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thefriendshipforce.org

Friends Connection
Friendship Force of Sarasota
www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

April, 2013

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President's Message

A big thank you to all who helped make our March 1st World Friendship Day concert such a success: Reeta Dean & her committee, Ramona McGee concert treasurer, Peg Hayden publicity, and all members who posted fliers, attended, brought friends, brought refreshments, volunteered. 152 tickets were sold, and the concert was delightful!

Thank you also to club volunteers who staffed the FF-SRQ information booth at the Folk & Acoustic Festival at Oscar Scherer State Park March 23-24.

Now we need your help on one more ambitious event in the form of a big party, our annual International Dinner. Gary Kuhns is working on invitations to prospective members; Linda Vendeland is creating a new 2013 Carmen Sarasota team photo ID contest for after dinner entertainment. And we need all of you to prepare a delicious foreign dish to bring to the dinner and to don an international outfit too. Remember that we start 2 hours early on April 4, 5:00 for hors d'oeuvres and social hour, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 program.



April has several other Friendship Force events too. Our club outing to the Booker play is scheduled for April 10. Domestic exchange ambassadors from Seattle/Tacoma WA and other US clubs arrive on April 17 for a week's home stay with us. A New Member Social is scheduled for Monday evening, April 29, and members who have joined since April 2012 will receive an invitation to this event to learn a little more about what Friendship Force is all about. As for other 2013 exchanges, ED Ramona

McGee is finalizing travel plans and collecting ambassador applications and deposits for our club international outbound exchange to Greater Yalta, Crimea, and Rostov-on-Don, Russia in September/October. And EDs Mary and Walt Prouty along with their host committee are preparing to welcome ambassadors from La Libertad club in Trujillo, Peru in November.

In early March I represented our Sarasota club at a state meeting of Presidents of Florida Friendship Force clubs. Representatives of the various clubs shared ideas about club programs & activities, better integrating new members, and club expansion techniques. And I had the opportunity to benefit from the experience of Orlando and Suncoast members with their detailed advice about planning and preparing for our club global themed inbound exchange for next spring: Experience the Arts of Greater Sarasota. Both of those clubs hosted global themed exchanges last year. All these ideas and suggestions will be shared with our board.

A very sincere thank you to 2012 new member Mary McClendon who has agreed to serve as Interim Secretary for our club. Donna Schaeffer has asked for an indefinite leave of absence from her position in order to deal with family health issues. We wish for Donna and Richard a positive outcome for their situation, and we commend Mary for her willingness to serve in time of need and welcome her to our board.

Thanking you all again for all that you do for Friendship Force. Looking forward to seeing you on April 4 for a fun evening of food and friendship.

Judi

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

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Calendar of Eventsmore info inside*****

April 4	International Dinner and Meeting 5pm****
April 10	Booker Play, "The Wiz"**** 7pm
April 17-24	Seattle-Tacoma Inbound Exchange****
April 30	Board Meeting at home of Ramona McGee
May 2	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm****
May 28	Board Meeting at TBA
June 6	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm****

No Board Meeting in June

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 8-10 that represents another culture and invite potential future members to share a fun-filled evening with us. If you haven't already signed up, email or call **Bonnie Frey** at **941-921-1788**. Prospective members whose names were submitted by March 15 to **Gary Kuhns** have been invited as our guests for the evening. After dinner and a short business meeting, we'll play the team game of "Where in the World is Carmen Sarasota". It is a fun location identification game that we played last year. And I heard a rumor that there will be prizes! If you can come early and help with setting up or stay later and help with the clean-up, it will be greatly appreciated! See you there

May 2 General meeting at 7 pm at the Waldemere Fire station

Bill Wallace, Founder and Past President of the Caledonian Club of Florida West will give us a brief history of Scotland entitled "Scotland, There and Here". He'll speak about the various contributions that the country has made to the world, our nation and to the city of Sarasota.



Bill Wallace was born and raised in Minnesota and Iowa. He's a graduate of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. His career is varied and includes positions as Industrial Planner, Director of Development at 2 colleges and Certified Financial Planner. Bill is a Past President of Sarasota Sister Cities, a member of the National Scottish Coalition, a member of the Scottish Heritage Society, the Sarasota Council for the Arts and the Genealogy Society of Sarasota, Inc.

Bill's awards are numerous and include the Drake University Alumni Loyalty Award, the "Service Above Self" Rotary Award and the Congressional National Tartan Day Award. Our program will include bagpipe music by Charles Murray.

