



THE FRIENDLY ECHO

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 24 Issue 3 October, November, December 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Nina Logan

It has been an outstanding year for our club! We have had very successful Inbound and Outbound Journeys this year. Our Executive have been working hard to keep everything flowing smoothly. I want to thank all of them for everything they do to keep our club thriving. Once we have collected all the membership fees for this year, we should have a total of 64 regular members and 2 associate members. We were very fortunate to have gained several new members throughout this year.

Plans are already in place for our 2025 Inbound and Outbound Journeys and I want to express our thanks to all those who have already volunteered to be on the planning committees, home hosts, day hosts and dinner hosts. We will need the whole club's help to make these journeys successful.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season and all the best for 2025!

JOURNEY CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Heather Gusnowsky

Outbound Journey to Seattle and Columbia/Cascade - Linda Dart and Carol De Baets are the Ambassador Co-ordinators for this Journey.

Seattle will be from September 30th to October 6th and Columbia/Cascade from October 7th to October 14th. They can accommodate 14 to 16 people, depending on number of singles and doubles. The **Intent to Travel Form** will be emailed in March. Once the deadline for applications is reached, same will be reviewed to see how many members have applied. If necessary we will follow the "Oversubscribed Outbound Journey Criteria" as outlined in our Orientation Booklet.

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Inbound Journey from Sao Paulo, Brazil, will take place June 8-14 - Loretta Humeniuk and Donna Vendramelli are the Ambassador Co-ordinators for this Journey. Home Hosts, Day Hosts, and Dinner Hosts will be needed. Contact the Ambassador Co-ordinators if you can help out in any capacity.

Their emails are: lhum@shaw.ca; d_vendramelli@mymts.net

Inbound Journey from Greater Hamilton/Burlington, ON, will take place September 4-11 - Nina Logan and Diane Beresford are the Ambassador Co-ordinators for this Journey. Home Hosts, Day Hosts and Dinner Hosts will also be needed. Please keep those dates in mind and see if you can fill any of these needs. They are expecting 15 to 20 Ambassadors to come for this Journey.

Editors' Note: If you are planning to participate in a Journey, please be sure to read the Friendship Force Winnipeg Accommodation, Health and Mobility Checklist.

ACTIVITIES REPORT - Susan Munroe

The Caboto Christmas party was a success, (except for a few minor annoying technical glitches.) We had a wonderful turnout, with almost everyone in attendance. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support. The winner of the wine and goodie basket was Joe Daniels. Congratulations Joe and Val, enjoy your treats. We collected 110 pounds of food for Harvest as well as a cash donation of \$10.00 Thanks once again to Joe Keenan for delivering the goods to Harvest.

We are planning a return visit to the Leaf in Mid January for the return of the Fleurs des Villes exhibit. It was very well attended last year, and this year the theme will vary slightly with more spectacular floral interpretations. Check your emails for more information on this after the holidays. As this year draws to a close, I want to extend my sincere best wishes to you all for a very Happy Holiday Season. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

CHRISTMAS BRIDGE PARTY - Carol De Baets

Our Friendship Force on-line bridge club wrapped up our 2024 Bridge season with a wonderful party! We had 20 players (5 tables) and everyone especially enjoyed the camaraderie! After two hours of bridge, we enjoyed coffee/tea, a cheese tray, and a delicious assortment of everyone's home baking. Thank you to Val and Joe who hosted this event in their party room and to everyone who brought the best Christmas baking! Congratulations to our winners! First prize gift cards to Liquor Mart (Gold) went to Jennifer King and Ben Paul (sparing for Susan). Silver medals (baking) went to Lorraine Franz and Elizabeth Grover. Karen and Al Kaiser, spares who graciously filled in to complete our fifth table, captured the Bronze (Belgian chocolates)!

We started our on-line Friendship bridge during the Covid isolation period in 2020 and we haven't missed a beat! Consequently, our sixth season will begin on Tuesday, January 7th and schedules will arrive in your IN-BOX soon! We invite and welcome all new members to our bridge. Please contact Carol De Baets at caroldebaets@gmail.com if you would like to join us! Wishing you all a very happy holiday season and best wishes for wonderful gifts that money cannot buy ! Good health, happiness, friendship, peace and maybe some good bridge cards!



FFW WALKING GROUP - Linda Dart

The Walking Group will continue to meet at 10 am in the Food Court at the Outlet Mall on the following dates:

January 14 and 28.

February 11 and 25

March 11 and 25

As Linda will be away, Karen Curtis has kindly agreed to be the contact person for January 14th and 28th and February 11th.

Her email address is: karenc5454@outlook.com

Come and escape winter in the warm mall and enjoy a cup of coffee after the walk.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

October

Norma Padilla
Lenore Johnson

November

Jim Abra
Susan Cormack
Tom McDermott
Delores Jandavs

December

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



Our Club has had quite a few new members over the past year or so. In order that members of our Friendship/Travel Club can inter-mingle and get more acquainted with each other, we are inviting recently joined members to contribute a brief profile, together with a photo, for inclusion in the present and future Friendly Echo - see below:



My name is **Melonee Collins**.

I enjoy travelling and meeting others. I see Friendship Force as an opportunity for personal growth and enjoyment.



My name is **Delores Jandavs**.

My husband and I loved travelling, but since his death travelling has become more of a challenge, so I was thrilled to be introduced to this unique Friendship/Travel Club through a presentation at the Good Neighbours Active Living Centre. Besides travelling my interests are playing Mah Jongg, reading, gardening and volunteering.

Everyone please remember to wear your badge



Having fun at our Christmas Party at Caboto's.



A CAUTIONARY TALE

An elderly man was having hearing problems and went to see a specialist. The doctor fitted him with some hearing aids that brought his hearing back to full strength. After a few weeks the man came back to make sure the new equipment was working properly, which it was. The hearing specialist said "it all seems perfect, your family should be delighted you can hear everything now". "Oh no!" the man responded "I haven't told any of them. I just sit quietly, listening carefully. I have changed my will four times".

EDITORS' CORNER

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions to the Friendly Echo over the past year and wish you all Health, Wealth and Happiness in the coming New Year.....Diane and David J.

On a more sombre note, we were saddened to read the recent obituary of Carol Frederickson, who was a valuable member of our club quite a few years back. Carol looked after several Journeys and we personally travelled and had fun with Carol and her husband George. Her obituary contained the following:

“In retirement, Carol and George embraced travel through their involvement with Friendship Force International, a global travel organization. This gave them the opportunity to explore exotic destinations with close friends and to welcome visitors from around the world, proudly sharing the uniqueness of their home city, Winnipeg.”



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