

## Friendship Force of Manitoba Newsletter February 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)

**Honorary Patron Philip S. Lee**  
**Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba**

### **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 March newsletter are due by February 22. Send contributions to Bev Phillips, [proofreaders@mts.net](mailto:proofreaders@mts.net) or 306-15 Kennedy Street, Winnipeg R3C 3X5.



## *Valentine's Day & Brazilian Mardi Gras*

**Wednesday, February 4**

**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!**



**It's February and love is in the air!**  
**Our program will celebrate Valentine's Day and the extravagant celebration of Mardi Gras in Brazil.**

**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).  
Thank you very much for your cooperation!

### **Next meeting:**

**Sunday, March 1 – World Friendship Day  
Cohosted with FF Winnipeg**

St. Andrew's Anglican Church Hall, 2700 Portage Ave. (at Woodhaven)  
Doors open at 5:00 for mixing and mingling / Potluck Dinner at 6:00  
A sign up sheet will circulate at the February meeting for members to indicate what dish they will contribute.  
Guests are welcome!

### **Upcoming meetings**

**April 1   May 6   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 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** 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** from recent conferences.

**LOVE**

In front of me is a plaque that my granddaughter gave to me a few years ago. It is nothing more than the word LOVE but it conveys so much.

The month of February is often called “the Love Month” – the month of romance, of hearts and flowers and Valentine’s Day. We will see a bit of that at our February dinner meeting – love will be in the air.

Every time I'm involved in an exchange, I feel the love and the friendship that Ambassadors share with each other as new found friends. On my first outgoing exchange to Fort Worth, I arrived three days late as I had a memorial service for my best friend to attend, so did not travel with the other Ambassadors. I was greeted at the airport by my home host with a huge bear hug. I had been feeling sad but the love that I was greeted with immediately cheered me up. This summer I home hosted a beautiful lady from Japan. Taeko and I bonded immediately and our friendship will be forever.

I'm sure that many of you know what I'm talking about and feel the same way about many of the Ambassadors from all over the world that you've met over the years.

So let's celebrate LOVE at our February meeting.

— *Judy Single, President*



## 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 (until June 2015)

**Communications:** TBA

**Newsletter Editor:** Bev Phillips 204-942-5453 (phone/fax) or 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

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

## Hats and Sunglasses Wanted

Patricia Thompson is collecting brimmed hats and sunglasses to send to Tanzania. People with albinism in Tanzania face social intolerance, serious health problems and poverty, and your small gifts can greatly improve their quality of life. You can bring any brimmed hat (baseball caps, children's hats, winter or summer hats) or sunglasses to our February or March meetings, or contact Patricia at [highpockets41@gmail.com](mailto:highpockets41@gmail.com) or 204-488-2254.



## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

*On January 14, five groups gathered in homes for a potluck dinner and conversation. A guest and a host share their experiences, accompanied by photos of many happy faces. Thanks to Program chair Jan Kollesavich for arranging the dinners!*

Sharing food around a dinner table has long been recognized as a form of communion and communication with people of all nations. Here in Winnipeg, that experience was a delightful meal at the home of Judith Deatrich, where four members of Friendship Force Manitoba had the opportunity to share in our common interests of international travel and hospitality.

This was my first experience at Guess Who's Coming to Dinner and I was happy to be a guest for a wonderful meal and discussion. The foursome was a mix of seasoned Friendship Forces members (Shirley Twerdun and Doreen Weight), a two-year member (Judith) and myself, and I think we found more similarities than differences in our travel backgrounds, careers and future interests. The evening's discussion ranged from stories of round-the-world travels at younger ages to some of our current concerns about travel health insurance. Tabitha, the eight-year-old feline hostess, seemed quite willing to share her cuddles and purrs with us.

Thanks, Judith, for a wonderful four-course meal, particularly that family recipe of pumpkin cake, and for opening your home to fellow Winnipeggers, and thanks to Shirley for providing the taxi service for Doreen and me.

— Iris Reece Tougas



Hosting a dinner for Guess Who's Coming to Dinner was fun! Receiving the guest list was a welcome surprise and it was nice to contact the guests and look forward to the dinner and evening together. It was unfortunate that one couple was not able to come due to ill health and fortunate that another was able to come to complete the group of eight.

As we live outside the perimeter I suggested we start our evening at 4:00 so folks could travel in the daylight. Everyone arrived with generous contributions to our meal which we all thoroughly enjoyed, with requests for swapping recipes! To complement the flavours of our four courses, travel plans and experiences were exchanged and shared.

Our dinner visiting and our after-dinner card games of Seven Up and Chase the Ace gave folks who had not known each other an opportunity to have fun and to get to know each other, which is just what we were to do! That's Friendship Force!

—Helen Whetter





## Exchange Updates

### Long Island, August 12-18

The Long Island exchange committee has met to begin plans for outings, etc. We've received eager communications from Richard Erckert, the Long Island ED: "I've cautioned our Ambassadors not to make plane reservations until you confirm the number you can accommodate, but your 'somewhat confident' assessment is very encouraging. The number is still 22, but we now have seven couples and eight single women."

Can you help by being a home host? If you want to know what's required, call Kathy Lesyk. Kathy is in charge of assigning home hosts, day hosts and dinner hosts. We hope all those who enjoyed the trip to Long Island will be able to reciprocate by hosting in some way. 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)

### Richmond and Raleigh, April 11-25



*North Carolina State Capitol Building*

There are 20 ambassadors going to Richmond on April 11 and to Raleigh on April 18. Travel plans have been finalized.

**Reminder to Ambassadors:** FFI fees must be paid by February 4. Stan will be collecting host

exchange fees in US dollars at the February 4 membership meeting.

Our team includes Stan Croall, Treasurer (204-261-4198) and Esther and Clare McKenty (204-661-1800) doing backup and program planning. We welcome more volunteers for our committee!

— *Jan Kollesavich*, 204-338-4913 or jankollesavich@gmail.com

## FFI World Conference

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

### **Registration is now open!**

You can access the conference website from **thefriendshipforce.org**

Location: Renaissance Vancouver Harbourside Hotel  
1133 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6E 3T3  
The conference fee of \$380 (CAD) includes opening and closing ceremonies with speakers and entertainment, Friday evening welcome reception with entertainment, Saturday lunch, Sunday Gala Dinner, and all conference activities including workshops, plenary sessions and breaks.

Register early for:

6 pre-conference and 8 post-conference homestays  
5 pre-conference and 7 post-conference tours

### **2016 World Conference**

Marrakesh, Morocco, October 2016

## 2015 Exchanges

### **Incoming:**

Long Island, NY – August 12-18

ED: Liz Martin, elizm@mymts.net

Campinas, Brazil – under negotiation for mid-September

### **Outgoing:**

Richmond, VA April 11-18

and Raleigh, NC April 18-25

Exchange Director: Jan Kollesavich,  
jankollesavich@gmail.com

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

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU  
SEE THE WORLD**  
thefriendshipforce.org