



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

April 2019 Newsletter

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

General Meeting and Program
Friday, April 5, 2019 - 10:30 am
Estero South County Regional Library
21100 Three Oaks Pkwy, Estero, FL
239-533-4400

Our very own Joanne MacPeck will share her experiences traveling through Scotland in June 2018. Along with touring Edinburgh and Glasgow, she traveled with her son, John, to Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, and Stirling Castle, too. They drove through the Loch Lohmann, the National Park of Scotland. In Glasgow, she participated in a "Welcome the Refugee" event in the city square. And, there is more to hear about!



Joanne MacPeck

You will also be updated on our club's activities and afterwards, we will enjoy lunch at Country Creek Restaurant, 21180 Country Creek Dr., Estero, less than 1 mile away. Payment by Visa or MasterCard *only*. Set your GPS and call a friend to carpool to Estero for these great events!

Announcing 2020 In-Bound Journey - Saratov, Russia

Every year Friendship Force International (FFI) in Atlanta lets us know who matched to visit

our club. Next year, in 2020, we will welcome a group from Saratov!

It is a large city (region's population is 2.5 million) situated in the southeast, the *European part* of Russia, on the right bank of the Volga River and located about 520 miles southeast of Moscow. It is an important cultural, economic and educational center of the Volga region.

The city is known as a center of higher education, research and scientific activities. Beside one of the oldest universities in Russia, there are over a dozen colleges in the city. Saratov is an important industrial center of the Volga River area. Its industries are machine-building, oil and chemical. Saratov climate is moderately cold in the winter and it has hot, often dry summers.



Scenes of City of Saratov, Russia

There are 28 members of their Friendship Force Club. They are scheduled to visit Brazil and then they will travel to Florida to visit our club.



Russian flag

We'll need a **Host Coordinator** to contact them and plan the activities during their visit. If you are interested in this exciting job, contact our president, Michelle, or one of the members of the board.

West Michigan Outbound Journey



*Linda
Journey Coordinator*

Linda Supakoff, our Journey Coordinator, instructs everyone who is interested in going on this trip (begins October 1, 2019) to fill out a Journey Application and Agreement Form.



This form is found on the FFI website or alternatively, you can go to **Quick Links** at the bottom of this newsletter and find it there.

You should enclose a \$100 check made out to Friendship Force of Southwest Florida. Please apply soon as there are limited spots available.

Recap of Australian Ambassadors -2019 Inbound Journey



Our 10 ambassadors pose with Dottie, our Florida girl, at the Farewell Party

What a week! Ten Ambassadors from Central Coast Australia; Winnipeg, Canada; San Diego, CA and Orlando, FL traveled here to enjoy a slice of our "Paradise." They were hosted by club members Susan Beaudry, Maureen Butt, Judy Carson, Ginny Dooley, Bev Harmon, Michelle Kempes, Luvvy Kovacic, and Carol & Chris Nasby. It all started with a **Welcome Breakfast** (food by club members) at Sue & Rob Linehan's home. Wow, the food was bountiful and we're still taking about Jo Cooley's delicious "Monkey Bread." Yum!



Farewell Party Fun

We collected **\$150** from each ambassador for the week's food and activities. It was difficult **"Making Ends Meet"** and we just about did it - with a small contribution from our club. The visitors loved the "Parks that Teach Tour," snack at Belgian Monk, visiting the Peace River Wildlife Center, Edison Ford Winter Estates, Randall Research Center to learn about the Calusa Indians, Tour of ECHO and meeting Punta Gorda Mayor, Nancy Prafke. Most of all they loved the **Cookout and Pool Party** courtesy of Joanne MacPeck and her team of volunteers. They also rated the **Small Dinners** highly.



Our feet in the sand at the Tiki Hut

We are so proud that most members of our club contributed somehow -by attending the Welcome and Farewell Parties (**BIGGEST** attendance ever!), cooking dinners, organizing a cookout, bringing breakfast food, and driving guests around. We could not have done it without **YOU!** At the last minute, we gave the ambassadors a survey to complete. Most scored all our events highly. There were a few written comments that were

forwarded to our Board for discussion focusing upon food available to the vegetarian of their group and topics of dinner conversation.



Jaquie , Maureen, Hazel & Rob at Welcome Breakfast

*Did YOU enjoy this
Australian Inbound
Journey?*

Let us know your thoughts by
emailing the Host Coordinators,
Joanne Collins and Bev Harmon.

Out and About



JOIN YOUR FRIENDS

Friday, April 12, 8 PM

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

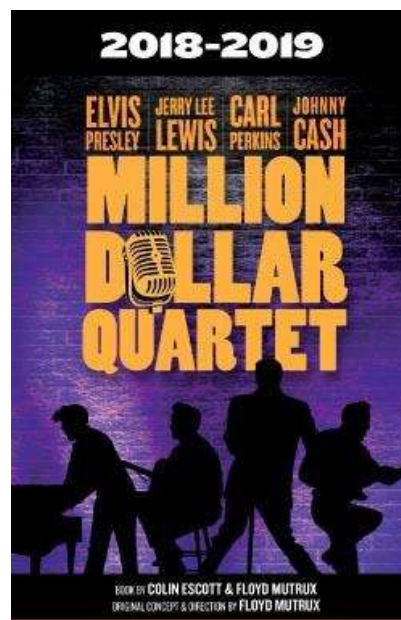
Side seat \$40

Center seat \$48

Reserve now!

