



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

May 2019 Newsletter

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

General Meeting and Program
Friday, May 3, 2019 - 10:30 am
Punta Gorda Police & Fire Station Conference Room
1410 Tamiami Trail (Rt 41), Punta Gorda

*Have you seen the
enticing Viking Cruise
Line European
Riverboat
commercials?*

Well, we had too, so last year we signed up for a one-week Viking Danube cruise from Passau, Germany to Budapest, Hungary. We (Joanne & Richard Collins) will fill you in on our longboat trip and answer any questions you might have.



Joanne & Richard on Viking excursion Cheský Krumlov, Czech Republic

You will also be updated on our club's activities by Jo & Jack Cooley, who are substituting for our president, Michelle, who is traveling again! Afterwards, we will enjoy lunch at Phil's 41 Restaurant, 1975 Tamiami Tr, Punta Gorda. Set your GPS and call a friend to carpool to Punta Gorda. It will be great to see you there!

P.S. We are substituting for Betty Botsaris, who is struggling with back pain. She promises to give her Egyptian talk at a later date when she feels better. Get well, Betty!

Welcome Home to our Indonesia Ambassadors

Have you checked our club's FaceBook page lately? If so, you'll know that as I write this, our club ambassadors are on their way home from two club visits and private add-on excursions.



Carol learns some new moves

Carol Nasby, Journey Coordinator, sent me the following email update...

"The journey to Indonesia, Singapore and Cambodia was a great experience. At each home stay we had everyone give their "wow" moment.



Susan is having a great time

Here are some of them:

- Visiting the children at the English School and sharing books from Florida with them
- Visiting the college students and answering their questions about the US
- Dancing with our home stay families at many music events
- Chaperoning the young ones through the zoo, and enjoying their reactions
- Enjoying the farewell parties, the extravagance and wonderful hospitality.



Our President

What a great journey of learning and friendship!"

Carol Nasby

"Peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be



Carol with the group of college students in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart."



Chris Nasby with children visiting zoo

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



Scenes of City of Saratov, Russia

climate is moderately cold in the winter and it has hot, often dry summers.

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

Sue Linehan has agreed to be the co-Journey Coordinator with new member volunteers. Those who have volunteered are **Maureen Butt, Marla Burkland and JoAnn Robbins**. Thank you!

West Michigan Outbound Journey



*Linda
Journey Coordinator*

Linda Supakoff, our Journey Coordinator, will be giving you information soon about who has been chosen to travel as club ambassadors to West Michigan.

Stay tuned!

Do you have some travel tips?

One of my favorites is to pack lightly and roll my clothes in the suitcase.

I always carry some disinfection wipes and when I sit down in the airplane, I wipe the tray table, hand rests and air vents above me. Don't want a cold or virus to ruin my trip!

Joanne

Send me your travel tip for next newsletter!



Where in the World are our members traveling?

Good-bye and safe travels to our club snow birds!

We hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to your return!



Maureen Butt and Joanne Collins signed up for a FF Journey to Egypt Oct 23-Nov 7, 2019 with an add-on excursion cruising the Nile River and visiting Petra, Jordan. They are going with the FF of Northeast Ohio club.

Club President, **Michelle Kemps**, is taking an Educational Opportunities riverboat cruise to Budapest, Hungary and Prague, Czech Republic.

Maureen & Hank Butt are on a trip to Cancun, Mexico. Soon, they will set off in their car (with parrot, Mayo) to drive to their home in northern California. BTW, Maureen is planning on attending the FF Boulder, Colorado World Conference this summer.

Sue & Rob Linehan recently sold their beautiful catamaran and replaced it with a pontoon boat called **Sue-Sea**. They are traveling around on it in Charlotte Harbor.

Where are you traveling? Send me an email so that I can include it in the next newsletter.

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**.

Michelle suggests raising 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 May meeting.

What Are YOU doing this summer?



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

Save the Dates 2019

June 7 - Lunch TBD

August 2 - Ice Cream Social, Location TBD

Note: TBD means "to be determined"



**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**



"Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world."

Gustav Flaubert

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

President's Comments



Michelle with her Indonesian host

Thirteen of our club members have just returned from Indonesia.

It was a unique opportunity to live with Muslim families.

These people were totally non judgmental. Their warmth and friendship was pure unconditional love.

It takes journeys like these that make you want to scream at the negative social media.

We need to spread the word of Friendship Force and do our part to change the world towards PEACE as Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter started 42 years ago.

In Friendship,

Michelle

Parting Shots



Our Lucky 13 Ambassadors visiting Indonesia

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

2019 Non-voting Board

Membership

Michelle Kemp
1st Vice President
Beverly Harmon
2nd Vice President
Ginny Dooley
Treasurer
Jack & Jo Cooley
Secretary
Linda Supakoff

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
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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