

Friendship Force Manitoba meets monthly September through June. We usually meet the first Wednesday of each month; check our events listings for date and location.

Guests are always welcome. Call Peggy Smith at 204-224-1480 or Gail Keeley at 204-257-9837.

2019 Board Members

President: Gail Keeley 204-257-9837 gailke@hotmail.ca

Vice President: Peggy Smith phsmith448@gmail.com

Secretary: Jean Hyrich jhyrich@shaw.ca

Treasurer: Denise Lawson frdelaws@mts.net

Friendship Force Manitoba
friendshipforcemanitoba.org

Events Calendar

Membership Meetings and Dinners: First Wednesdays. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. Usual location: Viscount Gort Hotel, 1670 Portage Avenue. Admission: \$20 for members, \$22 for guests, at the door.

Remember to wear your membership badge!

For restaurant dinners, please **reserve or cancel** your reservation by the Thursday evening before the dinner. We have to pay for dinners that have been ordered. Thank you for your cooperation!

Autumn meetings

Wednesday, October 2 Viscount Gort Hotel, details above.

Guest speaker: Barbara Lange, editor of two railway anthologies, *Through the Window of a Train: A Canadian Railway Anthology* (2010) and *Memories of the Moonlight Special and Grand Beach Train Era* (2018). The author will have books for sale.

Wednesday, November 6 Viscount Gort Hotel. Annual general meeting and 2020 board elections

Wednesday, December 4 (Venue TBA) Christmas Mixer

2020 meetings (tentative schedule)

January "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" home-hosted lunches or dinners, date chosen by participants

Wednesday, February 5 Membership meeting, Review of bylaws

Wednesday, March 4 (Venue TBA) World Friendship Force Day Mixer

Wednesday, April 1 Viscount Gort Hotel

Wednesday, May 6 Viscount Gort Hotel

FF Basics & Beyond

Membership renewals

Memberships run from January to December.

Renewing member: \$55

New member: \$55

Associate member: \$30

— Denise Lawson, Treasurer
frdelaws@mts.net

Address changes

Have you changed your address, email address or phone number? Please tell our Vice President right away so she can update our membership list: Peggy Smith, phsmith448@gmail.com

Club website

Check our website anytime for upcoming events, past journeys, issues of this newsletter, and useful links: friendshipforcemanitoba.org

Club property

If you have any items belonging to the club (books, paper records, etc.), please tell our Secretary Jean Hyrich at jhyrich@shaw.ca

canffex.ca

Interested in joining up with another Canadian club to travel? Visit the **Canadian FF Clubs Journey Site** at canffex.ca for undersubscribed journeys from across Canada. You can sign up for monthly updates and immediate notices of new journeys. **Canffex also posts messages from regional representatives and has contact information for Canadian clubs.**

FFI travel updates

Go to friendshipforce.org and find "Sign up for email alerts." There are many options for travel destinations.

President's Message

Our two inbound journeys this summer were filled with interesting and fun activities that were enjoyed by all who participated. In June we reconnected with friends we had made in Central Montana, then made new friends with our ambassadors from Southern Sydney, Australia in August. I would like to thank all of our members who made these journeys such a success – those who participated on the planning committees, the home hosts, dinner hosts and day hosts and anyone who joined in the activities.

My husband Doug and I had the pleasure of attending the FFI International Conference at Boulder, Colorado, in July. Boulder is a beautiful city that is right in the mountains with lots of hiking trails. We stayed at one of the dormitories at the University of Colorado and our conference sessions were held at the University. There was a wide variety of sessions over the two days along the themes of technology, increased diversity, improving communications and adding new memberships through growing our clubs and adding new clubs. In addition, we had the opportunity to meet and interact with FFI staff. The information presented at the conference is now on the FFI website. Attending the conference was a good opportunity to understand what our organization can do for our clubs and how we can support them. We reconnected with FFI members we had met on previous journeys, had lots of fun and had a chance to listen to the board members and learn about FFI's future plans.

