

The Newsletter

May 2019



Message from our President May 2019

Wow! 40 years—can you believe it? Forty years since some adventurous and committed people said “YES” to President Jimmy Carter’s invitation to get to know one another around the globe and started a Friendship Force club here in southern New Jersey.

Can you imagine that first exchange held in Piacenza, Italy? To find out more about it, make sure to come to our **40th Anniversary Luncheon** on June 30 at *Tres Famiglia*. Ronna Ayscue was on that first trip and will share her experience with us. We are so fortunate that our co-vice president and violinist Bridget Kasinskas and flutist Ronna have agreed to provide the musical entertainment for our celebration. If you wish to attend, make sure to send your money to Gwen Deas right away so that a place can be reserved for you.

Do we still need Friendship Force? Maybe even more so today than in 1979 — with all of the strife that exists in the world. I strongly believe that we **can** make a difference.

I am so grateful to all of you who have enthusiastically supported our club through the years. Please keep up that support, especially reaching out to tell your friends about our wonderful organization. We have several inbound and outbound journeys to look forward to in the coming year. I love the energy I feel when we get geared up for these events.

In friendship and peace,

Lucie Lenore, President

Friendship Force Calendar 2019 - 2020

June 30 12:30 pm 40th Anniversary Celebration Tre Famiglia Restaurant

July 23 – 27 – Friendship Force World Conference – Boulder, Colorado

Sept 8 – 15 Inbound Journey from Peru

Thurs, Sept 12 – Annual Picnic at Smithville

Sun, Sept 22 – Annual Meeting*

Oct 1 – 8 – Outbound Journey to Austria (plus)

Sun, Nov 10 – General Meeting*

Sun, Dec 8, 2019 – Holiday Party*

Sun, Jan 26, 2020 – General Meeting*

*Denotes meetings held at Medford Leas 180 Woodside Drive, Lumberton, NJ

Directions to Medford Leas at Lumberton Community Center

From Route 295 take Route 38 East, past the Larchmont Shopping Center (Ark Road). Two traffic lights past Ark Rd. is Mount Laurel-Hainesport Rd. After passing this road, turn right onto Creek Rd. South, toward Lumberton. Go 1 1/4 miles and turn left onto Woodside Dr. The Community Center is on the outside of the loop, 180 Woodside Dr. Lumberton, NJ 08048.

From Route 70 take Route 541 North toward Mt. Holly. Go 5 miles to Lumberton and turn left onto Route 640 (Creek Rd). Medford Leas at Lumberton is about a mile from 541 on the right.



40th Anniversary Luncheon
SOUTH JERSEY FRIENDSHIP FORCE

LUNCHEON – 12:30 JUNE 30, 2019

Tre Famiglia R estaurant
403 N. Haddon Ave
Haddonfield, NJ 08033
856-429-1447

Entertainment by Bridget Kasinskas -violinist and Ronna Ayscue- flutist

Also a retrospective of SJFF

BYOB

Menu:

Misto green house salad

Choice of one....

Chicken Florentine with spinach and sweet roasted peppers**

Polenta Crusted Salmon in caramelized onion marmalade **

Eggplant Rollatini with pasta

Dessert..

Homemade Sorbet

Hot Coffee or Hot Tea

GLUTEN FREE MENU available

** (Platters served with vegetable and risotto)

Cost: \$30.00 gratuity included **Payment due by June 15, 2019**

Make checks payable to "South Jersey Friendship Force club"

PLEASE SEND CHECKS to

Gwen Deas

152 Drummond Farms Lane

Newark, DE 19711

Questions call : Roz Goldstein. 856-795-0327

Our Club's New Website

We are pleased to announce that our Friendship Force of Southern New Jersey website is now ready to be visited and used by our members and those interested in learning more about our club and Friendship Force in general. Thanks to the hard work of our Web Master, Val Bolan, our website has taken on a brand new look and is a great source of information about our organization, including journals from past Journeys and postings for future journeys. To explore - please visit:

<https://friendshipforcesnj.org/>

Friendship Force Journey to Asheville, North Carolina

Eight of our FF club members participated in the Domestic Journey to the Asheville, NC area from April 29 to May 4 - Lucie Lenore, Joe and Sue Trout, Rich and Ping Cunliffe, Sandy Benscoter and Fay Harrison. The Friendship Force of Western North Carolina, which hosted our group, was warm and friendly, as was the spring weather for our stay in the mountains of NC.



