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President's Report for Newsletter April 2026

Greetings from my house to yours. I hope all of you are well and navigating these turbulent times without too much disruption. As for our Friendship Force Club, we are continuing to do well financially and with membership. Despite losing a few members from last year, we are still attracting new members. Welcome Liselotte Schmidt and Patricia (Patsy) Cruickshank. This is a landmark year for us as we celebrate our 25th anniversary. A special committee has been formed to plan a celebratory event for September 9th. Jeremy Snook has sent us a nice congratulatory letter with a certificate.

Note also that next year, 2027, Friendship Force International will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The board is planning some special events, but will not make firm plans until they see how the events in the middle east unfold. However, the celebrations will take place in September or early October.

In order to sustain itself for the next 50 years FFI has been rebranding. Some changes are updating the Logo with new colours and updating the mission and vision statements. The revised mission statement is "Building Global Unity through Human Connection" and the revised vision statement is "We envision a more united and peaceful world built on friendship".

I am sure as members of the Winnipeg Club , we would like to see that our club is around for many more years to come. We all have to work together to bring in new members and to be willing to take on the various roles to enable the club to be sustained. For years we have been most successful in doing this. Let's keep this up.

In Friendship,
Diane Kubas



Birthdays Being Celebrated This Month

Linda Dart, Gladys Thomas, Heather Guznowsky, Val Keenan, Kristina Ryan

Pictures- If you take pictures at our events, please forward them to Karen Curtis to be possibly included in our newsletter.

Messages- If you know of any of our members who may be ill or needing a phone call, please let Maria Coutu know and she will follow up.

Never Forgotten

We will miss our dearly departed friends Tom Mc Dermott and Joan Ostermann

2026 Exchanges

Inbound:

Incoming trip Shizuoka, Japan Greater Omaha August 6-12/13 2026

Plans for the trip are moving forward with the help of the committee: Linda Dart, Susan Munro, Gynn and Dave Campbell, Lorraine Sourisseau, Gary and myself. We hope we have a varied itinerary with some new(to me anyway)features helped by the fact we are doing this in the summer as the ambassadors wanted to see some Folklorama.

We are trying to base the theme about original people and subsequent early settlers. Also to learn about the geography of our waterways which are in part why Winnipeg is in this particular location, and the impact of the Floodway.

We are expecting 6 from Japan and 10 from Omaha. At the same time FF Manitoba is hosting a group from various parts of Alberta and they will join us for the Folklorama VIP evening. (bus holds 53)

We are very grateful for those who have already volunteered for the day, dinner and home hosting and will be sending out a request for more!!

We anticipate having the sign up sheet for activities at the May meeting and look forward to an enthusiastic response!!

Fiona and Gary Crow

Outbound:

Greater Hamilton/ Burlington- May 26 - June 2, 2026

The 7 ambassadors have received their Home Host information as well as their planned activities schedule.

Mexico City and Mundo Maya of Tuxtia Gutierrez- October 29 - November 10

The journey will start with a week home stay in Mexico City with participation in the "Day of the Dead" celebrations. A local flight will take participants to Mundo Maya of Tuxtia Gutierrez for another week home stay. Approximately 13 people have expressed an interest. Applications will be forthcoming.

Paul Van Leeuwen and Nina Logan



Diane will share the 2027 Inbound and Outbound journeys assigned by FFI in the minutes of the FFW Board Meeting.



did you Know.....

This is my first **Newsletter** experience and I've had some technological experience beyond my expertise but you should see **improvements** as time passes.

Thank you to David and Diane Judge, as well as Karen and Nina.

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