

Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

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

December, 2014

Volume 25, No 11

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President's Message

I hope all of you are having a happy Thanksgiving Holiday, getting ready to head into the busy month of December and looking forward to our December 4 Holiday Dinner/25th Anniversary Celebration Party at Mattison's 41. It promises to be a very festive event with many former presidents taking part in the program along with a video presentation of past events.

Our thanks go to Vivian McNamara and her committee, home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts and rest of her team for a wonderful week of entertaining our ambassadors from Albuquerque. I heard nothing but rave reviews of our city, our club and our members. If you missed the sunset cruise on Le Barge you missed a really fun party!

Congratulations are in order for our very own Ramona McGee in being selected as one of the 4 new members of the 15 member FFI Board of Directors. Ramona has served our club in every office and committee as well as being an Exchange Director several times and serving as the FFI Florida Field Representative for three years. We are very proud of you, Ramona, for this well-deserved honor.

I want to thank the members of the 2014 Board for their hard work and cooperation in making this past year a successful one with interesting programs, well-attended exchanges and increased membership and to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a new year of Friendship Force experiences to come.

Katy

As 2014 draws to a close, I am anticipating an exciting 2015 as president of Friendship Force SRQ. I know I'll need lots of help and direction and ask for your patience when I miss something you feel is important. Just call or email me and I'll get it done. I am in need of a **social chair** to coordinate goodies at our meetings.

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



Calendar of Events

Thurs, Dec 4 December	Annual Holiday Dinner & 25 th Anniversary Celebration, Mattison's 41, 6-9 pm No board meeting	
Thurs, Jan 8	Regular Meeting – Herald Tribune Comm Room	7 pm
	Notice! Change of Venue for January Meeting (see below)	
Thurs, Jan 8	Isle of Wight participant meeting prior to regular mtg	6:15 pm
Tues, Jan 27	Board Meeting	7:00 pm at Mary McClendon's
Thurs, Feb 5	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
Feb 18-25, 2015	Inbound from Isle of Wight, England	Terri Holsinger, ED
Thurs, March 5	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7:00 pm
April 16-28, 2015	Outbound to Santa Barbara/Napa/Sonoma	Bob and Judy Joyce, ED
Sept, 2015	Outbound to Netherlands	Peggy Hayden, ED



The program for the January meeting will be at a **different place on a different date**. The January meeting on the 8th will be at the **Herald Tribune Building, 1741 Main St.**

Richard Benjamin, who travels 3 times a year to China to teach teachers, will be our speaker and will fill us in on his interesting itineraries and vocation.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Last chance to make your reservation for the holiday party and 25th anniversary celebration is fast approaching. The Party is December 4th at Mattison's 41 on the south Trail from 6-9, and the deadline is December 1st. The reservation form is at the end of this newsletter and if you are a bit late in wishing to attend you can call Barb Hahn (941-922-7062) and make arrangements with her. See you there.

2014 FFI World Conference Report



The 2014 FFI World Conference, "Friendship for the Future," was held in Auckland NZ Oct 14-16. 300 delegates from 16 countries attended. There was some serious business in the plenary sessions, such as: facts and figures about changes in membership, hosting capacity, number of clubs and the results of the membership survey. CEO Joy DiBenedetto and the International Board and NEXTGEN councils will prepare a new strategic plan for the future incorporating survey results. This is a critical moment in our organization's future, as FF is growing in some ways, shrinking in other ways. Three new measures are proposed and FFI is asking for input from the leadership of all clubs. A technology expert for seniors urged attendees to "Participate in the age in which we live". Three teenage grammar school students, young ladies, did mature thoughtful presentations on the past, present and future of their country and the world.

Workshop topics included grow your club, humanitarian exchanges, planning a themed exchange. We received several requests to repeat our successful Global Themed Exchange on the Arts in Sarasota.

There were also opportunities for entertainment and fun, such as the traditional Maori formal welcoming ceremony culminating in "exchanging the breath of life," as well as Maori Kapa Haka performing arts, song, dance, and the famous haka war chant. Of the options for Thursday afternoon I chose the sailing waka (Maori boat) in Auckland harbor. Another evening an optional Maori "hangi" dinner prepared over hot rocks in the ground was offered. And of course the gala banquet offered wonderful food, music and dancing for our final evening in Auckland. And one of the plenary sessions was definitely not serious when entertainer Pinky Agnew kept the audience rolling in the aisles with laughter. Pinky thought that Friendship Force was too militaristic a name, instead she suggested Friendship Flockers. She offered us lessons on the kiwi language including "That's great, thanks", "Sweet as" in kiwi, which became everyone's favorite phrase for rest of trip.

