



friendship force

MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES

www.friendshipforcetwincities.org

Santa Barbara Exchange was Successful

On September 7th sixteen ambassadors arrived in the Twin Cities. Fourteen were from Santa Barbara, one was from New Zealand and one was from the San Francisco FF club. This was a reciprocal exchange with our club being hosted by Santa Barbara in January of 2016.

This was a delightful group to host and was led by their Exchange Director, Karolyn Hanna, who was a pleasure to work with. Prior to their arrival, we learned that the ambassadors were interested in the history of the Twin Cities. Thus, many of the usual historical highlights of Saint Paul and Minneapolis were visited along with a new tour, River and Roots. Additionally, we had a backstage tour of the Guthrie Theatre.

Both the welcome and farewell events were well attended thanks to a grand turnout from our membership. In lieu of gifts exchanged between clubs, the Santa Barbara club gave a monetary gift to a charity of our choice, Bridging. On September 13th, the ambassadors departed.



Welcome Picnic: Ambassador Kerry Bowden of New Zealand with Valerie Hessburg and Cindy Cauble (Left to right)

Thanks to All Who Contributed to Make the Santa Barbara Exchange a Success

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Anne Shea, Cindy Cauble, Doreen Kloth, Joyce Sharp, Marge Runnakko, Nellie Hofmeister, Val Hessburg.

HOME HOSTS: Barb Corbusier, Cindy Cauble, Dagmar Runyon, Donna Leak, Evelyn and Stan Mustanski, Joyce Sharp, Rosie Foreman and Ken Scherber, Lois Velasco, Sharon Peterson, Willis and Martha Unke.

DINNER HOSTS: Doug Barr and Janet Kramer-Barr, Mary and Bill Cunningham, Mary and Gordy Elscott, Doreen Kloth, Marge and Sam Runnakko, Jacquie and Floyd Hagen.

DAY HOSTS: J. C. Bosse, Jacquie and Floyd Hagen, Nellie Hofmeister, Myrna Luse, Mary Montagne, Juvetta Freas, Val Hessburg, Janet Kramer, Buck MacDonald.

A special thanks to Lois Velasco, Barbara and Don Wallace, and Jacquie and Floyd Hagen for help with a last minute emergency. Your flexibility and willingness to step in kept everything on track. Last, but not least, to Juvetta Freas for the donation of tickets for the Como Park Carousel.

Exchanges are the heart of our program and this exchange would not have been possible without your help. A million thanks to all!

Co-EXCHANGE DIRECTORS: Kay Myers, Barb Emer (Submitted by Barb Emer)

LOOKING AHEAD

INCOMING EXCHANGE WITH BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA SUMMER OF 2017

OUTGOING EXCHANGE TO LETHBRIDE, ALBERTA, CANADA, EARLY SUMMER OF 2017



President's Message

My term as President is coming to an end and I promise that our election scheduled for December 3 will not be rigged and I promise to accept the results! My two years as President have been rewarding and I extend thanks to all of you for making it successful and gratifying.

This photograph was taken at our September Board meeting while we were discussing our upcoming event, The Day of the Dead, a Latino/Hispanic celebration, so the mask was part of the fun.

In Friendship, Louise Anderson

You are cordially invited to the
Friendship Force 40th Anniversary World Conference
Manchester, UK
Begins at 6:00 pm on August 24, Ends at 12:00 Noon on August 28

For nearly forty years, the Friendship Force has grown from being a dream of world peace to an international movement of building friends to overcome the cultural barriers that often separate people. The power of this movement should not be underestimated, and it is now the time to reintroduce the Friendship Force to a world in need of solutions and peace.

The 40th Anniversary World Conference marks an important time for all of us to celebrate our history and plan for the future. This milestone conference, being held in Manchester, UK, in 2017 will offer inspiring speakers, exciting events and be filled with nostalgia. Please consider joining this celebration.



