

Friends Connection
Friendship Force of Sarasota
www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

June, 2012

President: Judi Stratton
jaspetite@comcast.net
Vice Pres: Gloria Grenier
Secretary: Debbie Boyd
Treasurer: Bob Joyce

Publicity: position open

Membership/Directory: Judy Joyce
Mentor/Membership Book chair: Ramona McGee
Donna Schaeffer, Gene Burke, Joan March, Reeta Dean

Volume 23, No.6

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

Congratulations to EDs Bonnie Frey and Reeta Dean and all the members of their committee as well as home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts, and members who came to help for the wonderful success of our just completed international inbound exchange from Bogotá, Colombia. Our ambassador guests departed Saturday for Orlando having thoroughly enjoyed our bit of "paradise," and we greatly enjoyed their warmth and energy and joie de vivre.

We are very pleased that six new members have joined Friendship Force in May. You will find some biographical information about them elsewhere in this newsletter; please welcome Teri Metz, Fred & Bev Wiberg, Janet Eubanks, Margaret Lewis, and Pat Coddington.



We have a change to our proposed international exchanges for 2013. As before, Ramona McGee will mentor the formation of new clubs in Yalta & Odessa, Ukraine for our outbound exchange in the second half of the year. Lima, Peru has declined their inbound exchange to Sarasota, but tentatively we will host a European club in early to mid November prior to the International Conference. Details will be announced when the match is official. And we will have a domestic exchange return visit in the spring from Seattle/Tacoma WA after our club is hosted there in August of this year.

Beyond these travel and hosting possibilities, each of you has numerous opportunities to participate and contribute to club activities in the next few weeks:

- Our Publicity Chair position is still empty. This is a key board member in charge of media calendar announcements, creating flyers for posting for club events, and scheduling presentations about Friendship Force to area clubs. Please see me if you can help.
- See Ramona McGee if you have not yet received your directory.
- Submit your database information form to Judy Joyce to make it easier for the exchange planning committees to do their work.
- See ED Helga Ponischil very soon to sign up for our international outbound exchange to Tirana, Albania and a tour of the western Balkans September 10-28.
- Contact Katy Goodwin to sign up for a domestic outbound exchange to Seattle/Tacoma WA August 9-16.
- Let ED Gloria Grenier know if you would like to help plan the inbound return visit of the Seattle/Tacoma club to Sarasota the spring of 2013.

For those of you still in Florida for the summer, our vice-president has excellent programs planned for us. At our next general meeting on June 7 we will be entertained with stories of volunteer travel experiences in unusual places. And if you are not familiar with the extraordinary large format black and white nature photography of Clyde Butcher, you are in for a treat at our Summer Happening on Thursday, July 19.

Safe travels to our snowbirds who depart for the north at this time of year and also to our year round residents who like to travel in the summer. Take care and I look forward to seeing you again when your schedules permit. May you return to Sarasota with a new way to see the world.

Judi

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

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside******

June 7	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm
July 19	Summer Happening ****
August 9-16	Outbound Seattle-Tacoma, WA Exchange****
August 28	Board Meeting 7 pm TBA
September 6	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm
September 10-28	Albania Outbound Exchange****

Membership Bits 'n Pieces

- Dean Farwell has been transferred to Heartland after having recent surgery.
 - Jay Jabas is scheduled for back surgery on June 7 at Doctor's Hospital.
- We send our wishes to both that they regain their strength and health very quickly.

Meet Our New Members



Our Membership Committee continues to be very active again this month, bringing us 6 new members. Please look for these members at the next meeting and make them feel most welcome.

Margaret Lewis heard about Friendship Force of Sarasota at the Sarasota Folk Festival and has joined our club. Margaret is originally from Christ Church, New Zealand. While helping on a sailboat that was making a documentary, she met a man from California, married him and lived there for many years, before moving to Sarasota in 1988. She was a system analyst, and was a consultant for IBM after moving to Florida. Margaret lives on Richardson Rd., east of I-75 with her six dogs. She said she needs a lot of space for them. She also volunteers with dog rescue and is very active in the statewide folk music organization.

Theresa (Teri) Metz heard about Friendship Force from her friend & neighbor, Gloria Grenier. Teri was originally from southern Indiana and lived in Chicago area for about 30 years before moving to Sarasota 9 years ago. Teri was an office administrator. Through Incarnation Church, Teri is active in the St. Vincent DePaul Society, assisting people by driving them to appointments and various other Good Samaritan deeds. She enjoys playing various card games and exercise classes.

Bev and Fred Wiberg had moved to a lot of places before they decided Florida offered just the right climate for their outdoor interests which range from outdoor tennis to walking and biking. When the weather isn't quite right, they are indoors reading, playing bridge, plus Bev's knitting and quilting.

They met at the University of Connecticut. From there they moved to Aurora, IL, Birmingham, AL, and Hartford, CN. Work with Allstate then took them to Chicago, IL, and finally with a smaller company to Brookfield, WI. When a corporate buyout offered early retirement they wisely decided that it would not be spent in the cold of Wisconsin. They moved south to Wilmington, N C but found it still wasn't warm enough. Florida finally beckoned.