I encourage all members to attend future conferences; it's a wonderful opportunity to see old friends, make new ones, exchange ideas with experienced and new members and learn about our organization. The 2015 Conference will be in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada August 29 - 31. In 2016 we will gather in Marrakech, Morocco. **Judi Stratton**

Committee Reports



Note from your treasurer Dona Brannan.

Dues are due by **December 31st, \$25 per person**. If there are any changes to your information in the directory please note them on your remittance.

Dues can be paid at the December 4 Holiday Party or you can send your check to Dona Brannan, c/o Friendship Force Sarasota, 4147 Oakhurst Circle W, Sarasota, FL 34233. Checks payable to FF Sarasota.

Sunshine Corner – We're sending our wishes for a speedy recovery to Judith Collier who had surgery for a broken wrist.





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 begin meeting on the **third Wednesday of each month in 2015**, usually at Burns Court Theater in late afternoon. Discussion will follow at local restaurant. Film Talk in December will remain second Wed, **Dec 10**. Details to follow. Please contact **Dotty Flynn** dafsarasota@comcast.net if you would like to be added to the list. **WE NEED YOU!**



NEWS FROM THE WEB

COMING SOON! Photos taken during our club's New Zealand Exchange will be in the Photo Gallery on our web site www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org
Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator linvende@aol.com

WINE TASTING GROUPS for FF members only!

Wine Group I met 11-20-14 at Donna Schaeffer's. They tasted a variety of Syrah/Shiraz wines and their #1 wine was Script & Seal Syrah 2011 from Washington State. The price of this wine was \$9.99. Following the tasting they went to Cha Cha Coconuts for dinner. Their next tasting will be at Jack & Linda Vendeland's on Thursday, December 18 at 4:30 PM.



Wine Group II met on 11-19-14 at Sandy Tuveson's. They tasted a variety of white wines and their #1 wine was Bridgman Riesling 2013 from Washington State. The price of this wine was \$11.99. Following the tasting they went to Applebee's for dinner. Their next tasting will be on Monday,

December 15, location to be determined. If you are interested in joining a wine group, please contact Jack & Linda Vendeland, linvende@aol.com - 941-342-6278

Exchanges - Inbound

Isle of Wight (IoW), UK – February 18-25, 2015 – Terri Holsinger, ED

Everything is in place now to host a group of 20 ambassadors from Isle of Wight. Our committee is working hard to have a fun and memorable experience for our ambassadors.

See RSVP forms at the end of the newsletter for welcome/farewell luncheons and activities. Please **DO** let us know if you have membership passes to the local venues. This helps tremendously to lower our costs. Due date for all RSVPs is February 2nd, 2015.

We will have a meeting for all IoW participants 45 min before the start of the January 8th meeting.

Exchanges - Outbound

April 16 to 28, 2015, Domestic Exchange to Santa Barbara and Napa/Sonoma, EDs Bob & Judy Joyce

As of October 19th, both clubs have approved our inbound domestic exchange to Santa Barbara and Napa/Sonoma, California. Final plans are to arrive in Santa Barbara on April 16, 2015 and be home hosted there until April 21st.

Since the Napa/Sonoma Club is more than 6 hours away from Santa Barbara, early plans are to take two days to drive up the coast and enjoy the view. A time and place to meet our hosts will be announced. A welcome party and home hosting will begin April 23rd for a stay of 5 days, ending on April 28th.

The number that each of the clubs can host is about 20. (It is dependent upon the number of couples that we send as ambassadors and the singles willing to share a room.) Coordination between the two clubs is going well so far, but both must agree on the final number of ambassadors.

Preliminary prices indicate FFI Fees, FF Sarasota Fees and Host Club fees for the two exchanges will be about \$400 to \$450 per person. As usual, this price does not include travel to and from California, the two days between exchanges and other incidental costs. Firm numbers will be available after the first of the year.

As of October 19th, there were 20 people signed-up. That number includes 5 couples. If you are seriously interested in going, call or email Bob Joyce: bobjoyce@gmail.com or (941) 488-5627. If we have more signed-up than the hosts can handle, the selection process for the Ambassadors will be based on the criteria found on our website under "Exchange Guidelines". There will be a meeting of prospective ambassadors in January.