40th FFI Anniversary Celebration Cruise Opportunity

FFI will celebrate it's 40th Anniversary by offering a 14 day cruise leaving from Fort Lauderdale, Florida on March 30 with a return date of April 13th, 2017. Plans for the cruise include:

After crossing the Atlantic, the cruise will stop and explore Funchal, on the Portuguese island of Madeira. The cruise will continue to explore the Mediterranean with three stops in Spain where you can join shore excursions to Seville, the Alhambra in Granada, and Roman ruins in Cartagena. The cruise will disembark in Rome, where you'll have the option to join other Friendship Force members for an optional extension in the "Eternal City," or perhaps experience Easter Sunday around the Vatican! Cost start at \$1,625, but will vary according to cabin selection.

DEC

3



Going to Canada - RSVP Today! Semi-Annual Meeting/Holiday Party CELEBRATING YOU!

Applewood Condos/Southtown Bloomington Party Room
8100 Russell Ave S.
Bloomington, MN 55431

Hosted by Mary & Gordon Elscott - Saturday - December 3 at 12:30 PM

Enjoy Canadian-themed food, the strolling musician, and learn initial details for your opportunity to be an ambassador on this summer's 2017 Lethbridge Canada Exchange.
BYOB for celebrating.

Appetizers
Authentic Canadian Poutine
French Canadian Tourtière
Eastern European Pierogies
Salad, Bread & Butter
Dessert

Send **non-refundable** RSVP/with \$13 per person **by Tuesday, November 8. *No dishes to share required!*** Make check to: Friendship Force Twin Cities or FFMNTC.

Names: _____

Address _____

Phone & Email _____

Mail to: Vicki Palmer - 14686 81st Avenue North Maple Grove, MN. 55311. Please call or email Vicki at 763-494-4605 or vapindale@hotmail.com with any questions or food allergy concerns.

OUTGOING EXCHANGE TO LETHBRIDGE, CANADA, SUMMER OF 2017

Our international outgoing exchange will be to Lethbridge, Canada some time in late spring or early summer of 2017. Lethbridge is located in the province of Alberta and is the largest city in southern Alberta. It is approximately an hour from the U.S. border and three hours south of Banff, Canada.

*Lethbridge is known for its warm chinook winds and its iconic landmark - the High Level Train Bridge. Lethbridge is home to over 130 parks and natural areas providing great walking, running, cycling and hiking opportunities through the city's vast river valley. In 2016, Expedia named Lethbridge one of six must-stop locations on an Alberta road trip.

It is not too early to begin thinking about this exchange as the Lethbridge club requires a high minimum number of ambassadors. We will need to know the number interested by the time of the holiday party. On December 3rd. The holiday planning committee will have additional information on Lethbridge at our holiday party. Submitted by Barb Emer

*Wikipedia

Meet your Social Activity Committee



Behind the scenes your social activity committee is organizing the welcome picnics and other events while planning a monthly activity, which includes some cultural and international aspects. Your committee members from top to bottom: Sheryl Grover, Cindy Cauble, and Dagmar Runyon.

Our next social activity is:

Saturday, November 19 at 1:00 p.m.: See art exhibit entitled, *Winter Holidays in Russia*, at the Museum of Russian Art, Lower Gallery, 5500 Stevens Avenue South, Minneapolis 55419. Cost: Seniors \$7.00, Adults \$9.00. Join the fun.



Club members enjoyed the Day of the Dead festival at the Minnesota History Center on October 23.



2016 Friendship Force International World Conference Summary

by Patricia Robinette

Marrakech, the city is as exotic as the name suggests; Friendship Force, the members are as warm and 'friendly' as the name suggests.

Attending the World Conference as your representative was a privilege, a Holy privilege. The meeting in Marrakech was the first in a predominately Muslim country, as well as, the first on the African continent. The location energized, informed, and colored the conference adding to its richness and beauty.

My friend Shirley Cavallaro and I each experienced the open warm welcome so consistent with a Friendship Force gathering. I am still integrating the learning, but here are some seeds of my experience for you:

#1 Jermi Snook, the young new CEO/President, has a vision to revitalize and grow the organization, which he delivered on our first morning. Please take time to read his opening speech: http://www3.thefriendshipforce.org/downloads/CEO_Remarks.pdf

#2 Jermi told us the website would be up within two weeks----I have no idea if he met that deadline, but it was up and running when I returned home October 15. If you have not already, I hope you will check it out: <http://friendshipforce.org>. There is also a recap of the Conference. Being a new member to the organization it had not registered with me the website was not multilingual, as you will see, it is now.

