



ST. ALBERT AND AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ' ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

March 15, 2023

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March: Is it SPRING yet?

“Never iron a four-leaf clover, because you don’t want to press your luck.” *An Irish Proverb*

STARTA Breakfast: Friday, March 31, 2023

at Sturgeon Golf and Country Club

Doors Open 8:30 am & Breakfast starts at 9:00 am

Cost: Members \$25 Non-members \$28

Membership cost: \$10 (paid at registration desk)

Program: “Why Didn’t I ask more questions?” – Family Genealogy with guest speaker and one of our own, **Lynn Duigo**

SECOND WIND REMINDER... Second Wind’s **tenth** conference is scheduled for Sept. 07, 2023. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Looking Back : February 24, 2023 Breakfast meeting with Guest speakers Sharon Schnell, Brenda Kane and Wendy Poirier, all members of Friendship Force, presented :“A World of Friends is a World of Peace.”

They shared with us the activities of this international organization whose goal is to promote global understanding by connecting the world, one friend at a time.

Thank you, Brenda, for providing us with the following information.

Friendship Force International - A Different Way to See the World

By Brenda Kane

In 2006, my husband Glen and I heard about Friendship Force from some retired teachers in STARTA and decided to join the club. We were recently retired and interested in having new adventures. Since then, we have been on many outbound journeys, as well as hosting people from all over the globe. Membership in FFI provides opportunities to explore new countries and cultures from the inside by bringing people together at the personal level. Hosts welcome international visitors into their culture, sharing with them meals, conversation, and the best sights and experiences of their region. It promotes global peace, one week at a time.

Where Has Our Club Travelled with FF?

Australia, Belgium, Brazil,
Burundi, Colombia,
Costa Rica, England,
Germany, Japan, Kenya,
Mexico, Netherlands,
New Zealand, Northern
Ireland, Norway, Peru,
Russia, Slovakia, Taiwan,
Turkey, Ukraine, USA, and
other parts of Canada



Who Have We Hosted?



Australia, Brazil,
Burundi, Colombia,
England, Germany,
Japan, Kenya,
Netherlands, New
Zealand, Northern
Ireland, Turkey,
USA and Canada

Members are expected to help with the inbound journeys by home hosting, planning the itinerary, and becoming day and dinner hosts.

Why Do We Journey?

- Friendship Force International facilitates experiences and journeys to transform ourselves and others. **Enjoy learning and growth whether you're hosting new friends from around the world or traveling to a new hemisphere.**
- Membership in FF involves welcoming the world and exploring other cultures. Through these exciting personal encounters, strangers become friends. **Every friendship formed across barriers of nationality, religion and politics makes the world a better place.**
- With over 300 journeys taking place each year across more than 60 countries and six continents, Friendship Force has plenty of options for its over 15000 active members.

How Do We Journey?

- **Club-to-club Journey** - This program takes place between two or more active Friendship Force clubs. It is usually 5-7 nights and usually involves home hosting. The host club organizes an itinerary highlighting local culture, history and nature that would be of interest to the visiting club. The visiting

“ambassadors” pay a host fee of approximately \$350 which will cover the entrance fees, a welcome and farewell dinner, and most other items. If ambassadors wish to attend a special event like the Bluegrass Festival or a sporting event, the host fee may be higher.



- **Journeys for individuals** – An individual journey is an opportunity for individual FF members, couples, or families to be hosted by another member or family somewhere around the globe.
- **Special or Global Journeys** – These are themed journeys organized by a member or club or by FFI. They include cruises, festivals, or tours and will have a higher cost since they usually include hotels and more expensive transportation. Our Edmonton club hosted a 14 day “Prairies to the Mountains” global journey which included home hosting for 6 days, and then a bus tour through the Rockies. Participants were from Japan, Australia, New Zealand, England, Canada, and the USA. The ambassadors had an opportunity to do a raft float down the Athabasca River, hike around Lake Louise, canoe, ride horses, and stay on a ranch. A few years later, Glen and I joined the “Pub and Gardens” global journey in Australia. We stayed in small hotels or pubs and visited private and state-owned magnificent gardens. We were home hosted in the Blue Mountains for part of the journey, and have become close friends with our host.



Every friendship formed across barriers of nationality, religion and politics makes the world a better place.

(Thanks to the Friendship Force International website, for descriptions of the types of journeys, and the philosophy of the organization.)

If you are interested in finding out more about Friendship Force, please call Wendy Poirier (780-460-1260) or Brenda Kane (780-460-2414) for more information.

You can also check out the following website for the Edmonton and Area FF Club. <https://www.friendshipforceedmonton.org>

Honouring those who have gone before us:

Elaine Sokoloski passed away on February 24, 2023. Her funeral was on March 11, 2023 at 1:00 pm at Our Lady of Perpetual Catholic Church in Sherwood Park.

