



THE FRIENDLY ECHO
FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



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November 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - *Paul Van Leeuwen*

The Annual General Meeting will be held this coming dinner meeting, Wednesday, November 14th at the Holiday Inn South. As previously emailed to you, the vote for the 2020 Outbound request was communicated to FFI as follows:

1. One (1) week to Sweden and one (1) week to France
2. Two (2) weeks to Japan
3. One (1) week to the Netherlands

*Just over half of our members have indicated their preference to travel with FF Winnipeg in 2020.

A presidents' meeting took place between the 11 Western Clubs, Mavis Grant, (Western Field rep) and FFI. We were told that Europe is in high demand and we have a slim chance to get our first request. We will be hearing from them in mid-February as to what we have been granted.

We are still looking for volunteers to participate in organizing the three inbound journeys. We need to start planning for a very busy spring and summer. As a reminder to be a good ambassador of Friendship Force our standing rules of FF Winnipeg indicate:

Members are expected to:

- A. Support the spirit and goals of Friendship Force
- B. Actively participate and assist with Inbound journeys and Club activities
- C. Participate in Elected and Committee positions
- D. Participate in Outbound and Global Journeys including those organized by other Canadian clubs
- E. Introduce new members to our club
- F. Attend Canadian and International Conferences

I hope to see you all at our annual meeting on November 14th.

Vice-President's Message – Linda Dart

It is that time of year again! It would be appreciated if all members could pay their membership fee of \$45.00 per person by cheque made out to Friendship Force Winnipeg, to me at either the November or December meeting. To simplify accounting please pay for dinner in cash or on a separate cheque.

****A note from your editor:**

We will be collecting money and/or non-perishable food items at our December meeting for Winnipeg Harvest. Some suggestions are peanut butter, baby formula, dried goods. Please remember to check the expiry dates.

November



Adele McMurtrie

Jim McMurtie

Edna Pohl

Mary McQueen

Susan Cormack

Rita Cunha

Jim Abra

Tom McDermott

Nancy Clendenan

PHONE COORDINATOR - *Joan Ostermann*

Email: ejosterm@mts.net

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

Please respond to your phone call/email ASAP promptly. If cancelling your dinner, please call Joan (204)832-9294 by 10:00 a.m. Monday, Nov. 12th.

JOURNEY COORDINATOR'S REPORT – *Jim Ryan*

Loretta Humeniuk has offered to act as Host Coordinator for the Gold Coast Journey group. Sandy and Janet Campbell will be assistant Host Coordinators for this journey. Our Australian ambassadors arrive in Winnipeg on June 30th, 2019.

To date we are still seeking a host coordinator to lead the inbound Vogtland, Germany journey on June 12th, 2019.

Highlights of some of our FF Winnipeg Journeys with other clubs this year:

New Zealand FF with the Manitoba Club– *Nina Logan*



Green Dragon Inn at Hobbiton

Last March, Mary McQueen and I were delighted to join the Manitoba Club for an outbound trip to the North Island in New Zealand. It was Mary's first trip with FF. We were hosted in Hamilton and Tauranga by lovely home hosts and very friendly FF members.

The weather was gorgeous, the plants lush and tropical and the food was delicious. Some highlights included travelling to Rotarura to see the bubbling hot pools and geysers in a Maori Village, visiting a kiwi farm, touring a tea plantation, having high tea with the Mayor of Tauranga, sheep shearing, Hobbiton Village. Highly recommend joining another club.

New Zealand FF with the Arizona Club – Maria Coutu

Gladys Thomas, Sylvia Josse, Sandra Lehman, Linda Dart and I travelled in March 2018. We visited Thames Coromandel and Wairarapa (Masterton) on the North Island, and Marlborough (Blenheim) on the South Island. Each club provided a unique experience; but in all three places our hosts were friendly and welcoming and the scenery was spectacular. What an enriching experience.

Getting to know this varied group and our New Zealand hosts confirmed what we all know in our hearts. All of us aspire to the same things: peace in our world and our communities and love of family and friends. We would like to thank the Arizona club for including us in this wonderful journey.



Japan & Taiwan FF with the Kansas Club -Sandra Lehmann

Six weeks after returning from my first ever FF exchange to New Zealand with the Arizona club, I had the opportunity to join the Kansas FF on a magical bucket list trip to Japan and Taiwan. We travelled to Fukuoka FF for one week, four days in Kyoto and four days in Tokyo on a private tour. We spent the three days in Fujiyoshida by Mt. Fuji, then onto Taipei, Taiwan FF for one week. The hospitality was spectacular.

There were so many new experiences and so I followed the mantra developed by a Kansas traveler initially used for all the new food we were eating: *“I don’t know what it is, but I like it!”*

I slept on futons, toured a factory where they make those wonderful warm seated music playing toilets. I went naked bathing at spa (new experience!), and saw many jaw dropping gardens and shrines, including celebratory street festivals.

We learned soba noodle making, origami (taught to me by a six year old), witnessed wedding processions at Shinto shrines on “lucky days” and stared at 150 year old bonsai trees. We marveled at clear views of magical Mount Fuji, saw magnetic trains whiz by, and rode on the bullet train. -

I experienced wearing a kimono, which entailed two women taking 20 minutes to dress each of us. We joined in singing Beatles songs at a farewell dinner. The Japanese sang along knowing all the words to the English songs – a universal language.

An experience I had in Kyoto expressed all that Friendship Force means to me. I was sitting alone in a public area in our hotel when I was approached by a Japanese couple. The elderly gentleman presented me with an origami crane, and with a bow and a smile said simply, *“in friendship”*....Magic!



friendship force
WINNIPEG

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