



Friends Connection
Friendship Force of Sarasota
www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

December, 2012

President: Judi Stratton
jaspetime@comcast.net
Vice Pres: Gloria Grenier
Secretary: Debbie Boyd
Treasurer: Bob Joyce
Publicity: Peggy Hayden
Membership/Directory: Judy Joyce
Mentor/Membership Book chair: Ramona McGee
Donna Schaeffer, Gene Burke, Joan March, Reeta Dean

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Editor: Nancy Rehbock
RNRehbock@tampabay.rr.com
Historian: Vivian McNamara
Sister Cities: Terry Neuss
Sunshine: Marty Swenson
Social: Betty Kuhns, chair, Shellie Ramey
Lynne Barrett, JR Seuss, Jean West-Walker
Web Administrator: Linda Vendeland
Past Pres. - Jack Vendeland

President's Message

2012 is fast drawing to a close. A heartfelt thank you to officers, committee chairs and members and the myriad club members who volunteered to help throughout the year in so many ways. Special thanks to members who created an outstanding general meeting program November 1 by sharing unique experiences and adventures of summer and fall exchanges: Jack Vendeland on the Global Aviation Exchange in Dayton, Reeta Dean on the Amazon, Bob & Judy Joyce on Russia, and Peggy Hayden on our club exchange to Tirana, Albania followed by a tour of the Western Balkans.

Preparations are moving forward on our exchanges for 2013. Ambassadors from Seattle/Tacoma WA will arrive in Sarasota in April for a domestic exchange. Ramona McGee continues to plan for our international outbound exchange to Greater Yalta and possibly Kiev, Ukraine as well as Rostov-on-Don, Russia in September/October. Several possibilities for an international inbound exchange for November 2013 are in the works too.



Early in 2013 we expect to hear from FFI about our international outbound exchange request for 2014 and our proposed global inbound exchange on The Arts in Sarasota. Our global exchange application is posted on our club website, and all members are invited to submit suggestions about what should be included and to contact me if they are interested in being involved in this exciting new venture for our club.

In this newsletter you will find a membership renewal form for 2013 to complete and return with your dues to treasurer Bob Joyce by December 31. The sooner you return it, the sooner we can get a 2013 club directory back to you! If you did not update your hosting database form this year, please fill that out and return it to Bob as well.

Looking forward to seeing you at our December 6 Holiday Party at Rosebud's. Wishing to you all a joyous holiday season with family and friends and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Judi

One's destination is never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things.

Henry Miller

Calendar of Events**more info inside***

December 6	Holiday Party at Rosebud's ****
January 3	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm
January 22	Joint Board Meeting 7pm at home of Donna Schaeffer
February 7	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm
February 26	Board Meeting at TBA

Membership Bits 'n Pieces

Congratulations to **Ramona McGee** who has been named Friendship Force



International Volunteer of the Year 2012. This is a great honor for Ramona and, by association, for our club. The next few paragraphs outline some of the many contributions of time and energy Ramona has given to Friendship Force.

Ramona McGee has been a member of Friendship Force of Sarasota since 1991. She was an active member, serving as treasurer and vice president, while working full time for many years, hosting and traveling with the group as time permitted. After retirement 8 years ago, she served as president of the club for two years, as well the exchange director for 4 weeks in New Zealand and Australia and for a week in Bogota, Colombia. She has been host ED for visits from Edmonton, Canada and Northern Colorado. As leader for a Russian Leadership Open World Program sponsored by the Library of Congress she set up the program in 2 weeks, as well as coordinated other activities for the group. Ramona also served as Field Representative for all the Florida Clubs for Friendship Force International for three years, keeping other clubs informed of activities, visiting clubs to conduct ED Workshops and assisting in the leadership of other clubs as requested.

