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thefriendshipforce.org

Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

December, 2013

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jaspetime@comcast.net

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Treasurer: Bob Joyce

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President's Message

2013, and along with it my term as president, are fast drawing to a close. A heartfelt thank you to officers, committee chairs and members and the myriad club members who volunteered to help throughout the past two years in so many ways. Together we have made much progress in raising awareness of Friendship Force in our community and in attracting new members to strengthen our club. Effectively integrating those new people is the next challenge, and I pass that on to the competent hands of the incoming 2014 board of officers. Those of us who have been involved in the last two club exchanges, outbound to Yalta, Crimea and La Libertad, Peru inbound to Sarasota, have discovered that FFI's ambitious global expansion project is far from a quick and easy task. There are many bumps and potholes along the road to a successful new FF chapter somewhere in the world, but we all are working to achieve success in this project.

It is time to renew your membership for 2014. Please complete the renewal form in this newsletter and send it with your check to Treasurer Bob Joyce before the end of the year. The sooner you return it, the sooner we can get a 2014 club directory back to you! Affiliation fees for FFI have increased for 2014, and accordingly our dues have increased as well but are still a great value.

2014 will certainly be a very busy and stimulating year for our club. Each exchange provides a unique opportunity to create friendships across barriers of distance, and language, and culture, and I urge all of you to take advantage of these multiple opportunities and get involved. 25 outstanding ambassadors for our club's first global themed inbound exchange, Experience the Arts of Greater Sarasota, will arrive January 31. ED Gloria Grenier and her committee are counting on everyone's help in home hosting, day hosting, and dinner hosting for this exciting event. ED Mary McClendon and her mentor Bonnie Frey have nearly completed appointing a host committee and are making plans for an international inbound exchange from Hamburg, Germany March 24-31.

Our international outbound exchange for next year will be a cooperative one with the Greater Orlando club. Central Coast, Australia, and Whangarei, New Zealand



will host us in October 2014 before the World Conference in Auckland, and touring in both countries will be offered. In April ED Don Nicholson will lead a domestic exchange to Albuquerque NM, and Sarasota will host ambassadors from Albuquerque in a reciprocal visit in November. You will find more complete information on all these scheduled exchanges later in this newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you at our December 5 Holiday Party at Libby's. Wishing to you all a joyous holiday season with family and friends and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Judi

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

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside*****

December 5	Holiday Party****
January 2	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm
January 21	Board Meeting at home of Katy Goodwin
January 30	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm (in lieu of February meeting due to Global Exchange)
Jan 31-Feb 9	Inbound Global Themed Exchange****
February 25	Board Meeting at home of TBA



Meet Our New Members

Several new members have joined us in November. Please welcome Adele Smith, Irma Blake, Judith Collier, Charlotte Skaggs and Carol Reinert.

This gives us a total of 121 members at the present time. The Membership Committee has done an outstanding job throughout the year.

Dotty Reed has thought about joining Friendship Force for a number of years as she has several friends in the club. She is originally from Massachusetts. Dotty has a Bachelor's Degree in Education from University of Southern Illinois and a Master's from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Dotty taught school in St. Louis County for 23 years. Upon retirement, she and her husband moved to Nokomis, FL in 1997. Her husband passed away several years ago. After a few years, Dotty moved to Virginia to live near her son, but has recently returned to Florida and will move to her home soon in Lake Shore Village in Sarasota. She is a member of SOTG, enjoys travel, quilting, knitting and reading. Dotty has two sons and four grandchildren. She is looking forward to becoming involved in Friendship Force.

Irma Blake was born in East Germany and with her family was a refugee to an area north of Hamburg, Germany, then later moved to Stuttgart, Germany. In 1956, she moved to the United States with her parents and young daughter. They settled in New York City initially. She remarried and has lived in Chicago, Boston and New Jersey. Irma is a graduate of The Institute of Finance in New York City and worked as a Wall Street broker for Goldman Sachs. Her hobbies are quilting and needle crafting. She and her husband retired near Ocala, FL in 1989. After his death in 2004, Irma moved to Venice, FL and resides in Chestnut Creek development where she is a neighbor of Connie Bergin.

