



Friends Connection Friendship Force of Sarasota

November, 2009

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Volume 20, No.9

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President's Message

Welcome back to Eastern Standard Time and the real beginning of fall. Now bring on the cooler weather! Having just returned from Thailand where it was hot and humid, I'm ready for some chilly breezes.

Looking back, I'd like to thank Harry Dunn, our speaker at the October meeting, for giving us an overview of the Sarasota Sister Cities Program and preparing us for our role as drivers for the Perpignan, France students they will be hosting this week. And more thanks to our members who are doing the driving and our coordinator, Terry Neuss. I'm sure it will be an interesting and rewarding experience for us to spend some time with these young adults visiting Sarasota. We welcomed our new members, Sandy and Steve Levine, formerly of San Francisco, and received the report of the Nominating Committee for our slate of officers for next year. Thanks to the committee and the nominees.

The Florida Conference the weekend of October 16-17 was very well done. Kathy Thomas, Director of Program Services for FFI gave us updates on things to come using the theme for 2010, "club revitalization and growth." There will not be a Florida Conference next year since the International Conference will be in Washington, DC October 14-16 followed by home stays in the area.

Our November meeting, a family style dinner at Troyer's Dutch Heritage, is always a taste treat – see the reservation form in this newsletter – Deadline November 15!!

I hope you have your calendars marked for our Holiday Dinner at Stoneybrook Country Club on Thursday, December 10 – again, please see the reservation form in this newsletter.

And – it's time to pay dues for next year – another form to fill out - \$13.00 per person payable to Sarasota Friendship Force and sent to our treasurer, Bob Burke.

In Friendship, Katy

Calendar of Events**more info inside**

November 9-12

Driving Assist for Sister Cities in progress

November 19

Dinner Meeting at **Dutch Heritage Restaurant** 5:30p**

December 5

Sun City Holiday Walk**

December 7

No Board Meeting this month

December 10

Annual Holiday Party at Stoneybrook Country Club**

January 10

Combined Board Meeting at Katy Goodwin's 4P

January

General Meeting - **date and time TBA**

Due to inconvenient scheduling at Selby Library for 2010, other arrangements are being considered.

Exchanges

Inbound

Ottawa, Canada – November, 2010

The SARASOTA AND EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUBS will be hosting approximately **25 ambassadors** from OTTAWA, CANADA the first 2 weeks of NOVEMBER 2010. The exact dates will be determined later.

Please mark your calendars now so that you don't miss out on what should be a very exciting week with our Northern neighbors.

Those of us, who were hosted by the **OTTAWA CLUB IN 2007**, remember their gracious hospitality and, especially the memorable Canada Day celebrations that we shared with our hosts.

Some committee members have been selected but a few positions remain. Please email Gloria Grenier at ggrenier@tampabay.rr.com if you would like to volunteer.

The committee to date consists of:

Exchange Director: Gloria Grenier

Home and Day Hosts: Bob and Cece O'Connor

Dinner Hosts: Terry Neuss

Activities: Mary Brugger



Positions that need to be filled are: WELCOME AND FAREWELL DINNER HOSTS, GIFT BAGS COORDINATOR, BOOKLET EDITOR, AND TREASURER. Hopefully, these important posts will be filled by the next Newsletter.

Gloria

.Outbound

Baton Rouge, Louisiana – February 11-15, 2010



Plans for the Baton Rouge exchange are moving along nicely. The ED for Baton Rouge is away in Thailand, so we have not heard any recent word on the home hosts. But those interested in going from this end have sent in their applications and fees and we are all looking forward to a great time in Feb in Baton Rouge including a parade day in New Orleans. If you haven't seen the schedule yet and would like to be put on the waiting list please refer to the Sept or Oct

newsletter or contact Reeta Dean at reetatoc@yahoo.com or 360-8768.

Belgian Coast, Belgium and Halle-Salle, Germany - April 16-May 2, 2010

We are going to have the exchange to both places in 2010. Both clubs are in contact with me and are awaiting our visit next year. Both clubs have already planned some beautiful outings for us that are surely going to please us all.

In Belgium we will visit Ghent and the flower show, which only happens every four years, a really stupendous display of flower decorations in the main plaza. We will also visit Bruges, a beautiful, medieval town, not to be missed.

In Halle, the club is planning a visit to Dresden, and probably Leipzig, both with beautiful restored historical sites. Also a visit to a hunting castle nearby is being planned.

As to the approx cost of this trip, it should come in at around \$ 2,500, incl. airfare, travel between the cities, special outings of planned excursions, and club fees.

