



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

August & September 2023 Newsletter

Ice Cream Social
Linda Supakoff's home
1353 San Mateo Drive, PG
772-539-1476 (cell or text)

Friday, 8/11 at 2 pm



It's summer in Southwest Florida and that means it's time for our traditional FREE ice cream treat!

Come on over to Punta Gorda Isles! Catch up on what everyone is doing this summer. Hear all about my (Joanne's) New Jersey shore wave jumping adventure! Wish those traveling on our club's Australia Journey in late August a terrific trip!

RSVP by August 8 by calling or texting Linda at 772-539-1476 or call Rich at 973-224-5934. Call a friend to car pool and don't miss it!

Friday, September 15, 2023 10:30 am
General Meeting & Presentation
Punta Gorda Police & Fire Conference Room
1410 Tamiami Trail, PG (across from IHOP)

Topic: Stunning SINGAPORE by Joanne & Richard

Optional Lunch to follow at Burg'r Bar

317 Tamiami Tr, Punta Gorda



It's the 3rd Friday of the month - and you know what that means!

It's Friendship Force time to catch up on the happenings of our club. Some of our members are on a spectacular journey to Australia.

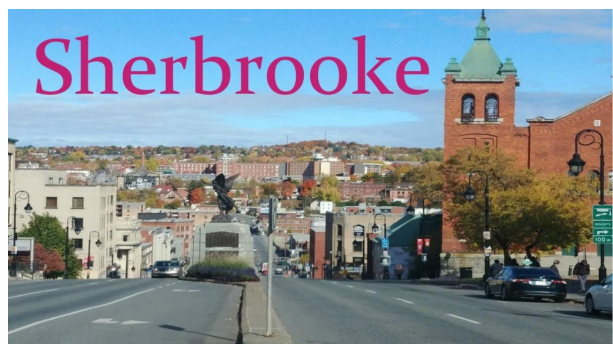
But the rest of you have an opportunity to hear an entertaining segment on a truly magnificent world class destination - Singapore.

It is spread across 63 islands at the tip of the Malay Peninsula and is the world's only island city-state. It has stunning parks and gardens with magnificent light shows, colorful water displays and more.

Joanne and Richard will present pictures and videos and we think, by the time we are finished, you will be longing to travel to the other side of the world to experience it too! Margie Clyde will also speak on cross cultural awareness. Don't miss it!

Announcing 2024 Club Journeys

It's a TRIFECTA of awesome places! Start planning, dream **big**, go on them with your Friendship Force Club!



It's located between Montreal & Quebec City

Carol announces that next year, 2024, we've matched to visit **Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada!** In addition, our club is invited to visit two US clubs - **Minneapolis Twin Cities** and **Northern Colorado!** Marci Ellis and Michelle Kemps will be the Journey



Coordinators (JC's) for Sherbrooke. Terese Libby and Luvvy Kovacik will share the JC duty for the US clubs outbounds.

Our club will welcome **Western Kentucky** in February and **Minneapolis Twin Cities** in March 2024 for Inbound Journeys here. We are looking for **two** good Host Coordinators and member helpers to plan two successful visits.

Wondering about Sherbrooke? Here are some excerpts from the web.

"Our club, founded in May 2001, was the third Friendship Force club to be formed in Quebec after the Québec Region established one in 1997 and the Montréal one in the fall of 2000. We are a club with mostly French speaking members who also speak English and/or Spanish at various levels. The members are mostly retired from education, nursing or other professions. We presently have twenty-seven members.

The Sherbrooke region, a community of more than 150,000 inhabitants, is located at less than one hour and a half drive East of Montreal and at less than one half hour drive from the Canada (Quebec)-USA (Vermont) border. In addition to being a centre of industrial importance in high technology, transport, textile and others, the Sherbrooke region benefits from two universities (one French speaking and the other English speaking) which are well known for their dynamic role at home, in Canada and abroad.

*The landscape of the Sherbrooke region, rich in lakes, rivers and mountains is very much an attraction to the local and international tourist. Club members appreciate hosting visitors from other countries or regions. As hosts of ambassadors from the Friendship Force in our household for five to seven days, we share our daily life and our community's attractions. We guide them into exploring our culture and way of life. In addition to participating to the activities organized by our club, our guests may well like to explore the region or the country by themselves. Typically, the club members will organize outings in our town (city hall, mills and dams, murals, museums, etc.) and area (Bombardier's original shop and museum, attractions, mountains, gorges, lakes).
.."*



We are both *hosting AND visiting* Minnesota Twin Cities.

FF Minnesota ambassadors will visit us



We are *visiting* FF of Northern Colorado in the summer of 2024!

next March 2024. *Will you help show them a good time by volunteering to be the Host Coordinator and/or help with the planning and execution of their visit to Southwest Florida?*

In turn, our club will visit them in summer of 2024!

Remember that we hosted them this past March. Sue Linehan was our Host Coordinator and she did a super job showing them around our area!

Now it is OUR turn to visit them next summer - Rocky Mountain high!



