



friendship force
SARASOTA

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Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

February, 2012

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Secretary: Debbie Boyd
Treasurer: Bob Joyce
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President's Message

Last month I thought we already had a full and interesting calendar of events planned for 2012, but we now have two more exciting additions. Our Sarasota club has agreed to host a Russian Open World visit March 30-April 7. The Russian participants are all involved in social services work with families and children. Wayne and Barbara Peterson will chair that committee. And the Friendship Force of Seattle, WA has agreed to host Sarasota in June or July, 2012 in return for an exchange visit to Sarasota in the winter of 2013. Please contact our VP Gloria Grenier to sign up if you are interested in participating in this domestic outbound exchange; an ED has not yet been named.

Planning is well underway for our two 2012 international exchanges: Bogota, Colombia, inbound May 19-26, EDs Bonnie Frey and Reeta Dean; and Tirana, Albania outbound in September, ED Helga Ponischil.

On behalf of the whole club I would like to say a sincere "Thank you" to Richard Muehlenhard and Donna Schaeffer for their generous donation of a HP laptop computer. This computer will enable us to spread the word about Friendship Force in our community through presentations to area clubs and organizations.



Each of you has many opportunities to participate and contribute to club activities in the next few weeks:

- Send your 2012 dues to Treasurer Bob Joyce by 2/2, if you have not already done so, so that you are included in the new club directory.
- Send names and contact information of prospective club members to Membership Chair Ramona McGee by 2/12 so we can invite them to our International Dinner March 1.
- Sign up with Nancy Rehbock to bring a food item for our International Dinner.
- Email photos to Linda Vendeland by 2/16 for our March 1 geography photo ID team contest "Where in the World is Carmen Sarasota?" Anywhere in the world is fine as a photo subject, not too easy but not impossible to identify. (Please include the name of the location and country!)
- Contact Babe Baptist for tickets to the Booker VPA play April 11.
- Sign up with Gloria Grenier to participate in the free docent led tour of the Embracing our Differences display at the Bayfront and to socialize with members of the Florida Suncoast Friendship Force club April 19.

And I hope to see you all at the Oriental Buffet on February 2 for our dinner/ general meeting and an interesting program of travel adventures by David Harralson of Sister Cities.

Judi

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside****

February 2	General Meeting at Oriental Buffet 6pm***
February 21	Board Meeting at home of Ramona McGee 7pm
March 1	World Friendship Day International Dinner at Waldemere 5pm***
March 27	Board Meeting 7pm at home of JR and John Suess
March 30 – Apr. 7	Russian Open World Program No April General Meeting
April 11	Booker High School Spring Play & HobNob Fine Dining***
April 19	Embracing Our Differences***

New Officers for 2012

Secretary – Debbie Boyd Treasurer – Bob Joyce

Debbie Boyd, Secretary

I was born in Bradenton, Florida and lived in Oneco, FL until I was 7 yrs old. I am the middle child of 3 daughters born to my parents. In 1970 we moved to East Bradenton to live in the country near my grandparents in the Rye Bridge Rd area. I was married in 1981 and widowed in 2009. I have two beautiful daughters who have blessed me with wonderful sons-in-law and two gorgeous granddaughters (a grandson is due in March!). I am currently working as a personal assistant and home care provider. In the past I have worked as a veterinarian's assistant for a small rural office in Wauchula, FL. I was a breeder of Golden Retrievers for 13 yrs. along with Bloodhounds for 4 yrs. Because of my kennel availability, I was able to do animal rescue for 2 years where I took dogs in and rehabilitated them for 3 months until they were ready for a new home. I have a natural love of animals and to date there are 7 dogs, 6 barn cats and one 39 yr old pony that depend on me. No, they do not all live with me in Sarasota! I still have the farm in Ona, FL which my nephew and his wife rent and take care of the 2 large dogs, barn cats and the pony. I have a heart for the older generation. They have so much knowledge and wisdom that I feel is at times forgotten because of our culture's lack of concern or willingness to listen and learn from those who have experienced life's wonders and adventures. I enjoy travel as well as just taking time to read a book (good or bad, you always learn something from it). I grew up water skiing, riding dirt bike motorcycles and roller skating. Recently I have learned and enjoy snow skiing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, paddle boarding, kayaking and tree ascension, rollerblading, and road bicycle riding. I also enjoy going on cruises and cruising on motorcycles! I don't think there is anything I wouldn't try except bungee jumping! Being tied by your feet and jumping from a high platform just to have the "bajeebers" jerked out of you is not my idea of adventurous fun!



I was first introduced to FF in the fall of 2010 by a friend who is a club member. I was and am very interested in what the club has to offer in getting to know not only different countries but the cultures and people within. I am looking forward to traveling with some of the people I have gotten to know within the Sarasota club.