Adele Smith was born and raised in New Rochelle, NY where she worked for General Foods/Kraft Foods and retired early to raise two sons. She has lived in Florida for 13 years and has enjoyed traveling in Europe, Hawaii, Alaska, Panama Canal, Mexico and the Caribbean. Adele loves to dance, sing, play tennis, walk the beach/jetty, and watch Rays' baseball and Penn State football. She is looking forward to meeting the members of the Friendship Force and going on the Iron & Ice cruise this spring.

Charlotte Skaggs made her home in Frankenmuth, Michigan before her move to Venice, Florida in 1985. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in the field of Fine Art and taught Art and Physical Education for nine years. Teaching was rewarding but her main passion was Interior Design so she went back to college and earned a degree in Design. After moving to Florida she continued to work in the Interior Design field, and retired 13 years ago. Charlotte has two children and four grandchildren. Her daughter, Lisa and her family live in California and her son, Steven and his family live in Michigan. She often visits them and truly enjoys the role of grandmother. Before her husband passed away in 2007, they spent time traveling in the United States and Europe. Charlotte always had a keen interest in people and their culture throughout the world and this is her reason for joining Friendship Force. She likes the concept the organization has to offer in traveling with a familiar group of friends and hosting interesting guests from foreign countries and the U.S. Charlotte is looking forward to meeting new friends and learning more about FFS.

Sunshine Corner



- Helga Ponischil has recently released from Heartland where she was receiving rehab for a back problem.
- Patricia Quinn passed away peacefully November 14 in a hospice facility in Sun City Center, Florida. Pat's funeral service will be held in Indianapolis. Pat joined FFSRQ in 2012. Our sincere condolences go out to Phillip Price and their family.

Election of Officers for the 2014 Friendship Force of Sarasota

Voting will take place at our annual meeting in December. The following slate of officers for 2014 was selected for a one-year term and has accepted the nominations:

President –Katy Goodwin

Secretary – Donna Schaeffer

Vice President – Reeta Dean

Treasurer – Dona Brannan

Other nominations may be offered from the floor at the December meeting.

Nominating Committee:

Chairpersons – Jack and Linda Vendeland

Committee members – Gary Kuhns, Peg Hayden, Bonnie Frey, Katy Goodwin



Publicity Report – Peggy Hayden, 11/15/13

Friendship Force Presentations 2013-2014 – Spreading the Word

- September 12, 2013 - Peggy Hayden spoke to Encore Club of SRQ to 89 people. Ramona McGee, FF member, is a member of this group & provided information that led to being able to schedule this speaking engagement.
- October 14, 2013 – Judi Stratton spoke to Women on the Go in Venice to 50-60 people. Connie Bergin, FF member, is a member of this group and arranged this speaking engagement.
- January 11, 2014 - Peggy Hayden speaks to WIN - Women's Interfaith Network (WIN) of Sarasota-Bradenton (Center for Religious Tolerance) referred to us as a result of contact made by Linda Vendeland, FF member
- February 9, 2014 – Grace Rowland speaks to Singles on the Go (Peggy Hayden back-up)

Other Publicity

- Ramona McGee & Peggy Hayden co-authored an article on the Russia/Ukraine exchange that Peggy submitted to area publications in November. Peggy also submitted a picture of this exchange to the “Postcards” feature on the Arts section of the Herald Tribune. If you see either of these in print, please let Peggy know.
- Peggy continues to routinely prepare fliers re: our meetings that are open to the public & email them to our membership. These are generally also included in our newsletter & posted on our website. She also routinely submits information to calendars of area publications re: our meetings that are open to the public.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE STUFF FOR SALE

New: Friendship Force Sarasota Pins - \$2



Shirts with Personalized Monogram - \$25

Black Polo Shirts with Friendship Force Logo

Your name on left side.

