



# The Friendly Echo

## FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 13, Issue 2

February 2013



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

#### **Greetings!**

A big thank you to Diane Judge for providing us with some entertaining and thought provoking activities at our January meeting. We look forward to the programs that Diane and her committee are planning for us for the coming year. Our theme this month is an evening of humour.

Welcome to the new members, Gail Atkins and Linda Robeson, who have joined our club, and thank you to all returning members for your prompt renewals.

Plans for our Inbound Exchanges in July and September are moving along very well. Watch for the sign-up sheets in the coming months. Plans for our Outbound Exchange to Peru in October is also well underway.

FFI has sent us the following Exchange proposals for 2014: April -- Outbound to Greater Izmir, Turkey ; Inbounds: August -- Comitán & Filobobos, Brazil; October -- Saitama, Japan. It will be necessary to reply to these proposals by March 31.

I hope that many of you are able to attend our Pot-Luck Dinner on Saturday, March 2 celebrating World Friendship Day along with members of the Friendship Force of Manitoba. Family and friends are welcome.

In Friendship  
Paul Havixbeck

#### **Get Well Wishes**

We hope that all goes well for David Judge, Wanda Swan and Peter Friesen, Marlene's husband. We wish these people all the best for a complete and speedy recovery.

#### **Happy Birthday – February Celebrants**

Debbie Spracklin  
Marlene Friesen  
Myrna Rourke



#### **2013 FFW Membership**

Membership renewal has been completed. We now have 71 members. The current membership list has been distributed to all members.

Please welcome two new members Linda Robeson and Gail Atkins when you meet these members at our meetings.

#### **Participation Reports**

A few members haven't completed their participation reports for 2012. A current points summary and blank forms will be available at the next meeting. Return the completed forms to Val Keenan.

#### **Financial Report**

The Financial Statement for 2012 has been prepared. There will be a copy of that report at each table at our February meeting.

A \$500 donation has been made to the FFI Legacy Fund.

#### **Upcoming Events**

##### **Dinner Meetings, Holiday Inn, Winnipeg South, 6 PM**

A reminder that the meeting/meal cost has increased to \$25.00.

**February 13** - Be prepared to go home with a smile on your face after an evening of humour. Bring along your favourite joke, anecdote or story of a funny incident whilst on an Exchange.

Give me a sense of humour  
Give me the grace to see a joke  
To get some laughter out of life  
And pass it on to other folk.

**March 13 - Cancelled.** Replaced by World Friendship Day celebration on **March 2**, see the announcement on the next page.

**April 10** - regular dinner meeting

**May 8** - regular dinner meeting

**World Friendship Day Celebration**  
**Saturday, March 2, 2013, 5:30 PM**  
**Sturgeon Heights Community Center**  
**210 Rita Street in St. James.**

Do you want to enjoy a delicious dinner with friends and family? Then please join us for food and friendship, as our club and the Friendship Force of Manitoba celebrate World Friendship Day with a Pot-Luck Dinner on Saturday, March 2 at Sturgeon Heights Community Center, 210 Rita Street in St. James. Socializing begins at 5:30PM with dinner at 6:00PM. However, if any "young or young-at-heart" members and their families would like to skate first, come earlier! All that you need to bring is food for the buffet table and to save on cost and the environment, please bring your own dinner plate, mug, glass, and cutlery. To decorate the tables, members are asked to bring a keepsake of a recent Exchange. Please let Charliene know what country your souvenir is from, so that we know we have enough for each table. If you would like to say a few words about that Exchange, you may do so. Sign-up sheets will be available at the February meeting. For more information or to help, please call Charliene at (204) 832-9905 or email at havixbec@mymts.net.

**2013 Exchanges**

**Inbound**

**Piracicaba, Brazil** The date has not yet been set but will likely be in early July. Joe Keenan will be the ED and Gladys Thomas will be the Assistant ED.

**Northern Illinois, USA.** The dates for this exchange are Wednesday, September 18 to Tuesday, September 24. Jim Kubas is the ED and Carol Frederickson is the Assistant ED. Discussions regarding organization will be starting in the very near future.

**Outbound:**

**Trujillo and Tarapoto, Peru.** The dates for this exchange are October 7 to October 21, 2013. Paul Havixbeck will be the Exchange Director. Paul has been looking at extending the time in Peru with optional add-ons for visiting Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca.

**2014 Exchanges**

As Paul noted in his President's message we have been advised by FFI in Atlanta of our 2014 Inbound and Outbound exchanges. At our February FFW board meeting, A discussion about the Outbound exchange proposal being for only one week instead of the usual two was held at our February FFW board meeting. In the short term we will await the possibility for further information from FFI.

**FFI - World Conferences**

The 2013 conference will be from November 22 to November 25, 2013 in New Orleans, USA. Details have been emailed to FF members.

Registration is now open! Go to the [World Conference website](#) to see full details and register to attend.

The 2014 conference has been announced and will be held in Auckland, New Zealand in October, 2014.

**FF Canadian Conference**

The dates for the 7th. Canadian FF Conference has been set and announced for Sept. 18-19, 2014 in Edmonton, Alberta. The theme will be "Enhance and Grow Canadian Friendship"/"Accroître et cultiver l'Amitié". Home stays will be available throughout Alberta. Registration will begin in January, 2014 and will be limited to 200 participants.

**Undersubscribed Canadian Outbound Exchanges**

See the Canadian Friendship Force Exchange Site at <http://canffex.ca/> for more information on undersubscribed exchanges being organized by other Canadian Clubs.

**Greetings From Costa Rica**

The following email was received from FFW members Rick and Martha Klimack:

*Hello from Costa Rica,*

*We are back in Costa Rica again, this is our 5th trip to this beautiful country. We rent a house and really love it. Here are some pictures of our place in the mountains. We have banana and papaya trees next to the pool. The road is steep in places, but worth the drive. There is only one other new house, not furnished or rented out yet. The gardener/caretaker & his wife live on the property.*

*We spent time with our friends in Bagaces, who were our first Home Hosts for our first Outbound Exchange. The world of Friendship Force is truly amazing, the people you meet, and often how develop very good friendships. We are planning a beach trip with this family, and spending Easter with them.*

*Stay well, email us with your news, we love staying in touch with you. Regards, Martha & Rick*



**friendship force**  
WINNIPEG

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