



Friends Connection
Friendship Force of Sarasota
www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

October, 2013

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President's Message

Summer has drawn to a close, and I look forward to seeing again soon our year round residents as they return from summer travels and also our snowbirds who will return from the north in the fall. May you all return to Sarasota with a new perspective on the world as well as lots of energy and enthusiasm for FF-SRQ's many opportunities for building friendship and cultural understanding.

A big thank you to our Vice President Gloria Grenier for organizing a delightful Summer Happening on July 18, a wine-tasting social at Sarasota Fine Wine, and to Donna Schaeffer who selected the hors d'oeuvres for the event. If you were not yet back in Sarasota you missed a colorful and interesting September general meeting program presented by Debi Frock about her efforts to make a difference for children and families in Ghana, Africa.



By the time you read this, our ambassadors to Greater Yalta, Crimea, and Rostov-on-Don, Russia may already have departed on our club international outbound exchange for the year. Shortly after their return we will host La Libertad club from Trujillo, Peru, and EDs Mary and Walt Prouty along with their host committee are working hard to organize the exchange.

2014 will be a very busy and stimulating year for our club. From the 100+ applications received, ED Gloria Grenier and her committee have selected 25 outstanding ambassadors for our club's first global themed inbound exchange for January/February: Experience the Arts of Greater Sarasota. We are counting on everyone's help in home hosting, day hosting, and dinner hosting for this exciting exchange. We have also agreed to host Hamburg, Germany March 24-31, and ED Mary McClendon is putting together a host committee. On April 24 club members will depart on a domestic exchange to Albuquerque NM led by ED Don Nicholson, and Sarasota will host ambassadors from Albuquerque in a reciprocal visit in November.

Our international outbound exchange for next year will be a cooperative one with the Greater Orlando club. We will be hosted by Central Coast, Australia, and Whangarei, New Zealand in October 2014 before the World Conference in Auckland, and touring in both countries is being planned. Club members interested in this exchange should contact me as lead ED.

It's hard to believe, but it's time already to put in our requests for our international outbound exchange for 2015. Look for a ballot of exchange destinations elsewhere in this newsletter. Please visit the Leadership Toolkit on the FFI website for tips on how to successfully select destinations, fill out the ballot thoughtfully, and return it to me no later than October 15.

Judi

One's destination is never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things.
Henry Miller

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside*****

September 24	Outbound Exchange to Ukraine, Russia****
October 3	General Meeting at Ethnic Restaurant****
October 29	Board Meeting at home of Ramona McGee
November 7	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station
November 15-22	Inbound Peru Exchange****
November 22-25	FFI World Conference
November 26	Board Meeting at home of Margaret Mills
December 5	Holiday Party (SAVE THE DATE)

OCTOBER 3 – ETHNIC DINNER MEETING @ 6 pm

In preparation for our November exchange from Peru
enjoy an **Ethnic Dinner Thursday, Oct 3rd 2013** at 6:00 pm

at



INKANTO, Authentic Peruvian Cuisine
4141 South Tamiami Trail Sarasota FL 34231

See complete menu and sign-up info at end of newsletter.



Meet Our New Members

Saretta Sparer and Linda Mergel joined us in July and Dotty Reed became a member in August.

Below are some of the bios of new members who have joined this year. Other bios will appear in later issues. It's not always easy catching up with these folks!

A few of you know **Sandy Tuveson** as a Friendship Force member in the early years of our club. Sandy discontinued her membership in the club due to a heavy schedule with balancing activities and working, but has now returned since she has more time to travel. Sandy is from Chicago and has lived in Sarasota for about 25 years. Sandy is now widowed and has three grown children and 5 grandchildren to enjoy. She has an Associate Degree in Political Science and is currently employed as a bookkeeper and personal assistant. She is a past president of Encore Club of Sarasota and a member of Singles on the Go. Sandy lives in Oakhurst and enjoys travel, reading, cooking and yoga.

