



friendship force
SARASOTA

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thefriendshipforce.org

Friends Connection
Friendship Force of Sarasota
www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

March, 2013

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jaspetite@comcast.net

Vice Pres.: Gloria Grenier

Secretary: Donna Schaeffer

Treasurer: Bob Joyce

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Club Expansion & Mentoring: Gary Kuhns

Past Pres. - Jack Vendeland

Volume 24, No.3

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President's Message

Many thanks to all involved for a very enjoyable February general meeting celebrating the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Water Snake: Don and Margot Strasburger, our delightful guest speakers, Gloria Grenier for putting the program together despite numerous challenges, and Bob Joyce whose technological expertise found the perfect Malaysian Lion Dance video to culminate the program.

The 2013 exchange calendar remains quite busy. Our domestic exchange ambassadors from Seattle/Tacoma WA and other US clubs in April will be here quite soon. Since the number of ambassadors is fairly small, this exchange is an opportunity for our relatively new club members to try the exchange experience as a day host or dinner host and thus relieve our home hosts a little. ED Ramona McGee is collecting ambassador applications and deposits 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. EDs Mary and Walt Prouty are putting together the host committee 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 board has approved FFI's suggested exchanges for our club for 2014. Inbound: Experience the Arts of Greater Sarasota Global Exchange to Sarasota, FL USA in March. Outbound: Sarasota and Greater Orlando, USA to Central Coast, Australia and Whangarei, New Zealand in October. Since all parties must approve, we will wait for final confirmation of the match from FFI before beginning our planning for 2014 exchanges.

Our 2013 club directory is printed and ready for distribution at the March general meeting. Kudos to Database/Directory Chair Margaret Lewis for completing that task before departing to New Zealand for a month for a family wedding. Membership chair Gary Kuhns will handle the distribution at the March and following meetings. 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 to 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:

3/1/13 World Friendship Day concert by Mindy Simmons

- Post publicity posters in common 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

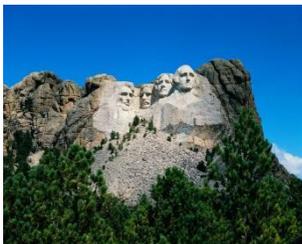
One's destination is never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things.
Henry Miller

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside****

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 home of Judi Stratton
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
May 2	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm****
May 28	Board Meeting at TBA

March 7th General Meeting

PROGRAM – MARCH 7, 2013



7 PM at the Waldemere Fire Station

Our armchair travel this month will take us to our National Parks.

Members Bob and Cece O'Connor will entertain us with their adventures at Mt. Rushmore and in Yellowstone Park. The couple spent nearly 6 months in these 2 areas over a period of 2 summers.

Bob is an avid photographer so this presentation will definitely delight us all.

April General Meeting

INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK DINNER – APRIL 4 at the Waldemere Fire Station



This popular annual event will begin with a social hour at 5 pm followed by dinner at 6 pm. Don your ethnic garb, prepare your favorite recipe for 10 that represents another culture and invite potential future members to share a fun-filled evening with us. If you haven't already signed up, please do so at the next meeting or email Bonnie Frey. Guests' names should be sent to Gary Kuhns by March 15. After dinner and a short business meeting, we'll play the team game of "Where in the World is Carmen Sarasota". Linda Vendeland requests that recognizable photos for the contest be sent to her by March 15. These are not restricted to Friendship Force exchanges so dig into your pile of travel photos and email them to Linda. See you there

Meet Our New Members



Norman Freeman is one of our new members, having been a member in prior years and is now rejoining our club. Norman hails from Wallingford, Connecticut and has lived in Sarasota for 27 years. He retired from a career as a probation officer in 2002 and did substitute teaching until 2012. Norman is an acquaintance of Jack and Linda Vendeland and is also affiliated with Singles on the Go. Norman spends summers in Montreal, enjoys walking and working out at the gym. He likes both dogs and cats but doesn't presently have either. Norman is currently studying Spanish and works with a group that organizes Spanish and English language study. Please join with us as we welcome Norman back into Friendship Force of Sarasota.

