



friendship force
SARASOTA

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Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

May, 2013

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President's Message

Thank you to all members who helped make our annual International Dinner a delightful evening. As always the hors d'oeuvres and international cuisine were delicious, Carmen Sarasota was challenging and fun, the social committee was very efficient and organized, and the efforts of volunteers who set up and cleaned up afterward were much appreciated. Since that evening we have welcomed eight enthusiastic new members to our club. You will find their names and contact information in the directory addendum emailed separately and brief biographies in this newsletter.

Thank you also to board and membership committee members who organized our New Member Social held on April 29 at which new club members had an opportunity to learn a little more about Friendship Force. Domestic exchange ambassadors from Seattle/Tacoma WA and other US clubs were here for a week's home stay with us in April. Congratulations to ED Gloria Grenier and her committee for putting together a successful exchange, and thank you to all club members who home or day or dinner hosted or participated in any exchange events. For many of you it was a first experience with an exchange, and I hope you found it as delightful as I always do.

Two other club exchanges are planned for fall 2013. ED Ramona McGee has a full slate of ambassadors and is accepting applications for a waiting list 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.

FFI has approved and sent "It's a Match" messages for both of our requested exchanges for 2014, so we are beginning our planning process. We are starting to put together a committee to plan our club global themed inbound exchange for next spring: Experience the Arts of Greater Sarasota. It is listed on the FFI website and generating lots of interest if the inquiries I am already receiving from around the world are any indication. If you would like to help organize this exchange, please let me know.

Our international outbound exchange will be a cooperative one with the Greater Orlando club for which I will be the lead ED. We will be hosted by Central Coast, Australia, and Whangarei, New Zealand in October 2014 before the World Conference in Auckland in mid-October. I will be in touch with club members who voted for this exchange option with a brief survey about previous travel and possible additional touring in our two destinations. Any other club members interested in this exchange should contact me to participate in this survey.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next general meeting May 2 for a very interesting program about Scotland, whose countrymen were important in the early history of Sarasota. Musical entertainment is planned!

Judi

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

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside*****

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
July 18	Summer Happening SAVE THE DATE!
September 5	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm
September 10	Board Meeting at TBA
September 24	Outbound Exchange to Ukraine, Russia****

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

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.



Meet Our New Members



Eight new members have joined us following the International Dinner. Please welcome Rose DiRenzo, Sande Galate, Robin Lawton, Peggy Perkins, Marie Beck, Linda and William Irish, and Sandy Tuveson.

Below are the bios of Judith Patterson and Joel Fyvolent who joined in March and a few of the bios of the April new members. Other bios will appear in later issues.

Judith Patterson, (Judy) is originally from New Jersey, but lived in Sarasota from 1973 - 1981. She obtained a BS degree in Education from Douglas University which is now part of Rutgers University. She taught school while raising three children. In 1981, Judy moved to Tampa and enrolled in University of South Florida where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree and her MBA. She was an employee of the Tampa Museum of Art and

taught at USF. Judy then became a free-lance artist and now has her own studio in her home. Her other interests are piano, music, literature, gardening and water aerobics. She also tutors adults. Judy lives on Davis Island in Tampa.

Joel Fyvolent is a native Floridian, who grew up in St. Petersburg and Tampa. He attended the University of Florida, obtaining BA and BS degrees. Upon graduation, his parents sent him to Europe for the summer where he met some students from Lausanne Medical School. They suggested he apply to go to school in Switzerland. He did apply and was amazed when he was accepted through a Swiss Government Program. He did graduate work in Paris, Stockholm and London. His residency was at University of Miami Medical. Dr. Fyvolent then set up practice in Tampa, FL as an internal medicine doctor and a gastroenterologist. He was also a professor at USF Medical School. Joel is fluent in French and speaks some Italian and German. He has two grown sons. He enjoys literature, art museums, music and cooking. Joel volunteers at the Judeo Christian Health Clinic and teaches classes for OLLIE in Tampa. Joel lives on Bayshore Blvd. in Tampa.

Marie Beck is a native of Philadelphia and received her bachelor's degree from Penn State, then went on to NYU and Michigan State for her master's and PhD. She has lived in at least 6 states, but chose to settle in Sarasota in 2004 because of all our cultural opportunities. She is a mostly retired consultant and keeps very busy serving on the board of several local organizations, including her sorority, Tri-Sigma.

