



# THE FRIENDLY ECHO

## FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JUNE 2022 - James Ryan**

Friendship Force Winnipeg was pleased to welcome six Ambassadors from the Los Angeles club on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> along with six other Ambassadors from Iowa, Florida and Oregon. The planning committee had prepared an ambitious itinerary for their week-long journey. By all accounts, the visitors quite enjoyed the tours to the Manitoba Museum & St. Boniface Cathedral, the town of Gimli, the Legislative Building, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Canadian Museum of Human Rights as well as the Journey to Churchill at the zoo and Fort Whyte Alive.

As you may remember, this journey had been postponed for two years due to the onset of the pandemic. Fortunately, my wife Kristina and I were supported by a very capable group of FFW members; the initial planning committee consisted of Maria Coutu, our Journey Co-ordinator, Susan Munroe, Heather Gusnowsky and Sandy Lehmann. We were later joined by Gary Crow who acted very capably as the journey treasurer. Linda Dart hosted all our Zoom planning meetings which were frequent. Maria was instrumental in selecting the Seine River Café and Resto Gare meals as well as the visit to the Legislative Building and Winnipeg Art Gallery including the Qaumajuk Inuit gallery. Heather arranged to have the Mayor of Gimli, Lynn Greenberg, join us for lunch and visit to the Viking. Sandy Lehmann organized the day at the zoo where Loretta kindly volunteered to act as our guide. The Polar bears were quite active and wowed our visitors with their antics. Sandy also arranged the instructive tour at Fort Whyte Alive and the lunch at Buffalo Stone café.

Finally, Susan Munroe kept us well nourished with delicious box lunches provided by Academy Bistro at Linda Dart's condo and, later in the week, at the zoo. The menu for the BBQ at our home was her doing while I only had to cook the Smokies. Susan also arranged the catering for the Welcome Dinner at Joe & Val Keenan's condo and invited John Einarson, Musicologist & author to speak at the Farewell/World Friendship Day dinner. I don't know how she manages all this, but she does.

This journey would not have been as successful as it was had it not been for all the hard work put in by the dedicated members of the planning group. I am also indebted to Jim Kubas who agreed to format and publish the Journey Handbook.

There are many other members of Friendship Force Winnipeg and Manitoba who acted as Home Hosts, Day Hosts and Dinner Hosts. They are too numerous to list, but know that we greatly appreciate all your support. My wife Kristina deserves recognition for organizing all these hosting responsibilities some of which required last minute reassignment.

Finally, I want to express our appreciation to Denise Lawson and Peggy Smith of the Manitoba Club for agreeing to combine the Farewell and World Friendship Day Dinner at the Norwood Hotel. It was a great way to bid farewell to our Los Angeles guests.

Unfortunately, following the departure of the Ambassadors on May 28<sup>th</sup>, three members of our club tested positive for COVID-19. One of the affected members only attended the Farewell Dinner while the other two had also attended the BBQ. All three have experienced flu-like symptoms but I understand that they are slowly recovering. In view of this development, I have decided not to proceed with a gathering in June. We will resume our dinner meetings in September - a notice will be circulated re same.

Kristina and I will be joining the "Festival at Sea" cruise with FFI on August 28. I hope to bring back some fresh perspectives from this experience. Keep well.

In friendship..... Jim Ryan

### **DONATION TO FRIENDSHIP FORCE WINNIPEG**

At the conclusion of the recent Los Angeles Inbound Journey, our club was presented with a donation of US\$120.00 to be used for a charity of our choosing. The planning committee recommended that the monies go to Rossbrook House in the spirit of reconciliation. This agency provides a safe environment and programming for indigenous and other at-risk inner city youth. Our secretary, Leslie Galloway, has served on the Board of Rossbrook House. On behalf of Friendship Force Winnipeg, I wish to extend my deep appreciation to Pat Gomez and the other members of this journey for their generosity..... Jim Ryan.

