



THE FRIENDLY ECHO

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 25 Issue 3 July to December 2025

President's AGM Report- Nina Logan

I would like to thank our amazing executive who have all put in so much time and effort for our club. We are one of the lucky clubs to still have a strong membership coupled with such enthusiastic leadership.

A special welcome to all our new members this year. I have learned so much more about the workings of Friendship Force in the two years that I served as Vice President and then the two years as President.

I have also learned a lot more about Zoom, navigating and completing online forms and writing reports! It has been very rewarding to be involved thus far, and I am excited to still being involved as the Past President. I am very willing to assist our new executive in any capacity that I can.

Many thanks to our members who always step up to act as Executive, Journey Coordinators, home hosting, planning activities, dinner hosting, day hosting, attending meetings and in all the many other ways they support our club and its members. We are stronger together!

Vice President: Diane Kubas

During the past year I was called upon to chair only one meeting in our president's absence. The date for that meeting was October 8 at the Caboto Centre.

As the vice president's job also includes membership, I visited the new members in their homes and provided an orientation. Name tags were ordered and provided to these new members. We have been most fortunate to have gained several new members this year, many who have already been involved in our club activities and the incoming journeys.

As of this date we have 67 regular members and 2 associates.

This year our membership fee has been maintained at \$60.00, from which we will send \$30.00 US to Friendship Force International.

Activities: Susan Munroe

Year End Activity Report November 2025

We started the year, surrounded by the warmth and beauty of the Leaf. Members viewed the spectacular floral interpretations and creations representing the artistic community throughout Manitoba, followed by lunch at the Park Cafe.

Those remaining behind to weather our Manitoba winter, escaped to Mexico North with a fiesta filled luncheon and presentation on a brief History of Mexico at the Helen and Bill Norrie Library.

At World Friendship Day in March, we found out how to be better volunteers.

April showers made us all mindful of why we resist climate change and what hope lies ahead in our efforts to combat it.

May's meeting allowed us time to stock up for our summer reading with our book exchange. We wound up for the summer with a combined dinner to say farewell to our Sao Paulo visitors and on reconvening in September, again combining our dinner with a farewell for our second exchange, from Burlington Ontario. Members and guests were serenaded after dinner with a special guest performance of French-Canadian folk ballads.

We were lucky to make the acquaintance of Gregg Agnew "Mr Winnipeg", who presented us with a very enjoyable and informed presentation on all things Winnipeg.

Which brings us to our AGM. This association is only as good as its leaders, so I urge you to put your names forward and get involved, we welcome new members and ideas.

We wrapped up the year with a combined Christmas dinner event with the Manitoba chapter at the Caboto centre on Wednesday, December 10th, featuring a return performance from Red Road Music with a Christmas Carol Cabaret. It was a fun-filled evening.

It has been an honour to work with so many of you, and I sincerely appreciate all the help and support you have always shown me in our many endeavours.

Historian: Norma Padilla

Annual Historian report for 2025.

All relevant material, and photographs from F.F.W. events that occurred between January 1,2025 and October 31,2025 were added to the Historian Binder. Those from November and December will be added before December 31, 2025.

After each event, select photos were sent to Diane and David Judge for possible inclusion in the 'Friendly Echo'.

Pre-COVID, many photos were taken at each event, developed and placed in the binder. Since then, it was deemed unnecessary to take as many photos. Thus, one binder can accommodate several years of material and photos.

There were no expenses incurred this year. The few photos developed were paid for and donated to the binder by the Historian.

Journey Report: Nina Logan

Upcoming Journeys:

2026 Inbounds- #26123 Greater Omaha, Nebraska to Winnipeg. Club

President is Bob Smith las.jr@hotmail.com

We need a Journey Coordinator for this Journey

#26100 Shizuoka, Japan to Winnipeg Gary and Fiona Crow have volunteered to be Journey Coordinators and have already formed a committee.

2026 Outbounds- #26119 Greater Hamilton and Burlington - Nina and Mary Jean have volunteered to be Journey Coordinators and have started communications.

The trip would likely take place late May, early June.

#26076 Mexico City and Mundo Maya of Tuxtia Gutierrez - Paul and Nina have volunteered to be Journey Coordinators and have made contact with both clubs.

There is some concern about safety in the second area but it is listed as safe by the Canadian Travel Advisory Page, provided the journey is confined to the safe areas. Paul is continuing to explore the activities for this second Journey to ensure safety protocols.

Likely travel time would be November. Number of FFW Ambassadors likely 14.

Publications and Communications: Elizabeth Grover

Public Service Announcements highlighting activities of the Friendship Force Winnipeg were sent to Winnipeg Free Press Community Event, Senior Scope and Radio Station 97.3

Walking Group - Linda Dart

The Walking Group has been meeting regularly at 10:00 am in the Food Court of the Outlet Mall on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. Usually about eight members participate. This is a good way to get to know some members of the club as we walk for 45 minutes to an hour, then sit and chat over a cup of coffee.

The next few dates are:

January 6th and 20th

Contact persons: Dave and Gwyn Campbell

davecampbell147@gmail.com

February 3rd and 17th

March 3rd and 17th

Contact person Karen Curtis

karenc5454@outlook.com

Bridge Group - Carol De Baets

A wrap up of our 2025 bridge schedule was our Annual Christmas Bridge Party. We had 20 players and our Wind Up was on Tuesday, December 16th at the Party Room of 65 Paget Street. It was great to meet our bridge members face to face at our Christmas Party.

