



The Friendly Echo

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 9, Issue 9

December 2009

Merry Christmas!

President's Message

Season's Greetings!

As we look back on the past year, we realize that it was a successful year for our club. We have enjoyed the dinners at the Holiday Inn Winnipeg South, as well as their friendly, helpful staff.

On March 1, we celebrated World Friendship Day in style at our lovely brunch. We look forward to having another celebration involving food, fun and friendship next March 1.

Our spring fundraisers were a great success, thanks to the hard work and support of many of our members.

Those of us who travelled on the Outbound Exchanges to Costa Rica and Quebec were treated to warm hospitality and had the opportunity to get to know our own members better.

The Inbound Exchange from Brazil was one of the highlights of the year, not only because of the friendly ambassadors, but because it gave our members a chance to socialize and join in the fun activities.

Those members who attended the Canadian Conference in Niagara came away re-energized. In 2010, the International Conference is in Washington, D.C. in October.

Thank you to all the members of the Board, who are always so supportive and willing to help, and to all other members, who help out when called upon to do so.

As we begin a new year, I wish the new executive great success. I have every confidence that 2010 will be a fun year!

In friendship, Charliene

Note of Thanks: Thank you for your cards and expressions of sympathy on the passing of my father. Adele McMurtrie

Suggestion Box

There was a good response to the suggestion box set out at the November 11 dinner meeting. The Board decided that the suggestion box will be a regular feature at all future dinner meetings so that members can contribute their ideas for changes or improvements that may benefit our club.

2010 FFW Membership Renewal

It's time again to renew your membership for next year. Renewal forms will be available at our December meeting. Cost is \$30 for a single membership and \$50 for a family membership. Thanks to all who have already renewed.

Upcoming Events

Meeting Dates at Holiday Inn Winnipeg South, 6 PM

2009: Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 9. "BRING A TIN" FOR THE FOOD BIN, WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS HAT ---. The committee has been working hard to make this an entertaining evening.



2010:	January 13	June 9
	February 10	September 8
	March 10	October 13
	April 14	November 10
	May 12	December 8.

Increase in Meal Costs: You are reminded that the meal cost will increase to \$23 per person beginning at the January meeting.

World Friendship Day, Monday, March 1, 2010

The global theme this year is **Friendship On Six Continents**. The Board reviewed several ideas on how to celebrate this event, and decided that it would be very appropriate to have an "international" pot luck supper. A committee is being set up to work out details and make arrangements.

FFW Dessert Card Party, Tuesday, April 27, 2010

The Charleswood United Church, 4820 Roblin Blvd., has been reserved for a second card party, focusing on bridge. This will build on last year's very successful event, and with our experience, it will be made an even better occasion. It provides community involvement, promotes Friendship Force and is an efficient fundraiser. A planning committee is being established. Volunteers will be needed for planning and staffing the event, and to prepare desserts.

Exchanges

Outbound

Brasov, Romania and Rheinhessen, Germany, April 17 - May 1, 2010

Ambassador applications will be distributed at the December Dinner meeting. A financial commitment will be requested by January for the ambassadors going on this Exchange (ED: Martha Klimack)

Inbound

- **Greater Cincinnati, USA, June 21-28, 2010**
Twenty-four ambassadors are expected. A good response was received at the November meeting to assist in this exchange.
(ED: Norma Padilla)
- **Yamagata and Kyoto-Fukuchiyama, Japan, September 2010** (ED: Aruna Hall)

Winter Exchange, February 17 – 24, 2011

A good diversity of international applications has already been received for this global exchange, to be hosted jointly by the Friendship Force Clubs of Winnipeg and Manitoba. **QUESTION:** We have been planning for a maximum of 40 ambassadors; can we handle more than 40 eager to experience winter in Canada? (FFW ED: Val Keenan)

International Conference, Washington, D.C., 2010

Mark your calendars for the International FF Conference in Washington, D.C. October 15 - 18, 2010. The Exchange prior to the Conference is now full. For complete conference details, please refer to the conference website at www.regonline.com/2010_world_conference.

Friendship Force International

Please note the following changes to exchange fees established by FFI as currently stated in the FFW Orientation Booklet. These fees are (in US\$ per individual):

- Exchange Fee to Atlanta: \$115.00 per week regardless of length of stay (the third week had been \$50.00)
- Host Club Fee: Increase from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per week
- Stopover Hospitality Fee (a new fee): \$20.00 per night to Atlanta for 1-3 night stays
- Domestic exchanges:
 - 1- 3 days: No fee to Atlanta
 - 4-7 days: increase from \$25.00 to \$50.00 to Atlanta

- Global Exchange fees: \$125.00 per week to host club.

Club fees between Host and Ambassador Clubs are negotiated between those clubs.

New Travel Book: Peter Greenberg. *Tough Times, Great Travels: The Travel Detective's Guide to Hidden Deals, Unadvertised Bargains, and Great Experiences*, New York, Rodale Books, 2009, \$10.95Cdn. A great Christmas gift idea! Even when travelling on a FF Exchange, we need to find good airfares and sometimes, go on an extended trip before or after the Exchange, and may need other info. A website is noted in the book for airfare deals www.airfarewatchdog.com.

Happy Birthday for December

Joe Keenan
Carlos Serpa
Ernie Ostermann



2010 Friendship Force of Winnipeg Board of Directors

Board (Elected):

President: Karen Wokes
Vice-President: Norm Pohl
Treasurer: Marlene Friesen
Secretary: Adele McMurtrie

Past President: Charlene Havixbeck

Committee Chairs (Appointed):

Newsletter: Herb Schellenberg
Communications: Elizabeth Grover
Telephone: Nancy Clendenan
History: Rick Klimack
Website: Joe Keenan
Membership: Norm Pohl
Activities/Fundraising: Norma Warecki
Exchange Coordinator: Martha Klimack
Present Exchange Directors: Martha Klimack (Romania, Germany), Norma Padilla (USA), Aruna Hall (Japan), Val Keenan (Winter Global).



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Honorary FFW Member: Mayor Sam Katz, City of Winnipeg