

FRIENDSHIP LINKS

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF EDMONTON AND AREA NEWSLETTER



January, 2012

2010 - 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive:

President: Lynne Duigou [Contact Lynne](#)

Past President: Helmut Nikolai

Vice President: Donna Wyatt

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Communications: Ernie & MaryAnn Phillips

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Social: Carol Williamson

Publicity: Grace Whitehouse

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Special Projects: Webmaster Larry Wyatt [Contact Larry](#)

Exchanges: Marj Eckert

Outbound Exchange Directors:

England and Belgium: Donna and Larry Wyatt

Charlotte, North Carolina: Clare Scott

Inbound Exchange Directors

Michigan: Jessie and Frank Parker

Kansas City: Barb Olynyk & Mary Ann Phillips



Please visit our website at:

www.friendshipforceedmonton.org/

President's Message by Lynne Duigou

Since our Board meeting on November 19, 2011, I have been working primarily on exchanges, membership issues and policy and bylaws.

Exchanges - We have confirmed acceptance of a request from FFI on behalf of the Sydney, Australia club to host 10-14 members August 12-18, 2011, as Saskatoon does not have room to host everyone.

Peru has officially cancelled their exchange this summer. FFI requested that we host Hiroshima, Japan in place of Peru. I have taken a vote by email and Board members voted to have only two exchanges this year, namely, Sydney, Australia and Western Michigan. This vote was confirmed at the January 9, 2012, Board Meeting.

We had a request from Kansas for a short term (June 19-22, 2012) exchange after their exchange to Calgary and a bus trip through the Rockies. The board members voted by email to accept this short exchange. This vote was confirmed at the January 9, 2012, Board meeting. Mary Ann Phillips and Barb Olynyk will be the exchange directors.

We now need to recruit **Exchange Directors** for the Sydney. Please contact Marj Eckert for an application. eckertmc@yahoo.ca

By Law Review - Our bylaws have not had an official review since 2008/2009. I have reviewed all the policies and bylaws and I invite any members to suggest revisions, keeping in mind that the final product must meet with the approval of the Registrar of Societies and Friendship Force International. Sharon Schnell will chair the committee. Please contact her schnellsm@shaw.ca if you wish to work on the By law committee. We hope to present the proposed revisions for approval at the May General Meeting.

MEMBER PROFILE by Marj Eckert



MARION BOUTILLIER – President 2005 -2006

Marion comes from a family of three. She had two brothers. She was born in Liverpool, New South Wales, Australia, where she grew up on an orchard farm with a variety of fruit trees that went to market. They also had a cow, horse, chickens, dogs and cats. (and the occasional snake to kill).

She obtained her RN degree as well as her obstetric certificate in Sydney, after which came an opportunity for her to accompany an English lady back to England for the Australian Government. In London she nursed for 4 months at the Gordon Hospital, attached to the Westminster Hospital. Here she made friends with a NZ nurse and went to Denmark. They nursed at the FINSIN INSTITUTET where Madame Curie founded Radium. The girls became fluent in Danish within 3 months. They nursed there for 7 months in order to get the extra month's salary, because the first 4 months were half salary as they didn't speak the language.

Together, they travelled in Sweden and Norway above the Arctic Circle, hostelling, and hitch hiking down through Europe. She was at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. At the age of 23, she came to "God's Country", sailing on the Empress of Britain from Liverpool, England, to Canada, down the St. Lawrence calling at Quebec City, then to Montreal. She shared this journey with Prime Minister Louis St Laurent's wife, Madame St. Laurent and their son, who were returning after the coronation.

After landing in Montreal, she made her way across Canada; first by ship across the Great Lakes, then by car and finally by train to Vancouver.

Marion worked as a nurse in Langley Prairie near Vancouver. Her boyfriend talked her into coming to sunny Alberta where she got a job nursing in Wetaskiwin. They married and had three children – a girl and two boys.

After divorcing in 1974, Marion received her Occupational Nursing Certificate and worked in Red Deer. Later she was asked to work as a Public Health Nurse in Ponoka, where she had made a home with her two sons.

Marion was united in marriage to Harry Boutillier in her back garden in Ponoka in 1981. Since then Edmonton has been their home Her dear Harry passed away in 1996.

Marion joined the Friendship Force of Edmonton and Area in 2002. She became President in 2005 and has assisted on many committees. She enjoys hosting and traveling with the club.

She has many interests which include sports, travel, cards, meeting people and hand crafts, cooking and entertaining. There is an ongoing competition with Marilyn to make sure I look after Carl or they'll step in!

Marion has become a dear friend in a short time and we dearly love having her as a close neighbor. I am honored to write her life history.