In 2008 Ramona was selected to represent our club in a segment of Jack Perkins' Gulf Coast Journal PBS series featuring FF of Sarasota and our inbound exchange from Germany. Ramona was filmed during the exchange and interviewed about FF and the exchange process. The DVD of this PBS show, starring Ramona, is now a valuable part of our club expansion presentations in our community. In 2011, Ramona planned the program for the All-Florida Conference held in Sarasota. Currently, she is chair-person for the Membership Committee of FF of Sarasota, spearheading an increase in membership of 16 during the first 6 months of 2012. In this effort she developed a new member packet and a mentoring system, collected names of potential members and followed through with email and print invitations for them to club events, sent club newsletters via email, featured new members in our newsletter with brief biographies, and organized a social for new and prospective members at her home.

Ramona has also traveled to Japan, Morocco, Berlin, Northern Ireland, Brazil, Calgary, Ottawa and Iceland with Friendship Force. She has attended 5 International Conferences and was a panel speaker in Washington D. C.

Currently, as part of FFI's club mentoring initiative, she is assisting a gentleman in Yalta, Ukraine to form a new FF club where the Sarasota Club hopes to visit them in 2013. Ramona is always willing to answer questions or assist members of FF of Sarasota.

Meet our Newest Members!!

We gained 4 new members in November – **Judy Filip, Hank Prince and Donna Starr-Prince, and Ingrid Campbell.** Welcome to all! The missing bios will appear in a later issue.

Judy Filip is a member of the Olympia, WA Friendship Force Club. She and her husband, Dan, are spending five months in Sarasota this winter and she has joined our club. They are originally from Illinois and attended Monmouth College. They then moved to Utah and attended Utah State College for their graduate degrees. Judy worked in marketing for the telephone company in Utah. They moved to Olympia, WA in 1987 where she continued her career in marketing customer service. She joined Friendship Force about 1999 and was an active member, serving as Field Representative for the Northwest Region for three years. Judy enjoys travel, reading, gardening and the theatre. They have one daughter and son-in-law. She and Dan are living in Pinehurst, north of University Parkway, near Lockwood Ridge Road.

Ingrid Campbell is originally from Kassel, Germany. While attending college there, she met an American soldier whom she married and moved to the United States with him. After spending time with him in the military, they settled in the Boston area after his retirement. She was employed by Digital Equipment and held positions in programming and manufacturing management. They retired to Sarasota in 1990 and lived in the Center Gate Area. Ingrid, who is now widowed, is an avid bridge player. She enjoys travel, opera and classical music. She is looking forward to becoming involved in Friendship Force, meeting people and traveling with us.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA



We all have enough "stuff", so how about giving a gift that doesn't accumulate but does satisfy. A ticket to the Mindy Simmons concert will please your neighbor or the lady who takes care of your cat or your uncle John. It will be a terrific performance by a well-loved local performer and benefit the Legacy Fund of FFI. What could be better? The tickets are a reasonably priced (\$10.00) alternative to more "things" and so easy to get. Ramona and I will have them for sale at the Holiday Party so you don't even have to go out shopping at the Mall. Look at your list and consider who would love to go to this concert on March 1st.

Reeta Dean

Musical **"The Wiz"** at Booker Visual Performing Arts School Babe Baptist will have 30 tickets available at \$10.00 each for the opening night performance on Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Please bring cash to pay Babe directly.

Additional tickets can be purchased at the Booker HS box office.



Election of Officers for the 2013 Friendship Force of Sarasota

Voting will take place at our annual meeting in December. The following slate of officers for 2013 was selected for a one-year term and has accepted the nominations:

President – Judi Stratton

Secretary – Donna Schaeffer

Vice President – Gloria Grenier

Treasurer – Bob Joyce

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

Nominating Committee: Chairpersons – Jack and Linda Vendeland

Committee members – Ramona McGee, Margaret Mills, Gary Kuhns, Donna Schaeffer

New By-law Amendment

The proposed amendment to our club by-laws passed by voice vote with no dissenting votes at our November 1 general meeting. Here is the amended text of the article concerning annual dues.

Article IX Finances

Section 1.

