



THE FRIENDLY ECHO

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - MARCH 2022 - James Ryan

I want to begin my first message to Friendship Force Winnipeg members by extending a sincere thanks to Diane & David Judge who stepped forward in early February and volunteered to publish our **Friendly Echo** newsletter. This certainly will help the club immensely in maintaining our connections through these challenging times of pandemic restrictions and ongoing protests across Canada.

As I write this brief note in mid-February the provincial government has just announced a gradual easing of the public health orders with increased capacity limits for restaurants as of February 15th, elimination of the vaccine passport on March 1st and the indoor mask mandate on March 15th. This may mean that we will be able to resume our Holiday Inn South dinner meetings by April. Stay tuned.

The **World Friendship Day** dinner for March has been postponed as the FFMB executive felt it too risky to proceed at this time. They requested that we hold an outdoor function in May or June. Our club executive will consider this at our next meeting on March 8th. As we may be hosting the FF Los Angeles club on May 21st to 28th we would likely prefer a postponement of **WFD** to June.

A final decision on whether to proceed with the LA inbound journey will be made by March 15. I will be contacting those of you who volunteered to home host to confirm that you are still willing to do so. We will also need day hosts and dinner hosts for this journey.

Recently **FFI** asked that clubs submit their **Outbound Journey** requests for travel in 2023 by March 18th. As we will not be meeting in person until possibly April the executive will try to devise a way of canvassing the membership for feedback. I can request an extension of the deadline if we decide to delay the submission until after our April meeting.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the recent passing of two former members of our club. Helga Klassen on January 14th and Muriel Moreau on February 10th. Helga and her husband Wally had been relatively new members of FFW and had attended many of our dinners in recent years. Muriel, who will be remembered by long time members - together with her late husband Frank (who served as Club Treasurer) was very active in the club and participated in many outbound journeys and also home hosted and day hosted several times.

JOURNEY CO-ORDINATOR REPORT - FEBRUARY 2022 - Maria Coutu

Inbound Journey

We are looking forward to confirming the inbound journey from Los Angeles from May 21-28th. They will be coming to us from Minneapolis. We have been in contact with the FFLA Club and the Minneapolis Club and will be “zooming” with both Clubs in mid March to confirm that they will be able to visit Winnipeg.

There has been much discussion regarding Covid requirements. The three Clubs will be following all public health requirements to ensure the safety of Club members and our visiting Ambassadors.

Thank you to Jim and Kristina Ryan who are co-ordinating this journey.

Outbound Journey

Jim Kubas and Kathy Lesyk have been working on the Domestic Journey to different Clubs in Ontario. The Board had a meeting to discuss a number of questions put forward by Jim K. regarding Covid requirements and restrictions for inbound and outbound journeys. Jim will be in contact, later this month, with the Club members who were interested in this outbound Journey.

Thank you to Jim Kubas and Kathy Lesyk for co-ordinating this outbound journey.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MARCH

Joe Daniel
David Judge
Frances Lemieux
Kathy Lesyk
Susan Munroe
Jill Saunders
Gladys Spracklin
Paul van Leeuwen

APRIL

Linda Dart
Heather Gusnowsky
Val Keenan
Jane McGrigor
Kristina Ryan
Gladys Thomas

MAY

Gary Crow
Richard Grover
Loretta Humeniuk
Diane Judge
Sandra Lehmann
Dolores Tutkaluk

FFW BOOK CLUB - Nina Logan

So, you are still in the middle of a pandemic and wondering how to stay connected to the members in your group. You have loads of time to read, so why not form a Zoom Book Club? There were a number of like-minded members who agreed, and our FFW Book Club was born.

At the time we originally started, I ordered Book Club kits from the Public Library which had just begun to reopen and had very limited hours. I met members in the parking lot at Grant Park. I felt a bit like a dealer, handing out and collecting books from the back of my car, but it all worked out fine. Only one book went missing all the first year. We would read half the book and then meet on Zoom to discuss the first half and then again two weeks later to discuss the second half.

Book Club kits are great, but only have 10 copies and the titles available tended to be much older reads.

We decided to switch it up a bit in the fall. I asked each member to suggest a book title for the group and we had more titles suggested than months in the year. So, for November to June, we have generated a list of books to be read and discussed the last Thursday of each month via Zoom. The titles are mostly fiction, but we did have one memoir. Some buy the books, others borrow from the library and still others download the books to their devices. We have 12 members in the club now and are always happy to include more. Email Nina if you are interested in joining us. ninalogan@shaw.ca

Our March 25th Book title is All the Light We cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Other Book suggestions:

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles, Circling the Sun by Paula McLain, Steve & Me by Terri Irwin, All the Light We cannot See by Anthony Doerr, The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah, Indians on Vacation by Thomas King, The Midnight Library by Matt Haig, Ragged Company by Richard Wagamese

FFW WALKING GROUP - Linda Dart

The above group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00 am at various locations around Winnipeg. An email notification about the meeting point goes out to the membership on the Sunday prior to each walk. Suggestions about interesting places to explore are always welcome. Following the walk we generally find a spot to go out for coffee and a visit.

