



friendship force
FLORIDA SUNCOAST

Newsletter

September 10, 2009

Note Changes

- **New time**
- **New location**
- **New way to RSVP**

For your convenience in mailing meal reservations, pre-addressed envelopes will be available at the **Reservations/Info table** at our meetings and luncheons.

New Bonus

Our Program Committee is hoping to have a **display table** at each of our meetings this year so we can see items from the culture being highlighted at that meeting. We ask that if you have any items that could be displayed, to please contact Denise. Nellie Dean will oversee the items on the table so they will be secure.

We've added a **special dimension** to our restaurant meetings. In addition to tasting different foods from around the world, the chef or a special guest will tell us about their native culture.

Limited Seating at our ethnic lunches!

Upcoming Programs

"Cuban-American Culture" Program Meeting

Largo Library – Room B

Sat., Sep. 26th at 2:30 pm

Tampa City Councilman Charlie Miranda will share stories about his life raised in Ybor City, including his perspective on visits he made to Cuba as a teen, and as an adult. Mr. Miranda's wit and charm will make this a fun, as well as interesting, presentation.

Note New Time & Location

See Map of Largo Library Below

Visitors are always welcome

Café Vienna For Lunch

5625 4th Street North, St. Pete

Sat., Oct. 10th at 12 noon

Make reservations **by October 1st** for delicious, authentic German, Austrian and Hungarian Cuisine and a special presentation by owner and pastry chef, Bee Klobucar, about the German culture in which she was raised.

\$17 p/p must be received by Denise (along with menu choices) **by October 1.**

Use the reservation form page 3 and mail, or bring it to the Sept. 26 meeting.

Limited Seating

Holiday Party at Cove Cay Country Club

2612 Cove Cay Dr. Clearwater

Fri., Dec. 4th at 6 pm

Make your reservations by **November 4th** for our annual Holiday Party. As we celebrate this special season we will also hear about our club's efforts to help establish a computer learning lab for disadvantaged children in South Africa.

The cost per person of \$27.50 for the holiday meal should be received by Denise along with menu choice (chicken, prime rib or vegetarian dish) by November 4, 2009.

Your friends are invited too!

New Meeting Site - Largo Library



Largo Library is located at

120 Central Park Drive,

just off of East Bay Drive in beautiful Largo Central Park.

We're Anxious To Hear From You!

Be sure to respond to the E-mail message you will soon receive re your preferred Outbound Exchange destinations in 2011.

Where do **YOU** want to go in 2011?

OUTBOUND EXCHANGE PLANNING

The essential activity of any FFI chapter is organizing outbound exchanges - OUR PLANNING HAS BEGUN. We invite ALL members to submit their wish list of preferred destinations for 2011 by responding to a special E-mail questionnaire you'll receive separately. We'll round up your E-mailed responses and comments at the 9/26 meeting for submission to Atlanta.



Two thoughts we will keep in mind:

- 1) Some countries have many clubs and thus offer many opportunities. We'll focus on the reasonably possible.
- 2) Members tell us they seek moderately priced trips.

The Opportunity Listing you'll receive will be modified to countries that have at least 8 active clubs, to increase our chance of a match, and are cost effective destinations. But, if your 2011 travel budget and energy permit, remember you can always refer to the FFI web site to search for places that match your personal interest where you can promote the Friendship Force Mission.

Ed Evan, Chair
Exchange Committee

Membership News

Gaby Mackenzie,
VP Membership

We currently have 97 paid up members and a few more who have shown interest in joining our Club.

For **NEW** members, any dues paid on or after October 1st will be effective for the rest of this year and applied to 2010. For **RENEWING** members, our 2010 membership dues are due December 10.

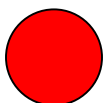
I will accept checks at our September 26 meeting. I will be at a table with a "sign in" sheet at our meetings for Guests and Visitors. Regular members are not required to sign in.

If you forget your badge please take a temporary stick-on tag. At one time a 25¢ fine was charged for forgotten badges - should we reinstate this??

Bylaws Committee Formed

Ken Dean is chairing a new committee that will review our current bylaws and make recommendations to members in February 2010.

If you have any suggestions for the committee, speak to Ken or committee members Michael Manning and Vivian Grimm.



Please welcome any member who has a RED DOT on their name badge.

This shows that they are "New" members!

Welcome Back!

Willkommen Zurück!

Välkommen Tillbaka!

إيرخأ قرم كب بحرأ

There has been a lot of planning going on during our summer hiatus and we're anxious for our new club year to begin. It should be a great year! We have 21 traveling in March 2010 to visit the Mispah chapter in Cape Town, South Africa and we've adopted a Humanitarian Project to benefit the children in that area. In May 2010 we'll be hosting an incoming exchange from Sydney, Australia; and we're also exploring ways to meet and help international students who attend area colleges. Our Program Committee has produced a calendar of interesting programs, ethnic luncheons and special events that will be distributed soon, and we remain committed to being a dynamic chapter of Friendship Force. We have a few other activities on the drawing table and welcome your ideas and especially your talents!

Please make every effort to attend the September 26 meeting. I'm sure you will be pleased with the new venue, meeting format and activities planned for the coming year!

Sandy Gourdine, President
443-5950 slgourdine@aol.com

New Member Outreach Committee

Nadine Giani is chairing a new committee that should keep members informed of club news during the coming year. Over a dozen members have joined the new Member Outreach Committee and volunteered to be either a Caller or a Greeter.



