



friendship force
MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES

WE BID FAREWELL TO SUSANNE



On April 5th we gathered to say good-bye to Susanne Wolter. Susanne, and her late husband Don, have been members of Friendship Force since 1981. Don was our newsletter editor for 20 years.

Susanne, a native of Germany, met Don in 1963 on a train trip to Istanbul. At the time, Don was a Fulbright Scholar at Frankfurt and she a student at the University of Gottingen. In 1964 Susanne moved to the United States to marry Don. Together they visited 78 countries and every state in the United States.

Susanne has relocated to Boulder, Colorado to be near her family. This should also give her ample opportunities to pursue her passion of skiing. Susanne, always active, has no plans to slow down. As soon as she's settled in Boulder, she has plans for travel to New England and Ireland.

At Susanne's farewell gathering, she was presented with an honorary lifetime membership in the Twin Cities club. Susanne, we hope you stay in touch and come back to see us. We wish you well with many happy, adventurous travels!

Material excerpted from Marge Runnako's article appearing at www.friendshipforcetwincities.org

Have you looked at our website lately? It's *the* place to check for updates between newsletters. Marge Runnako, our webmaster has done a fine job in keeping us informed and up-to-date. It's also helpful when introducing others to our club. Check it out! www.friendshipforcetwincities.org



WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Rita Mays

It's an honor to serve as your president in 2017. I'm experiencing many different feelings that I'll share here.

EXCITEMENT! We're halfway through the year and we've already hosted an Open World delegation from Tajikistan and thirteen members have just completed their journey to Lethbridge, Canada. Additionally, several members are attending the World Conference in Manchester, United Kingdom in August.

GRATITUDE! I want to personally thank Barb Emer for stepping in as newsletter editor for 2017. We all appreciate the newsletter as just one way to keep in touch with what's going on. Be sure to send any ideas or articles to Barb for inclusion in the August/September issue. And tell her how much you appreciate this newsletter!

CONFIDENCE! A vote of confidence to Greg McAndrews, our membership director, for developing a new database that allows us to keep up with FFI's new record keeping. Greg is also capturing member's interests so we can better involve members, even looking geographically to connect people and events close to where they live! Greg and Anne Shea are working on a survey to help collect better information. Watch for this at the picnic.

FRIENDSHIP! A big shout out to two fairly new members, Cindy Cauble and Sheryl Grover, for planning some exciting new activities this year. They have also been key to organizing our quarterly membership gatherings and are busy planning a great annual picnic on July 15th. In the fall, watch for a new activity aimed at getting to know each other in small group dinner parties with an international theme.

CELEBRATION! We are planning for our own 40th year anniversary celebration in 2018. If you have stories of the first trip you ever took with Friendship Force, especially in the first couple of years, please let me know. Pictures would be great too!

SERVICE! Thanks to all who volunteered at Feed my Starving Children and the May YMCA garage sale shopping spree for Farhio's House. We do make a difference!

Peace, as we seek to connect with people around the world and in our community.

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Rita Mays

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Vice-President: Open

Treasurer: Ken Scherber

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Secretary: Anne Shea

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Past President:

Louise Anderson

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Member at large

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Webmaster:

Marge Runnako

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Interim Newsletter Editor

Barb Emer

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Ambassador Coordinators

Marge Runnako outgoing

To Lethbridge, Canada

Gene Selchow and **Rosie**

Foreman outgoing to West

Alajuela, Costa Rica.

SAVE THE DATE

WHAT: Annual summer picnic

WHERE: Oak Hill Park, St. Louis Park

WHEN: Saturday, July 15th at 12:15

MEETING: To follow.

Bring a dish to share and beverage of your choice. Water, plates, utensils will be provided. Contact Dagmar Runyon with questions.

runy1dag@comcast.net

**Oak Hill Park: 3201 Rhode Island Ave. So.
St. Louis Park**

DIRECTIONS TO OAK HILL PARK:

From the east or south: take 494 west to 100 north, take the Minnetonka Blvd. exit west to Rhode Island Ave. South, (or left). The park is on the left.

