

Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

May, 2012

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Treasurer: Bob Joyce

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Past Pres. - Jack Vendeland

President's Message

I hope all of you had enjoyable holidays in April and were able to attend one or both of our special events during the past month. Thanks are due to Babe Baptist for putting together another fine dining and Booker VPA play outing on April 11. And thanks also to Gloria Grenier who organized our outing, to the Coexist Club of Riverview High School which provided our excellent docents, and to the Embracing Our Differences organization which sponsors the annual display we visited on April 19. Our members as well as representatives of the Florida Suncoast Friendship Force club found the artwork and quotations creative and thought provoking and our docents delightful. Afterward we had a pleasant al fresco lunch and opportunity to get to know our Pinellas County friends at O'Leary's. For those participants who asked about EOD catalogs and memorabilia, a merchandise kiosk is at the Sarasota bayfront every day 11:00-2:00 until the end of May, or some items may be purchased online at <http://www.embracingourdifferences.org/merchandise.html>.



We are very pleased that two new members have joined Friendship Force in April. You will find some biographical information about them elsewhere in this newsletter; please welcome Pat and Phill.

In addition to our proposed international exchanges for 2013: Lima, Peru inbound tentatively in April, and Yalta & Odessa, Ukraine outbound in the latter part of the year mentioned in last month's newsletter, our board is making arrangements for a reciprocal domestic exchange with Albuquerque NM for 2014.

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

- Contact me if you would be willing to serve as Publicity Chair in charge of media calendar announcements, creating flyers for posting for club events, and scheduling presentations about Friendship Force to area clubs.
- 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 EDs Bonnie Frey or Reeta Dean to volunteer to help with our international inbound exchange from Bogota, Colombia May 19-26.
- See ED Helga Ponischil to sign up for our international outbound exchange to Tirana, Albania and a tour of the Adriatic countries September 10-28.

- Contact Katy Goodwin to sign up for a domestic outbound exchange to Seattle/Tacoma WA August 9-16.
- Contact ED Gloria Grenier to help plan the inbound return visit of the Seattle/Tacoma club to Sarasota in January or February, 2013.
Please note these changes/additions to our club calendar and save these dates:
- Our Summer Happening is planned for Thursday, July 19. See our Vice-President's program notes for more details.
- The East Central FL FF club will host this year's All Florida Conference on October 11-13. All club members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
Our club treasurer, Bob Joyce, will be collecting orders for Friendship Force of Sarasota polo style shirts with the new FFI logo, our club name, and your name embroidered. Look for details in an upcoming newsletter and in your email inbox.
Hoping to see you all again at our next general meeting on May 3.

Judi

Calendar of Events**more info inside**

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|-------------|---|
| May 3 | General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm |
| May 19-26 | Inbound Bogotá Exchange**** |
| May 29 | Board Meeting 7pm at home of Gloria Grenier |
| June 7 | General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm |
| June 26 | Board Meeting at TBA 7pm |
| July 19 | Summer Happening **** |
| August 9-16 | Outbound Seattle-Tacoma, WA Exchange**** |
| August 28 | Board Meeting 7 pm TBA |

Membership Bits 'n Pieces

- Wishing for a very speedy recovery for Gretchen Castner who recently fell and fractured her knee cap.
- Keep Wayne Peterson in your thoughts and prayers. He is presently recuperating at Health South Rehab.

Meet Our New Members



Please welcome two new members that joined us in April. **Pat Quinn and Phill Price** first heard about Friendship Force through their friends, Mary & Walt Prouty, who told them about their experiences. They saw the segment about FF on the Jack Perkins Show and joined us at our March 1st Int'l Potluck Dinner. Phill and Pat are from Indianapolis, IN and spend six months of the year in Bradenton, FL in the area of the Pinebrook-Ironwood Golf Club.

Pat spent 30 years with AT&T in Marketing & Information Technology. She enjoys cooking, reading & the arts. Phill's career was as lawyer with his own private practice. He is a Certified Master Naturalist in Indiana and is working toward his certification in Florida. He also is a member of the Audubon Society. Both graduated from University of Wisconsin and met the Proutys through the alumni association. Phill & Pat have three adult children, adopted from South Korea as infants, twin boys & a daughter. They are now looking forward to more time for travels.

