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SARASOTA

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Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

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February, 2015

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President's Message



Just think, 1/12th of 2015 is already completed. You have 11/12ths left to find that special trip you have on your bucket list. Come and join us on February 5 at the Waldemere Fire Station conference room to hear about exchange plans and opportunities. Grace Rowland (941-356-1949) would appreciate your volunteering to bring refreshments. Thank you, Grace, for being willing to chair the social committee. Our organization is so fortunate to have many dedicated members who keep us running smoothly.

We each need to take stock of our willingness to contribute our time and talents in keeping Friendship Force Sarasota the largest and most active of the 5 clubs and 2 affiliates in the state of Florida. Your contribution could be in the form of holding an office, bringing refreshments, being a day host, home host or dinner host for an exchange or learning how to be an Exchange Director (ED). Can we count on you to do your part?

Mary McClendon, President, marymc5936@verizon.net or (941) 923-3785

Calendar of Events

Feb 5, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
Feb 18-25, 2015	Inbound from Isle of Wight, England	Terri Holsinger, ED
March 5, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
March 24, Tues	Board Meeting	7:00 pm TBD
Sat & Sun, March 21&22	Sarasota Folk Festival, FF booth	Oscar Scherer State Park in Osprey
April 2, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
April 16-28, 2015	Outbound to Santa Barbara/Napa/Sonoma	Bob and Judy Joyce, ED
April 28, Tues	Board Meeting	7:00 pm TBD
May 7, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
May 28, Tues	Board Meeting	7:00 pm TBD
Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 2015	Outbound to Netherlands	Peggy Hayden, ED
October, 2015	Inbound from Los Angeles	ED needed



February 5th meeting-Come out and meet some of the friendliest people in Sarasota! Our program will be given by Gary and Debbie Kuhns, who will bring to life their recent trip to New Zealand. This vivacious couple will no doubt give a memorable presentation. No Hobbit literacy necessary! **Barb Hahn, VP**

Wants Ads:

The Joyces would like to borrow an accordion for their ambassador from Isle of Wight. She plays in several bands and it would be great if we could get her to play here - and she would love to. Contact Judy Joyce at jjoyce5@gmail.com or (941) 488-5627.

Day Host Needed for Isle of Wight Exchange. Please contact Ginny Cole if you can volunteer at 941-480-9527 or colefisher@aol.com.

Sunshine Corner – no illnesses/injuries to report at this time, Margaret Mills



Babe Baptist has 30 tickets for the Booker Performing Arts production of Hairspray on Wed. April 15, 2015. Babe will have tickets at the FF meetings. The award-winning Booker High School Visual and Performing Arts program offers high quality pre-professional arts education for students who exhibit talent and passion in one of its five disciplines: Dance, Digital & Motion Design, Music, Theatre and Visual Art.

Film Talk will meet on the **third Wednesday** of each month in 2015.



We meet at **Burns Court Cinema**, 1506 Burns Lane, Sarasota 34236, 941-955-3456. Hopefully, a foreign film will be playing. All members are very welcome.

Sarasota Film Society has a yearly membership of \$30 which enables you to see most films at Burns Court for \$5. Name and time of film will be emailed about one week prior. An RSVP is appreciated as this allows us to make reservations at a restaurant.

Hope to see many of you Wednesday, February 18th at Burns Court. Please contact **Dotty Flynn** dafsarasota@comcast.net if you would like to be added to the email list. **WE NEED YOU!**



NEWS FROM THE WEB

Have you looked at the Holiday/25th Anniversary Party photos in the photo gallery on our web site? Nancy Rehbock took some great photos and posted them on our web site and Facebook page. Thanks, Nancy, for a job well done!



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Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator linvende@aol.com

WINE TASTING GROUPS for FF members only!



Wine Group I met on Jan 15th at the home of Debbie and Gary Kuhns. They tasted a variety of Italian red wines and their #1 wine was Bellini Rosso Toscana IGT from Toscana, Italy. The price of this wine was \$9.99. Following the tasting they went to Caragiulo's for dinner. Their next tasting will be at Jean West-Walker's on **Tuesday, February 3.**

Wine Group II met on Jan 19th at Gretchen Castner's. They tasted a variety of Sauvignon Blanc wines and their #1 wine was Ch Montet Sauvignon Blanc 2013. The price of this wine was \$9.99. Following the tasting they went to The Hillview Grill for dinner. Their next tasting will be on **Monday, February 16** at the home of Hal and Peg Hayden at 5 PM.

