



FRIENDSHIP LINKS

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF EDMONTON AND AREA NEWSLETTER

May 2008

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Now that spring has finally arrived we may turn our attention to the exciting and interesting prospects that the new season brings. The renewal of old friendships, the prospects of meeting new friends, the numerous possibilities of discovering new cultures and stimulating experiences, as well as the possibilities of changing the world in a positive way.

Many of our members have been busy ensuring that we have the opportunity to meet socially at numerous occasions throughout the year. Whether it is bridge, Let's Eat Out, keeping informed on the well-being of others, our club has been able to maintain a strong bond of friendship. Others have worked diligently to ensure that our upcoming inbounds and outbounds are carefully planned and well organized to ensure that all participants have successful and memorable encounters. Still others ensure that members are well informed, that our membership is maintained and continues to grow, and our influence is felt not just in our communities but in distant parts of the world. The club works because there are so many people who come together, work hard, and give their time generously and willingly.

Thank you to all who have contributed your time, your creativity and your special skills.

We have some very exciting and interesting events planned for the coming summer and fall as well as the next year. A special focus is our Festival

that has been carefully planned and well organized by a skillful and diligent committee led by Marilyn Caskey. Please plan to be here in August, 2009 when we invite the world to our province, our city and our homes. We expect all our membership to be involved in some capacity for the celebration marking our tenth anniversary.

I urge all of you to take advantage of the many opportunities that our club offers by becoming involved in one way or another. A special invitation goes out to our new members to participate in whatever capacity they feel comfortable with. The lofty goal of 'A World of Friends is a World of Peace' starts with us and in our efforts to become involved. In friendship,
Helmut Nikolai

CIRCLES OF FRIENDSHIP

*Circles of friendship tried and true,
Hold life together for me and you.
A never-ending circle of love,
A gift to us from God above.
Reach out and touch your dearest friend,
The depth of friendship has no end.
As hands spread out across the earth,
You'll find the world's most perfect worth.
So give your friendship to another,
A brother, sister or a mother.
'Cause when you're feeling down or blue,
The circle of friendship returns to you.*

TREASURER – Barbara Harvey

The Annual General Meeting will be held on September 16, 2008. Membership fees of \$35.00 (single) or \$45.00 (household) are payable at this time. Cheques are payable to *The Friendship Force of Edmonton and Area*. Post-dated cheques are accepted. Fees can be paid at the meeting or mailed to:
Barbara Harvey
34 Grandin Village
St. Albert, AB T8N 1R9
by October 31, 2008.

MEMBERSHIP - Clare Scott

Let's welcome new members:

Joyce and Mike Anhorn

Joyce and Mike are a much-traveled couple who have just returned from Antarctica. Joyce has indicated that she would like to work on the Social Committee. Mike is quite active doing volunteer work.

Kevin Hanlon and Carol Bahry

Kevin loves sailing and Carol, a former teacher, is involved in a Business and Investment Club.

Carol Williamson

Carol, a former teacher, is involved in volunteer work. She is interested in getting involved with Incoming Exchanges.

Barbara and Ronald Olynyk

Barbara would like to help with our dinner set-ups and our socials. Ronald, a former member of the police service, likes playing cards.

Neil McInnes

Neil, a former member of the police service, lives in Tofield and enjoys hunting and playing cards. He also likes cooking and entertaining.
Our membership number is now 94.

SOCIAL – Lil Limberger

January 20 Bridge - 8 attended
February 3 Bowling – 9 attended
February 24 Bridge – 8 attended
February 29 World Friendship Day, Buffet at German Club-41 attended
March 30 Bridge - 8 attended
April 20 Bridge – 7 attended
April 30 Let's Eat Out – 20 attended
May 13 Dinner Theatre – 9 attended

FELLOWSHIP – Denise Ryan

The following cards were sent:
April 10- Get well to Laura Larsen.
April 22-Sympathy to Donna and Larry Wyatt on the death of Donna's brother-in-law.
April 27- Sympathy to Donna Wyatt on the death of her mother in February.
May 3- Get Well to Suzanne Schnell.
May 8-Get Well to Neil Larsen.

INBOUND BURUNDI-Frank and Jessie Parker

June 30-July 7, 2008

20 members from the Burundi Friendship Force Club have applied for Canadian visas. The documents have been sent to the Canadian Consulate in Nairobi, Kenya. The Inbound Committee has made tentative plans for their visit as follows: They will fly from Burundi to Calgary where they will be met by the Lethbridge Club. After spending a week in Lethbridge, they will return to Calgary to be picked up by the Edmonton and Area Club for a homestay with us. Following that, they will fly to Montreal to spend three days with each of two clubs there. The Inbound Committee has made tentative plans for their visit and will formalize the itinerary once we know the exact number of Burundians who have received visas.