Bob Joyce, Treasurer



I grew up, lived and worked in the Syracuse area until 1997, then moved to Venice. My wife Judy and I taught school and followed that by working several years for educational software companies. We have a son and three grandchildren in the Baltimore area.

Besides our wonderful trip to Brazil with the Friendship Force last March, we have traveled to Australia, Czech Republic, the Caribbean, England, Ireland, New Zealand, and Zambia. Other travel to Japan, Alaska and other pacific air bases was paid for by the US Navy from 1960-63.

Currently, my duties include serving as the Assessment Director for Pinebrook South HOA, Lake Venice Men's Golf Association and Pinebrook Men's Club.

Membership Bits 'n Pieces

- Please welcome our new members who were introduced at the January meeting, **Annie Carter** and Jean **West-Walker**.
- We send best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Dean Farwell** who will be having some treatments and minor surgery in the coming weeks.
- We extend our condolences to **Robert and Jean Farley** whose son passed away this past week very suddenly.

- We Need Your Help to Grow Friendship Force of Sarasota!!

And better, our request is very easy to do. Do you have friend/s who might be interested in Friendship Force? We will send them an invitation to be our guests at our International Potluck Dinner on March 1st. We want to make this evening a fun time to meet new people, enjoy new foods and share about Friendship Force. Try to have the information to Ramona by Feb. 12th that the guests will receive their invitation in a timely manner. Please send their name and address to Ramona McGee.

E-mail RMcGee0806@comcast.net or call 378-2094.

- Stay informed! Sign up for email updates on the FFI website.

www.thefriendshipforce.org. It's easy to do, just click on email updates in the left column and fill in your contact information which will be secure with FFI. You will receive via email monthly catalogs and special announcements of new exchanges open to all members. The January catalog has already arrived. Sign up now in time for the next one, and don't miss out on interesting new opportunities!

The **February General Meeting** will be held at the **Oriental Buffet**, 4458 Bee Ridge Rd. Sarasota, due to the Waldemere Fire Station not being available because of the FL primary elections. .

A full buffet is offered, including nonalcoholic drink, tax and tip for \$13 per person. A cash (no credit cards) bar is available for wine and/or beer.

Following the buffet dinner, the meeting will feature **David Harralson** to speak about experiences abroad. After a career as a professor of English



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Renaissance Literature and as an academic dean and library director at Utica College, Syracuse University, Dave and his wife Chloe moved to Florida. They've lived in Palm Aire for nine years.

Dave is active in Sister Cities, the Sarasota Arts Alliance and Mote Marine Laboratory.

After speaking about Sister Cities, an organization similar to Friendship Force that promotes citizen diplomacy, Dave will share some of his travel adventures. He directed a university London Theater Tour, spending the month of January in London for 25 years, taught in and conducted tours to China, and traveled whenever the opportunity arose. Dave and Chloe love scuba diving, the most recent trip being to the Bay Islands of Honduras.

Dave is certain to present an informative and interesting talk in a witty and humorous manner. Do mark your calendar and plan on attending our February Friendship Force meeting at the Oriental Buffet on February 2 at 6 pm.

What's Ahead?

Oriental Buffet, Feb. 2nd @ 6pm

Please join in for an interesting evening of good food and pleasant company.

Name _____

of dinners at \$13 each _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to FF of Sarasota and mail to Bob Joyce, 1232 Pine Needle Rd. Venice, 34285



Social Hour 5pm – 6pm- Dinner

The **March General Meeting** will feature our traditional International Potluck Dinner, brought back by popular demand! This year there will be a new twist - we will invite as our guests as many prospective new members as you, our members, can suggest. Entertainment will include “Where in the World is Carmen Sarasota?” a geography photo ID contest, with prizes! Please send contact information (name, address, phone, email) of prospective members to **Ramona McGee**, Membership Committee Chair, so that the committee

can send invitations for this special evening.

Everyone is asked to bring a dish for 10-12 of your favorite cuisine from somewhere in the world. If you know any prospective members, invite them to join us. Costumes add to the festivity of the evening, so this is your chance to show off some of your souvenirs you’ve collected on your trips. Soft drinks, paper goods and silverware will be provided. The Social Committee of Betty Kuhns, Shellie Ramey, and JR Suess will be your hostesses for this evening.

For reservations, email Nancy Rehbock at nrehbock@tampabay.rr.com and let her know how many are coming and if you are bringing a salad, entrée, or dessert for 10-12. Please make a small card with the name of your dish to be placed with it on the serving table and don’t forget to bring serving utensils for your dishes.

If you can come early to help set up or stay late to help clean up, you will be most appreciated! As always, no alcohol is permitted in the Fire Station.

Please sign up now. We don’t want you to come to the meeting at 7pm and have missed a great dinner and an opportunity to socialize!