## JOURNEY CO-ORDINATOR REPORT - JUNE 2022 - Maria Coutu

We finally had our first inbound journey since the beginning of Covid. We welcomed Friendship Force Los Angeles Club with a welcome dinner on Sunday, May 22nd. After a week full of interesting and educational activities we wished them a safe journey home on Friday, May 27th at a farewell dinner attended by members from our Club, the Manitoba Club and the Brandon Club. Thank you to Jim and Kristina Ryan and your Committee who organized all the activities. A special thank you to our members for your support by home hosting, day hosting, dinner hosting, sharing your homes with us for BBQs, welcome dinner and lunches. Finally, thank you to all our members for supporting our Club through your participation. Well Done Everyone!

Our outbound domestic journey is moving along very well. Thank you to Jim Kubas for organizing this journey. Our travellers will be visiting the Niagara, Lake Simcoe and Haliburton Clubs.

We have also received the Journey assignments for 2023 travel. We were accorded Los Angeles & San Diego as the outbound journey for April & as Inbounds for June: Belgian Coast, Belgium to Sherbrooke, P.Q. and Winnipeg and for September: Christchurch & Tauranga Western Bay of Plenty, New Zealand to Haliburton Highlands & Winnipeg.

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## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

### JUNE

Gwynn Campbell  
Val Daniel.  
Carol De Baets  
Elizabeth Grover  
Nina Logan  
Shirley Mitchell  
Norma Warecki  
Marilyn Zaharia  
Susan Finlay  
Denise Lawson

### JULY

Margaret Birk  
Maria Coutu  
Martha Klimack  
Rick Klimack  
Germana Stangherlin  
Lavona Susinki

### AUGUST

Lynne Foley

**OUR BRIDGE WIND-UP:** Monday, April 25th @ 1:00 pm

After three years of playing on-line bridge we finally got to meet everyone in person. On behalf of all the bridge players, a big THANK YOU to Val and Joe Keenan who graciously offered to host this great event. Wow how wonderful to be able to talk and play bridge! Many bridge players verbalized that on-line bridge was a great escape from our Covid restrictions and a great connection to our fellow Friendship Force members. Nevertheless, being together in person felt like a great celebration and for some, it was the first time they met their opponents in person. To be safe, we wore our masks playing bridge. We had a total of six tables and Joe did a fantastic job of organizing our tables. Thank you Joe.



We had prizes, delicious desserts and a gourmet fruit tray but the best part was the socializing with a great group of bridge players. For those of you who asked about playing in the Fall, no worries, we will resume and a notice will go out! Bridge is here to stay!!! ..... Carol De Baets

## **ACTIVITIES REPORT** to end of May 2022 - Susan Munroe - Activity Co-ordinator

Greetings One and All,

It was great to see many of you at the various events associated with the recent Journey with our visitors from the LA area. The weather co-operated for the most part and it seems a good time was had by all.

Our featured presenter at the combined Farewell and World Friendship Day dinner was John Einarson, the well known and loved musicologist, author, and radio personality.

As Winnipeggers we are very proud of our musical heritage and all the great talent that had its roots here. We are even more fortunate however, to have John Einarson, who through his passion, dedication, and profound ability shared these stories and this history with us through his writings and by giving so generously of his time at our special event.

We had hoped to finish up the season with a trip to the new Aviation Museum but this is now being planned for the Fall. I wish you all a safe and happy Summer and look forward to seeing you in September. Keep Well!

### **FFW WALKING GROUP - Linda Dart**

The Walking Club has been meeting regularly on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. A notice is sent out on the prior Sunday to members giving the location of the meeting point. In spite of snow, ice and rain we have managed to get together on most scheduled days. Following each walk we have enjoyed a coffee in a nearby restaurant. The visiting and the fresh air have been great. Over the summer the walkers are taking a break with the walks resuming in September. New walkers are always welcome!

### **EDITORS' CORNER**

Back in 2010, we were hosted by a couple in Newcastle, UK, who were on the very first Friendship Force Journey/Exchange in 1977. (We have kept in touch over the years but we never actually know where they are - we just email!).