Questions? Call Joanne MacPeck

239-560-4386



Welcome New Member, Gayle Clark

We are so pleased to welcome Gayle Clark of Punta Gorda to our club. She is a former math teacher and



Welcome, Gayle!



Gayle Clark

A photograph of an ancient stone temple structure, likely Mayan or Aztec, featuring large, weathered columns and a massive tree trunk growing through the ruins. The ground is covered in dirt and scattered stone blocks.

Indonesia Scene

Our SW Florida ambassadors are currently traveling Indonesia. Be on the lookout for FaceBook pictures on our club's page. Look for our *Friendship Force of Southwest Florida Group* and begin adding pictures, comments, likes today! It's a great way to keep up with our club.

We can't wait to hear all about their marvelous adventures!

Do you want to travel to a specific place in the world?

Do you know?

Many of our club members have traveled to specific places in the world with other Friendship Force Clubs. For example, when Richard and I joined our club over 6 years ago, we wanted to go to Australia. Unfortunately, our

club was not going there that year.

What to do?

We got on-line and looked at the Friendship Force International (FFI) Website. It lists all the upcoming journeys for all clubs worldwide. That year, we noticed that the Fort Worth FF Club was going to Perth, Australia. We contacted the Journey Coordinator and applied to go on the trip. He explained that his club could take only 20. If there was room (e.g., he could not get 20 FF Fort Worth members to go), he would consider taking us. That is how we got to Perth, Australia - and what an awesome trip we had!



Joanne & Richard in Australia with FF - Ranger holding wombat!

Check out [Quick Links](#) below for the link to look at all 2019 upcoming journeys worldwide and make your travel wishes come true!

Where in the World are our members traveling?



Our president, *Michelle Kemps*, went back to Israel for the third time. The first time was 1970 while Hitchhiking Europe where she settled on a Kibbutz for a couple of months. In 2013 she went with her church. Now 6 years later she did the trip over again with the church. She describes it as a "*fairy tale come true*" as you see all the biblical stories come to life.

Joanne & Richard Collins are on a trip to Spain with old friends focusing on Barcelona and the southern coast.



Michelle overlooking Jerusalem

New Business

For years now , we have been charging **\$150 a week per ambassador** for Incoming Journeys. As years go by, it is harder and harder to stretch the dollar.



Michelle surveyed several FL clubs. Most charge between **\$150-200**. *This is interesting...* One club has an itinerary sent to the incoming club with prices marked. They choose what they want as a club and that is how the money is determined. That club's charge was \$575 to meet their inbound club's requests!

I suggest we raise the next incoming journey to **\$175**. If the Host Coordinator(s) anticipates a need for more funds, we will discuss raising it again.

We will VOTE on this issue at the April meeting.



There are still openings for the Habitat build in Romania from Aug 31 - Sept 7, 2019. If interested, Contact Betty and Chuck by emailing them at boldanie@tampabay.rr.com



Here's another opportunity to help people...

Michelle was contacted to assist in the vetted refugees in El Paso, Texas. She will be assisting Annunciation Church. Once vetted, refugees are allowed to be housed by the church from 1-4 days until their sponsor either arrives or has sent money for their transportation.

Annunciation church is DESPERATE for volunteers. Michelle is intending to go for two weeks in June.

Anyone interested, please contact Michelle or www.annunciationhouse.org Or Marilyn Whelan (Florida Rep for FF) at moptimist@bellsouth.net

What Are YOU doing this summer?



Friendship Force is having a **World Conference** in Boulder, Colorado. To register, click on [REGISTER NOW](#). At the February meeting, we learned that some of our members are planning to go! Will you join them?

Save the Dates 2019

May 3 - Meeting & Talk on cruising Egypt by Betty Botsaris, Estero South County Regional Library, 21100 Three Oaks Pkwy, Estero, FL 33928 **Lunch to follow** at Ruby Tuesday, 21301 Town Commons Dr, Estero

June 7 - Lunch TBD

August 2 - Ice Cream Social, Location TBD

Note: TBD means "to be determined"



**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**



When the eyes see what they have never seen before, the heart feels what it has never felt before.

- Gracian

What have you learned about the world since you joined Friendship Force?

President's Comments



Once again I want to thank all the members who participated in the Australian Journey. We got a wonderful report on the surveys!

This Picture is from Edinburgh, *Scotland* which I thought would be appropriate for the upcoming program by Joanne Mac Peek. I met this couple in 1970, when as a hippy, I was hitchhiking in Scotland. This couple picked me up on the highway, and I ended up living in their home nearly a month. Over the years we lost contact.

In 2015 I wrote a letter to their 'house' (they name their houses in Scotland). The present owners went on a search and found the residence of 1970. We were reunited with tears in our eyes, as the husband was dying.

So you Never Know.....someone you meet today on one of our Journeys may become a lifelong friend.

Friendship Force is making the world a better place *One Smile at a Time*.

In Friendship,

Michelle

Parting Shots



A great looking group toured the Edison Ford Winter Estates and said "hello" to Edison

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 2019 Worldwide](#)

[Journey Application and Agreement Form](#)

[FFI Stories of Friendship](#)

[Friendship Force of Southwest Florida Group on FaceBook](#)

[Order our Club Shirt](#)

[Join our Club](#)

2019 Elected Board

(voting members):

President

Michelle Kemps

2019 Non-voting Board

Membership

Carol Nasby

1st Vice President

Beverly Harmon

2nd Vice President

Ginny Dooley

Treasurer

Jack & Jo Cooley

Secretary

Linda Supakoff

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

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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