



Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota



www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org
[Friendship Force Sarasota Facebook](#)

June-July, 2017

Volume 28, No 5

Presidents Message

Our last general meeting until September...

To say the first six months of 2017 have passed quickly would be putting it mildly. It feels like the blink of an eye to me that our board was having our January meeting and discussing the plans and activities for our club during this year. Now, this meeting is our last general meeting until we formally reconvene on September 7th.

The Board is working on plans for continuing our social get togethers during the months of July and August to keep contact with each other. Several of our members have already headed north for the summer season and we will welcome them in October as they return to Sarasota.

For those of us who will be here, plans for **the 2nd Annual Pot Luck Supper on August 19th** continue. Last year those who attended had a super time and many are coming again this August. If you are new to the club or missed last year, we would so welcome you to sign up and join us – it will be a good time and a wonderful way to meet new people and stay connected with others.

I know we have quite a few going out on our “journeys” during summer break, and attending the Manchester Conference - we look forward to learning about their adventures and see their photos.

I am reaching out to the members of the three wine groups about holding some get togethers during July, August and possibly September, as the groups do not reconvene till October. I understand travel plans and company but if you can make some of the get togethers that would be super.

Patda has a great program lined up for June 1st and I am sure you will thoroughly enjoy it. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting, and for those who have already departed – you will be missed.

Thank you, Barb

Have a safe Memorial weekend.



Mark Your Calendars

Jun 1, Thurs	Regular Meeting 7 p Waldemere Fire Station, last until 9/2017, see program info below
Jun 19, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Jul 17, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Aug 19, Thur	2nd Annual potluck supper Camelot East Clubhouse
Aug 21, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Aug 23, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm
Aug 24, 1989	1st mtg of FF SRQ
Aug 25-28	Global Conf, Manchester UK
Aug 30-Sept 6	Outbound to Isle of Wight, UK ED Marie Beck
Sept 6-13	Outbound to Cornwall, UK ED Marie Beck
Sept 7, Thur	Regular Meeting 7 p Waldemere Fire Station, Save the Sea Birds
Sept 18, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Sept 27, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm
Oct 5, Thurs	Annual Meeting, 7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Oct 16, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Oct 17, Tues	Wine Group II
Oct 19-26	Inbound from New Zealand
Oct 19, Thurs	Wine Group I
Oct 24, Tues	Wine Group III
Oct 25, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm
Nov 2, Thurs	Regular Meeting 7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Nov 8, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm

Nov 16, Thur	Wine Group I
Nov 20, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Nov 21, Tue	Wine Group II
Nov 23, Thurs	Thanksgiving Day
Nov 28, Tue	Wine Group III
Dec 13, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm
Dec 14, Wed	Holiday Dinner Party-no general mtg, Heritage Oaks
Dec 18, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Dec 19, Tue	Wine Group II
Dec 21, Thur	Wine Group I
Dec 25, Mon	Christmas Day
Dec 26, Tue	Wine Group III

**REMINDER – 2ND ANNUAL POT LUCK SUPPER
AUGUST 19TH 4PM
Camelot East Clubhouse**

Wanted to remind everyone that there will be a sign-up sheet at the June 1st meeting to leave your name and contact information for our August 19th Pot Luck Supper.

If, by chance, you are traveling and will not be at the meeting – just send an email to Barb Hahn to add your name to the list and it can be taken care of.

Last year, the pot luck was a great success and everyone had a good time. If you know anyone you may like to invite as a guest, possible member, that is just fine. We had guests last year and the majority of them are now members.

Thank you, Barb, 941-266-9802, barblhahn@gmail.com

Patda DeLaTorre has scheduled another terrific presenter: June 1st, Jana Overstreet, Director, Ringling College Lifelong Learning Academy (RCLLA)
<https://thelifelonglearningacademy.com>

Ringling College Lifelong Learning Academy (RCLLA) is a division of Ringling College of Art and Design. RCLLA operates year round and is supported through student registrations and private contributions. RCLLA courses are non-credit and primarily based on a liberal arts curriculum. There are no grades and no tests; courses are offered purely for the joy of learning. Students may attend classes at any of our locations, participate in Academy Talks, Einstein's Circle discussion groups, and attend lectures and special events. Tuition varies depending upon course length.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: Katy Goodwin chair, Margaret Mills, past president, Joan Emrich, Leaf Wanless and Madri Wilson, members. Thanks to this team for volunteering.

