



Friends Connection
Friendship Force of Sarasota
www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

February, 2011

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Presidents' Message

Last month we asked our members to help us increase our membership by presenting programs at local functions to inform them of the unique traveling experiences through Friendship Force exchanges. We are pleased that Bob & Judy Joyce, Bob O'Connor, Art Swenson and Dick Batt will be presenting a program at the Pinebrook South Community Men's club February 16. Gary & Lee Anderson also are looking into presenting a program at Bay Indies Mobile Home Park. We hope these efforts will yield new and enthusiastic members for our club. Let us know of other possible venues to spread the message of Friendship Force.

We are also grateful to Bob O'Connor and Don Nicholson for their efforts to create a fun program for our exchanges.

Through these and other efforts we will be able to continue being the best Friendship Force club in Florida.

Jack & Linda

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside****

February 3	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7P
February 21	Board meeting at home of Jack and Linda Vendeland 7P
March 3	General Meeting 7P at Waldemere Fire Station
March 23	Outbound Exchange to Brazil
March 28	Board Meeting 7P at TBA
April 7	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7P
April 25	Board Meeting 7P at TBA

Our February 3 meeting will feature the "Bob and Don Show" (O'Connor and Nicholson) with selected FF members performing and practicing a circus themed skit for our club to use for inbound and outbound exchange presentations. Babe and Barb Baptist will give us some first hand information on our club's visit to the Edmonton club in 2000 and bring us up to date on Edmonton today. We want to be knowledgeable about our Canadian guests when they arrive on February 6. See you at the meeting!!



Look What's Happening?

- Four new members have joined since our last meeting. Please welcome **Debbie Boyd** -9775 SR64 W, Ona 33865. 863-781-4344, ruffabowow@hotmail.com.

Richard Palmer and **Charlotte Neagle**, 701 Silk Oak Drive, Venice 34293.

Richard - 941-412-8828, rhpalmer@gmail.com.

Charlotte - 941-412-8827, charlotte.neagle@gmail.com.

Susan Tschesnok, 750 N. Tamiami Tr. Sarasota 34236, 941-316-9309,

Suemarie123@earthlink.net.

- It's that time again for the Booker HS Spring Musical. The play this year is **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** and will be performed on Wednesday, May 4th at 7PM. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from Babe Baptist. If you would like to join in on some 'fine dining' before the play, you are welcome to join the group at the HobNob Drive-in at the corner of 301 and 17th St. in Sarasota at 6PM. Everyone welcome!
- If you know of anyone who is ill or needs cheering up, please let Marty Swenson know at 484-8334 or art-marty@verizon.net.

Message from our Membership Chairpersons

Thanks to everyone for getting your renewals in so quickly. We have 90 paid up members. This is down about 10 from 2010. We all need to be talking more about Friendship Force to our friends and neighbors. Check with any organizations you belong to, church groups, homeowners' assoc. etc, and see if they are willing to have a speaker tell them about Friendship Force. We have a short video and people who are willing to tell them about FF and share their experiences. Bring a friend to the next meeting.

Gary and Lee Anderson, Membership Chairpersons

Exchanges

Inbound

Edmonton, Canada – February 6-13, 2011 * Ramona McGee- ED

We are all anxious for the arrival of the Edmonton Ambassadors on Sunday, Feb. 6th and they are looking forward to time in warm & sunny Sarasota. The weather in Edmonton is -10 F. & windy, with snow piled on the lawns over 7 feet deep. So whatever our weather might be, it will be a treat for them. Our Homehosts will meet the Edmonton Ambassadors on Sunday at Sarasota Bradenton Airport. They will arrive via Air Canada Flight 1228 at 6:05PM. Our schedule for the week is shown below:



Monday, 2/07	Visit Myakka State Park at the dock for the airboat. 9:45AM Welcome Dinner at Marie's Italian Kitchen 5:00PM 5767 Beneva Rd. (Beneva & Clark) Sarasota
Tuesday, 2/08	Visit Southeast Guide Dog School 10:00AM 4210 77th St. East, Palmetto, FL Enjoy a Cuban lunch at Ybor Grill (<u>pre-order</u>) 12:00 noon 105 E. Shell Point Rd., Ruskin, FL Manatee Viewing Center at Big Bend Power Sta. 1:45PM 6990 Dickman Rd., Apollo Beach, FL
Wednesday, 2/09	Tour of Ringling School of Art & the Galleries 9:45AM Marie Selby Gardens 12:30PM Dinner Parties for Home Hosts & Ambassadors 6:00PM
Thursday 2/10	John & Mabel Ringling Museum of Art 9:30AM
Friday, 2/11	Mote Marine & Science Museum 9:45AM Miguel's Restaurant for Farewell Luncheon 1:00PM 6631 Midnight Pass Rd., Siesta Key (pre-order)
Saturday, 2/12	Free Day with your Ambassadors
Sunday, 2/13	Meet bus to depart for Miami Intl. Airport at McDonald's, Bee Ridge & Cattleman Rd, Sarasota 6:00AM or at BP Sta., on Laurel Rd east of I-75, Venice 6:15AM

Directions to the attractions in Palmetto, Ruskin & Apollo Beach will be distributed with the booklets.

