

Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

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June, 2014

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President's Message

The Albuquerque exchange was a resounding success - lots of activity, delightful caring and hospitable hosts, much to see and do. It was a bit on the cool side with lots of wind but that did not dampen our southwestern experience. Now we are looking forward to returning their gracious hospitality when they visit us in November.

Hopefully our members are enjoying their "Iron and Ice" cruise in Northern Europe and will be back to join us for our unique Summer Happening, lunch at Bob's Train on Thursday, July 31.

At our Thursday, June 5 meeting we will initiate our newly acquired portable PA system with wireless microphones which were purchased in part by the generous \$100 gift from the Hamburg ambassadors.

May I wish all of you a wonderful summer wherever your travels take you and a safe trip back to Florida for a busy fall beginning with our September 4 meeting at the Waldemere Fire Station.

Katy Goodwin, President

Calendar of Events

June 5	Regular Meeting - Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
July 31	Summer Happening-Bob's Train	11 am – 2 pm
Aug 26	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
Sept 4	Regular Meeting – Waldemere Fire Station	7-9 pm
Oct 2	Regular Meeting – Waldemere Fire Station	7-9 pm
Nov 11-18	Inbound from Albuquerque, NM	Vivian McNamara, ED
Dec 4	Annual Holiday Dinner, Mattison's 41	6-9 pm
Feb 11-18, 2015	Inbound from Isle of Wight, England	



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our June meeting will be on **Thursday, June 5, 2014, 7:00 pm**, at the **Waldemere Fire Station**.

DON'T MISS THIS ONE.

For our June meeting we are fortunate to have Jack Winberg who will produce a great slide and video show of 5 Southeast Asian countries. Jack is an award winning photographer who has traveled extensively and teaches photography. He has studied with some of the best photographers of this and last century and has compiled a show you will not want to miss.

Don't forget that this is the **last meeting of the summer**. We will have a summer event on July 31st and then our next meeting will be on September 4th.

Upcoming Meetings:

September 4, 2014 Meeting, 7-9p. Presentation on travel to Australia and New Zealand by a member of the Ft. Myers Friendship Force, **Please contact Bonnie Frey** to volunteer to bring refreshments at sarasotafrey@verizen.net

October 2, 2014 Meeting, 7-9p. Our 25th anniversary party

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, Mattison's 41. Annual holiday dinner. Members will be getting information on how to RSVP for this event.

SUMMER HAPPENING Thursday, July 31st, 11:00 to 2:00

Don't miss this one. For our summer get together, we will lunch at Bob's Train. If you've never been you are in for a treat. Bob's Train is unique in all of Florida. Bob has amassed a superb collection of circus and early Sarasota memorabilia which he displays in his restored train dining car. He cooks. He tells stories. He is entertaining. The food is quite good too. Join us at 11:00 am on July 31st to enjoy the food and historical perspective on Bob's Train.

The **menu** is as follows:

Organic Green salad with berries

Entree: one of the following:

1. Balsamic Chicken (delicious-I have had it) **OR**
2. Beef Cordon Green (one of Bob's specialties) **OR**
3. Tilapia

Carrots with cinnamon and chips

Dessert- Rum on the rails (another of his specialties)

Ice tea or coffee

The cost is \$18 including tax and tip

You will pay Bob on the day you go but **you need to let Reeta Dean at reetatoc@yahoo.com or 941-360-8768, state your choice (chicken, beef or fish)** so Bob is ready for you. There will be a sign up sheet at June meeting.

Directions - Bob's train is on the north side of Fruitville (3rd St) between Audubon and School. Turn in on Audubon Street and take a right and then a left which will take you around a building and into a disreputable parking lot. Don't be dismayed by the looks of the lot. You will see the trains on the left and you will enter the middle car (there is a sign).

Committee Reports



Sunshine Corner – no updates this month

Newsletter – sorry for lateness this month. I've been traveling. Terri

Meet Our New Members

Jan Gilden moved to Sarasota last fall from the state of Washington, where she was a special education teacher for 35 years. Jan has a Bachelor's degree from University of Mexico in Education and a Masters in Urban Studies from Antioch College in Eugene, WA. Jan enjoys folk dancing, hiking, cross country skiing, and travel. She lives in The Meadows.

Sue Gordon has been a "snowbird" to Sarasota for several years and just moved here permanently from Beverly, MA in December. She retired last July from Fielding Graduate University where she was a professor in Distributed Learning. Sue has a Doctorate in Sociology from University of Chicago. She has three grown children. Her hobbies are folk dancing and travel. She volunteers for The Ballet and as an instructor for SCTI in Newtown, helping students obtain their GED. Sue lives in Pelican Cove.

Lorrie Holm is from Philadelphia and moved to Sarasota in November, 2013, and still busy getting settled in her home. She has a degree in Communications from University of Pennsylvania. After spending time raising her two sons, Lorrie worked as a writer & marketing professional. Her hobbies and interests are gardening, singing, travel, and photography. She plans to return to the professional world. Lorrie lives in Gulf Gate.

Babe Baptist has rejoined. Welcome back Babe.

Pamela Brown joined after the International Dinner. She is a retired librarian and new to Sarasota. Pamela has Spanish skills and enjoys travel, photography and reading.

Welcome to our many new members.



Film Talk will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month with members taking turns selecting the movie and restaurant. The June 11 meeting will be hosted by Dorothy Flynn. Please contact these ladies if you would like to be added to their contact list. Janet at janhemond@comcast.net or Dotty at dafsarasota@comcast.net.

NEWS FROM THE WEB

Check out the photos of the combined Wine Groups' season finale get together in the Photo Gallery on our Web Site. www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org.
Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator linvende@aol.com



WINE TASTING GROUPS for members only!



Our last event of the season for the wine tasting groups was a "Beginnings and Endings" party held on May 12 at the home of Mary McClendon. Thanks for hosting the party, Mary.

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

Isle of Wight, UK – February, 2015 – I really **need volunteers** to make this a memorable inbound. Need: day hosts, dinner hosts, home hosts and all the other jobs. Please see sign-up sheet at June meeting. Terri Holsinger, ED, contact me at terriholsinger@hotmail.com or 317-753-2172. Thanks so much.

Exchanges - Outbound

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



Our 2014 club international outbound exchange has opened to become an All-USA exchange. Departing the US on October 6 we begin with a home stay exchange in Whangarei on the North Island, followed by the FFI World Conference in Auckland and touring on the North and South Islands, returning to the US on October 27. Exchange and touring highlights include the Bay of Islands, Rotorua, Wellington, Punakaiki, Queenstown, Milford Sound and Christchurch. 8 ambassadors will complete the full itinerary, and 6 additional ambassadors will join us for the exchange in Whangarei and the World Conference. Applications and deposits are still being accepted for the waiting list. ED Judi Stratton jaspetite@comcast.net



Sarasota, FL to Netherlands East, September, 2015 – Peggy Hayden, ED