

Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

www.facebook.com/pages/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota-Florida

March, 2014

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President's Message

Wow! What a great turnout we had at our January 30 meeting! And another Wow! for our fabulous Global Arts Exchange! You are the greatest! I heard nothing but praise from our 25 international ambassadors who thought that Sarasota was the neatest place to visit with all of our culture and all of our hospitable FF members. Kudos to everyone who made our exchange so special - especially to our ED Gloria Grenier and her second-in-command Barbara Peterson. Let's give ourselves a big pat on the back for a job well done!

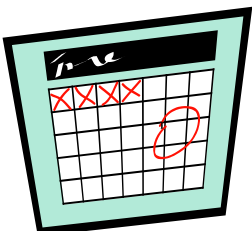
Now we have more fun things in the future - our March 6th meeting with its emphasis on Germany as well as surprise "Getting to Know You" interviews - the Sarasota Folk Festival March 22nd and 23rd headed by Debbie and Gary Kuhns - and our next exciting inbound of 16 English-speaking ambassadors from Hamburg, Germany March 24-31 coordinated by ED Mary McClendon and her committee. If you missed participating in the global exchange don't miss the opportunity to get acquainted with our guests from Europe.

Other activities - a group of new members attended a reception at Ramona McGee's home to learn more about the background and operation of Friendship Force, two wine-tasting groups met to sample wines from around the world, and the film talk group enjoyed Oscar winning shorts at Burns Court followed by dinner.

We are definitely "creating seeds of friendship" among our members as well as around the world. Join us!! Katy

Calendar of Events

March 6	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station, 7p, Thursday	
March 18	Board Meeting at home of Peggy Hayden, 7p	
March 22-23	Sarasota Folk Festival at Oscar Scherer State Park	Gary & Debbie Kuhns
March 24-31	Inbound Exchange from Hamburg, Germany	ED: Mary McClendon
April 3	General Meeting and International Dinner	
April 24-30	Outbound to Albuquerque, NM	ED: Don Nicholson
May 2	Annie Get Your Gun musical	



MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Next Meeting is March 6, 2014, 7p, Waldemere Fire Station

Come learn about Hamburg, Germany in anticipation of our inbound exchange at the end of the month. We will have a video and a short German lesson so we can impress our visitors (of course, they all speak English) with our knowledge of their area and language.

INTERNATIONAL DINNER – April 3rd

Our April meeting will be on **Thursday, April 3, 2014, 5:30-9 PM**, at the Waldemere Fire Station. This will be our annual International Dinner that includes a presentation on our club activities. If you are bringing any guests/prospective new members, please let us know by **March 27, 2014**, 941-320-6557, friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org/

Get out your recipes and start finding those exotic spices; it's time for the International Dinner. At our April 3rd meeting we will share your favorite dishes from around the world. Make a dish for 10 (at least) that comes from a country you have visited or has been in your family for generations or you just want to experiment and be different. Please make a card to go with your dish giving it a name and country--and bring a serving utensil.

We will have beverages (non-alcoholic--it's a fire station you know) and all the silverware and plates. Please bring either a main dish or a dessert and we will indulge in stimulating our taste buds once again. Ethnic clothing is always a fun way to enhance the international flavor so don those outfits you bought on a trip and haven't had a chance to wear. This is a perfect time to invite guests to see what FF is all about. **Reeta and Peggy**

Committee Reports

Membership--anyone wanting to volunteer at the Sarasota Folk Festival booth on March 22 or 23 can sign up at the next meeting or email **Gary Kuhns** (garynofire@yahoo.com).

Sunshine Corner

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from heart valve surgery to **Dottie Reed**.

Edna Schneider is recovering from a broken leg.

Barbara Baptist says she is recuperating slowly. Her address for cards:

Westminster Village North, 11050 Presbyterian Drive #3213, Indianapolis, IN 41263



Meet Our New Members

Sue Talkovic is from Wisconsin but has lived in Sarasota for over 40 years. Sue has worked in the service industry, in restaurants, hotels and still does house cleaning part time. She has one son and four grandchildren. Sue devotes much time helping to care for her 9-years old granddaughter who lives in Sarasota. Sue also volunteers at the Van Wezel and Florida Studio Theatre. Her interests in spare time are: travel, theatre, music and the outdoors.

Michele Conley and Peter Smentkowski just moved to Sarasota last October from Huntington, West Virginia. They were introduced to Friendship Force by Pat Coddington and joined immediately. Michele is originally from West Virginia and has a degree in communications from Marshall University in Huntington. She was the Executive Director for a 400-bed-hospital foundation there for many years. Peter is originally from Secaucus, New Jersey, the nearest suburban city outside of New York City only 5 miles from Times Square. (The interviewer looked it up as she had never heard of this city.) Peter served in the Marine Corps and then went to college and obtained a degree in Engineering. He worked in various states in the U.S. before settling in Huntington, W VA working as a Plant Engineer with Owens Illinois Glass Co. Peter and Michele met in Huntington and married. Between them, they have one daughter and four sons and four grandchildren. Michele enjoys painting, travel and reading. Peter spends his spare time reading, doing word games and puzzles and following the activities of his grandchildren. He has two granddaughters in Albany, New York (ages 10 & 12) who are in training to be Olympic ice skaters.

