



The Friendly Echo

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 11, Issue 10

December 2011

Merry Christmas!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

As always this has been a very active year for Friendship Force Winnipeg. We have enjoyed the company of visitors from afar, the travels of members, and activities that included our families, our friends and the community. We were able to explore new cultures and expand knowledge of ours. Certainly hosting the Winter Global was a unique experience in many ways.

For me the year has brought the strengthening of new friendships made through Friendship Force and the ending of my role as president. Being president has been a privilege. When asked more than 2 years ago I was reluctant to take on the task but am very pleased that I did.

Thank-you to the board, the committee members and the members at large for their support and help in the many tasks, big and small. The team work brings many successes. Friendship Force members are always ready to include another helper or committee member. It is fun and it helps.

The year 2012 will bring new experiences and challenges in Friendship Force and in our lives. May they be easily met by all.

I wish a Happy Christmas and Holiday time for you and your family and friends and a Happy New Year.

In friendship KAREN

Get Well Wishes

All the best to Bessie-Marie Hill and Elizabeth Grover as they recover from surgery. Hope to see you both up and about soon!

Happy Birthday December

Joe Keenan
Carlos Serpa
Ernie Ostermann
Joanne Kury
Lorraine Franz
Jim Kubas
Judy Olmstead-Coss



Chairpersons Needed

The FFW Board is still seeking Chairpersons for the following Standing Committees:

**Exchange Coordinator
Historian, and
Activities/Fundraising.**

Members who would like to volunteer for one of these positions should contact the executive.

2011 FFW Membership Renewal

DON'T FORGET DUES ARE DUE ... \$30/single or \$50/family. Please pay your dues ASAP. You may bring payment to the Christmas Party or mail directly to: Paul Havixbeck, 3198 Vialoux Drive, Wpg, MB R3R 2H5.

Participation Reports

Please complete your 2011 Participation Report and return to Paul. Forms will be available at the Christmas Party if you haven't got one.

Tin for the Bin: December 14, Christmas Party

For those who wish, please bring along a "Tin for the Bin" for the Christmas Cheer Board. Please check the "Best Before" date.

Upcoming Events

Dinner Meetings

Holiday Inn Winnipeg South, 6 PM



December 14 Christmas Party, with Entertainment by "One More Time."

January 11 The Year In Review

February 8 Valentines

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

Remainder of 2012 – Usually the second Wednesday of the month; no dinner meetings in July and August.

World Friendship Day Celebration

The next World Friendship Day is March 1, 2012 and will mark the 35th anniversary of the Friendship Force. The Board decided that we should celebrate the event on **Sunday March 18, 2012**. Again, we will enjoy an "international" pot luck supper at the Bourkevale Community Centre. Family members and friends are welcome. More details forthcoming.

Exchanges

Inbound

Prague, Czech Republic and Hertfordshire, UK, May 28-June 4, 2012

We will be hosting up to 20 ambassadors. The planning Committee is meeting on January 6. More volunteers are needed to serve on the Committee. (ED: Nancy Clendenan, Assistant ED: Bob Kury)

Lima, Peru, August-September, 2012

Lima will also be visiting FF Calgary on their trip to Canada. Exact dates in Manitoba are still to be determined. (ED: Elizabeth Grover).

Outbound

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

Detailed programming is well underway and it looks like this will be a very enjoyable exchange. However, there is room for more ambassadors and the Exchange is being promoted across Canada through CANFFEX and in the USA by FF International. There is still time to sign-up if you are interested. Registration forms should be provided to Debbie along with the sign-up fee of \$30. (ED: Debbie Spracklin, Assistant ED: Margaret Birk)

Undersubscribed Canadian Outbound Exchanges

In addition to our exchange to FF Big Canoe, Georgia, and FF Greater Orlando, Florida, CANFFEX currently lists two additional undersubscribed exchanges by Canadian Clubs. These are as follows:

Metro Vancouver, Canada to Murray Bridge, Tamworth and Blue Mountains, Australia, #10843. This exchange departs Vancouver on March 1, 2012 and will visit 3 Clubs.

Calgary Region, Canada to Southern New Jersey and Lake Hartwell, USA – #10835.

This exchange runs April 23 - May 7, 2012.

There are spaces for 5 or 6 ambassadors.

See the Canadian Friendship Force Exchange Site at <http://canffex.ca/> for more information.

Conferences

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

All Canadian FF Clubs are invited to participate. More Information and registration forms are available at www.forceamitieregionquebec.com/. Registrations must be returned no later than January 31, 2012, along with the conference fee of \$225/person and the applicable home stay fees. All Conference activities will take place in the Hotel Manoir Victoria located in the heart of Old Québec. Three-day home stays are offered by the FF Clubs of Ottawa, Canadian Capital Region, Quebec Region, Sherbrooke and Montreal.

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

The official Conference theme is "Hiroshima for Peace and Friendship." Registration will begin in January, 2012. For registration information contact: Debbie Powell, Conference Director/Special Projects, dpowell@thefriendshipforce.org.

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



friendship force
WINNIPEG

Some Photos from FFW Brazil Exchange



Top: Araraquara school children receiving hand knit dolls from Manitoba (Photo by Joe Keenan)
Middle: Inga Park in Maringa (Photo by Rick Klimack)
Bottom: A rather damp group at Foz do Iguassu.

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