September 2015 Netherlands Exchange and Post Exchange Tour – Updates! SIGN UP TODAY! Peggy Hayden, ED



Jan ten Cate from the Netherlands East Friendship Force based in Zutphen, Netherlands, visited Peggy & Hal Hayden in November 2014. He brought greetings from their club & supplied much useful information about the exciting program they are developing for our exchange in September 2015. We are truly in for a treat! He also supplied this website to orient us to the Netherlands, entitled "What do you think when I say 'Netherlands'...?", http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=X_jtvp2kzE Although the video does not specifically include Zutphen, it will give you a good idea about visiting the Netherlands, the country & its people. After you watch it, you will know what we were thinking when we took this photo!



**September 2015
Friendship Force Exchange To the Netherlands East
PLUS
Post Exchange Tour: Germany (Hamburg, Berlin,
Dresden & Munich during Oktoberfest) & Prague**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS EXCHANGE – Email Peggy Hayden at hayden.peg@gmail.com or call 941-306-5197 & let her know that you are interested in:

- Exchange only OR
 - Exchange AND post exchange tour
- Peggy will provide you with application materials.

*FIRST PRIORITY will be given to those who do BOTH legs of trip (exchange AND post exchange tour). Nevertheless, if only interested in Netherlands Exchange, please sign-up anyway as we may end up with a combination of members who want to do exchange only & members who want to do both exchange & tour. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION & DEPOSIT received by Peggy Hayden, 4368 Kariba Lake Terrace, Sarasota, FL 34243: January 10, 2015.** Final payment due June 6, 2015.*

EXCHANGE IN ZUTPHEN: Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 2015 (Sunday-Saturday). 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 arranged by our hosts. Deposit \$100 due Jan. 10, 2015.

AIR TRAVEL: To be arranged individually given # of people who want to combine exchange with other travel plans before or after the exchange &/or our post exchange tour.

POST EXCHANGE TOUR: September 6-16, 2015 Our tour will pick us up in Zutphen & take us to Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden, Prague & Oktoberfest in Munich (yes, it starts in September). Tour arranged especially for us by David McGuffin of Exploring Europe, Inc. Tour size will be small – 15 to a maximum of 26 people. Tour price includes transportation, hotels, fulltime guide as well as local experts, all tips to guides, drivers, restaurant & hotel staff, all breakfasts & 6 dinners, + all local tours & admissions at no extra cost. Our hotels are all located in city center or a short walk away. Cost: \$3773 per person sharing twin room, \$980 single supplement, \$50 Exploring Europe, Inc. alumni discount. Deposit \$400 due Jan. 10, 2015.

**Isle of Wight Welcome Party at Holiday Inn-Lido Beach
Arrival Day, Wed, February 18, 1-3 pm**

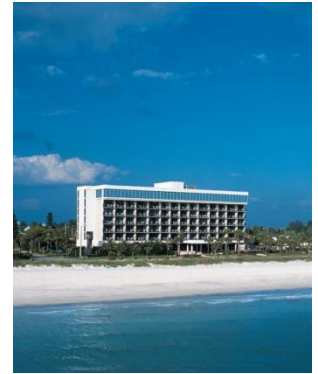
RSVP due February 2nd

The shuttle from FF Suncoast will bring our ambassadors to the Holiday Inn-Lido Beach with their luggage. The Holiday Inn is located at 233 Benjamin Franklin Dr, Sarasota, FL 34236 and has a 7th floor view of the gulf. What a welcome sight for our IoW travelers.

Luncheon includes salad, entrée, dessert, coffee, hot tea, iced tea or soft drink.

Your menu choices will be detailed when our Welcome/Farewell Host has recovered from her broken wrist. Menus do include choices of meat, pasta or veggie.

Total price is \$25 including tax and tip.



**Isle of Wight FAREWELL PARTY AT Meadows Country Club
Tuesday, February 24 1-3 pm**

RSVP due February 2nd

Luncheon includes salad, entrée, dessert, coffee, hot tea, iced tea or soft drink.

Your menu choices will be detailed in the next newsletter but will include the usual meat, pasta or veggie options.

Total price is \$23 including tax and tip.

The Meadows Country Club is located at 3101 Longmeadow, Sarasota (near Honore and 17th). There is a terrific view with plenty of room for us to socialize and enjoy the last day with our ambassadors.