January 14 General Meeting & India Presentation by Barb Olynyk

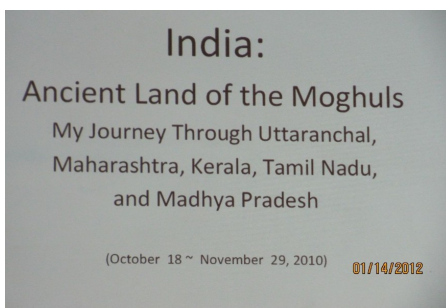
On Saturday, January 14th, 2012, fifty members attended a general meeting at the United Church in St. Albert. There was a lot of buzzing in the room as members visited with each other, signed up for events and purchased 50/50 raffle tickets in support of the Tanbur African Aid Society. Reports and business items moved along quickly, allowing more time for fellowship before the meal and feature presentation. Prior to the meal, the draw for the 50/50 raffle was made. Mary Ann Wichmann was the lucky winner of \$60. Tanbur African Aid Society (TAAS) thanks the FF of Edmonton & Area for choosing TAAS as your charity of choice for this year. As well, a huge THANK YOU to ALL who purchased tickets in support of their programs in Burundi and Tanzania.

Since Helen Arnott was giving a presentation on her trip to India, we enjoyed an Indian menu prepared by Hawelli Restaurant in St. Albert. It was delicious!



The delicious buffet

While we enjoyed our meal, Helen entertained us with many interesting pictures and stories about her trip to India, where she was born “a few” years ago.



Helen in her traditional attire

Thank you, Helen for the wonderful presentation. Helen had written a report of her visit in our January, 2011 newsletter. It would be a great time to reread it, now that we have seen her photos.



Social Committee by Carol Williamson

The Social Committee is made up of: Carol Williamson, (Chair), Mike and Joyce Anhorn, Marion Boutillier, Merilynn Clarke, Kay Harper, Anne Dobko, Doug and Isabelle Southam, Marg and Carl Eckert (golf). This committee will work in conjunction with Elaine Kirschner (World Friendship Day) and Helmut Nikolai (Habitat for Humanity).

The Social Committee works very closely with our Treasurer, Sharon Schnell, for budgeting and financial plans. The Treasurer collects fees for social events such as the Christmas Party and General Meetings. Members of the committee will also be sending items to Barb Olynyk, editor of the newsletter, reporting on various social events that happen throughout the year.

The **Christmas Party** was held on Thursday, December 1st, 2011. The venue for this year's party was in the Heidelberg Room at The German Canadian Club. Over sixty people attended. By several accounts this was favorable in many ways: the food, the décor and the parking. This venue has been booked for next year. We would like to thank the following people: Marion Boutillier and Kay Harper for finding the venue and making the arrangements for the dinner, Anne Dobko, Kay and Herb Holland for running the 50/50 raffle, Kay Harper for advice, help with hosting and table

decorations, Roy and Kay Harper for helping with the Food Bank items, Marion Boutillier for helping to plan the event, Eryl Jones for her lovely music, Bruno Lietz for saying grace, members of the committee that provided gifts and wrapped them, Mike Anhorn for handling the draws, Joyce Anhorn for clean-up, Linda Georgy for taking pictures and Sharon Schnell for presiding at the Greeter Table. A great time was had by all!

The Social Year 2012

The Social Committee feels that there should be opportunities throughout the year for our membership to get to know one another. This can be achieved by helping plan an activity or attending one. With this in mind, our committee has planned many social activities for next year. The main events are three General Meetings held in January, May and October; World Friendship Day, Habitat for Humanity and the Christmas Party, held on the first Thursday of each December. Some events will continue: golf, bridge, and walks. We are trying some new activities this year and hope that there is enough variety that they appeal to the wide range of interests in our membership.

Dinner and a Movie - The Edmonton film Society shows vintage films every Monday at the Royal Alberta Museum. The winter series is called Royal Flair and Carol is choosing a couple of them with plans to go for dinner at a restaurant nearby before the movie.

Mini Progressive Supper & Games Night - Marion is coordinating this in the month of February.

Museum Lecture - The Royal Alberta Museum is having a free lecture series in February. The first one (Feb. 1st) is called Chop Suey on the Prairies: Reflections on Chinese restaurants in Alberta. The museum will also be open before the lecture if one wanted to do that as well.

Enjoy Centre - We are looking at going to this very interesting place.

Women's Prison

Several people, who were not able to go in the fall, expressed interest in going in the spring. Kay Harper will be coordinating this.

Open Doors/Cemetery Tours - Every summer the city of Edmonton has historical tours of its cemeteries for a small fee. There is also a program called 'Open Doors' which welcomes the public to various things around the city. The Historical Society offers programs as well, e.g. bus tours of Edmonton districts. Carol will be looking into these activities.