Elaine was born in Grandview, Manitoba. Being the eldest of a family of five, Elaine looked after her siblings and said “thank you” for hand me downs. Elaine was proud of her Polish-Ukrainian heritage.

At Canora composite high school, she joined the choir and drama club, served a year on the Athletic Council, and was a member of the Ukrainian Catholic Youth Club. She always did well in writing and speaking. After high school she attended the University of Saskatchewan where she gained her BA and BEd degrees. She

began her career teaching in Redwater in 1970, Archbishop Jordan in Sherwood Park 1974, and a little later in Edmonton Catholic Schools. While teaching, she was also the drama and debating coach. She influenced, mentored, and befriended countless students and with her sense of humour made her a popular teacher.

Elaine has three grandchildren. When Dwayne, her daughter's husband came along, she was not bothered at all by sharing her daughter with her husband. Dwayne confirmed Elaine's blessing in exchanged for rings of sausage and perogies.

Elaine was a strong supporter of STARTA.

Clara Scott: It is with profound sadness that the family of Clare Scott announced her passing on Friday, February 17, 2023. Funeral Service was held at the St. Albert United Church at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Contributions from our members:

We ask you to participate, as we feature stories from the early teaching years of our members! Tell us about those first few years when you were so excited and so challenged! What was your assignment and classroom like? How did you manage? Do you recall any unusual events or interesting 'happenings'?

Reminiscing the Beginning! Fern Gouchey

In 1951, when I started my educational journey, I came to Edmonton to the U of A with a \$250 bursary from the Peace River School Division. This meant I owed them 2 years of teaching.

I took a Temporary License which entailed 14 subjects for 7 months. Of those 14 subjects only 1 was of any value. It showed us how to do a register. I was set to teach.

My first school was in Clear Hills—grades 1 - 8 in May and June of 1952. Looking back. I really knew nothing other than my own experience in my little country school in Three Creeks where I went from grades 1 to 8. I must say stupidity helps. I thought I was teaching!

In my second year of training, I married Roy and I both went to U of A (1953-54). It took me until 1978 to get my Education Degree by summer schools.

Gradually things have changed. There is no such thing as a "Temporary License". Teachers are so much better trained now. There are no more country schools. Teachers choose the subjects they are going to teach and specialize in them. Schools are centralized. Modern teachers aren't even janitors anymore!

I think all the modern changes are for the better but 1952 was way less complicated.
Fern Gouchey

A Great Memory for Donna Fedoration

In response to the request for anecdotes about our early teaching years, I offer the following story. It is one of my favourites.

My dream was always to teach high school and I hoped to be as great a teacher as my own favourite whom I had in grades ten and eleven.

My first assignment was at St. Patrick's High School in Halifax. When I started teaching, I was only three years older than some of my students, and both students and colleagues used to tease me about that.

One Friday night, I was standing in line with a date waiting to get into a movie, when I turned around and saw a few of my students together. They seemed quite excited to see me with a guy and waved to let me know that they were seeing me. On the following Monday, a student asked if I was returning tests that day and I quipped, "Not today. I do have other interests besides marking tests you know!"

A student who was one of the ones at the movie theatre replied, "Miss, you might want to ask that other interest to help you mark those tests!"

The whole class laughed like crazy, and I would guess that I was blushing. I remember this story like it was yesterday!

Donna Fedoration

Thanks Fern and Donna!

Members, we would love to share your story. Please send any contributions to our News Bulletin on or before the 12th of each month. Send to pbergmann@shaw.ca

MESSAGE from your Executive:

Our Annual General Meeting is coming this May. Your executive members are concerned - looking ahead we would like to fill the following open positions to have a full executive roster. We are looking for members who would be willing to step up!

Vice - Presidents: VACANT

Program Convenor: VACANT (*Leo Bruseker has organized programs for this year only! If we are to continue providing a program for upcoming breakfast meetings, we NEED someone to help with and take over planning programs for our fall breakfast meetings.*)

Webmaster: VACANT

Please consider volunteering. For more information, you can contact:

Mary Pat O'Neill mary.oneill@telus.net or

Wendy Poirier rwpoirier19@gmail.com

Thank You to those who have contributed to this News Bulletin.

CONTACT INFORMATION FORM:

If you have had a change of contact information, please fill out and email or bring the attached form to a breakfast meeting. Thank you!



**ST. ALBERT RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP Information
2022-2023**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

NEW MEMBERSHIP: _____ RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP _____

RETIRED TEACHER: _____ ASSOCIATE MEMBER: _____

Membership Fee for 2022-2023 is \$10 for both a member and an associate member. An associate member is anyone who has purchased a membership in STARTA, but does not receive a pension from ATRF.

NOTE: Photos may be taken at STARTA events and may be published in STARTA media. If this is an issue for you, please discuss your concern with the photographer at the event.