



friendship force  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## August & September 2022 Newsletter

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### Ice Cream Social

Friday, September 9, beginning at 2 pm

Linda's Home - 1353 San Mateo Drive, Punta Gorda



It's cool, it's free, it's fun!

Come by and join us for a summer club tradition of delicious ice cream and conversation. Phone a friend and carpool to Punta Gorda. Bring any friends who might be interested in our club. RSVP to [Linda's email](#) (just click on it!) so that she knows how much to purchase.

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## October 2023 Australia Journey

We are pleased to inform you that our club is visiting two Australian clubs in October 2023 - The Blue Mountains and The Gold Coast. You can be part of the adventure. Linda Supakoff volunteered to be our Journey Coordinator; however, she would like another person to help her. This is a chance for you to learn. Email [Linda](#) today!



The *Blue Mountains* is a city, made up of 26 mountain towns dotted along the Great Western Highway that crosses the mountains. It is a city within a World Heritage National Park. Approximately 62 miles west of Sydney, the area is one of Australia's natural wonders and a popular tourist destination with bushwalks, views of valleys and sandstone escarpments, caves, gardens, galleries and cafes.

The *Gold Coast* - Our Shoreline of our city stretches for 37 miles along the Pacific Ocean, featuring some of the best surfing beaches in Australia. With names like Surfers Paradise, Broadbeach, Palm Beach and Mermaid Beach, visions of glistening white sands, rolling surf and gently swaying palms spring to mind – and that's exactly how it is. We have beautiful hinterland parks and forests to visit as well!

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**CHANGING THE WAY YOU  
SEE THE WORLD**

**Friendship Force International  
World Conference 2023  
Dubrovnik, Croatia | October 2 - 5, 2023**



This is the first world conference in four years! It will have so much to offer our members. In addition to the main hotel where our conference events will take place, guest rooms for varying budgets will be available at three sister properties just a short walk around the bay. Day tours and post-conference tours in and outside of Croatia will be on offer for our delegates. There really is something for everybody! More info coming up on your FFI member portal.

*P.S. Our VP, Carol Nasby, already plans to go. Won't you join her?*

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## □ FFI News □

Do you know? Friendship Force International (FFI) launched their first newsletter for members and the public? Do you know you can be part of a FFI book club? Do you know you can access a world-wide Journey Catalog?

To access all this **good stuff**, we encourage you to create your own FFI member portal account on your computer. Your membership has an assigned ID number□, which will be important because here you will be informed about opportunities, news, journeys, and important happenings *e.g.*, world conference.

Questions? Call Joanne and I will walk you through it. Be sure to login or create your member account [at my.friendshipforce.org](https://my.friendshipforce.org) today! □

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## Welcome Sheri Lenora

*I am excited to join the club and meet fellow travelers. I moved to Punta Gorda 8 years ago from Austin, Texas and love exploring new horizons and learning about new cultures. A trip to Tanzania in February will mark my 100th country to visit and, while much of my travel has been solo, over the past 5 years I have done 35 home swaps all over the world. I find it is a very relaxing way to travel and I enjoy exploring small villages and off the beaten path attractions.*



*I am a retired educator and enjoy reading, live music, cooking and art. I have 2 sons, one in North Carolina who is an attorney and one who is a contract negotiator for the Federal Government and is planning to transfer to Florida in the next year.*

*I love the idea of traveling with others who share my passion and hope to contribute to the club in any way I can.*

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***If you didn't go, you missed a GOOD one!***

**Short Recap of Outbound to Alberta, Canada Clubs -  
Edmonton and Medicine Hat with Train Adventure**



Eleven club members and friends boarded the **Rocky Mountaineer** in Vancouver on July 1st for the Canada pre-trip. *It was a gourmet treat and an exciting ride!*



In Edmonton we toured the city and visited a history museum. Wonderful people and city! The next picture is from the Welcome Brunch we had at a lovely botanical garden. And the **Royal Mounted Police** spoke to us there. *Note the flag* - a combo US Canadian!



Below - We toured a Ukrainian historical center, and learned a lot about the settlement of Alberta by Ukrainian immigrants through out the century. We ate at a great Ukrainian restaurant, which was newly opened. The Ukrainian people are very industrious and such hard workers! Our tour guide was a 17 year old refugee from Ukraine who had only been in Canada for 2 months. She was with her mother & sister; her father was still in Ukraine. Lots more to tell you about on our November 18 presentation! To be continued...



**Club Leadership 2023-2024**  
**Let's Keep it Going...**

Over the past 3 years, Maureen Butt & Linda Supakoff shared the role of Club



President and it worked out great. We owe a debt of gratitude to them for their efforts particularly during the difficult Covid Pandemic time. Because of the Pandemic, they even agreed to stay on another year to keep us on track to be the wonderful club

we are!

