



friendship force
MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES

Minnesota Ambassador



Incoming Mexico City Exchange was Successful

Rita Mays served as the Exchange Director for the Mexico City Exchange, which included 7 days of fun filled activities. The fun began with a potluck picnic on June 30 at Minnehaha Park where club members and the Deputy Consul of Mexico, Julio Cesar Martinez welcomed 14 Ambassadors from Mexico City. Other fun activities included a Gangster bus tour and “taking our Ambassadors out to a ballgame” on July 4th at the new CHS Field Stadium in lower town of St. Paul for a Saints baseball game. We referred to the Mexico City participants as the singing Ambassadors as they delightfully sang at our welcome party, our farewell party at the Tavern on Grand on July 5th and as they departed from the Humphrey airport on July 6th.

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Prior to Minnesota the Mexico City Ambassadors had visited the Milwaukee Friendship Force club. From Minnesota, they flew to Chicago to spend several days with the Chicago FF club before returning home to Mexico City. Approximately 75 people attended our Welcome Party potluck picnic including 12 new club members. A group of 52 participated in the Saints Ballgame; special thanks to Marge Runnakko and Ken Scherber who handled arrangements for the group ticket sales.

Special thanks are extended to our Planning Committee: Jim Collins, Barb Emer, Sandy Johnson, Teresa De la Mora McCutchan, Kay Myers, Marge Runnakko, and Ken Scherber. Teresa de la Mora McCutchan and Marge Runnakko created a beautiful Ambassador brochure in the Spanish language. Home hosts included: Louise Anderson and Godfrey Peterson, JC Bosse, Jane Norman, Sam and Marge Runnakko, Ken Scherber and Rosie Foreman, Joyce Sharp, Willis and Martha Unke, and Don and Barbara Wallace. Dinner hosts included: Mary and Bill Cunningham, Dagmar Runyon, Doreen Kluth, Evelyn and Chuck Pallas, and Sally Frye. Day hosts included: Barb Emer, Linda Hostrom, Sandy Johnson, Kay Myers, and Joan Rathbum. Juvetta Freas donated carousel tickets for Como Park event. Thanks to all those you contributed to this successful exchange.



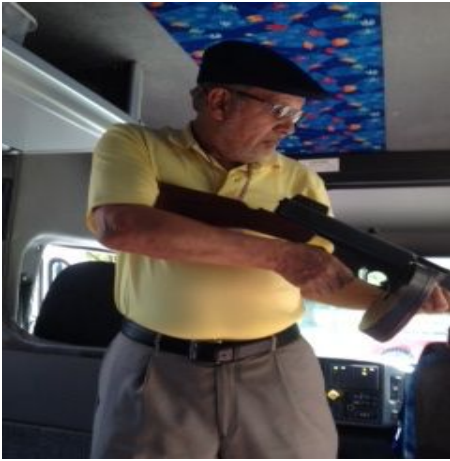
Rita Mays, Minnesota Exchange Director



Elizabeth Arenas having fun at Como Park.



Maru Eugenia Echazarreta, Mexico Exchange Director with husband, Jorge Ramires



Jorge Ramires playing a "gangster" during the Gangster tour.

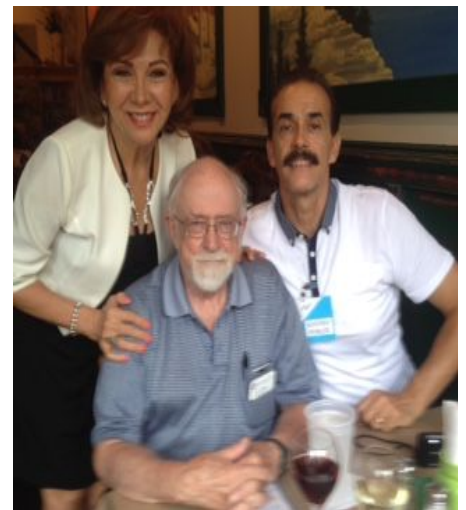


Judith Torres and Ignacio Guerrero

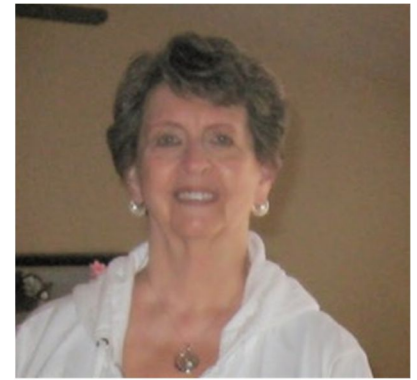


Julio Cesar Martinez, Deputy Consul for Mexico welcomed Mexican Ambassadors at our Welcome Party.

**Fun
with
our
neighbors!**



Rosa Elena Juarez, Don Wallace, and Gustavo Robles



EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Barb Emer, Exchange
Coordinator

Let's Travel Down Under March 2016 International Exchange

In March of 2016 we will be heading to the South Pacific region of the world. Two clubs have graciously agreed to host us: Horowhenua, which is in the north island of New Zealand and North Moreton which is located in the Sunshine Coast of Australia. An optional pre or post tour may be available.

If you are interested in this exchange, call to get on the list. The maximum we can take is 20 members and we still have openings. After we reach 20, a waiting list will be started. Cost and further information should be available soon. Primary contact until an Exchange Director is named: Barb Emer at bemer@usfamily.net or 651-731-9696.

