



The Friendly Echo

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 12, Issue 2

February 2012



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Thank you to the members who provided us with interesting photos for our last meeting's activity, "The Year in Review". It seems that this will be an annual activity in January.

As we move into February, the days keep getting longer and so we know spring is not too far away. In the meantime, some of our members have gone or will be going to distant places, enjoying the warmer climates and beaches.

Members participating on our Outbound Exchange led by Debbie Spracklin and Margaret Birk will be leaving soon for Big Canoe, Georgia and Greater Orlando, Florida. For some of those members, it is their first exchange. We hope you have a wonderful experience and enjoy your hosts' friendship and hospitality.

Nancy Clendenan, Bob Kury and their committee are working on an interesting program for the ambassadors from Prague, Czech Republic and Hertfordshire, UK.

Elizabeth Grover and Frances Lemieux are beginning the process for the Inbound Exchange from Lima, Peru from Sept 12 – 19. Watch for more details for both exchanges.

2012 will be another busy year for our membership and we will have many opportunities to get involved in the various activities of our club.

In Friendship
Paul Havixbeck

Happy Birthday – February Celebrants

Debbie Spracklin
Marlene Friesen



Thank-You

The **Christmas Cheer Board** has acknowledged our donation with a formal thank-you letter in which they stated that they distributed 19,700 hampers serving 52,000 people, half of whom are children. Thank-you to all members who contributed a tin-for-the-bin at our Christmas meeting.

Activities Chairperson Needed

We still need one or more members to help organize meeting and fundraising activities for the club, and to represent the committee at Board meetings. Volunteering is a great way to get more out of your club membership. You can always count on help from the executive and other committee and club members. Speak to any executive member to find out what's involved.

2012 FFW Membership

Membership lists are currently being distributed. For 2012, Friendship Force Winnipeg has a total of 76 members (21 family; 34 single), a net increase of 4 members over last March.

Participation Reports

A few members haven't completed their participation reports for 2011. Forms will be available at the next meeting. Return the completed forms to Val Keenan.

Upcoming Events

Dinner Meetings, Holiday Inn, Winnipeg South, 6 PM

A reminder that the meeting/meal cost has increased to \$24.00. Beginning in March, there will be an increase in costs at the bar of about 50 cents a drink....wine, liquor and beer:

February 8 - Valentines. "WEAR RED!"

March 14 - Cancelled. Replaced by World Friendship Day celebration on **March 18**, Bourkevale Community Centre, see announcement following.

April 11 - regular dinner meeting

May 9 - regular dinner meeting

A picnic is planned for the **June 13** meeting with details to follow.

World Friendship Day Celebration

Sunday, March 18, 2012, 5 PM

Bourkevale Community Centre, 100 Ferry Road

World Friendship Day is on March 1, 2012, and will mark the 35th anniversary of the Friendship Force. We will be celebrating this event on **Sunday, March 18, 2012** with a pot-luck dinner at the Bourkevale Community Centre. FFW members, their families and friends, and Friendship Force of Manitoba members are invited. Come at 5 PM to chat and mingle, dinner will be served at 6 PM. There is no charge – just bring an International Pot-Luck Dish, labeled with the country of origin, as well as serving utensils. Wear an "international" costume if you have one, and bring along some souvenirs from previous travels. Don't forget your own dinner plate, mug and cutlery. Please call or email Charliene (832-9905) to indicate the type of food you plan to bring, e.g. meat, potato, rice, pasta, vegetable, salad, dessert.

Friendship Force Winnipeg Card Party

Tuesday April 17th, 1 PM

Charleswood United Church, 4820 Roblin Blvd

Mark your calendars for our Friendship Force Winnipeg Card Party on Tuesday April 17th at 1 PM at the Charleswood United Church -- and invite all your bridge and whist playing friends to attend! Cost will be \$12. Tickets will be available for purchase in mid March. Volunteers will be needed to help on that day. Delicious desserts and items for prizes gratefully accepted. This event has been a fun and successful afternoon in the past and we look forward to another great card party with the support of our members again this year.

Exchanges - Inbound

**Prague, Czech Republic and Hertfordshire, UK,
May 30 - June 6, 2012**

ED: Nancy Clendenan, Assistant ED: Bob Kury. We will be hosting up to 20 ambassadors; 12 members have volunteered to host (which should be sufficient). We are expecting ambassadors to arrive on May 30th evening with activities planned for the following week ending with a Farewell Banquet. A few more volunteers would be welcomed to serve on the planning committee. You can call Nancy at 489-7366 for more information on getting involved in creating great memories for our guests and yourself.

Lima, Peru, September 12-19, 2012

ED: Elizabeth Grover. The ambassadors from Lima will be visiting Canada in September. FF Calgary will be hosting September 5-11, and we will host the following week, September 12-19.

Exchanges - Outbound

**Big Canoe - North Georgia, February 22-29, and
Greater Orlando, Florida, March 1-7, 2012**

ED: Debbie Spracklin, Assistant ED: Margaret Birk. Detailed programming is well underway. Home hosts have been assigned, and itineraries have been prepared. It looks like this will be a very enjoyable exchange.

Other Exchanges

Undersubscribed Canadian Outbound Exchanges

See the Canadian Friendship Force Exchange Site at <http://canffex.ca/> for more information on undersubscribed exchanges being organized by other Canadian Clubs. This is a good opportunity for members to get involved in exchanges over and above those organized by our club.

Domestic Exchanges

The Board at a recent meeting discussed the possibility of organizing 3-day domestic exchanges for the fall of 2012 and beyond. Our attendees at the FF Canadian Conference will seek contacts with other clubs to organize possible exchanges.

2013 International Exchanges

We are expecting information from FFI headquarters in Atlanta on 2013 exchanges shortly and members will be advised once we have the information.

U.S. Multi-Club Culinary Exchange

July 31- August 14, 2012

Registrations are now being accepted for a Food-Based exchange that will be hosted by 3 FF Clubs in Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. Paul has sent more detailed information and registration forms to our members via email. Organizers include Dave and Pat Meyers who were the overall EDs for the Upper Mississippi Multi-Club Exchange much enjoyed last fall by Herb and Shirley Schellenberg.

Conferences

**6th Friendship Force Canadian Conference,
Quebec City, May 16-19, 2012**

Registrations are now closed. Several members from FFW will be attending, including Paul and Charlene Havixbeck.

**2012 World Conference: Hiroshima, Japan,
October 30-November 3, 2012.**

The official Conference theme is "Hiroshima for Peace and Friendship." Registration has now begun. For registration information contact: Debbie Powell, Conference Director/Special Projects, dpowell@thefriendshipforce.org. Post-conference hosting will be available with several Japanese clubs.

**2013 World Conference: New Orleans, Louisiana,
USA, November 22-25, 2013.**

Editor's Note: March Issue of the Echo Delayed
The next issue of the Echo will be about 2 weeks later than usual due to member travels.



friendship force
WINNIPEG

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