We thought an account of same from the "horse's mouth" would be interesting - the following is the answer to our request.

## The Friendship Force of Newcastle upon Tyne

On 6th May 1977 President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn visited Newcastle. He was originally a peanut farmer and here he was in our city.

The President was given the Freedom of the City in front of 20,000 strong crowd. In his inaugural speech President Carter used the words "Howay the Lads", a phrase used by Newcastle United football fans.

It was Rosalynn Carter who launched Friendship Force, her aim was to build bridges between us and the rest of the world.

The first city to become involved was Newcastle upon Tyne and an exchange to Atlanta, Georgia, President Carter's home town took place on 4th July 1977 which involved 762 people. An exchange involved people to stay in each other's homes, experience each other's jobs and learn about life in a foreign country.

My husband and I were lucky to have been given the opportunity to represent our city on the first Friendship Force Exchange. We had just been married 2 years so we were one of the youngest couples.

When we arrived in Atlanta we had a red carpet welcome and a band. The hosts were all waiting in a hangar.

Our hosts took us to Downtown Atlanta to watch the 4th July Parade. The celebrity in the parade was Robert Vaughan. It was a hot day and we were still dressed for English weather so we felt very hot.

The next day I was very ill with sickness, thought it was sunstroke. When we arrived home I found out I was pregnant with our daughter.

At that time you were hosted 5 days with each host.

Included in Exchange for each home stay was:-

Welcome Party

Days Trips organized by Committee

Free Days

Farewell Party

Later Friendship Force changed exchanges to 7 days. Now I believe Exchanges can be any number of days.

We have been on many Exchanges over the years and hosted many people from all around the world. We have had people from Germany, Brazil, Turkey, Thailand and Russia to name a few who did not speak English but it made no difference at all.



We laughed together and found wherever you go in the world people have the same dreams, hopes for their families and they want Peace Around the World.

At 18 our daughter went to Florida to live with our Friendship Force friends for nearly 2 years. She attended College every morning and looked after their triplet baby boys in the afternoon.

Friendship Force changed our lives forever making many friends around the world.

We would advise anyone to join Friendship Force to share Peace around the World. We live in England but we send this message from Malaysia.

Bless you All. Jimmy and Rosalynn continue to be an inspiration to the World.

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Meeting the Viking at Gimli - our first inbound Journey since the Covid shutdown.



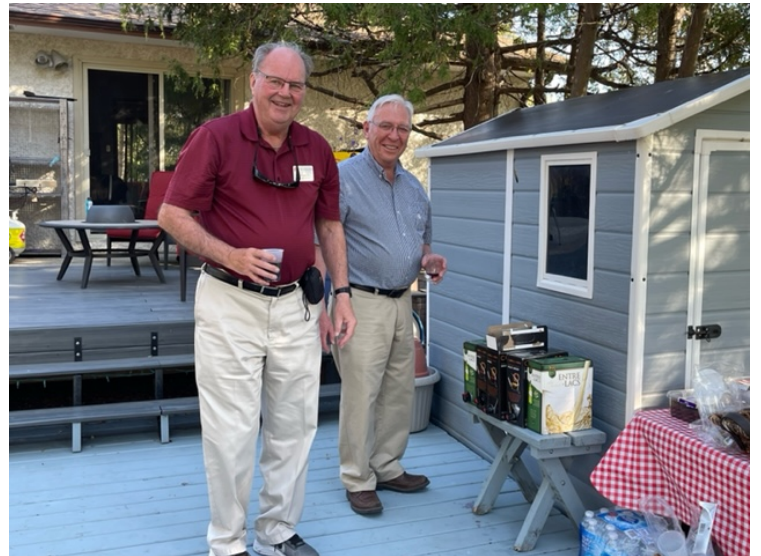
**VISIT TO THE LEGISLATIVE BLG.**



**VISIT TO CHURCHILL**



**BBQ AT THE RYAN'S**



**HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!**

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