Men's Night Out - Mike Anhorn and Merilynn Clarke are working on this.



These men, posing at the General Meeting, are awaiting the "Men's Night Out" with great anticipation. What will they be doing????

Markerville Tour - This is an interesting place to visit! Merilynn Clarke is planning this outing with Clare Scott's expertise and help. Look for this to happen in June.

Second Wind Conference - This is not really planned by Friendship Force but it may be of interest to our membership. It takes place April 11th at The Chateau Louis Conference Centre and includes lunch. It promises to renew, reconnect and re-energize our inner souls! Some of our members are participants.

Please watch the Monday President's Report and Message Board for announcements and details of all of the events that are happening in 2012. Some events may also have a sign up sheet at the General Meetings.

If there are any questions please direct them to the person organizing the event.

The FF Edmonton and Area Bridge group

has been meeting at different homes every third Sunday of the month at 7:00 pm. The hostess provides snacks, dessert and beverages. We have had 2 tables at each of our sessions. Many of us could accommodate three tables.

Please, come out to join us for a most pleasant evening of friendship and bridge.

Muriel Kuchison, coordinator.T

Tour of Women's Prison *by Mike & Joyce Anhorn*

FF made two trips to visit the Women's Prison in November of 2011. We were part of the second tour.

Snowy, the Chaplain directed the tour. We visited the library, kitchen, store, recreation areas, print shop, and medical area. We were not able to visit the houses that are occupied by 10 to 12 residents. They receive a food allowance per person per month. They place grocery orders at the store each week and prepare all their own meals. All residents are paid an allowance each day that is based on programs or jobs that they are involved in. With this money they can purchase a basic clothing package, or their own toiletries and make-up.

At the end of our tour, we were directed to a small meeting room. A resident came in to talk with us. She was very nervous and uncomfortable, indicated that she had no idea where to start, so asked us to ask her questions. She became more comfortable and answered our questions and concerns.

We sent her a thank-you note because we felt she was very brave to come and speak with a number of older people. She sent us a letter to thank us. She could not believe that we would thank her and so has started a FRIENDSHIP. We have since gone to visit her at the prison. We have learned she was raised in a religious family. She attended Sunday School on a regular basis. She went to Church Camps as well. Her mother died of a brain aneurism when she was 11 years. Her step father was only 33 years old and was left with 7 children to raise. He could not handle it – became abusive and turned to drugs. She was introduced to Weed with Honey Oil when she was only 13. She left home at 14 and came to Alberta when she was 19. She has had substance abuse problems for most of her life. She has not seen her family for 20 years. Her biggest concern with her family is that she does not want to be judged.

We are hoping to offer her some emotional and spiritual support when she is released in June. She will probably need some tutoring and educational assistance.

She will also eventually need a place to live and a job. If she does not receive any support she could turn to previous acquaintances and possibly land up in trouble again.

This was a very informative, worthwhile trip!



World Friendship Day Habitat for Humanity Build

Again this year, our organization will be celebrating World Friendship Day in service to our community by participating in a Habitat for Humanity Build. It will take place on April 25th in St. Albert. There was a lot of hype about it at the General Meeting with sign up sheets for both building and food preparation. We have twenty-eight enthusiastic building volunteers to date. There is room for seven more. Please call Helmut Nikolai to volunteer or if you require more information. There will be more information sent out in the Monday mail out closer to the date. Watch for it.



You could be doing this if you volunteer or you could be working inside the house.



A Message from the Chair of Exchanges

by Marjorie Eckert

We will be very busy this summer as the reports below indicate.

Inbound by Jessie & Frank Parker A Busy August Coming Up!

The dates for the Michigan in-bound have not been finalized as yet, but we do know that it will be between August 20 and 30. We are looking forward to meeting some of the same folks who hosted us on our out-bound prior to the Niagara Conference a few years ago. About 15 members of the club will visit Hay River first and then be joined in Edmonton by other members of their club, making a group of about 20 or so. With two in-bound in August, we will need the help of all our club members! Sydney, Australia, will be here from August 12 to 18. Then we will have time to vacuum, do laundry, mow the lawn and have a rest before the Michigan group arrives four or five days later. Our Outbound to England and Belgium leaves in early September. We are fortunate to have so many fun things on our agenda!

Exchange Directors' Report for the Outbound to Oxfordshire, England and Leuven, Belgium – Donna and Larry Wyatt

We have had three meetings to make plans for Oxfordshire and Leuven with excellent attendance at each meeting. There will be 15 members going to England and 21 members going to Belgium.