**HELP WANTED – QUALIFICATIONS AND REWARDS
POSITION AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY – JOB STARTS
JANUARY, 2018**

- Be a Friendship Force member
- Attend board meetings once a month (9 times)
- Take notes and email minutes to board members
- Become more involved in FF Sarasota
- Enjoy knowing other board members

Reply to Katy Goodwin, Ch. Nominating Comm.
katygoodwin@msn.com, 941-379-9954

Social--A LOOK AHEAD

At last evening's board meeting we discussed our "social get togethers" for the summer and the wine group get togethers.

I would like to propose that in July, August and September we have social gatherings at various locations. These would include the wine groups and anyone else who would like to join in, including guests.



Notice of the get together would be sent out in a timely fashion and if it is something you would enjoy attending, just let me know and your name is added to the list.

The first social get together will be in July and information will be sent out in June so you will be aware of the plans and see if it is something that is interesting to you.

More to come and more adventures! Barb

Membership- Peggy Hayden - One of our new members has already joined our FF Membership Committee that reaches out to new members to make them feel welcome. Our committee now includes: Gail Gardener, Joan Emrich, Peggy Hayden, Blake Jones, Jeannetta Mouncey and Madri Wilson. We will miss many of our members who are snow birds over the summer. There will be summer activities where you can be involved with FF members...so keep an eye out...OR...create some of your own with your FF friends.

Time to celebrate, we are at 106 members!! Woot!
We've added photos of new members you met last month to our newsletter. Please say hello and welcome them.

Peggy Hayden at 941-306-5197 hayden.peg@gmail.com

Meet Our Members Geoff Robinson & Barb Aurand (2017)

are new members from Seminole, FL. Actually, Geoff is a former member of the Suncoast Club who



transferred his membership here and Barb is a new member. Geoff joined the Suncoast Club in 2013 because of his interest in travel and promoting cultural understanding. Barb shares Geoff's interest in travel and FF seemed like a good fit for them both.

Geoff is originally from Australia. He started his career as a teacher and then went to Europe where he became a tour guide. After moving back to Australia, he continued his work in the travel industry, owning 3 travel agencies. He is now a calculus professor at Osceola Fundamental High School.

Barb is originally from England and moved to the U.S. as a child. She is a speech therapist specializing in adult geriatrics and now works in the hospice PACE program. They plan to retire in 1-2 years. Plans include renting an apartment in Portugal (where he lived at one time for 9 months). They plan to use this apartment for 3-5 months as a base for European travel and hope that some of that travel might include joining a FF club's journey in Europe. They also plan to invite friends to come visit.

Geoff has a passion for writing and loves to journal. In 18 years, he hasn't missed a day. Barb and Geoff are members of the Boca Ciega Yacht Club. They both enjoy out-of-doors activities: hiking, kayaking, tennis, beach, music venues, arts and craft festivals are high on their agenda. Geoff, Barb and Sara (Geoff's youngest daughter) are going to Australia in late May to visit Geoff's mum. She is 99 in September and still lives on her own. Geoff's mum lives in Ulladulla which is 3.5 hours south of Sydney on the coast. The town is known for its fishing and tourism.

For Geoff, his involvement with the Suncoast FF club included attending the meetings regularly and hosting dinner parties for both the Isle of Wight FF club (the same club that visited us here in Sarasota) and also for Estonia. He participated in farewell dinners for the club's inbound exchanges/journeys. They have already signed up to be dinner hosts during the New Zealand exchange – with the idea of bringing a “picnic” from where they live in Seminole and meeting the dinner guests at a park in or near Sarasota. They are also interested in joining a wine group in the future.

Blake Jones & Sherry Coles (2017)



are members of the Sarasota Newcomers Club where they met Kay Consigny who invited them to visit our club. They were interested in FF because of the “authentic” way in which we travel with multicultural experiences with locals in other countries. They also like to meet new people and look forward to entertaining people on inbound journeys. Actually, when Sherry lived in NYC in the 1980s, she was a member of “Women Welcome Women”, an international group started in the United Kingdom that had a mission similar to that of FF.

