

FRIENDSHIP FORCE FLORIDA SUNCOAST NEWS

The monthly newsletter of the Friendship Force of Florida Suncoast
www.friendshipforcefloridasuncoast.org

Note: This newsletter is sent electronically to all members who use email, and mailed by regular mail to other members. A copy is also posted on our website, (click on blue line above) and can be printed.



Meeting Saturday Nov 17.
Thanksgiving Party plus
Rose Bowl Parade
Presentation!
3:00 pm Hall of Lutheran
Church Good Shepherd,
102nd Ave N, Seminole.

Message from Viv : Greetings to all members. Lots of good news about our club. Our members who participated in the Japan outbound exchange have returned with glowing praise for the hospitality they received, and the friends they made. Betty Dethmers has written an impromptu account for this newsletter, and she and the other ambassadors will give a lovely presentation at our club's Holiday Party. Mac and Gaby and Eunice are in South Africa attending a Friendship Force festival. Don Horsman is forming a new welcoming committee, and needs members. We look forward to two lovely programs in November and December. I do look forward to seeing you all there. *Viv*

'I Love A Parade'

On November 17th, we have our annual Thanksgiving Meal. The club will supply the turkey. Several members have already told Pat what they are bringing, but if you were not one of those, then will you and your guests kindly bring as follows; last-name begins with A-H salads and appetizers, I-P desserts, R-Z vegetables other than potatoes. If you have not already done so, please let Pat (522-3959) know now if you are coming, and what food you will bring and also if you are bringing guests, how many. We are looking forward to the fascinating presentation by Mr. Leslie Smout. He is an experienced volunteer preparing the floats for famous parades, and will talk of his experiences with the **Rose Bowl Parade**. He has many photos and will give a Power-Point presentation (slide-show). Location: Fellowship Hall of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 10891 102nd Ave N, Seminole at our new time of 3:00 p.m.



ROSE PARADE 2007

As this newsletter is posted on the website, personal phone numbers and email addresses are not included below, but are in the Club Handbook. All members can be reach at info@friendshipforcefloridasuncoast.org.

Executive Board

President	Vivian Grimm
1st Vice President	Michael Manning
2nd Vice President	Robert Lehner
Secretary	Nancy Warner
Treasurer	Donald Weaver

Operating Board

Programs	Michael Manning
Membership	Robert Lehner
Friendship Force International	Mac Mackenzie
International exchanges	Aila Erman
Former president	Ken Dean
Domestic exchanges	Carol Heichel
Calling committee	Clare Raymond
Function presentations	Monika Boerger
Publicity	Vacant
Historian & parliamentarian	Pat McQuaide
Communications, newsletter, website	Jean Choong
Welcome	Don Horsman
Sunshine	Nadine Giani

News from club officers.
Phone numbers, emails etc quoted below will be removed before the newsletter is posted to the website. Members can be reached by using the numbers or emails in the club handbook or emailing info@friendshipforcefloridasuncoast.org

From Nadine: Please contact me if you know of any member who is not well, has lost a dear one, or who needs to know we care and are thinking of them.

From Bob Lehner:

We are very pleased to welcome back former members: Clark and Barbara Lambert of St. Petersburg.

Club Handbook: We recommend new members to get the club handbook (\$10). It is in loose-leaf format, and very well done. Photographs and short details of new members are added from time to time.

A special request: Please wear name badges to meetings and other functions—it makes things so much easier.

From Jean Choong

We joined this club six years ago after seeing a small notice in a local newspaper. This notice had been thoughtfully arranged by Viv's husband, David Grimm.

There are many people in our County and Tampa who would enjoy our club and its exchanges and activities if only they knew about us.

From the list on the left you can see that the post of Publicity is vacant.

If you would like to help with getting the word out, please let Viv know. Her email and phone numbers are in the handbook.

DO COME TO OUR HOLIDAY PARTY

Our Annual Holiday Party is scheduled for December 15th at 5:00 p.m. at COVE CAY COUNTRY CLUB, 2612 Cove Cay Drive, Clearwater. The Clubhouse is located about 1-1/2 miles south of Gulf-to-Bay on the east side of US.19 opposite Walker Ford.

The price is \$18 plus tax and tip, totaling \$22.00. (The actual cost is slightly more than that, but our club is making up the difference.) It is essential to pay in advance, as the Cove Cay management do need to know how many are coming. Do bring guests if you like. You can pay for the party using the coupon on the back page, and give it to Don by early December—earlier still is better.

