

## Friendship Force of Manitoba Newsletter May 2015

**Friendship Force Manitoba** meets monthly September through June. We usually meet the first Wednesday of each month at the Masonic Memorial Temple at Confusion Corner; check our events listings for date and location.

Guests are always welcome. Call Lynda Walker at 204-832-0191 or Judy Single at 204-294-6428.

**Friendship Force Manitoba**

[friendshipforcemanitoba.org](http://friendshipforcemanitoba.org)

### 2015 Board Members

**President:** Judy Single  
[jud64@mymts.net](mailto:jud64@mymts.net) or 204-294-6428

**Vice President:** Lynda Walker  
[lyndadawnwalker@yahoo.ca](mailto:lyndadawnwalker@yahoo.ca)

**Secretary:** Gail Keeley  
[gailke@hotmail.ca](mailto:gailke@hotmail.ca)

**Treasurer:** Esther McKenty  
[emckenty@shaw.ca](mailto:emckenty@shaw.ca)

Contributions to the June newsletter are due by May 25. Send contributions to Bev Phillips, [proofreaders@mts.net](mailto:proofreaders@mts.net) or 306-15 Kennedy Street, Winnipeg R3C 3X5.



## Wednesday, May 6 Richmond & Raleigh

Our returning Ambassadors will tell us about their recent exchange to Richmond, Virginia and Raleigh, North Carolina. Liz Martin will update us on the incoming Long Island exchange this summer.

**Masonic Memorial Temple**  
420 Corydon at Confusion  
Corner

**Doors open at 6:00 p.m.**

**Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

**Pay at the door: \$20**



**\*\* Remember to wear your membership badge \*\***

**Reminder!** If you promise to come to dinner and don't come, you will be charged the \$20. You can cancel up to two days ahead (by Monday). Our club must pay when members and guests do not show up for dinner. Thank you very much for your cooperation!

Our events are organized by the **Program Committee** and they always welcome new members!

Contact (outgoing) Program Chair Jan Kollesavich (204-338-4913 or [jankollesavich@gmail.com](mailto:jankollesavich@gmail.com)) to find out how you can participate. It's a great way to get involved with the club and get to know more of your fellow members.

### Upcoming meetings

June 3 September 9 October 7 November 4 December 2

## FF Who, What, Where

### Membership renewals

Memberships run from January to December.

#### Renewing members:

\$35 single and \$65 couple

#### New members:

\$45 single and \$85 couple

(extra fee to pay for name tags)

— *Esther McKenty, Treasurer*

### Address changes

Have you changed your address, email address or phone number? If so, please contact our Secretary, Gail Keeley, right away so she can update our membership list: [gailke@hotmail.ca](mailto:gailke@hotmail.ca) or 204-257-9837

### Club website

Check our website anytime for upcoming events, past exchanges, issues of this newsletter, and useful links: [friendshipforcemanitoba.org](http://friendshipforcemanitoba.org)

### Club property

If you have any items belonging to the club (books, paper records, etc.), please let our Secretary Gail Keeley know: [gailke@hotmail.ca](mailto:gailke@hotmail.ca) or 204-257-9837.

### canffex.ca

Are you interested in joining up with another Canadian club to travel? Visit the **Canadian Friendship Force Clubs Exchange Site** at [canffex.ca](http://canffex.ca) for undersubscribed exchanges from across Canada. You can sign up for monthly updates and immediate notices of new exchanges. The site also includes field representatives' reports and other news.

## What are you doing this August?

Our first 2015 outgoing exchange Ambassadors have returned and we are now looking forward to our incoming exchange from Long Island, New York.

I was not able to be a part of the exchange to Raleigh and Richmond and I realized that my FF experiences this year were going to be in the form of a Staycation (a vacation spent at home or nearby).

We have an opportunity here to get to know FF members from other countries, get to know our own fellow members in an atmosphere other than our monthly dinners, see parts of our city and province that we may not have experienced before and also meet new people in Winnipeg and surrounding areas.

