

Sarasota February 2018

Hotel: Lido Beach Resort (<https://www.lidobeachresort.com>) where we have stayed many times before is on the beach and only minutes to St Armands Circle. They offer a ferry shuttle service to the circle that works very well. Lido key has miles of soft sand beach and clear beautiful water. They have a restaurant and beach bar, but we have never tried them. They have two pools – one family pool and an adult pool, both heated. Our room (1108) faced the sea and had a complete kitchen.

We visited so many friends this visit!

Feb 8th: We visited the home of Craig and Carol, friends from Madison WI. Their daughter Amy was Bob's daughter Dana's very best friend from 6th grade on and is still a dear friend to us all. It was so nice to see them and their lovely home with a pond full of Florida wildlife. We enjoyed dinner at KaCey's Seafood.

Feb 9th: After a day of walking and shopping St Armands Circle, we met our dear friends from Detroit; Barbara, her sister Jeri and friend Arnold for dinner and endless conversation at Cafe L'Europe. It is always so nice to see them all.

Feb 10th: Went to the "30th Annual Downtown Sarasota Festival of the Arts", which had some very interesting works. Many were large and out of our budget, but some were smaller and interesting. We met up again with Barbara, Jeri and Arnold for the fair. We enjoyed lunch at "Tsunami Sushi" for a great lunch.

That afternoon, Duane and Patty came to visit and then dinner at "Terrace at the Surf Shack" which was wonderful. These are folks we "picked up" on the beach 20 years ago in St Thomas and have been friends ever since.

Feb 11th: Relaxed all day reading and walking the beach – Like a vacation! In the evening we visited Arnie and Dee's lovely home on Bird Key where we talked and talked into the evening. We met them on the cruise last December, and we became fast friends. Dee prepared a delicious feast of Rack of Lamb with all the trimmings. Arnie is a marvelous magician and did several amazing card tricks that just amazed us. We could have talked until dawn.

Feb 12th: Met Bob's sister Bonnie at "Fresh Start Café" for a yummy lunch and then visited the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, which were just beautiful. There was a "Warhol" exhibit, which was not anything special, but the gardens by themselves are fabulous. Wandering the paths through such botanical beauty was delightful, as was the long conversation time with Bonnie and Peter.

Dinner was at "Columbia" which was delicious with their salad and Cuban sandwich both great.