



friendship force  
SARASOTA

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## Friends Connection

### Friendship Force of Sarasota

[www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org](http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org)

[www.facebook.com/pages/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota-Florida](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota-Florida)

February, 2014

Volume 25, No 2

President:	Katy Goodwin <a href="mailto:katygoodwin@msn.com">katygoodwin@msn.com</a>
Vice-President	Reeta Dean
Secretary:	Donna Schaeffer
Treasurer:	Dona Brannan
Membership	
Database & Directory	Margaret Lewis
Club Expansion & Mentoring	Gary Kuhns

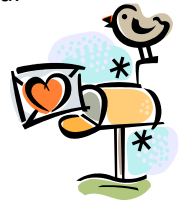
Editor:	Terri Holsinger ffsrq@outlook.com
Web Administrator:	Linda Vendeland
Social:	Bonnie Frey
Publicity:	Peggy Hayden
Sunshine:	Margaret Mills
Sister Cities:	Carol Booffer
Past Pres:	Judi Stratton

### President's Message

It was wonderful to see such a great turn out of members at our first meeting of the New Year. And everyone seemed to enjoy our "Getting to Know You" segment - thanks to Reeta Dean, Gene and Bob Burke and our four interviewees. In fact we received such enthusiastic feedback that YOU may be the next one we "Get to Know!"

Our January 30 meeting will give us background information on all the marvelous venues that our Global Arts Exchange is highlighting. I can't begin to express my appreciation to all of you who will be participating in this special program: home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts, committee members, and drivers, attendees, on and on. It has definitely "taken a village" to implement this exchange and it will be wonderful!

There are still some of you who have not paid your \$25 dues for 2014. PLEASE send your check now to our treasurer, Dona Brannan, 4147 Oakhurst Circle, Sarasota, FL 34233 or bring it to the January 30 meeting.



Again, thanks to all of you for making the Sarasota Friendship Force Club one of the very best! **Katy**

### Calendar of Events (more info below)

January 21	Board Meeting at home of Katy Goodwin	
January 30	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station, 7pm	
Jan 31-Feb 9	Inbound Global Themed Exchange	ED: Gloria Grenier
February 12	Film Talk	Judith Collier
February 17	New member reception	
February 20	Wine Tasting Group 1	
February 24	Wine Tasting Group 2	
February 25	Board Meeting at home of Mary McClendon, 7p	
March 6	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station, 7p	
March 18	Board Meeting at home of Peggy Hayden, 7p	
March 22-23	Folk Festival at Oscar Scherer State Park	Gary & Debbie Kuhns
March 24-31	Inbound Exchange from Hamburg, Germany	ED: Mary McClendon
April 3	International Dinner	
April 24-30	Outbound to Albuquerque, NM (slots open)	ED: Don Nicholson
May 2	Annie Get Your Gun musical	Tickets: Nancy Rehbock

**Change of Venue for Welcome Brunch, Feb 1, 11 am. Moved to Whispering Sands large club house (not the lounge)**

## Note from Editor

- Thanks to Nancy Rehbock for the tremendous job she has done for the past 10 years as *Friends Connection* editor. I'm stepping into big shoes with a lot to learn. I look forward to your feedback with ideas to make the newsletter more readable and useful. Thanks to the contributors to the *Friends Connection*. It can't be written without you.
- Note Mary McClendon's new email: marymc5936@verizon.net
- Please include the **area code with phone numbers** when you submit information. Very helpful for the cell users.
- Please add Friendship Force Sarasota <[ffsrq@outlook.com](mailto:ffsrq@outlook.com)> to your contacts. Newsletters will now come from this email. Happy travels, **Terri**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Next Meeting is January 30, 2014, 7p, Waldemere Fire Station



We will hear from Jim Shirley, executive director of the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County. His presentation will tie into our incoming Global Arts Exchange which begins the next day.

The interviews that were done at our first meeting this year were greeted with much enjoyment and appreciation. They were so popular that many of you asked for more so we will try to incorporate a few into each meeting. This time we will have 2 people interviewed--one long time member and one new. There is so much to learn about Sarasota and our members so don't miss the Jan 30 meeting.