— Gail Keeley



Gail with her guests Pam and Ted McGrath
from FF Southern Sydney

2019 Committee chairs and members

Journey Coordinator: Susan Finlay sufinlay@shaw.ca, 204-339-7956

Past President: Lynda Walker lyndadawnwalker@gmail.com or 204-995-8344

Program Committee: Kazuko Nomura nomura@mts.net, Helen Norrie hnorrie1@mymts.net, Miriam Fenster mifenster@shaw.ca

Communications Assistant: available

Newsletter Editor: Bev Phillips 204-942-5453, phillipb@mymts.net

Website adviser: Thelma Sures, 204-799-4075 ffmb@mymts.net

Highlights of Recent Meetings



Denise Lawson presented a colourful slide show to accompany her talk on FFM's trip to Thailand, Cambodia and Laos in January and February. Denise and her committee worked hard to assemble a wide range of activities centred around a one-week home stay with FF Lamphun, Thailand. A few highlights were temple visits, an elephant sanctuary, a flower festival, and a cruise down the Mekong River. Several members shared their own memories, especially the generous hospitality of their hosts.



At our September meeting, FFM's Bev Phillips and guest Lila Goodspeed Everett informed us about the Winnipeg Art Gallery's new Inuit Art Centre. Bev and Lila are volunteers with the IAC speakers' bureau. The IAC is under construction and will open in 2020. It will be a major addition to Winnipeg's tourist attractions as the largest museum in the world devoted to contemporary Inuit art. The new building's unusual architecture is inspired by the vast landscapes of the Arctic, and the Centre has ambitious plans to greatly increase educational opportunities and strengthen connections between North and South. Find out more at inuit.wag.ca.

Friendship Force International Conference, July 23-27 "Make A Bolder Impression"

The world conference Gail and I attended was a great success with over 400 delegates including 22 Canadians. The University of Colorado campus was gorgeous and the city of Boulder itself was amazing up against the backdrop of the Flat Iron Range.

The sessions were very relevant and reflected the new direction the board at FFI want to take our organization. Here are some we attended:

- What can FFI staff and field reps do for my club?
- The membership toolkit
- Q and A with the FFI Board of Directors

All in all, a very useful conference!

Next up, Taiwan in 2021!

— Doug Jackson



All 22 Canadians attending the FF International conference in Boulder

Visit from FF Central Montana, June 8-14

On June 8, we welcomed visitors from Great Falls, Montana, many of whom had hosted us in September 2017. We had a very busy, successful week with highlights being the wonderful welcome evening at the home of Gerry and Vivian Babij near La Salle, canoe trips on the Seine River, the fascinating Hermetic Tour of the Legislative Building and the instructive and enjoyable hours spent at the Oak Bluff Hutterite Colony near Morris. The week ended with a festive evening in the lovely garden of Susan Findlay, where we enjoyed the entertainment of FFM member Doug Jackson's talented band.

—Helen Norrie and Ruth Clare, Journey Directors



Susan Findlay's garden



A bird's-eye view of the Provencher Bridge from the top of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights



Canoeing in La Barriere Park with guests from Great Falls



Entertainment at the Farewell Dinner



Choir at the Oak Bluff Hutterite Colony

Visit from FF Southern Sydney, August 8-14

We are pleased to report that we had a successful journey with FF Southern Sydney. The feedback from the ambassadors was very positive, with lots of comments on how well organized the week was and how friendly the hosts and club members were. The group consisted of 10 Australians and four Americans. Val and Joe Keenan from Friendship Force Winnipeg joined us as home hosts.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this exchange by home hosting, dinner hosting, day hosting, photographing and/or working on the planning committee, and coming out to plan events. Special thanks go to Miriam Fenster and Susan Finlay for providing the venues for the welcome and farewell parties.

— Lynda Walker and Elizabeth Schirmer, Journey Directors



Thanks from Down Under

Most of us are now home and have settled back into our normal routines but the memories of the journey to Manitoba remain strong. I want to thank you for making our journey such a fantastic, international experience.

We thoroughly enjoyed meeting all your members and your hosts were extremely good at making us feel welcomed. We also loved your program with so many highlights that are too numerous to mention. We thank you for the time and effort you and your members put into this journey. We hope that at some stage you may be able to visit us in Southern Sydney and we will aim to return your wonderful hospitality. We all made some good friends with our hosts and fellow ambassadors alike and I hope we can continue the contact.

