



Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota



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INTERNATIONAL

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February-March, 2017

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Presidents Message

GLOBAL ARTS in SARASOTA EXCHANGE

Whew! What a phenomenal week for our club; so many of our members participated in this extraordinarily active exchange. New members jumped in with both feet and felt the excitement and glee in getting to know our ambassadors through day hosting, home hosting or entertaining in their homes for dinner. Each and every one of you needs to give yourself a pat on the back for your participation in this exchange.



It doesn't seem possible that March is just about here and February is half done. Spring will be knocking on the door before we know it and our snowbirds will start thinking about heading back to their "other home" in the north as we think about the summer months.

This year is Friendship Force International's 40th Anniversary and we plan to celebrate this milestone during our April Global Dinner. At the March meeting there will be sign-up sheets for you to write down what you would like to contribute to the success of the dinner. The Social Committee met and has plans underway to ensure the celebration of our anniversary.



Looking forward to seeing everyone on Thursday, March 2nd, Barb

Barb Hahn, 941-266-9802, barblhahn@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars

Feb 16, Thurs	Wine Group 1	5:30 home of Katy Goodwin
Feb 21, Tues	Wine Group 2	5:30 home of Margaret Mills
Feb 22, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Feb 20, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn, see below (note change in date)
Feb 28, Tues	Wine Group 3	5:00 home of Linda & Jack Vendeland
Mar 1, Wed	World Friendship Day (1977 Pres Carter)	
Mar 2, Thurs	Regular Meeting - Dinner	Waldemere Fire Station Jeanne Corcoran, Director Sarasota County Film & Entertainment Office

Mar 16, Thurs	Wine Group I	
Mar 20, Mon	Wine Group II	
Mar 22, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Mar 27, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
April 6, Thurs	Global Dinner-40th FFI Anniversary Celebration	6 p Waldemere Fire Station
Apr 16, Sun	Easter	
Apr 18, Tues	Wine Group II	
April 20, Mon	Wine Group I	
Apr 24, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Apr 26, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
May 4, Thurs	Regular Meeting	7 p Waldemere Fire Station
May 16, Tues	Wine Group II	
May 18, Thurs	Wine Group I	
May 24, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
May 29, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Jun 1, Thurs	Regular Meeting	7 p Waldemere Fire Station, last until 9/2017
Jun 26, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Jul 31, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Aug 19, Thurs	2 nd Annual pot luck supper	Camelot East Clubhouse
Aug 23, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Aug 24, 1989	1 st mtg of FF SRQ, 28 yrs-met every other month in the beginning	
Aug 25-28	Global Conference, Manchester UK	
Aug 30-Sept 6	Outbound to Isle of Wight, UK	ED Marie Beck and Terri Holsinger
Aug 28, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Sept 6-13	Outbound to Cornwall, UK	ED Marie Beck
Sept 7, Thurs	Regular Meeting	7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Sept 25, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Sept 27, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Oct 5, Thurs	Annual Meeting	7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Oct 17, Tues	Wine Group II	
Oct 19-26	Inbound from New Zealand	
Oct 19, Thurs	Wine Group I	
Oct 25, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Oct 30, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Nov 2, Thurs	Regular Meeting	7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Nov 8, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Nov 16, Thurs	Wine Group I	
Nov 21, Tues	Wine Group II	
Nov 23, Thurs	Thanksgiving Day	
Nov 27, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Dec 13, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
December 14	Holiday Dinner Party-no general mtg	Heritage Oaks
Dec 19, Tues	Wine Group II	
Dec 21, Thurs	Wine Group I	
Dec 25, Mon	Christmas Day	

Committee Reports

Membership- Peggy Hayden - This has been a great year for our membership...thanks to **YOU**, our members, who are recruiting others to join our organization. May we have continued success in the new year. Speaking of new year, we are **looking for a couple of new members in the new year to be on our Membership Committee**, 1- to attend our meetings and make our visitors feel welcome (if you have to miss a meeting it is not a problem - we keep this task doable

for our busy members) and 2 - to help write bios on our members for our "Meet Our Members" column in our monthly newsletter (we have an outline for easy phone interviews - it's fun!). If you are interested in **servicing on the Membership Committee, contact Peggy Hayden at 941-306-5197 or hayden.peg@gmail.com.**