From the Welcome Breakfast through the Farewell Dinner, the visit was active, interesting and engaging. In a week's time our members visited the Biltmore Estates, Carl Sandburg Home, DuPont Forest, Thomas Wolfe House, the City of Asheville and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Our ambassadors left with a greater appreciation of Western North Carolina and strong connection to its Friendship Force club.



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2019 Journeys

Inbound Journey FF Tarapoto to FF Southern New Jersey and FF Greater Detroit

Our confirmed Inbound Journey from FF of Tarapoto, Peru, the club that hosted our club in 2009 is still scheduled to take place from **September 8 - 15, 2019**. **Osa Meekins** is the Journey Coordinator. They were supposed to have a second week in Detroit after the stay here but the Detroit club has multiple members with serious medical problems and is not able to host. FFI is trying to find another club to accommodate them. Please save these dates so you are available to participate in our homestay. When we have more information we will let you know.

We might need more home **hosts, and we definitely need day hosts and drivers, and dinner hosts**. Let us know how you would like to be involved. This is what Friendship Force is all about. Call or email **Osa Meekins** if you can help. **Osa's contact information: 1-856-786-7633 or osajrmeekins@aol.com**

Outbound Journey FF Southern New Jersey to FF Krems, Austria



Salzburg

Our Krems homestay will be **October 1 – 8, 2019**. **Gwen Deas** is the Journey Coordinator. We have 10 ambassadors. Eight of the ambassadors will spend 3 or 4 days in Prague and 3 days in Vienna before the Krems homestay. After the homestay 6 people will go to Salzburg and Innsbruck before returning home.



Innsbruck

2020 Journeys

We have received our 2020 Journey assignments from FFI. We have an **Outbound to Salisbury and Northern Districts and Kempsey, Australia** proposed for March. We have two **Inbound Journeys** – one from **Hamilton and Waikato, New Zealand** proposed for June and another from **Penticton - Okanagan, Canada** proposed for October. Because we were given two weeks of hosting in Australia, we have the two Inbound Journeys.

I have been in touch with each of the clubs and have had responses from all but Salisbury. The president of the FF Kempsey, **Peter Garty**, emailed and told me that they were going to be away most of May and would be in touch in early June. They will coordinate with FF Salisbury and us to make plans on the dates and order in which we will visit them.

The president of FF Hamilton and Western Waikato, **Roy Sledger**, said they were having a committee meeting on May 9 and they we would discuss details and then get

back to us again. They normally appoint a JC with about 8 months to go and we can deal with him in the meantime. June seems a good month but they will be trying to fit in visits to other clubs on the same journey so they can't be definite yet. Their policy on ambassador numbers is 8-18.

The president of FF Penticton-Okangan, **Judith Single**, wrote that she and the Journey Coordinator, **Mavis Grant**, were in the middle of planning an incoming Journey starting May 8th. Then both of them were heading off to Europe on personal trips. They are also both going to the FFI World Conference in Boulder in July. I hope to catch up with them there. They said they will look at dates for this Journey later and will appoint an Ambassador Coordinator to work with our club on this. We have an inbound from Cornwall in September, 2020 but with no firm dates yet. They are hoping that the fall colors will be in all their glory when they visit us. They are also going to Central Virginia so all three clubs will have to coordinate dates.