Join us for a new club tradition - Let's Eat Out - 4th Friday of the month!

Sept 29 - Cafe Laredo Mexican Restaurant, Ft Myers - Joanne

Oct 28 - Australian Restaurant - Judy

Australia Outbound Update

Carol sent you this message, "Currently, we are in the **final planning** stages for our club outbound to Australia. We have 11 travelers, and we are gearing up for various individualized trips, with Suzanne, our travel agent's help. But the things we have in common are wonderful three to five days of sightseeing in Sydney. We have a unique opportunity to not only tour the opera house, but also to attend a concert there featuring the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, in combo with the Sydney Opera House Orchestra, playing music by Wynston Marsalis. **Amazing!**



Our home stay in the **Gold Coast region** is coming together for a one week stay, and our home stay in the **Blue Mountain region** looks like great fun also. Some of our group, actually the majority, will continue to **New Zealand** then to tour both islands. Exciting! We have had one zoom meeting this summertime and will do another one the first part of August. Then off we go!"



Mark your Calendar!
Save the Dates!
Here is what is in store for 2023. . .

August 11 - 2 pm - Ice Cream Social

September 4 - 18
Club Outbound to Australia

Sept 15 - Club Meeting & Program in
Punta Gorda begins at 10:30 am

Sept 29 - LEO

October 7- Club Meeting & Program -
Colonial Country Club

October 28 - LEO

November 10 - Club Meeting &
Program Location to be determined

December 13 - Annual Meeting &
Club Holiday Party
at Lake Fairways Club House, North Fort
Myers, Time to be determined

Video on Antarctic to cool you off. Check
with Linda Supakoff for details

Topic - Singapore Journey by Joanne &
Richard Collins with lunch to follow at
Burger Bar, 317 Tamiami Tr, PG

Mexican Food - Cafe Laredo, Noon

Topic - World Viking Cruise by Jack & Jo
Cooley with lunch to follow

Australian Food at Outback - check with Judy

Presentation of FF Journey to Australia
with optional lunch to follow



CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD

Tervis Tumbler, Anyone?

We have a few "custom-made" Tervis Tumblers



with our club insignia for purchase. They are "Florida-made" in Venice and cost \$20 each. They are non-breakable, guaranteed for life, and insulated for either hot or cold beverages. The tumbler can easily be stuffed into your luggage (put socks in them?) and make great hostess gifts when you are visiting other clubs.

Interested? They are going fast! Just click on our treasurer, [Richard's email](#) and order today!

President's Comments



Hoping all is well with you and yours!
Greetings from north central Minnesota!
Here are a few Friendship Force updates from your president.

In June there was a zoom meeting of Florida Friendship Force presidents, and there are some of things that came up.

We discussed **updates to bylaws**, and all the clubs had recently updated or were in the process of updating their bylaws. Our club needs to update our bylaws, so we have created a committee to do that; Joanne Collins, Judy Carson and Marcie Ellis have offered to do this. They will present proposed changes to the next board meeting, date not yet determined, where they will be discussed and then the changes will be passed on to the general membership. We need to inform the membership 30 days before voting on the changes, I believe.

One other thing that came up was an opportunity to apply for a **grant of \$250 from FFI to increase our membership**. There is a form to fill out, and in order to succeed, you must have goals and measured metrics i.e. how many members you plan on recruiting to join the club. Sarasota recently had good luck recruiting new members through meet-up internet postings, nine new members. Such a grant could cover the cost of joining Meet up.

The most interesting idea that came up was the organizational idea to ***divide the***

membership into four teams; Alpha team in charge of membership. A second team, Bravo team, would be in charge of social events. A third team called Cobalt team, would be in charge of inbound planning. And a fourth team, Diamond team would be in charge of planning programming and other events for the club. Other possible categories could be chosen of course.

All members would be asked to volunteer for one of the four teams. This would stress, participation and volunteerism within the whole organization. If members do not express a choice, the officers would encourage them to join the team that had the least members. I hope we can implement this plan for the upcoming year.

We currently have a need for two inbound Host Coordinators (HC), one for February, the Western Kentucky club, and Minnesota Twin Cities club coming in March. Since inbound coordination is a challenge, I would like to offer either a \$200 stipend to the HCs who do this job, or at least offer to waive costs for the HC person for the events planned. We have been blessed to have wonderful people to do this job, but let's offer them a small compensation. Other clubs in Florida are doing this.

If you can do this job, with the help of a team of volunteers, please let me know.

We also have hopes of doing a **two destination trip in June to Northern Colorado and MN Twin Cities** and to **Sherbrooke, Quebec in August**. We are trying to do preliminary planning for these outbounds. We have Journey Coordinators (JCs) for both those trips.

It should be a fantastic summer!

In Peace,

Carol

Parting Shots



*Sunrise over Ocean City, New Jersey - on family vacation trip, July
2023
Photo by Richard Collins*

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida

Email Us



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contribute to Group
Facebook Page! Click
FaceBook icon above!***

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