Sunshine Corner



- A speedy recovery goes out to **Gloria Grenier** who fractured a bone in her foot and will be hobbling around in a soft cast for a few weeks.
- Get well wishes to **Pat Quinn** who is undergoing treatment for a physical condition. She and **Phil Price** plan to head back up north for treatments and will return next season. Our condolences to Phil whose mother passed away recently.
- **Richard Muehlenhard** is having therapy and treatment at Heartland Health Care Center North. Please keep him in your prayers and thoughts.

Name Badge Hazard

While traveling recently, we had an experience that involved our FF magnetic backed name badges. Judy had both of our badges in her purse along with our hotel key card. Guess what? The card has a magnetic strip that was scrambled by the magnet. We could not get in the room. It meant a trip to the front desk only.

Not a big deal you say. Well your credit cards have a magnetic strip too! Be careful. Credit cards are not so easily replaced.

Of course the other hazard is wearing your FF badge outside on the street. It flashes "mug me!"

Bob Joyce

LAST CHANCE FOR MINDY SIMMONS CONCERT TICKETS (almost)

The Mindy Simmons concert is almost upon us. March 1st--World Friendship Day. It's at the Unitarian Church on Fruitville Rd at 7:30 with refreshments at intermission. You won't want to miss it. By the next meeting it will be over, so you need to get your tickets NOW. You can still call Ramona McGee at 378-2094 and send her a check so she will hold your tickets at the door. This is a benefit for the Legacy fund of FFI and a great way to show our enthusiasm for the efforts of FF clubs around the world. So get in there and make our club participation 100%. We need every one of you to make this evening a success.
Reeta Dean

Musical "The Wiz" at Booker Visual Performing Arts School

Hurry! Hurry! **Babe Baptist** only has 5 tickets left at \$10.00 each for the opening night performance on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 7pm. Please bring cash to pay Babe directly. He will be at the general meeting March 7th. 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

The deadline to send in your photos for the "Where in the World is Carmen Sarasota" contest is fast approaching. Send your photos with descriptions to linvende@aol.com. The deadline is March 15.



This contest will be held at our International Dinner on April 4.

For those of you who missed the 2013 Chinese New Year Celebration, I have posted pictures of this event on our web site and

Facebook page.

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator

E-Mail linvende@aol.com



Exchanges

Outbound

Rostov-on-Don, Russia & Alupka Region, Ukraine- Sept. 24 - Oct. 12th

Sarasota FF Club will share this exchange with the Austin, TX FF Club.

We'll fly to Kyiv for a three night visit, enjoying the beauty of this ancient city, known as the city of green and gold. There are beautiful gold domed churches and lovely parks. Many beautiful buildings were destroyed or converted to government offices during the period of Communist rule. However, since 1990, much has been restored to its original beauty. Many of the beautiful churches are located on the west banks of the Dnieper River. The itinerary for our tour of Kyiv has not been finalized as yet.

We'll then fly to Rostov-on Don for our first week of homestay. Their club was organized in 2006 and they are most anxious to share with us their homes and the attractions of the city, as well as of surrounding areas.

The city is located on the Don River, about 20 miles from the Azov Sea. It is a transportation hub, as well as an industrial city and the capital of the Rostov Oblast, with a population of about 1.2 million people.



On Oct. 5th, we'll depart Rostov-on-Don, and fly to Simferopol, Crimea. We'll travel by bus to the Crimean coast along the Black Sea. Our second week of home hosting will be spent in a more relaxed area, smaller towns, with beautiful mountains rising in the background, not far from the clear waters of the Black Sea. We'll enjoy the various points of interest from Yalta to Sevastopol. The above photo features the port of Yalta.

