



## Newsletter of The Friendship Force of Huntsville Area, Alabama

**NEXT MEETING - SUNDAY, December 10, 2006**

**Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Road**

### 2006 Officers

President	Walter & Joan Mendes
Vice-Pres.	John & Marjie McSwain
Secretary	Mary Woodward
Treasurer	Stan Johns
Past President	Colin Bagwell
Membership	Aelwyn Thomas
Publicity	Ani Kortekaas
Refreshments	Judy Lambert
Historian	Gertrude Powell
Newsletter	Joyce Bagwell
Tea Towels	Maudine Barron
Game Night	Della Evans
Sponsors	Dot Pettigrew, Nell Roberts
Phone	Frances Marshall
Email	David Lambert

### 2006 Meeting Dates

February 12	August 13
April 9	October 8
June 11	December 10

### 2006 Exchanges

Outbound: February 1-27  
Australia-New Zealand  
Aelwyn Thomas, ED

Inbound: April 18-24  
Michigan  
Lorraine Jones, ED

Inbound: September 10-16  
Japan  
Joyce Bagwell, ED

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

This is our final message as co-presidents. A new slate of officers, included in this issue, will take over in 2007.

Much has happened in 2006 including: regaining our membership total with many new members; an outbound exchange to Australia and New Zealand; inbound exchanges from Michigan and Japan; actively participating in the FFI World Recruiter Program; and an outstanding FF World Friendship Day in March. Thanks to all who have supported all the activities undertaken by our club! Special thanks go to Joyce Bagwell for the design and publication of our Newsletter. Joyce will continue her fine work next year.

The Huntsville Friendship Force was well represented with five members of our organization attending the Southeast Regional President's meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Attending were John and Marjie McSwain, Jean Evans and us. Clubs represented include Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia and South Carolina. Minutes of the meeting are included in this Newsletter. Many ideas for improving the Southeast Regional Clubs were discussed and many of these will be pursued in 2007.

As of this time, we do not have an Exchange Director for Costa Rica incoming for 2007. *We need someone to step forward ASAP.* We have no response from Atlanta on our request for an outbound exchange to replace the exchange to Israel which was cancelled.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter is information on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration next March in Atlanta. If you plan to go, please send in your reservations quickly as they do have a limit for the number of attendees. Forms were emailed to all with computers. If anyone does not have the forms, please ask for copies. This will be an outstanding conference and celebration with many members from clubs around the world. You may meet old friends you have visited with—we already know we will.

The FFI story "*The Other Side of the Mountain*" is offered to clubs at a special price. We have purchased a case of 24 which will be sold for \$8, as a club fundraiser. Get yours at the December meeting – only 24 available!

The Books for Ghana Project is on its way thanks to the efforts of Liz Franchini and the Lamberts. Many books were left over and those are on their way to Russia.

In closing, we are thankful for the cooperation of all the members of the Huntsville Area Friendship Force. We are especially grateful for all our new members who jumped into our many projects.

Walter and Joan Mendes, Co-Presidents

## PROGRAM NOTES

The December 10 program of the Friendship Force will "showcase" holiday traditions (Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Winter Solstice, New Year, etc.) as practiced around the world in different cultures and spiritual traditions. Frank Broyles will lead.

## REFRESHMENTS FOR DECEMBER

We decided everyone would bring heavy hors d'oeuvres for the December meeting. Judy Lambert ([davidlambert3@comcast.net](mailto:davidlambert3@comcast.net)) will be coordinating. **Please email (or call) to let Judy know what you plan to bring so that a good variety can be planned.** The club will supply coffee and supplies as usual. Would someone be willing to bring a special beverage (punch, eggnog, etc.)? LET JUDY KNOW. Would you volunteer to help with table decorations?

This is a great time to invite guests! Bring a friend, bring any items from your trips this year or whatever you would like to share with the group.

