



Upcoming Programs

“Jewish Culture in America” Program Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 22 at 2:30 pm

Rabbi David Weizman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom, will provide a glimpse into the faith and culture of Jewish Americans.

Note – This is a SUNDAY

Largo Library – Room B
120 Central Park Drive in
Largo Central Park

Visitors are always welcome

Holiday Party at Cove Cay Country Club

Friday, Dec. 4th at 6 pm

Make your reservations now for our annual Holiday Party. The cost per person of \$27.50 for the holiday meal should be received by November 22. Complete the reservation form on page 3 or bring to meeting on Nov. 22.

Cove Cay Country Club
2612 Cove Cay Drive - Clearwater

Your friends are invited too!

Irish Dinner & Charity Auction Planned

**Saturday Evening
March 6, 2010 at
Fellowship Hall of Lutheran
Church of Good Shephard
102nd Ave, Seminole**

We're planning a fun event to celebrate St. Patty's Day and raise money for our humanitarian and cultural education projects. Admission will include a traditional Irish Dinner, Live Auction and Silent Auction.

We're getting a good response from area merchants who are already donating items, services and gift certificates to be auctioned off.

We need all members to consider what they can donate to the auction.

Consider These Items That Do Well At Auction

- ✓ Use of a time share or 2nd home
- ✓ Water rides – via canoe, kayak, sail boat, cruise, etc
- ✓ Hosted dinners or catering
- ✓ Tickets to sport events or theatre, museum, attractions
- ✓ Sports memorabilia
- ✓ Any gift certificate - Approach your favorite salon, restaurant, mechanic, etc
- ✓ Handmade items: sweaters, quilts, wood toys, etc
- ✓ Lessons: knitting, golf, tennis, etc
- ✓ Garden and home items
- ✓ Theme gift baskets
- ✓ Gourmet foods
- ✓ Transportation to airport
- ✓ Wine or liquor
- ✓ Professional services
- ✓ Lessons

New member Marj Pease is chairing the planning committee.

Our Auction Catalog must be completed by January 1.

So, please start thinking about what you can offer for auction!

CALL FOR AUCTION ITEMS AND VOLUNTEERS

Call Marj (945-1770) or Sandy (443-5950) about helping with this event or to donate an item for auction.

**Tickets will go on sale Jan 1.
Price: \$12.50**



Turkey, Netherlands and Belgium – Where We Want To Go!

Turkey, Netherlands and Belgium were the top three destinations our members chose for our 2011 outbound exchange when we were recently surveyed by Ed Evan, our club's exchange coordinator.

We have submitted our choices to the Friendship Force International office in Atlanta. Over the next few months they

have the daunting task of matching up requests and hosting slots for 360 clubs around the world, taking a multitude of factors into consideration and trying to please everyone. There's no guaranty we will get our top choices, but FFI will do their very best. We should hear their decision sometime in January 2010.

Welcome to Our New Members

We offer friendship and a hearty welcome to the our members who have joined us since October 1.

Lois Bircher of Clearwater
Mo Henderson of England
Lynn Narkewicz of Clearwater
Marj Pease of Tarpon Springs
Manna Shah of Dunedin
Larry & Jan Wilson of North Redington Beach

Nope, They're Not Cubans!



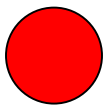
Following his entertaining program on Cuba at our September meeting, Tampa City Councilman Charlie Miranda handed out Nicaraguan cigars to the men in the audience. Cuban cigars have been illegal in the U.S. since 1962.

Enjoying the program and their cigars were (left to right): Clyde Choong, John Conover, Terry Gourdine, John Hayner, Jerry Seeber, Ed Evan, Mike Manning, Ken Dean and Larry Salzer

Membership Report

From Gaby Mackenzie, VP/Membership

Six new members have joined our chapter since October 1, boosting our membership to 104 members.



Be sure to welcome any member who has a **RED DOT** on their name badge. This shows they are a "new" member.

Membership Renewals are Due December 10

Individual memberships - \$20
Family memberships - \$35

A membership renewal form is included with this newsletter. Send it to Gaby Mackenzie at the address noted on the form or give it to Gaby at the November 22 meeting.

The Friendship Force Legacy Fund

By Sandy Gourdine, President

Friendship Force International established the Legacy Fund in November 2004 to honor our founder, Wayne Smith, and his extraordinary vision that personal friendship can change the world.