**Reeta**

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## Exchanges - Inbound

**Hamburg, Germany – March 24-31, 2014**

**Opportunity Continues to Knock**

**PLEASE HELP**

The Global Exchange is almost here and has required many people and days of work BUT the **Hamburg Exchange** will follow soon after. I am **desperately in need** of several people to help. I need the following:

1. four home hosts (2 couples, 2 ladies and 1 single lady) contact Grace Rowland, sarasotraveler@gmail.com
2. three day hosts, contact Grace Rowland, sarasotraveler@gmail.com
3. several dinner hosts, contact Mary Prouty, waltmaryprouty@gmail.com

Many thanks to the helpful members who have brought us this close, **Mary McClendon**, ED Hamburg Exchange, marymc5936@verizon.net (941-923-3785).

## Sunshine Corner



Services for Joan March will be Saturday, Jan 25, 4 pm, Faith Lutheran Church, Beneva Rd, just north of Sarasota Square on the west side.

From Linda and Jack Vendeland: Thank you everyone for your prayers and healing thoughts for our two grandsons. We are happy to report that they are both at home now, recovering from their injuries.

## Meet Our New Members

**New Member Reception** - Monday, February 17 - 7:00 PM home of Ramona McGee - email invitations will be sent.

**Barbara Hahn** is from Poughkeepsie, NY where she worked as a secretary for IBM. In 1972, Barb transferred with IBM to Indiana and while working, attended St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in Terra Haute. In 1996, Barb decided she was tired of cold weather and moved to Sarasota, FL. She now works part-time as a personal assistant to an investment and real estate developer. Barbara has one daughter and a granddaughter. She lives in Camelot East. Her hobbies are reading, sewing, cooking and travel.



**Judith Collier** is originally from NY and is a graduate of Adelphi University in Garden City, NY with a degree in Psychology and English. She worked in advertising as a TV producer in NY and in 1990 moved to LA. Attracted to Sarasota County by

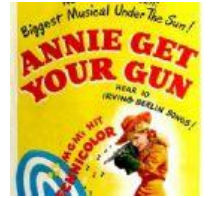
the arts, eight years ago, Judith retired to Venice, FL and lives in the vicinity of Center Rd and Jacaranda Blvd. She has one daughter and two granddaughters. Judith enjoys theatre and the arts, swimming, making jewelry, reading and her dog. Judith recently started the Film Talk group.

**Dorothy Flynn** of Sarasota joined this month. **Shirley Foss** is a retired HS teacher and counselor and enjoys travel and reading.

Musical **"Annie Get Your Gun"** May 2 at Booker Visual Performing Arts School

**Nancy Rehbock** has 10 tickets available at \$10.00 each for the 7pm performance on Friday May 2, 2014. Please bring cash to pay Nancy directly. She will be at the January 30 meeting.

Meet the group before the play at the **Hob Nob Drive-In** on US 41 in Sarasota at 5:30pm and experience some 'fine dining'. Additional tickets can be purchased at the Booker HS box office.



**Film Talk** is a new group.

On the second Wednesday of every month, the Film Talk group will meet at Burns Court Cinema to see a selected movie playing there around 2 p.m. Afterwards we will go somewhere close for an early dinner to discuss the film. Next meeting is February 12.



I will email the group in advance to let you know what movie we'll be seeing, preference being for a foreign film. Please email me if you are interested in joining us and I'll put you on the list. **Judith Collier**,

[jcscoots@verizon.net](mailto:jcscoots@verizon.net)

### **NEWS FROM THE WEB**

In case you missed the wedding of members Debbie (Boyd) and Gary Kuhns, you can see photos of their lovely wedding on our website and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/pages/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota-Florida](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota-Florida).

