in front of the candy store located at the inside entrance at 10 a.m. We'll walk along Gilchrist Park up to Laishley Park to view the murals in this area. Lunch will follow at Laishley's Crab House on the deck overlooking Charlotte Harbor. After eating, we'll return to Fisherman's Village and see the murals there. Don't miss out. Let Maureen know you are coming by 2/19. Email her at mayo97@verizon.net

Where in the World are our Members Traveling?



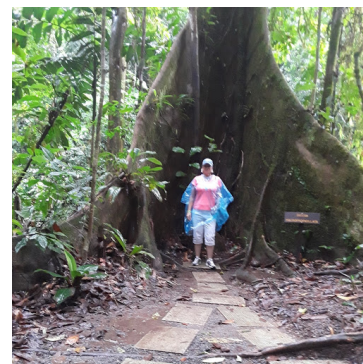
If anyone wants Belgium Beer served in the EXACT appropriate Glass check out The Belgium Monk...new "Pub" 318 Tamiami, Punta Gorda. Jo and Michelle tried it out for lunch. Michelle had Beer and Waffle with Butter Pecan Ice Cream and Jo had French Onion Soup. Yum!



Belgium Monk beer

Maureen Butt, Carol & Chris Nasby and Linda Supakoff are cruising from San Juan, Puerto Rico with 66 people (yes 66 - not a typo) with a social club, Just For Fun (JFF) in Punta Gorda. They fly to Puerto Rico for a few days for a pre-party and then embark on the Celebrity Summit for a 7- night cruise to Antigua, St Thomas, St Kitts and Nassau eventually going back to Fort Lauderdale.

Ginny Dooley had a wonderful day in Puerto Limon, Costa Rica. It was raining in the rain forest and here she is on the Walk of the Giant Trees.



Goodbye to previous members

We received word from **Reta Lanning** that she and **Bob Kissinger** are not rejoining our club because Bob is unable to travel on the FF journeys. She said she'd miss us all and sends her best. Also, our members who live far distances from us, **Linda Sadler** (Lancaster, PA), **Dennis & Jule Yemma** (Macugie, PA), **Cecilia Bridge** (Sarnia, Ontario

Canada), and the Hundleys (Blufferton, SC) did not renew. We are also sad to say "good bye" to **Nancy & Munir Fahreddine** who are moving to the Tampa area and to **Lois Bonwell** who is traveling the world next year.



Nancy & Munir - we'll miss their homemade Lebanese cooking!

We prepared a new roster of 2018 members that was sent out by email to our current members. We now have **42** paid

members for this current year and of course, we need your help in recruiting new ones. **Carol Nasby**, Membership Chair, is the person to contact in this regard. Keep inviting your friends to our meetings and telling everyone you know about our wonderful club!



Reta at one of the holiday brunches

Upcoming Inbound Michigan Journey February 1 - 8, 2018

The Schedule of Activities for Inbound West Michigan Journey

Thursday, Feb 1

Host families receive ambassadors. Afternoon free with your guests. Dinner is up to you (see small group dinner schedule that follows)

Friday, Feb 2, 10:30 AM

Take ambassador(s) to our monthly FF meeting at Ft Myers Library for interesting presentation on Cross Cultural Communication. Be there for start of meeting at 10:30 AM. Lunch follows on the grounds of ECHO, 173911 Durrance Rd, North Ft Myers. Tour of ECHO follows lunch. Dinner either with host or small group dinner (see schedule that follows)

Saturday, Feb 3, 10:30 AM

Take ambassador(s) to Linehan's home, 258 Venezia Ct, Punta Gorda and be there by 10:30 AM for sail on their catamaran (weather permitting). Lunch will follow at their home. Following meal, carpool to view Punta Gorda sites (banyan tree, Vietnam Memorial, Rum Factory Tour). Dinner either with host or small group dinner (see schedule that follows)

