



# Friends Connection

## Friendship Force of Sarasota

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

May, 2015

Volume 26, No 5

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### President's Message

Hello. Can you believe its May already? Our next Friendship Force Sarasota meeting will be what we do best, cook and eat! The International Pot Luck Dinner will be held at the Waldemere Fire Station on May 7 beginning at 5:30. Almost 50 members have signed up with their choice of bringing an appetizer, salad, entree or dessert. There was a balanced choice of categories and I am sure we shall be well fed. If you have a costume representing an ethnic region, please wear it. I plan on wearing a Bedouin wedding guest dress I found in a souk in Damascus.

We will hear from exchange directors for future inbound and outbound exchanges sponsored by our club. A brief description of the duties of day host for inbound exchanges will be shared. The rest of the evening will be enjoying good food and friendships. If you missed the deadline for signing up call me and we can make room for you (706-969-9732).

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

### Mark Your Calendars

May 7, Thurs	International Dinner & Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	5:30	
May 11, Mon	Wine Groups Get Together, info below	5 pm	
May 20, Wed	Film Talk, see info below	Dot Flynn	
May 26, Tues	Board Meeting	7:00 pm TBD	
June 4, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm	
June 17, Wed	Film Talk, see info below	Dot Flynn	
June 23, Tues	Board Meeting	7:00 pm TBD	
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 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

**Thursday, May 7th meeting—Waldemere Fire Station, 5:30 pm.** Our next Friendship Force Sarasota meeting will be what we do best, cook and eat! The International Pot Luck Dinner will be held at the Waldemere Fire Station on May 7 beginning at 5:30.. **Barb Hahn, VP**

**Thurs, June 5th meeting—Waldemere Fire Station, 7:00 pm.** Friendship Force Sarasota's speaker for June will be Fine Art Photographer Lynne Buchanan. Late last fall Lynne returned from a trip to Cuba and will be sharing some of her many photographs from her travels and also share her experiences of travel through the various areas of Cuba.

Lynne has traveled across the United States, Europe and many other areas. Her subjects cover landscapes, intimate photographs of flowers and other elements of nature.

It's hard to believe that she is self-taught in her photography. Lynne holds a Master's Degree in Art History, and is an avid traveler.



© Lynne V Buchanan

### **SUMMER HAPPENING, Thurs, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 1:30 pm**

#### **Touring Phillippi Estate Park and Mansion**

This estate was the winter home of Edson Keith. It is now on the US National Register of Historic Places. Wear comfortable walking shoes and casual/comfortable clothing.

- 9-9:30 am 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.
- 10:15-10:30 am Conclude our nature tour at the Edson Keith Mansion for a guided docent tour of the home, its history and residents
- 11:30-12:00 pm Head to the gazebo for a catered picnic

Cost for Lunch to be forthcoming. Looking forward to this exciting 2015 Summer Happening, **Barb Hahn, VP**

The Southwest Florida Chapter of Friendship Force invites you to attend the **All Florida Conference in Fort Myers** this October 10th from 9:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m. Here's your chance to meet International Friendship Force **President and CEO, Joy DiBenedetto** and participate in a Question & Answer Session on everything you want to know about FFI. All Florida Friendship Force members are welcome! Please come and share information with the group and take new ideas back to your club. Cost is nominal - just \$25 for lunch and refreshments. A registration form is on the last page. If you need home hosting, let us know ASAP because spaces are limited. Come check out beautiful Southwest Florida and participate in a wonderful day of networking and new friendships! Register online at Southwest Florida club website [www.friendshipforceswfl.org](http://www.friendshipforceswfl.org) or contact Sue Linehan at [rs.linehan@embarqmail.com](mailto:rs.linehan@embarqmail.com)

**Welcome New Members** – Say Hello to **John Kestly**, retired CEO, Shawano Medical Center, Shawano, Wisconsin. His background is in Industrial Engineering from UW-Madison, WI. John has a strong background in community, leadership and volunteer activities. AND he's already signed up for the Netherlands trip.