Friendship Force (FF) Making Friends Around the World



FF is about making friends during an exchange. Frequently, it is about friendships that last beyond the exchange. In 2015, Peggy and Hal Hayden were on the exchange to the Netherlands. Hennie Luimes was their day host and Hennie and her husband, Willem, were also their dinner hosts.



Following the exchange, they stayed in touch. Then, over the holidays this year, Hennie and Willem included a visit to Peggy and Hal as part of their trip to FL with Willem's nephew and his friend. Part of their time together included lunch on the beach followed by a swim. It seems that the Dutch have an annual new year's "polar bear plunge" and so they carried out this tradition here on Coquina Beach. They shivered as if they were in the Netherlands, but actually it was warm and sunny, providing a great and memorable swim. It started 2017 out on a note of fun and friendship for everyone.

Meet Our Members

Wahib and Lois Habib (2017) joined FF at the invitation of FF member, Donna Schaeffer. Wahib is originally from Egypt. At age 24, he moved to Greensboro, NC as a refugee sponsored by a Catholic mission. His cousin lived in Greensboro and had a PhD in computer science. Wahib worked as an NCR sales rep, covering all of the NC university system and later as district manager for NC and SC. Following this position, he worked for an Ohio firm and worked based out of England. He moved back to NC and worked for the furniture industry in marketing. In this job, he traveled 17 years worldwide. His career then took him back to Egypt where he lived in Cairo as an ex-pat working for a Chinese furniture manufacturer and obtained a contract for the JW Marriott Hotel in Cairo where he lived and worked for 3 years. He finished his career working as a consultant. Over this time, he has learned to speak 5 languages: Arabic, English, Italian, French and Spanish. Lois was born in St. Louis, MO but was raised in Toronto. Over the years, she visited Sarasota. She liked the area and its weather and moved here in 1992. Her career was in insurance but her avocation is music. She has been the organist/pianist at St Armands Key Lutheran Church since 1994. In 2013, Lois and Wahib met over the internet, Wahib moved to FL and they married. Together, they have 3 sons and 2 daughters and 7 grandchildren.

They joined FF because of their love of travel and a desire to make new friends. In addition to traveling, favorite pastimes for Lois include gardening (especially orchids) and working as a part-time organist at St. Armands Lutheran Church. Wahib likes to cook, with middle eastern food a specialty. Last summer they spent a month in Egypt – his family is still there. They love to cruise. This February, they will take an eastern Caribbean cruise. This summer, they will cruise Italy and the Greek Isles.

They are looking forward to participating in various ways with our FF club including serving on committees that plan and coordinate activities for inbound FF exchanges. They would also like to be in one of our wine groups. As a result of the presentation at our January 2017 meeting, they are looking into volunteering with the World Rowing Championships. We are so glad that they started off the new year by joining our FF club. We know they will add a lot.

Barbara Hahn (2014) is one of several of our members who participate in both FF and Singles on the Go. In fact, she heard about FF through Ramona McGee who is a member of both groups. She was interested in joining FF because of her interest in travel and hearing from Ramona about FF being a good organization with opportunity for involvement.

Barb is originally from Poughkeepsie, NY but spent most of her adulthood in Indianapolis, IN. She moved to Sarasota in 1996. She currently works as personal assistant for an entrepreneur. She has a variety of interests including traveling, biking, reading, gardening, knitting, sewing, and quilting.

She got actively involved in FF immediately after joining in 2014. She first served as VP. Then agreed to serve – very ably – as our president for a 2-year term for 2016 and 2017. She has attended FL FF Conferences since joining in 2014. She has been an avid supporter in other ways in addition to serving in these offices. She initiated what is becoming our annual summer potluck. She frequently makes arrangements for us to hold various FF functions at her community clubhouse in Camelot East. Her hope for our FF club is that it will continue to grow and foster friendships through a range of social activities that highlight the energy of our new members and the experience of our long-term members.