**A – Z bring hors d'oeuvres**

## ANNUAL MEETING - ELECTION TIME

New officers will be elected and installed at the December 10 meeting. No high-powered, high-cost campaigns for the FFI positions, but here are the 2007 nominees:

President	John & Marjie McSwain
Vice-President	Jean Evans
Past-President	Walter & Joan Mendes
Secretary	Mary Woodward
Assistant Secretary	Nell Roberts
Treasurer	Judy Lambert
Membership	Pat Allen (w/D. Lambert)
Refreshments	Carole Rosenfeld
Publicity	Mary Compton
Newsletter	Joyce Bagwell
Sponsors	Dot Pettigrew
Historian	Gertrude Powell
Games	Della Evans
Tea Towels	Claire Smith, Maudine Barron
Telephone	Betty Lawson, Frances Marshall, and Nancy Weaver
E-mail/website	David Lambert

## MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING

The Huntsville Area Friendship Force met October 8, 2006, at the Trinity United Methodist Church with Joan and Walt Mendes presiding. Joan welcomed Marna Bannon, Kay Stoffel, Jean Paton, Nancy Van Valkenburgh, Daryl Holder, Willadene Schultz, Jan and Lamar Bannistar, and Sylvia Richardson as guests. Larry Luke was welcomed as a new member.

Dick Curtis (Christiansen) gave a program, entitled "Mill Villages to Main Street," about the four cotton mills and their surrounding villages that were in Huntsville from about 1890 to 1993. Each village had a large cotton mill with housing for employees, schools, medical facilities, stores, recreation areas, and churches, all owned by the mill.

Walt Mendes presided over the business meeting. The Minutes were accepted as published in the "Ambassador." Walt read the Treasurer's Report submitted by Stan Johns, who was absent. The balance in the Club Account is \$4,100.17, and the Exchange Account balance is \$1,064.44.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following nominees: John and Marjie McSwain, Presidents; Jean Evans, Vice-President (does NOT want to be President in 2008); Mary Anne Woodward, Secretary, with Nell Roberts as an Assistant; Judy Lambert, Treasurer; Walt and Joan Mendes, Past-Presidents; Pat Allen, Membership, with David Lambert as helper; Carole Rosenfeld, Refreshments; Mary Compton, Publicity; Joyce Bagwell, Newsletter; Dot Pettigrew, Sponsors, and would like some helpers; Gertrude Powell, Historian; Della Evans, Games; Maudine Barron and Claire Smith, Tea Towels; Betty Lawson, Frances Marshall, and Nancy Weaver, telephone; David Lambert, e-mail/website.

Judy Lambert asked for suggestions for the December meeting. The club decided to have heavy hors d'oeuvres furnished by the club members rather than a catered meal.

Maudine Barron reported that we have 98 green towels and 60 blue towels left. She has \$103 to turn over to the club, and the Burritt Museum owes \$126 more, which will be paid soon. Maudine has volunteered to deliver tea towels to individuals or businesses as needed.

David Lambert asked that people e-mail him any e-mail address changes. It was suggested that we have a website, and Dave will take care of that soon.

The Canadian Exchange with John and Marjie McSwain as Exchange Directors will be May 24 to about June 8, 2007, to Niagara and Winnipeg, Canada. We will have an Inbound Exchange from

Costa Rica in August or September, 2007, with the exact date to be decided after an Exchange Director is found. The Outgoing Israel Exchange has been cancelled.

Friendship Force has asked for our 2008 Outbound Exchange preferences to be submitted right away. The Board has suggested Japan, Great Britain, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Charlotte Miller asked about Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. Chances of getting any Scandinavian countries are slim due to a limited number of clubs in these countries, although you can ask to be put on a waiting list. The Atlanta office also has requested that we send in our magazine subscriptions by December 15. The cost is \$10 per subscription.

Louisville, KY, will be the site of the Regional Conference on November 4 and 5 and the cost will be \$25/person. The attendees will be home-hosted.

The International Conference plus many other activities will be held in March in Atlanta and will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Friendship Force. There will be a post-conference home stay, which will cover a large area that includes Huntsville. These home stays will have tours available for a charge. Registration for these events will be open in late December.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Woodward

## **CANADIAN EXCHANGE MAY-JUNE, 2007**

The club's next outbound exchange is off and running. We've had our kick-off meeting for the Exchange to Canada, and we have a full Exchange! We depart HSV on May 23 for Buffalo, with a bus across the border to Niagara; then fly Niagara (Hamilton) to Winnipeg on May 30 and home on June 6. Twenty-two ambassadors have signed up for the full exchange and three additional members will be taking only the second week, because of other commitments. It looks like a great group for a wonderful exchange.

