



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Denise Seeber, VP Programs
474-2647; Denise_Seeber@tampabay.rr.com



'Islam: Religion & Culture'

May 15, 2010, 2:30 pm
Largo Library, Room B

Local Muslim teacher, Aziz Merchant, will help us better understand the differences in

the cultures of Muslims from the Indian sub-Continent where he was born and raised and Middle Eastern Muslims, in the areas of dress, music, behaviors toward women and education of women. He will also provide insight into Islam as a religion of peace - diverse in interpretations, cultures and traditions that evolved over time and history, as well as the two sects within Islam – Sunni and Shi'a.

All Friendship Force meetings at Largo Library are free and open to the public. Bring a friend!



Carmelita's Mexican Restaurant

Saturday, June 19, NOON
5042 East Bay Drive,
Clearwater 33764 (on the
NW corner of U.S. 19, by
AMC Theaters)

Please join us for lunch at this award-winning restaurant and experience authentic Mexican and Tex-Mex food. Among it's many other awards, Carmelita's was rated 'Best Mexican Food' by AOL City's Guide and 'Best Tex-Mex' by the Weekly Planet and Creative Loafing magazines.

Seating is limited so you may want to pay for your reservation at the May 15th general meeting at the library. The menu options will be available at that time. The cost per person of \$12 should be received by Denise by Tuesday, June 15.

New Officers to Be Elected May 15

According to our bylaws, new club officers will be elected at our May 15 business meeting and assume office in September 2010. Members Ed Evan, chair; Marj Pease; and Denise Seeber served on a Nominating Committee appointed to present a slate of candidates who agreed to serve if elected. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

After contacting many members who have been most active with the Chapter (and thus would be most familiar with the duties of the officers) or have served in official capacities in the past, including making numerous phone calls and personal contacts, the Committee nominates:

- For 2nd VP-Membership, Geri Espy
- For Secretary, John Hayner
- For Treasurer, Larry Salzer

The Committee was unable to find willing candidates for the position of President, nor for 1st VP-Programs. However, many members contacted indicated they were willing to serve in a more limited capacity.

Reservation Form for

Carmelita's Mexican Restaurant

Saturday, June 19, Noon

Reservations must be received by June 15.

Complete this form and mail to:

Denise Seeber, 71 Turnstone Drive,
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

OR bring it to our general meeting on Saturday, May 15.

Number of people attending _____

Please include payment of \$12 per person.

Checks payable to Friendship Force of Florida Suncoast

Your name and guests' names



Ed Evan, Exchange Coordinator,
398-2700; GEEvan_33775@yahoo.com

Ed Evan, Exchange Director for the nine Australians arriving May 18th from the Friendship Force of Sydney, reports that Lissa Dexter arranged the itinerary (at right) and Larry Salzer developed the budget for the exchange. A large welcoming crowd upon the Ambassadors' arrival at 10 am on Tuesday, May 18, at the Clearwater Greyhound bus station on Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard would be wonderful!

At the May 15th general meeting, Ed will review the events that are open to all members without reservation. Please consider participating in some of these activities, even if you are not hosting one of our guests. Thanks to all who have contributed to making this exchange a success.

Getting to Know You

Our annual picnic last month at Walsingham Park was great fun, thanks to Denise Seeber and her wonderful team. The delicious assortment of food and Jean Choong's lively presentation on our Cape Town exchange were enjoyed by all, and a "mixer" provided by Ken Dean stimulated conversation and camaraderie. "Friendship Bingo" presented brief written descriptions of particular FF members; the task was to mingle with others and ask relevant questions in order to identify the member who fit the description.

If you did NOT attend the picnic, see if you can find out during your conversations at the next meeting: The person who was a steamroller operator for a black-top company.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF FLORIDA SUNCOAST USA WELCOMES FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, MAY 2010

Tuesday, May 18 - Welcome!

10:00 am Hosts and/or day-hosts meet ambassadors at Clearwater Greyhound Bus Station (a storefront near Courtney Campbell Causeway), south side of Gulf-to-Bay Blvd.
Evening Dinner parties to be arranged and notified.

Wednesday, May 19 - St. Petersburg Day

11:00 am Segway ride (at own expense \$50).
1:00 pm Lunch at Columbia Restaurant at St Petersburg Pier.
2:30 pm Salvador Dali Museum guided tour.
6:30 pm Rooftop Party at 1 Beach Drive South (free parking on street after 6 pm).

Thursday, May 20 - Largo Day

10:30 am Guided tour Heritage Park Village.
12 Noon Lunch on the barbie.
1:30 pm Self-guided tour of Gardens, ending when desired.

Friday, May 21 - "Free" Day

Daytime Activities to be determined by ambassadors & hosts.
Evening Dinner parties to be arranged and notified.

Saturday, May 22 - Tarpon Springs Day

10:30 am Tarpon Springs Historical Center, short movie.
11:30 (approx) St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral visit.
12:30 pm International Seafood Festival, Street Party in Sponge Docks area.

Sunday, May 23 - Tampa Day

12 Noon History Museum near 'Channelside', free parking,
1:45 pm (approx) Trolley to Ybor City, self-guided tour, then trolley to Ybor City State Museum, trolley to Ybor Chamber of Commerce Museum near 'Centro Ybor' building, inc. video, short walkabout, trolley back to parking area.
Evening Small dinners to be arranged.

Monday, May 24 - Day Host Day

6:00 pm Party at Lake Seminole Square, 8333 Seminole Blvd, music, 6:30pm buffet.

Tuesday, May 25 - Farewell

7:45 am Tampa International Airport for onward departures.