



Friends Connection
Friendship Force of Sarasota
www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

February, 2013

President: Judi Stratton
jaspetime@comcast.net
Vice Pres.: Gloria Grenier
Secretary: Donna Schaeffer
Treasurer: Bob Joyce
Membership
Database & Directory: Margaret Lewis
Club Expansion & Mentoring: Gary Kuhns

Volume 24, No.2

Editor: Nancy Rehbock
RNRehbock@tampabay.rr.com
Web Administrator: Linda Vendeland
Social: Bonnie Frey
Publicity: Peggy Hayden
Sunshine: Margaret Mills
Sister Cities: Carol Booffer
Historian:
Past Pres. - Jack Vendeland

President's Message

Many thanks to Web Administrator Linda Vendeland for putting together a delightful powerpoint slide show of our 2012 Year in Review. Linda's show kept us all at rapt attention at our January general meeting. And thanks too to members who submitted photos, to Bob Joyce for his technological expertise and to Vivian McNamara who displayed our 2012 club scrapbook.

We were delighted to welcome a sizable group of continuing and new members at our recent ED training session. Exchanges are the heart of our club program, and we look forward to mentoring recently trained members and inviting their new ideas in future exchanges.

The 2013 exchange calendar is starting to look quite busy. Our domestic exchange from Seattle/Tacoma WA in April has attracted a number of ambassadors from other parts of the US too. Planning continues for our club international outbound exchange to Greater Yalta, Crimea, and Rostov-on-Don, Russia in September/October. And we are looking forward to hosting ambassadors from La Libertad club in Trujillo, Peru in November 2013. Mary and Walt Prouty have agreed to serve as EDs for this exchange. If they ask for your help, please say yes and do what you can to help prepare a warm welcome for the Peruvians.



Our 2013 club directory is in preparation. If you missed the deadline for inclusion in the directory, rest assured that we still welcome your participation (and your dues), and we will put your contact information in an email addendum to the directory. And of course your hosting database form can be updated at any time and returned to Treasurer Bob Joyce or Database Chair Margaret Lewis.

We really need the help of all club members to assure the success of the club expansion events we have planned for the next few months. Here is what you can do to help:

- 2/7/13 Celebrate the Chinese New Year with us at the next general meeting and be sure to visit the sign up tables for all the following events.
- 3/1/13 World Friendship Day concert by Mindy Simmons
- Post publicity posters in commons areas and businesses around town you frequent.
 - Volunteer to bring refreshments for intermission.
 - Buy at least one ticket each and be there to enjoy the concert with friends and neighbors.
- 3/23-24 Volunteer to staff the FF-SRQ information booth at the Folk & Acoustic Festival at Oscar Scherer State Park.
- 4/4/13 Help make our International Dinner at least as big a party as in 2012. Here's how:
- Send to Gary Kuhns by 3/15 contact information on prospective new members to be invited as our guests.
 - Send to Linda Vendeland by 3/15 photos for inclusion in the new 2013 Carmen Sarasota team photo ID contest for after dinner entertainment..
 - Sign up and prepare a delicious foreign dish to bring to the dinner.
- Thanking you all in advance for all that you do for Friendship Force. Together we can make this a great year.

Judi

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

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside****

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 7 | General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm**** |
| February 26 | Board Meeting at home of Bonnie Frey |
| March 1 | World Friendship Day
Mindy Simmons Concert at UU Church**** |
| March 7 | General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm**** |
| March 26 | Board Meeting 7pm at TBA |
| April 4 | International Dinner and Meeting**** |
| April 10 | Booker Play, "The Wiz"**** |
| April 17-24 | Seattle-Tacoma Inbound Exchange**** |
| April 30 | Board Meeting at TBA |

FEBRUARY 7 - CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

7:00 PM at the Waldemere Fire Station



Please join us for special videos on the celebration of the Chinese New Year both locally and internationally. Included will be clips on the Red Dragon Dance, the Ribbon Dance, the Lion Dance etc.; all in celebration of the 2013 Chinese Year of the Water Snake. Andrew Ezzell, President of **Give Something Back International** will narrate the videos and will speak of his experiences while living in China. Wear your Chinese garb and join in the festivities.

March 7th General Meeting

Our members Bob and Cece O'Connor will entertain us with their volunteer adventures summering in our National Parks. They recently spent several weeks in Yellowstone Park and at Mt. Rushmore. Bob is a skilled photographer so mark your calendars for this exciting adventure.



Thanks to the board for the snacks in January and to all who helped clean up. If you haven't already done so, be sure to sign up to bring refreshments for one of the coming months. February will be a surprise to celebrate Valentines and President's day.

Our big event for the year is our INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK DINNER AT OUR APRIL 4th meeting. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next two meetings and all members should be prepared to sign up to bring your favorite dish from one of the countries you have visited or would like to visit! A delightful evening is being planned with invitations to prospective new members and a 2013 version of the fun Team Photo ID contest "Where in the World is Carmen Sarasota?" YOU make this evening special so be sure to mark the date on your calendars now! Sign up or email Bonnie with your reservation and food choice.

Bonnie Frey, Social Committee Chairperson, email sarasotafrey@verizon.net

Membership Bits and Pieces

Bob Joyce, Treasurer



I grew up, lived and worked in the Syracuse area until 1997. From that time on we have lived in Venice. My wife Judy and I taught school and followed that by working several years for educational software companies. We have a son and three grandchildren in the Baltimore area. In our three years with FF Sarasota, we have traveled to Brazil and Russia with Costa Rica on the agenda for February. We have also hosted Russians, Colombians and Canadians. Currently, my volunteer duties include serving as the Assessment Director for Pinebrook South HOA, Lake Venice Men's Golf Association and Pinebrook Men's Club.

