

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.



Meeting September 15th at the Lutheran Church, at 3 pm.
Guest Speaker: Dr Carl Kuttler, President St Petersburg College and world traveler.

Greetings to all Members from Viv:

Welcome new and old members to our September meeting. We know you will enjoy our speaker, Dr. Carl Kuttler, President of St. Petersburg College. Please be at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 10891 102nd Ave N, Seminole at 3:00 pm Sat. Sept, 15th. All friends will be welcomed.

Due to requests from members we have changed the time of meetings to be 3:00 pm to approximately 5:00 pm. Our meetings at restaurants will vary due to luncheons and dinners. We will keep you informed and notify you accordingly.

I look forward to serving Suncoast FFI this coming year. The Board and committee members have worked out some interesting trips and activities for all. Let's get involved.

Viv

Programs 2007.

Mark your calendars. We have four good programs between now and Christmas.

The first is our September meeting this coming Saturday. Our guest speaker is Dr. Carl Kuttler, the President of St. Petersburg College. See the article on page 3. This is a great opportunity to listen to a very interesting speaker, and we do hope that many members will be able to come to this meeting. The time is 3 pm at the Lutheran Church, 102nd Ave N, Seminole. The club will provide coffee and cakes, so there is no need to bring anything.

We usually have delightful weather in October, so we have arranged an early lunch at Shephards Restaurant on Clearwater Beach at a very reasonable price. This restaurant is famous for its extensive buffets. Shephards will arrange a separate room for us, and we can sit on their beachside deck afterwards. The time is early, 11:30 am so that we can

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As this newsletter is posted on the website, personal phone numbers and email addresses are not included below, but are in the Club Handbook. Our newsletter editor can always 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
International ex- changes	Aila Erman
Former president	Ken Dean
Domestic exchanges	Carol Heichel
Calling committee	Clare Raymond
Function presenta- tions	Monika Boerger
Publicity	Vacant
Historian & parliamentarian	Pat McQuaide
Newsletter editor and club website	Jean Choong
Hospitality	Vacant
Sunshine	Vacant

Members can attend Board Meetings and make a contribution to the operating board. Volunteers are needed for some of the above posts. Please do contact Viv if you are interested in joining in.

Programs, continued.

Continued from page 1

get ahead of the other customers. There is a coupon on the last page of this newsletter. Please send in your coupon as soon as possible. The price is \$9.95 plus tax and tip, totaling \$12.15.

The only way we can confirm arrangements with restaurants is for us to know in advance who will be coming. From the website the following is shown as the luncheon buffet:

www.shephards.com/restaurant.asp

LUNCH

Home Made Soups, Baked Fish, Potatoes, Turkey & Dressing, Meatloaf, Chicken, Fresh Fruit, Salad Bar, Dessert Bar, Rice, Ribs, Chicken Pot Pie, Sandwiches, Potatoes, Shephard's Pie, Roast Beef, Pasta, Vegetables, Biscuits, Pork, Jambalaya, & Eggs & Bacon.

The November meeting is always special for our club because we have our Thanksgiving meal and enjoy much cooperation with the cooking.

The Christmas Party will be at the Cove Cay Country Club, Clearwater, on Saturday December 15th. Details will follow soon. This is a popular event and great fun.

Club Handbooks.

Extra pages regarding new members have been prepared by Jim and Bren Miller, and will be available on Saturday at the meeting for all those who have the original books with photos of members. If you are a very new member, your picture can be taken on Saturday. Otherwise you can supply a head and shoulders picture—at least 3 inches as we shrink them in scanning. The originals are not affected, and will be returned.

September 15th 3 pm guest speaker: Dr. Carl M. Kuttler, Jr. President of St Petersburg College.

We are indeed privileged to welcome to our September 15th meeting, guest speaker Dr. Carl M. Kuttler, a former member of our Friendship Force Club.

In 1978 Dr Kuttler was named St Petersburg College President and has continued to serve in that role since that time. During his presidency, he has been an education advisor to the President of the United States and the U.S. Secretary of Education; a co-sponsor of leadership seminars with presidents Ford and Carter; and honorary president of Leningrad University in Russia and of Baoji Teachers College in China.

Dr. Kuttler is an "entrepreneurial" college president who creates partnerships with government entities, other colleges and universities, and local and national businesses and corporations. These partnerships have contributed substantially to the success St. Petersburg College enjoys today.



Some examples of successful SPC partnerships:

Construction of the EpiCenter with Pinellas County, a \$32-million, high-tech facility that offers economic, workforce and community development resources for the region and state.

New joint-use libraries with the cities of St. Petersburg and Seminole. The dual-purpose facilities, built on college property, are used by residents and college faculty and students, saving taxpayers millions of dollars by reducing the need for two libraries within the same area.

A partnership with the University of Florida that has brought a College of Pharmacy and a Dental School to SPC's Seminole Campus.

The construction of a new SPC Downtown Center in the heart of St. Petersburg. The college and the Florida International Museum share space in the new building.

Incorporation into SPC of the Palladium Theater. In February 2007, the Palladium became part of St. Petersburg College. In accepting, the College made a commitment to continue to operate the Palladium as a community theater, while adding college functions where appropriate. Under the umbrella of St. Petersburg College, the Palladium enjoys access to funding and organizational support that will assure the theater of a long-term future as a vital part of the cultural life of our community.

Dr Kuttler is, of course, a world traveller, and will no doubt have much to say that will be of interest to our members.

News on Exchanges and Conferences.

Japan, October 2007.