Our web site: [friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org](http://friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org)

**Linda Vendeland**, Web Administrator [linvende@aol.com](mailto:linvende@aol.com)



### **WINE TASTING GROUPS (WTG)– for members only!**

**WTG 2** met January 8 at Jack and Linda Vendeland's home. We tasted a variety of Spanish red wines and our #1 wine was Marques de Caceres Crianza 2009 which cost \$9.99. Following the tasting we went to Madfish Grill for dinner. **WTG 2** will be at **Hal and Peg Hayden's home on February 24 at 5:00.**



**WTG 1** will be meeting at Donna Schaeffer's home on Lido, **February 20th @ 5pm.** Restaurant to be announced later. The winner of the Nov. 21st wine tasting for WTG 1 was: Coastline Santa Rosa, CA 2012, Cabernet Sauvignon \$14 and for the Jan. 16th wine tasting: Avenel Cellars R.R.V. 2011, Chardonnay \$19.99 Cheers!

If anyone is interested in joining a wine group, please contact **Jack and Linda Vendeland** at [linvende@aol.com](mailto:linvende@aol.com) or 941-342-6278.

## **Exchanges - Outbound**

**Sarasota/Orlando to Central Coast, Australia & Whangarei, New Zealand**

**Sept 29 -October 27, 2014**

Departing Florida Sept 29 we arrive in Sydney Oct 1 for 2 nights for an excursion to the Blue Mountains UNESCO World



Heritage site as well as free time to explore the city on our own. Two official 5 night homestay exchanges follow: Oct 3 - 8 in Central Coast AUS (north of Sydney), Oct 8 - 13 in Whangarei NZE on the North Island, followed by the FFI World Conference in Auckland. A fabulous tour of NZE follows the conference including Rotorua and Wellington and the many highlights of the South Island known for its scenic beauty and unique flora and fauna. Optional pre-exchange touring in AUS including the Great Barrier Reef, Daintree Rainforest, Uluru and Kata Tjuta will begin with a departure from Florida Sept 25. Both groups will return to the USA Oct 27.



If you are interested in this exchange and have not yet added your name to the sign up list, please contact me for



updated information on itineraries and cost estimates. Ambassador applications (form available on the FFI website) and a deposit of \$500 to hold your place as well as the Exchange Trip Component Selection Form/ registration



commitment version are now due. This exchange will also be advertised in the next FFI "World of Friends" Catalog. ED **Judi Stratton** [jaspetime@comcast.net](mailto:jaspetime@comcast.net)

### **Albuquerque, New Mexico – April 24-30, 2014**

Don Nicholson has had some cancellations. There is room for 2 singles and a couple. Please contact **Don**, ED at [donkaynicholson@comcast.net](mailto:donkaynicholson@comcast.net)

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**EXPERIENCE THE ARTS OF GREATER SARASOTA FL**  
**Global Themed Exchange Inbound, Jan. 31 – Feb. 9, 2014**  
**ED Gloria Grenier**

Preparations are continuing to welcome our Ambassadors to our Global themed exchange. Reservations are still available for the tour, lunch and matinee at the Asolo on Wednesday, Feb. 5. Cost is \$59.00. Tickets are also available for the 2 pm cruise on "Le Barge", Friday, Feb. 7. Cost is \$17.00. And don't forget the following:

### **WELCOME BRUNCH – FEBRUARY 1 AT 11:00AM**

**Change of venue.** Join us for brunch at Whispering Sands large clubhouse (not the lounge)

**MENU:** Assorted quiches, breakfast meats, fruit salad, baked goods, yogurt, orange juice, coffee, water  
\$15.00 per person

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After an exhilarating week of activities with our guests, we'll gather for a

### **FAREWELL LUNCH - Sat, February 8 at noon**

#### **ROSEBUD'S RESTAURANT**

2215 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey FL 34229

#### **MENU Choose one:**

1. Sautéed chicken breast with onions, peppers & mushrooms, baked potato
2. Herb crusted white fish, baked potato
3. Steak kebob over rice

All meals include tossed salad, spumoni ice cream and non-alcoholic beverage  
\$23.00 per person

Make your checks out to **Ramona McGee** for the Welcome Brunch and Farewell Lunch

(Include your lunch choice: 1, 2 or 3)

Mail to: 5316 Dominica Circle, Sarasota FL 34233

**Deadline for both parties and the tickets above is January 29**