Sunday, Feb 4, 2:00 PM

Free morning for late brunch, church or whatever is on your agenda. At 2:00 PM, be at Koreshan State Historic Site, 3800 Corkscrew Road, Estero to tour (bring \$5 entrance fee for carload of people). Dinner either with host or small group dinner (see schedule that follows)

Monday, Feb 5, Free Day

Check with your ambassador(s) to see what they are interested in doing. This may be the day to let them treat you to lunch or dinner out. Dinner with host or small group dinner (see schedule that follows)

Tuesday, Feb 6, 10:00 AM

Be at Randell Research Center, Pine Island, 13910 Waterfron Dr, Bokeelia by 10 AM for Tour of Indian Mounds. Following tour, there will be lunch at Sandy Hook Fish & Rib House, 4875 Pine island Road, Matlacha. Your ambassadors and you may want to tour the colorful area shops in the afternoon. Dinner with host or small dinner group (see schedule that follows)

Wednesday, Feb 7, 10:00 AM and later 5:30 PM

Be at the newly opened Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Gardens, 5800 Riverside Drive, Punta Gorda by 10 AM for a tour. Following this activity, lunch will be at the Gardens. After lunch, travel in your car to 3400 Ponce de Leon Pkwy, Punta Gorda for a guided tour of the interesting Peace River Wildlife Center and Gift Shop.

Later that day, be at Lake Fairways Clubhouse, 19371 N Tamiami Tr (Hwy 41), North Ft Myers at 5:30 PM. Go through gate and follow road to Clubhouse. A lovely Farewell Dinner will be served.

Thursday, Feb 8

Your ambassador(s) depart via car or you take them to the airport



A message to you from Sue...

I think that all of our planning is coming out well for the ambassadors from Michigan. Now we only need



the weather to cooperate!

This journey has really been a whole club activity. Those that are not hosting are doing dinner parties or working on committees. Everyone has pitched in and it takes all of us to do a great program. I can imagine that the MI ambassadors will be pleased with the expressions of friendship from the wonderful members of our club. I feel so proud to be associated with this group!

Here is the list of hosts and ambassadors plus the scheduled small dinner parties and the date of their evening. Please feel free as hosts or non hosts to get together with other members of the club for a joint meal. Remember, while your guest needs to eat, sometimes simple meals work best. Fold them in like loving family. It is much easier than having a "house guest."

Let's not forget the 3 couples that are here from MI but not needing hosts. Feel free to contact Peg and Frank Stanitzek who are snowbirds living in Englewood at 616-481-2012. Also, you can contact Marci and Roy at 269-760-2582 who are staying in Punta Gorda. Mary & Fred Giddings, who are from MI and now seasonal members of our club, will be leaving part way through for a trip to Iceland.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. I will be hosing their Journey Coordinator (JC) so between the two of us, we can help if needed.

Here is the list of hosts:

Rob and Sue Linehan with Lisa Fisher and Nancy Drayer

Judy Carson with Waltraut Knoll

Ginny Dooley with Jane Curtain

Mary Howard with Laura Jane Colber

Lou Rizk and Cheryle Phelps with Joy and Richard Grau

Gloria Thompson with Norma Swanson

Dwight and Cindy Haldeman with Valarie Vuk

Linda Supakoff with Joan Gibson

Hugh and Precilla McShane with Tom and Linda McGarry (Will be with Jack and Jo Cooley until Monday)

Joanne MacPeek with Carol Kepler and Shirley Wiersma

Small Group Dinner Schedule is as follows:

Feb 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Host: Linda Supakoff

Guests: Ginny Dooley, Jane Curtin, Lisa Fisher, Nancy Drayer, Michelle Kemps, Marlene Hofer

Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Host: Cassandra Wooden

Guests: Ginny Dooley, Jane Curtin, Mary Howard, Laura Jane Colber

Feb. 2 following visit to Manatee Park

Hosts: Fred and Mary Giddings

Guests: Joanne MacPeck, Carol Keplar, Shirley Wiersma, Marcia Ellis & Roy Pearson,
Teri Martin, Susan Beaudry, Corrine Larson

Feb. 4 at 6 p.m.

