



*Friends Connection*  
**Friendship Force of Sarasota**  
[www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org](http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org)

**Aug/Sept, 2011**

President: J & L Vendeland 941-342-6278

[www.linvende@aol.com](mailto:www.linvende@aol.com)

Vice Pres: Katy Goodwin

Secretary: Debbie Boyd

Treasurer: Wayne Peterson

Publicity: **position available**

Membership: Lee and Gary Anderson

Directory: Gary Anderson

**Volume 22, No.7**

Editor: Nancy Rehbock 896-7958

[RNRehbock@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:RNRehbock@tampabay.rr.com)

Historian: Barbara Peterson

Sister Cities: Terry Neuss

Sunshine: Marty Swenson

Social: Reeta Dean, Betty Kuhns,  
Barb Welch

Web Administrator: Linda Vendeland

**Presidents' Message**

At this writing, we are enjoying the cooler weather here in Ohio after Florida temps during July. It's good to sleep under a blanket again. Many of our members have been traveling north this summer and we hope they will return with renewed energy this fall. Gloria Grenier is coordinating the plans for the All-Florida conference to be held here in Sarasota October 28-29, 2011. We look forward to meeting Friendship Force members from the other Florida chapters. Please help us welcome them.

Gary and Lee Anderson have things well in hand for our inbound Morganton, North Carolina exchange November 6-11, 2011. Please respond when they ask for help. We are grateful to Helga Ponischil for agreeing to be Exchange Director for outbound Tirana, Albania and to Bonnie Frey and Reeta Dean for accepting the inbound exchange from Bogota, Colombia in 2012.

We look forward to seeing all of you when we return to Sarasota in October.

Jack and Linda

**Calendar of Events\*\*more info inside\*\***

September 1	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm***
September 26	Board Meeting at Dick and Nancy Rehbock's 7pm
October 6	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm
October 24	Board Meeting at TBA 7pm
October 28-29	All Florida Conference***
November 6-11	Inbound Morganton, NC Exchange***
November 21	Board Meeting at TBA 7pm
December 1	Holiday Party at Stoneybrook Country Club – <b>Save the Date!</b>



**Look What's Happening!**

- Please welcome three new members and add them to your directory.  
**Sandra Davis**, 19 Illinois St. Palmetto 34221. Ph – 941-718-0067.

Email – [sandy.d19@hotmail.com](mailto:sandy.d19@hotmail.com).

**Pamela Madden**, 775 Riverside Drive Apt. 5C, NY, NY 10032, 646-410-0531

E-mail - [pam.madden65@gmail.com](mailto:pam.madden65@gmail.com)

**Nancy A. McCue**, 2703 Woodland Fern Drive, Parrish, FL 34219, 941-776-0776

E-mail - [nancyannmccue@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyannmccue@yahoo.com)

- Bonnie Fey and Reeta Dean have agreed to be the EDs for the planned inbound exchange from Bogotá, Columbia next May 19-26, 2012 and Helga Ponischil will be the Outbound ED to Albania in September 2012.
- Please change Bob and Gene Burke's email address to [bobburke70@gmail.com](mailto:bobburke70@gmail.com).
- Bobbie Jabas is at Health South following her 3<sup>rd</sup> spinal surgery. We wish her a very speedy recovery.

### Program for September Meeting

Our speaker will be Patda DeLa Torre, a Lakewood Ranch resident and the owner of Travel Time Services, a group travel company. Patda has lived in seven countries outside the US and visited 284 countries. A graduate of the University of Florida in literature, Patda is also an author at Circle Books on St. Armand's, on a creative writing and English whose books are available on Amazon and e-books.



Her favorite country right now is Bhutan which she calls "the purest country on earth, but going fast". She will be taking another group there next March and will enlighten us on this fascinating country with her talk and pictures.

### **Exchanges**

#### **Inbound**

Morganton, North Carolina -- November 6-11

There are 14 ambassadors coming from Morganton, NC. I could use a volunteer to put together the gift bags. If you would like to volunteer let Gary know at

[gmaretired@gmail.com](mailto:gmaretired@gmail.com)

Thanks, Gary ED



State Bird Cardinal

### FF SUMMER HAPPENING AT MIXON FRUIT FARMS

The Summer Happening on July 7 was a fun day!! 23 members and 6 guests enjoyed seeing and hearing about Mixon Fruit Farms in Bradenton. Although the day was a bit overcast, it did not deter us from enjoying our open tram trip through the fruit orchard and the wonderful commentary given by our driver, a wildlife specialist. Did you know you can buy a Fruit Cocktail Tree? That's a tree that has oranges, grapefruit and lemons all on one tree!! Amazing!