Another former member of Friendship Force who has rejoined is **Saretta Sparer**. Saretta is originally from New York City and has lived in Sarasota for 12 years. She has a Masters of Library Science from C P Pratt Institute in New York City and some graduate courses from Rhode Island University. She was a corporate librarian for an electric utility company in New York. Saretta has four grown children. She has volunteered in environmental education and ushered at local theaters. Saretta is an avid traveler and enjoys the theatre and the arts and is a member of Singles on the Go. She lives in The Meadows.

Janet Arena is a new member to Friendship Force who lives a very busy and interesting life. She is currently employed as Group Sales Coordinator/Marketing Assoc. at Van Wezel. Janet is originally from Pennsylvania, but lived much of her life in Connecticut. She is a graduate of Penn State and has a Master's degree from Columbia University, plus a 6-year degree in administration and supervision from Southern CT University. Janet spent two years working for USAID in Dar Salaam, Tanzania and speaks Swahili. She moved to Sarasota in 2003. She does extensive volunteer work in her spare time. Janet ushers in various theaters, is house manager for the Venice Theatre, President of Penn State Alumni Chapter, delivers for "Meals on Wheels" on Saturday, secretary of the Board of Directors of "Save our Sea Birds", and a member of the Sarasota, Manatee County, Venice and Lakewood Ranch Chambers of Commerce. Janet enjoys theatre, dance and mystery reading. She lives near Fruitville and Honore.

Jim Chastain is another member who has continued to remain very involved since his professional retirement. He grew up in Mississippi, son and grandson of Baptist ministers. He was in the Pacific in the WWII Navy. He was an undergraduate at the University of Utah and holds an MBA from the University of Chicago and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. Jim spent his career as a professor of finance, in Wyoming, Iowa,

Nebraska and Pennsylvania, the last 13 years at Howard University in Washington, D.C. In retirement Jim worked in the Denver headquarters of the Hemlock Society. Since Final Exit Network was formed as an outgrowth of the Hemlock Society in 2004, he has been active with it, first as a Board member and now as President of the Final Exit Network affiliate of Florida and as a Senior Exit Guide. He co-ordinates Socrates Café groups at three Sarasota libraries. He has four children, ten grandchildren and a brand new great-grandchild. In fun, Jim is an Admiral in the Nebraska Navy, a Kentucky Colonel and a Tennessee Squire but says his highest honor so far was being named an Honorary Woman by the National Association of Insurance Women. Jim also enjoys the theatre and discussion groups. His home is in The Lakes.

Outbound Selections for 2015

FFI has announced that the 2015 World Conference will be held in Vancouver, BC, Canada in September and hosting in Canada will be available after the conference. The board has selected countries from which we will make our final selections for 2015. You are asked to select your top two destinations from these countries, clearly marking **1st CHOICE** and **2nd CHOICE**. Please **DO NOT** vote if you do not plan to travel on the exchange.

Country 1- Austria*

Country 2 - Chile

Country 3 - England

Country 4 - Guadeloupe*

Country 5 - Switzerland*



*Asterisks indicate countries where FFSRQ has never had an exchange. Deadline is October 15. Please return ballots to Judi Stratton at jaspetite@comcast.net or 608 Oxford Drive, Venice, FL 34293.

The Friendship Force Online Auction **Today through Friday, November 15, 2013**

Looking for an opportunity to support Friendship Force while traveling the world?

Starting Tuesday, September 3, you will have that opportunity! Bidding is open for travel opportunities donated by your fellow Friendship Force members all over the world. Whether it is a homestay for couples in

Bogota, Colombia, a climb up Mount Fuji in Japan or a stay at a timeshare in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, there is something for everyone. You can look at all the items up for bid on the [Auction website](#).

Maybe you already have upcoming travel plans with Friendship Force? Great! The items up for bid could serve as excellent add-ons to your current exchange plans.

Proceeds from the auction will go to the Legacy Fund for expanding the Friendship Force global network.

*For questions, contact **Karen Overly Smith**, at atcsmith9061@aol.com or at 717-236-0430.*

Head over to www.friendshipforceauction.org now and start planning your next adventure today!