So this is the information we have on all three Journeys.. We will need Journey Coordinators for all 3 assignments. If you are interested in going to Australia and are willing to be JC or if you are willing to be host JC for either of the inbounds, please contact Sue at **856-795-3720** or email suehoke@aol.com. If you might be interested in the Australia journey, please let Sue know.

Here is a little information on the Australian clubs we will be visiting and the Canadian and New Zealand clubs who will be coming here.

SNJ to Salisbury and Northern Districts and Kempsey, Australia # 2020 March



FF Salisbury and Northern Districts, Australia

Salisbury is situated approximately 18km (12 miles) north of Adelaide, which is the capital city of South Australia. We show the highlights and attractions that our cities have to offer. We have some of the best wine region in the world and a visit to one or two of the wineries is a must. We have several beaches and wildlife parks, so a visit to a wildlife park is a must to see some of our unique Australian animals. Several pot-luck servings and a formal farewell dinner or lunch.



The maximum number of ambassadors our club can host is approximately 15, preferably during March to November. We welcome two incoming Journeys each year. Many members live in Salisbury itself, with the rest living in the surrounding suburbs and districts

FF Kempsey, Australia

Kempsey is the largest town on the beautiful Macleay River. It's situated on Australia's east coast, in the state of New South Wales. It's about halfway between Sydney and Brisbane (Queensland).



A typical Journey program would consist of a wide range of both core and elective activities. The final "product" is usually determined after some discussion between the Host Coordinator and the incoming Journey Coordinator and considering the time of year. Activities and attractions would/could include, but not be limited to: Welcome (lunch or dinner); beach walks; bush walks; whale spotting; local dining; art and craft galleries (including indigenous); tomato/strawberry



farm; vineyards; visit to a primary school; wildlife zoo (including koala patting); golf (including close-up kangaroo spotting); barefoot lawn bowls; 10 pin bowling; Akubra Hat factory and Slim Dusty Centre (two icons of Kempsey); local museums; lemon myrtle farm; bush (i.e. indigenous) tucker (i.e. food) plantation; historic gaol (a.k.a. jail) and lighthouse; the iconic Pub With No Beer (which DOES have beer); Farewell Dinner.

They are generally limited to 16 ambassadors. They expect us sometime in March...mid to late would be preferable, given other commitments. There would need to be some discussion between Kempsey and Salisbury and Northern Districts and us as to just when and in what order.

Hamilton and Waikato, NZ to Turrialba, Costa Rica and Southern New Jersey, USA # 20113 June

Hamilton has been involved with Friendship Force for more than 30 years. Until November, 2013, they had two clubs, Hamilton and Western Waikato. Our club was hosted by Western Waikato in 2004. In 2014 when one of our assigned New Zealand host clubs was unable to take us, our club was the first Inbound of the combined club Hamilton and Western Waikato club.

Penticton - Okanagan, Canada to Central VA and Southern New Jersey # 20227 October

South Okanagan Valley is in the interior of British Columbia 400 Km or 250 miles east from Vancouver. Penticton is located between two lakes, Okanagan Lake to the north and Skaha Lake to the south. Penticton means, "A Place To Stay Forever." There is an abundance of fruit grown in the region: cherries, apricots, peaches, pears, plums, different varieties of apples, and berries. The valley land is also suitable for grape growing and they have a flourishing wine industry. Their members are mainly very active retired seniors.

Local Club Happenings

Speaking at our last General Meeting on May 19, we were pleased to have Ernest Kaufman, a 98 year old holocaust survivor, US Army WWII veteran and Purple Heart Recipient. He was introduced by Retired Colonel Bob von Barga USAF from the Armed Forces Heritage Museum. The museum produced a wonderful video interview with Mr. Kaufman as part of a Living History Project. In the video Ernest Kaufman told of his experiences and confrontations with the Nazis during WWII. The full video can be seen on-line at www.afhmus.org We had a very lively question and answer session after seeing part of the engaging hour long video. It was a truly rewarding afternoon.

