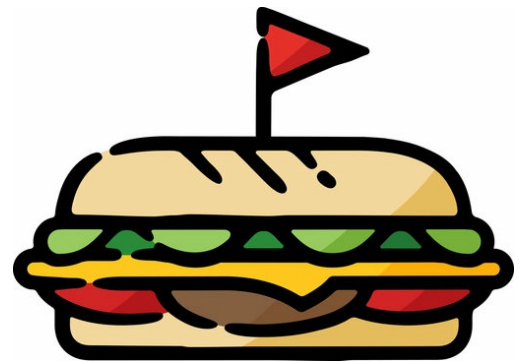




friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

May & June 2023 Newsletter

Subs at Gilchrist Park
400 W Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda
Friday, May 12, 11:30 AM



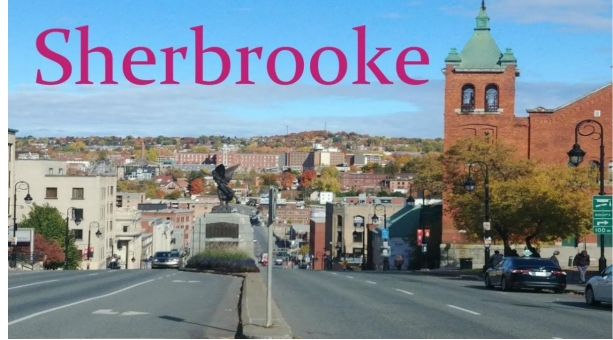
Hey, drive on over to the beautiful waterfront park called Gilchrist for free sub sandwiches and drinks courtesy of our club! Marvel at how the town improved the parking, walkways and appearance of this park. Our tax dollars at work for beautification of Punta Gorda!

Why this event? Our idea is to bring a friend because we want to **recruit** a few new enthusiastic members of our terrific club! Well, even if you have **no** friends, come anyway! Please let us know your attendance so that we can have enough subs for everyone! Our wonderful VP's, Judy and Terese, are organizing this fun time. We'll even have a short meeting to catch you up on summer happenings! **RSVP by May 9** by texting **Judy at 313-300-5891** or **Terese at 248-229-7261**. The fun begins at 11:30 am. Call a friend to car pool and don't miss it!

Announcing 2024 Club Journeys

It's a TRIFECTA of awesome

places! Start planning, dream **big**, go on them with your Friendship Force Club!



It's located between Montreal & Quebec City



Carol announces that next year, 2024, we've matched to visit **Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada!** In addition, our club is invited to visit two US clubs - **Minneapolis Twin Cities** and **Northern Colorado!** Marci Ellis and Michelle Kemps will be the Journey Coordinators (JC's) for Sherbrooke. Terese Libby and Luvvy Kovacik will share the JC duty for the US clubs outbounds.

Our club will welcome **Western Kentucky** for an Inbound Journey. We are looking for a good Host Coordinator and helpers to plan a successful visit.

Wondering about Sherbrooke? Here are some excerpts from the web.

"Our club, founded in May 2001, was the third Friendship Force club to be formed in Quebec after the Québec Region established one in 1997 and the Montréal one in the fall of 2000. We are a club with mostly French speaking members who also speak English and/or Spanish at various levels. The members are mostly retired from education, nursing or other professions. We presently have twenty-seven members.

The Sherbrooke region, a community of more than 150,000 inhabitants, is located at less than one hour and a half drive East of Montreal and at less than one half hour drive from the Canada (Quebec)-USA (Vermont) border. In addition to being a centre of industrial importance in high technology, transport, textile and others, the Sherbrooke region benefits from two universities (one French speaking and the other English speaking) which are well known for their dynamic role at home, in Canada and abroad.

*The landscape of the Sherbrooke region, rich in lakes, rivers and mountains is very much an attraction to the local and international tourist. Club members appreciate hosting visitors from other countries or regions. As hosts of ambassadors from the Friendship Force in our household for five to seven days, we share our daily life and our community's attractions. We guide them into exploring our culture and way of life. In addition to participating to the activities organized by our club, our guests may well like to explore the region or the country by themselves. Typically, the club members will organize outings in our town (city hall, mills and dams, murals, museums, etc.) and area (Bombardier's original shop and museum, attractions, mountains, gorges, lakes).
.."*



Welcome new Members to our Club

Dorothy & Curt DeCoux are from originally from Minnesota and live here 9 months out of the year. Their personal interests are the arts and working out. They are interested in hosting inbound FF ambassadors and like doing photography.