The menu includes Roasted Prime Rib Au Jus, or Chicken Breast with Portobello Mushroom, or Vegetarian. There will of course be salads and side dishes, and also Crème de Menthe Parfaits, hot beverage or iced tea, and a cash bar.

The program is the presentation of the Japanese exchange with details, photos, and a chance to see the gowns.

Japan Outbound Exchange. We are all delighted that our outbound exchange to Japan was so enjoyable and successful. This exchange was well started by Bren Miller. Thanks also to Joanne Schuetz of Tennessee. Do see the comments by Betty Dethmers on page 5. The participants will give a presentation at the Christmas Party.

From Aila: Our outbound exchange Sept-Oct 2008, in Australia and Indonesia will allow us to include attending the FF International Conference on the Gold Coast of Australia, 45 min by car from Brisbane. We need to depart Sept 20 in order to be in Sydney Sept 22 for our week's homestay, if we are flying directly to the homestay. Leave earlier, if you want to sight-see in Australia before the homestay. You will then be responsible to get to your home hosts on your own, unless you meet the "group" flight's arrival in Sydney. The exact return date is not set, as we don't know all the flight times yet, but I estimate it will be about Oct 15-16, 2008 We have a Qantas reservation from Miami to Sydney to Brisbane to Denpasar to Sydney to Miami. The coach fare is currently not dependent on group travel. You may go early, stay longer, or use your Frequent Flyer mileage. The land arrangements include: 1. Three nights hotel stay in Brisbane, after the Sydney homestay 29 Sept and prior to the FF conf., that begins Oct 2. 2. Transfers from Brisbane airport to hotel; from the hotel to the conference in Surfer's Paradise, (about 45 min away driving); 3. Transfers from Surfers Paradise Hotel to airport in Brisbane; 4. RT transfers from airport in Denpasar, Indonesia to the Ritz Carlton Resort on Bali, 5. Two nights stay at the Ritz Carlton Resort in Bali, where we will "chill out" before our week's homestay in Malang. At this time, this air and land package costs \$3,694 per person, double occupancy. NOTE: Air is the largest part of this price and it is never confirmed until it is under deposit. Prices are not in yet for the two home-stays and the FF Conference, and one short RT air trip from Denpasar, Bali to Malang, Java, (the site of our homestay there). I would estimate \$1,000 - \$1,500 extra to cover these costs. Clare Raymond is accepting \$300 non-refundable deposits. Application forms and agreements will be available, and when completed will accompany the deposit.

Friendship Force South Africa Festival November 2007.

As this newsletter goes to press, Mac and Gaby Mackenzie and Eunice Hubbard are attending the South Africa Festival. Mac and Gaby are following this with a Garden Route tour of the southern part of the country, and Eunice is touring Johannesburg & Cape Town.



Table Mountain is Cape Town's most famous landmark and one of the city's greatest attractions. There are more than 100 scenic ways to climb the mountain, which stands at 1086 metres (over 3500 feet) above sea level, but most people take the revolving cable car, which whisks you to the top in a just a few minutes.

Membership Dues 2008.

This is the time of year for renewing membership dues. Our treasurer Don has to send to the head office in Atlanta a check representing a proportion of our dues for the previous year.

He also needs to enter all the new dues for 2008. Please do not let this spoil Don and Judy's Holiday Time. Please send in your dues now, so that he can wind up our accounts and get them out of the way.

From Don Horsman:

Our functions present a great opportunity to practise friendship and engage in greetings or conversation. This is especially important when meeting new members. They must feel part of the 'bunch' if they are to be retained and become involved.

A welcome committee is forming to develop this spirit. We will welcome all attending, assist in seating, especially with those attending alone, and do some phoning to encourage attendance and participation.

If you are interested, please volunteer for this new committee. Let's make our Friendship Force club a model for groups worldwide.

Please call me, Don Horsman, 578-6165 to participate. You will have a good time, and will help to make the Florida Suncoast club an excellent

***force of friendship.* Don**

Area Field Representatives

Ramona McGee of Sarasota is our new Florida FF representative. She was pleased to meet the presidents and other members of the Florida clubs in Fort Myers recently at the Friendship Force All Florida conference, and will be visiting our Florida Suncoast club soon.