Increase in Dues

At our Board of Directors meeting on September 10th, a \$5 increase in dues was approved. This increase to \$25 per person will be in effect for the 2014 budget year. Our fees to Friendship Force International were raised 50%, necessitating Board action. FFI required us to send them \$10 per individual and \$17 per family, in 2013. The new costs for 2014 will be \$15 and \$25, respectively.

Yearly dues should be paid before January 1, 2014. Collection will begin at our November 7th general meeting at the Waldemere Fire House. As usual, checks should be mailed to Bob Joyce at **1232 Pine Needle Road, Venice, FL, 34285**.

NEWS FROM THE WEB



With the help of a friend, I was able to install an FFI video on the Home Page of our website. The video tells the story of Friendship Force and is most informative. I reactivated the Blog page with articles about what our members did over the summer. If you would like to share your summer experiences with our members, please send me your article with photos, if available and I will put it on the web. Look in the Photo Gallery for Judi Stratton's photos from the Prairies to the Rockies Global Exchange which she, Mary McClendon, Phil Price and Pat Quinn were on recently. It looks like they had a great time.

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org.

Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator linvende@aol.com



We will be contacting everyone who signed up for the wine tasting groups, with a choice of two dates. If you decide to participate, a cost of \$7.50 per person is to be sent to the host. We will have a blind tasting of six wines of the same type from different locations. Each person will bring six wine glasses, or a couple may share six glasses if

they like. After the tasting, we will go out to dinner at a nearby restaurant. This is primarily a social evening.

We look forward to seeing you in October.

Jack and Linda Vendeland linvende@aol.com

Exchanges

Outbound

Rostov-on-Don, Russia & Yalta, Ukraine – Sept 24-Oct. 13

Ten members of the Sarasota FF Club and six members from Austin FF Club will leave shortly for our short tour of Kyiv, a week of home-stay in Rostov-on-Don, followed by a second week in Yalta, Ukraine. We will share with you our new adventures at the November meeting. Ramona McGee, ED

Albuquerque, New Mexico – April 24-30, 2014

You can sign up for the domestic exchange to Albuquerque until November 1st.

Enrollment is closed after that date.

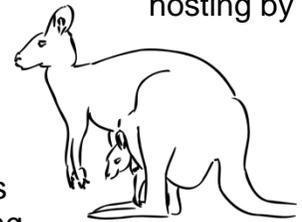
Don Nicholson

donkaynicholson@comcast.net

phone 492-2485

Australia/New Zealand – Sept 29-Oct. 13, 2014

Our Sarasota club will have an outbound exchange to Australia and New Zealand in September/October 2014 in cooperation with the Greater Orlando club. Exchange dates have been agreed upon: September 29 - October 6 home Central Coast AUS (north of Sydney), October 6 - 13 home hosting by Whangarei NZE on the North Island, followed by the FFI World Conference in Auckland, NZE October 13-16. A fabulous tour of NZE will follow the conference including Rotorua and Wellington and the many highlights of the South Island which is well known for its scenic beauty and unique flora and fauna. Touring in AUS visiting Kuranda, the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru, Sydney and the Blue Mountains before the exchanges is also in the planning stages.



If you are interested in this exchange and have not yet added your name to the sign up list, please contact me. Our first meeting of interested ambassadors will be Thursday, November 7, 6 PM, an hour before the general meeting, at Waldemere Fire Station.

ED Judi Stratton

Inbound

La Libertad, Peru – November 15-22, 2013

La Libertad FF Club of Trujillo, Peru will arrive on November 15, 2013

I have just heard from Lydia Expinoza of the La Libertad Club in Trujillo, Peru and Laura Romero of FFI in Atlanta that two more ambassadors have received visas to visit the Sarasota in November. The other eight potential ambassadors have appointments at the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru on Sept. 20 and 28. All thirteen ambassadors are very much looking forward to coming to Sarasota and are asking for our continued patience. Therefore, we are going forward with planning for this incoming exchange for all 13 ambassadors for Nov. 15-22 (Three men, eight women, a seventeen year old boy and a 12 year old girl).

