



The Friendly Echo

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 11, Issue 4

April 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends:

I have taken the idea for my message this month from the president's message in the San Diego Newsletter sent to Dolores Tutkaluk and forwarded to me. Mike Brown speaks of the value of Friendship Force and what it can mean to members. Here are my thoughts.

Friendship Force introduces people at a personal level. Living together for a short time, sharing meals and exchanging ideas and past experiences fosters understanding and builds peace one friendship at a time.

Each time we host an incoming group or travel as ambassadors to another country we learn much that is new to us. Personally whether as a host or an ambassador I learn of the geography and history of the country involved through research and through travel. Sometimes I struggle with another language and certainly improve my sign language skills. There are parallel and different cultures and customs to experience. Always my thinking is broadened and my time with visitors full of anticipation and laughter. We become very close to our visitors. These stages of learning and friendship happened when the Japanese visited us in September 2010. Our members are anticipating a visit to Japan in September, 2011. We do not know if that visit will materialize; whether they will be ready for visitors after the country's devastating loss.

The Japanese have tremendous dignity, courage and strength. Their grief involves the friends and families of more than 30,000 people who lost their lives. We are in contact with our friends and we know that they are safe. We hold them in our hearts and pray for them as they struggle to rebuild their lives.

The Board has decided that half of the cost of each ticket for the Card Party will be donated to a fund for renewal in Japan. It is a small donation but a beginning.

Friendship Force enriches my life. My involvement broadens my thinking and knowledge. I build new friendships within the group and globally. How do you feel about your involvement? Do you feel the same?

In friendship KAREN

Nomination Call for Vice-President

The Nominating Committee has received one nomination for the position of Vice-President. Paul Havixbeck has agreed to let his name stand for election which will take place at the April 13 Dinner Meeting. At that time, nominations may be made from the floor.

The Nominating Committee: Charliene Havixbeck, Marlene Friesen, Dolores Hebert, Val Keenan, Frances Lemieux

Thanks from Queensland, Australia

Val Keenan informs that a thank you has been received from Pat Maynard of the North Moreton FF Club, Australia. On behalf of the Global Winter Exchange a donation of \$100 had been made to Australian flood relief. This was forwarded on to Pat whose house had been flooded to a depth of 1.5 metres causing major damage. "Hopefully I will be able to return to my home by the end of June. My contents were under insured so your donation will help me replace sheets, towels etc. Thank you once again it was really appreciated. In friendship. Pat Maynard."

World Friendship Day Celebration, March 20 Bourkevale Community Centre

A fun-filled evening was enjoyed by members, their families, and visitors from FF Manitoba at the World Friendship Day Pot Luck. The attendance was great, the food was delicious, and the sing-song led by Tom McDermott was simply marvelous. Many thanks to everybody who contributed.

Upcoming Events

2011 Dinner Meeting Dates: Holiday Inn Winnipeg South, 6 PM

April 13	Money Bunny (Easter)
May 11	Manitoba Day, Book Sale
June 8	Picnic. See below
September 14	Skit, Costa Rica Report
October 12	Harvest
November 9	Annual General Meeting, Japan Report
December 14	Christmas.

To replace the June Dinner Meeting, we will have an evening picnic at the Little Mountain City Park in North Winnipeg (turn north from Inkster Blvd at Klimpke Road). Family members welcome. Ideas for food and games are sought. Contact Norma Warecki, Activities Chair.

FFW Dessert Card Party, April 12, 2011 Charleswood United Church, 4820 Roblin Blvd.

Our Dessert Card Party is all set to go. A few reminders to the membership:

- ♣ The set-up crew should be at the church by 11:30 AM
- ♥ We would like desserts to be delivered by 12:00 noon
- ♦ Unsold tickets to be delivered to Ernie/Paul who will be at the reception table
- ♣ Remember to wear your FF badges.

Thanks for your support. We look forward to a fun afternoon.