We are working with Europa Travel Representative, Sharon Pisesky, to make travel plans with the following itinerary:

- Leave on Sept. 3 arriving in London on Sept. 4
- Sept 4-11 – Homestay in Oxfordshire
- Sept. 11- 15 – Amsterdam
- Sept 15-22 – Homestay in Leuven
- Sept 22 – Brussels to London to Edmonton.
- Many of the group have plans for a post tour.

We are considering gifts to take to our hosts and it is likely the group will take the same gifts. George

and Merilynn Clarke and Deanna Gupta and Sam Yakimishyn have brought suggestions for these gifts which will be decided later. Merilynn Clarke has provided the words and music for the Alberta song, a possibility for our offering of entertainment while we are there.

Exchange Director's Report for North Carolina Outbound – Clare Scott

I have heard from the North Carolina Exchange Director and he advises me that they are happy to host 21 of us, but they are unable to host us early in April as we had requested because they are hosting Montana in that time period. However, they would gladly host us from April 29 to May 5. We will stay in Charlotte for the seven day home stay and then take two post tours. The first will be a two day trip to Asheville, which is in the Blue Ridge Mountains. From there we will go to Charleston, which is on the coast, for four days. We will then come back to Charlotte for our flights home. This would fit the schedule for members who wish to attend the Canadian Conference in Quebec which is being held from Wednesday May 16 to Saturday May 19.

This trip is in need of more ambassadors and it will go out onto Can Flex in an effort to fill it. Please visit www.FriendshipForceCharlotte.com for more information on the Charlotte club and their activities.

Exchange Director's Report for the 2013 Themed Inbound "Alberta Rockies Tour" – Brenda Kane

Our committee met on Nov. 15th and came up with a rough plan for the 2013 Themed Inbound. It was agreed that the **Rockies Tour** would include some active days, and some visits to cultural & historic attractions. A 10 – 12 day exchange would include 3 days in Edmonton before going for about 7 days on a bus tour to Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff, Calgary (with a possible lunch with FFC) and then a day in Drumheller. The ambassadors will return to Edmonton for two more days after the tour. We would like to plan for 35 – 40 ambassadors with some of our members going along on the tour as well. Tour companies have been approached, and we have quotes from two companies, Brewster and Anderson, for the 7- day Rockies/Calgary/Drumheller tour. It was suggested that a pre or post tour to Ft. McMurray could be offered as well. We would like to have plans in place as soon as possible so as to advertise through FFI this

spring – before other clubs have made their decisions for 2013. This will be a Global Exchange – inviting FF members from around the world. It was suggested that we might only host *one other inbound* in 2013, as the Themed Inbound will involve all the members of our club.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE CALENDAR

February:

Wednesday, February 1st, Museum Lecture

Saturday, February 4th Progressive Supper

Monday, February 27th, Dinner and a Movie

March:

Saturday, March 3rd, 11:00 am Sikh Temple, (Tour and Lunch)

Monday, March 12th, Dinner and a Movie

TBA: Enjoy Centre

April:

Monday, April 2nd, Dinner and a Movie

TBA Northern Rockies Conference

Wednesday, April 11th, Second Wind Conference

Wednesday, April 25th, Habitat for Humanity Build

May:

Wednesday, 16th-Friday 18th, Canadian FF Conference (Quebec City)

Saturday, May 26th, 10:00 am General Meeting Holy Trinity Anglican Church

May Outbound for North Carolina

May/June TBA Tour of Women's Prison

June:

June 19 – 22, Inbound from Kansas City

TBA (?) Dinner and a Movie

TBA June/July Golf/Walk

TBA June July

Markerville Tour

July:

TBA Open Doors

TBA Cemetery Tour

TBA Inbound Michigan

TBA Golf/Walk/Movie?

August:

TBA Golf/Walk/Movie?

Aug. 12th – Aug 18th Inbound from Sydney

Michigan Inbound

September:

Sept. 3rd – Sept. 22nd: Outbound to Oxfordshire, England and Leuven, Belgium

TBA (?) Walk/Dinner and a Movie

October:

Saturday Oct. 13th, 10:00am Annual General Meeting TBA location

TBA Dinner and a Movie / Other?

December:

Thursday, December 6th, Christmas Party

**Please see Monday announcements from the Social Committee for details.*

Humor is Good for the Soul

After being married for thirty years, a wife asked her husband to describe her.

He looked at her.....contemplated...then said, "You're A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K."

She asked... "What does that mean?"

He said, "Adorable, Beautiful, Cute, Delightful, Elegant, Foxy, Gorgeous, Hot."

She smiled happily and said..."Oh, that's so lovely...what about I, J, K?"

He said, "I'm Just Kidding!"

His left eye is still swollen...but the doctor has informed him that he is likely to see things *much clearer* in the future.

