

Friendship Force of Manitoba Newsletter Spring 2021



Walking in Waterford Green, April 19 and 21

Contributed by Jacky Molyneux

In celebration of World Food Travel Day on April 18, Friendship Force Manitoba members met up in Waterford Green, a new neighbourhood in northwest Winnipeg. In keeping with pandemic safety protocols, two groups of nine each, on different days, walked socially distanced wearing masks. Everyone commented on how great it was just to see each other again. The simplicity of walking together was very rewarding.

Jacky Molyneux started the walk by sharing delicious samosas, a specialty of India. She then provided commentary on the history of the area and arranged for the group to go around the world through food in an hour! At the end of the walk, the proprietors of the Icing Castle talked to the groups outside and provided them with Black Forest Bingsu. A Bingsu is a Korean shaved ice milk delicacy that melts in your mouth. One member of the group commented that “fun, food, information and friendship” best summed up the activity.

The Program Committee hopes to arrange further small group opportunities to see each other again soon. Thanks to the committee members who organized this fun event!



Events

Membership Meeting – Wednesday, May 5

It's gardening season! Our Journey Coordinator Susan Finlay will do a presentation with a focus on flower gardens. Susan is currently preparing her garden to participate in the Nature Manitoba Garden Tour. Her garden will be one of 12 gardens featured this year in the Distinguished Garden Tour on July 10. For more info go to: <https://naturemanitoba.ca/news-articles/garden-tour-2021-tickets-available> After the presentation, there will be a question-and-answer and a draw for a door prize.

Did you know there's a door prize draw at every Membership Meeting? Vi Hultin was the lucky winner in April. Our Zoom meetings are a chance to see familiar faces, chat and catch up with the latest news. If you haven't used Zoom, call Peggy Smith or Denise Lawson for help joining in.

Park, Plant, Picnic



Wednesday, May 19 at 1:00 p.m.

We'll meet at the Assiniboine Park English Garden gate and enjoy a nice unguided walkabout, followed by lunch. (Bring your own home-made or take-out.) If you can, bring a plant or slip to exchange during lunchtime.

To register, email Joan Boyd at joanboyd2@shaw.ca. A rain date will be provided to all who sign up.

Membership Meeting – Wednesday, June 2

We will celebrate our club's past and future connections to Japan. Please feel free to prepare Japanese food or order take-out, use your Japanese chopsticks or wear cultural dress from Japan. We will have a mystery guest from Japan join us for a presentation on some current cultural issues in Japan.

In 2012, the Nara, Japan club welcomed FFM members for an event-filled week.



Our next Membership Meeting will be September 1.

Garden Tour – Wednesday, July 14

Susan Finlay, Esther McKenty and Carol De Baets have all generously agreed to show us their gardens. To deal with Covid-19 restrictions, we will have a registration process to divide members into groups of 10, rotating to each home. If you are interested, please email Diane Schipper (dschipper1@shaw.ca) to confirm your attendance by July 7.

The tours will begin at 10:00 a.m. with approximately one hour at each home. More details will be provided at a later date. We are also planning a picnic at a park, either Kildonan or St. Vital. We will keep you posted as the plans unfold.

Travel

In 2020 the pandemic forced Friendship Force Manitoba – and clubs around the world – to cease incoming and outbound journeys. However, the arrival of effective Covid-19 vaccines is providing light at the end of our travel tunnel. FF Manitoba will not be travelling abroad or receiving international ambassadors in 2021, but we are investigating the possibility of a domestic journey in the fall of this year. That request was submitted to FFI. FFI has contacted other clubs on our behalf so stay tuned for their responses. We are also moving forward with plans for 2022.

Thanks to Denise Lawson, our 2020 outgoing journey director for visiting Japan, for agreeing to pick up where she left off. She has reconnected with her contacts there. Because of her entreaties, the journey originally booked for October 2020 is now planned for March/April 2022 – cherry blossom season! Her report provides more exciting details.

Our 2020 incoming journeys from Ketchikan, Alaska and Koriyama, Japan have also been rescheduled for 2022. The Koriyama club would like to visit us in August or September. Koriyama is one of the clubs we are to visit in 2022 so it will be a great opportunity to reciprocate the Japanese club's hospitality.

