



Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

June, 2009

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President's Message

Here it is summer already – Memorial Day is over and the 4th of July will be here before we know it. We have some exciting things planned for these hot months so be sure to join us! On Thursday, June 18 we will be sharing an International Dinner at the Pinebrook South Club House in Venice thanks to Cece and Bob O'Connor. This is always a festive event with members dressed in outfits they have purchased on their travels around the world. The foods are delicious, the company is great – see you there with your appetite!

Our special Summer Happening will be Thursday, July 16 with a talk, luncheon and tour at Sun City Center. We have four members from Sun City Center and would like to know more about their special community up the interstate. Join us in car-pooling for a mini-trip to our northern neighbors.

There will be no scheduled event in August since 26 of us will be flying to our Canadian friends in Calgary, Alberta for a tour of the Canadian Rockies and a week of home stay.

But, come September 27, we will all be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Friendship Force of Sarasota, Florida with a catered dinner at the Whispering Sands Clubhouse on Siesta Key. This is an event you will not want to miss!

So – I hope to see lots of you at our summer events, and I wish those of you who are traveling a very safe and pleasant summer.

In Friendship,

Katy

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside**

June 18

International Dinner and General Meeting 5p**

July 16

Summer Happening 10 AM**

August 12-19

Outbound to Calgary, Canada**

August 31

Board Meeting at home of Wayne and Barb Peterson 7P

September 27

20th Anniversary Party and General Meeting
at Whispering Sands—Main Clubhouse**

For Your Information.....

- Our club will be assisting the Sarasota Sister Cities program the week of November 8-12, 2009 by providing "day drivers" for 23 senior students and 5 chaperones from a Technical High School in Perpignan, France. The visitors will be staying with Riverview High School families and attending various venues around town during the week based on their theme of energy and conservation. Terry Neuss, our Sister Cities liaison, will be coordinating this for us.

- Thanks to Ange and Leaf Wanless, Ann Hurst and Ramona McGee for speaking at our May meeting. It's always nice to hear our members talk and learn, or re-learn, new things about our wonderful organization.
- Katy Goodwin and Mary Brugger attended the Florida Friendship Force President's Meeting at the Colombia Restaurant in Celebration on May 19. Representatives from all 7 Florida clubs were present to get updates and discuss common concerns under the leadership of the Florida Region Field Representative, Ramona McGee.
- Jean Farley had back surgery on May 29. We wish her a speedy and successful recovery.



You Are Invited to an International Dinner!!! June 18, 5PM

Our General Meeting for the month of June will feature our almost annual, almost traditional International Dinner. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite cuisine from somewhere in the world. Now that leaves you with a fairly large choice. So whip up enough for 8 and bring it along to the Pine Brook South Club House in Venice. Look for directions at the end of this newsletter. If you know any prospective members, feel free to bring them along. And don't forget to wear that little number you picked up on one of your travels. (yes, I do mean clothing) Your costumes add to the festivity of the evening. Soft drinks and paper goods will be provided. BYOB! Bobbie and Jay Jabas are coordinating this event. Please call or email Bobbie at 751-6129 or bigcat54143@yahoo.com and tell her what you are bringing and how many are coming. **Deadline is June 13. Due to the capacity of the venue, only the first 50 people to respond to Bobbie will be included, so get on it right now!**

**FF SUMMER HAPPENING
SUN CITY CENTER
THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009**

9:15 AM Meet at McDonald's at Bee Ridge and Cattleman to car pool – takes 30 minutes driving time to Sun City Center Exit 240 on I-75.

10:00 AM Arrive at Community Hall for talk by John Bowker and Judy Bullock.

Directions: At Exit 240 turn right at end of ramp to head east on State Road 674 which is also Sun City Center Blvd. Come to the 5th traffic light and turn right onto South Pebble Beach Blvd. (there is a CVS drug store on the corner) Proceed on South Pebble Beach Blvd. until you are at the Community Hall which is on your left. The building has a large blue awning in front. There is a parking lot on the left as you face the building. Go through the main entrance into the building and proceed straight ahead.

Luncheon for \$15.00 will be at the Cypress Creek Country Club. You will have a choice of sandwich or salad. Sandwiches are Rueben, Cheeseburger, Chicken Philly, and Broiled Tilapia. All sandwiches are served with fries and slaw. Salad choices are Chicken Caesar or Chef. All lunches include a beverage, tax and tip.

After lunch we will have a guided tour of the Sun City Center facilities. Wear comfortable shoes.

Reservations deadline is July 6, 2009

Yes, count me in for the Summer Happening Thursday, July 16!

NAME _____

COST \$15.00 pp X _____ people = _____

Make check payable to Katy Goodwin.

I am willing to drive and can take _____ passengers.

Mail coupon and check to **Katy Goodwin, 4505 Lake Vista Drive, Sarasota, 34233** by Monday, July 6.

Exchanges

Inbound

To quote our May newsletter, "There are no more Inbound Exchanges planned for 2009. But stay tuned ----" Now hear this --- We have issued an invitation to the FF Club of Minnesota to visit us for a domestic exchange in October or November of 2009, and they have accepted! So - we will be having an Inbound Exchange in 2009 after all!

