



# The Friendly Echo

## FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 15, Issue 10

December, 2016

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,  
What a great 2016 year we have had with Friendship Force Winnipeg. Several ambassadors had a memorable exchange to Ireland in May. Word has come to a couple of our members that the club we visited has folded and there are no more Friendship Force clubs in Ireland. We were very fortunate in our timing!

Our inbound exchange from Japan had a full and very busy itinerary.

The members that went to Northern Illinois and Madison Wisconsin reported that they had a great time in both places as was evident by Jim's photos.

We have enjoyed welcoming all our new members this year and I am sorry to see some of our long-time members leave for various reasons.

I would like to thank everyone for the past year and for your confidence in choosing me as your president for another year.

A big THANK-YOU to all the board members who have worked together to make it another successful year. MERRY CHRISTMAS and a very HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR to ALL.

In Friendship,  
Norma Warecki

### DINNER MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

**December 14 Christmas Party** - cocktails at 6:00 followed by dinner at 6:30 and entertainment at 7:30. A quick party game will follow dinner before the Braemar Scottish Dancers entertain us. Bring your dancing shoes as you will have an opportunity to join in.

Please bring non perishable food items to be collected for Winnipeg Harvest. Extra plastic bags and boxes for carrying the food would be appreciated. Thanks to Joe and Val Keenan for offering to take our donations to Winnipeg Harvest after our party.

**2017 Dinner meetings will cost \$29.** This is an increase of \$1 and has been set by the hotel.

Our **January 11, 2017 dinner meeting** will feature Marilyn Zaharias talking about the rules and regulations regarding exchanges. Please bring any questions you may have, on this topic, to the meeting.

**\*\*Please Note: Our February dinner meeting will be cancelled.** This is due to the incoming Australian exchange and the activities planned for them during this time.

**\*\*Please Note: Our March dinner meeting will be cancelled.** This is due to our celebration of World Friendship Day with FFM on March 8.

### GET WELL WISHES

The club members extend a get well to Brenda Koch-Schulte who is undergoing knee surgery. All the best in your recovery Brenda.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY DECEMBER CELEBRANTS

♪ Happy Birthday ♪

Joe Keenan Ernie Osterman Jim Kubas

Joanne Kury  Loarraine Franz

Inga Zahodnik James Ryan Leslie Galloway

A distant Happy Birthday and Christmas Greetings to Karen Curtis who is teaching in Thailand.

### MEMBERSHIP

A gentle reminder to members to please have all **memberships paid by the end of December.** A membership list will be compiled by the January meeting date. Please don't forget as only all paid members will be on the 2017 Membership List.

At this time, the Friendship Force Executive would like to wish each and every one of you a safe and happy Christmas & we shall all meet again on Jan. 11, 2017.

### A Christmas Wish

Joy can be found in the simplest things -  
In a snowflake that falls from the sky,  
In the stars that connect us all over the earth,  
And the memories money can't buy...

Joy can be found in the simplest of things -  
In a visit, a kind word, a phone call,  
In a wish from the heart and a hope for the world  
That this Christmas will bring peace to all!

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE

## INFORMATION FROM BOARD MEETING

1) A Committee was formed to examine the \$35 fee ambassadors pay on outbound exchanges. The Committee members were Norma W., Norma P., Linda D., Paul V., Susan M. and Marilyn Z. The fee will be reduced to \$25 due to the decrease in administrative costs. This fee will be used for a booklet on the exchange for each ambassador. Excess funds will be used at the discretion of the ambassadors.

2) **World Friendship Day** is March 1. However, on **March 8**, our two clubs will celebrate WFD together. Our club will be hosting the dinner at St. Andrews Church on Portage Avenue and FF Manitoba Club will be in charge of the program. **Mark your calendar for March 8.** (More details to follow in the new year.) 2017 is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FF. It started on March 1, 1977 by Wayne Smith & President Jimmy Carter. This is why there is a special cruise that six of our members are going on. 2017 is a big year for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> and clubs across the country will be celebrating by having special events.

3) Our club has been invited to have a Canadian 150 Year Celebration with the FF Brandon and FF Manitoba clubs. We will receive further information at a later date.

4) There has been a suggestion that the FF Manitoba and FF Winnipeg clubs amalgamate. There was a discussion and it was decided that as we have 82 members, it would be unwieldy to entertain amalgamation of the two clubs at this time. The Board will not pursue this any further.

## LIABILITY INSURANCE

Norma W. had a list of questions and answers regarding our Insurance Policy. These questions and answers will be filed with our Policy.

## 2017 EXCHANGES

### **INBOUND:**

**1- February 15-22 – Adelaide & Sydney Winter Exchange - ED FFW is Val Keenan, ED FFM are Gail Keeley & Doug Jackson**

ED Val Keenan's report: There are now 33 ambassadors coming in February - 31 from Australia and 2 from Calgary. THANK YOU to the many people who offered to home host.

**Note: We still need dinner hosts and day hosts.**

Sign up sheets will be available at the Dec. meeting. Joe Keenan has sent out the sign up sheet via e-mail for the planned activities during the February week. Your reply and \$\$\$ needs to get **back to Joe by January 15**. This is necessary so our venues can be contacted and booked.

**\*NOTE:** Our home hosts have been assigned and will receive the names and information about their ambassadors at our December dinner meeting.

**\*Note: On January 17 at 1:30 p.m., there will be a meeting for ALL the home hosts at Val & Joe Keenan's home at 53 Blossom Bay.**

**2- Domestic Exchange 2017 also known as the Riel Summer Exchange - Saskatoon / Winnipeg Inbound: Saskatoon to Winnipeg**

**ED - Maria Coutu**

**Assistant ED - Richard Grover**

**Outbound: Winnipeg to Saskatoon**

**ED - Jim Kubas**

**Assistant ED - Richard Grover**

Committee: Norma P., Loretta H., Shirley S., Elizabeth G.

**3- Inbound - San Jose, Costa Rica**

**ED – Paul van Leeuwen**

Paul reports that there is still no news to share with you. Interest in this exchange does not seem to be great. Calgary does not have an ED for this exchange so no definite contacts have been made.

### **2017 OUTBOUND:**

**1- Oct./Nov. 17 – Reno-Kern County**

**ED – Lorraine Franz, Asst. ED – Elizabeth Grover**

Receiving clubs will select EDs in the new year.

## DID YOU REMEMBER??

### Because I Forgot

At the last dinner meeting I forgot to give you the answers to the questions in the last newsletter.

1. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes and laser printers have in common?
2. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'?
3. What food does not spoil?
4. What does 111,111,111 x 111,111,111 = \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you suddenly realized that you left home without your cell phone, would you: a) go back and get it or b) keep on going about your business without it?

Answers:

1. they were all invented by women
2. one thousand
3. honey
4. 12,345,678,987,654,321
5. in a survey done, most people would go back and get their phone (What would you do?)



**friendship force**  
WINNIPEG

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