No April General Meeting. April may bring showers, but will not dampen our April FF events.

First up, is the Booker High School Performing Arts Center musical production “All Shook Up” on April 11 at 7pm. This musical comedy is built around a number of songs made famous by Elvis Presley.

The setting is 1955 somewhere in middle America, where one girl’s dream and a surprise visit from a mysterious leather-jacketed, guitar-playing stranger help a small town to discover the magic and the power of rock & roll, from a book by Joe DiPietro. There are 30 tickets available at \$10 each from Babe Baptist. Babe will be at the Feb. dinner meeting and you can purchase your tickets at that time. If you would like to join in on some ‘fine dining’ before the play, you are welcome to join the group at the HobNob Drive-in at the corner of 301 and 17th St. in Sarasota at 5:30pm. Everyone welcome!



Our 2nd event on April 19th at 10:00 am is a docent led tour of Embracing Our Differences display at the Bayfront followed by lunch at O’Leary’s. The tour is free and lunch is “Dutch treat”. Sign up at the next meeting.

June or July – Outbound Domestic Exchange to Seattle-Tacoma Washington. Details will follow but please sign the interest sheet at the next meeting.

Russian Open World Program – March 30 - April 6

We are delighted to say that the "Russians are coming again". We will host an Open World Program this spring from Friday, March 30 through Friday April 6. The theme is Family and Children Social Protection/ Services (the delegates will include Administration reps and NGO specialists). This group will consist of 5 delegates, 1 facilitator and 1 interpreter. The delegates come from the Russian cities of Izhevsk, Novgorod and St. Petersburg. At this time we are waiting for the individual profiles to know exactly which areas we will work with. Then we will put together the required 32 hr program which will include some of our cultural gems as well as working with various social groups within our area.



We will need some home host families, day hosts, party planners and the other exchange activities. At the moment that is all we know but hopefully at our next meeting we will have more details.

Thank you. Wayne and Barbara Peterson

Exchanges

Inbound

Bogotá, Columbia – May 19 – 26

Our friends in Bogota are excited about the plans we have for them. We are trying to fill their days with the best of Sarasota - both sights and people. We are investigating all the interesting activities that occur here about, and if you have suggestions please feel free to send them to us. We can always use help in putting together an exchange so we will have a sign up sheet at the Feb meeting for you. The exchange is May 19-26 so keep those dates open to join in the fun.

Reeta Dean and Bonnie Frey, EDs

Outbound

Tirana, Albania – September

The exchange and following excursion up the Adriatic coast is coming along slowly. We have possibly 9 members with an interest in participating in the exchange. Also some people from other clubs in Florida have shown an interest. I would still like to have a few more members of our club going before we consider other club members from all of the US. I am trying to have 15 people interested in going. That is a magic number 15 because a tour company will give us our own bus for the tour which makes it much more enjoyable. Costs: for the tour about \$ 2500.00, for airline travel about \$ 1425.00 Dollars, FFI fee \$ 150.00, Albania fee about \$ 100.00, Sarasota FF club \$ 25.00.

I am going to talk about this trip at our next FF meeting at the Chinese restaurant. If you have a genuine interest in this enterprise, quite different but lovely, please let me know.

Helga, ED

Tel 349-6706

E mail: Lischinop@comcast.net



Coming Spring 2012!

SATURDAY CHINESE FEATURE FILM SERIES

Ringling College of Art and Design
Academic Center Room 207

Admission is free and open to the public.

All films have Mandarin sound-tracks and English subtitles.

January 28: 1:30 pm

Last Train Home

Director Fan Lixin, 2010. Documentary, 90 min.

This showing is a collaboration with the award-winning documentary series POV (www.pbs.org/pov).

February 25: 1:30 pm

If You Are the One

Director Feng Xiaogang, 2008. 130 min.

Stars Ge You



March 24: 1:30 pm

Detective Dee and the Phantom Flame

Director Tsui Hark, Hong Kong 2010. 123min.

Stars Andy Lau Ka Fai, Carina Lau

April 21 1:30 pm

Lust, Caution

Director Li Ang (Ang Lee), Taiwan, 2007. 157 min

Location: Films will be screened on the campus of Ringling College of Art and Design in room AC 207 in the new Academic Building on the west side of Old Bradenton Road south of Martin Luther King Boulevard in area #34 on the campus map available on line at <http://www.ringling.edu/fileadmin/pdf/CampusMap.pdf> .

Last Call to Renew Your Membership!!!!

Your name will not be in the directory unless you renew now!

All dues run from January to December and need to be paid for the coming year by **December 31, 2011**. 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 \$ 20 per person x _____ = _____

Name Badge \$ 11 per person x _____ = _____

Total \$ _____

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