Comment from Diane J. - members have also found a way of connecting by joining up and playing Bridge and Mah Jongg on line.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE - Susan Munroe

My thanks to all the members who joined in our Zoom presentation by Dr. Gordon Goldsborough who shared his insight and discoveries made during his walks throughout Winnipeg during the pandemic. It was a wonderful hour and enjoyed by all. We are anxious to access some of his suggestions on our walks which we invite you to join, the first and third Tuesdays of the month. We normally would have invited Dr. Goldsborough, an accomplished author, to offer his books for sale after his presentation. As we were virtual, I thought I would share information with you should you wish to purchase any of his books:

Abandoned Manitoba out of print but available directly from Dr. Goldsborough at: gordon@mhs.mb.ca \$25.00 each

More Abandoned Manitoba Rivers, Rails, and Ruins available through McNally Robinson, Chapters, Amazon

Look for Gordon's new book (the last in this series) *On the Road to Abandoned Manitoba* due out fall 2023

You can also listen to Gordon, a frequent contributor, on the Weekend Morning Show on CBC Radio One.

If you are interested in joining the Manitoba Historical Society here is a link to their website:

webmaster@mhs.mb.ca

I sincerely hope we will be able to meet again in person. We are monitoring the restrictions closely and will keep you posted on upcoming events as we are able to plan them depending on circumstances.

As always, keep well, be safe, there is light at the end of this tunnel!

FAREWELL TO LONG-TIME MEMBERS

Friendship Force Winnipeg has had a few longtime members who have not renewed their membership due to a variety of reasons. We would like to recognize the contributions that these members have made to our club and to International friendship.

Adele and Jim McMurtrie were co-editors of our FFW newsletter. They often home and dinner hosted International members. They have a lovely backyard which was the site for many journey parties. They were very hard working members of our club and we greatly value their contributions.

Jill Saunders was Activity Director of FFW and enjoyed going on exchanges. She has been a member since at least 2001. On our most recent trip to Brazil in 2020, Jill surprised our home hosts as well as our club members by attending a dinner on March 17 in full green outfit including a wig of long green hair. Needless to say, the Brazilians were confused until we explained St. Patrick's Day. I still don't think they quite understood the tradition. She is also known for her "burpees" in Ireland!

More than twenty years ago, Nancy Clendenan enjoyed working with our founders, planning meetings at various locations, and creating a simple newsletter. Ambassadors from New Zealand, Mexico, Brazil, Quebec, Iowa, and Australia were welcomed into her home on Borebank Street, where she often dinner-hosted over the next few years. She also joined our members when they were hosted in California and Mexico.

Don Charleson and Nancy met at the Niakwa, when the club was meeting there. Four years later they were married and living in a small Fort Richmond bungalow. They once tried walking to the meeting at the Holiday Inn. Never again!

Thanks to the new members who have kept in touch, and planned activities for them. When we arrived in October without costumes, Don grabbed some hard hats and vests from the car.

The Costa Rica exchange appealed to them and they enjoyed their time in both homes there. The February exchange was the most fun for them, when they hosted members from Australia.

In 2012 they had planned to visit family in the UK and join new friends on a tour of the Czech Republic. So when our club was looking for an exchange director, Nancy accepted the job and then arranged to meet the incoming directors in their home country. Nancy and Don would like to thank all our members who helped them plan that journey and have accepted the responsibility of other exchanges.

Since then they have just committed to day-hosting. What they value most is memories of the members that they have met, here at home and in countries far away.

Thank you to these members and hope to see you again soon!

Nina Logan - Vice President

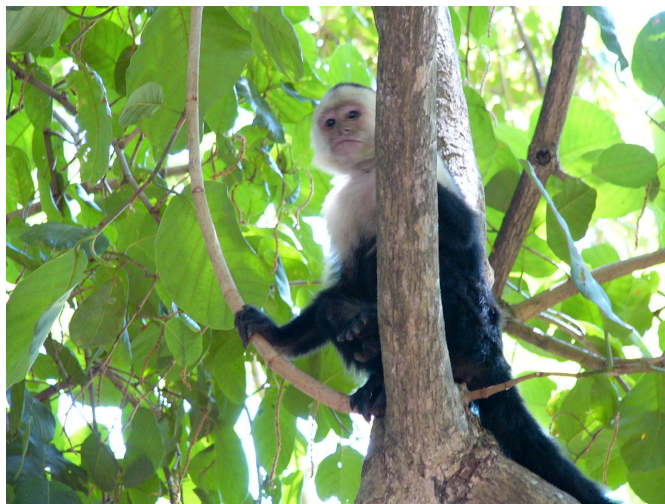
EDITORS' CORNER

First of all, many thanks to Carol De Baets for all her work as editor/publisher of The Friendly Echo over the past four years - also, our thanks for her help and advice as we take over her position. The Newsletter will now be sent out on a quarterly basis - contributions to same will be welcomed. Diane and Dave Judge.

Maybe these photos will bring back happy memories of journeys past and anticipation of journeys yet to come when we will once again have the opportunity to make new friends and see new horizons.



WALES



COSTA RICA



IRELAND



MEXICO

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