John Kestly (2015) joined FF as a result of attending a folk festival at Oscar Scherer and visiting our FF booth there staffed by Debbie Kuhns and Terri Holsinger. He was interested in joining as a way to meet like-minded people. Moreover, he had been traveling on his own for some time, but FF offered an opportunity for unique travel experiences.

He moved to Sarasota in 2013 from Wisconsin where he was a hospital administrator. He chose Sarasota, because his parents had retired here and he was very familiar with it. He has a variety of interests/hobbies including travel, biking, cooking (eclectic – seafood especially) and reading. He is active in a number of organizations in our area: Friends of Legacy Trail and coordinates rest stops for their fund raising ride. He is on the board of directors of the Sarasota-Manatee chapter of the University of Wisconsin Alumni Association, where he coordinates several food-related events. He is also a member of the Gulf Gate Rotary Club where he works on their annual steak fry.

His inclination for active involvement has extended to FF. Since joining our club, he has been on FF outbound exchanges in 2015 to the Netherlands and in 2016 both to Taiwan combined with a commercial trip to China in the spring and a fall exchange to Asheville, NC. Inbound exchange participation has included dinner hosting for both the Cornwall and the Global exchanges and serving as a home host for the Asheville FF exchange. He hosted the Asheville member who served as his home host when our club visited there; they have stayed in touch since these exchanges. He has now volunteered to be the Exchange Director (ED) on our inbound exchange from the Wellington, New Zealand club in October 2017. He made arrangements for Peggy Hayden to join him in March to speak to the Gulf Gate Rotary Club about our club. (If you are a member of a club or group that might enjoy hearing about FF, be sure to let someone on our board know). John's many contributions to our club in the short time he has been a member are truly noteworthy to our members who know that we get the most out of our membership by being actively involved. We think we are benefitting the club, but, in reality, we are the true beneficiaries.

Peggy Hayden, Membership Chair, hayden.peg@gmail.com, 941-306-5197



Film Talk meets at **Burns Court Cinema. Mon, Feb 20-about 2 pm This is the 3rd Monday. Please note the change. 4th Monday, March 27 about 2 pm and Mon, April 24, about 2 pm.**

NOTE: shows are sometimes sold out and thus it is a good idea to order tickets online or arrive early. Discussion and Happy Hour at Classico's on Main and Palm.

Hope to see many. We send a note to our membership each month a few days ahead with the movie details. **WE NEED YOU!**

Dot Flynn, dafsarasota@comcast.net or (407) 747-5251

Database and Directory – Thank **Margaret Lewis** for her continued work on updating our database, driving membership renewal and directory.



Attached to this email is our current directory. Before it goes to print, PLEASE review your information and reply to Margaret if there are any corrections or updates. mmlewis@comcast.net or (941) 378-3553.

Friendship Force Intl (FFI), Matthew Nidek, Director of Operations, encourages everyone to receive the quarterly newsletter, monthly catalogue of exchanges and leadership news. Click on this form: [FFI Email Subscription Form](#) We promise this is a secure link with no spam or viruses. You can choose what information you would like to receive. Subscribers will then receive a link in email to click and confirm. You can access a **current list of all clubs** worldwide by clicking [here](#). There are 354 clubs worldwide. The link opens a PDF file that you can save to your tablet/computer. D stands for developing club and P is a partner-not a traditional home hosting environment. If you would like to view a list of all exchange in 2017 click here: [Catalog list-scroll to bottom right on page](#) ; “Download complete list of exchanges.”

