



The Friendly Echo



FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 2

February 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi All,

I survived my house building experience, together with the group Franco – Amigos de padre Luis Quinn!

We arrived in the last town of some civilization in the Dominican Republic after six hours in a van. There we were transferred onto a truck with low four-wheel gears. The first half of the trip was up into the mountains on asphalt roads, but then it became steep downhill on mud and rocks.

The steep intermediate ski hill caused the whole truck to move sideways in the mud and we were holding on for dear life for over an hour. We did finally arrive in Palo de Caja! Most of the 60 house village had come to witness our arrival and we received hugs from everyone.

It was a true Friendship Force experience and on our walks we were constantly invited in the smallest huts for fantastic coffee. The work was difficult, all manual fighting with enormous rocks in the heat and rain. But what a satisfying experience!

We also visited and stayed in an orphanage “Nuestro pequeno Hermanos”. Our Little Brothers – The Canadian group fosters several children. This organization has places in nine different countries educating over 5000 misplaced little ones.

World Friendship Force Day:
We are celebrating this together with the FF Brandon and FF Manitoba club at the Japanese Cultural Club. I look forward to the fellowship of the three Manitoba groups.

Hope to see you all at our next dinner meeting on February 14th at the Holiday Inn.

Keep warm!!
Paul Van Leeuwen



February

Debbie Spracklin

Elaine Benner

March

Sharon Collister
David Judge
Kathy Lesyk
Gladys Spracklin

Joe Daniel
Frances Lemieux
Susan Munroe
Paul Van Leeuwen

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

February 14th Dinner –“WELCOME TO THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE WINNIPEG WINTER “STAY-CATION!”

We have a “sweetheart” of a program for those of us stay-cationing in Winnipeg this winter. Dust off and don those sunhats, sombreros, sunglasses and sarongs to join us for a special Valentine’s treat on board the HMS Friendship Force for a world cruise. Cupid may have some treats for those who bear the cold and show up ready for a beach vacation! Hope to see you on the 14th! Dinner begins at 6:30.

Susan Munroe Abra, Activity Coordinator

2018 Dinner Meeting Dates:

February 14 - Valentine's Day
February 28 - World Friendship Day with FFM at the Japanese Cultural Center
March 14 - CANCELLED (many members are away to New Zealand)
April 11, May 9, Oct. 10, Sept. 12 - ??, Nov. 14, Dec.12



PHONE COMMITTEE

Phone Coordinator: Joan O. (204)832-9294
Email; ejosterm@mymts.net

Phone Committee: Frances L., Shirley M., Gladys T. & Susan C.

Thank you to members who responded to our calls/emails promptly. A big thank you to Frances for looking after the phoning in January. If cancelling your dinner, please call Joan by **10:00 a.m.** on the **Monday** before the Wednesday.

JOURNEY CO-ORDINATOR – Jim Ryan

The inbound exchange from FF Nagasaki has been cancelled as their club could not recruit sufficient ambassadors for the scheduled June dates or the three alternate dates that were presented to them.

The Rio Preto Brazil FF group (Sept 12 – 18) are meeting in mid-February and we should be hearing from them shortly regarding their status.

We are working with our FF International contact person to explore any alternative inbound exchanges to replace the cancelled Japan exchange. We will keep you posted!

A reminder that there is no executive meeting or dinner meeting in March and consequently no March Newsletter.

Our club raised \$648 from the Fort Whyte fundraiser. **Thank you to Loretta H.** who initiated this fundraiser again this year and to our members for supporting it.

We wish all our members who are travelling to New Zealand and other places around the world, a safe and fun filled trip. We look forward to hearing about your adventures at our April dinner meeting.

After a brief battle with cancer, Joan Pitcairn (from the Manitoba Friendship Force Club) passed away on January 29th. Joan had a kind and generous soul and loved meeting new people. Our sincere condolences to her husband, Lawrence Pitcairn and family.

We wish Norma Padilla a speedy recovery. On Wednesday, February 7th on route to our FF executive meeting, Norma was hit by the driver of a truck who went through an uncontrolled intersection. Upon her arrival home she telephoned to advise us why she hadn't arrived and before she hung up, in true Friendship Force style, she remembered to give her report. Fortunately, it is only the car that is totaled!

We are happy to hear that Paul Havixbeck is out of the hospital. Charliene and Paul we want you to know that we are thinking of both of you.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone!!



friendship force
WINNIPEG

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