#3 In the workshops I heard many ways other clubs are addressing declining memberships ---thinking fresh and trying new ideas. For example, the delegates from Japan requested an exchange directed specifically at improving their English language skills.

#4 I suspect this conference with its welcoming, informative, not to mention FUN agenda, is typical of all those that have gone before. With that in mind I urge each of you to consider going to Manchester England next summer August 24 to 28, for the 40th Anniversary celebration. The British may be reserved, but based on my experience; their arms will be open in welcome.

With deep gratitude for this opportunity, Patricia Robinette



Book Review by Nellie Hofmeister

The Other Side of the Mountain-Bridging the Great Divide

Friendship Force International loss a long time member, Charlene Terrell, this year. Charlene was the author of the book, The Other Side of the Mountain-Bridging the Great Divide, a story of the Friendship Force. Our club purchased this book in May and it is being shared among club members. Nellie Hofmeister agreed to provide a review of this book.

Published in 1997, this history of the Friendship Force chronicles the germination of Wayne Smith's dream through to a robust and world changing non-profit organization. In January 1977, one week following Jimmy Carter's inauguration, Wayne Smith met with the new President of the United States and proposed the organization, the Friendship Force. By 1997 over 137,000 ambassadors and 400,000 hosts had participated in 3,300 exchanges. Almost twenty years later, in 2016, the history of those first twenty years provides a great insight into why the Friendship Force has been able to flourish around the World.

From the first planeloads of ambassadors, 381 people from England, to the returning plane full of ambassadors from Atlanta the first exchange began as blueprint of one-on-one diplomacy. After that exchange the next exchanges had ambassadors traveling to unknown destinations based on the philosophy that *WHERE* people traveled was not important, but that *WHY* they were going would make the important difference.

There were two more exchanges in 1977 but in spring of 1978 financial woes led the organization to the brink of closure only to be rescued by the Carter's. In 1978 there were sixteen more international exchanges, one on election night had both of the Carter's greeting a plane full of ambassadors at the Atlanta airport.

In order to focus on his dream Wayne Smith resigned in 1979 as pastor of his church, to become President and Chief Executive Officer of the Friendship Force. He focused the rest of his life on furthering his belief the if enough people around the world were to become friends; they can bridge the huge chasms which divide us, one friendship at a time. The three "no-no's in the Friendship Force according to Wayne Smith were: "No commercialism, no tourism and no partisan politics."

In his mission to expand the exchanges to more and more countries, he connected with many political leaders including those in Lebanon, Korea and Russia. The stories told of his efforts are memorable. Even more captivating are the experiences shared by the ambassadors and there are hundreds of pages of tales of the shared experiences over the many years as the Friendship Force grew and matured.

In the words of Carl Sagan, "You have to know the past to understand the present." There is no better way to learn about the Friendship Force's past than by this book. The pictures and stories of many travelers and hosts are shared making page turning a pleasure.

Elections will be held on December 3, 2016 at our Holiday Party.

Nominations for FF Twin Cities Board of Directors for 2017

Officers

President, Rita Mays

Vice President, Open

Treasurer: Ken Scherber

Secretary, Anne Shea

Member-at-large, Open

Committee Chairs

Exchange Coordinator, Barb Emer

Membership: Greg McAndrews

Communications Chair and Webmaster: Marge Runnakko

Social Activity Co-chairs: Sheryl Grover and Cindy Cauble

Newsletter Editor, Open

Special thanks to Donna Leak, Jacquie Hagen, and Rita Mays for serving on the nominations committee.

Note from Ben "Carol" Szyplinski, Current Membership Chair

If your address, telephone number or email have changed speak contact me at 763-588-1158 or email me at mnben@aol.com so we can update your information on our roster and you will not miss out on any club notices or club invitations.

**Visit our website at www.friendshipforcetwincities.org
and post your photos on our Facebook account.**