Marie has traveled extensively for work and pleasure, with her favorites being the Galapagos, Machu Picchu, and Italy. She enjoys ushering at the Aolo and FST, and is a member of Singles on the Go, Selby Gardens, Mote Marine, and the Ringling Art Museum.

Marie is really looking forward to getting involved with FF!

Sande Galate grew up in New York State and taught High School English. She moved to Sarasota 25 years ago and changed careers to start selling real estate.. During that time she traveled to many parts of the world including Europe, South America, Russia, and the Caribbean. While in high School she was an exchange student to Germany, even though her languages were French and Spanish at the time. She picked up enough German to get around and make friends. That experience has stayed with her and makes her feel she has a perfect fit with Friendship Force. The

empathy and understanding that is gained in an intercultural exchange is invaluable, she says.

When she is not traveling, she enjoys painting and drawing and especially reading. She is currently taking a painting class and will take French next semester at SCTI to equip her for her river cruise in France next year. By the way, she is looking for a roommate for that river cruise. You can find her at the next meeting and get the details if you are interested in joining her. She has 4 children who are spread all over the U S., and visits to them give her the chance for domestic travel. Introduce yourself to her and find all the things you have in common.

Sunshine Corner



Our deepest condolences go out to Donna Schaeffer, whose loving partner of 22 years, Richard Muehlenhard, passed away this week. Richard was an active member of SRQ FF for 19 years. He will be greatly missed. Please keep Donna in your thoughts and prayers.

NEWS FROM THE WEB



Photos taken at the International Dinner are on our website and our Facebook page. Thanks to everyone involved, the dinner was a huge success. Coming soon are pictures of our inbound exchange from the states of Washington and Nebraska.

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Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator E-Mail linvende@aol.com



Needed: Pin Design

We are in need of someone to design a lapel pin similar to the one shown below. If an artistic person out there can help, we would appreciate a graphic depiction of a 1 inch circular pin with: "FRIENDSHIP FORCE of" arched above the FFI Logo and "SARASOTA FLORIDA" around the bottom

circumference. The color of text, border and background needs to be specified. (The design has to be sent to a manufacturing company to be produced.) Here is a rough idea:



If anyone has a graphics design computer program, that would be great. Send an email to Bob Joyce at bobjoice@gmail.com if you can help.

Exchanges

Outbound

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

Our exchange that we are sharing with the Austin FF Club is now full! However, we are accepting ambassadors on a waiting list. The ED in the Crimean Region of Ukraine has now determined that it is better to call this new club the Yalta FF Club because this city is larger and better known world-wide. It is the location of the famous Yalta Conference in WWII.

We'll start our visit to Ukraine, with a visit to the ancient and historical city of Kyiv. During our 3-day visit, we'll stay in a centrally located hotel on the west side of the Dnieper River where there are many interesting sights, both old and new. One exploratory event that I feel will be of special interest near Rostov-on-Don will



be our visit to the nearby city of Novochoerkassk, the capital of the Don Cossacks, with a cultural program from Cossacks (singing, dancing and treatment), as well as a scenic cruise on the Don River, the hub of transportation from the Azov and Black Seas.

Once again, National Geographic features Yalta and the Crimean Peninsula as "Cream of Crimea" - listing 50 tours of a lifetime for 2013. The highlights of this tour are all locations we will visit during our stay, such as Chekhov Museum & Home, Massandra Castle and Vineyards, etc. We can say we were there before the whole world has arrived!

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

Inbound

La Libertad, Peru – November 2013

I am happy to report that the Peru Club members are working on getting their Visas and will let us know exact dates and names as soon as they can. For now, we can plan that the exchange will be a 7 day period of consecutive days between Nov. 9 and Nov. 21.

Please let us know if you or someone you know will be willing to help by taking on the tasks of photographer, booklets, or gift bags for the Peru Exchange.

We will be in California with family April 8-May 3. We will be back home in Indiana May 15-Sept. 10. We will be in Ireland and Wales Sept 10-Oct. 8 and will only have limited opportunity to check our email. We expect to be back in Florida by mid-October.

Please do not hesitate to email us if you have suggestions or updates for the committee members and advisers. We will certainly contact all of you as we get more information from La Libertad or Laura Romero at FFI in Atlanta.

Have a safe, healthy and fun spring and summer,
Mary and Walt Prouty waltmaryprouty@gmail.com