Proposed Amendment to FF-SRQ By-laws

Article VII Committees, Section 1:

Standing Committees shall be:

Delete "E. Historian" and reletter remaining standing committees.

Rationale for this amendment:

Our club Web Administrator fulfills the duties of Historian. With modern technology, it is no longer necessary to maintain a paper scrapbook record of club activities in addition to the electronic records on our club website.

Amending our by-laws is a 3 step process, as spelled out in Article X Amendments.

1. Approval by FFI. This amendment has been approved by Kathy Thomas of FFI.
2. Notice to our members. This newsletter item is the official notice to our members.
3. 2/3 vote of our members present and voting at a regular or special meeting. That vote will take place at our March 7, 2013 general meeting.

MINDY SIMMONS CONCERT



March 1st is almost upon us and it's time to get your tickets to hear Mindy Simmons singing for World Friendship Day at the Unitarian Church on Fruitville Rd. It's at 7:30 on Friday March 1st. Don't wait for the next meeting. You can call Ramona McGee (378- 2094) **RIGHT NOW** and reserve your tickets and then send her a check or pay her at the February 7th meeting (the last meeting before the concert). This is a whole club project and we need to have **everyone** involved if it is going to be a success. Many people have worked very hard to make this wonderful concert happen, so do your part by buying your tickets and getting your friends, family, and neighbors there also. You won't be sorry. She's great!

Ed. Note – See flyer at end of newsletter.

Musical “The Wiz” at Booker Visual Performing Arts School

Babe Baptist still has a few tickets available at \$10.00 each for the opening night performance on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 7pm. Please bring cash to pay Babe directly. Additional tickets can be purchased at the Booker HS box office. Before the play, meet the group at the Hob Nob Drive-in on US41 in Sarasota at 5:30pm and experience some ‘fine dining’.



NEWS FROM THE WEB

WANTED: Photos for the “Where in the World is Carmen Sarasota?” contest. Back by popular demand, the contest will be held at our International Dinner on April 4. Send your photos with descriptions to linvende@aol.com. The deadline is March 15.



For those of you who missed the 2013 Year in Review presentation shown at our January meeting, I have put a brief version of the slide show on the Video page of our website, and also on our Facebook page.

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

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

Exchanges

Inbound

Seattle-Tacoma WA– April 17-24, 2013



Our club will host the Seattle-Tacoma Friendship Force Club from April 17 to 24. There will probably be only 10 Ambassadors from the S-T. Club so we have opened up the exchange to other domestic chapters. So far we've had 3 responses from other clubs interested in enjoying our hospitality and surroundings. They are members of the Olympia WA Club and the Lincoln NE Club. Hopefully the numbers will increase to at least 15 Ambassadors. The committee is working hard on providing an interesting and diversified program for our guests and members. Details and

sign-up sheets will be at the next meeting.

Gloria Grenier, ED

Outbound

Ukraine & Russia Sept. 24 - Oct.11, 2013 (Approx. Dates)

In the early fall, FF of Sarasota and FF of Austin, TX will experience a joint exchange to Rostov-on-Don, Russia and to the Yalta Region of Ukraine along the Black Sea. We are also planning a few days in Kyiv before our exchange visits.

I am communicating with a travel agent in the Chicago area who specializes in Eastern European countries to help us find a brief tour of Kyiv and help with the travel arrangements. Arrangements have been slow, as in

Ukraine, January is a month of celebrations. After the New Year celebration with many fireworks, Christmas is celebrated on January 7th and The Old Style New Year on January 14th, followed by Epiphany on January 19th. While the holiday time has changed, the tradition remains. Many Ukrainian cities host festivals during this time. This picture is "The Old New Year" celebration in Kyivska Rus Park, near Kyiv. Doesn't this remind you of an old fashioned Christmas card?



During much of the 20th century, Christmas could not be openly celebrated in Russia, but now many Russians are returning to the Russian Orthodox religion and customs and celebrating Christmas in similar manner as the Ukrainians.

The fixed costs for this trip are \$525. We will be the first group to visit the Yalta Region and may be staying in small hotels which will add to our costs. I will keep all informed as soon as I have a cost of our Kyiv tour and/or air fare.

Ramona McGee, ED 941-378-2094 RMcGee0806@comcast.net

Feb. 2nd, Saturday- Sarasota's Chinese New Year Celebration -Welcoming The Year Of The Snake 2013



You are cordially invited to join us at our very special Chinese New Year Celebration on Feb 2nd, Saturday, 2013.

This Celebration, is proudly co-sponsored by GCAA (Gulfcoast Chinese American Association www.gulfcoastchineseamerican.org) and SCA (Sarasota Chinese Academy www.sarasotachineseacademy.org)

Event: Chinese New Year Celebration

Time: Feb.2nd, Saturday, 2013 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Location: T.J. Johnson Youth Center at Faith Baptist Church
8751 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, FL 34240-5201

Map Link: <http://www.manta.com/cmap/mmlhc7c/faith-baptist-church>

IN CELEBRATION of
WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY



friendship force
SARASOTA

Presents:

Mindy Simmons in



"WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER"

7:30PM FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST

AT THE U.U. CHURCH SARASOTA, 3975 FRUITVILLE RD.

CALL 941-378-2094 TO ORDER TICKETS IN ADVANCE

OR CASH OR CHECK AT THE DOOR! \$10.00

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org