Outbound

Calgary, Alberta, Canada - Bus Tour August 7-12 & Homestay August 12-19



All systems are go for the Calgary Exchange. The pre-exchange bus tour is expected to be spectacular and we are looking forward to re-connecting with the Calgary FF members who visited us in Sarasota three years ago. We are spending the summer in Ohio visiting our families, but we will meet most of our fellow ambassadors in Calgary on August 7th. Bob and Cece O'Connor are working on a skit with a circus theme for the farewell party which should be a lot of fun.

Linda and Jack Vendeland, EDs Phone: 440-293-8639

E- mail linvende@aol.com.

Elk Crossing On Their Dedicated Bridge

Baton Rouge, Louisiana – February, 2010

Sarasota has accepted an invitation from the FF Club of Baton Rouge, Louisiana for a domestic exchange to Baton Rouge in February, 2010 prior to Mardi Gras. The Baton Rouge club visited us in October, 2008. Reeta Dean volunteered to be the ED for this exchange. *Laissez les bon temps rouler!* Let the good times roll!

Belgian Coast, Belgium and Halle-Salle, Germany April, 2010

More news later as it develops. Helga Ponischill is the ED for this exchange

2009 International Conference – Okinawa, Japan - Friday, Nov. 20, - Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009

Experience a unique blend of Japanese, Chinese and Pacific Island culture while participating in our annual global gathering of Friendship Force leaders from around the world. The conference is set in the city of Naha - central to all of Okinawa's attractions. In addition to the conference sessions and workshops there will be opportunities for excursions to various cultural centers on the island. Following the conference you may extend your stay in the region by returning to the Japanese main islands for a post-conference homestay. Check it out at

www.friendshipforce.org.

20 Years-Time to Celebrate

What: Sarasota Friendship Force Club's 20th Anniversary

When: Sunday, September 27th 2009-----Save the date now

Where: Whispering Sands Club House- 4:00 PM

Details

o **Catered Dinner---\$20 per person**

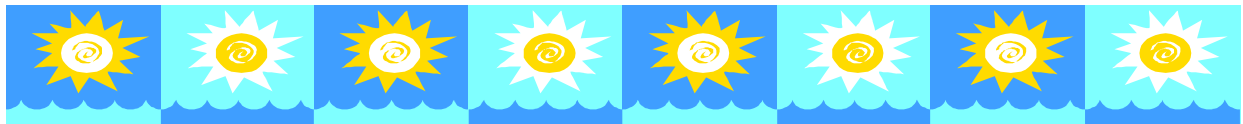
Cornish Hen and all the trimmings
Cold drinks and coffee ---BYOB

o **50/50 raffle**

Many surprises--

Great memories

Special Program



Do you have a special memory of an inbound or outbound exchange in the last 20 years? Send it in with your check or e-mail it to Barbara.

Any questions, call Barbara 925-3755 or Nedra 349-4933

Your check is your reservation.

Make it out to Wayne Peterson, \$20 per person
and send to 4427 Opal Court, Sarasota, FL 34233.





NEWS FROM THE WEB

During the summer months our web site will have a patriotic theme. Side bars have been added where pictures and brief reports of club events will be displayed. Please send me your pictures taken at the summer events along with brief descriptions so that I may include them on the side bars. www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org.

Linda Vendeland, Webmaster linvende@aol.com

Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open.

Ed. Note -- This is our last newsletter for the summer. Our next edition will be September. Look for it 'on the web'. In the meantime, reminders and notices will be sent by email if necessary. Spend your time wisely and safely, whether you do some traveling or just stay home. Be sure to enjoy the summer and remember to have fun! In the meantime, get in touch with your Florida native side with these questions:



1. *Where is the location of the original Hooters?*

- A. Clearwater B. Daytona
C. Miami D. Orlando

2. *Where did the late television legend Mr. Rogers earn his bachelor's degree?*

- A. University of Florida B. Rollins College
C. Stetson University D. U. of South Florida

3. *How many species of turtles nest on Florida beaches?*

- A. 1 B. 5 C. 10 D. 25

Directions to Pinebrook South Clubhouse

Directions using Rte. 75 South:

Take 75 South to exit 195 - Laurel Road, Take a right at end of the ramp onto Laurel Rd. and immediately get into the left hand lane. At the next traffic light, turn left onto Pinebrook Road, (**) and travel about 1.5 miles thru the Edmondson Rd. traffic light past the golf course on the left and lakes, make a little dogleg right and then to the left, go over a small concrete bridge and make the next right turn onto Pinebrook Way. About 3 or so streets on the right side of Pinebrook Way, make a right turn onto Featherbed Lane and the clubhouse is on the left at the end. You cannot miss it. There is ample parking for all. Tel. # is 941-485-6460.

Directions using 41 South:

Take 41 South down into Venice. Approaching Venice, you will go under Rt. 681 bridge, and past the RV dealership, and you will see the Spanish Lakes mobile home community on the left and a Hess gas station on the right almost directly across from it. Across from the traffic light at Laurel Road is a Publix shopping center, if you pass the light you have missed the turn. At the Laurel Road traffic light, turn left onto Laurel Road and proceed East about 3 miles past the Laurel-Nokomis Elementary School, past Albee Farm Road and proceed to Pinebrook Road traffic light and turn right onto Pinebrook Road. Then follow the directions above from (**).

Explore – Understand – Serve

Answers: 1.A.Clearwater 2. B. Rollins College 3. B Loggerhead, Green turtle, Leatherback, Kemp's Ridley, Hawksbill