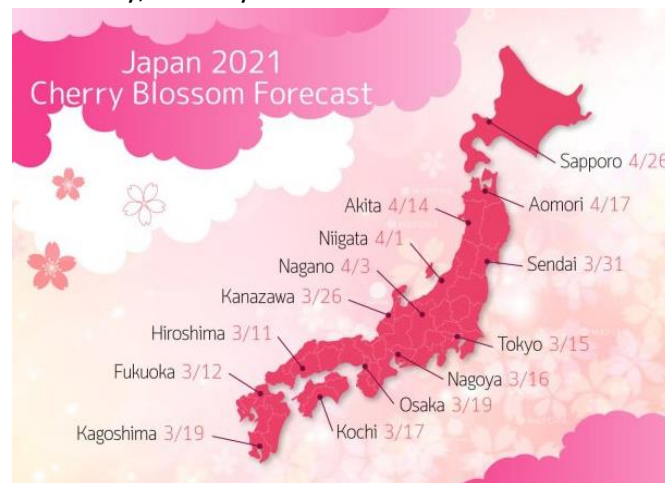
The Ketchikan club is planning to visit us in September or October. According to their spokesperson, Cathy Cooley, the entire community of Ketchikan is involved in the tourist industry during cruise ship season from April to September. Ketchikan is a new club so we would really like to give their ambassadors a friendly Manitoba welcome on their first outbound journey.

Journey directors and journey committee members are still needed for both of these incoming groups.

Additions to local attractions, such as the opening of Qaumajuq and the \$20 million refurbishment of the Manitoba Museum, have been completed during the pandemic. Think about being part of showing them off to our international visitors. Let me know what part you'd like to play in their stay!

FFI has archived Virtual Experiences hosted by clubs from around the world. Check out <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/> for FF experiences from your easy chair.

Susan Finlay, Journey Coordinator



JAPAN 2020 2022

Planes and Boats and Trains (Ferry Boats and Bullet Trains, That Is)

Our long-awaited journey to Japan has been rescheduled by FFI for 2022. Conversations with our Matsuyama and Koriyama host coordinators prompted our decision to "follow the cherry blossoms." They start blooming in the south in late March and move north, and so will we. The Hiroshima club will day host us on our arrival in Japan and we are tentatively booked into the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima. We will travel to Matsuyama March 30 and be home hosted for a week. On April 6, we travel to Koriyama for a week. Discussions are underway and it is our hope to recreate our original four-week journey which included stopovers in Greater Sendai, Tokyo and Mt. Fuji. We currently have 18 people from our original ambassador list, and 5 people on the wait list. The selection committee will not make any decisions until the full journey has been confirmed.

Denise Lawson, Journey Director

FFM: Brought to you by...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My first term as President certainly has been much different than anticipated – having all our monthly meetings and board meetings via Zoom was a learning curve for sure. I would like to thank Denise for taking care of purchasing our Zoom account, teaching us “Zoom etiquette” and hosting our meetings. Thank you to all our members who have participated in our Zoom meetings and we hope more of you will take part in the coming months. Please remember we are available to help those who are not familiar with it. Contact Denise or me.

Thank you to:

- Bev Phillips for producing our newsletter for many years and I know she will continue to work with the new Communications committee.
- The board members Denise, Sina, Thelma, Gail, Susan and Lynne. We continue to meet monthly.
- The members who have volunteered to chair committees and the members of the committees.
- Friendship Force Winnipeg for their very appropriate gift to each of us prior to World Friendship Day.
- Diane for volunteering to take on the duties of Secretary for the next few months.
- FFM members for staying with us during these trying times. Together, as we battle this pandemic, we are a **FORCE** to be reckoned with.

Friendship Force International is continuing to keep us all informed by hosting virtual experiences and webinars. Please go their website my.friendshipforce.org to take part in these activities.

Again, I encourage those who have not already done so to register for your On-line Member ID. Please

contact me at 204-224-1480 or phsmith448@gmail.com if you need help. I would be happy to walk you through it. We presently have 23 members signed up – 30 more to go!

We have much to look forward to:

- Our journey to Japan in 2022
- Incoming journeys in 2022 from Ketchikan, Alaska and Koriyama, Japan
- Continuing our friendships

Continue to stay safe and we look forward to travelling and hosting in the near future.