There is a request by some members to also visit Amsterdam and the tulip show there, which at the time of our visit is at its most grandiose display. All is possible. Be aware though that everything is more expensive during this time.

I have been collecting "earnest money" for the exchange in the amount of \$500.00, made out to Sarasota Friendship Force, mailed to me, which I am holding at the present time.

Please also indicate if you are interested in going also to Amsterdam or not.

Since our last meeting, I have been working on a more convenient way to get from the Coast of Belgium to our other destination in eastern Germany. Since a train ride would be quite cumbersome with two changes, I am exploring bus hiring. Will let all known participants know at another meeting and by E-mail in the near future.

The exchange is still 6 months down the road, but I do need to know how many of our members have a real interest because how else can I plan things. !!!!

Your friendly exchange planner and in Friendship,

Helga

Helga Ponischil Tel 941-349-6706, E-mail: Lischinop@comcast.net

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NEWS FROM THE WEB

There are some great pictures of the 20th Anniversary Party in the Photo Gallery on our web site. Also, I've added more Exchange Guidelines and a link to FFI forms. Please let me know what you would like to see on our web site...I'm open to suggestions.

Linda Vendeland, Webmaster linvende@aol.com

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org.

The FL Conference sponsored by the FF of Central Florida on Oct. 16-17

Attending from our club were Katy Goodwin, Wayne Peterson, Mary Brugger and Ramona McGee. Friday evening's program was a dinner and international costume fashion show and parade held at the Eustis Elks Lodge.

Saturday's meetings were held at the Mt. Dora Yacht Club. Ramona was the M.C. for the program which featured Kathy Thomas, Dir. of Program Service for FFI speaking on "FFI Now"; our own Wayne Peterson as moderator for a panel of 3 club presidents talking about "Attracting and Retaining New and Young Members", a retired Army Colonel talking about "Living inside Washington, DC"; Mac MacKenzie giving an update on the FFI Board of Directors Meeting; and speakers discussing budgeting and assigning home hosts.

We all felt that the conference was very informative. There will not be a FL Regional Conference in 2010 since the International Conference will be held in Washington, DC in October.

Other Bits and Pieces

The board voted to add an additional \$150 to the \$100 from the 50/50 raffle at the 20th anniversary celebration to send \$250 to the Legacy Fund for 2009.

The Board accepted with regret the resignation of Mary Brugger as Vice President.

Please send any changes in your address, phone or email to Bob Bergin so it will be correct in the new 2010 directories.

Jay Jabas is at Blake replacement surgery.

OUCH!



Hospital in Bradenton following bilateral knee We wish him a very speedy recovery.

This is a heads up to save the date. Babe Baptist has once again obtained tickets for the Booker High School Visual Arts Center Spring Musical on April 21. Tickets are \$10 and the play is "Side Show". More info later. Babe Baptist 966-8502

Wishing everyone a
Happy Thanksgiving!



Celebrate the Holidays!

Where? Stoneybrook Country Club, 8801 Stoneybrook Blvd. Sarasota

When? Thursday, December 10, 5:30pm cocktail hour, 6:30 dinner

What's the Menu? Stuffed Chicken breast or
Sautéed salmon with burre Blanc sauce
\$25

The price includes tax and tip and all dinners will come with salad,
Chef-selected sides, rolls, butter, coffee, tea, iced tea, and Chef's dessert.
There will be a full cash bar with appetizers.

What's Happening? A gift exchange continues this year!
If you wish to participate, bring 1 wrapped gift (\$10) per couple or single.
Of course, only people bringing a gift will participate.
and/or

You may choose to donate an unwrapped item for Resurrection House.
Preferably underwear, socks, towels – male or female.

Who? The grapevine is saying that Santa will definitely be there!

How Do I Sign Up? Simply fill out the reservation below with your check.



Happy Holidays to All!



Annual Holiday Party – December 10th 5:30pm cocktails//6:30pm dinner

Please indicate your choice of entree

Chicken \$25x _____ = \$ _____

Salmon \$25x _____ = \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Ph # _____

Please make check out to Sarasota FF and mail to Bob Burke, 448 E. Rubens Dr. Nokomis, 34275

The deadline for reserving is December 5^h. As always, your check is your reservation.

There will be a short meeting presided over by our outgoing Prez, Katy Goodwin, during which we will vote on our new slate of officers for 2010

Please renew your FF Membership for 2010 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, 09**. 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 that it is new.** Thank you.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email(s) _____

Dues \$ 13 per person x _____ = _____

Name Badge \$ 11 per person x _____ = _____

Total \$ _____

Please mail with check made out to **FF of Sarasota to Bob Burke, 448 E. Rubens Dr. Nokomis, FL 34275**
