



Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota



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INTERNATIONAL

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April, 2017

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Presidents Message

'Spring' has officially arrived, and the clocks have jumped forward and doesn't it make you feel like you want to get out and work in the garden; jump on your bike and go for a ride; or head to the golf course and enjoy the great fresh air, blue skies, and comradery of your friends?

April 6th is our Global Dinner. We are hoping all of you will be coming and bringing a guest to learn more about Friendship Force Sarasota. There is a reminder in this newsletter about the dinner--be sure to let Kathy Gregg, know that you are coming. Our new members and guests will learn about the exciting Journey we have with ambassadors from New Zealand in the fall. Then in 2018, we go to Xalapa and Mundo Maya de Tuxtla, Gutierrez, Mexico and looking forward to having Florianópolis Brazil and Rostov-on-Don Russia and come to see us.

The board is working on Summer Wine Group get-togethers in July and August. The Wine Group committee recently started a third group and the board felt that such a popular group would continue during the summer months. August 19th will be our 2nd Annual Potluck at the Camelot East Clubhouse, At the April, May and June meetings there will be sign-up sheets for the potluck.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Global Dinner! Barb

Mark Your Calendars

April 6, Thur	Global Dinner-40th FFI Anniversary Celebration 5:30 p Waldemere Fire Sta
Apr 16, Sun	Easter
Apr 17, Mon	Film Talk
Apr 18, Tues	Wine Group II
Apr 20, Mon	Wine Group I
April 25, Tue	Wine Group III, home of Wahib & Lois Habib
Apr 26, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm
May 1, Mon	Final Wine Group Joint Party, Village Green, 6 p
May 11 Thur	Regular Meeting 7 p, NEW DATE Waldemere Fire Station
May 15, Thur	Film Talk
May 24, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm
Jun 1, Thurs	Regular Meeting 7 p Waldemere Fire Station, last until 9/2017
Jun 19, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Jul 17, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn

Aug 19, Thur	2nd Annual potluck supper Camelot East Clubhouse
Aug 21, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Aug 23, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm
Aug 24, 1989	1st mtg of FF SRQ
Aug 25-28	Global Conference, Manchester UK
Aug 30-Sept 6	Outbound to Isle of Wight, UK ED Marie Beck
Sept 6-13	Outbound to Cornwall, UK ED Marie Beck
Sept 7, Thur	Regular Meeting 7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Sept 18, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Sept 27, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm
Oct 5, Thurs	Annual Meeting, 7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Oct 16, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Oct 17, Tues	Wine Group II
Oct 19-26	Inbound from New Zealand
Oct 19, Thurs	Wine Group I
Oct 24, Tues	Wine Group III
Oct 25, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm
Nov 2, Thurs	Regular Meeting 7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Nov 8, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm
Nov 16, Thur	Wine Group I
Nov 20, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Nov 21, Tue	Wine Group II
Nov 23, Thurs	Thanksgiving Day
Nov 28, Tue	Wine Group III
Dec 13, Wed	Board Meeting, 7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse, Social Rm
Dec 14, Wed	Holiday Dinner Party-no general mtg, Heritage Oaks
Dec 18, Mon	Film Talk, Dot Flynn
Dec 19, Tue	Wine Group II
Dec 21, Thur	Wine Group I
Dec 25, Mon	Christmas Day

Dec 26, Tue	Wine Group III

Please **NOTE**: the May meeting is
re-scheduled to Thursday, May 11th

Patda DeLaTorre has scheduled another terrific presenter:

May 11th, Jeanne Corcoran, Director of the Sarasota County Film & Entertainment Office will discuss efforts to bring movie and entertainment producers to Sarasota. Mission: diversify and enrich Sarasota County's economic development by attracting and serving motion pictures, television, commercials, music, still photography and all other forms of media production, while promoting and serving the people, locations, products, services, businesses and other assets throughout Sarasota County, thereby enhancing tourism, prosperity and quality of life throughout our 570 square mile region.

June 1st, Jana Overstreet, Director, Ringling College Lifelong Learning Academy (RCLLA)

Committee Reports

Membership- Peggy Hayden - We would like to announce that Madri Willson is a new member of the Membership Committee along with Joan Emrich, Gail Gardner, Peggy Hayden and Jeannetta Mouncey. If you would like to join this group that plays such an important role with our club, please let Peggy Hayden know. Our role is to welcome visitors when they attend our meeting and to occasionally interview new members and write a brief bio about them (there is a format for that - it's easy...and fun!) Serving on the committee doesn't take much time and it's okay if you have to miss a meeting since we have enough members to cover when needed. It's an easy way to get involved in our club and get to know other members.
Peggy Hayden at 941-306-5197 or hayden.peg@gmail.com.

Meet Our Members

Susan Bailey (2017) learned about FF through a session on travel that our FF member, Joan Emrich, facilitated at the Lifelong Learning Encore Conference (FF members Karen Bush and Louise Machinist helped organize this conference). She was interested in joining FF because of her love of traveling. Some of her favorite travels have taken her to South Africa, Thailand, Europe (she lived in Belgium for a year) as well as the Arctic and Antarctica. She is a member of The Century Club whose members have traveled to 100 countries or more. In all, she has visited 159 countries!

