

Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

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President's Message



We've had a few cool days but always warm hearts at FFSRQ. You might recall my message last month suggesting that we all need to be involved in keeping FFSRQ the largest and most active group in Florida. Our 2015-2016 exchange commitments give you many opportunities as an Exchange Director (ED) or being on one of the many committees. Pick your favorite destination and volunteer.

Grace Rowland has graciously volunteered to be hospitality chair. Be sure to say "yes" to bringing refreshments to our monthly meetings.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, March 5 at the Waldemere Firestation.

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

Calendar of Events

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 1, Wed	Exchange Director Training	7:00 (see info below)
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



Thursday, March 5th meeting--Award-winning author, Lucy Beebe Tobias, looks at Florida with fresh eyes. Her book **50 Great Walks in Florida** is the one book you want near the front door or in your car. There is a Great Walk near wherever you are in Florida. A Great Walk is a short but significant jaunt where you learn new things, get some exercise and are done in time for lunch.

When visitors say "We've been to Disney, what else is there?" this book is the answer. Walks go from the deepest swamps to ancient sidewalks and take you places that surprise even longtime residents.

And for this talk to FF SRQ, Lucy has added some local Sarasota destinations that may be new to you.

Lucy is a former New York Times Regional Group reporter who now writes Florida books. She moved to Sarasota in 2012. Her web site is: www.LucyTobias.com

After the meeting there is a book signing for **50 Great Walks in Florida** **Barb Hahn, VP**

What fabulous club members we have! The Isle of Wight was a huge success! To all of you who helped by home hosting, day hosting, and dinner hosting, mentoring or being there as our support network - a huge thank you.

By all accounts, the Ambassadors were amazed at our itinerary and by the warmth and fellowship of our members. To my committee members **Ginny Cole** (day hosts), **Connie Bergin** (dinner hosts), **Judy Joyce** (home hosts), **Jan Gilden** (activities), **Judith Collier** (welcome/farewell luncheons), **Barb Hahn** (treasurer), **Vivian McNamara** (gift bags), **Phill Price** (master naturalist), **Judi Stratton** (mentor) **John Langmann** (official photographer) and **Grace Rowland** who was magnanimous in organizing our day at Ringling College plus nibbles at her home - get some rest and know you provided a memorable experience for the Isle of Wight Ambassadors.

With more than 50 volunteers its possible I might have missed saying thank you in person. I hope to remedy that at our next meeting. Each of you added your own 'gift' to the events and it showed in every way. On top of that we had members join us from Michigan and New York. Thank you, thank you, thank you all very much, Terri

BTW, I welcome any and all feedback to make future exchanges the best possible. Terri Holsinger, ED Isle of Wight

The 2014 Nobel Peace Laureate -- seventeen year old **Malala Yousafzai** from Pakistan -- is calling for children worldwide to stand up and speak out on issues of human rights and peace. Many of you have **grandchildren or know young children** who enjoy drawing or possibly you know Friendship Force International in Atlanta would like to display of children's drawings on the theme "My Dream of World Summit of Nobel Prize Laureates in Atlanta in 2015. Artists cannot be older than 19. You can download clicking here [download flyer](#). The artwork must be Atlanta by August 15. Atlanta will send an electronic print and award to children who participate. Every artwork receives will be shared on their online photo album.



an art teacher. provide a Peace" at the November, the flyer by submitted to certificate to Atlanta

Committee Reports

Sunshine Corner – wishing for a speedy recovery for Gloria Grenier, who fractured her ankles in a fall in Mexico and Bonnie Frey, who fractured her arm in a fall. All the best to you both. Margaret Mills

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



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, we'll meet about 2:00 - light supper and discussion to follow. 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, March 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

I will be posting photos taken during the Isle of Wight exchange on our Web Site and Facebook page. Be sure to check them out!

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Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator linvende@aol.com

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WINE TASTING GROUPS for FF members only!

Wine Group I met on 02-03-15 at the home of Jean West-Walker. They tasted South African Reds, and their favorite wine was Graham Beck Pinotage Pinno at the price of \$12.99. They were all very good, so it was very hard to choose. Following the tasting they dined at The Left Coast Seafood Restaurant in Venice. All you could eat shrimp that night. Yum! March's tasting will be at the home of Reeta Deen on Thursday, March 19th



Wine Group II met on 02-16-15 at Peg and Hal Hayden's. They tasted South African Chenin Blanc and Sauvignon Blanc wines. Their #1 wine was Royal Chenin Blanc 2013. The price of this wine was \$11.99. Following the tasting they went to Seasons 52 for dinner. Their next tasting will be on Monday, March 16 at the home of Terri and Stan Holsinger at 5 PM.

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

Exchange Training

Are you looking for a way to get more involved with Friendship Force? Want to learn more about how exchanges are put together, how to plan, host and travel with our club and/or with members of other clubs too? We have the perfect event for you: an **Exchange Director Training Session** is planned for 7 PM Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at the home of Barbara Peterson. Training will be given by Barbara, past president and ED for many exchanges and by Judi Stratton, Exchange Coordinator as well as past president and ED. Please contact Judi if you have questions or would like to sign up for the training. And despite the date, NO, this is NOT an April Fool's joke! We look forward to seeing you there. Judi Stratton jaspetime@comcast.net or (941) 497-5684

Exchanges - Inbound

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

We still have room for four ambassadors on this California Exchange!

Arrive Santa Barbara, CA Thursday, April 16, 2015

Depart Santa Barbara, CA Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Travel to Napa/Sonoma April 21-22

Tour up Coast Highway 1, stopping at Hearst Castle with overnights on 21st in San Simeon and Carmel on 22nd.

Arrive Napa/Sonoma, CA Thursday, April 23, 2015 for 5 day home-hosted event.

Depart Napa/Sonoma, CA Tuesday, April 28, 2015

From Karoline Hall, ED Napa/Sonoma Friendship Force

The welcome party will be at 1:00pm on April 23rd at Eagle Vines Golf Club in Napa. We will be serving a buffet lunch for everyone and then after introductions each will leave with their hosts to settle in for the night. We have had a wonderful time designing a very special exchange that will introduce you to a number of the venues which have made our area a world class destination. We have arranged excellent dining, art venues, tours and tastings of our fine wines and famous artisan olive oils. One highlight will be an exclusive private tour and tasting at the Robert Mondavi Winery in Oakville. Mondavi is credited for bringing fine winemaking to Napa and creating the wine industry in California. Spring time in Napa Sonoma is delightful and we will enjoy outdoor activities as well. One day trip that is always highly rated by visiting Ambassadors is a guided tour and walk through the Giant Coastal Redwoods in the Armstrong Woods of Sonoma County. We will also enjoy leisure time in historic Sonoma Plaza and tour the Sonoma Mission. A full schedule of our activities will be sent to you once dates and times are finalized. Our exchange fee will be \$140.00.

Estimated cost \$750 to \$800 per person. This **DOES NOT** include airfare to and from California. Contact Bob Joyce to join our group or find out further details, bobjoyce@gmail.com or phone 941-488-5627.

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

EXCHANGE MEETING: Thursday, March 5 at the end of our regularly scheduled FF meeting. This short meeting will likely include Sarasota ambassadors only and will provide a chance for us to touch base on plans. In June, we are planning a meeting during the day around the time when final exchange payment is due. Hopefully, other FL ambassadors will be able to attend this meeting so that we can all meet and share our excitement about our travels.

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 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.