

Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

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President's Message

This is a time for lots of thank you's - to the members who volunteered at the Folk Festival (with several contacts attending our International Dinner), to the members who participated in the excellent inbound exchange from Hamburg, Germany and to the committee and attendees at the International Dinner. All of these events proved how active and receptive we are in sharing the spirit of Friendship Force in diverse ways.

Our activities continue with 18 members traveling to Albuquerque, New Mexico on a domestic exchange, other members having dinner at the Hob Nob and attending the Booker High School Play, others enjoying the camaraderie of wine tastings and dinners, members joining the Semester at Sea cruise and still others sharing a movie and film talk.

We are looking forward to a special travelogue event at our June 5 meeting and a Summer Happening in July or August when we will miss many of our members who will be enjoying their summers at their northern homes or traveling the world. Wherever you may be, please remember that a "World of Friends is a World of Peace" so be friendly, and we'll see you when you return.

FLASH-Our **February 2015** Inbound Exchange from the **Isle of Wight, UK** will be headed by Terri Holsinger, ED and our **September 2015** Outbound Exchange to the **Netherlands East** is a "Match" and Peggy Hayden will be the ED. THANK YOU BOTH FOR ACCEPTING THESE ED POSITIONS!!

Katy Goodwin, President

Calendar of Events 2014

April 24-30	Outbound to Albuquerque, NM	Don Nicholson, ED
May 2	Annie Get Your Gun musical, Booker HS	5:30 Hob Nob
May 27	Board Meeting – Debbie & Gary Kuhns	7:00 pm
June 5	Regular Meeting - Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
July 31	Summer Happening-Bob's Train	11 am – 2 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	Vivan McNamara, ED
Dec 4	Annual Holiday Dinner, Mattison's 41	6-9 pm



MARK YOUR CALENDARS – June 5, Next Meeting

Booker HS play is Friday, May 2 at 7pm and meeting beforehand at the Hob Nob in Sarasota for 'fine dining' at 5:30. All Nancy's tickets have been sold but more can be purchased at the box office at Booker. Thanks and see you there.

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

DON'T MISS THIS ONE.

Traveler, musician, photographer and all around Renaissance man, **Jack Winberg** will present a visual trip through Southeast Asia. TRAVELOGUE (Stills & Video) - AN OVERVIEW OF 5 ASIAN COUNTRIES (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand)

Jack Winberg, MD, is an award winning professional photographer who had his first darkroom at age 9 and has studied with Ansel Adams, Dianne Arbus, and many others. He is an experienced instructor in photography, teaching at SCTI, Johnston Photographic Institute, The Lifelong Learning Academy and The Studios. He has exhibited his photographs widely. He also judges photo contests, lectures to photo groups, and is on the board of Sun City Photo Club. He is president of Digital Photo Artists.

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

Wait until you hear about this. For our summer happening we are going for lunch and a tour of **Bob's Train**. For years local people have heard about Bob's train but have been unable to find it. Well, we did! Bob's train is really 3 train cars. One is the dining car, one is full of circus memorabilia and the 3rd is a combination of the other 2 (including a piano). Bob is a character par excellence and has stories to tell that could take days---he is also the cook.

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

Balsamic Chicken (delicious-I have had it) **OR**

Beef Cordon Green (one of Bob's specialties) **OR**

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, know 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).



September 4, 2014 Meeting, 7-9p. Presentation on travel to Australia and New Zealand by a member of the Ft. Myers Friendship Force

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

November 7, 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.

Committee Reports



Sunshine Corner

Jay Jabus, a long time FFSRQ member passed away March 30 at 4am following a long illness. Jay and Bobbi became members of the Sarasota club in 2002 and Jay was a past treasurer.

Warm get well wishes to **Gary Anderson and Stan Holsinger**, both recovering from recent surgery.

Dotty Reed is home from Sarasota Memorial after heart surgery (valve replacement). It is a 3 month recovery period & she is all set to go on our Enrichment Cruise mid-May. Her sister is staying with her.