Friendship Force Club of Sarasota Programs for May, June and July

May 3 Club members will have 2 programs this evening. First, Yolanda Nandin, a native of Colombia will speak briefly about life in Colombia. She and her American husband Joe now live in Sarasota but they met and married in Colombia many years ago. Her bubbling personality will be a “preview” of the Ambassadors we’ll be hosting later in the month.



The “main event” is entitled “Prominent Figures in the History of Sarasota”. This will be presented by Dr. Ray Young who is the Vice-President for Education with Sarasota Sister Cities Association. Ray is a Professor Emeritus from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he specialized in natural Products Chemistry and Ethnobotany. He holds degrees from the University of Washington (PhD) and Syracuse University (B.S. & M.S.). He was a Fulbright Scholar in Sweden and a Senior Fulbright Scholar in Greece.

Professor Young has 180 publications including books, book chapters, patents and many original research publications.

Ray and his wife Kathryn are part-time residents of Sarasota. One of Ray’s hobbies, besides Sarasota history and travel, is painting. He recently had a one-man show that was greatly enjoyed by the viewers.

We are fortunate to have this talented man share his research on prominent Sarasotans with us. The goal is to acquire more knowledge on our local history in order to share it with our guests and hosts.

June 7 Our meeting will take place at the Waldemere Fire House at 7 pm. The guest speaker Dorothy Conlon, a well-seasoned traveler, will share some of her experiences with us. Her audio-visual presentation’s title is “Born with Wings-----Experiencing Life in Exotic Lands”. There will be more information about Dorothy and her talk in the next newsletter.

July 19 A field trip to Clyde Butcher’s Studio and Gallery in Venice is planned as a “Summer Happening”. We’ll carpool and meet at the studio for a tour of this world famous nature photographer’s workshop. We’ll enjoy lunch at Pineapple Grill after the visit. More details in the next newsletter.



Exchanges

Inbound

Bogotá, Colombia – May 19 – 26

It is less than a month until the Bogota exchange, and the excitement is building. The activities are in place (see activities schedule in this newsletter) and the committee chairs are putting on the finishing touches. There will be a meeting of the home and day hosts one hour before (6:00) our regular meeting at the firehouse on May 3rd. If you cannot make it please advise one of the EDs. (Reeta or Bonnie) Those of you who have not yet sent in your party or Le Barge reservations can bring your checks to the meeting. If you are attending more than one event, you can then make out just one check. The budget for the welcome party is too tight to allow us to offer alcoholic beverages. If you or your guests wish to have them--please bring your own. Everything else will be provided. We can always use more volunteers, especially for the welcome party. Be prepared to join in the festivities. Our ambassadors will love it if we show a whole club enthusiasm for their exchange. And you will have a very good time, too.

If you have a pass to Ringling and/or Mote, please let Bonnie or Reeta know.

Bonnie and Reeta, EDs

Outbound

Olympic Seattle-Tacoma, Washington - August 9-16

I now have 15 names on my list of ambassadors for our domestic exchange to Seattle in August. Our Seattle hosts have informed us that they can accommodate 20

ambassadors, so I would be happy to accept more names for the exchange. We will be



making our own travel arrangements to Seattle so that members can incorporate other individual plans around the exchange dates.

Seattle, "the gateway to Alaska," and the start of the Klondike Gold Rush, was first settled by Native Americans and then became home to loggers, ship builders and small commercial enterprises. Today it is a center of technology with Boeing Aircraft, Microsoft and Amazon making it their home. Its hilly topography surrounded by the Cascade Mountains make it a green and thriving home for some 3 million plus residents.

If you are interested in joining us on our exchange to Seattle, where temperatures are always in the 60's and 70's, (remember how hot and humid it gets here in August!) please give me a call, 379-9954, or email me at katygoodwin@msn.com.