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|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Friday, Nov. 15 | (Arrival Date) | No planned activities |
| Sat., Nov. 16 | | Welcome Lunch at Whispering Sands (Numerous other free activities) Sarasota Farmer's Market, the International Chalk Festival,
Evening Drum Circles on the Beach in Osprey.) |
| Sun., Nov. 17 | | Free morning
Myakka State Park and boat ride at 1:00 p.m. (Picnic provided by day hosts) |
| Mon. Nov. 18 | | Visit Sand Caste Competition on Siesta Key during the morning.
Mote Aquarium Boat Ride at 1:30 p.m., followed by tour of the aquarium. |
| Tues. Nov. 19 | | The Ringling Museum, including tour of the Ca'd'Zan, Circus Museum, Art Museum and Tibbals Learning Center (10:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.) |
| Wed. Nov. 20 | | Munchtime Musicals at the Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center, 11-30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Selby Gardens Tour 2:00- 5:00 P.M. |
| Thurs. Nov. 21 | | Free Day
Farewell Early Bird Dinner at Libby's at 4:30 p.m. |
| Friday, Nov. 22 | | Ambassadors depart |

Mary and Walt Prouty waltmaryprouty@gmail.com

Global Themed Exchange Jan. 31 – Feb. 9, 2014

EXPERIENCE THE ARTS OF GREATER SARASOTA FL
PROGRAM (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

FRIDAY, JAN. 31 - ARRIVAL DAY - NO ACTIVITIES PLANNED

SAT. FEB. 1 - 11:00AM - WELCOME BRUNCH AT WHISPERING SANDS TIKI BAR

8:00 PM - SARASOTA ORCHESTRA AT THE VAN WEZEL

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

2:00 PM - LE BARGE CRUISE

7:00 PM - SARASOTA BALLET AT THE FSU PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

MONDAY, FEB 3

Guided tours of Ringling College of Art & Design, Bradenton Riverwalk, Venice Art Center, Clyde Butcher's Studio & Gallery & other sightseeing.

TUESDAY, FEB 4

Same as above (2 groups alternating visits on Monday & Tuesday)

8:00 PM - BOTH GROUPS ATTEND FLORIDA STUDIO THEATER

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

10:45 AM - Backstage tour of the Asolo (FSU Performing Arts Center), lunch and matinee performance of "Other Desert Cities"

6:30 PM - SMALL DINNER PARTIES IN HOMES

THURSDAY, FEB 6

10:00 TO 4:30 - VISIT THE RINGLING MUSEUM COMPLEX

5:30 PM - CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT AT HOLLY HALL

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

OPTIONAL MUSEUM AND GALLERY VISITS

5:00 PM - PALM AVE WALK, DINNER AND JAZZ AT A RESTAURANT

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

12 NOON - FAREWELL LUNCHEON AT ROSEBUD'S RESTAURANT

7 PM - CIRCUS SARASOTA IN THE BIG TENT AT 12TH & TUTTLE

SUNDAY, FEB. 9 - DEPARTURE DAY

The program listed above may have some modifications but all the activities and performances listed will take place during the Global Exchange. Friendship Force of Sarasota members, and especially home or day/evening hosts are encouraged to accompany their guests as often as possible. Listed below are the tickets available at this time. All tickets are discounted 20-30%.

Saturday, Feb 1 Sarasota Orchestra, 8 pm at the Van Wezel \$55.20

Sunday, Feb. 2 Sarasota Ballet 7 pm at FSU Performing Arts Center \$60

Wednesday, Feb 5 Asolo Rep - tour, lunch and matinee \$59.00

Thursday, Feb. 6 at 5:30 pm Chamber Orchestra at Holly Hall \$23.20

Please reserve your tickets by sending your check to Ramona McGee, 5316 Dominca Circle, SarasotaFL 34233. Make the check payable to Ramona and send it after October 15. More activities and performances will be listed in the November Newsletter.

Questions? Email ggrenier@tampabay.rr.com

Thank you to so many of you that have responded to the request for Hosts and Day hosts for the global exchange in 2014.

We have a very good start. So many of our new members responded and that is great. There are still many I have not heard from however. If you could let me know one way or the other, it would be a great help. Thank you so much.