From the north: take 394 west to 100 south and follow above directions.



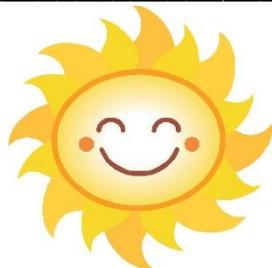
LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, August 7th, 11:30 Lord Fletchers

Saturday, September 30th, quarterly meeting. Time and location TBD

January, 2018, outgoing journey to West Alajuela, Costa Rica

Valerie Hessburg has offered to be our Sunshine Lady! If you know of someone who has passed or if someone is ill and in need of a little sunshine, let Val know at: valhessburg@gmail.com



We welcome the following new or renewing members in 2017. We extend the hand of friendship to you and hope that you will attend an upcoming event soon. We look forward to meeting you and for those renewing, we're pleased your back!

Ann Frisch
Marc Bolin
Joan Revels

Jane Norman
James Twistol
David Hozza



Attention Members

This is my first attempt at a newsletter. Please bear with me during my learning curve!

This is your newsletter and I welcome articles, stories, photos, etc. The newsletter will be as interesting/enlightening/long/short/informative as you help to make it.

Additionally, I'd like your opinion as pertains to photos. I know some of you run a copy of the newsletter and while photos interspersed in a newsletter add interest, they also take a lot of ink. Please let me know what you think about this as well as what else you'd like to see here.

Thank you!

DEADLINE for August/September issue: July 15th

Mail to: Barb Emer, editor; bemer@usfamily.net

REMEMBERING

Marianne Gable

Marianne Gable of Fridley passed away on April 7th at the age of 88. She is survived by her husband, Les, and three children, Krista, Preston and Does.

Having Marianne and Les as our next door neighbor for 53 years is one of the best things that could have happened to Martha and me. And our family remembers with joy the crates of peaches that Marianne and Martha canned in the fall.

Those of you who traveled with our Twin Cities Friendship Force club to Jenin, Germany, will remember Marianne giving some of us a special tour of her home town of Marktbreit. When I took my mother at age 90 on her first trip out of the USA, who but Marianne was our host in Marktbreit, Germany. She packed our lunch and took us to the village of Pfitzof where my Grandmother Vogel was born.

For most years, my family and the Gables have both enjoyed vacations on Woman Lake.

Les, many thanks to you and Marianne for being our neighbor and friends for all these years. The many times you and Marianne invited me to dinner when Martha was gone cannot be forgotten.

Submitted by Willis Unke

News from clubs in our region – Scams!

There have been reports from several clubs in our region of attempted scams occurring to club members while traveling. They involve “orders” to transfer money from accounts. So far, these would-be thieves have been unsuccessful. We like to think this would never happen to us but let’s all stay on our toes so it doesn’t!

Marcia Hinitz

Marcia Hinitz of Plymouth, a long-time active member of our Friendship Force club, passed away on April 22nd at the age of 88. She is survived by her children Connie Hinitz, Jill Kaufman and Dean Hinitz.

Marcia was a dedicated volunteer and passionate about many causes. She was also an active theater attendee and usher.

Her sense of adventure took her to the four corners of the earth. She also had a good sense of humor which she needed while we were roommates in Cuba. Our club went to Cuba a few days after September 11th and we stayed in a nice hotel in Havana. After our adventure to the swimming pool, Marcia decided to dry her swimsuit on the third floor balcony of our hotel room. While she was on the balcony, I locked the glass doors and got my camera. I got a nice surprise picture of her even though she wasn’t exactly dressed for prime time. We had many laughs about this in the following years.

We were fortunate to have Marcia as a long-time member of our club. I attended her celebration of life and I don’t think I’ve ever heard so many kind remarks about a decedent at a funeral service. She will indeed be missed.

Submitted by Joyce Sharp

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

