



# **THE FRIENDLY ECHO**

## **FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER**



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### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2023 - James Ryan**

This will be my last report as President of Friendship Force Winnipeg. Kristina and I will be travelling to New Zealand later this month to take a two-week cruise around the islands followed by a weeklong visit with Australian friends whom we met through Friendship Force. We will not be here for the December meetings.

It has been a memorable experience to serve as your President these last two years. It would not have been possible without the support of all the members of the executive but particularly, Linda Dart, who continued to host all our Zoom meetings and distribute my emails to the club. I want to also recognize Susan Munroe who always planned great activities to keep the club engaged despite the challenges we faced from Covid-19. Maria has also worked effectively as our Journey Coordinator maintaining the contacts with the clubs who had been assigned to visit us. She and Linda organized a wonderful two-week journey to San Diego and Los Angeles in March where ten of us were warmly received.

I was fortunate to have had the support of Jim K. who produced the journey booklets for the La Serena Chile and Los Angeles inbound visits.

Another couple who came to my rescue, without being asked, are David & Diane J. who stepped forward to publish The Friendly Echo. They have produced an outstanding newsletter on our behalf.

All the members of the executive and the committee chairs have worked diligently to keep Friendship Force Winnipeg vibrant despite the challenges we face for survival as a travel/exchange club. Two inbound journeys are in the planning stages. We are hoping to be able to host both San Diego and Quad Cities Iowa in June of 2024. We will need the full support of the membership to act as home hosts if we agree to receive both clubs jointly.

I want to thank all the members of the executive and the committee chairs for your invaluable assistance over the past year. I look forward to my new role as Past President and hope to be able to continue contributing to the welfare of the club. Thank you again for all your support.

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## VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Nina Logan

**Membership** I have updated the membership list on the FFI site and added our new executive. When the new membership list is complete I would like to send a copy to each member. I will send out an email asking that if anyone would **not** like some or all of their contact information shared with the membership to contact me. Hopefully all members will now have renewed their membership for 2024.

**2025 FFI Outbound Request Form** - will be due shortly. All members have been contacted to send in their top 4 choices for Outbound Journeys. Our choices will be forwarded to Friendship Force International to match us up for 2025 outbound journeys.

**Western Canadian Presidents' Zoom-** was held on November 16@4:00 pm Manitoba time. There was a lot of discussion with Micheil Chinnick from Western Financial, the holder of the policy for Canadian FF Clubs. There were a number of scenarios discussed about Club Executive liability coverage and Gail Keely has recorded them all. If anyone would like me to send the notes on this, please contact me. Diane will attend the next Zoom meeting of the Western Canadian Presidents in January.

**Business Cards-** Huge thanks to Jim Kubas who created our new FFW Business cards and had them printed. We have used a small portion of the \$200.00 US dollars we received as a grant to promote new membership. At our December dinner, each member will receive some cards and will be asked to give them to friends etc. who may be interested in joining FFW. The idea is to write your own contact information on the back of the card, should they be interested in more information about our club. Hopefully we will have enough interested persons to be able to hold a FFW presentation sometime in the new year.

**Board of Directors-** I want to express a huge thank-you to the outgoing Board and Committee members for all their work on behalf of our club. It has been a big help to me to be able to learn from the experience of all the other Board Members. I want to thank those who are willing to continue in their positions on the Board and to those new members of our board, welcome!

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## FFW WALKING GROUP - Linda Dart

Over the winter the walking group will meet at 10 am in the Food Court at the Outlet Mall on Sterling Lyon on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We usually walk for 45 minutes to an hour, then sit down for coffee and a visit. Everyone is welcome to attend. This is a good way to get to know other club members.

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## JOURNEY CO-ORDINATOR REPORT - Maria Coutu

Our Club had a good year in 2023. We travelled to San Diego and Los Angeles in March and hosted the La Serena Club from Chile in June. As usual our members welcomed and participated in all the different activities. Thank you!

In 2024 we will be hosting the San Diego Club. Those who travelled to San Diego are looking forward to renewing friendships. We have also received a request from Quad Cities and hopefully we can welcome both Clubs in June – depending on the number of ambassadors.

Our Club will be travelling to Leicester, England in September.

I want to wish all our members and their families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

*“To bring peace to the Earth, make your own life peaceful.”*

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

### OCTOBER

Norma Padilla

### NOVEMBER

Jim Abra  
Susan Cormack  
Tom McDermott  
Mary McQueen

### DECEMBER

Karen Curtis  
Lorraine Franz  
Leslie Galloway  
Joe Keenan  
Jim Kubas  
James Ryan  
Marilyn Sloane  
Inga Zahodnik



## ACTIVITIES REPORT - Susan Munroe

Greetings Everyone, I want to thank you all for your support and enthusiasm over the past year. It has been a pleasure working with all of you. I hope you have enjoyed the programs presented and want to give a warm thank you and welcome to all the new elves initiated at the December meeting!

A special thank you to Dave and Gwyn Campbell for their assistance with the December party. I couldn't have done it without you. Also, I want to thank Tom McDermott for his minstrel roving's during our activity and once again leading us in song after, and to Joe and Val who generously offered their assistance in getting all our food donations to Harvest. Thank you to all who provided a "tin for the Bin."

I am finalizing arrangements for the January event. We will hopefully be attending the Leaf on Thursday January 11, for the new display Fleurs de Villes. A wonderful floral journey of discovery to global destinations, through one of a kind floral mannequins inspired by Manitoba's diverse multi cultural heritage and the cultures and climates represented in the biomes and gardens at the Leaf. We will then have lunch at the Park Café. I am still finalizing times so watch for more information to follow.

We have a sweetheart of a meeting planned for Wednesday, February 14. We will have the Winnipeg Police Service talk about personal safety. We are still finalizing a lunch location so again please watch for more information on this event.

In closing Jim and I would like to extend our warmest Holiday wishes to you and yours for a very Merry Christmas, we look forward to sharing good times with all our Friendship Force Friends in 2024.

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## FFW ON-LINE BRIDGE GROUP - Carol De Baets

Our 2023 bridge season has ended and we are ready to embark on another year of bridge! We have 8 teams and our first game will be Tuesday, January 2nd! We will have players playing from their winter vacation spots in Mexico, Florida and California thanks to our wonderful world of technology! Watch for your schedule which will be delivered to your screen via Santa's helper!

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## FFW BOOK CLUB REPORT - Nina Logan

The next book club meetings are on Dec 28<sup>th</sup> **Lessons in Chemistry** and Jan 25/2024 **Olive Kitteridge and Lucy by the Sea.**

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## FFW Walking Group



New Executive for 2024 - L to R - Lavona S. - Nina L. - Diane K. - Debbie S.



Tom McDermott keeping our spirits high by leading us in singing carols at the Christmas dinner.

## **A FEW FUNNIES TO GET YOU THROUGH THE DAY.**

A jellyfish has existed as a species for 500 million years, surviving just fine without brain. That gives hope to so many people.

A train station is where the train stops. A bus station is where the bus stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

A true optimist is the guy who falls off a skyscraper and after 50 floors thinks to himself - well, so far so good!

Any of us has the capacity to light up a room. Some when they enter, others when they leave it.

Dental-Chair Revelation: Once you have your mouth open, dentist lose the ability to ask questions with a simple yes or no answer.

Doing nothing is hard, you never know when you're done.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

Finally, the spring is here! I'm so thrilled I wet my plants.

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## **EDITOR'S CORNER**

Like the rest of us, some animals like to check their weight daily.

Twelve pounds today!

Best wishes to one and all for the Holiday Season and the coming New Year.

Diane and Dave J.