Men's XL, L, M, S Women's XL, L, M, S

Friendship Force International Pins - \$1.25

(Only a few left)

Small Flashlights with Battery - \$1.00

Has "Friendship Force Sarasota" Printed on Side of device. (many left!)

Before January 1, 2014, contact Bob Joyce

bojjoyce@gmail.com.



NEWS FROM THE WEB

Check out our Website and Facebook page for the great photos taken during our recent Inbound Exchange from Peru.

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org.

Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator linvende@aol.com

WINE TASTING GROUPS – for members only!

Wine Group 2 met at our home on October 29, and we tasted 6 bottles of Pinot Noir from 5 different countries. After tallying the ratings, the #1 wine was Conte Priola from Italy which cost \$7.99. Following the tasting we went to the Bangkok restaurant for dinner. Our next tasting will be at Bonnie Frey's home, date to be determined. If anyone is interested in joining the tasting, please contact us via e-mail or phone.

Jack and Linda Vendeland linvende@aol.com - 941-342-6278



2014 Friendship Force Dues are Due

This is a reminder that your Sarasota Friendship Force dues should be paid before Jan. 1, 2014. Because of an increase in payment to FFI, the payment is now **\$25 pp.** (NOTE: Makes Checks payable to Friendship Force Sarasota – **Not** Bob Joyce,)

Please send check to:
Bob Joyce, 1232 Pine Needle Rd, Venice, FL 34285

Please renew your FF Membership for 2014 by filling out this form as soon as possible!

All dues run from January to December and need to be paid for the coming year by **December 31, 2013**. We try to put our Membership Directory out by the first of the year so it is important for you to **renew now**. Please send the following form, one per household, with your check. **Please update with current information and indicate if it is new.** Thank you.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email(s) _____

Dues \$ 25 per person x _____ = _____
Name Badge \$ 12 per person x _____ = _____

Total \$ _____

Please mail with check made out to FF of Sarasota to Bob Joyce, 1232 Pine Needle Rd. Venice FL 34285

Exchanges

Outbound

Albuquerque, New Mexico – April 24-30, 2014

The exchange is full and there is a long waiting list. Will those ambassadors that have been accepted please send me their flight schedule to ABQ.

Don Nicholson, ED donkaynicholson@comcast.net

Sarasota/Orlando to Central Coast, Australia & Whangarei, New Zealand
Sept 29 -October 27, 2014

Our first meeting of interested ambassadors was held November 7 before the general meeting at Waldemere Fire Station. Attendees received a handout packet including itinerary details and preliminary estimates of costs; if you were not able to attend you received that packet via email. Here follows a brief summary: Departing Florida Sept 29 we arrive in Sydney Oct 1 for 2 nights for an excursion to the Blue Mountains UNESCO World Heritage site as well as free time to explore the city on your own. Two official 5 night homestay exchanges follow Oct 3 - 8 in Central Coast AUS (north of Sydney), Oct 8 - 13 in Whangarei NZE on the North Island, followed by the FFI World Conference in Auckland. A fabulous tour of NZE follows the conference including Rotorua and Wellington and the many highlights of the South Island known for its scenic beauty and unique flora and fauna. Optional pre-exchange touring in AUS including Kuranda, the Great Barrier Reef, and Uluru would begin with a departure from Florida Sept 25. Both groups will return to the USA Oct 27.

If you are interested in this exchange and have not yet added your name to the sign up list, please contact me. All people who have signed up as potential ambassadors are asked to complete the tentative version of the trip selection form and return it to me before the November and December holidays. If you would like your name removed from the list, please let me know that too. All such information about what you are interested in will help us in our planning. Ambassador applications and deposits will be collected in mid-January.

ED Judi Stratton jaspetite@comcast.net

Inbound

Hamburg, Germany – March 24-31, 2014

Opportunity Knocks!

This is my first experience as Exchange Director for the Sarasota Friendship of SRQ. At first I was wondering if I were in my right mind! With the help of Bonnie Frey and members of the board, it is all coming together and I am pleased to be a part of the planning to welcome the ambassadors from Hamburg, Germany.

