



# Friends Connection

## Friendship Force of Sarasota

[www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org](http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org)  
[Friendship Force Sarasota Facebook](#)

June, 2015

Volume 26, No 6

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### President's Message

Thanks to everyone who joined in the International Dinner. The food was wonderful. And another thanks to all the volunteers who made it all possible.

Mark your calendars for **June 4** for the last FFSRQ meeting before summer break. Have a happy summer. See you **August 6** at the Phillippi Estate Park **Summer Happening**.

**Mary McClendon**, President, [marymc5936@verizon.net](mailto:marymc5936@verizon.net) or (941) 923-3785

### Mark Your Calendars

June 4, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
June 17, Wed	Film Talk, see info below	Dot Flynn
July	<b>NO</b> regular meeting	
July 15, Wed	Film Talk, see info below	Dot Flynn
Aug 6, Thurs	<b>Summer Happening</b> , Phillippi Estate Park Info below; <b>No regular August meeting</b>	9 am to 1:30 pm
Aug 19, Wed	Film Talk, see info below	Dot Flynn
Aug 25 Tues	Board Meeting	7:00 TBD
Aug 28-31	FFI World Conference, Vancouver, Canada	
Aug 30-Sept. 5	Outbound to Netherlands	Peggy Hayden, ED
Sept 3, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
Sept 16, Wed	Film Talk, see info below	Dot Flynn
Sept 22, Tues	Board Meeting	7:00 pm TBD
Oct 1, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
<b>Oct 10</b>	<b>All Florida FF Conference, Ft Myers</b>	<b>9:30 am – 4:30 pm</b>
Oct 15, Thurs	Wine Group I	see below
Oct 19, Mon	Wine Group II	see below
Oct 25, Sun- Oct 30, Fri	Inbound from Los Angeles	Barbara Peterson, ED
Oct 21, Wed	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Oct 27, Tues	Board Meeting	7:00 pm TBD
Nov 5, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
Nov 16, Mon	Wine Group II	see below
Nov 18, Wed	Film Talk, see info below	Dot Flynn
Nov 19, Thurs	Wine Group I	see below
Nov 24, Tuesday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm TBD



Dec 3, Thursday	Holiday Party – Stoneybrook Country Club (no regular meeting)	
Dec 17, Thurs	Wine Group I	see below
Dec 21, Mon	Wine Group II	see below

**Thurs, June 5th meeting—Waldemere Fire Station, 7:00 pm.** There has been a change in the speaker for our June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

We have been fortunate to arrange for Park Ranger Diane Stinson to come and talk with us about Oscar Scherer State Park. Ranger Stinson will share with us informative information about the Park, its origin and various facts that we may be unaware of.

Ranger Stinson will do a wonderful job and we will all learn information about this close by state park that we don't know. Also, what information we learn may prove informative when planning activities for our inbound guests in the near future and future.

Barb Hahn, Vice President

### **FRIENDSHIP FORCE SARASOTA**

#### **SUMMER HAPPENING**

**Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>**

*9:00am - 1:30pm*

Touring **Phillippi Estate Park and Mansion**  
**The winter home of Edson Keith**

Wear comfortable walking shoes and casual/comfortable clothing

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 9-9:30am      | Meet at the Keith Farmhouse porch for a nature tour of a portion of the 60-acre property's sensitive wetland habitats that connect to Phillippi Creek and the Intracoastal Waterway |
| 10:15-10:30am | Conclude our nature tour at the Edson Keith Mansion for a guided docent tour of the home, its history and residents   |
| 11:30-12:00pm | Head to the Gazebo for a catered picnic   |

**Cost for Lunch \$19.00**, check made payable to Barb Hahn  
(mail to: 5581 Axminster Drive, Sarasota 34241)

***Looking forward to this exciting 2015 Summer Happening***

### Committee Reports

## Welcome New Members

**New membership directories for 2015** were distributed at recent meetings. Please pick yours up at the next meeting or call Margaret Lewis to make arrangements, 941-378-3553 or [mmlewis@comcast.net](mailto:mmlewis@comcast.net).

**Sunshine Corner** – Let Margaret Mills know of any health updates, 941-921-7946 or [mmillsart@verizon.net](mailto:mmillsart@verizon.net)

**Social** – say yes to Grace Rowland and her very social committee volunteers when they call - Mary Brand, Mariann Carmody, Gretchen Castner, John Langmann, Jan Short and Bobbie Jabbas.



**Film Talk** will meet at Burns Court Cinema **Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>** about 2 pm. All members are very welcome. Documentary "Iris" was seen by 5 members in May and enjoyed by most. **Name and time of film will be emailed about one week prior.** Please contact **Dotty Flynn** [dafsarasota@comcast.net](mailto:dafsarasota@comcast.net) if you would like to be added to the email list. **WE NEED YOU!**  
Film Talk will continue through the summer.





## NEWS FROM THE WEB

Be sure to look at the photos of our outbound exchange to Santa Barbara and Napa/Sonoma, CA on our Web Site and Facebook pages. It looks like it was a fun trip! Can you guess who Sonny and Cher are?

Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator

[www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org](http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org) and <https://www.facebook.com>

## WINE TASTING GROUPS (FF members only)



Our "Beginnings and Endings" party on May 11 at Reeta Dean's club house was a fun happening with 20 members in attendance. Wine Tastings will resume in October. Have a great summer!