NAME(S): _____

TOTAL of enclosed check: # of guests for Welcome x \$25 = \$ _____

TOTAL of enclosed check: # of guests for Farewell x \$23 = \$ _____

SEND THIS RSVP by February 2nd & CHECK Payable to: Friendship Force Sarasota

Mail to: Exchange Treasurer – Barb Hahn
5581 Axminster Dr, Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 266-5684

barbhahn@gmail.com



RSVP for Activities for Isle of Wight Exchange, February 18-25, 2015
Friendship Force of Sarasota

If questions, contact Terri Holsinger, ED, 317-7532172, terriholsinger@hotmail.com OR
Jan Gilden, Activities Chair, (520) 232-4931, buchloia@hotmail.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 Monday, February 2, 2015; unless otherwise stated, all lunches and dinners are on our own.

- Wed, 2/18 11:00 Welcome luncheon at Holiday Inn Lido Beach \$25.00
Will attend: # attending. Use the Luncheons RSVP form to attend this event.
Thurs, 2/19 10:30 Selby Garden Tour \$15
Will attend: # attending; Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
Will attend and use Selby membership card for free admission
Will attend and use Selby membership card to get another person in for \$5 (you will not have to pay the \$5)
Thurs, 2/19 Optional Evening Event-Scottish Country Dancing, http://sarasotascd.org/ Sarasota Bayfront Center, \$5 per person, 7-9:30p w a break in the middle.
Will attend: # attending; Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
Fri, 2/20 10:00 Ringling Tour \$15
Will attend: # attending; Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
Will attend and use Ringling membership card for free admission
Will attend and use Ringling pass to get others in for free - # of passes
Sun, Feb 22 Meet at 9:30a for 10a Sea Life Encounter Cruise and Mote Aquarium. If we exceed 48 we have an 11a boat option; Aquarium & Boat Combo \$36; Boat Only \$24; Aquarium Only \$18.75 (seniors)
Will attend: # for combo # for boat ride only # for aquarium only
Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
Will attend and use Mote membership card for free admission to aquarium
Will attend and willing to use Mote membership card to get another person in for free
Mon, Feb 23 Arrive 9:30 for boat tour at 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 \$
Tues, Feb 24 Arrive 9:30a for Historic Spanish Point Docent Tour \$9
Will attend: # attending; Portion of enclosed check for this activity \$
Tues, Feb 24 1-3p Farewell Luncheon at Meadows Country Club \$23
Will attend: # attending; Use Luncheons RSVP form to attend this event.

PLEASE NOTE: This RSVP does not include the Welcome or Farewell Luncheons. Please use the Luncheons RSVP form that is on a separate page.

Activities Attendee(s):

TOTAL of enclosed check for ALL activities selected above \$

Mail this RSVP to: Exchange Treasurer – Barb Hahn
5581 Axminster Dr, Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 266-5684 or barblhahn@gmail.com

Include this RSVP form with your check to reserve your seat at the Holiday Party

HOLIDAY PARTY

The holiday party and celebration of our 25th anniversary will be on December 4th at 6:00 at Mattison's 41
7275 South Tamiami Trail, Menu and price below.

Please call Barb Hahn to RSVP if you miss the deadline, (941) 266-5684

Main course---choose 1

✓ your choice

- 1. Braised Boneless Short Ribs in a port wine reduction sauce _____
- 2. Chicken Marsala---pan seared chicken breast with wild mushrooms in a rich Marsala wine sauce _____
- 3. Vegetable Torte---layers of white potato, sweet potato, yellow squash, eggplant, zucchini, Roma tomato, spinach and parmesan cheese _____

House Salad mixed field greens with toasted pine nuts, tomatoes and Gorgonzola tossed with our house made balsamic vinaigrette

Bread Focaccia with Boursin

Vegetables Roasted Rosemary Red Potatoes, Grilled Yellow Peppers, Asparagus, Zucchini and Mushrooms

Dessert Chocolate Torte---rich, flourless, dark chocolate cake with a Chambord raspberry coulis

Drinks: Coffee, tea, or soft drinks

\$35.00/person

(your club is subsidizing this event @ \$9 per person)

Name: _____ # attending: _____ Total \$: _____

Make **check** out to Sarasota Friendship Force and send with this RSVP to:

Barb Hahn
5581 Axminster Drive
Sarasota, FL 34241