Since it is still possible that there may be room for a few extra ambassadors (depending upon the Winnipeg club's hosting availability), a "wait list" is being offered for the full 2-week Exchange, which would also be used in case of any cancellation. Our club members will have priority and anyone interested needs to sign up immediately, since there is also interest from other clubs. There is also a possibility for 3 members who can participate in only the first week (Niagara portion) of the Exchange. These ambassadors could return home after that

week or could return home from Buffalo with everyone else on June 6. This might be ideal for any who have friends or relatives in SE Canada, New York or northern New England.

If interested in joining the "wait list", please sign up now, and fill out an application before our December club meeting to confirm your slots. No deposit is required until there is a definite opening.

Any questions? Please call or e-mail Marjie or John. We're all looking forward to great Exchange!

## **PAY YOUR 2007 DUES**

Another whole year has flown by and now it is that time again - time to pay your FFI dues for 2007. **Please come to the December meeting prepared to give your check to Treasurer, Stan Johns.** Individual memberships are \$25 first year and \$20 renewal; family \$45 first year and \$35 renewal. If you would like to subscribe to *The Friendship Force Magazine*, add an additional \$10 per household.

## **HOST SIGN-UP TIME, TOO!**

Are you willing to host a Game Night, Board meeting, or other event in 2007? A sign-up sheet will be passed at the December meeting. All spaces need to be filled for publication in the new FF Yearbook.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to the following new members since October: Wanda Baumgartner, 34 Revere Way, Hsv 35801, 536-9625, [wandalb@comcast.net](mailto:wandalb@comcast.net), and Penny Adams, 5717 Tannahill Circle, Hsv 35802, 883-1009, [onecent@knology.net](mailto:onecent@knology.net).

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

In March the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Friendship Force International Conference will be held in Atlanta. Consider attending. This is really an eye-opener experience and one realizes what Friendship Force is all about. Plus, it is fun. At present count, three ladies from the Bangkok club will be coming to Huntsville after the conference (around March 11) and we will be looking for some housing and sharing. If you are interested in housing, day hosting, having them for dinner - whatever let us know. March is still a long time away, but at our age, somehow time flies faster than we would like it to.

## STATUS REPORT ON GHANA BOOK PROJECT

Elizabeth Franchini of Charleston, South Carolina, a new Friendship Force member in 2005, and David Lambert have led this effort. Elizabeth is a member of the Huntsville FF club. Primarily because of Ms. Franchini's efforts, the book project took on a new life when another 217,000 pounds of used primary and secondary textbooks became available. An urgent search for partners found Counterpart International who agreed to ship a large (40 foot) container of books (40,000 pounds) and Hands Across the Waters (Books for Literacy) with the World Bank who agreed to take 170,000 pounds. Counterpart shipped on Nov. 10, 2006 to Ghana. The ship is scheduled to arrive Dec. 1st. The Ghana shipment has 3,000 pounds of textbooks for Charles Boampong's Technical High/Adult School and over 2,000 pounds of textbooks for Berokuso Primary School. We will keep everyone informed as to progress. Hands Across the Water will ship in December 2006 to Eastern Europe and Asian Republics for literacy programs in schools and adult language centers.

We hope to continue this project next year and believe that partners are available with resources if we can define a significant source of books, a schedule for availability and small labor and monetary support. There is a learning curve, but once it is done and contacts are made, it becomes feasible. It is a shame that over 20,000,000 pounds of used textbooks are sent to trash dumps each year by school systems in the United States because publishers will or can not make recycling cost effective to most school systems.

## SPECIAL DECEMBER GAME NIGHT

Joe and Lorraine Jones have graciously invited our club to their home on Friday, December 15, for Game Night. Usually, we do not have Game Night in December, so this is a special treat! Anyone attending should *bring some Christmas goodies* for refreshments, along with their favorite board or card game. Our hosts will provide beverages. **Be sure to respond to 461-0476 or [joneslo@knology.net](mailto:joneslo@knology.net) if you plan to participate.**



## REPORT FROM SE REGION PRESIDENTS' MEETING

The 2006 Presidents' meeting for the SE Region of Friendship Force International was held Nov. 3-4 in Louisville, KY. Present were: Tom & Carolyn Diener, Kathy Thomas, Joanne Schuetz, Tom Laggy, John & Marjorie McSwain, Joan & Walter Mendes, Jean Evans, John & Glenda Wilhelm, Huw & Marie Williams, Margie & Ray Bowyer, Ina Marie Bratcher, Dietra Paris, and Don Handley.