Meet Our New Members

Ginny Cole is a 13-year resident of Florida and a snowbird for about 5 months of the year. Her other home is in on a small lake in New Hampshire. With her husband, their life as corporate nomads took them from Connecticut to Dallas, Chicago, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Detroit. Her husband died in 2012. Ginny resides in Calusa Lakes Development in Nokomis.

As a native Hoosier, Ginny earned her bachelor's degree in math and sociology, then master's degree in secondary education, all at Indiana University in Bloomington. She was a high school math teacher for eight years and then entered the corporate world, working for Dun & Bradstreet and other firms in various positions in Human Resources, training and communications. Her 31-year career utilized her skills in writing and training. She served as treasurer of her church for about 10 years in New Hampshire.

Ginny's greatest pastime is music - she has sung in many choruses including The Singing Hoosiers at IU and various other choirs over the years and presently at First United Methodist Church in Sarasota. A thrill of her lifetime was getting to participate in a rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir while visiting Salt Lake.

Ginny also enjoys some artistic bents - designing and making art quilts, wearable art, and fashion jewelry. Germane to the Friendship Force is my passion for travel and learning. She looks forward to working down the "bucket list" as a new member here.

John LaChance is a retired criminal defense lawyer who moved from Massachusetts to Sarasota with his wife Karen and two cats in December 2013. John is a graduate of Bowdoin College and the University of Virginia Law School. He worked in a small law firm for 6 years, served another 4 years in the United States Attorney's office prosecuting federal crimes then opened his own criminal defense practice for the next 32 years. He loves fishing, is a voracious reader and enjoys writing and dining out with his wife.

Karen LaChance is a retired Massachusetts real estate broker and is a graduate of the Framingham School system, Chandler School for Women and compiled credits at various Jr. Colleges in California for an associate's degree. Karen was very active in the real estate association having served as President of the Greater Boston Association of Realtors and served terms as both a state and national director advocating for private property rights. Over her 36 yr. real estate career she sold both commercial and residential real estate and served as an expert witness as to fair market value for various agencies and courts. Karen has always enjoyed fitness and outdoor activities. As an avid reader she was heavily involved in her local library. She served 30 years as a Framingham Library Trustee, chairing the committee for 3 different terms and chaired the Library Building Committee during the construction of a \$4.5 Million new library. She was very involved in Democratic elections both local and statewide and served a term as President of the Framingham Democratic Town Committee. She participated in 3 triathlons, many 5K races and finished the Boston Marathon (walking in 6 Hrs.) raising money for various charities including breast cancer. She loves Florida and looks forward to a couple months at their Old Orchard Beach condo over the summer. She and John are looking forward to future Friendship opportunities and are delighted to be affiliated with such interesting, kind, intelligent folks!

Jim and Marie Keeney-Jim was born and raised in Colorado, and has returned there every summer his whole life. Marie grew up in Indianapolis. They met while attending Harvard. He and Marie now spend their summers in Keystone,

Colorado, where they enjoy biking, hiking and photography. Their two married sons live in LA and Vancouver, where Jim and Marie travel to visit their three grandchildren.

Jim took a one-year leave of absence from college and hitchhiked across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. He also spent several months living on an Israeli kibbutz, where he picked grapefruit and studied Hebrew. After college, Jim and Marie served for two years as volunteer teachers in Tanzania with a Harvard student-run program now known as World Teach. Returning to the states, Marie briefly taught Swahili and created a Swahili curriculum for the Philadelphia Public Schools. She then joined the faculty of the Wharton School as a book editor of its Industrial Research unit where she helped publish studies of the racial employment policies of American industrial corporations. Meanwhile, Jim got his law degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

