



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

March 2024 Newsletter

We are ready to host Minneapolis Twin Cities March 3-8



Thirteen Twin Cities Minnesota ambassadors will arrive March 3 and their journey begins with a Breakfast Brunch Welcome Party on Monday, March 4 at the Linehan's home and ends Friday, March 8 with a Farewell Party at Michelle Kemps' residence.

Check the [Journey Activity Sign Up](#) for times of all the events. We have 40 members and ambassadors signed up for both the Welcome and Farewell Parties. Our locations are now "maxed out" but you can join us on any other of the activities and locations.

Joanne Collins is the Host Coordinator with valuable assistance from Terese Libby and Michelle Kemps. We have a fun agenda planned and we look forward to a fantastic time!



International Pot Luck
World Friendship Day
Friday, March 15th- 11 AM
Linehan home, 258 Venezia
Ct, Punta Gorda

World Friendship Day is officially recognized in March each year by the United States Senate and other governing bodies around the world that encourage average people to get to know one another better because, as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter once said, "*International friendship is a powerful antidote to war.*"



We encourage you to bring your favorite foreign cuisine or American dish! Dress accordingly in one of your best outfits representing your special dish - it's more fun that way! Hope to see you there. Please RSVP to Sue by texting her at 941-979-6977 by March 13. She and Rob need to know how many chairs to have available!



Welcome New Members



Dianne Gooding is a friend of Carol's who attended our last meeting. She immediately joined our club and is coming to some of the Minnesota Inbound activities. She is a retired elementary public school teacher. She loves gardening, golf and of course, traveling! Welcome aboard!



Lee Fullerton is a snowbird and hails from Toronto, Canada. She is a retired Director of Communication and Media Relations. She loves bridge, water aerobics, wine tasting and travel. She and her husband will attend the Farewell Party for Minnesota so please look for them and introduce yourself. Lee has signed up to go to Sherbrooke!

Four slots remain for our club Outbound Journeys

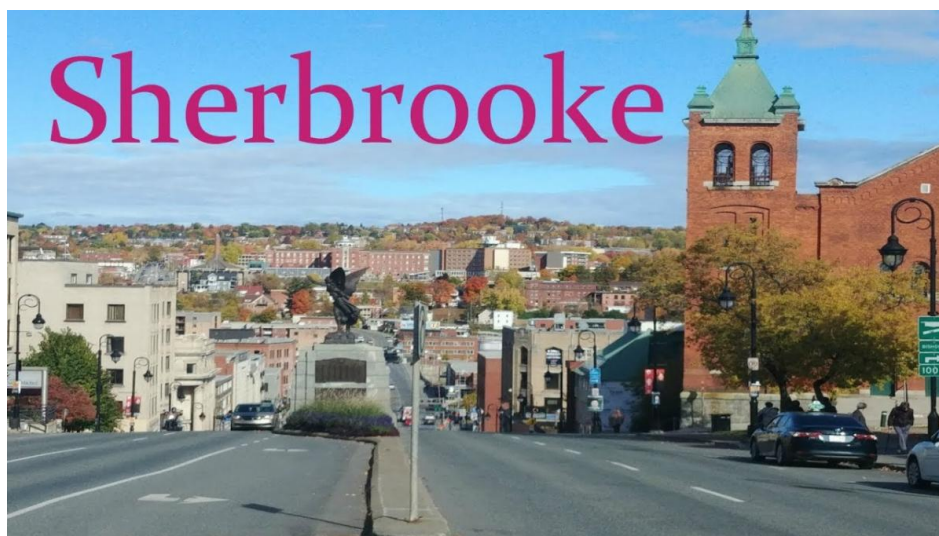


Journey Coordinators, Terese Libby and Luvvy Kovacik, report that 10 members from our club have sent in their applications for the two journeys to Twin Cities from **June 20 - 24** and Northern Colorado from **June 26 - 30**.

There are 4 members from the nearby Sarasota Club on our waitlist to go. Our club members must meet our deadline of **March 15** or the spots will be given to Sarasota Club. Although we would like to see more of our members go on these journeys, we are happy to have Sarasota Club members to get to know them. 14 is the max number for both of these trips.

Terese is organizing a "pre-trip" to Duluth and Ely for those interested.

Luvvy has an tentative agenda from the Northern Colorado Club that you can review if you'd like. She made her plane reservations from Minneapolis to Denver on 6/25. From Denver we catch a one-hour bus ride to the Harmony Transport Center in Ft Collins for pick-up by club members. Contact her for further details.



Update on Sherbrooke, Canada Outbound Journey

9 of our club members and 3 FF members of other clubs will travel to visit FF Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada, filling this journey.

Sept 3-8 Pre trip to Quebec City including a night at the Wendake indigenous program.

Sept 8-14 FF Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada

Sept 14-18 Montreal

Marci says, "At this time we are full with 12 members signed up. We will have a waiting list in the event someone needs to cancel.

We have some exciting plans for the Pre Quebec City and Post Old Montreal. It will be a full two week trip plus travel days.

The weather should be perfect and the Sherbrooke is excited we have filled the 12 openings. They are working on their Itinerary for us."

We are looking forward to a very interesting journey!

