



Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

April, 2009

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President's Message

Hurrah! Spring arrived in time for us to show our Belarus, Russian and Uzbekistan visitors a wonderful Florida weather week. Thanks again to all of you who made this exchange possible – the planning committee, the home and day hosts, the dinner hosts, the dessert hosts, and all of you who attended the functions. We proved that being in Friendship Force means being flexible – as those of you who spoke at our meeting showed us. We all enjoyed your comments – thanks for sharing!

We welcomed several guests at our March meeting – three locals who had seen our meeting notice in the paper (thanks, Gloria), a couple from the French FF Club of Ottawa, Canada visiting the Andersons, and Richard Muehlenhard's sister and brother-in-law. It's always a pleasure to share our enthusiasm with others. And, a big THANK YOU to all of you who ate your goodies picked up the chairs and tables and left the auditorium as we found it before 7:45 PM. The Library should be pleased with us!

I am delighted to announce that the FF Club of Halle-Salle, Germany has invited us to visit them in 2010. FFI has suggested that we combine this exchange with our exchange to the Belgian Coast, Belgium in April. We would then have two weeks in Europe which makes a trip across the Atlantic more worthwhile. We have received the message "It's A Match" from FFI for our outbound exchange to Belgium and our inbound exchange from Ottawa, Canada in November so these are now definite.

Remember – there is no regular April meeting at Selby Library – instead a large group will be attending the Booker Visual Arts Performance of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" on Wednesday, April 22.

See you back at the library in May.

Katy

Calendar of Events**more info inside

April 2-7	Outbound Austin, TX Exchange**
April 22	Booker High School Play (No General Meeting)**
May 4	Board Meeting at home of TBA
May 21	General Meeting at Selby Library 6P
June 1	Board Meeting at home of TBA
June 18	General Meeting at Selby Library 6P

Did You Know.....

- There will be no General Meeting in April. Instead the FF club is going to the Booker High School Performing Arts Musical Production on April 22 at 7:30 pm. The play is "Thoroughly Modern Millie". If you do not yet have tickets (\$10), you may call the High School at 355-2968 and make arrangements. Consider meeting the group before the play at 6 pm for an experience of 'fine dining' at the HobNob Drive-In on SR301 in Sarasota. See you there!
- Get well wishes to Bob Burke and Bernie Scheerer who both had back surgery recently. Hope to see you up and around soon.
- Sincere condolences to Leaf Wanless whose father passed away in March in California. He was in his nineties.

- Marie Schumer has been permanently transferred to the Health Center area of Bay Village. She is one of the founders of our Sarasota FF Club.
- New Name Badges - Katy is taking a list of those who would like to order new FF name badges with the new logo. They are \$9.50 and have a magnet backing. Please call, 379-9954 or email katygoodwin@msn.com if you want on the list.
- We have a supply of the new FFI Brochures now. Please pick up one or more at the next meeting. It's always good to carry one in your purse, Ladies, so when you are talking to prospective members you can give them a brochure.
- Ann Hurst, speaking on The Friendship Force, will be the program at the Presbyterian Women's Association Luncheon at the Church of the Palms on Friday, April 24. If any of you would like to join Katy Goodwin in attending, you would be very welcome.

Exchanges

Outbound

Austin, TX – April 2-7 Homestay & 7-9 add-on to San Antonio

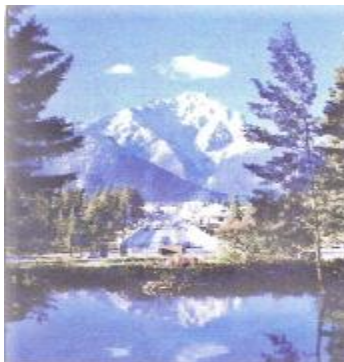
Fifteen ambassadors from Sarasota will the Lone Star State of Texas. Words of host families and an interesting and busy that, eleven of the group are traveling on include sightseeing at Riverwalk and the memories with you when we return!



Ange and Leaf Wanless, EDs

be leaving this week for welcome have been received from our five days are waiting for us. Following to San Antonio for 2 days which will Alamo. We will be happy to share our

Calgary, Alberta, Canada - Bus Tour August 7-12 & Homestay August 12-19,2009



We have a full complement of 26 ambassadors for our Calgary Exchange. If you are interested in going, we will be happy to put you on the waiting list. We have confirmation of services from Brewster Tours and we have paid the \$1,500.00 deposit. Participants have until June 1 to make their final payment. If possible, we would appreciate payment before May 12 when we leave for Ohio. Or, you can send your payment to us in Ohio. We plan to hold a meeting in early May, time and date to be announced.

The Calgary area is a beautiful part of Canada and we know this will be a memorable exchange.

Linda and Jack Vendeland, EDs Phone: 941-342-6278 E-Mail: linvende@aol.com



NEWS FROM THE WEB

Thanks go out to Bob O'Connor and Shellie Ramey for sending me some great pictures taken during the Belarus, Russia and Uzbekistan exchange. If you'd like to see some of your favorite pictures on our web site, please send them to me. My favorite picture so far is the one of Mayor Lou Ann Palmer sitting on top of the shoulders of one of our Ambassadors. Check it out.

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org.

Linda Vendeland, Webmaster linvende@aol.com

Ed. Note – This is our first edition of Friends Connection that is being sent entirely by email. If you have any problem with receiving or opening the attachment please email me and I will email a copy to you as an open recipient. Please go to our web site and view the Welcome BBQ photos.

In March, Friendship Force of Sarasota hosted 21 ambassadors, 7 from Minsk, Belarus, 11 from Moscow, Russia, and 3 from Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

They came to us after a week with the SWFL club in Ft Myers, and were warmly welcomed at a sunset beach party picnic at the Whispering Sands Tiki Hut on Siesta Key. The week together passed very quickly with visits to Mote Marine Aquarium, Ringling Museums, Myakka State Park, and Selby Botanical Gardens, as well as a meeting at City Hall with the mayor of Sarasota, Lou Ann Palmer, who presented our visitors with certificates of honorary citizenship and stood on her head for them to their great delight. A dessert party, dinner parties, and free time for beaches and shopping filled the rest of the week until the Farewell Luncheon at Stoneybrook Country Club arrived all too soon.

We bid them a fond farewell and wished them a safe journey home. Thank you to all committee members, home hosts, day hosts, dessert and dinner hosts who made this exchange such a success.

Judi Stratton, ED



Our new marketing video has arrived!

See it now on - thefriendshipforce.org

Dear Clubs,

It's here!

In response to requests from Clubs around the world, the new FFI marketing video is ready for you to use in your public relations efforts, to tell the Friendship Force story around the world.

Please check out the FFI website for a link to either watch it on-line or download it for later viewing. We're so pleased to offer this newest public relations tool for you to use to promote the Friendship Force and its mission.

This short video (4 ½ minutes) is the ideal length for you to take with you whenever you have a public opportunity to introduce the Friendship Force to a new audience. For the North Americans this might be a church group, or Kiwanas or Rotary Club.

Today you will find the English language version and coming soon, we will be up-loading versions in Japanese, German, Spanish, Portuguese and also another version with English subtitles.

Let us know how this works for you. We love hearing your success stories.

Thanks for all you do to make our organization strong. Together we are changing the world.

In friendship, George Brown, FFI