



*Friends Connection*  
**Friendship Force of Sarasota**  
[www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org](http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org)

**October, 2011**

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[www.linvende@aol.com](mailto:www.linvende@aol.com)

Vice Pres: Katy Goodwin

Secretary: Debbie Boyd

Treasurer: Wayne Peterson

Publicity: **position available**

Membership: Lee and Gary Anderson

Directory: Gary Anderson

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Barb Welch

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**Presidents' Message**

The All Florida Conference is fast approaching. Gloria Grenier and her committee have a very interesting program planned for October 28 & 29. Join us in making new friends from around the sunshine state. Friendship Force International President and CEO George Brown will be a featured speaker. You don't want to miss it.

The inbound exchange from Morganton, NC, scheduled for November 6-11, is on track. Gary Anderson and his committee are pulling things together and will finalize their plans very soon.

Bonnie Frey and Reeta Dean are working on the plans for our inbound exchange from Bogotá, Colombia in 2012 and Helga Ponischil is handling our outbound exchange to Tirana, Albania, also in 2012. Thanks to all of you for pitching in when needed.



We recently sent you a list of possible exchange destinations for 2013. Thanks to those of you who responded. You still have time to send us your choices. The board will use these results as a guide in choosing requests for 2013 exchange destinations.

We will see you on October 6 at the FF General Meeting at the Waldemere Fire Station meeting room at 7:00 PM.

Jack and Linda

**Calendar of Events\*\*more info inside\*\***

October 6	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm***
October 24	Board Meeting at Linda and Jack Vendeland's 7pm
October 28-29	All Florida Conference***
November 3	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7 pm
November 6-11	Inbound Morganton, NC Exchange***
November 21	Board Meeting at Barbara and Wayne Peterson's 7pm
December 1	Holiday Party at Stoneybrook Country Club – <b>Save the Date!</b>

October 6 Program:

Some of our traveling members will entertain us with reports of their recent exchanges: Reeta Dean, Richard Palmer and Charlotte Neagle attended the Sustainable Energy Festival held this summer in Northern Colorado; Judi Stratton and Ramona McGee

attended the Global Exchange to Iceland in August. Both of these exchanges were "new and different" types of Friendship Force endeavors so it will be very interesting to hear about them."



### Look What's Happening!

- More members have joined us. Please welcome
  1. **Joan M. March**, 6262 Draw Lane, SRQ 34231, 941-926-2979  
E-mail -- [JMMSUNRISE@AOL.COM](mailto:JMMSUNRISE@AOL.COM). Joan is a past member.
  2. **Jim Stefan**, 7635 Fairway Woods Drive, Sarasota, FL 34238  
941-922- 9248 [jim61738@yahoo.com](mailto:jim61738@yahoo.com)
- Speedy get well soon wishes to **Wayne Peterson** who is at home recovering from colon surgery.
- Please make the following email change in your directory.  
**Bob and Gene Burke**'s email address to [geneb1030@gmail.com](mailto:geneb1030@gmail.com)
- **Grace Rowland**'s phone number has been changed to 941-706-7679.



Marie Schumer  
July, 1929 – September, 2011

Our dear friend and co-founder of our Sarasota chapter of Friendship Force passed away after many years of chronic illness and the debilitating effects of diabetes.

Although active in many other groups, her greatest love was helping to establish a Friendship Force chapter here in Sarasota in 1989. Some of her contributions were establishing a library in a remote town in Brazil following an exchange there in 1992. She encouraged all of us to donate books which she arranged to have sent. In 1991 she was instrumental in arranging a 6 week visit and housing for 16 teens from Thailand on a special Educational Exchange. She led the way for sponsorship for the Strezev family from Moldova, and made possible a new life for them here. Many Friendship Force members pitched in to help on these endeavors, but it was Marie who was the driving force and initiator of these and many other projects.

Marie spread goodness and happiness wherever she went. Her last visit to us was at the 20<sup>th</sup> reunion party of FF in 2009. Her smile and cheerful attitude remains with us still. She leaves a legacy of devotion to people and the arts and to learning new things and accepting new challenges. She will be sorely missed.

**An amount of \$200 is being donated to the Friendship Force International Legacy Fund in honor of Marie.**



Ann Hurst and Marie Schumer – cofounders



Marie Schumer and friend George Schmidt

The nominating committee would like to submit the following slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year:

President - Judi Stratton  
Vice President – Gloria Grenier

Secretary - Debbie Boyd  
Treasurer - Bob Joyce

These members will be elected at the Annual Meeting held in December. At that time further nominations may be made with the consent of the nominees.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katy Goodwin, Ch.

Members: Ramona McGee, Wayne Peterson, Don Nicholson

**Did you know that Friendship Force International is offering Cultural Cruises – taking you where you have never been!**

Amazon River - Caribbean Islands - Galapagos Islands - Central America  
Ghana - South Africa - India - Singapore - China - Hawaii

*We have negotiated a special Friendship Force rate of \$90/day for Passage through the Amazon voyage.* In addition to an excellent rate, you will have the advantage of the following: no single supplement; taxes, port fees and tips included; and cabin upgrades (additional charge based on availability).

Other voyages are coming soon in the first half of 2012.

#### **Questions?**

To receive further information about these Friendship Force voyage opportunities, contact.

