



friendship force
SARASOTA

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest in Friendship Force Sarasota. We are delighted to welcome you as a guest and prospective member to our Club. We hope that you will be as enthused as we are about the Friendship Force (FF) mission – *“To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.”* Friendship Force International (FFI) is an organization that relies on the dedication and skills of its volunteers to fulfill its mission of promoting cultural understanding. We are a non-profit, non-political organization.

Wayne Smith, FFI founder in 1977, believed that friendship is a powerful force for change in the world. With support of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, Mrs. Carter served as Honorary Chairperson for the first 25 years working to ensure our organization became vibrant and known around the world. There are now 380 local clubs worldwide. Sarasota FF has just over 100 members.

A FF term you will hear is “exchange”. This is domestic or international travel in which our FF club participates each year. Travel can be an “inbound” exchange (a FF club from the U.S. or another country visits us) or an “outbound” exchange (we visit other clubs). An exchange is usually for about a week. Other optional travel may also be planned in conjunction with the exchange. The number traveling on an exchange is around 15-20 FF members. During an exchange, visiting club members stay in the homes of local FF hosts. This makes possible interesting travel experiences that are also very cost effective. The hosting FF club organizes various large group activities, including welcome and farewell dinners and visits to area venues. Individual local FF members can participate in a variety of ways in these exchanges depending on their preferences. They can serve as “home hosts”, essentially providing “bed and breakfast” for visitors (known as ambassadors). If hosting people in one’s home is not preferred, there are other options for engaging in an exchange and meeting interesting people. For example, members can accompany visiting people on one or more of our group activities (called being a day host) or host a small dinner party for visitors and their home hosts or participate on the committee that plans the exchange. The person leading planning for both inbound and outbound exchanges is one of our member volunteers called an “ED” (Exchange Director).

In the information packet you receive this evening is our 2016 Calendar with information on our club’s activities, including exchanges. If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Chair, Peggy Hayden. Her phone is 941/306-5197 or email: hayden.peg@gmail.com.

We hope you enjoy your evening with us and want to join us and become active in our Club. We thank you for sharing your valuable time to be with us.

In Friendship,
Barb Hahn
President 2016