



## *Friends Connection*

### **Friendship Force of Sarasota**

**December, 2009**

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Vice Pres: vacant

Secretary: Judi Stratton

Treasurer: Bob Burke

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Darlene Beachley, Sonny Spiker

Directory: Bob Bergin

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#### **President's Message**

Here it is December already, and I'm writing my last newsletter message. The year has gone quickly, and I hope you all feel it has been a good one for our club. I'll mention a few highlights in review:

We have a new FFI logo, new brochures, new pins and new name badges. We have changed from green to multi-colored. We have a new extended website where our new electronic newsletter can be found. Soon we will change to a new meeting place, the Waldemere Fire Station.

We have attended the Booker Visual and Performing Arts Spring Performance, enjoyed a delicious International Potluck Dinner, experienced a different kind of "Summer Happening" in touring Sun City Center, celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a lovely catered dinner and program, assisted the Sarasota Sister Cities organization by providing drivers for students from Perpignan, France and socialized over a family style dinner at Troyer's Dutch Heritage Restaurant.

Our exchanges have been unique and varied: our inbound exchange from Minsk, Belarus, Moscow, Russia and Tashkent, Uzbekistan in March; our outbound exchange to Austin and San Antonio, Texas in April and our outbound exchange to Calgary and the Canadian Rockies in August.

And – there's more to come – our wonderful Holiday Dinner Party at Stoneybrook Country Club on December 10!

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the cooperation of the many members who worked as board members, EDs, committee chairmen, committee members and participants. Thank you all!! Now let's continue to work together for a wonderful new year!!  
In Friendship, Katy

#### **Calendar of Events\*\*more info inside\*\***

December 5

Sun City Holiday Walk\*\*

December 7

**No Board Meeting this month**

December 10

Annual Holiday Party at Stoneybrook Country Club\*\*

January 10

Combined Board Meeting at Katy Goodwin's 4P\*\*

January 14

General Meeting Selby Library 6P\*\*

Date TBA

Board Meeting at TBA

February 4

General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7P\*\*

## We're Moving!



After calling many places in Sarasota to locate a different 7:00 PM meeting site, we were able to secure the **first Thursday night of the month** at the Waldemere Fire Station on Waldemere Street between Tamiami Trail and East Ave. The large meeting room has a separate entrance, is located on the second floor accessed by stairs and elevator. There are restrooms on the second floor. Parking is available on the property and on the street. We plan to start meeting there on February 4, 2010 at 7PM.

There will be a Joint Board Meeting for the 2009 and 2010 Boards at the home of Katy Goodwin, 4505 Lake Vista Drive, Sarasota at 4:00 PM on Sunday, January 10, 2010. This is the time for new and old committee notebooks and materials. All attendees are asked to bring a hearty hors d'oeuvre and their own beverage.



PM on Sunday, January 10, chairs to exchange bring a hearty hors

## **Election of Officers for the 2010 Friendship Force of Sarasota**

Voting will take place at our annual meeting in December. The following slate of officers for 2010 was selected for a one-year term and has accepted the nominations:

President – Jack Vendeland

Secretary - Judi Stratton

Vice President – Bob Bergin

Treasurer – Bob Burke

Other nominations may be offered from the floor at the December meeting.

Nominating Committee: Chairperson – Wayne Peterson

Committee members – Joan Scheerer, Margaret Mills, and Babe and Barb Baptist.

## **Exchanges**

### **Inbound**

Ottawa, Canada – November, 2010

The **SARASOTA AND EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUBS** will be hosting approximately **25 ambassadors** from **OTTAWA, CANADA** the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of **NOVEMBER 2010**. The exact date will depend on 2010 airline schedules.

Please save the dates now so that you don't miss out on what should be a very exciting week with our Canadian neighbors.

Many of us remember the gracious hospitality and, especially the memorable **Canada Day celebrations** that we shared with our Friendship Force Ottawa hosts in 2007.

Several committee members have been selected but a few positions remain. Please email Gloria Grenier at [ggrenier@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:ggrenier@tampabay.rr.com) if you would like to volunteer.

The committee to date consists of:

Exchange Director: Gloria Grenier

Home and Day Hosts: Bob and Cece O'Connor

Dinner Hosts: Terry Neuss

Activities: Mary Brugger

Program Booklet: Bob Bergin

Positions needing to be filled are: **WELCOME AND FAREWELL DINNER HOSTS, GIFT BAGS COORDINATOR, AND TREASURER.**

I welcome your call. Gloria



### **.Outbound**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana – February 11-15, 2010

The Baton Rouge exchange setting up their transportation Panhandle and into for car pooling, please let me



is progressing nicely. The ambassadors are and mostly ride sharing for the trip across the Louisiana. If any ambassadors are still looking know. There will be a brief meeting of the BR

ambassadors 1/2 hour before the January meeting to discuss all the last minute details. I will be sending emails if there are any updates, and the hosts will be getting in touch directly with their guests.