INBOUND COLOMBIA-Lynne and Lou Duigou

August 10-17, 2008

We are expecting about 35 ambassadors from Colombia. They are mostly middle-aged business and professional people. The itinerary includes: a visit to a Hutterite Colony, Leduc #1 in Devon, University Tour, the Alberta Legislature, City Hall, the Provincial Museum and Fort Edmonton Park.

Arrangements have been made to translate the ambassadors booklet into Spanish and to have Spanish translators join us for some of the tours.

The Welcome Brunch will be held at the St. Albert United Church on Monday, August 11, 2008. The Farewell Dinner will be at the Holy Family Catholic Church Hall in St. Albert on Friday, August 15, 2008. The catered meal for the Farewell Dinner will have a Western theme with a menu featuring Alberta beef, chicken or a vegetarian entrée. The entertainment will be square, line and round dancing for all, led by an instructor who has experience working with groups.

MINI - INBOUND OKLAHOMA-Brenda and Glen Kane

September 12-14, 2008

Al Ayers from Oklahoma has informed me that 15 members are planning on stopping in Edmonton on their way back from Hay River, NWT. Their bus will arrive on Friday, September 12, in the afternoon and will depart on Sunday, September 14, in the morning.

A pay-as-you-go format is suggested for any tours that are taken. Some ideas are: West Edmonton Mall, Royal Alberta Museum, Fort Edmonton, St. Albert Market, downtown Edmonton (river valley, City Hall and Legislature). We will organize a LEO (Let's Eat Out)

evening so that everyone can get together on Saturday, September 13.

OUTBOUND GERMANY/TURKEY-Pat and Jim Ewing

September 29-October 24, 2008

Our travel agent, Janet Wallace, will be at the next 'travel group' meeting on June 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Albert United Church. Janet will be collecting application forms, money, passports and photos for our Turkish visas.

We have 24 ambassadors going to Berlin and 26 going to Turkey.

Ambassador's profiles will be ready to send to our hosts in both countries by the end of May.

FESTIVAL UPDATE-Marilyn Caskey

August 19-28, 2009

We are requesting funding for our International Project - Edmonton Festival '09. We need a volunteer to coordinate requests to government agencies which promote Alberta, for example, Travel Alberta. This is to ascertain what funds are available to us. It takes time and effort to access the funds that are available for such events. Experience is not required although it would be helpful. Some contact information is available to begin the task. Please contact mcaskey@telus.net or 483-6833, if you are interested in volunteering for this.

A reminder about invitations: Please follow up on any invitations you have extended to former ambassadors or former hosts if you have not had a reply from them. The closing date for applications is August 1, 2008.

All information is located on our website:

www.friendshipforceedmonton.org.

**THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE
PLEDGE**

‘As a member of The Friendship Force, I recognize that I can make a difference.

I recognize that I have a mission.

That mission is to be a friend to the people of the world.

As I embark upon this adventure, I know that through my example to my own fellow citizens and people of other countries, the cause of peace and friendship can be furthered.

I can make a difference.’

DATES TO REMEMBER, 2008

May 24-Luncheon/General meeting-12-2:00 p.m., Platinum Centre, St. Albert

June 9- Board meeting, United Church, St. Albert, 9:30 a.m.

June 30-July7 Inbound Burundi

Aug. 10-17 Inbound Colombia

Sept. 8 FF Board Meeting

Sept. 12-14 Inbound Oklahoma

Sept. 16 Annual General Meeting

Sept. 29-Oct. 24 Outbound

Germany/Turkey

Oct. 2-5 International Conference, Australia

DATES TO REMEMBER, 2009

Jan./Feb. Outbound New Zealand/Australia

April 20-27 All-Canada Outbound, Izmir, Turkey

August 19-28 Edmonton Festival

**Oct. 14-16 National Conference
Niagara Falls, ON**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Helmut Nikolai

Past-President – Marion Boutillier

Vice-President – Marilyn Caskey

Secretary- Suzanne Schnell

Treasurer- Barbara Harvey

Membership-Clare Scott

Social Convener- Lil Limberger

Communications – Larry/Donna

Newsletter – Susan Supruniuk

Publicity – Laura Larsen

History/Archives – Theresa Sarnecki

Fellowship – Denise Ryan

Nominations - Jeanne Mackenzie

’08 Exchange Directors

Inbound Burundi – Frank/Jessie Parker

Inbound Oklahoma - Brenda/Glen Kane

Inbound Colombia – Lynne/Lou Duigou

Outbound Germany/Turkey – Pat/Jim Ewing

International Conference, Australia-

Jeanne/John Mackenzie

‘ 09 Exchange Directors

Outbound Australia/ NZ - Donna/Larry Wyatt

National Conference, Niagara Falls, ON and Post-tour – Isabelle/Doug Southam

‘09 Edmonton Festival

Marilyn Caskey

A friend can make...

Your way a little smoother,

Your heart a little

lighter,

Your world a little warmer,

Your joys a little

brighter.

