



friendship force
SARASOTA

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Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

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August, 2014

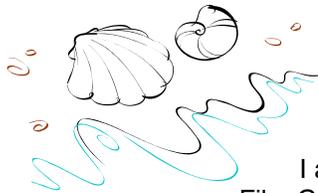
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President's Message

I can't believe it's the end of summer and time for fall activities to begin, but here it is - so onward! Those of us who attended the Summer Happening at **Bob's Train** had a lovely lunch and a chance to learn some interesting facts about the history of the circus in Sarasota. Our September 4 meeting will introduce us to some sights and remembrances of Australia when Joanne and Richard Collins of the Southwest Florida Club present our program.



During the summer we welcomed back **Babe Baptist and Carol Call** and added three new members: **Pamela Brown**, and **Bob and Amy Ferrell**. The Ferrells are longtime members of the Hudson Valley FF Club. We also said a sad farewell to two members, Jay Jabas and Wayne Peterson, both former officers and exchange travelers with our club.

I am delighted that **Dorothy Flynn and Betty Kuhns** have volunteered to be co-chairmen of the Film Group and are assuming their duties at this time. Please see the article on Film Talk in this newsletter and join a fun activity group.

Since the discontinuation of FFI participating with Semester at Sea you will note that FFI has now joined with Grand Circle Travel on select cruises - see the FFI website for details.

In early September we will receive the revised exchange selection procedure from FFI for 2016 exchanges.

There's always something to look forward to in Friendship Force!

Katy

Calendar of Events

Tues, Aug 26	Board Meeting, Vivian McNamara host	7 pm
Thurs, Sept 4	Regular Meeting – Waldemere Fire Station	7 pm
Sat, Sept 6	All Florida Regional Conference, Orlando	
Wed, Sept 10	Film Talk	See contact info below
Tues, Sept 23	Cancelled-No Board Meeting	
Thurs, Oct 2	Regular Meeting – Waldemere Fire Station (Elections)	7 pm
Oct 6-27	Outbound to New Zealand	Judi Stratton, ED
Tues, Oct 28	Board Meeting	7 pm, Lorrie Holm host
Thurs, Nov 6	Regular Meeting – Waldemere Fire Station	7 pm
Nov 11-18	Inbound from Albuquerque, NM	Vivian McNamara, ED
Tues, Nov 25	Board Meeting	7 pm
Thurs, Dec 4	Annual Holiday Dinner & 25 th Anniversary Celebration, Mattison's 41	6-9 pm
Feb 18-25, 2015	Inbound from Isle of Wight, England	Terri Holsinger, ED
Sept, 2015	Outbound to Netherlands	Peggy Hayden, ED

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



September 4, 2014 Meeting, 7-9 pm Waldemere Fire Station. September is our chance to receive and share information with another Florida club. Joanne Collins, president of the SW Florida club, is coming to us from Punta Gorda to give a slide presentation with music on Australia. She presented it to the SW club and it was very well received. The timing is perfect since the International Conference and outbound will be held nearby in New Zealand in October. Hope to see you there.

October 2, 2014 Meeting, 7-9p. Very important meeting to attend. We will have election of officers and then interviews with officers so the membership gets to know them better before they take over in Jan 2015.

November 6, 2014 Meeting, 7-9p. Presentation by Sandy Ramsey, owner of Artisans World Marketplace, a fair marketplace supporting groups in countries around the world.

December 4, 2014 Meeting, 6-9 PM, Annual holiday dinner and FF SRQ 25th Anniversary Celebration at Mattison's 41. Members will be getting information on how to RSVP for this event.

Committee Reports



Sunshine Corner – Dear Friends,

I want to thank all of you for your support, concerns and prayers over the last several years for Wayne and me. His journey was long but he lived it well and full. He loved the Friendship Force, the ideas, the travel, the company and the friends. He was a true Ambassador. It was overwhelming to see so many of you at the Celebration of his life. Thank you. For all the greetings and cards--thank you. Hopefully I will see many of you at the coming meetings and exchanges. In Friendship, **Barbara Peterson**



CONGRATULATIONS to Peggy Perkins and Robin Lawton on their recent marriage!

Meet Our New Members

Welcome to Bob and Amy Ferrell. Bob is retired from IBM and Amy is an active travel consultant with more than 30 years volunteering with Youth for Understanding International Exchange. Both Amy and Bob are 20+ year members of the Friendship Force of the Hudson Valley, NY. Their interests are travel, gardening and anything historical/cultural. Please welcome our new members.