A wonderful group of willing members of the Friendship Force of SRQ has volunteered to help with the Inbound Exchange from Hamburg, Germany. At this time, we are expecting 16 ambassadors and require 9 host homes. To date, there are 5 homes committed. You have the opportunity to have a lovely German couple, two ladies, or 1 lady visiting in your home for a week in March. It is a wonderful opportunity to share Sarasota with people from Germany. If you haven't already had the experience, you will be surprised how fulfilling it is. If you have done it before, you can attest to the positive feelings that result.

We are also in need of Farewell Dinner Committee Chair and Dinner Parties Chair and hosts. If you have never chaired these committees, you will be given a mentor to help you with the details.

Please contact Mary McClendon, ED
941-923-3785, or marymc5936@aol.com

Global Themed Exchange Jan. 31 – Feb. 9, 2014

EXPERIENCE THE ARTS OF GREATER SARASOTA FL
PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JAN. 31 - ARRIVAL DAY - NO ACTIVITIES PLANNED

SAT. FEB. 1 - 11:00AM - WELCOME BRUNCH AT WHISPERING SANDS TIKI BAR

8:00 PM - SARASOTA ORCHESTRA AT THE VAN WEZEL

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

7:00 PM - SARASOTA BALLET AT THE FSU PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

MONDAY, FEB 3

Guided tours of Ringling College of Art & Design, Bradenton Riverwalk, Venice Art Center, Clyde Butcher's Studio & Gallery & other sightseeing.

TUESDAY, FEB 4

Same as above (2 groups alternating visits on Monday & Tuesday)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

10:45 AM - Backstage tour of the Asolo (FSU Performing Arts Center), lunch and matinee performance of "Other Desert Cities"

6:30 PM - SMALL DINNER PARTIES IN HOMES

THURSDAY, FEB 6

10:00 TO 4:30 - VISIT THE RINGLING MUSEUM COMPLEX

5:30 PM - CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT AT HOLLY HALL

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

OPTIONAL MUSEUM AND GALLERY VISITS

2:00 PM - LE BARGE CRUISE

5:00 PM - PALM AVE WALK

8:00 pm Florida Studio Theater "Daddy Long Legs", a musical

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

12 NOON - FAREWELL LUNCHEON AT ROSEBUD'S RESTAURANT

7 PM - CIRCUS SARASOTA IN THE BIG TENT AT 12TH & TUTTLE

SUNDAY, FEB. 9 - DEPARTURE DAY

Friendship Force of Sarasota members, and especially home or day/evening hosts are encouraged to accompany their guests as often as possible. Listed below are the tickets available. All tickets are discounted 20-30%.

Saturday, Feb 1 Sarasota Orchestra, 8 pm at the Van Wezel \$55.20

Sunday, Feb. 2 Sarasota Ballet 7 pm at FSU Performing Arts Center \$60

Wednesday, Feb 5 Asolo Rep - tour, lunch and matinee \$59.00

Thursday, Feb. 6 at 5:30 pm Chamber Orchestra at Holly Hall \$23.20

Friday, February 7 at 2:00 pm LeBarge cruise \$17.00

Friday, February 7 at 8:00 pm FST "Daddy Long Legs" \$27.20 (limited availability)

Saturday February 8 at 7 pm Circus Sarasota \$25.00

Please reserve your tickets now by sending your check to Ramona McGee, 5316 Dominica Circle,
Sarasota FL 34233. Make the check payable to Ramona.

Questions? Email ggrenier@tampabay.rr.com

Deadline for ticket purchase for global exchange events: December 15.