I wish you and all your members happy and safe travels and look forward to meeting you somewhere in the future (Sydney is not that far away and you are always welcome).

Regards and in friendship,
Teresa Whitters
President FF Southern Sydney



A visitor gets in the Viking spirit at Gimli's New Iceland Heritage Museum



Pausing for ice cream at Winnipeg Beach

Editorial

I am happy to announce that one of our newer members, Thelma Sures, has taken over most of our website management. I know she will do a great job!

In September I was pleased to introduce our FFM members to the Winnipeg Art Gallery's new Inuit Art Centre. When it opens in 2020, it will definitely be on many people's must-visit list. Despite some technical problems, my co-presenter Lila Goodspeed Everett and I shared the dramatic architect's drawings of the new building and the impressive programs it will present.

As our longer-term members know, I have been producing the *Keystone Klippings* since 2012. I need to move on, and the newsletter and club will certainly benefit from new ideas. Fortunately, the recent member survey revealed a few members interested in stepping in. I am available to help a new editor, or editors, transition into this position, and also quite willing to step back and let them make the *Keystone Klippings* their own! Please contact me, Gail or Peggy if you want to know more.

– Bev Phillips, Editor (phillipb@mts.net, 204-942-5453)

This issue's photos were provided by Susan Finlay, Don Greig, Doug Jackson, Gail Keeley, Andrea Mahalek and Helen Norrie – thank you all!

If you're looking for sensible ideas for packing light on your next trip, take a look at this article on the Everything Zoomer website: "Planning a Trip? 9 Expert Tips for Packing Extra Light" by Diane Sewell, published September 3, 2019. Travel expert Diane Redford of British Columbia gives useful tips on what and how to pack so you can lighten your load.

You can find the article by searching at everythingzoomer.com. Thanks to Susan Finlay for recommending it.



friendship force

INTERNATIONAL

Experience different views. Discover common ground.

Journey Coordinator Report

2020 Inbound Journeys

July, Date TBA FF Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley
Mid-Willamette Valley Director Rita Powell

deerpathrita@gmail.com

Journey Director(s) needed

September 10-17 Taupo and Marlborough, New Zealand to
Manitoba and Niagara, Canada

Taupo Director: Aline Fletcher alineandross@kinect.co.nz

Marlborough Director: Rosemary Kirk

captain62@slingshot.co.nz

Journey Director: Sina Romsa

— Susan Finlay, Journey Coordinator, sufinlay@shaw.ca

2020 Outbound Journey

October, Date TBA Koriyama and Ehime, Japan

Koriyama Director: Ms. Eiko Noguchi

enoguchisan@yahoo.co.jp

Ehime Host Director: Mr. Takayasu Zaima (AKA Cory)

stnyevw6377@mc.pikara.ne.jp

We have been matched with clubs in Matsuyama (the capital of Ehime on Shikoku island) and Koriyama (on Honshu) for October 2020. Dates are not finalized, nor do we know which club we will visit first.

This is shaping up to be an oversubscribed journey, as preliminary sign-up indicated that more people are interested in going than the two clubs are able to host. The number of ambassadors hosted may be as low as 15. Our Board is finalizing an "Intent to Travel" form which will need to accompany your application. This form outlines the process the Executive will use to select ambassadors when a journey is oversubscribed.



A mail list will be generated from the "Intent to Travel" forms to provide applicants with ongoing information as it is received from the coordinators. This information will deal with the dates, the physical or mobility requirements of the journey, the proposed agenda and the possibility of a third week, which could be a commercial tour, home hosted or small group/individual plans. This information will allow people to make a final decision on whether they still wish to travel. Final applications will be due by the December meeting, following which the Executive will select ambassadors and develop a wait list.

Here are the website links for the two clubs:

<https://ffkoriyama.jimdo.com/english-page/>

<http://ffehime.jp/english/english.html>

If you have questions, please contact me directly at frdelaws@mts.net or call me at 204-782-5686.

—Denise Lawson, Journey Director