Film Talk will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month with members taking turns selecting the movie and restaurant. **Wednesday, Sept 10** is our next movie. We plan to attend a movie at Burns Court that afternoon; hopefully about 4 pm. Discussion will follow at a local restaurant – perhaps the Word of Mouth near SFC – a few blocks away. Details to follow.

Please contact **Dotty Flynn** dafsarasota@comcast.net or **Betty Kuhns** bets.bk@gmail.com if you would like to be added to their contact list.

NEWS FROM THE WEB

Check out the photos of the lunch on Bob's Train in our Web Site Photo Gallery. www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org. Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator linvende@aol.com



WINE TASTING GROUPS for members only!

Our wine tastings will resume in October. If anyone is interested in joining a wine group, please contact us via e-mail or phone. Jack and Linda Vendeland, linvende@aol.com - 941-342-6278

Exchanges - Inbound

Albuquerque, New Mexico – November 11-18, 2014 – Vivian McNamara, ED

The Albuquerque Exchange is shaping up nicely; however, we are still in need of **day hosts and dinner hosts**. It will be a fun exchange and if you haven't gotten involved in an exchange before, this is a good way to get involved and meet some wonderful Ambassadors from Albuquerque. Call Vivian McNamara at 941-412-9102.

Please see form below to sign up for activities, welcome and farewell luncheons.

Isle of Wight (IoW), UK – February 18-25, 2015 – We need volunteers to make this a memorable inbound.

Need: day hosts, dinner hosts, home hosts, and **treasurer** plus coordinators for activities and day hosts.

Please contact me by phone or email. Terri Holsinger, ED, terriholsinger@hotmail.com or 317-753-2172.

Thanks so much. We are in planning with Alan Logan, ED and Carol Corke, coordinator from IoW.

Exchanges - Outbound

Sarasota/Orlando to Whangarei, New Zealand, October 6 - 27, 2014

Departure date for our New Zealand adventure is getting closer and closer! Keep watching your email in-box for more detailed information about New Zealand peoples and places, climate, geography, travelers' needs. Final payment for our post-Conference tour is due to FFI by credit card by August 27 and you will be receiving one more update from me on the currency conversion rate before that deadline. I am expecting news about our Whangarei hosts any day now.

Judi Stratton, ED

Netherlands Exchange: September 2015 Netherlands Exchange & Post Exchange Tour – SIGN UP TODAY!

August 30-September 5 (August 29 being travel day to the Netherlands) in Zutphen, a town with medieval history in eastern Netherlands. Likely fly to Amsterdam & train to Zutphen.

3 or 4 days of activities with entire group (details forthcoming)

2 or 3 free days to explore (options forthcoming)

Cost: TBD

Post Exchange Tour: 11 days total, September 6-16. Tour arranged especially for us by David McGuffin of Exploring Europe, Inc. (Ramona & Katy + other FF members have traveled with him a number of times & recommend him.)

1 day - Tour guide picks us up in Zutphen. Travel to Hamburg & overnight

3 days - Travel to Berlin. 3 nights in Berlin with sightseeing & optional day trips, e.g., day trip to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial

1 day - Travel to Dresden & sightsee. Overnight in Dresden

2 days - Travel to Prague. Sightsee. 2 nights in Prague

3 days - Travel to Munich. 3 nights in Munich with sightseeing & optional day trips, e.g., day trip to Salzburg, day trip to Castle Neuschwanstein, a morning at Dachau

1 day - Our tour ends. We fly home from Munich

Cost: TBD

FIRST PRIORITY will be given to those who do BOTH legs of trip (the exchange AND the post exchange tour). Nevertheless, if only interested in the Netherlands Exchange, please sign-up anyway as we may end up with a combination of members who want to do the exchange only and members who want to do both the exchange and the tour.

Information Session: Sunday, November 9, 2014, 7 PM at home of Ramona McGee

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS EXCHANGE – Email Peggy Hayden at hayden.peg@gmail.com and let her know that you are interested in:

- The exchange only **OR** - The exchange AND the post exchange tour

RSVP for Albuquerque, NM Exchange Activities, November 11-18, 2014

If questions, contact Vivian McNamara, ED, (941) 412-9102, cocokiwi@verizon.net

SEND Activities and Luncheon RSVP by October 28 & CHECK Payable to: Friendship Force Sarasota

Mail to: Exchange Treasurer – Chuck Reist, 1613 Livingstone St, Sarasota FL 34231

Please indicate activities you will attend by entering the # attending each activity and luncheons then enclosing a check for the total cost of all activities plus welcome and farewell luncheons when returning this **RSVP**.