Barbara Peterson bandwpeterson@verizon.net

PROGRAM DETAILS (TO DATE)

Saturday, February 1 – Masterworks Series

Sarasota Orchestra at the Van Wezel 8:00PM

Tito Munoz, Conductor Giora Schmidt, violin soloist

REVUELTA Homage to Lorca

MOZART Violin Concerto No. 4

BERLIOZ Symphonie Fantastic



Sunday, February 2 – 7:00 PM

Sarasota Ballet at the FSU Performing Arts Center (Asolo)

BALANCHINE Four Temperaments (Company Premiere)

WILL TUCKETT World Premiere

SIR FREDERICK ASHTON Sinfonetta (Company Premiere)

Wednesday, February 5

Asolo Rep – Matinee at 2 PM “Other Desert Cities” by Jon Robin Baitz

This riveting new play by the creator of TV’s hit drama “Brothers & Sisters” brings dysfunctional family drama to new heights. Ex-Senator Lyman Wyeth and his wife Polly have it all – wealth, fame and power. When they welcome their family home for Christmas for the first time in years, the reunion seems hopeful, until their daughter announces she’s written a memoir about the incident that changed their lives. With biting wit and razor-sharp insight, Other Desert Cities is “the most richly enjoyable new play for grownups in many a season” (NY Times)

Thursday, February 6 – Chamber Soiree at Holly Hall at 5:30 PM

EWALD Brass Quintet No.2

FAIROUZ Jebel Lebanon



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at



INKANTO, Authentic Peruvian Cuisine
4141 South Tamiami Trail Sarasota FL 34231

MENU

Appetizer:

Choice of:

~Papa a la Huancaína

Slices of potatoes, covered with a creamy sauce made with yellow pepper and white cheese,
or

~House Salad

Slices of tomatoes, onions and celery over romaine lettuce with house dressing.

Main Course:

Choice of:

~Aji de Gallina

*Shredded chicken dish in a yellow pepper creamy sauce prepared with garlic, aji amarillo
and pecan*

~Arroz Chaufa Vegetariano

Stir fried mixture of rice with vegetables, green onions, egg, and soy sauce

~Seco de Carne con Frejoles y Arroz

Beef stew with cilantro, served with navy beans and white rice on the side

Dessert:

Mazzamorra Morada

A delicious pudding-like dessert made with purple corn and fruit

Coffee, Tea, or Iced Tea (Wine and beer available for extra charge)

\$25.00 per person, including tax & tip

Please send your check, payable to FFS to **Bob Joyce**, 1232 Pine Needle Rd.
Venice FL 34285. Deadline is September 30.

HOLIDAY PARTY AT LIBBY'S CAFÉ & BAR

1917 S. OSPREY, SARASOTA

THURSDAY, December 5 AT 6 PM



MENU CHOICES:

APPETIZER

Cup of organic & vegetarian tomato bisque, toasted orzo

Lemon arugula Caesar, shaved Romaine, crushed croutons, pickled radish, reggiano cheese

LCB Green Salad, baby spinach, cress, arugula, haricot verts, cucumber, pea shoots, green goddess dressing

ENTRÉE

Citrus Rosemary Rotisserie Chicken breast, toasted faro-grilled zucchini panzanella, kalamata olives, foccacia croutons, banyuls vinegar

Honey Balsamic Roasted Pork "Filet Mignon", black truffle'N broccolini corn, shaved reggiano

Filet Mignon and Asparagus Negimaki, Shiitake, ginger chile jus, steamed jasmine rice

Roasted Atlantic Cod fillet, crawfish-black eyed pea succotash, lemon brown butter

DESSERT

Four Cheese and Pear Tortelloni, white truffle crema

Organic Hand-picked Berries, served with whipped cream

Mint Key Lime Pie served with Gummi Bears and whipped cream

Classic Chocolate cake with whipped cream

BEVERAGE: Soft drinks, Ice tea and coffee included

Cash Bar

Cost: \$30 for members

\$38 for guests

Please make your check payable to **FFS** and mail it to:

Bob Joyce, 1232 Pine Needle Rd., Venice FL 34285 before December 2.