



The Friendly Echo



Volume 9, Issue 4

April 2009

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Honorary Member: Mayor Sam Katz

President's Message

Greetings!

According to the calendar, spring is here. Let's hope Mother Nature heeds the message – soon! Thanks go out to Jill for her "Pot 'O' Gold" Mixer at the last meeting. It's nice to talk with friends at our gatherings, but the dinner meetings also give us an opportunity to get to know some of the other members. Secondly, thank you to Rick and Martha Klimack for their informative presentation on their first Outbound Exchange to Costa Rica.

Most of our 22 members who travelled to Costa Rica on Exchange are home safely. We enjoyed 2 very busy weeks of activities. Among the sights seen were 3 volcanoes, rivers, mountains, rain forests, national parks, Earth University, flora and fauna. However, the real treasures of this magnificent country are its people – generous, happy and full of spirit, whether singing and laughing on the bus or shaking it up on the dance floor! A big thank you goes to Angela Narth, who composed in Spanish our "Farewell Poem" entitled *Amistad es el Sentido* or *Friendship is the Message*, which we recited to our appreciative hosts and new friends. Thank you also to Diane Judge, Exchange Director, and Muriel Moreau, Assistant ED, who very capably led this successful Exchange.

Our next opportunity to make new friends or to renew friendships will be our Interclub Exchange to Quebec in October. There will be more details in this newsletter and at the dinner meeting.

It is nice to see so many members and guests attending our monthly dinner meetings. Remember to spread the word to your friends about the values of Friendship Force:

- *Mutual Respect*
- *Cultural Diversity*
- *Cultural Exploration*
- *Service*

In Friendship, Charliene

Upcoming 2009 Events

FFW Card Party, Tuesday, April 28, 12:30pm:

A dessert card party is planned for the Charleswood United Church, 4820 Roblin Blvd. Various card games will be available including Bridge and Cribbage. A planning committee has been established, chaired by Elizabeth Grover. Volunteers will be needed to staff the event and to prepare desserts. Items for door prizes will be needed. The event is being widely promoted to the general public. (Contact Elizabeth Grover at 452 5299)

FFW Garage Sale: Friday, May 8 (3pm to 7pm) and Saturday, May 9 (8am to 4pm):

Now is the time to look through your home and garage for things to contribute to this fund raising activity. The sale location will be the Keenan and Spracklin garages at 50 and 53 Blossom Bay, Charleswood. Bring your clean prepriced items directly to the Keenans or Spracklins, no later than Thursday evening, May 7. Smaller items can be brought to the April 16 meeting. Many volunteers will be needed; please sign-up at the meeting. (Contact Jill Saunders at 261-4308)

FFW Promise Auction, May 13:

At a promise auction, promises are sold to the highest bidder. Your promise of what you will do for someone is described on a card (the promise is not an object that one can bring in). As examples, the following are some promises from a previous FFW auction:

- Purchase and planting of 2 dozen flowers
- A day at one's cottage at the lake
- Dinner and drinks for 4 in the member's home
- An inside/outside car wash including oil change
- A promise to knit a queen size afghan.

The time and place, etc. to be decided between promiser and buyer. Bring your "Promise", your money, have fun and get to know your fellow members. (Contact Norma Warecki, 837-8547)

2009 Meeting Dates at Holiday Inn South:

April 16

May 13: Promise Auction

June 10

September 10 (note that this is a Thursday)

October 21 (avoids conflict with Niagara Conference)

November 11

December 9

Safeway Community Caring Coupons

FFW has been approved to participate in the Safeway Community Caring Coupons program. Our club will receive \$8.00 for each \$20.00 booklet sold to members and their families and friends. Each booklet contains: 4 coupons for \$5.00 off (with \$50.00 grocery purchase); 3 coupons for 5X Air Miles (with \$50.00 grocery purchase); 14 coupons for \$1.00 off selected merchandise; and 1 coupon for \$5.00 off a Floral Arrangement. A Safeway Club card is required. Booklets will be available at the April meeting. (Contact Joe Keenan, 889-5550)

Exchanges

**Welcome back all ambassadors from Costa Rica!
Now we need to hear your stories and see your pictures.**

Interclub Exchange:

Our Club's first Interclub Exchange has been finalized for October 6 to 12, 2009 in Quebec (Sherbrooke Region and Quebec City Clubs). Registration forms will be available at the sign-in desk, Dinner Meeting, April 16th. This registration will be open until May 13th. A \$30.00 fee, per person, must accompany the form. A registration form is attached to this newsletter for those not attending the April meeting. Call Carol Frederickson with any questions at 837-8510.

Outbound:

- Brasov, Romania and Rheinhessen, Germany, April 2010

Inbound:

- Fortaleza and Belem, Brazil, September 20-27, 2009: (EDs: Joe Keenan & Karen Kaiser)
- Greater Cincinnati, USA, June 2010
- Yamagata and Kyoto-Fukuchiyama, Japan, September 2010

Winter Exchange 2011:

The Sunshine Coast of Australia has been confirmed to participate in this Global Exchange, scheduled in February 2011 to coincide with the Festival du Voyageur. Global Exchanges are like regular exchanges except that these are larger events so that ambassadors from other countries can also be invited to participate. This will provide opportunity for FF members from around the world to experience a real Canadian winter. We will be planning and hosting this unique winter exchange together with the Friendship Force of Manitoba.