There are different ways we can participate in this experience – home hosting, dinner hosting, day hosting or signing up for some or all the events planned for the exchange.

Plan your Staycation now. August 12 to 18 is when FF Long Island will be visiting us. Liz Martin and her planning committee are putting together an exciting itinerary for this exchange. The sign-up sheet for home, day and dinner hosting has been circulating and is just waiting for you to add your name. (Contact Kathy Lesyk to be added.) The info on the program will be out shortly with details and costs. And if you have any questions about what's involved in participating in any way, just ask any longtime member.

What a great way to spend a week this summer, very cost efficient for everything you will be learning, sharing and experiencing, a holiday where you stay in your own home. I have found that incoming exchanges are a great way for newer members especially to experience what FF is really all about. Mark your calendar for that week of Staycation and be prepared to enjoy yourself, in whichever capacity you get involved with on this upcoming exchange.

— *Judy Single, President*

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## In Memoriam

It is with sadness that I report the loss of one of our newer members, Iris Reece Tougas. Iris joined our club just recently and had accepted the position of Communications Chairperson. Iris passed over on April 13 at the young age of 64 after a short illness.

— *Judy Single, President*

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## 2015 Committee chairs

**Exchange Coordinator:** Elizabeth Schirmer 204-475-1220, [schirmer@mymts.net](mailto:schirmer@mymts.net)

**Past President:** Dallas Bagby 204-661-6199

**Program Chair:** Jan Kollesavich 204-338-4913 or [jankollesavich@gmail.com](mailto:jankollesavich@gmail.com) (until June 2015)

**Communications:** TBA

**Newsletter Editor:** Bev Phillips 204-942-5453 (phone/fax) or [proofreaders@mts.net](mailto:proofreaders@mts.net)

**Webmaster:** Judy Single 204-294-6428 or [ffmb@mymts.net](mailto:ffmb@mymts.net)

**Exchange Directors:** Jan Kollesavich, Richmond/Raleigh, 204-338-4913 or [jankollesavich@gmail.com](mailto:jankollesavich@gmail.com)

Liz Martin, Long Island inbound exchange, [elizm@mymts.net](mailto:elizm@mymts.net)

Kathy Lesyk, Toulouse, France outbound exchange 2016, [kglesyk@shaw.ca](mailto:kglesyk@shaw.ca)

## Welcome, Spring!

Although small in member attendance, our April meeting was happy and uplifting as we welcomed Spring and prepared for Easter with three guests sharing the evening. We welcomed longtime friend and former member Eleanor Hocking who was a guest of Helen Whetter. Louise Schoenherr introduced her newfound friends Shenna Song and Eason Zhang. We appreciated

their infectious smiles, friendliness, and participation by Eason, who took part in our skit and Shenna, who drew the number for the door prize.

As we paid for our supper



*Louise Schoenherr and guests Shenna Song (left) and Eason Zhang (right)*

Clare handed out coloured Easter eggs containing chocolate eggs. Six different coloured bunnies adorned the tables. If your egg was blue you found the table with the blue bunny. Our mixer gave us the opportunity to get to know each other a little better. Helen Whetter and her helpers dressed us up with interesting creations made from newspaper. We were encouraged to dress in our Spring and Easter fashions. Esther and Joan sported lovely Easter bonnets and Rosie looked stunning in red. Even some men dressed spiffy for the occasion. Our roast beef dinner with spring salad, baby potatoes and carrots was enjoyed by all.



There were plenty of laughs from cast and audience as we presented our unrehearsed version of Little Red Riding Hood and the Big

Bad Wolf. The bunnies were awarded at each table to the person who had a birthday closest to Easter Sunday. The door prize of a spring flower bouquet was won by Doreen Weight. A business meeting followed the festivities. The members wished bon voyage to ambassadors who were about to leave on an exchange to Virginia and North Carolina on the 11th. What a happy celebration we had to welcome Spring and Easter.