If you have questions or comments please contact ED Reeta Dean at 360 8768 or [reetatoc@yahoo.com](mailto:reetatoc@yahoo.com)

#### Belgian Coast, Belgium and Halle-Salle, Germany - April 16-May 1, 2010

The exchange to both places is proceeding very well in the preparation. Belgium from April 17th to the 24th, Halle-Germany from April 24th to May 1-2010.

We have a group of 10 people who are starting with an additional visit to Amsterdam, for the tulip show, visit of Zaanse Schans, etc. April 14th to the 17th; they will meet the rest of the group in Belgium.

If anyone wishes to still join the exchange, there are 2 places available.

I have scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, Dec 8, at 7PM in the Tower Lounge of Whispering Sands. Please bring your passports and checkbook. I hope that you all are able to attend.

If you have any questions or are not able to come, please let me know.

Thank you,

In Friendship, Helga Tel 349-6706 E-mail: [Lischinop@comcast.net](mailto:Lischinop@comcast.net)



#### Who's this?



If you check out the home page of the FFI website, [www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org) you will see a neat photo of Ramona, Katy and Wayne and the other attendees of the Florida Conference in their costumes from around the world. Ramona is in Egyptian wear, Katy is in Moroccan, and Wayne is in Burundian.

#### Other Bits and Pieces

The November dinner meeting at Troyer's Dutch Heritage was attended by 44 members and two guests. Willard Schlabach, Troyer Manager, spoke to us about the Amish/Mennonite background of Pinecraft and the history and operation of Troyer's. Two Troyer \$20 gift certificates were awarded as door prizes to lucky winners Judi Stratton and Wilma Fitzgerald, Colleen Stoller's sister.

We extend a very big THANK YOU to Terry Neuss for coordinating the FF drivers for the Sarasota Sister Cities student exchange, and an even bigger THANK YOU to our members who volunteered to drive.

We now have a supply of The Friendship Force Florida pins that are available for \$1.50 each. Many members like to take these along as small gifts when they are going on exchanges.

The club made a \$100 contribution to the Friends of the Selby Library thanking them for our use of the auditorium during 2009. This has been an annual contribution for the past several years.



# Celebrate the Holidays!

Where? Stoneybrook Country Club, 8801 Stoneybrook Blvd. Sarasota

When? Thursday, December 10, 5:30pm cocktail hour, 6:30 dinner

What's the Menu? Stuffed Chicken breast or  
Sautéed salmon with burre Blanc sauce  
\$25

The price includes tax and tip and all dinners will come with salad,  
Chef-selected sides, rolls, butter, coffee, tea, iced tea, and Chef's dessert.  
There will be a full cash bar with appetizers.

What's Happening? A gift exchange continues this year!  
If you wish to participate, bring 1 wrapped gift (\$10) per couple or single.  
Of course, only people bringing a gift will participate.  
and/or  
You may choose to donate an unwrapped item for Resurrection House.  
Preferably underwear, socks, towels – male or female.

Who? The grapevine is saying that Santa will definitely be there!

How Do I Sign Up? Simply fill out the reservation below with your check.



Happy Holidays to All!



|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Annual Holiday Party – December 10th 5:30pm cocktails//6:30pm dinner                               |                        |
| <u>Please indicate your choice of entree</u>   |                        |
| Chicken  | \$25x _____ = \$ _____ |
| Salmon   | \$25x _____ = \$ _____ |
| Total amount enclosed  | \$ _____               |
| Name(s) _____  | Ph # _____             |
| Please make check out to Sarasota FF and mail to Bob Burke, 448 E. Rubens Dr. Nokomis, 34275       |                        |
| The deadline for reserving is December 5 <sup>h</sup> . As always, your check is your reservation. |                        |

There will be a short meeting presided over by our outgoing Prez, Katy Goodwin, during which we will vote on our new slate of officers for 2010

Please renew your FF Membership for 2010 by filling out this form as soon as possible!

All dues run from January to December and need to be paid for the coming year by **December 31, 09**. We try to put our Membership Directory out by the first of the year so it is important for you to **renew now**. Please send the following form, one per household, with your check. **Please update with current information and indicate that it is new.** Thank you.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Dues \$ 13 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Name Badge \$ 11 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail with check made out to FF of Sarasota to Bob Burke, 448 E. Rubens Dr. Nokomis, FL 34275

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