Both Blake and Sherry are avid travelers. Sherry has visited 38 countries. Some of Sherry's particularly memorable trips have been to (1) Saudi Arabia (went with a friend to visit her family working there and her first international travel experience), (2) Turkey on 2 occasions, (3) Africa (Kenya and Tanzania where she traveled on her own and camped in the bushes), (4) Egypt, and (5) East bloc countries in the 1980s when they were still behind the iron curtain – really revealing.

Blake's background is real estate (in which he is still involved) and Sherry's background is in accounting and banking having worked for the top tier money center banks and accounting firms in NYC. She still operates an income tax business. Blake and Sherry met when they both worked for 4 years as Investigators for the FDIC office in Jacksonville. Their jobs were to close down insolvent banks in the southeast. They liked FL so well that they decided to make this their home and moved to Sarasota 3 years ago. They are summer members of Palm Aire and like to play golf. Sherry volunteers at the Humane Society and Designing Women's Boutique and serves on the board of Sarasota Newcomers, Palm Aire Women's Club board, and her HOA board where she is treasurer. They foster greyhounds. They also recently ran a large wine tasting event at Salute restaurant.

They are interested in both our outbound and inbound journeys including home, day and dinner hosting. They are also interested in our wine groups. AND, Blake has already volunteered to serve on our Membership Committee. Welcome!

Film Talk now meets at **Burns Court Cinema on the 3rd Mon of each month** about 2 pm. **Next movie is June 19th, discussion afterwards at Clasico at Palm and Main St.**



Hope to see you there. We send a note to our membership each month a few days ahead with the movie details. **WE NEED YOU!**
Dot Flynn, dafsarasota@comcast.net, (407) 747-5251

Database and Directory – Thank **Margaret Lewis** for her continued work on updating our database and directory. Updated directory is attached to email



Email or call Margaret if there are any corrections or updates. mmlewis@comcast.net or (941) 378-3553.

Explore the new Friendship Force Intl (FFI) website www.friendshipforce.org. **Matthew Nidek, Director of Operations**, encourages everyone to receive the quarterly newsletter, monthly catalogue of exchanges and leadership news. Click on this form: **FFI Email Subscription Form** We promise this is a secure link with no spam or viruses. You can choose what information you would like to receive. Subscribers will then receive a link in email to click and confirm. You can access a **current list of all clubs** worldwide by clicking [here](#) or see a complete list at: **2017 Journeys**. There are 354 clubs worldwide. The link opens a PDF file that you can save to your tablet/computer.

NEWS FROM THE WEB and NEWSLETTER



The Friendship Force International new website is up and running. Anyone who has visited the site in the past will be pleased with the update, very contemporary and smooth. If you did not receive the FFI e-mail, announcing the new site, the web address changed a bit. Your

bookmark will no longer work. Be sure to use: <https://friendshipforce.org>

The new FFI 2017 video is on both Facebook and our web site. Check them out. Email your stories, documents and photos for **posting on Facebook and the club website and newsletter**.
<https://www.facebook.com/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota>

<http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org/>

Terri Holsinger 317-753-2172, ffsrq@outlook.com

WINE TASTING GROUPS (members only)



The wine tastings will resume in **October**. To join, contact Linda & Jack Vendeland (linvende@aol.com) or (941) 342-6278

The Travel Century Club

Our new member, Claire Flannery, made us aware of the Travel Century club. There are many of our club members that might qualify.
<http://travelerscenturyclub.org> They have clubs throughout the world. Even if you haven't been to 100 countries, it would be fun to check how many you've actually been to. The web site includes a listing of all the countries. Go to this link for the list:
<http://travelerscenturyclub.org/countries-and-territories/alphabetical-list>
 Even a fuel stop or layover counts so get busy and check your list!