Callers have been assigned 6-8 members whom they will call every month to remind them of an upcoming club event or alert them to important news within the club. Greeters will be at the door to officially welcome visitors to our events and will work closely with Gaby Mackenzie so she can follow up with them regarding membership. Nadine also provides our Sunshine function. Nadine is recruiting more Greeters and backup Callers. If you're available, talk to her at a meeting or call her at 727 796 5248.

Speakers Bureau

Does your church, club or civic group need a speaker? Help get us scheduled so we can spread the Friendship Force story and recruit new members. Call Sandy Gourdine at 727-443-5950.

Clip & Mail or
Bring to 9/26 Meeting



Reservation Form for Oct. 10th Luncheon at Café Vienna

Reservations must be received by October 1st.

Complete this form and turn it in, along with \$17, at the "Reservations Table" at the program meeting on Sept 26. Or mail the completed form and your check by Oct. 1st to:

Denise Seeber
71 Turnstone Drive
Safety Harbor FL 34695

Please circle one item from each category:

1. Beef Goulash OR Chicken Paprikas OR Beef Rouladen OR Pork Wiener Schnitzel OR Veggie Kopernick (grilled mushrooms over potatoes, olives, tomatoes & cheese – broiled)
2. Either Spaetzle or Lyonnaise Potatoes
3. Either Apple OR Cherry Strudel

Please Include payment of \$17 per person. Checks payable to Friendship Force of Florida Suncoast

You're Invited...

Local Peace Pole Dedication Ceremony

Friday, September 25, 6:00 pm

Congregation Beth Shalom, 1325 South Belcher Road, Clearwater, will be dedicating their new Peace Pole on Friday, September 25 at 6:00 pm. The event will include a brief ceremony at the pole to offer prayers and affirm our call for peace.

Their pole will be inscribed in Hebrew, English, Arabic and Spanish. Interfaith clergy will offer brief prayers from their respective traditions including Rev. Abhi Janamanchi (Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater) and Rev. Leddy Hammock (Unity Church of Clearwater). Following the dedication, guests are invited to attend the Shabbat evening service. This service is about one hour long and will be followed by an "oneg" – light refreshments.

International Peace Pole Project

The Peace Pole Project started in Japan in 1955 by Masahisa Goi, who decided to dedicate his life to spreading the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in response to the bombings on Hiroshima. Peace Poles are handcrafted monuments erected the world over as international symbols of Peace. Their purpose is to spread the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in a different language, one on each side.

It is estimated that there are over 200,000 peace poles planted in almost each of the 195 countries on earth.



Please email Denise Seeber at Denise_Seeber@tampabay.rr.com if you are planning to attend.

Friendship Force State Conference

Registration Deadline is September 15

If you act quickly, you can still arrange to attend the annual conference of all the Friendship Force Clubs in Florida. It will be held **October 16 & 17** in Mount Dora located in Lake County.

The weekend kicks off on Friday, October 16 with a dinner and International Costume Parade at the Eustis Elks Lodge. The heart of the conference is on Saturday, October 17 when a series of workshops, discussions and presentations are scheduled on a variety of topics helpful to keeping a chapter vital and members engaged.

The Conference features a lot of brainstorming, idea-sharing and fun as you get to meet and greet new friends from around the state.

The registration form is on page 6, but you need to act fast!

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

2009 All Florida Friendship Force Conference – Oct.16/17, 2009

“CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD”

Pre-Conference dinner and Int'l Costume Fashion Show on Fri, Oct. 16 at 5pm-8pm
Conference at the Mount Dora Yacht Club on Sat., Oct. 17 at 8:30am-3:30pm

REGISTRATION FORM

(DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: September 15, 2009)

NAME(s) to appear on name tag _____
(please print)

Address _____

E-Mail _____/Tel _____ Name of Your FF Club _____

Would you like a homestay on Friday, Oct. 16? Yes ___ or No ___ Prefer to make my own reservations in hotel.

Note: We can offer only a limited number of homestays on a first-come first-served basis. The Mount Dora New Hampton Inn offers \$109.89 per night for a single or double room, including hot breakfast, free wireless internet, refrigerator and microwave oven. Please call 1-800-HAMPTON for reservations. Group discount applies for more than ten rooms reserved.

DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEND FRIDAY'S 5PM DINNER and INTERNATIONAL COSTUME PARADE? Yes ___

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COSTUME PARADE? Yes ___

It will be held at the Eustis Elks Lodge at 2540 Dora Ave., Tavares, FL 32778, Tel: (352) 343-5000.

PLEASE SELECT YOUR MEAL PREFERENCES if you plan to attend the dinner on Friday

Breast of Chicken over Pasta _____ Number _____

Prime Rib of Beef _____ Number _____

PLEASE SELECT YOUR LUNCH-BOX PREFERENCES for lunch on Saturday to be held at the Mount Dora

Yacht Club at 351 West 4th Avenue, Mount Dora, FL 32757, Tel: (352) 383-3188

Chicken Caesar Sandwich Yes ___ w/soft drink Yes ___ w/water How many ___

Roast Beef Sandwich Yes ___ w/soft drink Yes ___ w/water How many ___

Tuna Salad Sandwich Yes ___ w/soft drink Yes ___ w/water How many ___

* All sandwiches will come with pasta salad, fresh fruit, chips, soda or water, and brownie or cookie of the day.

REGISTRATION FEES: (DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION FEES IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2009).

Full registration includes Friday night dinner, Saturday conference and lunch. \$50.00 ___

Friday night dinner only which includes tax and gratuity \$30.00 ___

Saturday Conference only, includes lunch \$25.00 ___

Please return this form with your check
payable to Friendship Force Central Florida to
Bill Carey, 611 W. Ocala St., Umatilla, FL 32784
prior to September 15th, 2009