Jim and Marie moved to Harrisburg where their two sons were born, and both worked in Pennsylvania state government. Governor Shapp appointed Marie to serve as Director of the Commission for Women. In 1979, they moved to Miami where Jim worked for seven years as a supervisory trial attorney for the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Marie started a small software and computer supplies business which she later sold and went into personnel work. Jim has recently written a book about his experiences working as a civil rights lawyer. In 1987, the Keeney family moved to Sarasota where Jim entered private law practice and Marie worked as a human resources manager and director at two aerospace corporations. After Marie got her MBA degree they worked together to recover securities losses for investors. During these years, they made trips to England, Zimbabwe, the Bahamas and Jamaica. Since retiring, they have downsized to a home just off Fruitville Road between McIntosh and Honore and travelled to China, Canada and Costa Rica. They recently hosted a FF ambassador couple from Hamburg. Jim enjoyed this chance to brush up on his high school German. In Sarasota, Jim serves on the board of the Jefferson Foundation, a 200-unit affordable housing facility for low-income seniors and Marie manages real estate and volunteers at Selby Gardens. Both are active in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota.

Curt & Toni Feldmann are long time business owners in Syracuse, New York. Toni is an accountant and Curt in business management. Now that they are living in Florida, Curt is pursuing his interest in studying Spanish—trying to become fluent which is the force behind joining Friendship Force. Toni is pursuing her interest in writing screenplays. They met Peggy Hayden at the YMCA; she told them about Friendship Force and they look forward to getting to know more of our members. Curt and Toni have six children, four in-law children and 3.9 grandchildren (.9 grandchild is due May 1). They live on Longboat Key.

I believe we have now completed all bios of new members except those who joined at the time of our International Potluck in April or since. If you have not seen your bio in the newsletter or we have failed to contact you please let either Ramona McGee (941-378-2084) or Gary Kuhns (941-320-6557) know. We hope to have bios of these recent members in the June Newsletter.



Film Talk will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month with members taking turns selecting the movie and restaurant. The May 14 meeting will be chaired by Janet Hemond and the June 11 meeting 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 great photos taken during the inbound Hamburg, Germany exchange. The Germans put on a great show at the Farewell Party. The International Dinner was a huge success with a variety of food. Some of the members came in costume representing countries they have visited or countries that have visited us. Photos taken at the dinner are in the Photo Gallery.



www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator linvende@aol.com

WINE TASTING GROUPS for members only!

Wine Group 1 met on April 17 at Judi Stratton's home. We tasted a variety of Malbec wines and our #1 wine was Flichman Malbec Tupungato 2010 from Mendoza, Argentina which cost \$17.99. Following the tasting we went to Bonefish Grill for dinner.

Wine Group 2 met at Jack and Linda Vendelands' home on April 21. We tasted a variety of Pinot Grigio wines and our #1 wine was Tesoro della Regina 2013 from Valdadige, Veneto, Italy which cost \$17.99. Following the tasting we went to Cosimos for dinner.

Our last event of the season for the wine tasting groups will be a "Beginnings and Endings" party (hearty appetizers and desserts) on Monday, May 12 at 6 PM at the home of Mary McClendon, 5029 Hanging Moss Lane, Sarasota, FL 34238.

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

HAMBURG EXCHANGE

The last week of March 2014, the Sarasota FF hosted an exchange from Hamburg, Germany. 16 ambassadors started the week with a welcome brunch and kayaking on Lido Key. They enjoyed Mote Aquarium, Myakka State Park, the Ringling, Sailor Circus, Selby Gardens and the Museum of Art and Whimsy. The exchange ended with a farewell dinner at Cosimo's and the Drum Circle on Siesta Key. It was a fun week for both the ambassadors and our local club members as we shared good times together and built fond memories and bonds of international friendship. Thanks to all for your support, Mary McClendon, ED

Albuquerque, New Mexico – November 11-18, 2014 – Vivian McNamara, ED

Isle of Wight, UK – February, 2015 – be thinking about how you can help support our visiting ambassadors. Terri Holsinger, ED

Exchanges - Outbound

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

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 jaspetime@comcast.net



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