Hosts: Joanne & Richard Collins w/Marcene Grief

Guests: Rob & Sue Linehan
Lisa Fisher, Nancy Drayer, Marcia Ellis & Roy Pearson

Feb. 4 following visit to Koreshan State Park

Host: Michelle Kemps

Guests: Linda Supakoff, Joan Gibson, Judy Carson, Waltraut Knoll
Peggy & Frank Stanitzek, Jo Cooley

Feb. 4 following visit to Koreshan State Park

Host: Beverly Harmon

Guests: Gloria & Frank Thompson,
Norma Swanson, Kevin Janiak

Feb. 5 at 6 p.m.

Hosts: Maureen & Hank Butt

Guests: Hugh & Priscilla McShane,
Tom and Linda McGarry

Feb. 6 at 5 p.m.

Hosts: Teri Martin, Corrine Larson, Susan Beaudry

Guests: Dwight & Cindy Haldeman, Valarie Vuk

Lou Rizk, Cheryle Phelps, Ruth Carlson
Joy & Richard Grau

Outbound Brazil Journey April 8-21, 2018 with add on package to Rio and Iguazu Falls



Images of Brazil

Our trip to Brazil is now full. Thirteen of our members are set for fun, adventures and new friendships with two different clubs. A few more of our members are even doing an additional add on trip with the new club in the Villages.

President's Comments



Michelle

What a busy Month January was!

Our first meeting of the year started off with an attendance of 36 people...we almost ran out of chairs. That was Fantastic! Thank you snowbirds for coming back. And thanks for bringing down the New Canadian and Michigan members! And to top all that we had several guests.

Next we had a simple Tuesday Afternoon Salad Pot Luck Lunch at Michelle's for Isaac from Ghana and Sue's two German guests. Once again, we had 36 sign up, 6 had to cancel because of this wicked winter cold that is going around, but we had 30 here for a very successful lunch. After Salad we had a little talk from Isaac who was very pleased with the turn out. He wore a

traditional Ghana outfit. We ended the afternoon with Shell Painting thanks to Sue's overflowing shells from her garage.

As the month continued there were rapid correspondences between all the committees to plan the Michigan Incoming Journey. It is going to be a Good One. I am very impressed at the total number of volunteers doing jobs. Almost the entire club has been involved. Now THAT is a sign of a Great Club.

And lastly the 13 people that are going to Brazil have been hard at work with all the details that have to be done. It is a headache for sure, but it will all be worth it. It is going to be a fantastic trip.

And finally, on pins and needles, we wait to hear from FFI to find out WHERE will our Journey be for 2019 ?

Life is Good.

In Friendship,

Michelle

Parting Shot



Club members and guests pose with Issac, VP of Volta Lake FF Club, Ghana

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 Journeys Scheduled for 2018 Worldwide](#)

[FFI Stories of Friendship](#)

[Order our Club Shirt](#)

[Join our Club](#)

2018 Elected Board

(voting members):

President

Michelle Kemps

1st Vice President

Beverly Harmon

2nd Vice President

Ginny Dooley

Treasurer

Jack & Jo Cooley

Secretary

Linda Supakoff

2017 Non-voting Board

Membership

Carol Nasby

Publicity

Kevin Janiak

Host & Journey Mentoring

Cheryle Phelps

Email, Club Roster, Newsletter

Joanne Collins

Webmaster, Club Photographer

Richard Collins

Social Committee

Maureen Butt, Carol Berry &

Bev Harmon

Sunshine & FaceBook

Corrine Larson & Susan Beaudry

Experience Different Views.
Discover Common Ground.

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida, 3772 Peace River Dr, Punta Gorda, FL 33983

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