- **Tues, Nov 11** Arrival Day. Ambassadors arrive at SRQ Airport. Some are driving and turning in their cars at SRQ; those flying into Tampa will take transportation to SRQ. Arrange with your ambassador to get their time of arrival.

- **Wed, Nov 12 11:00 am Welcome luncheon at Sharky's on the Pier \$20**
RSVP form below.

After luncheon, the day is free for the beach, Chalk Festival, Venice Art Center or town.
There is a drum circle on Nokomis Beach an hour or so before sunset.

- **Thurs, Nov 13 10:00 am Ringling Tour \$15** Meet at the visitors' center

Will attend: _____ # attending; Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$ _____

Will attend but use Ringling membership card for free admission _____

Will attend and use Ringling pass to get others in for free - # of passes _____

The rest of day is free to explore. This is a good day to plan an **evening pot luck** with a few others in your area.

- **Fri, Nov 14 10 a.m. Mote Aquarium \$15**

Will attend: _____ # Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$ _____

Will be attending but use Mote membership card for free admission _____

Will attend & willing to use Mote membership card to get another person in for free _____

Shopping and lunch on their own after Mote until 4:30 at LeBarge.

- **Fri, Nov 14 4:30 p.m. LeBarge Sunset Cruise \$23**

Will attend: _____ # Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$ _____

- **Sat, Nov 15 10:00 a.m. Selby Garden Tour \$15**

Will attend: _____ # attending; Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$ _____

Will attend but use Selby membership card for free admission _____

Will attend & use Selby membership card to get another person in for \$5 (you will not have to pay the \$5) _____

Afternoon is free

- **Sat, Nov 15 6:00 p.m. Dinner parties** at members' homes

- **Sun, Nov 16 Noon Farewell Luncheon at Rosebuds \$23**

See RSVP form below

The morning is free or if you start early see the sand castles on Siesta Key

Drum Circle in the evening

- **Mon, Nov 17 9:30 Myakka State Park Boat ride \$12**

\$6 per carload admission; if you RSVP for this, send only the \$12 for the boat ride if you plan to go on this ride.

Will attend: _____ # attending Myakka visit; _____ # for boat ride

Portion of enclosed check for boat ride: \$ _____

You may wish to stop by Patriots Plaza on the way back from Myakka. It is not far from the park on Clark Rd extension. The rest of the day is free to pack or sightsee.

SEND activities and luncheon RSVPs by October 28 &

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**Albuquerque Welcome Luncheon – Sharky’s on the Pier
Wednesday, November 12**

Arrive at 11 am for photos and pier walking
Lunch at 11:30 am

1600 Harbor View Dr South
Venice, FL 34285
(The Fiesta Room)

MENU

Choice of:

1. Fish & Chips
2. Fish Tacos
3. Summer Salad with either chicken or shrimp
4. Chicken Sandwich

\$20 per person

Will attend: _____ # attending; Portion of enclosed check for welcome luncheon \$ _____
Sharky menu choices are not pre-ordered, choose day of luncheon.

**Albuquerque Farewell Luncheon – Rosebud’s Restaurant
Sunday, November 16 at noon**

2215 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey FL 34229

MENU

Tossed Salad

Choice of: 1. Sautéed Chicken Breast with onions, peppers & mushrooms, Baked Potato

2. Herb Crusted White Fish, Baked Potato

3. Steak Kebob over Rice

Spumoni Ice Cream

Non-Alcoholic beverage

\$23.00 per person

Will attend: _____ # attending; Portion of enclosed check for farewell luncheon \$ _____

Menu item member 1 _____

Menu item member 2 _____

NAME(S): _____

TOTAL of enclosed check for ALL activities selected above \$ _____

TOTAL of enclosed check for Luncheons selected above \$ _____

SEND Activities and luncheon RSVPs by October 28 &

CHECK Payable to: Friendship Force Sarasota

Mail to: Exchange Treasurer – Chuck Reist, 1613 Livingstone St, Sarasota FL 34231