We start our on-line bridge 2026 schedule on Tuesday, January 6th. Some of our members are going to Mexico and the Dominican but they participate while they are away in a warmer climate. Another season, and we are much better players and we keep our minds sharp.

AGM ELECTION RESULT



New slate of officers for 2026, from left to right:

Past President - Nina Logan

Treasurer - Jane Manson

President - Diane Kubas

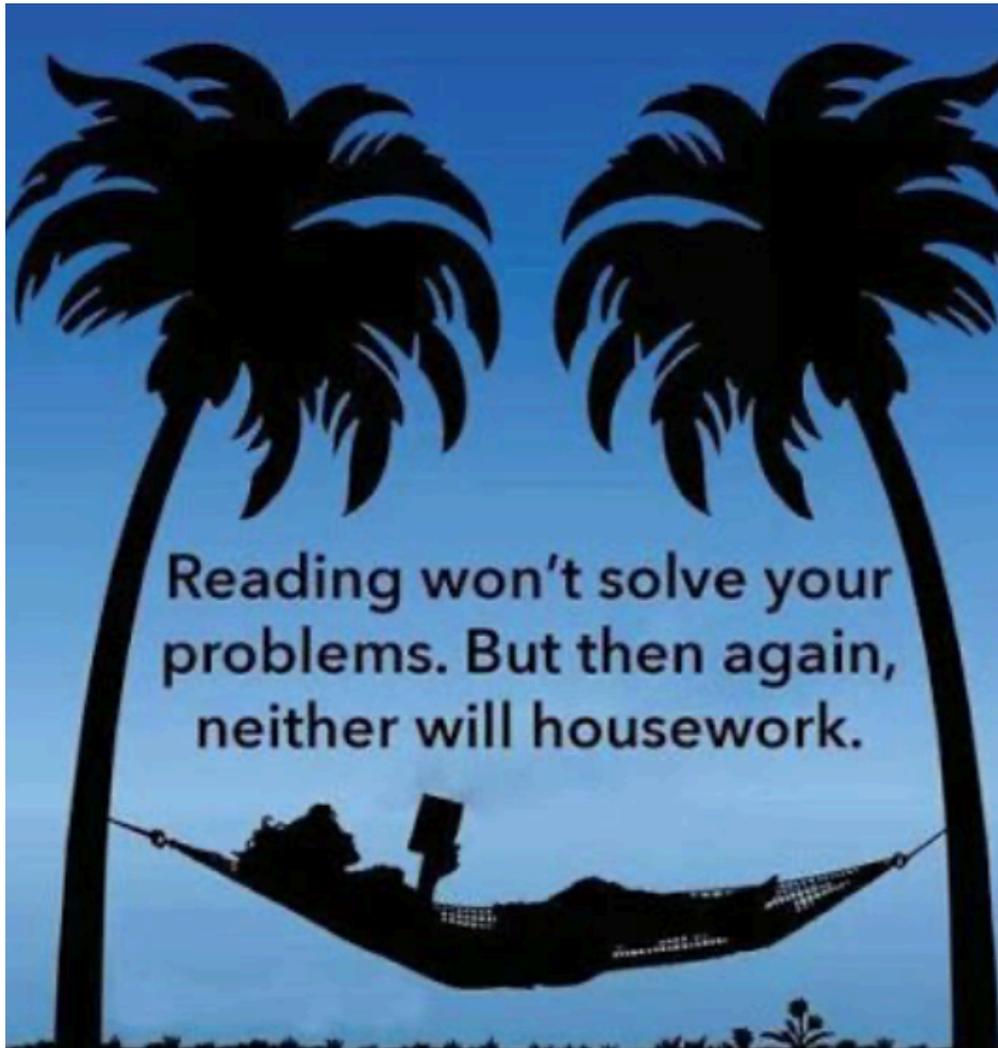
Secretary - Gwyn Campbell

The nominating committee is still looking for a Vice President - hopefully a volunteer will step forward.

Nina Logan expressed thanks to Debbie Spracklin for being our treasurer and to Norma Padilla for her decades of Historian duties.

Book Club Report - Nina Logan

The FFW Book club has been operating since Covid hit in 2020. Back then I got book bags from the Library, met the members in the parking lot at Grant Park Mall and handed out books from my trunk. Fast forward to 2025 and the Book Club continues on Zoom. We usually meet the last Thursday of the month to talk about the book and socialize in general. It is a lot of fun just to connect with others and a great way to read good books. If you do not finish or even get to start the book, that's OK. Come for the socialization. All are welcome!



Food for thought.....

EATING IN THE FIFTIES

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

A take-away was a mathematical problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All chips were plain.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognized food.

'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

The one thing that we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties ... was *elbows, hats and cell phones*.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances we are unable to continue producing The Friendly Echo and we are hoping ((know!) some other members will take this task over from us. We have really enjoyed putting the News Letter together over the past three years and shall miss doing same.

On another note we would like to wish all our readers and contributors a Very Merry Christmas and the very best of Health and Happiness in the coming New YearDiane & David Judge



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