Exchange Director Needed for Australia and New Zealand Exchange

Being an Exchange Director is an excellent opportunity to work with and lead club members on an exciting exchange. You'll learn a lot, as well as interact with counterpart Exchange Directors in the host countries. Additionally, you will be compensated for your time and effort. Contact Barb Emer at bemer@usfamily.net or call 651-731-9696 for more information.

Incoming Texas Ambassadors

By Ken Scherber, Exchange Director

The Friendship Force of Minnesota-Twin Cities will host an Exchange from Austin, Texas on September 14 – 18, 2015. Some of the Hosts from the February 2015 FF MN/TC Exchange that went to Austin, Texas will be coming to the Twin Cities. Let's welcome them just as graciously as the Austin Club did in February.

The Exchange is a short, just four nights. Various Friendship Force MN/TC members have opened their homes to host the Ambassadors for the week. Along with Austin FF members a few San Antonio, TX FF club members will be on the exchange.

We start our tour of the Twin Cities in Minneapolis on Tuesday, September 15th with a tour of the Mill City Museum and Mill Ruins Park. We will be viewing sites at the Guthrie Theater on the Endless Bridge. Our tour moves to Minnehaha Falls for a view of the falls plunging to the Mississippi River. We finish Tuesday with a visit to the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the display of Van Gogh's "Irises"

Wednesday is an open day for the Ambassadors to relax or continue the tour of the Twin Cities or surrounding area with their Hosts. Did you know Minnesota has an abundance of lakes? Texas has only one natural lake; they have had to make reservoirs to have any recreational bodies of water.

On Thursday, September 17, we tour St. Paul's History Center, Rice Park, the Ordway, and the Landmark Center with lunch overlooking the Mississippi at the Science Museum of Minnesota. We will also tour the St. Paul Cathedral and the James J. Hill House. Then we will drive along historic Summit Avenue until we get to our farewell event at Mai Village on University Avenue.

The Ambassadors leave on Friday, September 18 via bus to Des Moines, Iowa to continue the exchange.

All Friendship Force MN/TC members are invited to meet the Austin / San Antonio Ambassadors at any of the events. We are especially inviting everyone to Mai Village, 394 University Avenue, Saint Paul at 5:00 PM for the farewell event. Come and enjoy a Vietnamese dinner with us.

For more information
about the Exchange call:

Ken Scherber
Exchange Director
651-487-4001 (h)
651-341-5602 (c)
kenfargo@yahoo.com



All Club Members Are Invited to the Texas Exchange Farewell Party

What: Farewell dinner party for Texas Ambassadors

When: Thursday, September 17 at 5:00 p.m.

Where: Mai Village Restaurant, 394 University Avenue, St. Paul, MN

Reservations: email Ken Scherber at kenfargo@yahoo.com

Save the Date

The Annual meeting and Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2015 at a noon in Bloomington. The annual election of Board members is held at this event.

Volunteer Opportunities for Club Members

**Vice President
Photographer
Newsletter Editor
Historian**

Contact Louise Anderson at louisemarieanderson@yahoo.com if interested.

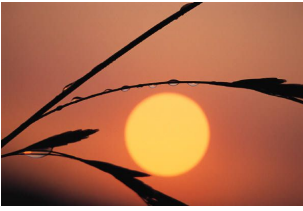
Don Wolter Service Award

Calling for Nominations for the 2015

We are fortunate to have many dedicated and effective volunteers that keep our Friendship Force Minnesota-Twin Cities club active and vibrant. Don Wolter, who died in 2013, was an outstanding example of one of these volunteers. Our Board of Directors established a service award in Don's honor. Willis Unke was the recipient of the first award in 2014. For more information on the Don Wolter Service Award visit www.friendshipforcetwincities.org

Please contact Rita Mays, Louise Anderson, or Willis Unke to nominate someone you consider to be an outstanding member for the 2015 award. This committee will gather information from you to guide the selection process.

Committee Chair, Rita Mays, ritamnffi@yahoo.com



Domestic Exchange: Outgoing to Santa Barbara

By Joyce Sharp, Exchange Director

We are trying to put together an exchange to Santa Barbara. The Des Moines FF club will be joining us. I do not have the dates firmed up but I hope we can plan to leave here on January 26, stay at Santa Barbara for five days (six nights), and then board a bus on February 1st to travel up north along the coast to San Francisco, stopping at various sites. At this time I do not know how much time we will be able to spend in San Francisco.

The Santa Barbara club will host 20 ambassadors so that means about 10 members from our club and 10 members from the Des Moines club. If you are really interested in going on this exchange, please let me know as soon as possible. I will inform you when I have more dates, more information, and when plans are firmed up.

Joyce Sharp at 952-544-9003 or Sharp_330@msn.com (that's an underscore after "Sharp.")

Welcome New Members

The club sponsored a Travel Discussion at Lord Fletcher's on May 4, 2015, which reviewed the reasons to explore the world with the Friendship Force. Special thanks to Barb Emer, Rita Mays, and Louise Anderson for setting up this Travel Discussion. The event was well attended and 13 members joined the club on this date. We also have a few new members this summer so please give a warm welcome and extend your friendship to the following new members:

Teresa DelaMora McCutchan, Patrick McCutchan, CaRae Cayman, Pat Olson, Patricia Robinette, Shirley Cavallaro, Wendy Louise, David Scheid, Jeff and Chris Waehner-Larson, Annette Poeschel, Jacqueline Smolen, Tom Weaver, Cindy Cauble, Greg and Sue Mansfield, and Nellie Hofmeister.

Visit our Website

Special Thanks to Marge Runnakko, Webmaster

www.friendshipforcetwincities.org