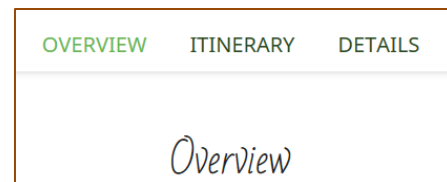
FF SRQ Journeys

There is some good news going on with our 2018 Exchanges.

1. We heard from **Brazil** that their **incoming** journey with us and Houston is a go in March or April. We will start plans soon.
2. Our news from **Russia** is up in the air. They responded to the Orlando club that April would be a good time for them to come and but that will not work for us or Orlando ...so we are working further on this one.
3. I now have Atlanta involved in hearing from **Xalapa and Mundo Maya do Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico**, our outbound journey in Feb. Hopefully we will hear soon.
4. Judi Stratton is the coordinator for our **outbound** domestic journey to **Connecticut** in the fall of 2018. She will be taking the names.

The next step once we know a journey will take place is to find a Journey Coordinator (JC). If this is something you would like to try, let me know. I certainly will help and have all the current materials that you would need. So, we will need a JC for incoming Brazil and hopefully outgoing Mexico. The inbound from Russia is still in the air.

The FFI May Catalog has a description of a current **Xalapa** journey. Click on link below for an overview of what to expect. Generally, journeys will be similar.



<https://friendshipforce.org/journeys/xalapa-mexico/>
 Scroll down the web page and click on the tabs.

2017 Journeys

1. **Outbound, AC Marie Beck** is putting final touches on the journey to the Isle of Wight and Cornwall, England, **August-30-Sept 13th**.
2. **Incoming, Wellington, New Zealand, Thurs Oct 19-26th, AC John Kestly**. Thanks to all members who signed up as home, day or dinner hosts.

Home hosts have been notified and matched with their guests. If you have questions, contact **Sandy Tuveson**.

Kay Consigny will contact day host volunteers and **Michelle Pariseau** will contact dinner host prospects. Contact Kay and Michelle if you are interested in volunteering.

Party and activity planners **Donna Schaeffer** and **Debbie Kuhns** are putting the final touches on the itinerary for the journey. The **welcome** event will be on Thurs, Oct 19th at Der Dutchman. The **farewell** party will be on Wed, Oct 25th at the North Jetty Park shelter at Nokomis Beach. We'll be having a catered "pig roast" or as we Germans call it, Spanferkel. We'll have lots of room for everyone. Watch for sign-up sheets for all of the events with times and prices.

Stay tuned for email updates on this exchange, as we'll only have a couple regular meetings in the fall prior to the journey and many of the planning committee will be in the UK during the September meeting. Ciao for now! John

Barbara Peterson, Journey Coordinator
bandwpeterson@verizon.net or (941) 925-3755

Say hello to **new members** at our next gathering. Your editor would appreciate **any** member photos; try for head shots so they show up well in the newsletter. Editor can also crop and enlarge. Bill, Julie and Claudia were featured in May newsletter.

Bill and Julie Feeley



Claudia Pozniakoff



FF member, Margaret Mills, is exhibiting her work as part of the exhibition showcasing the Sarasota chapter of the National League of American PEN Women, the oldest multi-discipline arts organization for women in the U.S.



To learn more, go to <http://www.sarasotapenwomen.com/about.htm>. This is an annual community exhibition and will be available for viewing at the Basch and Willis Smith Galleries on the campus of Ringling College of Art and Design (Summer Gallery Hours Monday-Friday 10-1 and 1:30-4). Congratulations Margaret. We're proud of you!

Katy Goodwin and Ramona McGee enjoyed the 40th Anniversary Friendship Force International (FFI) Cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, FL to Rome, Italy, a 2-week repositioning cruise. FFI was represented by 63 members from Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Canada and United States and approximately 30 clubs.

While crossing the Atlantic, after breakfast each morning, Jeremi Snook, Laura Romero (FFI staff) and Bob Duncan (FFI board chair) organized informal gatherings to share information about FFI, as well as fun mixers to assure people became acquainted. We also enjoyed cocktail parties, informal gatherings in the evening, as well as meeting at dinner, piano bar and other venues.

It was truly a fun-filled journey where many new friendships were developed! It is rumored a cruise will be offered again next year, so watch for this great Friendship Force Opportunity!



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