From Betty Dethmers—What did I enjoy about our exchange to Japan? !

First week - Gosen City / Niigata

- ** - learning to eat with chopsticks & trying many different foods: creamed stew, bread with ice-cream, burnt sugar pretzels (my favorites), boiled chestnuts, spaghetti with raw egg, lots of fish & seafood
- BBQ of beef & salmon at Challenge land (a sleep-over on mats), with welcoming party that included dancing & singing & our first of 3 ladies' baths.
- views of Niigata from the 31st floor of an observation deck
- delicious box lunches & dinners with great variety
- climbing 5 stories in slippers at Tsurugushou Castle
- ** - teaching a card game to my host couple (the Segas)
- the Mayor's office official welcome to the city
- meals at the Friendship Force President's restaurant inn (sitting on the floor of the 2nd level)
- sake samples at the winery
- ** - hot springs bathhouse in Sakurando
- guided tour of the Northern Cultural Museum
- visiting a beautiful park
- ** - attending Naoko's pre-school & helping the children with American words (two, four, apple, banana)
- playing piano at the music teacher's house, followed by fancy desserts & tea
- ** - shopping & making an American dinner for our hosts, which they liked - without an oven, we made canned salmon croquettes, scalloped potatoes, broccoli, apple brown betty, Am. iced tea.
- ** - having time to visit with several of the FF members, who accompanied us on all the bus trips



Second week - Matsuyama

- visiting a museum in Ehime & a tea house in Uchieko
- meeting Korean friends & dining with them in a Korean restaurant where we had floor space for our feet (in a hole)
- taking a chair lift up to the Matsuyama Castle & having a guided tour of it
- having tea after playing the organ at a wedding chapel
- delicious buffet welcome party & program. We used their keyboard & sang "You Are My Sunshine", then used the Dogo bathhouse
- ** - boat ride to the Shrine Island of Miyajama & on to Hiroshima, seeing the A - Bomb remnants & the Children's Peace Museum
- a "royal" welcome & program at the Shiomi elementary school
- ** - going to a karaoke bar (private rooms) to sing for a couple of hours
- watching 24 floats compete at the Niihama Drum Festival from grandstand seats
- ** - dressing up in kimonos at Mrs. Shabata's house & then having frothy, green tea
- ** - learning a lovely Japanese song & finding a recording of it to bring home
- ** - a 7 course French dinner at the Green Caramel, where we treated our hostess (next to the wedding chapel)
- ** - meeting several of Yoshimi's friends at 2 parties & who also accompanied us many places
- ** - helping Yoshimi with her American pronunciation lessons (on tape in the car)
- **** - inviting both host couples & friends to come visit us in Florida, Colorado or Texas. They were all such kind & gracious people

Japanese exchange Presentation at the Holiday Party

Third week in Kyoto (3 days)

- finding a nice, small coffee shop for a pasta supper after a rainy day & visiting the bell factory
- ** - city tour, including the Golden Pavilion
- ** - seeing a special art show at the National Museum
- ** - touring the Imperial Palace, then photographing many people in costumes preparing for the "Procession of Ages"
- riding all 6 long escalators at the train station
- shopping for a few souvenirs & postcards
- enjoying a classy final group dinner at the hotel our last night in Japan



Betty

See you all at the Thanksgiving dinner on November 17 & Japanese Presentation December 15

HOLIDAY PARTY RESERVATION / MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2008

It's time for the party of the year and renewal of membership dues

NAME(s) _____ **DATE** _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____

ZIP _____ **PHONE NO** _____ **CELL Phone** _____

EMAIL _____

Holiday dinner menu choices : No. of Beef _____ No. of Chicken _____ No. of Vegetarian _____

Number of reservations for Holiday Dinner _____ @ \$22.00 _____ includes tax/tip.

Single membership \$20.00, Family \$35.00 _____

First year only add \$10.00 extra per person (for name badge) _____

FFI Magazine *Friendship* from Atlanta if desired, \$10.00 yearly : _____

Club Handbook if desired with member photos \$10 _____

Total amount of check enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to: FF of Florida Suncoast

Mail or give to: Don Weaver,

1250 69th Street N, St Petersburg, FL 33710

Friendship Force of Florida Suncoast

PO Box 976
Crystal Beach
FL 34681