Our club's exchange to Niigata and Ehime, Japan is going ahead as planned. There are approximately 22 participants, but only five are from our Florida Suncoast Club. The dates are Oct 4-23, 2007 at a cost of \$3350. For details contact Joanne Schuetz at a_schuetz@msn.com. We have prepared decorated letters from our club to the presidents of their two clubs thanking them for their hospitality. Gifts have been obtained, and elegantly wrapped.



The annual All-Florida Conference

This is hosted this year by the F.F. of Lee County in the Ft. Myers area. It takes place the weekend of **October 26-27, 2007**. Details of the program, price and itinerary will be available soon. **These All-Florida Conferences are really enjoyable. Our members are welcome.**

Friendship Force World Conference October 2008, with Australia and Indonesia.



Aila has been corresponding with the Friendship Force Clubs in Sydney and in Malang Indonesia to arrange exchanges before and after the Friendship Force World Conference. The Sydney exchange dates are September 22-29, 2008.

The Conference will be based at the Marriott Hotel, Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia October 2-5, approximately 30 miles from Brisbane. The Gold Coast club will arrange homestays and tours for visiting ambassadors during and after the conference. Highlights include the welcome function at the Marriott on Thursday night, and the Aussie Outback Spectacular on Saturday October 4th. Mac and Gaby visited this hotel last year, and say that it is really lovely.

It is anticipated that participants will make their own flight arrangements to Australia, but our Exchange Director may make travel suggestions for bargain fares. At the moment, Aila is trying to coordinate the dates for the final section of the exchange.

This will be an outbound exchange organized by our Florida Suncoast Club, as an All-Florida exchange.

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Mundo Mayo, Mexico November 2007.

There is still an opportunity to join the **All Florida exchange to Mundo Maya, Mexico, with the F.F. of Lee County**, priced at around **\$1800** for two weeks - **November 2 to 16, 2007**.

Details of this exchange were sent to members recently. Contact **Darrell Anderson** at flgolfer56@hotmail.com. At least one of our members is taking part.

We have an inbound exchange from Costa Rica in the latter part of January 2008. The participants will fly to Orlando, and visit the East Florida club at New Smyrna Beach first. Then we will meet them at a half-way point for the second half of their stay. **Please contact Viv if you would like to be Exchange Director. We need to work out a worthwhile schedule of activities, and hosting arrangements.**

F.F. Sarasota has an outbound exchange to Bogota, Columbia, with a side excursion to Cartagena. Exchange Director is Stephanie Sifrit : mrssife@verizon.net Please put FFI or Bogota in the subject line.

Recent exchange to Finland. This exchange was initiated by Aila Erman, whose ancestors were from Finland. Mac and Gaby Mackenzie and Ed and Gladys Evan participated.

From Gaby:

This was a "FFI Discover Finland" program, so we met two lots of Aila's friends and one cousin with family in three different parts of the country. All were most friendly and hospitable - and the rest of the trip was sight-seeing with a nice young tour guide. Apparently the Finns are basically very shy and don't invite people to their houses so we were very lucky.

The Evans and Mac and I were invited to dinner at the home of Aila's good friends the Huttenans. We had a really good evening and couldn't believe that we were there till 10.45pm as it was still full daylight outside!!

Aila's cousin lives on a farm and invited the whole group - 25 of us - to a wonderful picnic at their home. They invited several friends - some of whom were English teachers - to meet us and it is some of these who are probably the best prospects for starting a FF Club.

Our other home visit was to the island home of the parents of an exchange student that Aila had hosted 20 years ago! We went by boats to their beautiful home and enjoyed a meal of whole reindeer on a spit and wonderful crepes with cloudberry jam. Several of the family were there including Joni who is now 35yrs. old , married with two cute little boys. We also met Jackie, a Canadian girl who has a Ph.D in reindeer diseases and lives north of Umari.

At the August 28th board meeting, Ed & Gladys Evan reported on their recent jour-

neys. They took part in the Finland exchange, and then the combination Minneapolis/St Paul, MN, USA, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada trip. Ed confirmed that in Finland they were very far north of the Arctic circle.

Ed showed what each club provided the travelers as far as itinerary and host lists and commented that it was best to know what the activities would be ahead of time so that the traveler would know what to pack. He showed samples of the newsletters from both clubs. He said that Minnesota club was flexible in their scheduling to handle possible bad weather. He related some of the history of Winnipeg, its challenge in increasing industry and population, and concluded that to visit rural Canada was definitely going abroad! He and Gladys were very well treated, and enjoyed all of their exchanges.

He gave a booklet to Vivian from "Shine" about senior refugee services for some foreign countries. .

Club Board Meeting, Tuesday August 27th.

Copies of the Minutes will be available at the meeting on Saturday.

Websites

Our club website, www.friendshipforcefloridasuncoast.org is continuing quite happily. It is updated every few weeks, and will be getting more event-photos soon. As for the FFI website from Atlanta, the domain name is now 'www.thefriendshipforce.org.' It should be typed as one word.

MEMBERSHIP DUES & SHEPHARDS COUPON

Now is the time to renew your membership. (Our Club newsletters are included in the dues - no charge.)

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE __ ZIP _____

PHONE NO _____ CELL PHONE if any _____

EMAIL if any _____ DATE _____

Shephards Saturday Buffet Lunch October 20 11:30 am

\$9.95+ tax/tip = \$12.15 No of people

Total \$ for dinner \$ _____

Checks for Shephards must be received by October 6th.

Single membership \$20.00, Family \$35.00 \$ _____

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

FFI Magazine **Friendship** from Atlanta \$10.00 p.a. if desired \$ _____

Check enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to: Friendship Force Florida Suncoast & send to Don Weaver, 1250 69th St N, St Petersburg, FL 33710.

Friendship Force of Florida Suncoast

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FL 34681