

EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT VIEWS. DISCOVER COMMON GROUND



friendship force
MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES



SEEN AT....



Rosie Foreman, Jan Lanyk, Nellie Hofmeister
with her brother, John Pruski



Mary McKenna, FF Twin Cities Life Member

On a chilly gloomy day in April, 25 members and guests gathered together amid the flora and foliage at Bachman's flagship store to socialize and enjoy a lunch from Patrick's Café. Even the dreary weather couldn't dampen the spirits of members as they reconnected with one another.

FFMNTC Website Update

www.friendshipforcetwincities.org

We have a new webmaster! New member David Balzotti is currently getting acquainted with our website and working with the former FFI consultant, Jim Ecklund, to make some important updates. We are also moving to a new web host (the company that has the computers where our website is stored). During this transition, the basics, like the membership application, will still be available, but events may not always be current. We expect the website to be stable by about June 1. If you have questions about the website status, let me know.

Remember, we still have multiple ways to keep you informed: This newsletter is published bi-monthly, we send out interim emails with news and reminders, and we have a Facebook group (Friendship Force MN Twin Cities) that you can join. You may want to consider downloading and printing some of the newsletters and/or emails to have FFMNTC events and news right at hand.

Jane Bardon, FFMNTC VP

FFMinnesotaVP@yahoo.com



WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By Rita Mays

2019 Journey Opportunities

While Friendship Force International has not assigned a Journey destination to our club in 2019, FFI offers a palette of options for travel locations and themes. I invite you to explore these options, individually and as a club. Some of our members are already taking advantage of many other FFI journeys. Let's review these options.

Global Journeys are set up through FFI and are promoted on the FFI website www.friendshipforce.org and in monthly email catalogs sent to all who have registered on the FFI website for FFI notices.

An example of a club member participating in a Global Journey is Carole Harris. She will accompany her grandson on the Global Youth Journey to Japan in June. Chaperones will participate in typical home stays while the youth join their peers to learn about schools, history and culture in Japan.

Watch for 2019 Global opportunities as they are announced by FFI. The preliminary lists include places like Bermuda, Iceland, Mongolia, Siberia, Asia and Australia, to name a few. Where might you like to go?

U.S. eFlyers from FFI are a place to find information about U.S. outbound Journeys with extra seats and domestic Journeys within the U.S. Many of our members have traveled with other clubs internationally. At our quarterly meeting on May 9, Tom and Janet Scott will tell us about their 2017 Journey to Uganda and South Africa with the Northern Illinois FF club. What a great way to make new friends!

Our board will continue to promote journeys with other Midwest Regional clubs and unique Global Journeys in 2018-19. Another possibility in 2019 is to plan a domestic journey to a club in another state. In years past, these have been popular.

These are just a few ways Friendship Force members can find travel options that meets personal time frames and destinations. Be sure to give the Board of Directors feedback and ideas for our club to pursue together in 2019!

Rita A. Mays, President
Friendship Force MN Twin Cities

BOARD DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President: Rita Mays
ritamnffi@yahoo.com
612-730-5129

**Vice President -
Communications:**
Jane Bardon
ffminnesotavp@yahoo.com

Treasurer:
Buck MacDonald

Secretary: Tom Scott

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities Co-Chairs:
John Christensen
Jane Norman

Journey Coordinator:
Mary Cunningham

Member-at-Large:
Ben Szyplinski

Membership - Chair:
Jane Bardon

Newsletter Editor:
Barb Emer

**Open World Coordinator
Ukraine – Sept. 2018:**
Tom Scott

Non-Board Volunteers

Historian:
Jan Lanyk

Sunshine:
Val Hessburg

Webmaster:
David Balzotti

To email a Board Director, go to friendshipforcetwincities.org/. Click on "Board Contacts" on the red menu bar, then click on the person you want to contact.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: JUNE 15

2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 9, 10:30 AM

**FFI Journey Presentation by Tom Scott
and 2018 Quarterly Membership Update**

Roseville Library, Roseville MN

12:30 Buffet Lunch

India Palace, Roseville MN

See separate announcement.

JUNE 11, 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Monday burger special at Lord Fletchers out on the wharf. Still \$5.00 as Fletcher's celebrates their 50th anniversary. No reservations needed.

3746 Sunset Drive, Spring Park MN 55384

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 14, 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM

2018 Semi-Annual Meeting and Picnic

AUGUST 14-16

Northern MN Mesabi Range Tour

Coordinated by Jane Norman, (763-535-3096).
Details will be sent the first week of May to those who signed up. Seven places left. See the announcement at www.friendshipforcetwincities.org

SEPTEMBER 7 - 15

Incoming Open World Ukrainian Delegation

Program Coordinator: Tom Scott

SEPTEMBER 9, 1:00 to 4:00 PM

FFMNTC 40th Anniversary Celebration

See separate announcement.

OCTOBER

Fall Neighborhood Dinners

NOVEMBER

Surprise Event

DECEMBER 1, 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM

2018 Annual Meeting and Holiday Potluck

Friendship Force Minnesota
Twin Cities
**“Uganda and South Africa
an FFI Journey”**

Presented by
FFMNTC Member Tom Scott



Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 10:30 AM
Roseville Library
Community Program Room
2180 Hamline Ave. North, Roseville MN

Quarterly Membership Update

11:45 AM (following the presentation)

FFMNTC President Rita Mays

*Join us for a review of the current plans
and actions of your Board of Directors*

12:30 PM Buffet Lunch

India Palace Restaurant

2570 Cleveland Ave. North, Roseville MN

<http://www.indiapalacemn.com/>

Cost: \$11.80 per person (plus tax & tip)

To be paid individually at the restaurant.