Peggy Smith

Board Members

President: Peggy Smith phsmith448@gmail.com

Vice President: Denise Lawson frdelaws@mts.net

Secretary: Diane Schipper dschipper@shaw.ca
filling in for Sina Romsa

Treasurer: Thelma Sures thelma@escape.ca

Committee Chairs and Members

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

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

Program Committee: Lynne Foley
lynne_foley007@hotmail.com, Diane Schipper, Miriam Fenster, Helen Norrie, Joan Boyd, Kathy Hansell, Jacky Molyneux

Communications Committee: Gail Keeley, Bev Phillips, Lynne Foley, Marilyn Ouimet, Lynda Walker (Facebook) lyndadawnwalker@gmail.com, Lynne Roberts, Shirley Twerdun, Douglas Jackson

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

Website: Marilyn Ouimet mouimet1@me.com

Journey Directors: Denise Lawson, Japan 2021
frdelaws@mts.net

Our members

IN MEMORIAM

Stan Croall passed away on September 19, 2020. Stan was an active and involved member of our club for about 10 years. He served on the board as Vice President, President, Past President and Journey Coordinator as well as on a number of inbound journey committees. Stan produced some of the club's program booklets for inbound journeys and was instrumental in purchasing the club's audiovisual equipment for use at meetings at the Masonic Memorial Centre. Stan and his wife Fay travelled on many journeys including ones to San Francisco, Portland and Long Island. They also home hosted ambassadors from Florida, Brazil and Australia. Those of us who knew Stan will miss his presence at our club events.

Contributed by Gail Keeley with thanks to Shirley Twerdun and Fay Croall

From our Summer 2014 issue – Stan, a professional engineer, explained the flood control mechanisms on our domestic exchange.



Stan Croall (right, front in hat) and ambassadors at the Red River Floodway

Margret Weber passed away on October 30, 2020 at the Maples Personal Care Home. Margret was a member of the Friendship Force of Manitoba from about 2003 to 2013, so long-term members will remember her. Margret was a neighbour and longtime friend and always came to the meetings with my sister June Adair. Margret travelled with FFM on our journey to Australia and New Zealand in 2004 and thoroughly enjoyed that experience.

Contributed by Barbara Main

Looking for more travel reading?

JourneyWoman, published since 1994, offers a wide variety of travel-related advice. While it addresses primarily women, its articles are useful to all. The current issue (now published online) includes articles on slow travel, ethical tourism, travelling with physical limitations and travel safety. Published in Canada, it has an international scope. It also offers virtual events. Lynne Foley says, "I think it's great and has a lot of excellent information." See journeywoman.com to find out more.

Meeting Ideas Direct from our Members

At our April 7 membership meeting, we participated in small group discussions, and members of the Program Committee diligently noted dozens of wide-ranging ideas for future meetings both on Zoom and when we can meet in person again. Here are just a few.

Membership Meetings

Invite members from other clubs in the same time zone, incoming clubs and host clubs; staycation suggestions; souvenir show and tell

Interests members can share

Trips they've taken, presentations by artists and craftspeople, bird watching

Activities between membership meetings

Neighbourhood walks, museum tours, online coffee chats, biking tours, day or overnight trips within Manitoba, restaurant outings

The Program Committee has already put some ideas into action. Well done!

The Back Page

FF Basics

Membership renewals

Memberships run from January to December.

Renewing member: \$55

New member: \$55

Associate member: \$30

Contact Vice President Denise Lawson for inquiries about membership.

Address changes / Have you changed your address, email address or phone number? Please tell our VP Denise Lawson right away so she can update our membership list.

Club website / friendshipforcemanitoba.org

Club property / If you have any items belonging to the club (books, paper records, etc.), please tell our acting Secretary, Diane Schipper.

canffex.ca / Usually, canffex.ca is the place to check for undersubscribed journeys from across Canada. There are no journeys now, but Canffex also posts messages from regional representatives and has contact information for all Canadian clubs.

FF International / Go to friendshipforce.org for up-to-date information.

From the Editor

Thanks so much to the new Communications Committee, especially Gail Keeley and Lynne Foley, for all their help with this issue, including collecting contributions. Of course, thanks to everyone who wrote articles and sent photos.

Would you like to contribute to the newsletter? Contact Gail at gailke@hotmail.ca. Our next issue will probably be in late August.

It might be time to update our newsletter name to something more modern. (And without the distressingly misspelled “Klippings.”) Ideas? Share your suggested titles with Gail. We look forward to hearing from you!

Bev Phillips

Smile!

I got over my addiction to chocolate, marshmallows and nuts. I won't lie, it was a rocky road.

My friends and I have named our band “Duvet.” It's a cover band.

I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.

Contributed by Doug Jackson



friendship force

INTERNATIONAL

Experience different views. Discover common ground.