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



## Upcoming Exchanges

Congratulations and a big thank you is due to those members of our club who have agreed to take a leadership role and serve as Exchange Director for upcoming exchanges in 2015 and 2016. Barbara Peterson will be the ED for an inbound exchange from Los Angeles, CA. For 2016, Phill Price will serve as ED for an inbound visit from Western Carolina (Asheville, NC); and Donna Schaeffer will lead our club's return visit to them in late October. Greater Taipei, Taiwan will host our club in April for our 2016 international outbound, and Terri Holsinger and Reeta Dean will share the Exchange Director duties. And we will host Cornwall, England in November with Ramona McGee serving as Exchange Director. If your name is not yet in this announcement, please say yes when one of the inbound EDs invites you to be on the exchange committee; it's a great way to get involved and to learn how Friendship Force works!

**Judi Stratton, Exchange Coordinator**, [jaspetite@comcast.net](mailto:jaspetite@comcast.net) or (941) 497-5684

## Exchanges - Inbound

### Sun, Oct 25<sup>th</sup>-Fri, Oct 30th Inbound Exchange from Los Angeles, ED Barbara Peterson

Our visitors from LA will arrive on Sunday Oct 25th around 8:00PM. They will be with us until Friday Oct 30. We are not sure how many will be coming yet but we have started planning. We will need you for home hosting, day hosting or perhaps a dinner party. Please take a look at your calendar and consider helping to entertain. This is what Friendship Force is all about. If you miss the sign-up sheets at our meeting June 4th please give me a call 941-925-3755 and/or send an email. [bandwpeterson@verizon.net](mailto:bandwpeterson@verizon.net). **Barbara Peterson**

### February/March, 2016 Inbound Exchange from Western North Carolina, ED Phillip Price

#### Opportunity Knocks PLEASE HELP

This Friendship Force Club is from the metropolitan area of Asheville, North Carolina. Although it seems like off in the distant future, I need help in committee positions for this exchange. The exact date has not been finalized. It will probably be the last week in February or the week that bridges February and March, 2016. Ultimately, we will need many volunteers. Currently I need to fill the committee position of **Home Hosts** chair for the exchange. Many thanks to the helpful members who have volunteered and provided needed advice thus far.

**Phillip Price**, ED Western North Carolina Exchange. [Phillip@pvprice.net](mailto:Phillip@pvprice.net) (813)642-5990

## Exchanges - Outbound

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

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

**EXCHANGE OVERVIEW:** 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 have 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](mailto:hayden.peg@gmail.com) or call 941-306-5197. Peggy will provide you with application materials.

### April 2016, Outbound Exchange to Greater Taipei, Taiwan EDs Terri Holsinger and Reeta Dean

#### Ni Hao



Travel with FF SRQ in April 2016 on our exchange to Greater Taipei Taiwan FF Club and a 2-week tour of China including a Yangtze River cruise, tentative dates April 7-27, 2016. Cost to be determined. Sign-up sheet will be at June meeting. This will be a unique exchange opportunity and we know you'll want to be a part of it. We would love to fill this trip with our own FF SRQ club-max 20.

Terri Holsinger, [terriholsinger@hotmail.com](mailto:terriholsinger@hotmail.com)

317-753-2172 and Reeta Dean, [reetatoc@yahoo.com](mailto:reetatoc@yahoo.com), 941-360-8768  
co-EDs



Please notify Mary McClendon if you plan to attend conference  
[marymc5936@verizon.net](mailto:marymc5936@verizon.net) or (941) 923-3785



friendship force  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## ALL-FLORIDA FRIENDSHIP FORCE CONFERENCE

Hosted by Friendship Force of Southwest Florida

Club Website [www.friendshipforceswfl.org](http://www.friendshipforceswfl.org)

Saturday, October 10, 2015

9:30am- 4:30 pm

- What:** All-Florida Conference for Friendship Force
- Why:** Keynote Address from FFI, President/CEO, Joy DiBenedetto  
Updates from Florida State Field Representative, Sandy Gourdine  
Share club ideas and best practices  
Ask questions and share resources  
Network with Florida clubs, catch up with those you know and make new friends
- Who:** All Friendship Force members are welcome! Please encourage your club members, especially those who are leaders, (past, present, future) to attend. Board members are requested to share information and to take new ideas back to their clubs.
- Where:** Whiskey Creek Clubhouse, 1449 Whiskey Creek Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33919
- Cost:** \$ 25.00 /person to cover lunch, refreshments, and location
- How do I register?** Online at Southwest Florida club website [www.friendshipforceswfl.org](http://www.friendshipforceswfl.org) or Respond via email to Ron Linehan at [rs.linehan@embarqmail.com](mailto:rs.linehan@embarqmail.com)  
Include:
- Name, club name, email address and mailing address
  - Leadership positions you have held or would like to learn more about

### Agenda

- 9:30-10:00 Registration check in /coffee/ice breaker  
10:00-11:45 Welcome and Introductions from Southwest Florida President, Joanne Collins  
Comments from Florida Field Rep, Sandy Gourdine  
Key Note Address by Joy DiBenedetto, President/CEO of FFI  
11:45 Lunch  
12:45– 1:30 Meet in breakout groups 1<sup>st</sup> choice  
1:30 Rest room Break  
1:45 – 2:30 Meet in Breakout groups 2<sup>nd</sup> choice  
2:30 Meeting in whole group for reports and debriefings  
3:30 Questions & Answers to FFI, Final Comments from the Group