



Friends Connection
Friendship Force of Sarasota
www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

May, 2011

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Presidents' Message

We, along with 16 other Florida Ambassadors, recently returned from our Brazil exchange. Judi Stratton did a great job as Exchange Director. It was a special treat re-connecting for a brief visit with our friends in Piracicaba, Brazil who visited us in 2001.

Our club will continue to be busy with our sponsoring of the All-Florida Conference October 29, the Inbound Exchange from Morganton, N. C. November 6-11 and next year's Outbound Exchange to Tirana, Albania and Inbound from Bogota, Columbia.

For those of us who are heading north for our annual migration, as well as our year round members, have a fun and safe summer. Let's hope Mother Nature will be kind to us again this summer.

Jack and Linda

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside****

May 4	Booker HS Spring Play 7PM & HobNob Fine Dining 5:30** No General Meeting in May
May 23	No Board Meeting
June 2	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station and International Dinner **
June 27	Board Meeting 7PM at home of Ramona McGee
July 7	Summer Happening – Mixon lunch and Tour**
July	No Board Meeting
August	No General Meeting
August 22	Board Meeting at home of Nancy and Dick Rehbock



Look What's Happening!

- Last chance to buy tickets for the Booker High School Play on May 4th, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee".

Babe Baptist no longer has the \$10 tickets, but you can purchase them by directly calling Booker High School. Don't forget the 'fine dining' before the play at the HobNob Drive-In in Sarasota. **Reminder: No Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 5 since we**

will be having dinner at the HobNob and attending the Booker High School production the night before.

- Even though we had a rather small gathering, the April 7 program featuring Doro and Jim Malachowski was excellent. Jim showed a part of his many photos taken in Jordan and Egypt during their two recent trips to the Near East. Our members had lots of questions which Jim was happy and able to answer - he is quite an authority on Egypt and wants to visit again - after the country has returned to a more stable society.
- Get well soon wishes go out to Bobbie and Jay Jabas. Jay is at Sunnyside receiving rehab. Bobbie had extensive spinal surgery in April and will get rehab before returning home. We wish them both a speedy recovery.
- It's official! Our exchanges for the year 2012 will be: outbound to Tirana, Albania in or about September and inbound from Bogotá, Columbia in or about June. We are looking for Exchange Directors for these exchanges. Please let Jack and Linda know if you are interested.
- **Our club is making plans for the All Florida Conference.** The date of the conference will be Saturday, October 29, 2011. **Please save this date.** Homestays will be available Friday and Saturday evenings and we will be looking for members to host our guests. The location of the conference will be at the Fruitville Library, a short distance east of I-75. All Sarasota members are welcome to participate. More details will be available as the planning progresses.
- We are looking for a Publicity Chairperson to serve for the rest of 2011. If you are interested in this opening on the Board, please contact Katy Goodwin.
- Please change Gary and Lee Anderson's email to gmaretired@gmail.com.

With sadness it was reported the peaceful passing of Joan Adams on Tuesday April 5th. Joan was a long time member of the Sarasota Friendship Force Club, printing and putting together our Membership Directory for many years. She will be greatly missed by all those who knew her. At Joan's request there were no services.

INTERNATIONAL DINNER * June 2**

Social Hour 5PM – Dinner 6PM



Our June General Meeting will be combined with the Annual International Dinner at the Waldemere Fire Station. Everyone is asked to bring a dish for 8 of your favorite cuisine from somewhere in the world. If you know any prospective members, invite them to join us. Costumes add to the festivity of the evening, so this is your chance to show off some of your souvenirs you've collected on your trips. Soft drinks, paper goods and silverware will be provided. The Social

Committee of Reeta Dean, Betty Kuhns, and Barb Welch will be your hostesses for this evening. The program will be given by our returning Brazil exchange members.

For reservations, call or email Nancy Rehbock at nrehbock@tampabay.rr.com or 941-896-7958 and let her know how many are coming and if you are bringing a salad, entrée, or dessert for 8. Please make a small card with the name of your dish to be placed with it on the serving table. Please bring serving utensils for your dishes. If you can come early to help set up or stay late to help clean up, you will be most appreciated! As always, no alcohol is permitted in the Fire Station.



FF "SUMMER HAPPENING" - TOUR AND LUNCH AT MIXON FRUIT FARM
T THURSDAY, JULY 7 - 11:00 AM

Join your FF friends this summer on a tram tour and buffet lunch at Mixon Fruit Farms, Bradenton, FL. We live in a state known for its orange groves, but have you really ever been through one? Here's your chance! Mixon will take you on a narrated one hour tram tour (open with a covered top) through their groves, their wildlife park, their gardens and huge acreage, then deliver you to the Honeybell Room for a buffet lunch consisting of assorted sandwiches, potato salad, beverages and ice cream. You will have an opportunity to view their video, enjoy a wine and juice tasting and browse in their deli and gift shop. All this will be yours for \$16.00 per person (tour and lunch).

Because they would like an idea of how many will be in our group, it would really be appreciated if those who think they will be coming can let Katy Goodwin know ASAP (preferably before May 12) by emailing katygoodwin@msn.com or calling and leaving a message at 379-9954. We need at least 12 for them to prepare the buffet lunch - if we have less we can purchase our lunch in the deli.

This is the date of our regular monthly meeting - the first Thursday in the month - so I hope a lot of you will take advantage of the opportunity to visit this huge fruit farm that has been in operation for 72 years - right here in the heart of Bradenton. Let's support our local community and learn more about what is right in our own back yard. It might be something we would consider for our incoming exchange groups. Directions will be given later.

Exchanges

Inbound

Morganton, North Carolina – November 6-11

We don't know how many are coming yet, but they are coming! Gary and Lee Anderson are the EDs and they have their committees all ready to go. Please say 'YES' if you are asked to contribute in some way to this exchange.

Brazil Exchange Report

18 Ambassadors have returned to Florida after a warm, generous welcome from three Brazilian Friendship Force clubs: Sao Carlos, Sao Paulo, and Piracicaba. Activities ranged from a visit to a historic coffee plantation, to a performance of music and dance at a school for people with disabilities to a museum dedicated to the national sport of football (soccer), to a formal televised meeting with the leader of the city council, to a samba pizza party. Spectacular Iguacu Falls gave us a shower as we experienced its

enormity and power. The beauty of Rio de Janeiro's setting thrilled us from atop Sugar Loaf and Corcovado as well as from a schooner cruise of the bay. Join us at the June Friendship Force general meeting for more details and personal impressions from some of our Ambassadors.

Judi Stratton, ED



Sarasota Ambassadors & Their Sao Carlos Hosts
Visiting the APAE School for the Handicapped



NEWS FROM THE WEB

Our Brazilian Ambassadors had a great time in Brazil as chronicled in the pictures on our Web Site. The pictures depict the great adventures we experienced from the spectacular Iguassu Falls to the beautiful Christ the Redeemer statue. There are also snapshots

taken during our home stays in Sao Carlos and Sao Paulo.

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

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



There are two journeys provided after the Friendship Force World Conference in August. Unfortunately there is only a short time left, as these have to be booked until April 29.

Don't miss this chance to learn more about the beautiful sites of our country.

Information: <http://www.friendshipforce-hamburg.de/WorldConference2011>

Registration: <http://www.regonline.com/2011worldconf>