PROGRAM DETAILS (TO DATE)

Saturday, February 1 – Masterworks Series

Sarasota Orchestra at the Van Wezel 8:00PM

Tito Munoz, Conductor Giora Schmidt, violin soloist

REVUELTA Homage to Lorca

MOZART Violin Concerto No. 4

BERLIOZ Symphonie Fantastic



Sunday, February 2 – 7:00 PM

Sarasota Ballet at the FSU Performing Arts Center (Asolo)

BALANCHINE Four Temperaments (Company Premiere)

WILL TUCKETT World Premiere

SIR FREDERICK ASHTON Sinfonetta (Company Premiere)

Wednesday, February 5

Asolo Rep – Matinee at 2 PM “Other Desert Cities” by Jon Robin Baitz

This riveting new play by the creator of TV’s hit drama “Brothers & Sisters” brings dysfunctional family drama to new heights. Ex-Senator Lyman Wyeth and his wife Polly have it all – wealth, fame and power. When they welcome their family home for Christmas for the first time in years, the reunion seems hopeful, until their daughter announces she’s written a memoir about the incident that changed their lives. With biting wit and razor-sharp insight, Other Desert Cities is “the most richly enjoyable new play for grownups in many a season” (NY Times)

Thursday, February 6 – Chamber Soiree at Holly Hall at 5:30 PM

EWALD Brass Quintet No.2

FAIROUZ Jebel Lebnan

MARTINU Piano Quartet #1



EXPERIENCE THE ARTS OF GREATER SARASOTA FL

JAN 31 - FEB 9, 2014

WELCOME BRUNCH - FEBRUARY 1 AT 11:00AM

Join us for brunch at Whispering Sands Tiki Hut on Siesta Beach
(In case of inclement weather, the main clubhouse is also reserved)

MENU: Assorted quiches, Breakfast meats, Fruit Salad, Baked Goods,
Yogurt
Orange juice, Coffee, Water
\$15.00 per person

After an exhilarating week of activities with our guests, we'll gather
for a

FAREWELL LUNCH at ROSEBUD'S RESTAURANT

(2215 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey FL 34229)

At 12 noon on Saturday, February 8

MENU:

Tossed Salad, Ranch Dressing
Choice of: 1. Sautéed Chicken Breast with onions, peppers &
mushrooms, Baked Potato
2. Herb Crusted White Fish, Baked Potato
3. Steak Kebob over Rice
Spumoni Ice Cream
Non-Alcoholic beverage
\$23.00 per person

Please select your entrée and mail your check to:

Ramona McGee, 5316 Dominica Circle, Sarasota FL 34233

The deadline for both parties is January 29, 2014

HOLIDAY PARTY
AT LIBBY'S CAFÉ & BAR

1917 S. OSPREY, SARASOTA

THURSDAY, December 5 AT 6 PM



APPETIZER

Cup of organic & vegetarian tomato bisque, toasted orzo

Lemon arugula Caesar, shaved Romaine, crushed croutons, pickled radish, reggiano cheese

LCB Green Salad, baby spinach, cress, arugula, haricot verts, cucumber, pea shoots, green goddess dressing

ENTRÉE

Citrus Rosemary Rotisserie Chicken breast, toasted faro-grilled zucchini panzanella, kalamata olives, foccacia croutons, banyuls vinegar

Honey Balsamic Roasted Pork "Filet Mignon", black truffle'N broccolini corn, shaved reggiano

Filet Mignon and Asparagus Negimaki, Shiitake, ginger chile jus, steamed jasmine rice

Roasted Atlantic Cod fillet, crawfish-black eyed pea succotash, lemon brown butter

DESSERT

Four Cheese and Pear Tortelloni, white truffle crema

Organic Hand-picked Berries, served with whipped cream

Mint Key Lime Pie served with Gummi Bears and whipped cream

Classic Chocolate cake with whipped cream

BEVERAGE: Soft drinks, Ice tea and coffee included

Cash Bar

Cost: \$30 for members

\$38 for guests

Please make your check payable to **FFS** and mail it to:

Bob Joyce, 1232 Pine Needle Rd., Venice FL 34285 before December 2.

GIFT EXCHANGE: Limit \$10. Fun gifts welcome! If you bring one, you'll take one home.

OPTIONAL