Announcing FFSWFL Book Club meeting at Marci's home 631 Andros Ct, Punta Gorda

Our goal is to read books
about other countries and
cultures

March 13 @ 10 AM
The Covenant of Water
by Abraham Verghese

April 10 @ 10 AM
The Girl With the Louding Voice
by Abi Daré



LEO at a Caribbean restaurant
Bahama Breeze
14701 S Tamiami Tr, Ft Myers



March 22 at noon

Stay connected with our group by attending the Let's Eat Out for March at 12 noon. If attending, text Terese at 248-229-7261 by 3/15

FFI North American Conference
Drury Plaza Hotel Milwaukee
Downtown
Oct 7 - 10, 2024

REGISTER

223 DAYS
12 HOURS
25 MINUTES
35 SECONDS

Welcome to the 2024 North American Friendship Force Conference!

Your conference will be hosted in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where inspiration meets connection. Dive into discussions with members from Canada, Mexico, and the US. Gain insights from FFI leaders and innovators.

Beyond the conference sessions, check out lively Milwaukee, known for its hospitality, famous breweries, and rich cultural heritage. Local half-day excursions are available for you to enjoy, and the FF Milwaukee club members will give you recommendations on city dining for all budgets.

Don't miss this chance to meet with your peers and ignite new ideas that will shape FFI's future. Secure your spot by signing onto the [FFI portal](#) today!

Mark your Calendar!
Save the Dates!



March 3 - 9 - Twin Cities Minnesota visits us. *Block off your calendar to help and attend events!*

March 15 - International Pot Luck - 11 AM - at Sue & Rob Linehan home

March 22 - LEO at Bahama Breeze - Noon - RSVP to 248-229-7261

April 12 - Monthly meeting with Traveling to Morocco featuring Marcie and Michelle at North Fort Myers Library 10 AM

June 20 - 30 - Outbound Club Journey to Twin Cities, MN and Northern Colorado FF Clubs

September 8 - 14 - Outbound International Club Journey to Sherbrooke, Canada FF Club

October 7 - 10 - Regional Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Missed meeting? Need to Keep Up with our Club?

If you've missed a meeting and want to know what happened, check out club MINUTES found on our FF Website under Membership Tab. Click [minutes](#). Go to minutes and read all about it. So easy!

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**

My FFI

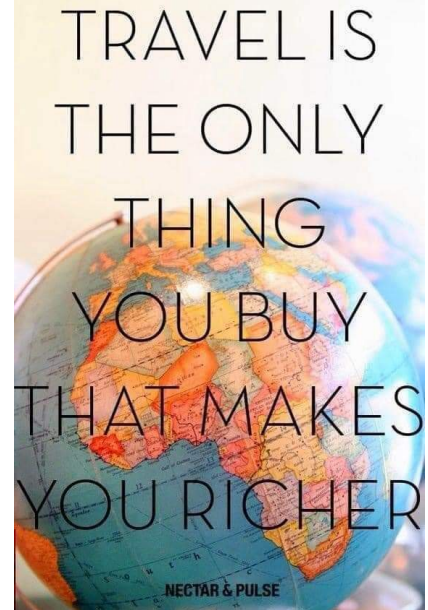
The members-only portal, my.friendshipforce.org, is the go-to place for

news, journey opportunities, payments, virtual experiences and all other member-relevant information. If you have not yet signed up, please do so. Confused how to do it? Email [Marcie](#) (click on her name).

More Travel Opportunities

Click the link below to review a catalog of Special Journeys that are currently being offered by other FFI clubs. Perhaps there is a journey that interests you!

[2023-24 Journey Catalog](#)
[2023-24 Club to Club Journeys](#)



President's Comments

Greetings friends,

These are busy and exciting days for our club! The western Kentucky club, that we just hosted, said we are so lucky to have such a vital and active club, and I can not agree more!

Thank you to all who have made these inbounds work so smoothly. Kudos!



Last week there was an online meeting with all the FF presidents on Florida, called by Terri Holsinger. She shared some of the new happening from FF International.

Here are a few of the things she shared

1. The registration for North America FF conference in Milwaukee is now open. Terri stressed that this networking builds up sharing of best practices and relationships between clubs. They are urging each club to send a representative to build up leadership skills in the clubs. I hope we can find a member willing to do this, and our club can help with cost.
2. There are also new virtual training sessions for clubs on the membership portal. We should check them out.
3. The member portal has also been expanded now to give a better way for clubs to advertise journeys and for individuals to find out which journeys have openings. It is on the left side of the first page on the member portal website under journeys.

4. FFI is stressing that we have our members all sign release forms that their photos can be used on social media, websites and newsletters as there have been threats of lawsuits by members that were nasty. Something to think about!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the busy week with the Minnesota group coming.

*Peace,
Carol*

Parting Shots of Kentucky Inbound



Margie & Clyde hosted dinner - Yum!



Rita and Maureen's friendship blossomed



Our ambassador celebrated his birthday in Mexican style



Joanne and Richard filled in for Judy and enjoyed hosting Gayland.



We loved this Mom & Son



The Kentucky Group toured & lunched at the newly open Sunseeker Resort built by Allegiant.

**Friendship Force of
Southwest Florida**

[Email Us](#)



*Check us out &
contribute to Group*

**Facebook Page! Click
FaceBook icon above!**

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