In addition to his community service he enjoys silver work, gourmet cooking, bicycling, travel, camping, woodworking and investing. **Welcome John!**

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

**Sunshine Corner** – Connie Bergin is going into Doctors Hospital on May 20th for hip operation and will stay 3 days and then be sent to Sara Bay Rehab Center for one week. We hope for a speedy recovery. Let Margaret Mills know of any other 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 on the third Wednesday of each month. 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, May 20th at Burns Court. 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!**



### NEWS FROM THE WEB

Our club members who went on the outbound exchange to Santa Barbara and Napa/Sonoma, CA look like they are having a wonderful time in the photos I posted on our web site and Facebook pages. A big THANK YOU to everyone who sent me photos. Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator  
[www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org](http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org) and <https://www.facebook.com>

### WINE TASTING GROUPS for FF members only!



On April 9, Wine Group I met at the home of Nancy & Dick Rehbocks' where they tasted a variety of Rieslings. Their #1 wine was Anakena Riesling Tama Vineyard Sel 2013 from California which cost \$13.99. This was the most expensive wine of the night. Following the tasting everyone went to the Kumo Japanese Steakhouse.



On April 13, Wine Group II met at Margaret Mill's where they tasted Cabernet Sauvignon. There was a tie for their #1 wine between Panilonco Chief of Lions 2013 from Chile which cost \$5 and Fog Head 2012 from California which cost \$15. Following the tasting they went to Mi Pueblos 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 11 at 5 pm** at Reeta Dean's clubhouse.

**Wine Tastings will resume in October.** 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 next inbound exchange will be from Los Angeles. Because this is an inbound domestic exchange it will be 5 nights. The plan is that they will arrive Sunday Oct 25th until Friday Oct 30th. Hopefully we will have 15-20 ambassadors. Yes, we will need host families and day hosts but first I need a few people that would like to help me organize the exchange. So far we have three so I could use a few more volunteers. Please let me know if you would like to join us. Barbara Peterson, 941-925-3755.

### January/February, 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. The area shares our character as a retirement destination. It has a lively cultural and educational base. 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 late January to February, 2016. Ultimately, we will need many volunteers. Currently I need to fill the committee positions to work on planning and organization for the exchange. I need: coordinators for home hosts, activities, day hosts, dinner parties, welcome and farewell parties. Thanks so much.

Many thanks to the helpful members who have volunteered and provided needed advice thus far. Phillip Price, ED  
[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 16 to 28, 2015, Domestic Exchange to Santa Barbara and Napa/Sonoma, EDs Bob & Judy Joyce**

**What a great exchange!**

Santa Barbara – Pacific Ocean, boats, Spanish missions, no A/C nor heaters; fun people, museums, art, all types of architecture, amazing landscaping. We then rented a bus and driver to ride up Pacific Coast highway 1 on our way from Santa Barbara to Napa. Stops were made at Hearst Castle, Elephant Seal Beach, Carmel by the Sea and the 17-mile loop in Monterey.



Napa/Sonoma – wine, redwood forests, wine, botanical gardens, wine, mountains, fabulous restaurants, houses in the hills, wine tasting.

Participating: Dona Brannan, Debbie and Gary Kuhns, Reeta Dean, Katy Goodwin, Gloria Grenier, Bob and Judy Joyce, Ramona McGee, Shellie Ramey, Nancy and Dick Rehbock, Judi Stratton, Donna Schaeffer and Bee and Phil Taylor from Orlando FF. EDs, Bob & Judy Joyce

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

**There will be an exchange in April 2016 to the Friendship Force of Greater Taipei**

We are getting more information from the Taipei club on exact dates, agenda and side trip(s). We are also working with Grace Rowland to coordinate with a Singles on the Go trip in March, 2016 that several of our members are participating in. We would love to fill this trip with our own FF SRQ club-max 20.

Terri Holsinger, [terriholsinger@hotmail.com](mailto:terriholsinger@hotmail.com) and Reeta Dean, [reetatoc@yahoo.com](mailto:reetatoc@yahoo.com), 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