A completed Ambassador Application with a \$300 deposit is required, as soon as possible, if you are interested in joining the exchange. Currently, I have received eight applications from our members. After a response is received from the Austin Club, I can better determine if it is necessary to advertise the exchange outside of our clubs. For more information about this Exchange, please contact Ramona McGee, ED
Phone: 941-378-2094 E-mail: RMcGee0806@comcast.net

Inbound
Seattle-Tacoma WA– April 17-24, 2013



PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 17 – Arrival Day, no activities planned

Thursday, April 18 – 11:00 am - Welcome Picnic @ Whispering Sands Tiki Hut

5 to 8 pm “Ringling On The Bay” museum visits and music by “Yesterdaze”

Friday, April 19 – Mote Marine Aquarium 10:00 am

Rest of day free

Saturday, April 20 - Royal Lipizzan Stallions in Myakka City. Show at 10am

Dinner parties at 6:00 pm

Sunday, April 21 – A Day at the Bayfront

“Embracing Our Differences” exhibit - tour on your own

Ski-A- Rees water skiing show at 2:00 pm

Monday, April 22 – Myakka State Park including boat ride at 10:00 am

Lunch in the park provided by home or day hosts

Tuesday, April 23 – Historic Spanish Point – Docent tour at 10 am

(Tram reserved for those with walking difficulties)

Farewell Dinner at Café Baci at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, April 24 – Ambassadors depart

Members are welcome and encouraged to attend the activities planned for our Ambassadors from Seattle and Olympia WA and Lincoln NE.

Details and reservation are listed on next page along with the costs. Please fill in the required information.

Make your checks payable to Friendship Force Club of Sarasota and mail to:

Gloria Grenier, 4211 Cascade Falls Dr., Sarasota FL 34243

Please respond by April 5th.

WELCOME PARTY on Thursday, April 18 at 11 am.

Where: Tiki Hut at Whispering Sands, Siesta Key. (bring folding chairs, sunscreen, bathing suits)

Menu: BBQ chicken, pulled pork, baked beans, coleslaw, corn bread, soft drinks, dessert. **\$15 pp.**

RINGLING ON THE BAY from 5 to 8 pm. Museums are open plus musical entertainment, refreshments and (hopefully) a beautiful sunset. Free for members. **Non-members \$10 pp.**

MOTE MARINE AQUARIUM on Friday April 19. Meet at 9:45 am. Group rate is **\$14.00** but passes may be available.

ROYAL LIPIZZAN STALLIONS, 32755 Singletary Rd. Myakka City 3251. Show begins at **10 am on Saturday, April 20. Cost is \$5.00 pp.** You may bring lawn chairs.

MYAKKA STATE PARK on Monday, April 22. Meet at 9:30 am near the boat dock for the **10 am Gator Gal boat ride. \$12 pp.** Lunch in the park is provided by hosts.

HISTORIC SPANISH POINT 377 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey on **Tuesday, April 23.** Meet at 9:45am for the docent tour. **\$8 pp.**

FAREWELL DINNER at Café Baci, 4001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Dinner includes salad, choice of entrée, dessert, tea or coffee & focaccia bread, tax & tip **\$26pp**

6 pm Social hour with soft piano music - Cash bar

7 pm Dinner followed by musical entertainment by Russell and Sandi

MENU (no need to choose in advance)

Mixed green salad

Entrée choices: Chicken Ala Marsala - Flounder Alla Francese - Lasagna

Dessert: Tiramisu

Reservation – Seattle Exchange

Name _____ Phone _____

Welcome Party \$15 X _____	Total _____
Ringling On The Bay \$10 X _____	Total _____
Mote Marine \$14 X _____	Total _____
Myakka Boat Ride \$12 X _____	Total _____
Historic Spanish Point \$8 X _____	Total _____
Farewell Dinner \$26 X _____	Total _____
	Total _____

Checks payable to FF SRQ and mail to Gloria Grenier, 4211 Cascade Falls Dr., Sarasota FL 34243. Please respond by April 5th.

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

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