



Friends Connection
Friendship Force of Sarasota
www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org
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November, 2015

Volume 26, No 10

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Sunshine:	Margaret Mills
Exchange Coordinator:	Judi Stratton
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President's Message

2015 is so quickly coming to a close. We have had a good and busy year. The November program looks so interesting and sorry I'll have to miss it because of a prior commitment (for 10 years now). I volunteer at a fund raiser in North Georgia to save the Hemlock trees. Mark your calendars and plan on hearing Phillip Price tell about his three weeks in the Galapagos Islands. Then, while you have your calendar out, put a reminder to attend the annual banquet on December 3, details in this newsletter.

There will be many opportunities to be involved in exchanges in 2016. Phillip Price is getting ready for a visit from Western North Carolina from Feb 25 - March 2. It is possible that Phillip could use some help. The stop-over by the Belgian Coast Club (March 14-17) is short and would be a great way to get involved. Reach out to Gary and Debbie Kuhns to see how you can help. Then in November, Cornwell members will be visiting us in Sarasota. Ramona will soon be gathering her committees to prepare for their visit.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you who have been a part of FFSRQ during my presidency in 2015. Your part in our organization helps make it the best in Florida.

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

Mark Your Calendars

Nov 5, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
Nov 16, Mon	Wine Group II	Sandy Tuveson, 4:30
Nov 18, Wed	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Nov 19, Thurs	Wine Group I	TBD
Nov 24, Tuesday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm TBD

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

Jan, 7, 2016 Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
Jan 18, Mon	Wine Group II	
Jan 20, Wed	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Jan 21, Thurs	Wine Group I	Jack Vendeland
Jan 27, Wed	Board Meeting	7:00 pm Camelot East Clubhouse

Feb 4, Thurs	Global Dinner	7:00
Feb 15, Mon	Wine Group II	
Feb 17, Wed	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Feb 18, Thurs	Wine Group I	Jack Vendeland



Feb 25-Mar 2, 2016	Inbound from Western North Carolina	Phillip Price, ED
March 14-17, 2016	Inbound Stopover – Belgian Coast Club	Gary & Debbie Kuhns
April 7-27, 2016	Outbound to FF Greater Taipei	Reeta Dean & Terri Holsinger, EDs
Sept 15-18	FFI World Conference	Marrakesh, Morocco
Oct 2016	Outbound Western North Carolina	Donna Schaeffer, ED
Nov 2016	Inbound, Cornwall England	Ramona McGee

Thurs, November 5th meeting—Waldemere Fire Station, 7:00 pm. Not to be missed!

Our informative program for Thursday, November 5th will be presented to us by our own Phillip Price.

Phill is going to share with us his adventures and experiences from his trip to Equator this past February where he spent three weeks volunteering. He had a brief stint volunteering at a farm clearing weeds, and a week at a biodiversity station in the highlands of San Cristobal engaging in different types of work. Then the balance of his time was spent touring in the Galapagos; visiting five other islands and living on three of them. Depending on what source you rely on there are only four or five “inhabited” islands of the 15 islands that form the archipelago.

The PowerPoint presentation should prove to be very informative and I’m sure Phill will share more of his adventures with us. I look forward to seeing you Thursday evening.

Barb Hahn, Vice President, **note new cell 941-266-9802**



**FFI SARASOTA
HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD**

**STONEYBROOK GOLF/COUNTRY CLUB
8801 Stoneybrook Boulevard, Sarasota 34238**

**Check for \$35.00 (includes sales tax and gratuity)
Payable to Friendship Force Sarasota
(Mail to: 5581 Axminster Drive, Sarasota 34241)**

Specialty Created Holiday Menu
5:30pm Cocktails
6:30pm Special Holiday Dinner
Entertainment

Committee Reports

Treasurer Dona Brannan--It’s that time of year: **2016 Dues are due by January 1st.**

Dues of \$25 will be collected at the regular meetings **OR**--if you wish--can be mailed to the 2016 Treasurer, Sandy Tuveson.

Please use the membership form to submit your dues. It is attached to this email.



Publicity -- The Publicity Chair needs a committee! If you like to **collaborate** on PR, marketing and other projects, please email me. I won't repeat the old bromide that many hands make light work. Oh wait, I just did. I'm turning my attention to getting some speaking engagements to talk to community groups about Friendship Force. **Please email me if you are willing to serve as a speaker or if you know places where we can spread the word.** Thank you!

Lorrie.Holm@gmail.com

Sunshine -- I appreciate all of the phone calls, cards and e-mails from my Friendship Force friends. I can't wait till I get back to the meetings so I can thank you in person. **Jack Vendeland**

If you have news about our members, please share with **Margaret Mills**, mmillsart@verizon.net or (941) 921-7946.

Social – We need a couple volunteers for the social committee. Please contact Grace. And say yes when the social committee calls for volunteers for refreshments. Email Grace Rowland at: sarasotatraveler@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE WEB

To all who took photos during the Los Angeles Exchange, please email so we can post on our website and Facebook page.

Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org and <https://www.facebook.com>

Donna Schaeffer is our webmaster in training and FB administrator for 2016. Please send photos to Donna. We wish her the best of luck in this new endeavor, Rdontrip@hotmail.com.



WINE TASTING GROUPS (FF members only)



Wine Group 1's first tasting of the season was held at the home of Judi Stratton on October 15. Eight members attended and tasted Carmenere from Chile. Their No. 1 wine was Vistamar Brisa Carmenere which cost \$6.99. Following the tasting, they viewed the sunset and had dinner at the Crow's Nest, South Jetty in Venice. Their next tasting will be on Thursday, November 19. Place and time to be determined.

Group 2's tasting was canceled due to lack of response. Their next tasting will be on Monday, November 16 at the home of Sandy Tuveson.

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



Film Talk will meet at Burns Court Cinema on the 3rd Wed of each month. Please contact **Dotty Flynn** dafsarasota@comcast.net if you would like to be added to the email list. **WE NEED YOU!**

Exchanges

If you're looking for an opportunity to travel with other Florida clubs, below are the 2015 and 2016 Exchanges.

FLORIDA EXCHANGES 2015

West Alajuela, Costa Rica to SW FL, Nov 2015

FLORIDA EXCHANGES 2016

Western North Carolina to Sarasota Feb 2016 (D)

SW FL to Turriabla, Costa Rica Feb 2016

Salisbury & North, AUS to FL Suncoast & Orlando March 2016

Coastal Belgium to Sarasota & SW FL March 2016

Sarasota to Greater Taipei, Taiwan April 2016

Helsingborg, Sweden to Orlando Sept 2016

Orlando to Reinhausen & Hamburg, Germany Oct 2016

Sarasota to Western North Carolina Oct 2016 (D)

FL Suncoast to Coatepec, Mexico Nov 2016

Cornwall UK to Sarasota Nov 2016

Bujumbura & All Africa to SW FL Dec 2016

D = Domestic exchange

FFI World Conference Sept 15-18, 2016 Marrakesh, Morocco

You read in last month's newsletter article by Ramona about the financial challenges facing Friendship Force International. Here is a way you can support FFI (especially with holidays approaching) at no cost to you.

AmazonSmile gives 0.5% of your purchase to the charity of your choosing. Not a lot, but with lots of folks doing this it could provide a fair amount to support to FFI. Sign in via <http://smile.amazon.com/> instead of just "amazon.com".

The first time you go to AmazonSmile, search for **Friendship Force International**, and then bookmark that page for the future. Then each time you purchase, FFI will benefit. Your wish lists, same low prices and Prime membership are unchanged and always there.

Judi Stratton, Exchange Coordinator, jaspetite@comcast.net or (941) 497-5684

Exchanges - Inbound

Sun, Oct 25th-Fri, Oct 30th Inbound Exchange from Los Angeles, ED Barbara Peterson

The L.A. Exchange...is completed! We all had a marvelous time. The ambassadors couldn't say enough about their home hosts and the city of Sarasota. They were truly impressed. A huge **THANK YOU** to our home hosts and our day hosts; those that joined us on the LeBarge; at breakfast and for the farewell; those that had official dinner parties and unofficial dinner parties; those on the planning committee that got the ball rolling. It does that a village to have it all work. And it did work!

Thank you. Barbara Peterson, bandwpeterson@verizon.net

February 25-March 1, 2016 Inbound Exchange from Western North Carolina
ED Phillip Price

The date is set. The club, Friendship Force of Western North Carolina, is coming February 25 to March 1, 2016. Our guests are from the metropolitan area of Asheville, North Carolina.

Donna Schaeffer will bring a sign-up sheet to the next meeting for home hosting. This exchange needs home hosts for 5 nights and 6 days. We need **YOU!** Call 908 577-0974 or email Donna at Rdontrip@hotmail.com to volunteer as a home host. Thanks so much to the helpful members who have volunteered.

Phillip Price, ED Western North Carolina Exchange. Phillip@pvprice.net (813)642-5990

Exchanges - Outbound

April 7-27, 2016, Outbound Exchange to Greater Taipei, Taiwan
EDs Terri Holsinger and Reeta Dean

Ni Hao (hello)

LAST CHANCE! Taiwan exchange and China tour April 7-27, 2016

This trip is closing. There will be no more space. If you have been dithering about going on this exciting trip to see the Terra Cotta warriors or travel on the Yangtze River to see the 3 Gorges.

NOW is the time to act. Go to the web site, read all the details and put in your \$300 deposit. No more money is due until Dec/Jan.

Don't miss this opportunity. <http://www.gate1travel.com/ffchina.aspx>

Terri Holsinger, terriholsinger@hotmail.com 317-753-2172

Reeta Dean, reetatoc@yahoo.com, 941-360-8768



See the new 2016 FF SRQ Membership form attached to this email and submit with your dues. Thanks