Carol Nasby, our current Vice President, agrees to assume the position of Club President, provided someone steps up and agrees to co-lead the club with her. We are 1/2 way there! As you know Carol is easy to work with and a terrific enthusiastic leader. You will have a great time working with her. Give Maureen a call today so that we won't have to worry about our future. By the way, we also need a Vice President. Currently, the VP works on Club Membership. Questions? Call Maureen or Linda and they will fill you in. FYI, Richard Collins has agreed to continue as Club Treasurer and we think that Marcia Ellis will continue as Secretary. Joanne will continue to write the newsletter and Michelle will be our webmaster. Our club has 46 members currently. We need 2 of you to volunteer.

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## 2022 - Save the Dates!



**September 9** - Ice Cream Social at Linda's home

**October 7** - Meeting at Ft Myers Library, 10:30 am

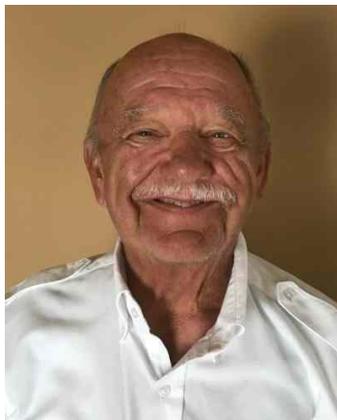
**October 30** - Halloween Party at Linda's home 6 pm

**November 18** - Presentation on Alberta, Canada Journey, Meeting Place to be determined

**December 14** Club Holiday Party

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**Remembering Kevin Janiak**



From the *Chicago Tribune*

Kevin Aloysius Janiak (78) peacefully passed away in his sleep on March 3, 2021 with his children by his side. He was born in Chicago and met many of his friends in Plainfield, IL and **Estero, FL**. His children were the beneficiaries of his love of flying his Twin Comanche and traveled all over the country. His favorite vacation spot was Turtle Cay in the Bahamas. His claim to fame was catching **less** fish in **more** places than anybody!

Although he wasn't the most politically correct person, he was kind, generous, funny and a great father to his son, Kevin (Nikole) Janiak and his daughter Susan (Steve) Silhavy. He also adored his five grandchildren. He lived three lifetimes of adventure and the stories and laughs will be with us forever.

We will remember his contributions to our club, his love of Bev Harmon and of course, the toilet paper Christmas grab bag gift!

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## Co President's Comments



A lot has been going on since our last newsletter. Our July 2022 Alberta Canada Journey was a great success, visiting both Edmonton and Medicine Hat. Next month I, along with Michelle, Joanne and Richard, am headed to Azerbaijan and Turkey with our Journey Coordinator, Marcia Ellis and members of her West Michigan club. All moving parts are in place now... all we need is to pack our bag and head to our respective airport !

Our Journey assignment for 2023 has been awarded from Friendship Force International. We have received two clubs as our Outbound "Australia's Gold Coast" Journey. Linda Supakoff has volunteered to be our Journey Coordinator (JC).. More info to follow. Also, we are in the planning stage for a reciprocal domestic club exchange and are in touch with a few clubs.

Since the COVID pandemic the number of Journeys available has decreased because of COVID restrictions, especially internationally. Friendship Force International provides us with a list of available openings for 2023 travel and the number of requests for each country. Here are a couple of extreme examples: Sweden hosting capacity 1 – requests received, 29; United Kingdom hosting capacity 4 - requests received 41. So, as you can see, we were fortunate to get Australia, one of our 4 international choices.

We realize that since it has not been possible for many of you to participate because of lack of Journeys due to the pandemic, you may not know about the many ways that you can help. And what volunteering for that opportunity would actually mean. **We will be calling for Board and other open 2023 positions. Please think about volunteering your time, effort and interest.** Please feel free to contact me or one of the other Board members with any questions you might have. Remember that all members are invited to all events and we always welcome your friend(s) as new members. Let's grow our club.

Please know that I am available anytime to answer questions and concerns at [may097@gmail.com](mailto:may097@gmail.com) or call me 408-334-3216.

We hope that you enjoy your summer and we look forward to seeing you at club meetings in the fall when many of us are back. Don't forget the ice cream social in September.

**In Peace and Friendship,**  
*Maureen*

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## Parting Shots



The Famous Medicine Hat Teepee - the largest in the world!



**Farewell Party at Medicine Hat -** The club members grilled us steaks with baked potatoes and made us home-made strawberry rhubarb pies. Yum! Great group! Loved Judy's dress!  
*From Left to Right on top - Joanne & Richard On bottom - Maureen, Judy, Luvvy, Michelle*



Richard & Joanne did their own pre-trip by car. Here is the Columbia Icefield glacier they walked upon!



Judy helped out the Prairie Gleaners!