Laura Romero, FFI Program Coordinator

404-965-4353

[lromero@thefriendshipforce.org](mailto:lromero@thefriendshipforce.org)

## **Exchanges**

### **Inbound**

#### Morganton, North Carolina -- November 6-11

This exchange is on and we are expecting 11 ambassadors to visit us. **There will be a schedule of all the activities coming out by email very shortly.** In the meantime, mark your calendars for the Welcome dinner on November 6<sup>th</sup> at the Pinebrook Clubhouse in Venice and the Farewell Dinner at Troyer's on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Both events will be \$16 each per person. The exchange treasurer is Wayne Peterson who will accept your checks.

Gary and Lee Anderson, EDs

#### Bogotá, Columbia - May 19 – 26, 2012

Mark your 2012 calendar **INCOMING EXCHANGE BOGOTA MAY 19 TO MAY 26.** We will have 25 ambassadors visiting us. There is more to come.

Bonnie and Reeta, EDs



### **Outbound**

#### Tirana, Albania – September 2012

I have been in touch with the person in charge in Tirana, Albania; we are exchanging E-mails to plan ahead for next year. Here is some preliminary information:

The club is able to take 20-25 ambassadors. In case we have more people interested, they will try and accommodate that, too.

I bought a travel book to find out about Albania; it appears to be quite interesting to visit there and has a lot of interesting history,

It is a beautiful country with picturesque small towns, vast plains, high mountains, nice beaches at the Adriatic and Ionic Sea. The people are said to be very hospitable and friendly. A lot can speak some English, at least a little. Most people are nominally Muslims, about 20% Christians. As you know, religion was ruthlessly stamped out during the long time of communist rule.

The weather should be just fine in September, warm and pleasant.

.After our exchange in Albania, I thought we can visit some other interesting places to the north of Albania along the Adriatic Coast, like Montenegro, Bosnia, Croatia and

Slovenia with old picturesque cities, beautiful buildings etc... We might end up in Vienna to fly home from. All these little countries have airports but... To fly into Tirana,

Albania, I found out that we would have to fly into London, England and pick up a flight with British Air into Albania. There is no problem to fly home from Vienna.

I will have a sign-up paper at our next FF meeting for whoever has an interest in this exchange.

I will try to engage a travel agency from Albania. That would keep the cost down. We would be traveling mostly by bus to all these sites.

More at a future meeting.

Helga Ponischil, your friendly and enthusiastic exchange person.



#### NEWS FROM THE WEB AND FACEBOOK

Look for the great photos recently posted by Ramona McGee on our Web Site and



Facebook page. Ramona took these photos while on a Discovery Trip to Iceland in August. If you have any photos which you took while participating in a Friendship Force exchange this summer, please send them to me. I am sure other club members would enjoy looking at them.

We now have **24** fans of our Facebook page! Our fans include not only members of our club, but club members from Australia, Brazil, Thailand, Russia, Peru, Texas, Louisiana and Washington, D.C. If you are a member of Facebook and have not become a fan of our page, please go to our page, Friendship Force of Sarasota, Florida, and click on the "like" button. You will see club news, photos and be able to post comments. It is fun, so why not try it...you might like it.

#### ALL-FLORIDA FRIENDSHIP FORCE CONFERENCE --- October 28-29, 2011

Registrations are trickling in for the conference. We hope our membership will be well represented. Dr. George Brown, Jr., the President of Friendship Force International, will arrive in time for the "Meet and Greet" on Friday evening at Whispering Sands. This is a great opportunity for a "one on one" with the leader of our organization.

The conference itself will include an update on FFI activities and future plans, information about Themed and Discovery exchanges, panel discussions on various topics, a question and answer period with our Florida Field representative Roger Gatlin, and a special presentation from our guest speaker Carol Buchanan, Co-Founder of "embracing Our Differences" and national president of the US National Committee for UNIFEM.

The Registration Form is included in this Newsletter. Please fill it out and return it along with your check to Wayne Peterson, 4427 Opal Ct., Sarasota FL 34233.

Gloria Grenier, Chair of the All-Florida Conference



ALL FLORIDA CONFERENCE  
October 28-29, 2011

Hosted by: The Friendship Force of Sarasota, Florida

REGISTRATION FORM

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Apt.# \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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**All fees are per person and are inclusive.**

**Friday, October 28 "Meet and Greet" at Whispering Sands waterfront lounge 6 pm to 9 pm**  
Catered Cold Buffet; Dessert, Ice Tea, water & sodas provided or BYOB **Cost: \$15.00**

**Saturday, October 29 All Florida Conference 10 am – 4:30 pm at the Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota, FL 34240** Box lunch provided. **Cost: \$10.00**

**Please select your lunch box preferences.**

Sandwich: Turkey, ham or roast beef on white, rye or whole wheat bread \_\_\_\_\_

Salad: Red skin potato salad or pasta salad \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert: Brownie Water, sodas and ice provided.

**Saturday Evening Buffet Dinner 6 pm to 9 pm at Polo Grill, 10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202**

Menu: Caesar Salad, Pollo Rustica, Linguini with Shrimp, Baked Eggplant Parmigiana, Crispy Garlic Bread, Dessert, Ice Tea, Coffee and Water. **Cash Bar Cost: \$25.00**

**REGISTRATION FEES**

Full registration includes Fri. night dinner, Sat. conference & lunch, Sat. Dinner \$50x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday conference with lunch and Saturday Dinner \$35x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday conference with lunch only \$10x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form & check made payable to Friendship Force of Sarasota to:  
Wayne Peterson, 4427 Opal Ct., Sarasota, FL 34233 Questions 941-358-1383 Gloria Grenier

**THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS: OCTOBER 10, 2011**