Joan Ostermann (Card Party Coordinator)

Happy Birthday for April

Trudy Alexander Kelvin Brown
Beryl Feuer Val Keenan
Bette Brown Karen Wokes
Sharon Malchuk



Congratulations

Dolores Hebert has been appointed as President of the Retired Women Teachers' Association, and Bessie-Marie Hill and Dolores Tutkaluk will serve as Board members.

Reference to February Winter Global in the University of Manitoba newspaper, The Bulletin

In an article regarding the Tache Hall Residence in its March 10, 2011 edition, the Bulletin reported that a photo taken in 1922 or 1923 "...was donated recently to the University of Manitoba Archives and Special Collections by Margaret Williams, Australian daughter-in-law of the photographer when she was visiting Winnipeg. Margaret Williams is currently travelling as part of a multicultural exchange organization called Friendship Force International and was in Winnipeg in February to experience a prairie winter and to attend Festival du Voyageur."

Exchanges

Volunteers are needed to serve as Exchange Directors for all three 2012 exchanges. Contact Martha Klimack.

Inbound

San Jose, Costa Rica, August 27-September 3, 2011

A planning committee has been established. San Jose will be visiting North Bay, Ontario prior to arriving here. (ED: Norma Warecki, Assistant ED: Elizabeth Grover)

Prague, Czech Republic and Hertfordshire, UK, April, 2012

We will seek to change the date to June.

Lima, Peru, August, 2012

Outbound

Yamaguchi and Tokyo, Japan, September 20-October 4, 2011

New information will be presented at the dinner meeting. (ED: Charlene Havixbeck, Assistant ED: Dolores Tutkaluk)

Big Canoe - North Georgia and Greater Orlando, USA, February, 2012

Undersubscribed Canadian Exchanges

Bill Harkness reports that the following five exchanges are currently undersubscribed:

1. Penticton-Okanagan, to Causeway Coast and Somerset, UK- 10542 - 5/10/2011
2. Manitoba to Fort Worth and Memphis, USA - 10740 - 05/15/2011
3. Winnipeg, Canada to Yamaguchi and Tokyo, Japan - 10513 -9/20/2011
4. Brandon & Area, to Auckland North Shore and New Plymouth, NZ, 10500 - starts 10/27/11 in Auckland

5. Niagara to Vietnam - 10491 - 11/2/2011
See the Canadian Friendship Force Exchange Site at canffex.ca for more information

Conferences

World Conference Hamburg, Germany,

August 26-30, 2011

The theme of "Leadership for Tomorrow" will be explored. Visit the Friendship Force 2011 World Conference website to learn more and to register.

www.regonline.com/2011worldconf

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

The Conference will be hosted by the Friendship Force of the Quebec Region. All Canadian FF Clubs are invited to join together and participate. The Conference will be held in the heart of Quebec City's historic Old Town. The purpose is to have fun, learn and discuss between friends about the challenges facing Canadian Friendship Force Clubs, shape their future...and maybe change the way you see Quebec and Quebecers. Check <http://www.forceamitieregionquebec.com/> for details as they become available.

Friendship Force International

Trailblazer Project

Clubs are invited to review the new **Trailblazer Project** proposal approved by the FFI Board at its most recent meeting. The proposal is described at http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/downloads/Trailblazer_Project_Description.pdf. The purpose of the Trailblazer Project is to encourage clubs to create innovative strategies for growth that can be shared with other clubs.

Japan Disaster

Excerpts from a Communiqué issued by George Brown, President, FFI, dated March 17, 2011:

"This is a devastating tragedy for Japan. The Friendship Force family in Japan stretches across the entire nation and includes the Friendship Force of Miyagi, which is located in and around the area of Sendai – the area that has been hit hardest by the earthquake, the tsunami and now the radiation leak from the nuclear power plant."

"The most recent reports we have received from our leaders in Japan indicate that the Friendship Force members in the area are safe, but some have suffered damage and all are in shock over the devastation."

"Many people around the world are asking how they can help. We encourage those people who want to provide financial support to make donations to organizations like the Red Cross that are already organizing major relief efforts."



friendship force
WINNIPEG

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