Katy Goodwin, Exchange Director

Tirana, Albania – September 10-28

The exchange to Albania is going to happen. We will be in Tirana on September 11 and meeting our hosts there. There are presently 17 members who will enjoy the exchange and afterwards the extended trip up the Adriatic Sea, all the way to Bled, and then, ending up in Venice, Italy for just one day, to fly home to the USA from there on the 28th of September. There are possibly 2 or 4 more people who have expressed an interest in this outing from other clubs in the States. I also have 7 people on the waiting list who just want the Tirana, Albania exchange, some coming from India, Taiwan, others from the US. The FF club in Tirana would like to hold the number of visitors down to 20-24 or so. They are more or less a small club. I have a very good connection with the exchange person in Tirana, Diana Keci, and her written English is wonderful.

I will be planning another get-together for our travel group in the very near future here at Whispering Sands in the TIKI HUT for a picnic.

Will let you know when etc....

Looking forward to a beautiful exchange and extended trip,
Helga Ponischil (your exchange director)



Directions for the Bogotá Exchange

To Whispering Sands, Siesta Key

South bridge (Stickney Point Rd) --turn right and go north to the Village. Once through the village, on your right will be a gas station with a big red **K**. Turn left there into Whispering Sands. Go straight to the stop sign. Turn left. The clubhouse will be on your right. Pass the clubhouse and continue until you see parking spaces on your left. Park and walk back to the clubhouse (it's not far).

North bridge follow signs to Siesta Village. Just before you arrive in the village, there will be a gas station on your left with a big red **K**. Turn right there into Whispering Sands. Go straight to stop sign. Turn left. Clubhouse will be on your right. Pass the clubhouse and continue until you see parking spaces on the left. Park and walk back to clubhouse.

To Cafe Baci

Cafe Baci is on Rt. 41 just south of Bee Ridge Rd. It is on the East side of the street.
Address--.4001 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

BOGOTÁ EXCHANGE SCHEDULE

Sat. May 19th--- Bogotá ambassadors arrive

Sun May 20th---2:00 Ski-A-Rees (water skiing exhibition) optional
4:00 Welcome party at beach condo community room
7:00 Drumming circle on Siesta beach, optional

Mon May 21st--10:00 am Ringling Art Museum, Circus Museum, and Ringling Home

Tue May 22nd--10:00 am Southeastern Guide dogs, then Ellenton Shopping Mall, optional evening- time to take hosts out to dinner

Wed May 23rd--10:00 am Myakka State Park boat ride,(including alligators)
evening- dinner parties in homes

Thu May 24th --10:00 am Mote Marine Aquarium (including Manatees)
Evening-- Le Barge sunset cruise on Sarasota Bay
9:00 P M or so--- Drink and Dancing at Ceviche (optional) Latin Music and good dance floor in heart of downtown. (1216 1st St)

Fri May 25th--- Free day for shopping or beaching
6 pm Farewell dinner Café Baci

Sat May 26th-- Departure of Bogotá ambassadors

WELCOME PARTY FOR BOGOTÁ EXCHANGE

SUNDAY May 20th Whispering Sands Condo Club House-Siesta Key 4PM

Menu – pulled pork, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, tea or lemonade, watermelon, **BYOB**
Cost - \$12.50 per person

Name _____ Phone _____

No. attending _____ X \$12.50 _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sarasota FF and send to Charlotte Neagle, 701 Silk Oak Dr. Venice, FL 34293

I can assist with Set up _____ Serving _____ Clean up _____

FAREWELL DINNER AT CAFÉ BACI May 25th 6 PM

Dinner includes salad, entree, dessert (Tiramisu), coffee, tea. Cost \$25.00 including tax and tip

Entree choices are:

- CHICKEN ALLA MARSALA
- FLOUNDER ALLA FRANCESE
- LASAGNA (HOMEMADE SPECIALTY)

Name _____ No. _____ X \$25= _____ Total

Chicken _____ Flounder _____ Lasagna _____

Make checks payable to Sarasota FF and send to Rae Aloisio, 5581 Stonehaven Lane, SRQ, FL 34233 no later than **May 16**. There is an elevator available to the upstairs private room.

LE BARGE SUNSET CRUISE on SARASOTA BAY

Sunset Cruise is \$20 per person for 2 hour cruise. Exact time TBA

Name _____ No. _____ X \$20 = \$ _____ Total

Make checks payable to Sarasota FF and send to Bonnie Frey, 2411 Britannia Rd. SRQ 34231