Joanne Schuetz, SE Regional Rep for FFI, gave a review of her position and its coordination with the Atlanta FFI office. Kathy Thomas, Manager of Program Service for FFI and Coordinator of U.S. clubs, joined us from Atlanta, gave many reports and answered many questions.

Club reps discussed their membership, dues, meeting times, program ideas, exchanges, and fund raising ideas.

A report on the International Conference in Dublin was given by Kathy Thomas, the Bowyers, the Williams and the Wilhelms.

FFI NEWS: A copy of the 2007 Exchange Policies and Fees was distributed. Reminder: FFI fee for one week of home hosting will be \$140 for the 1<sup>st</sup> week, \$140 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week, and \$50 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week (if applicable). Domestic exchanges will remain at \$25/week of home hosting of 4-7 nights. A new DVD for training EDs will be presented at the International Conference in Atlanta in March and will be given to all club presidents for their use. New forms were distributed and give to all club presidents for Incoming and Outgoing Exchanges. Review was held of the FFI policy on Mobility and Health Limitations. Forms were given out to order merchandise from FFI. Try to do this before December 1, as the FFI office will be moving around that time to a location just 2 blocks from its present location. New address will be emailed to club presidents. Telephone and FAX number and email should remain the same. A new travel company will be used by FFI – Travel Guard. A copy of the Waiver Form was given out. This must be used, if ambassadors have coverage under other insurance and do not purchase insurance from Travel Guard for official FF exchanges. All forms are on the FF web site and can be downloaded for club use.

MEMBERSHIP - RECRUITMENT ideas were suggested. Recruitment – Retention – Recognition.

OUTBOUND AND INBOUND REQUESTS for international exchanges for 2008: Club representatives agreed to let Kathy Thomas work with Debbie Powell on assigning the SE Region different areas of the world, in the form of regional exchanges, for 2008.

EXCHANGE OF IDEAS was held and discussion of recruiting younger members. Also suggested were workshops for conferences, specifically for the next International Conference in March.

30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY Celebration and International Conference in Atlanta, March 1-3, 2007: Clubs are encouraged to bring "busloads" to Atlanta for this celebration. We are fortunate to have the conference within driving distance of our homes, and it will be a wonderful celebration and time to connect with friends from around the world. Brochures will arrive in the mail to current club presidents, and information is on the FF website. We are encouraged to participate in large numbers, to support the headquarters, since it is located within our region.

WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY 2007: Celebration of WFD, on a club level, may be done on a day other than March 1, since many of your club members will be at the International Conference. Some clubs are hosting prior to the conference, and some are hosting after the conference, and it was suggested that WFD be celebrated with your guests.

NOTE TO HOSTING CLUBS: If a FF friend (international or domestic) requests a post-conference visit to your club, ask them to register through FFI for the March 4-7 homestay. Then, if you wish, you may offer the personal visits after March 7.

NEWSLETTERS: Examples of club newsletters were passed around. Clubs are asked to include club presidents from all the SE Region clubs in their newsletter mailing list. This can be done by email for most presidents. Also, in your newsletter mailing include Joan Schuetz ([a\\_schuetz@msn.com](mailto:a_schuetz@msn.com)) and Kathy Thomas ([kthomas@friendshipforce.org](mailto:kthomas@friendshipforce.org))

REVIEW: Consensus was that the Presidents' meeting was very helpful and successful. It was stressed that it is especially important for future leaders (such as incoming presidents) to attend. It was agreed to skip a SE Regional Meeting for 2007, since we are encouraging all club members to attend the International Conference in March in Atlanta. There will be a Presidents' meeting in 2007 – the first or second weekend of October – in Huntsville. At this time, we will plan our requests for exchanges for 2009, as well as exchange ideas and work on other business. Because of a possible incoming for the SC club during the first of October, we are shooting for the second weekend of October at this time.

THANKS to our wonderful hosts in Louisville, for home hosting us, and to the club for the covered dish part and entertainment on Friday evening. A big thank you to Tom and Carolyn Diener for opening their home to us for our meetings on Friday and Saturday.