— Jan Kollesavich, Program chair



*Elizabeth in the market in Antigua*

## Friendship Force Trip to Guatemala

I joined a global (14 Americans, 2 Canadians) excursion to Guatemala in February. We stayed in hotels as there is no club in this country. To provide some local content the Exchange Director made contact with a couple who helped her scout out non-profit organizations that receive limited funding.

We each filled our suitcase to the maximum weight allowance and took books, school supplies, toothbrushes and toothpaste, used sneakers, magnifier reading glasses, etc. We also made a financial donation to benefit the charities we visited. It was a most rewarding experience to see what a positive difference we made at a nursing home, school for the deaf, special needs school, animal rescue shelter, weaving co-op, community library and a birthing centre. Visiting these institutions was a great way to learn about daily life in a country still trying to recover from a long-lasting civil war.

We experienced some of the excitement of the street processions held during the season of Lent. Carpets made of brightly dyed sawdust

decorated the streets and scenes of Christ's crucifixion were carried by pilgrims. The city of Antigua has more such celebrations than any other city in the world.

— Elizabeth Schirmer



*A procession in Antigua, Guatemala*

## Exchange Coordinator Report

We had been expecting an inbound exchange from Campinas, Brazil this summer. Unfortunately, I received the following message on April 23:

*Dear Elizabeth, FF Manitoba:*

*We have received your message confirming the cancellation of the exchange and regret not having enough ambassadors to the exchange in Manitoba. We will continue with the intention of eventually make the exchange in the future because we want to know the beauty of Canada and hospitality of its people.*

*In friendship, Wunibald Dick, President of FF Campinas, Brazil*

In 2016 we plan to go to Toulouse, France. Thanks to Kathy Lesyk for volunteering to be ED.

As mentioned last issue, I am negotiating with FF Osaka for their visit in 2016. FF Southern Oregon has yet to decide when it is convenient for them to visit. Would you like to be an ED or serve on the planning committees? Let me know!

— Elizabeth Schirmer, Exchange Coordinator (EC),  
schirmer@mymts.net

## Exchange Update

### Long Island, August 12-18

The Long Island exchange committee is planning a great visit for 22 ambassadors. Can you help by being a host? Call Kathy Lesyk to learn more about home hosts, day hosts and dinner hosts. Long Island showed us a wonderful time and we want to plan an interesting week for them.

— Liz Martin (elizm@mymts.net) and Kathy Lesyk (kglesyk@shaw.ca)

## Going to the World Conference in Vancouver?

We have been asked to help out with this Conference in various ways. If you are interested, please contact the organizers, Dan and Lissa Macmaster at [dan.macmaster@gmail.com](mailto:dan.macmaster@gmail.com).

The Macmasters have added an April update to the conference regarding the increase in registration spaces and other optional activities at [www.canffex.ca](http://www.canffex.ca).

— Judy Single, President

### FFI World Conference

**Vancouver, August 28-31, 2015**

**Registration is full but there is a waiting list.**

You can access the conference website from

**[thefriendshipforce.org](http://thefriendshipforce.org)**

Location: Renaissance Vancouver Harbourside Hotel  
1133 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6E 3T3

### 2016 World Conference

Marrakesh, Morocco, October 2016

## 2015 Exchanges

### Incoming:

Long Island, NY – August 12-18

ED: Liz Martin, [elizm@mymts.net](mailto:elizm@mymts.net)

### Proposed 2016 Exchanges (dates tba)

- Inbound from Osaka, Japan and Southern Oregon
- Outbound to Toulouse, France, ED Kathy Lesyk

— Elizabeth Schirmer, Exchange Coordinator (EC),  
[schirmer@mymts.net](mailto:schirmer@mymts.net)

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SEE THE WORLD**  
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