RSVP to John at jchristensen2@juno.com

(612-361-1078)

Bring a friend along when coming to an event and introduce them to our friendly members and all the exciting things going on in our club!!

MAY/JUNE, 2018



NEW MEMBERS:

MARCIA NOVAK
DAVID BALZOTTI

Journeys 2018 and 2019

By *Mary Cunningham*

Our Minnesota-Twin Cities club was offered an Outgoing Journey and an Incoming Journey for 2018. The Outgoing Journey happened in January when members of our club enjoyed a wonderful visit to West Alajuela, Costa Rica, coordinated by Rosie Foreman and Gene Selchow. The Incoming Journey was to bring ambassadors from Rostov-on-Don and Ulan Ude, Russia during May. That Journey was cancelled when ambassadors were unable to get Visas to visit the United States. Cindy Cauble and Jane Bardon had worked hard to make that Journey happen. To fill out 2018, we are excited about an Open World delegation coming from Ukraine for a week in September. Tom Scott is Coordinator for this visit.

For 2019, we have an Incoming Journey with Halle-Saale, Germany, suggested for the month of July, with Cindy Cauble as Journey Coordinator. This club will also be visiting the Greater Omaha Club. Unfortunately, our club, along with many other U. S. clubs, was not offered an Outgoing Journey for 2019. President Rita Mays is working with our Midwest Regional Representative about other options for an Outgoing Journey in 2019.



Flag Day
June 14th

The Friendship Force of
Minnesota - Twin Cities

CELEBRATES

Four Decades of Friendship

40th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Sunday, September 9, 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Lafayette Club – Lakeview Room

(www.lafayetteclub.com)

2800 Northview Road, Minnetonka Beach MN 55361

Luncheon Buffet: \$35 per person

Cash Bar – Valet Parking

Guests and Potential members welcome

HELP WITH THE SEARCH

We are looking for former FFMNTC Members who are no longer active with the Club, but might like to share this celebration with us. Please check your personal records to see who you can find. Contact Membership Chair Jane Bardon at FFMinnesotaVP@yahoo.com

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES:

Check those boxes and drawers to find photos and mementos from the four decades of FFMNTC history. We especially need photos and other items from the early years – 20th century.

Contact President Rita Mays at ritamnffi@yahoo.com (612-730-5129) to let her know what you have.

FFMNTC Board Meetings

Members are invited to attend FFMNTC Board meetings which are held the second Thursday of each month from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Please contact President Rita Mays at ritamnffi@yahoo.com (612-730-5129) for the location of the meeting and to let her know you wish to attend. Upcoming meeting schedule:

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Four Decades of Friendship

By Rita Mays

Did you know? According to our records...

Before we were even an official Minnesota club, almost a thousand Ambassadors traveled to Germany, Korea, Japan and Venezuela, and we hosted over 700 Ambassadors from those countries.

The first Friendship Force Exchange chartered a plane from one destination and when the ambassadors arrived there, the flight would be filled with people to travel to the origin of the flight. Ambassadors agreed to find home hosts for the incoming ambassadors while they themselves traveled.

- June 1978 Ned and Paula Skinner lead the first flight to West Berlin and the incoming return flight (252 out and 252 in)
- May 1979 Betty Croonquist lead the second flight to West Berlin and the incoming return flight (252 out and 167 in)
- September 1980 Phyllis Schurz lead a flight to Korea and the return incoming flight (80 out and 80 in)
- February 1981 Joe Nathan lead 150 to Tokyo and 68 incoming ambassadors
- June 1981 Mike and Jean Brady lead 250 to Venezuela and 150 came to Minnesota

About 1980-1981, Richard Falk, Phyllis Schurz and Betty Croonquist wrote the first bylaws, (perhaps with a few others we haven't identified yet).

Phyllis Schurz became our first president in June 1981. Other officers included Joe Nathan, Marilyn

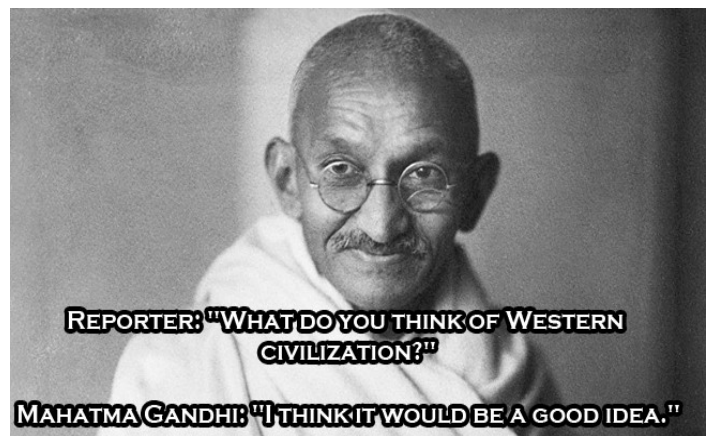
Morris, Joe Killian, Larry Mangan, and Jan Newcomb. Dick Haman wrote the first newsletter and Mary Smisek was the first historian.

Additions or corrections? Share your memories and old photos. Or help plan our 40th Anniversary Celebration! Contact Rita Mays, President, ritamnffi@yahoo.com

WANTED: Photographer to take photos at various club events for publication in the newsletter or on Facebook. Novice or advanced. Occasional or regularly. Camera phone, point and shoot or any other device that might produce a photo. Contact Editor at bemer@usfamily.net



Thanks to Rita Mays for photos.



FF MinnesotaVP
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