



The Friendly Echo

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 10, Issue 3

March 2010



President's Message

Friends

The weather is giving us a taste of spring and therefore I am predicting that spring is here and that we will not have a late snow storm or an April blizzard.

The highlights of our busy February were the visit to the Festival du Voyageur and our 6th annual World Friendship Day Celebration. Thank-you to Val K. for arranging the festival fun, and to Norma W's and Elizabeth's dinner committee and all the cooks and helpers that made the Potluck a resounding success. The food was varied and excellent. There was a buzz in the air as cooks tasted, admired and hoped to share recipes. This year, as well as inviting friends, many members included their families in the invitation. It was a pleasure to have families as guests and particularly to have so many little ones. Their energy was contagious. It is my hope that we can include families in future events.

The Card Party at Charleswood United Church will be held May 4, two days after our members return from Romania and Germany. Joan O arrived home from Phoenix to make a dish for the Potluck dinner and accept the invitation to chair the card party committee almost in one breath. Joan and her committee will be looking for help with the many tasks that make this a successful community event.

Are you joining the group attending the International Conference in Washington in October? There is much to see, do and experience with friends past and future. The early bird rate for registration applies until April 1.

Wednesday's dinner meeting acknowledges St. Patrick's Day. Wearing something green will make a fashion statement.

See you then.
Yours in Friendship KAREN

Thinking of You. From your friends at FFW

To Diane C: You are missed at our dinner meetings. We hope your treatments are going well and that your health continues to improve.

To Jim H: We hope that you are resting comfortably and that the worries of the recent emergency are past. We send best wishes to you, Marge and your family.

Note Change in Practice:

Referencing Member Names in The Echo

You will notice a change in this month's Friendly Echo how names are referenced. It was decided at the March 3 FFW Board meeting that members should be referenced in the Echo only by using their first name (and first letter of their surname as needed – we have five Joans!). Personal email addresses or telephone numbers will also not be shown in the Echo. This practice will help protect identities since the Echo is available for viewing worldwide on our website. Because all FFW members are provided a copy of the membership list, this practice should not pose any undue problem to our club readers.

Thanks from the Christmas Cheer Board

We have received a letter of appreciation from the Christmas Cheer Board of Greater Winnipeg Inc. in regards to the FFW donation of food and toys for inclusion in Christmas hampers. For 2009, the Cheer Board distributed 19,088 hampers, which provided for 51,534 people of which 21,237 were children. "Without the assistance of generous Winnipeggers such as you we would not be able to achieve our goal to supply as many hampers as are needed."

Upcoming Events

2010 Dinner Meeting Dates:

Holiday Inn Winnipeg South, 6 PM

March 10	Celebration of St Patrick's Day
April 14	Spring Fling
May 12	MB Heritage Fashion Show
June 9	MB Towns and info on Cincinnati
September 8	Japanese Theme Speaker
October 13	Autumn Event
November 10	Men's Night to Entertain
December 8	Christmas Party

World Friendship Day Celebration, February 28, 2010

The coordinators and committee would like to give a "Big Thank-You" to all the members who were so generous with their International food, to those who set-up and took down the tables and chairs, the helpers in the kitchen, and to our great bar-tender. Friendship Force of Winnipeg is truly a great group of people who make events feel like "...a family gathering". In Friendship: Norma W, Elizabeth, Charlene, Bessie-Marie, Karen W.

FFW Dessert Card Party, Tuesday, May 4, 2010

A committee has been set up for our second card party, focusing on bridge, to be held at the Charleswood United Church, 4820 Roblin Blvd. Joan O will serve as coordinator, assisted by Elizabeth, Karen K, Marlene and Karen W. Tickets for the event and signup sheets will be available at the March 10 dinner meeting. Members will be asked to contribute a dessert (a cake or torte preferred) and gifts for the prize table. Please note that the date was changed to accommodate members returning from the Romania/Germany exchange.

Happy Birthday for March

Bev	David
Gladys	Jill
Frances	Herb



Exchanges

2010 Outbound

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

Five spaces remain available for Brasov. If you wish to participate contact Martha, ED.

2010 Inbound

- **Greater Cincinnati, USA, June 21-28, 2010**
Planning is well underway for this exchange. A total of 18 ambassadors are now expected. (ED: Norma P)
- **Yamagata and Kyoto-Fukuchiyama, Japan, September 20-26, 2010**
These dates have been confirmed, but the number of ambassadors is not yet known. Detailed planning will now begin. (ED: Aruna)

Global Winter Exchange, February 17-24, 2011

There are now 43 ambassadors expected to attend, with 27 from Australia, 14 from the USA, and two from Japan. Ten more persons have been placed on a waiting list. The majority of these will also be visiting FF Ottawa prior to Winnipeg. A signup sheet will be distributed at the March 10 dinner meeting to seek volunteers to assist in this exchange.

To assist in planning, 26 of our members and seven from Friendship Force Manitoba attended the Festival du Voyageur on Sunday, February 14. A great time was had, with terrific food and entertainment. A full planning meeting with FFManitoba is scheduled for later this month. (FFW ED: Val K)

2011 Outbound

Yamaguchi and Tokyo, Japan, September, 2011

2011 Inbound

San Jose, Costa Rica, 2011

We are seeking to have this visit in June, and are communicating with FF North Bay, Ontario, as they will also be visiting North Bay on their trip to Canada.

Friendship Force World Conference, Washington, D.C., October 16-18, 2010

FF International informs that more than 160 people are already registered for this year's World Conference in Washington DC. Visit the conference homepage at http://www.regonline.com/2010_world_conference for event details and to register for the conference online. Please direct any inquiries or questions about the conference to conf@thefriendshipforce.org FFW is expected to have at least eight delegates attending the conference, a marvelous representation.

Friendship Force Recognition AWARDS for 2009

and 2010: During the October World Conference FFI will recognize outstanding Volunteers and Clubs that have achieved excellence in 2009 and 2010 in areas such as exchange programs, public relations, service and specific achievements. Nominations are due to FFI by June 1, 2010. Please send your recommendation with supporting information (not to exceed one page) to awards@thefriendshipforce.org.



Shirley S, and Joe and Val K, near the Fort Gibraltar main gate, Festival du Voyageur



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WINNIPEG

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