They have traveled to our neighbors, Canada and Mexico. With Friendship Force they visited Costa Rica, but now look forward to "the opportunity to go further beyond and with others".

They participated in the Bogota exchange with Bev working hard at the Welcome party especially.

Be sure to find them at the next meeting and find out more about this interesting couple.

- **Janet Eubanks** and **Pat Coddington** also joined in May. Their bios will appear in a later issue.
- The next issue of *Friends Connection* will be Aug/Sept. and will appear in late August. There will be reminders and any pertinent information emailed to you throughout the summer.

Thursday, June 7 – General Meeting at the Waldemere Fire Station at 7 pm

“Born With Wings – experiencing life in exotic lands” presented by Dorothy Conlon

Let's explore a little the possibilities and pleasures of volunteer experiences in our global travels. Dorothy will give an overview of how it works and will include a sampling of photos from 4 diverse countries where she has volunteered: Tanzania, China, India and the Cook Islands. A Q&A session will follow.

Dorothy Conlon was born in the shadow of Mt. Fuji and has spent much of her life in various Asian countries. She has lived in Sarasota since 1980 and continues to travel extensively worldwide. Starting in 1990, her travels have included volunteer projects in many different countries, a total of 24 times so far. She's hooked on the added insight gained from seeing foreign countries from a different perspective while working with local people. She is the author of "At Home in the World: Memoirs of a Traveling Woman" and the newly released "Born with Wings: Experiencing Life in Exotic Lands." The latest book will be available for purchase at \$16.00/copy.

Thursday, July 19 - Summer Happening

A Visit to the Studio and Gallery of Clyde Butcher, 237 Warfield Ave., Venice FL 34292



ClipartOf.com/78947

The studio tour will begin at 10 am and we can arrange carpools if necessary, leaving from the Burlington Coat Factory parking lot at 9:30 am.

Clyde Butcher is a renowned landscape photographer. The exquisite beauty and depth of his work draws the viewer into a relationship with nature. For more than 30 years, he has been preserving the untouched areas of the landscape on film and for 20 of those years, he has concentrated on Florida. Mr. Butcher has won many awards including the Conservation Colleague Award from the Nature Conservancy and the Ansel Adams Conservation Award from the Sierra Club. His photography has been exhibited in museums throughout the United States and Europe. There is no fee for the Studio because it is also a gallery.

The tour will be followed by a "Dutch-treat" lunch at Pineapples Island Grille on S. Tamiami Trail.

There are 12 names on the list to date but you will have the opportunity to sign up at the June 7 meeting or you can email Gloria Grenier at ggrenier@tampabay.rr.com if you'd like your name added to the list.

Exchanges Outbound

Olympic Seattle-Tacoma, Washington - August 9-16

Our group of Sarasota ambassadors is preparing to fly to Seattle for a festive week with the Seattle-Tacoma Club in August. Seattle, home of a great market (Pike Street), a great coffee (Starbucks), and great airplanes (Boeing) is now opening a huge Chihuly Garden and Glass exhibit at Seattle Center. This \$20 million exhibition marks the 50th anniversary of the Seattle World's Fair.



Sarasota ambassadors are asked to complete their FFI Ambassador Application and Agreement Form and return it to me along with their flight itineraries when they are booked. I will be attending the FF meeting on Thursday, June 7 so that would be a great time!

We have space for more ambassadors so if you have family or friends who would like to join us, let me know.

Katy Goodwin, Exchange Director, 379-9954, katygoodwin@msn.com

Tirana, Albania – September 10-28



Hello to everyone on this beautiful trip to Albania and beyond!

Here is some information on the insurance form to be filled out. Everyone needs to have travel insurance as per FFI rules. Travel Guard, which is the one through FFI, is the most reasonable. Go to thefriendshipforce.org and click on Home, scroll down on the left side until you come to Travel Guard insurance. Ramona sent this information to all of us already including how to fill out the form on the Internet. Towards the end it asks you for the tour

Company email. Please use: J.Mahnken@CIETourist.com. Put it exactly as I wrote it, capital letter as noted, small letters as written. Otherwise the insurance company will not accept it. Use May 10 as your trip deposit date.

I sent you all the prices in a previous email.

The travel bureau person here, Mariola, has charged all fees for the airline travel and the tour, so you do not have too many more days to comply with filling out the form in order to cover preexisting conditions.

Thank you all for your attention.

Helga Ponischil, 349-6707, lischinop@comcast.net

Colombia Exchange Report

The Bogota exchange has come to an end. By all reports it was a success -- especially the last night. We put on the farewell party, but they put on the entertainment --and how great it was! There was music and dancing and native costumes and great elation among all those present. It was a suuuper farewell. If you missed it, that's a pity.

Those Colombians sure know how to party.

We would like to thank all the committee chairs and all the members who participated in making it the fun experience that it was. It may have been a lot of work, but it was worth every moment. And we all have a standing invitation to go to or return to Bogota.



Bonnie Frey and Reeta Dean, EDs