Social – **We need volunteers for the social committee.** Please contact **Kathy Johnson Gregg, Social Chair** at: 585-315-8880 or senoritakmj82@gmail.com

FRIENDSHIP FORCE 40TH ANNIVERSARY GLOBAL DINNER

FF Sarasota will celebrate the 40TH anniversary of Friendship Force on Thursday, April 6. We will have **food and drink sign-up sheets available at the March 2** meeting. We will have appetizers, side dishes, entrees and drinks. A special dessert will be provided to commemorate the anniversary. Please plan on **bringing your contribution between 5:30 and 6 pm.** We will enjoy appetizers at 6 pm. Thanks so much.



A LOOK AHEAD

Mark your calendars: our Potluck Dinner will be August 19 and our Holiday Dinner Party will be at Heritage Oaks on December 14. Details to follow



Celebrate World Friendship Day and our 40th Anniversary! Click here to learn more. Celebration of International Peace Day, March 25, 2017, 7:00 pm. All are welcome at Venice Gardens Community Center, 406 Shamrock Blvd, Venice. Suggested donation of \$10, no one turned away. Peace and Friendship for Everyone.



NEWS FROM THE WEB

The new FFI 2017 video is on both Facebook and our web site. Check them out. Email your stories, documents and photos for **posting on Facebook and the club website and newsletter.**

<https://www.facebook.com/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota>

<http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org/>

Terri Holsinger 317-753-2172, ffsrq@outlook.com

WINE TASTING GROUPS (FF members only)

Group 1 enjoyed tasting Chardonnay wines from California, Argentina and Australia. The winner was Dominican Oaks Chardonnay Unoaked from California for \$11.29. After the tasting the group enjoyed socializing and eating the appetizers they had brought to share. Their next tasting will be on Thursday, February 16 at 5:30 at Katy Goodwin's.



Group 2 enjoyed tasting Shiraz/Syrah wines from California, Australia, France, and South Africa. Their #1 rated wine was Mallee Point Shiraz from S.E. Australia which cost \$7.29. After the tasting the group enjoyed socializing and eating the appetizers they brought to share. Their next tasting will be on Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30 at Margaret Mills's.

Good news wine lovers, we are starting a third wine group! If we have not already contacted you and you would like to join this group, please contact Jack and Linda Vendeland at linvende@aol.com or Phone# 941-342-6278. Our first tasting will be at our house on Tuesday, February 28 at 5 PM.

FF SRQ Global Exchange

For all committee members and all home/day/dinner hosts for Sarasota's global exchange on the arts, thank you for creating a positive experience for our guests and for all of us involved. Everything went very smoothly and our ambassadors were very pleased with our program and planning, our club and the warm welcome we gave our visitors. FFI heard reports about how "great" our exchange was even before they sent out the evaluation form to our ambassadors.

It truly takes a village to put all this together, and all of you working together deserve the credit. Special thanks to the new members who hosted for only their first or second time. And if any of you can claim credit for the gorgeous weather we had, thank you for that too! See photos on last page and on our web site.

Judi Stratton, ED

FF SRQ Exchanges – 2017

Our 2017 outbound exchange is to **Isle of Wight and Cornwall England, August 25 to Sept 6th** following the World Conference in Manchester. Email has gone out to names on the interest list requesting the Ambassador Application be submitted. We have 18 slots and 29 currently on the list. If you have any questions, contact Marie Beck, ED at (941) 921-7484 or mariebeck5114@gmail.com; Marie will be at the March 2nd meeting. As we have experienced in the past, there could possibly be openings due to changes in plans. Once the applications are received and ambassadors confirmed, 50% deposit will be due and the final deposit will follow 30 days later. Due to so many different travel plans, airfare is not included in the estimated budget.

Our other exchange this year is an **INBOUND**. **Wellington New Zealand** will be coming **October 18-25**. I call this a regular exchange. Their club is coming to see Sarasota and so many of the wonderful things we have to offer, from beaches to many of the attractions that we regularly take our guests to. **John Kestley has volunteered to be ED**. Thanks, John. **Barbara Peterson**, Exchange Coordinator, bandwpeterson@verizon.net or (941) 925-3755

More photos at <https://www.facebook.com/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota>
<https://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org/>