For those who are experiencing an exchange for the first time we prepare a booklet for the hosts & ambassadors, listing all ambassadors, home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts and the timing, plus location, of all the activities. **We urge all to attend the Welcome Party & Farewell Party - plenty of space!**

Meeting of all hosts at home of Ramona McGee, 5316 Dominica Circle, Sarasota on Sunday, Jan. 30th at 2PM. Please let me know if you can attend - 378-2094. The booklets will be available at that time.

Normally, at both Mote Marine & Ringling Art Museum, we have sufficient people with memberships that our hosts can get in free. The fee for Selby Gardens is \$15. (uncertain of memberships) We will have to determine if there are enough hosts with memberships to assist with admissions. At the Ringling School of Art, we must limit the number of people who can tour to 34 (our ambassadors + 12 more).

At Myakka State Park, there is an entrance fee of \$6 per car. (Driver's responsibility)

If you have any questions, please call Ramona at 378-2094.

The Welcome Dinner will be a choice of either lasagna or chicken piccata, salad, bread, dessert, ice tea or soft drink. It is not necessary to pre-order. Cash bar.

For Your Reservation, complete the form below, make check payable to **FF of Sarasota** & send to Wayne Peterson, 4427 Opal Ct., Sarasota, FL 34233 **Deadline Feb. 3rd.**

Myakka Park Air-Boat Ride _____ @\$12. \$ _____
 Welcome Dinner _____ @\$13. \$ _____

Lunch on Tuesday:

"Ybor Grill Sampler" consisting of portion of shredded flank steak, in a burgundy & tomato sauce; Spanish ground beef blended with potatoes, olives & capers in a light tomato sauce; and pork roasted in sour oranges & garlic, served with salad, saffron rice, bread _____ @ \$13.00 \$ _____
 Combination of any 2 (1/2 pork sandwich, salad, cup of soup) _____ @ \$11.00 \$ _____

All served with choice of tea, coffee or soda

Farewell Luncheon Entree Choices are shown below - each costs \$18.
 Write your name next to your selection below:

Breast of Chicken Champagne _____
 Tilapia topped with lemon, butter & capers _____
 Seafood Vent (shrimp, scallops en casserole w/cheese sauce) _____
 Carre du Porc _____
 Veal Marsala _____
 Veal Piccata _____
 Grilled Salmon Provencal _____

No. of Farewell Luncheons _____ @\$18. \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO FF OF SARASOTA \$ _____

Outbound

Sao Carlos – March 26-April 2 & Sao Paulo, Brazil – April 2-9 + extensions

The next meeting of ambassadors for our March outbound exchange to Brazil will be Thursday, Feb 3, 6 pm at the Waldemere Fire Station, an hour before the general meeting that night. We will go through the visa application process together step by step. Keep watching your email for more detailed information and a copy of the FFI cover letter to enclose with your application. You will also find information in this newsletter about our dinner out at Rio Samba Brazilian restaurant. Be sure to turn in your reservation and check to Linda Vendeland by her deadline. I am working on arranging for (a) Brazilian guest speaker(s) for our March general meeting who will tell us about some of the differences in way of life of Brazilians and Americans. Judi Stratton



BRAZILIAN DINNER

Club members are invited to join the members going on the Brazilian exchange for dinner at a Brazilian restaurant. Along with eating traditional Brazilian food, our hosts will be available to answer questions we might have regarding Brazilian culture, etc. Perhaps we will even learn a few Portuguese words.

*Place: Rio Samba Restaurante, 2704 Stickney Point Rd., Sarasota
www.riosambarestaurante.com.*

Date: Thursday, February 24 at 6 PM



Menu: 1. Mixed Grill

Grilled chicken, pork, sausage & sirloin with rice, black beans, farofa & vinaigrette.

or

2. Grilled Sirloin

Grilled top bottom sirloin served with a creamy white rice risotto topped with mushroom sauce and bacon strips.

or

3. Baked White Shrimp

White shrimp baked with coconut milk, palm oil, onions, tomatoes, green peppers & cilantro.



*Cost: \$21.00 which includes tax and gratuity. Beverages not included.
Fill out the reservation form below and send in with your check.*

Brazilian Dinner - February 24 6:00 PM

Please indicate your choice of entree

1. Mixed Grill \$21x _____ = \$ _____

2. Grilled Sirloin \$21x _____ = \$ _____

3. Baked White Shrimp \$21x _____ = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Ph# _____

Please make check out to and mail to Linda Vendeland, 4519 Lakecrest Pl., Sarasota, FL 34233 Ph# 941-342-6278

The deadline for reservations is February 18.

Due to the size of the restaurant, we are limited to a total of 30 people.