Joan Emrich joined Friendship Force last November and is interested in becoming involved and enjoys travel. She is originally from Detroit, MI and has a Bachelors and Masters of Education from Michigan State. She taught in junior high school and was a career counselor before moving to San Francisco in 1969. Joan changed careers and entered the corporate world, working in training and development with Levi Strauss and Wells Fargo Bank. After 20 years on the west coast she met her husband, Arthur. They spent six years in Tokyo with his position with DuPont returning to the states, living in Chicago and Wilmington, DE. Eight years ago, she and her husband moved to Sarasota and reside in

Shadow Oaks near Sarasota Golf Club. Joan enjoys the theatre, movies, bridge and walking. Arthur devotes his time as a hypnotherapist and finds it most rewarding.



Film Talk meets 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 March 12.** In February we viewed 5 Oscar-nominated shorts that ran from 7-30 min each. Great discussion followed at Matto Matto Italian restaurant.

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 and I'll put you on the list. **Judith Collier**, jcscoots@verizon.net

NEWS FROM THE WEB

Elaine and Gordon Hamden, Ambassadors from the Friendship Force Club of North Bay, Ontario, Canada, performed a song at the Farewell Luncheon of the Global Themed Exchange. You can watch their performance on the video page of our web site. There are also some great exchange photos on the photo gallery page at friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org



Facebook page www.facebook.com/pages/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota-Florida.

And if you would like to see more photos of the Global Exchange go to: [FF SRQ Global Exchange](http://FFSRQGlobalExchange). We've added the photos John Langmann took at the Welcome Brunch. Click any photo and then click 'play slide show'.

Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator linvende@aol.com

WINE TASTING GROUPS – for members only!

Wine Group 1 met on February 20 at Donna Schaeffer's. We tasted a variety of Pinot Noir wines and our #1 wine was Belle Glos Pinot Noir Meiomi 2012 from California which cost \$19.99. Following the tasting we went to Daiquiri Deck for dinner. Our next tasting will be at Katy Goodwin's home on March 20, at 4:30 PM.



Wine Group 2 met at Hal & Peg Hayden's home on February 24. We tasted a variety of Italian red wines and our #1 wine was Saladine Pilastrini Rosso Piceno 2011 from Marche, Italy which cost \$10.99. Following the tasting we went to Demetrios for dinner. Our next tasting will be at Terri & Stan Holsinger's home on March 13 at 5 PM.

If anyone is interested in joining a wine group, please contact **Jack and Linda Vendeland** via e-mail or phone. linvende@aol.com 941-342-6278

On the Horizon; Collaboration with FF Southwest Florida, Punta Gorda

At the President's Meeting, we learned that clubs collaborate with each other, particularly on their programs. **Bob and Judy Joyce** spoke with FF SW President Joanne Collins and agreed to speak to FF SWF in June about their outbound trip to Brazil. In return, Joanne and her husband will speak to our group in September about their outbound trip to Australia. Should be a fun collaboration!

Exchanges - Inbound

Hamburg, Germany – March 24-31, 2014

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

GLOBAL THEMED EXCHANGE – JANUARY 31 TO FEBRUARY 9, 2014

WE DID IT! Our 25 Global Ambassadors had a great time enjoying the Arts in our cultural area. Many had never been here so they were pleasantly surprised that we not only had sunny skies but also a broad variety of artistic organizations. From the first tap of the baton at the Sarasota Orchestra to the flying trapeze at Circus Sarasota, they were entertained. The success of this exchange is attributed to the generosity of our members who provided hospitality (home and day hosts), home cooked meals, (hosts and dinner party hosts), transportation (many members) and to those who served on various committees. The list is long. Thank you all!

Excerpt from Ambassadors from Switzerland: “Please convey our heartfelt gratitude to all the people who opened their homes, who invited for dinners, who took ambassadors on board of their cars, who contributed by their presence to a good ambiance during meetings, brunch, excursions, and visits etcetera. Their contribution was invaluable, my highest esteem for it during all the days of our stay in Sarasota! I hope I have not forgotten anybody who shared your work burden! Oh yes, I forgot John Langmann! We cherish his wonderful book which we get out from the shelf each time it starts raining over here.