If you are interested in joining a wine group, please contact Jack & Linda Vendeland, linvende@aol.com, 941-342-278

2015 Directory-Margaret Lewis requests that you check your information in the attached directory for phone, cell, email and address accuracy. You can make corrections via email to Margaret Lewis mmlewis@comcast.net or (941) 378-3553 or at the Feb 5th meeting.



Exchanges - Inbound

Isle of Wight (IoW), UK – February 18-25, 2015 – Terri Holsinger, ED

Everything is in place now to host a group of 20 ambassadors from Isle of Wight. Our committee is working hard to have a fun and memorable experience for our ambassadors. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this exchange possible.

See RSVP forms attached to newsletter for welcome/farewell luncheons and activities. Due date for all RSVPs is February 2nd, 2015.

We have a meeting Monday, Feb 2nd for all IoW participants at 7:00 pm at home of Ramona McGee, 5316 Dominica Circle, Sarasota, FL 34233, 941-378-2094, rmcgee0806@comcast.net. We will hand out ambassador gift bags, program books and review activities, guidelines and answer any questions you have. This is your opportunity to ask anything!

An **Exchange Director is needed** for our inbound exchange from the Los Angeles club scheduled for some time during the last two weeks of **October 2015**. If you are interested in this position, please contact Judi at 941-497-5684 or jaspetime@comcast.net. **New EDs without experience are welcome to apply.** Don't worry, an ED Manual, training and mentoring will be provided. A simple domestic exchange like this one is a good way to begin.

Judi Stratton, Exchange Coordinator

Exchanges - Outbound

April 16 to 28, 2015, Domestic Exchange to Santa Barbara and Napa/Sonoma, EDs Bob & Judy Joyce

CALIFORNIA EXCHANGE - TWO OPENINGS

As of this date (Jan 23rd) we have room for two more ambassadors for the Santa Barbara (home hosted April 16th to 21st) and Napa/Sonoma (home hosted April 23rd to 28th). In between, April 21st to 23rd, we have rented a bus to travel up the coast on the Cabrillo Highway, visiting Hearst Castle, Big Sur, Seal Beach, Monterey and whatever other sites we want to pull over and say "WOW!".

Currently we have 16 members that have paid their deposit. Some are going out early to tour California. Some are staying on after April 28th and some are doing both.

So, send a message to Bob Joyce, email bobjoyce@gmail.com and details will be provided. Even if we fill those two spots, establishing a waiting list is important because stuff happens and we might need more than two ambassadors.

Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 2015 (Sunday-Saturday) EXCHANGE TO EASTERN NETHERLANDS, ED, Peggy Hayden

August 29 will likely be a travel day to the Netherlands for most. Zutphen is a town with medieval history in eastern Netherlands about 1.5 hours from Amsterdam. Enjoy exploring Zutphen, taking a canal ride in Giethoorn, the "VENICE of the Netherlands", tour beautiful gardens, visit to Elburg, a special old fortified town and much, much more. We have 2 free days back-to-back to explore Amsterdam (a train ride away), visit a Van Gogh Museum, tour an Airborne Museum & site of the Battle of Arnhem (depicted in the movie, "A Bridge Too Far") plus other options that our home or day hosts can help us explore.

COST: \$460 includes bus transportation from Amsterdam airport to Zutphen on August 30 arranged by our hosts. Initial deposit is \$100.

Air Travel: To be arranged individually given # of people who want to combine exchange with other travel plans before or after the exchange and/or our post-exchange tour.

APPLICATION & DEPOSIT – We are starting a waiting list. To be on it, the application materials & \$100 per person deposit should be sent to Peggy Hayden, 4368 Kariba Lake Terrace, Sarasota, FL 34243. Final payment is due June 6, 2015.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS EXCHANGE – Email Peggy Hayden at hayden.peg@gmail.com or call 941-306-5197. Peggy will provide you with application materials.