



# The Friendly Echo



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## President's Message

Membership renewals are almost complete. After this meeting, a new membership list will be circulated. We welcome the new members who joined in 2008 and look forward to more friendly faces in 2009. We encourage you to continue to bring guests to our meetings.

We are excited to report that the Friendship Force of Manitoba will partner with us in planning a winter Global Exchange in 2011. I'm sure it will be a fun-filled week for all!

Our Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 1 is our way of celebrating World Friendship Day. We hope that you can join us! We are looking for a couple of volunteers to help the Board with a couple of details. Please talk to Norma Warecki, Karen Wokes or Charliene.

In Friendship, Charliene

**Message from the Klimacks in Costa Rica:**  
(February 5<sup>th</sup> e-mail to Charliene and Paul)

"Hi, We are really enjoying Costa Rica. So lush and green. Lots to see and do, but the people are so friendly and helpful and they really make Costa Rica one of the nicest places to visit. Hope all is well with you. Take care. Pura Vida (Life is good - everything is wonderful!). In friendship, Rick & Martha."

## New Name Badges

The response shown by members to the first order of new badges was outstanding. They will be available for distribution at the February 11 meeting.

## Upcoming 2009 Events

### **World Friendship Day, Sunday, March 1:**

We are planning to celebrate World Friendship Day by having a Pancake Breakfast/Brunch for members, their families and friends. The new Brandon FF Club will be invited.

**Where:** Dining Room, Boulton Retirement Residence, 45 Boulton Bay (Off Kenaston)

**When:** Sunday, March 1, 2009, 11:00am to 1:00pm. Please be on time

**Cost:** \$10.00 per person. Pay Paul at Feb 11 Dinner Meeting (or at the door)

**Bonus:** Chance to win a surprise basket.

### **FFW Bridge Party, Thursday, April 30:**

A bridge party is being planned, to be held at the Charleswood United Church. More details to follow.

### **FFW Garage Sale: Friday and Saturday, May 8-9:**

Start looking through your home and garage for items you may wish to contribute to the garage sale, a fundraising activity by our Board. Members may start to bring in clean pre-priced items. Location soon to be identified, likely in Charleswood. More details to follow.

### **2009 Meeting Dates at Holiday Inn South:**

Feb 11

Mar 11

April 16 (note change of date from 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of month)

May 13

June 10

## Exchanges

### 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). More information at the February dinner meeting.

### Outbound:

Costa Rica: (EDs: Diane Judge & Muriel Moreau)

- San Jose: March 25 to April 1, 2009
- Heredia: April 1 to April 8, 2009.

### Inbound:

- **Unfortunately, the Izmir, Turkey Exchange scheduled for June, 2009 has been cancelled due to lack of ambassadors**
- Fortaleza and Belem, Brazil: (EDs: Joe Keenan & Karen Kaiser) September, 2009.

### Winter Exchange 2011:

Friendship Force International is very excited about our idea to host a winter exchange in February 2011. Together with the Friendship Force of Manitoba, we will plan a "Global Exchange". Global exchanges are like regular exchanges except for the fact that ambassadors from any country are invited to participate with the goal of having a truly mixed group, much like a festival format. It would be based on a regular one-week homestay but with a specialized program, recognizing that there could be extra costs involved.

### E-mail Greeting from Azota Popescu, Romania:

(As received recently by the Schellenbergs)

"Hello my dear friends,  
Thanks a lot for the pictures and messages, I'm at the moment in India visiting Italian friends and I'll go back to Romania next week. Today I'll visit the blind school of Bombay. I'll send to you the pictures, about my trips in Canada and India. I always remember you, you are in my heart.  
I will be waiting for you in Brasov, best  
Azota"

### Update: Upcoming Conferences & Festivals

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Friendship Force Conference, Niagara, October 14-16, 2009:

The online registration package is available at <http://ffcandianconference09.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, 2009, hosted by FFNiagara and FFGreater Hamilton/Burlington. The home stay application form is also provided online. Our Club's first Interclub Exchange, scheduled for

October 6-12, 2009 in Quebec, will coincide with this conference.

#### 2009 Northern Rockies Regional Conference, Calgary, May 1-3, 2009:

The FF of Calgary will be hosting this event. The registration form with conference fees should be received by March 1. For more information contact: [kesslerron@yahoo.com](mailto:kesslerron@yahoo.com)

#### Edmonton Festival, August 19-28, 2009:

##### **"HELP! To all Canadian FF clubs:**

Your assistance is needed to help the Friendship Force of Edmonton in their attempt to host a fabulous 10 day FESTIVAL. It is our wish to make it truly International with Ambassadors from many regions. Canadian FF Club members, if they have friends or family in Edmonton, would not have to pay for the hotel stay. 6 days are designated as HOMESTAY time. Please go to [www.friendshipforceedmonton.org](http://www.friendshipforceedmonton.org) for application forms which need to be received asap. Thank you so very much for your help. In friendship, Marjorie Eckert, Festival Publicity Chair".

For detailed information on this festival see the link shown above.

### REMINDERS

#### 2009 Membership Renewal:

Your FFW Membership renewal fee for 2009 is required no later than the February 11 meeting. Our 2009 Membership List will be finalized after that date. If you cannot attend, please send your renewal cheque to Karen Wokes (Single: \$30, Family: \$50). Thanks very much to those FFW members who have already submitted their fees.

#### Participation Report:

If you have not already done so please complete a Participation Report form so that your points earned in 2008 can be recorded. Please give directly to Karen Wokes or mail her at 2510 Pinewood Drive, Wpg R3J 0C4.

### Happy Birthday for February

3 - Debbie Spracklin  
21 - Joan Hodgson  
28 - Elaine Benner



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WINNIPEG