The Legacy Fund ensures Friendship Force's future by expanding global capacity, and each year special funds are raised to accomplish its goals.

Historically, our Florida Suncoast chapter has supported the Legacy Fund; and at our October 2009 board meeting, board members approved an immediate gift of \$250 and a pledge of \$1,000 in 2010 to the Legacy Fund.

Legacy Fund accomplishments between 2004-2008 included:

- Established 25 new Friendship Force Clubs: Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Switzerland, Tanzania and Turkey.
- Provided 42 scholarships to teachers from Thailand and Indonesia
- Launched the first Language Learner exchanges from Germany to the USA and from the USA to Columbia
- Supported new initiatives with the Muslim world through the Pilgrimage Project
- Provided training grants to leaders from Burundi, Tanzania, Vietnam and Brazil
- Created new technological support for Friendship Force clubs

Legacy Fund Priorities for 2009-1011:

- Establish New Clubs: Albania, Argentina, Canada, China, France, Ireland, Israel/Palestine, Japan, Jordan, Mongolia, Morocco, Russia and Uzbekistan
- Introduce new environmental and adventure-themed exchange formats
- Expand educational exchanges
- Expand and create new leadership training materials with emphasis on membership expansion
- Support regional initiatives



Did You Know?

Friendship Force International was founded in 1977. It is a 501(C)(3) educational organization so gifts made to Friendship Force International or the Legacy Fund are tax-deductible.

Our chapter, Friendship Force of the Florida Suncoast, was established in 1988. We are a not-for-profit corporation registered in Florida but we do not yet have independent 501(C)(3) status, so gifts made to our chapter are not tax-deductible.

Our chapter recently requested to be included in Friendship Force International's application to the IRS for a group exemption for Friendship Force clubs in the United States. If successful, this will result in our club receiving designation as a separate tax-exempt 501(C)(3) organization according to IRS guidelines.

Friendship Force of the Florida Suncoast

www.friendshipforcefloridasuncoast.org

Officers (Sep 2009-Aug 2010)

President	Sandy Gourdine
VP/Programs	Denise Seeber
VP/Membership	Gaby Mackenzie
VP/At Large	Vacant
Treasurer	Millie Jones
Secretary	Ed Evan
Past President	Nancy Warner

Committees

Auditor	—Bill Lee, chair
Bylaws	—Ken Dean, chair
Exchange Coordinator	—Ed Evan, chair
Fundraising	- Vacant
Member Outreach	—Nadine Giani, chair
Membership	— Gaby Mackenzie, chair
Newsletter	—Geri Espy, chair
Program	— Denise Seeber, chair
Publicity	—Denise Seeber, chair
Website	—Jean Keir-Choong, chair

Our Outbound Domestic Exchange to Lower Columbia, Washington July 2009

By Greg Colson

We visited the Washington State Friendship Force of Lower Columbia. While there we visited the Kalama Marina Park on the Columbia River where there are two giant totem poles and the host group provided a potluck dinner. We attended a lecture at the Lelooska Long House, a Native American ceremonial lodge. Picnicked at Ecola Park at Cannon Beach overlooking the Pacific Ocean and sea stacks, a must see if visiting the area. The view is breath taking. The host chapter arranged a steamboat ride on the Columbia River followed by a stop at Multnomah Falls and Bonneville Dam. The final day was a visit to Mt. St. Helens volcano visitors' center.

While we there we had an opportunity to dine with the host families and their friends and came away with friends we would never had met if we hadn't joined the Friendship Force.

Visit Greg's Travel Log

www.Worldwiseadventures.com

Greg has posted a great article on Friendship Force titled *Travel With a Purpose*.

If you or a friend need travel arrangements, Greg is an affiliate of several travel discounters including Travelocity, Expedia and Priceline. His website has direct links to those and other travel companies.



Presentation at the Lelooska Long House



Wayne Kraiser with our members Pam Shoffner & Jan Fowler



Pam Shoffner, Tom & Glenna Ehrlich, and our members Gaby & Mac Mackenzie



Stu & Judy Card with member Eunice Hubbard



Judi & Neil Smith with members Carol Heichel & Richard Olson



Above members Marlene Calderone & Millie Jones with Sheila & Darrell Thomas

At left are Herb & Yvonne Pecha and club member Jim Thomas

Unfortunately we don't see Greg because he was taking the photos that day!