We would like to extend a mighty THANK YOU, FRIENDS to all of you! We will never forget what you did for us to make us happy! Warmest regards, Christian and Helga Langheld”

Gloria Grenier, ED

Exchanges - Outbound

Katy Goodwin is signing up to go on a 2-week FF discovery tour to **Iceland** in July with the FF Club of Oregon Mid-Willamette Valley and would be delighted to have a companion from our club. If anyone is interested they can contact Katy for more details. Katy Goodwin, 941-379-9954.

Albuquerque, New Mexico – April 24-30, 2014; Full. Don Nicholson, ED, donkaynicholson@comcast.net

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, 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 is also highlighted in the current FFI "World of Friends" Catalog, and inquiries are



flowing in from other FF clubs, ED Judi Stratton, jaspetime@comcast.net





RSVP for Activities for Hamburg, Germany Exchange March 24-31, 2014
Sponsored by the Friendship Force of Sarasota

If questions, contact Peggy Hayden, Activities Chair, 941-306-5197, hayden.peg@gmail.com

ACTIVITIES - Please indicate activities you will attend by entering the # attending each activity & other applicable information then enclosing a check for the total cost of all activities when returning this RSVP. RSVP must be received by Friday, March 14, 2014

- 3/25 11:00 Welcome picnic at Lido Beach \$15.00
Will attend: # attending
Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
3/25 after the picnic-kayaking to the mangrove tunnels Your own kayak or \$40 single kayak, \$50 double kayak
Will attend: # attending single kayaks double kayaks Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
3/26 AM - St. Armand's shopping & lunch on your own schedule - No fees for activities Will attend: # attending
3/26 12:45 Mote Aquarium & Boat Ride - Aquarium & Boat Combo \$35; Boat Only \$23; Aquarium Only \$19.75 or \$18.75 (seniors)
Will attend: # for combo # for boat ride only # for aquarium only Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
Will be attending but use Mote membership card for free admission to aquarium
Will attend & willing to use Mote membership card to get another person in for free
3/27 9:30 Myakka Tour & Birding Experience - \$6 per carload admission; Boat ride \$12 (If you RSVP for this, send only the \$12 for the boat ride if you plan to go on this ride.)
Will attend: # attending Myakka visit; # for boat ride Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
3/28 7:00 Sailor Circus \$14
Will attend: # attending; Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
3/28 10:00 Ringling Tour \$15
Will attend: # attending; Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
Will attend but use Ringling membership card for free admission
Will attend and use Ringling pass to get others in for free - # of passes
3/29 Early AM Sarasota Farmers' Market on your own schedule - No fees for activities Will attend: # attending
3/29 10:30 Selby Garden Tour \$15
Will attend: # attending; Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
Will attend but use Selby membership card for free admission
Will attend & use Selby membership card to get another person in for \$5 (you will not have to pay the \$5)
3/29 2:00 Museum of Art & Whimsy tour - No fees for activities Will attend: # attending
3/30 Farewell Dinner at Cosimo's, Drum Circle following dinner. RSVP info in other attachment.

PLEASE NOTE: This RSVP does not include the March 30 Farewell Day dinner at Cosimo's followed by the Drum Circle on Siesta Key. You will be getting a separate RSVP.

NAME(S):

TOTAL of enclosed check for ALL activities selected above \$

SEND THIS RSVP by March 14 & CHECK Payable to: Friendship Force Sarasota

Mail to: Exchange Treasurer - Dona Brannan, donabrannan@aol.com

4147 Oakhurst Circle W, Sarasota, FL 34233, 941-377-5014



HAMBURG FAREWELL PARTY AT COSIMO'S
SUNDAY MARCH 30th, 4:30p
RSVP due March 21st

SALAD (choose one per person)

___ House **OR** ___ Caesar

ENTRÉE (choose one per person)

___ Chicken Marsala-chicken breast in marsala wine and mushroom sauce with garlic mashed potatoes and spinach sautéed with shallots, garlic and sun dried tomatoes.

___ Tilapia Venicia-pan-seared with Prosecco, grapes and shallots, sautéed spinach with herb roasted potatoes

___ Pasta with tomatoes, Kalamata olives, arugula and fresh mozzarella in homemade pesto

DESSERT-Tiramisu

Coffee, hot tea, iced tea or soft drink included
Cash bar

Total price is \$20 including tax and tip

Please **MARK YOUR SELECTION** with number of people who want each menu item and send this form and your check to Dona Brannan by **March 21st**.

Cosimo's is located in the shopping center at Honore and Clark. There is a nice patio for our event.

NAME(S): _____

TOTAL of enclosed check: # of guests x \$20 = \$ _____

SEND THIS RSVP by March 21st & CHECK Payable to: Friendship Force Sarasota

Mail to: Exchange Treasurer – Dona Brannan
4147 Oakhurst Circle W, Sarasota, FL 34233
941-377-5014

donabrannan@aol.com