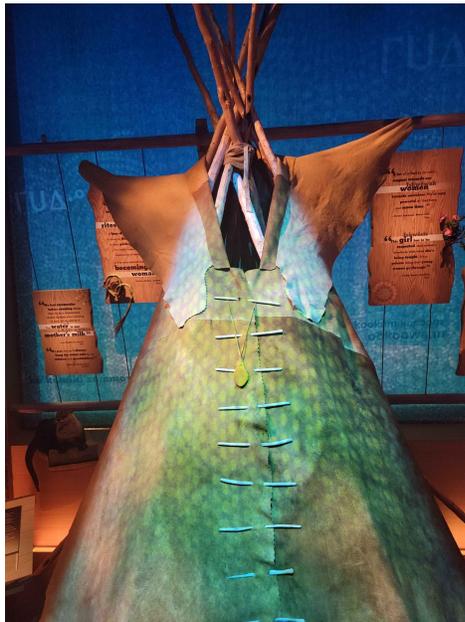


Michelle always has fun wherever she goes

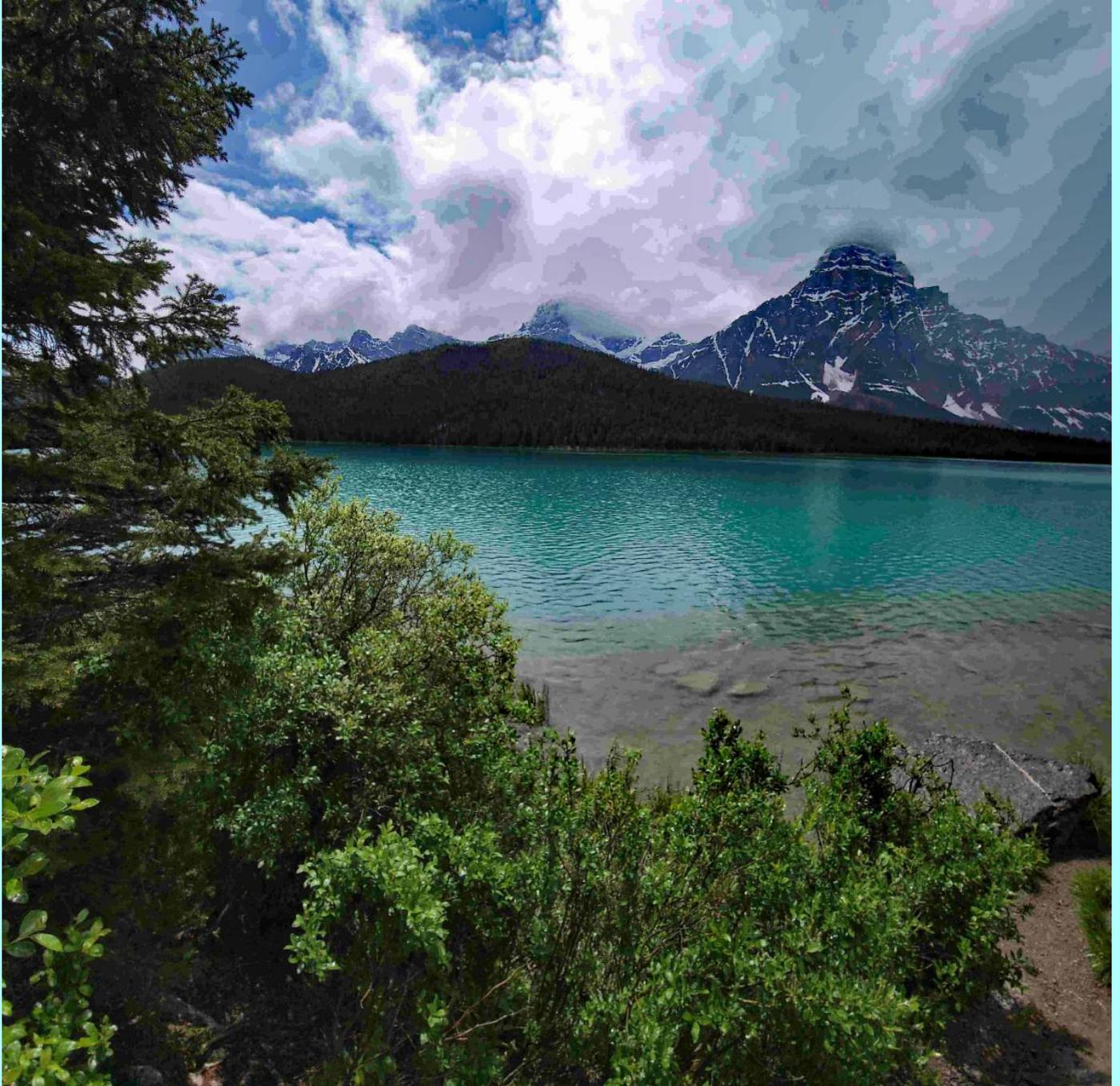


Richard & Chris learned to shoot a musket in Fort Edmonton - Guy Fun!

What an awesome Indigenous People Museum - cool teepee!



Richard & Joanne loved Lake Louise



Our favorite Canadian Rockies Picture

**Friendship Force of  
Southwest Florida**

[Email Us](#)



*Check us out &  
contribute to Group  
Facebook Page! Click  
FaceBook icon above!*