Cindy Couble lives permanently in Minnesota and is a retired special ed teacher. Her hobbies are yoga, pickle ball, downhill skiing, and learning about other cultures and animals. She hopes to join our club on some of our outbound journeys.

We are so glad you joined our wonderful club and we welcome you to great experiences and travel with Friendship Force!



Join us for a new club tradition - Let's Eat Out - 4th Friday of the month!

May 26 - Vietnamese Restaurant - Judy
June 23 - Peruvian Restaurant - Terese
July 28 - Foster Kids - Your Diet - Judy

Sept 29 - Mexican Restaurant - Joanne

Oct 28 - Australian Restaurant - Judy

Australia Outbound Update

Linda Supakoff will have two Zoom

meetings in June and August to discuss details. Check with her on the times and dates. BTW, Carol purchased tickets to attend a jazz concert at the Sydney Opera House. Wow!



Mark your Calendar!
Save the Dates!
Here is what is in store for 2023. . .

May 12 - Picnic Gilchrist Park, Punta Gorda, Free Sub Sandwiches, 11:30 AM

May 26 - LEO

June 23 - LEO

July 28 - LEO

August - Date To Be Determined (TBD) - Ice Cream Social

September 4 - 18
Club Outbound to Australia

Sept 15 - Club Meeting & Program at Ft Myers Library, First Street Location

Sept 29 - LEO

October 7- Club Meeting & Program - Colonial Country Club

October 28 - LEO

November 10 - Club Meeting & Program Location to be determined

December 13 - Club Holiday Party

Invite a friend - Recruit new members! Free subs and drinks

Vietnamese Food - Check with Judy Carson

Peruvian Food - Check with Terese Libby

Foster Kids - Your Diet - Check with Judy

Video on Antarctic to cool you off. Check with Linda Supakoff for details

Topic - Singapore Journey by Joanne & Richard Collins with lunch to follow at Veranda

Mexican Food - Check with Joanne Collins

Topic - World Viking Cruise by Jack & Jo Cooley with lunch to follow

Australian Food at Outback - check with Judy

Presentation of FF Journey to Australia with optional lunch to follow

at Lake Fairways Club House, North Fort
Myers, Time to be determined



CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD



Tervis Tumbler, Anyone?

We have a few "custom-made" Tervis Tumblers with our club insignia for purchase. They are "Florida-made" in Venice and cost \$20 each. They are non-breakable, guaranteed for life, and insulated for either hot or cold beverages. The tumbler can easily be stuffed into your luggage (put socks in them?) and make great hostess gifts when you are visiting other clubs.

Interested? They are going fast! Just click on our treasurer, [Richard's email](#) and order today!

President's Comments

At our March meeting on World Friendship celebration day, I shared with those attending our wonderful pot luck that I would like us to consider **sponsoring a refugee** from Ukraine or from Haiti.

I shared with everyone the website that gives the steps to do this, and the rationale behind it. **The American people can, in forming a group of at least five individuals, apply to receive an individual or even a small family to welcome them temporarily to our country.**



This was brought home to me today as here in Amsterdam our tourist boat was parked next to another tourist boat that was full of refugees. The Netherlands is welcoming refugees, and sponsoring them and giving them housing as we speak. They have opened their hearts to the Ukrainian community.

Here is the website again. **If you are interested in forming a committee to do this**, please let me know. Even as snow birds and Floridians perhaps we can

help.

<https://welcome.us/>

Promoting peace and friendship one family at a time.

In Peace,

Carol

Parting Shots



The Denver Club presented Echo with a check to thank them for their efforts in combating world hunger. Just awesome!



Here, Sue and Rob hug their ambassadors.
Thanks, Sue, for being the Host
Coordinator for the Denver Group!



Terese enjoyed her two new friends!



Chris and Carol met their
ambassadors on a Global
Exchange. Carol was
instrumental in bringing the
Denver club here. Thanks,
Carol!



Maureen & Hank Butt hosted
a wonderful dinner.



Long-time members,
Cheryle and Lou, hosted
ambassadors. They always
give back!



*On Memorial Day, Punta Gorda's Field of Honor
Remembering those who kept us Free*

**Friendship Force of
Southwest Florida**

[Email Us](#)



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

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida | 2509 Deborah Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

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