Photos from Costa Rica (Joe Keenan)



FFW ambassadors at INBio Park, near Heredia



Costa Rican dancers at our San Jose farewell party

Update: Upcoming Conferences & Festivals

5th Canadian Friendship Force Conference, Niagara, October 14-16, 2009:

The online registration package is available at <http://ffcanadianconference09.org/index.htm> It includes a general overview, the Conference program and many details about the conference and the Niagara Region. The conference will be followed by a home stay on October 17-19, hosted by FFNiagara and FFGreater Hamilton/Burlington, and October 20-24 by FF Ottawa. The home stay application form is also provided online. See poster attached to this newsletter.

Our Club's first Interclub Exchange, scheduled for October 6-12 in Quebec, will coincide with this conference.

CROSS CANADA PHOTO PROJECT

"Feel the Power of Friendship" by showing what makes our club or city unique. We travel world-wide, yet how many of us fully explore our own country? FF Niagara is calling on all Canadian clubs to send them 10-20 digital photos per club. They will use pictures submitted to create a Coast to Coast Images of Canada slideshow to be played during the October convention. Here's a chance to share our corner of the country with the rest of Canada. Joe Keenan will coordinate photos submitted by FFW. Your photos should be sent to Joe at jrkeenan@mts.net no later than August 1, 2009.

Edmonton Festival, August 19-28, 2009

www.friendshipforceedmonton.org

2009 International Friendship Force Conference November 20-22, Okinawa, Japan

[\(See details and register online now!\)](#)

News from Friendship Force International

Eco Exchanges (David Kalen):

Friendship Force is introducing a few specialized themed exchanges to excite the more active FF member and to help recruit the younger generation into our organization. The goal is for FF to become more diverse and multigenerational.

Exchanges with an environmental theme will begin this fall. Activity levels will be greater than a typical exchange. Through your social network, you may be able to deliver the message to the next generation who are attracted to nature and outdoor activities. As the Exchange Director for the USA Eco-Exchange, David invites you to consider and promote not only his exchange but other eco-exchanges being introduced:

USA Eco- Exchange September 9-22, 2009:

- 4 night home stay in Chicago, 6 night home stay and environmental program in Milwaukee, 3 night home stay at a country home in rural Wisconsin. ([- USA Eco-Exchange \(September 9-22, 2009\) - See the flyer here](#))

New Zealand South Island Adventure (September, 2009):

- 5 days biking the New Zealand countryside between towns, 3 night home stay in Dunedin, Tour of the coastline with a nature guide.

Costa Rica Eco Education and Adventure (November, 2009):

- Participate in environmental projects at the Earth University, Explore the rainforest and stay at an eco-lodge.

Natural China (April, 2010):

- Observe environmental projects of the Nature Conservancy, Visit a panda research and breeding center. 1 day home stay and service project in a village.

To sign-up or for more information, contact David Kalen (davekalan@sbcglobal.net) or Debbie Powell (dpowell@thefriendshipforce.org).

FFI Board of Directors Meets in Atlanta, March 2009 (Andrew Sterling):

The Board represents clubs world-wide, with current members from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Indonesia, New Zealand and the USA. Members serve 4-year terms. The board is supported by an executive committee and six subcommittees. Some highlights from the meeting:

- The "re-branding" and new image has gone well
- Exchanges with special themes are underway, also Global Exchanges
- The FFI website is being used more and more; offering new ways to help members communicate with FFI and each other.
- Special attention was paid to diversifying the funding base for Friendship Force, including the soliciting of gifts from corporations, foundations, and individuals
- The economic downturn has led to a substantial number of cancellations in 2009, leading to \$100,000.00 in reduced income to FFI to cover costs. This is a very serious situation. Operating costs in Atlanta have been reduced by staff reductions and other economies.
- The priority is to fill every exchange, using methods of encouragement such as e-flyers to advertise unfilled spaces within regions, and deposits payable when exchanges are awarded.

Marketing Video (George Brown):

In response to requests from Clubs around the world, the new FFI marketing video is ready for use in public relations efforts, to tell the Friendship Force story around the world. Check out the FFI website for a link to either watch it on-line or download it for later viewing. This short video (4 ½ minutes) is the ideal length to take with you whenever there is public opportunity to introduce FF to a new audience. Thanks for all you do to make our organization strong. Together we are changing the world.

Happy Birthday for April

Marjorie Harland
Trudy Alexander
Kelvin Brown
Beryl Feuer
Val Keenan
Bette Brown
Karen Wokes



friendship force
WINNIPEG



THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF NIAGARA
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

THE 5TH CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP FORCE CONFERENCE



October 14, 15, 16, 2009

Home Stay ⇒ October 17, 18, 19, 20 (departure), 2009

FEEL THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP

THE NIAGARA COMMUNIQUÉ

ACCESS [MONTHLY BULLETINS](#) HERE

THE [APRIL ISSUE](#) FOCUSES ON:

- OUR SPECTACULAR DRAW FOR ARTWORK AND
- THE CROSS CANADA PHOTO PROJECT

THIS IS YOUR [LINK](#) TO
THE COMPLETE CONFERENCE WEB SITE

FIND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- REGISTRATION
- HOME STAY
- WORKSHOPS
- DINNERS
- SCHEDULES
- PRESENTERS
- OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- PHOTO PROGRAMS

NOTE:

- **NIAGARA HOME HOSTING SPACES ARE FILLING RAPIDLY!**

LET NIAGARA ENERGIZE YOU

REGISTRATION FORM

Winnipeg/Quebec Interclub Exchange - October 6 to 12, 2009

I/We _____

Would like to be considered as an Ambassador(s) for the Winnipeg/Quebec Interclub Exchange visit - October 6 to 12, 2009.

Enclosed is \$30.00 per person as a Registration Fee. This fee is NON refundable once I/We have been selected for the Exchange.

Signed

Date

Forward to:
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