Mixon is a family business which has been in existence for 72 years. Mrs. Mixon spoke to the group about all the things that have been added to make it more enjoyable - a large pavilion for special events, a gazebo overlooking a koi pond, a butterfly garden maze, a children's bounce house and picnic area, a private meeting/dinner room where we had our lunch, a large gift shop with a deli, wine and citrus fruit bar, and the wildlife rescue area which houses animals as diverse as a deer, a skunk, raccoons, tortoises, several birds, a python and an iguana.

We all agreed that this was a new experience for us and one we might want to share with some of our inbound ambassadors. We're just sorry that more of you were not able to join us - maybe next time?  
Katy Goodwin



Happy Adventurers



Helga and the Python

Check our website at [www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org](http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org) for more photos.

FACEBOOK USERS – we invite you to visit our Facebook page under **Friendship Force of Sarasota, Florida** and click the "like" button at the top of the page if you have not already done so. People from all over the US are visiting our page as well as people from other countries. This is a good way to promote our Sarasota club. So far we have 19 people who 'like' our page. Our goal is to reach 25 and then we will be issued a user name.

#### ALL-FLORIDA FRIENDSHIP FORCE CONFERENCE – October 28-29, 2011

We are preparing a very interesting program for the conference and hope you have the dates circled on your calendars. A staff member from Friendship Force International will share the latest FFI news and will also speak about the International Conference recently held in Hamburg, Germany. There will be a panel presentation on the "Health of our Clubs", insights into various methods of communication within our clubs, information about Themed and Discovery exchanges, a question and answer period with our Field Rep Roger Gatlin, and a very special presentation from our guest speaker, Carol Buchanan, Co-Founder of "Embracing Our Differences" and national president of the US National Committee for UNIFEM.



Please fill out the Registration Form and include your check for the selected items. The total cost of \$50 per person includes 2 dinners, lunch and a conference filled with information about FFI and other related topics. What a bargain!

See you there.

Gloria Grenier, Chair of the All-Florida Conference

Sarasota FForce members: We will need homes / home hosts for the All Florida Conference, some for two nights and some for one night. It will depend on when our guests might need housing. Please call Barbara Peterson if you can help with these evenings. Friday Oct 28, Saturday Oct.29. Can you help with either night or both?  
Thanks, Barbara 925-3755 or [bandwpeterson@verizon.net](mailto:bandwpeterson@verizon.net)

ALL FLORIDA CONFERENCE  
October 28-29, 2011

Hosted by: The Friendship Force of Sarasota, Florida

REGISTRATION FORM

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Apt.# \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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**All fees are per person and are inclusive.**

**Friday, October 28 "Meet and Greet" at Whispering Sands waterfront lounge 6 pm to 9 pm**  
Catered Cold Buffet; Dessert, Ice Tea, water & sodas provided or BYOB **Cost: \$15.00**

**Saturday, October 29 All Florida Conference 10 am – 4:30 pm at the Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota, FL 34240** Box lunch provided. **Cost: \$10.00**

**Please select your lunch box preferences.**

Sandwich: Turkey, ham or roast beef on white, rye or whole wheat bread \_\_\_\_\_

Salad: Red skin potato salad or pasta salad \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert: Brownie Water, sodas and ice provided.

**Saturday Evening Buffet Dinner 6 pm to 9 pm at Polo Grill, 10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202**

Menu: Caesar Salad, Pollo Rustica, Linguini with Shrimp, Baked Eggplant Parmigiana, Crispy Garlic Bread, Dessert, Ice Tea, Coffee and Water. **Cash Bar Cost: \$25.00**

**REGISTRATION FEES**

Full registration includes Fri. night dinner, Sat. conference & lunch, Sat. Dinner \$50x \_\_\_\_\_ =

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday conference with lunch and Saturday Dinner \$35x \_\_\_\_\_ =

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday conference with lunch only \$10x \_\_\_\_\_ =

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed =**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form & check made payable to Friendship Force of Sarasota to:  
Wayne Peterson, 4427 Opal Ct., Sarasota, FL 34233 Questions 941-358-1383 Gloria Grenier

**THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS: OCTOBER 10, 2011**