June 6 General Meeting at 7 pm at the Waldemere Fire Station

Members **Bob and Judy Joyce** will entertain us with their Costa Rica Friendship Force adventure. They recently returned from a 2 week ecological-themed exchange and will share with us the extraordinary flora and fauna of this Central American paradise.



THANK YOU

A BIG Thank you to our members, **Bob and Cece O'Connor** for sharing their adventures at Mt. Rushmore and Yellowstone National Parks with us at our March 7 meeting. It's obvious that they enjoyed their summer adventures including the additional sights of the "Bikers" and the tall cowboy! The narrative and photos were enjoyed by all and we look forward to next year's armchair travelogue. Happy trails!

Meet Our New Members



We have 6 new Members who joined in March. Please welcome Joan Nash, Ronald Laing, Stan and Terri Holsinger, Joel Fyvolent and Judith Patterson. Some biographies will appear in a later issue.

Joan Nash moved to Sarasota from New Haven, CT 13 years ago. Joan earned a business degree while working full time as an office manager at various manufacturing firms. She enjoys her close family and many friends, plus golf, reading and bridge. Joan is active in SOTG, currently serving as chairperson of the book club and social committee. She volunteers for "SILL" and Red Cross, and is a member of an investment club. Joan lives in Sugar Creek CC Development in Bradenton.

Ronald Laing is from Seattle, WA, but spent much of his career in the northeastern U.S. His education, including doctorate level, is from Rice University, Harvard and MIT. He was a professor of ophthalmology and physiology at Boston University School of Medicine. Ronald also invented ophthalmic instruments and had his own start-up company. Through his occupation and for personal pleasure, he has traveled the world

extensively. He speaks Japanese and some German. Ronald is involved in real estate investing, development and renovation. He enjoys writing and travel and is a member of various other organizations. Ronald has four grown daughters, and grandchildren. He is now retired in Sarasota and lives in The Meadows with his two Burmese cats.

Stan and Terri Holsinger are from Westfield, Indiana. They have been friends with club members Monte and Sandy Hayes for 50 years and have lived in Sarasota for 2 years. Stan retired from a career with the Xerox Corporation and Terri retired in August of 2012 from a career with Microsoft. They have traveled to Europe when their children were in High School and would like to travel to Southeast Asia, China and Japan. Their interests include travel, entertaining, cooking, photography and reading - Stan likes science fiction and Terri likes mysteries. Both Stan and Terri are skilled at putting together Powerpoint presentations. The Holsingers like animals but don't currently have any. They are active in other groups and attend the Unitarian Church. They have 2 daughters living in Indiana and 3 grandchildren.

Sunshine Corner



- Our sincere condolences go out to **Sharry Morrison** whose mother recently passed away.
- **Richard Muehlenhard** is at home on Lido Key and he and Donna Schaeffer wish to thank everyone for their concern, cards, and visits.

Musical “The Wiz” at Booker Visual Performing Arts School

Last call for attending the Spring Musical at Booker High School! Babe is all sold out, but additional tickets can be purchased at the Booker HS box office at \$10.00 each for the opening night performance on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 7pm. 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

A big **THANK YOU** to the following people for sending me photos for the “Where in the World is Carmen Sarasota” contest: **Peg Hayden, Ramona McGee,**

Gloria Grenier, Shellie Ramey and Judi Stratton. The contest will be held at our International Potluck Dinner on April 4. Good Luck!

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Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator E-Mail

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Exchanges

Outbound

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

Plans are developing for our exchange with the Austin FF Club in the fall.

A tour of Kyiv for 4 days & 3 nights has been arranged. The tour will include airport transfers to our hotel, breakfast each morning and two lunches, visit to the main highlights of the city, including the golden-domed Kiev Pechersk Lavra Monastery and St. Sophia's Church. The tour will acquaint you with Kyiv, its architectural monuments, the memorials of the past, as well as the new city. The cost of this tour is \$400 per person,



based on double occupancy and at least 14 persons. Price could vary slightly due to currency fluctuations. Currently, we have applications and deposits for 15 people.

The Rostov ED has been most helpful with information on train travel from Rostov to Simferopol. We will fly from United States to Kyiv for a 3-night visit and continue via plane to Rostov for our first week of home-stay. Then travel by train to Simferopol and by bus to the Black Sea, Alupka Region for our second week of home-stay. If you are interested in joining this exchange, please contact me as soon as possible for more information.

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

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 11 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 form 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 34251. 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 10:45 am 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.