The annual dues of this CLUB are payable before December 31. Club membership will be for the calendar year. Members who have not paid by January 15 shall be dropped from the membership rolls. Two thirds (2/3) of the board must approve a change in the amount of annual dues. Notice of a change will be made in the CLUB newsletter at least one (1) month prior to the date of change. Dues paid after November 1st of any year will constitute dues for the following year.

NEWS FROM THE WEB



Wanted: Photos taken at 2012 club activities. I am currently working on our annual Year in Review movie, and if you have any photos that you would like to be included, please send them to me. A big THANK YOU to those of you who have already sent me photos. www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator E-Mail invende@aol.com

Exchanges

Outbound

Rostov-on-Don, Russia and Greater Yalta, Ukraine

Late September and Early October, 2013

Communication has been slow this past month, but I did recently hear from Pavel of the Greater Yalta Region. He had been traveling to remote regions with his employment and communications were very poor. It is now established that our visiting their area in early October will be acceptable. Pavel said that is “Indian Summer” and a beautiful time of the year. (Thought that was only an American



expression.) The weather will be a little cooler and the heavy tourist traffic will have subsided. He is experiencing some difficulty in finding people willing to host, but I had assured him we would be willing to stay in small hotels in the area. My contact in Rostov, Mila, is always most prompt in reply and said her club is looking forward to hosting us, sharing their lives and their region with us. She has worked in the travel industry in the past and will be most helpful.

We will be sharing this exchange with the Austin, TX Club, with Kay Binder of Austin as my back-up ED. They have only a small group interested in traveling.

I hope by the time of our next newsletter, we will have some definite dates established.

As yet, FFI has not received any reply from the Kyiv Club about a possible short visit with them. If a stop in Kyiv is included, that will most likely be our first stop, as that is the area farthest north.

Ramona McGee, ED



Please renew your FF Membership for 2013 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, 2012**. 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 if it is new.** Thank you. _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email(s) _____

Dues \$ 20 per person x _____ = _____

Name Badge \$ 11 per person x _____ = _____

Total \$ _____

Please mail with check made out to FF of Sarasota to Bob Joyce, 1232 Pine Needle Rd. Venice FL 34285

Friendship Force of Sarasota, Florida – Membership Database

Name:

Past/Present Occupation:

Foreign Languages You Speak:

Special Interests or Hobbies (max 3):

Please check the kind of club activities you would be willing to be involved with:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Data Base/Directory |

Exchange Information:

When we host an inbound exchange, the information below will help us to accommodate our ambassadors.

- Accommodate guest/s in my home
- Serve as a day host
- Provide transportation
- Host a social event at my home
- Member of a committee that plans and coordinates activities for our guests

Accommodations I can provide for guest/s:

Twin bed/s _____ Double bed/s _____ Queen _____ King _____

Number of guest rooms available _____

Gender Preferred: Female Male Couple No Preference

Do you permit smoking in your home? Yes No

Do you have pets? Yes No If yes, what kind?

Do you have allergies? Yes No If yes, what kind?

LAST CALL!!!!!!!!!!

HOLIDAY PARTY



WHEN: Thursday, December 6, 2012

WHERE: Rosebud's Restaurant, 2215 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey. FL 34229

WHAT TIME: 6:00 pm to ???

COST: \$29.00 per person

MENU CHOICES:

1. Prime Rib, baked potato
2. Herb Crusted Baked White Fish, baked potato
3. Chicken Parmesan over linguini

Each includes a tossed salad and crème brulée for dessert

as well as a choice of non-alcoholic beverages. Cash bar.

We will have our traditional gift exchange (maximum value \$10.00)

along with a surprise guest!!!

Donations for Resurrection House also accepted.



Reservation deadline is November 30.

Please make your checks out to FFS and mail them along with your menu selection to

Bob Joyce, 1232 Pine Needle Rd., Venice FL 34285

Attendance is limited to 60 persons!