#### IMPORTANT:

Club dues are due to Atlanta by Feb. 1. It has been suggested to use the membership number, as of December 31, 2006, as the basis for dues that you send on to Atlanta.

2007 Club Officer list due to Atlanta by Feb. 1 – send now if you have information.

2007 Club Charter Renewal – due Feb 1 – send now if you can.

By Dec. 15: names and addresses for Friendship Magazine subscription for 2007 are due to Atlanta. Include \$10/person, along with list.

Jan. 5, 2007 – deadline for registration for 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration and 2007 International Conference in Atlanta. Registrations after Jan. 5 will have a \$50 late registration fee.

Jan. 15, 2007: Registration closes for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and International Conference.



#### WHAT'S COOKIN' THIS MONTH?

Here are some yummy things to try for your holiday entertaining.

##### **Munchy Brunchy Casserole**

Lynn Ross, *Back to the Kitchen*

Serves 16 ((halves easily)).

1/2 stick butter  
24 oz. fresh mushrooms, chopped  
1 doz. green onions, with tops, chopped  
2 lb. sausage (hot), cooked & drained  
1/2 C. half & half  
1 lb. sharp Cheddar, grated  
1 small can creamed corn  
16 eggs, beaten  
Salt and pepper

Sauté mushrooms and onions in butter until tender and dry. Add cooked sausage; set aside. Add cream to eggs, then add cheese, corn and the sausage mixture; season to taste. Bake in two 2-qt. baking dishes at 350° until set – 45-60 minutes.

### Cran-Apple Salad

This tart and tasty salad goes so wonderfully with lots of different meals. Folks will think you slaved over it, but with four ingredients, preparation takes only minutes! Even grandkids can make it.

- 1 can whole berry cranberry sauce
- 1 medium unpeeled tart apple, diced
- 1 celery rib, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

In a bowl, combine the cranberry sauce, apple and celery. Cover and refrigerate. Stir in walnuts just before serving.

### Twists

- Pretzel twists
- Rolo candies
- Whole pecans, toasted

Place pretzels on a parchment-covered cookie sheet (or spray w/Pam) top with a Rolo. Place in preheated 300° oven for 3 minutes. Remove from oven and lightly press a pecan half into each. Cool in refrigerator.

### Nanaimo Bars

#### Base:

- 1/2 C. butter
- 1/4 C. sugar
- 5 Tbs. unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 C. graham cracker crumbs (32 square crackers)
- 1 C. shredded coconut
- 1/2 C. chopped almonds

#### Filling:

- 1/4 C. softened butter
- 2 Tbs. vanilla instant pudding mix
- 2 Tbs. milk
- 2 C. powdered sugar

#### Glaze:

- 2/3 C. semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 Tbs. butter

Base: Melt butter in saucepan over medium heat. Reduce heat to low, and add sugar and cocoa until well blended. Add egg and cook, stirring, until mixture begins to thicken. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla, crumbs, coconut and almonds. Press into ungreased 9x9" pan. Filling: In small bowl of electric mixer, beat together filling ingredients; spread filling over base. Glaze: Melt chocolate in pan over low heat, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add butter, stirring until melted. Cool slightly and pour over filling. Refrigerate until set. Cut into 36 small bars; serve in paper candy cups. VERY RICH!

### Waldorf Pasta Salad

*Huntsville Times*

- 1 lb. medium shell pasta, cooked/drained/cooled
- 2 C. seedless grapes, red or white, cut in half lengthwise
- 1 C. diced Granny Smith apple
- 1 C. diced Red Delicious apple
- 3/4 C. chopped walnuts
- 1 1/2 C. diced celery
- 2 C. mayonnaise
- 3/4 C. honey

Combine all ingredients and toss gently until evenly mixed. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 6-8 servings. Tips: Rinse apples with lemon juice to prevent browning. Add additional mayonnaise and honey, if desired, to make more dressing.

## LOOKING AHEAD

<b>SPECIAL GAME NIGHT</b>	December 15 Joe & Lorraine Jones, Hosts Bring a holiday goodie to share
<b>BOARD MEETING</b>	January 11 John & Marjie McSwain, hosts
<b>REGULAR GAME NIGHT</b>	January 19 Hosts TBA
<b>FRIENDSHIP FORCE MEETING</b>	February 11



Merry Christmas  
Happy New Year