She was accountant in Bethlehem, PA. In 2004, she retired to Cape Coral. Her husband died 2005. She moved to Sarasota in 2015. She is having an active retirement including membership in Singles on the Go, Encore, LWR Photography Club, SRQ Camera Club and the Audubon Society. She also enjoys taking photography classes.

She is looking forward to being involved in FF activities including inbound journeys/exchanges.

Gail Conway (2017) was invited to FF by Barbara Hahn. She was interested in joining, because of her interest in traveling. Some of her favorite travels have included trips to Canada, France, Italy, Caribbean, Ireland, and England as well as many places in the U.S. She has 3 trips planned with Singles on the Go (SOTG) including Ireland, Holland and England, Scotland and Wales.

Originally from Boston, Gail was a high school teacher in Canton, MA and Adult Education teacher with Norwood High School in Norwood, MA. She went to work for General Electric in 1979 and worked for 10 years at Construction Products in Lynn, MA, first as an expeditor, then as a Junior Buyer and later Buyer and finally as Director of Purchasing. When she moved to Cleveland Ohio with her husband in 1987, she returned to teaching. They lived in Cleveland for 27 years and bought a winter place in Venice. After her husband's death, she decided to stay full time in Venice with summers on Cape Cod.

In addition to traveling, she enjoys bridge, mahjong, walking, biking, joining clubs, golf, golf leagues and generally having fun. She is looking forward to being actively involved in FF including outbound journeys/exchanges and inbound.

Bill and Julie Feeley (2017) learned about FF through a session on travel that our FF member, Joan Emrich, facilitated at the Lifelong Learning Encore Conference. They were interested in joining because of their interest in travel. They have traveled extensively in Latin America and Europe as well as "city-breaks" in the U.S. and Canada.

He is originally from Rhode Island and she is from PA. They met in Boston after college and lived in New England, California and Oregon. In 2000, they moved to Tampa and later St. Petersburg before moving to Sarasota in 2013. Bill is presently CEO of American Bullnose Tampa Bay, Inc in Sarasota. He also has interests in real estate through his holding company, Suncoast Realty Advisors. Julie's career has been in education including being a reading specialist and wellness educator. She has done outreach to those in need as a volunteer with Caritas at St. Martha's Church in Sarasota and is active in an after school enrichment program for Gillespie Park (where they live). She is also assisting writing and implementing city and county grant programs for Gillespie Park. Bill's sports interests include squash and tennis. Bill and Julie both play pickle ball and are avid skiers, bikers, beach walkers and health club enthusiasts.

They are interested in new adventures with FF. They have already joined one of our wine groups. They are also interested in participating in outbound journeys/exchanges and inbound journeys including day and dinner hosting as well as serving on inbound hosting committees.

Louise Machinist (2017) learned about FF from several friends who are FF members including her condo-mate, Karen Bush. Her love of travel prompted her to join. In fact, she and Karen are both signed up for a journey (formerly called exchange) to Indonesia with the Willamette Valley, Oregon FF. She was motivated to go on this trip, because it is exotic and an opportunity to learn about a completely different culture...different from her previous travels in mostly European countries. Louise and Karen are also traveling with some neighbors this April to Cuba. Then, in May, she will be going on a tour of Croatia.

After retiring as a clinical psychologist in Pittsburgh, she moved to Sarasota. She enjoys having time to travel as a retiree + time to be involved in things that are important to her. She is a Democratic Party precinct captain, a member of Key Chorale, a Guardian ad Litem, and an enthusiastic participant in the Ringling College Lifelong Learning Academy. She speaks limited Spanish and is working on expanding her skills through reading Spanish novels and connecting with others who speak Spanish.

Her FF experience started with helping to host a dinner party with Karen. She is looking forward to being a day host and dinner party co-host. She would also like to practice her language skills with other FF members who speak some Spanish. So, the next time you see her, say, 'hola'.

Film Talk now meets at **Burns Court Cinema on the 3rd Mon of each month** about 2 pm. Next meeting is April 17.



Hope to see you there. 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, (407) 747-5251

Database and Directory – Thank **Margaret Lewis** for her continued work on updating our database and directory. All directories were mailed to homes. Updated directory is attached to email



Email or call Margaret if there are any corrections or updates. mmlewis@comcast.net or (941) 378-3553.

Explore the new Friendship Force Intl (FFI) website www.friendshipforce.org. **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](#) or see a complete list at: [2017 Journeys](#). There are 354 clubs worldwide. The link opens a PDF file that you can save to your tablet/computer.

Social

FRIENDSHIP FORCE 40TH ANNIVERSARY And GLOBAL DINNER

FF Sarasota will celebrate the 40TH anniversary of Friendship Force on Thursday, April 6.

We continue to take reservations for the dinner.

Arrive by 5:30 with your food contribution

Appetizers at 6

Dinner buffet at 6:30

Please email Kathy Johnson Gregg at

senioritakmj82@gmail.com for reservations.

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.

NEWS FROM THE WEB and NEWSLETTER

We're trying a different newsletter format. Let us know what you think; is it more readable? Suggestions!



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 (members only)

Group 1 enjoyed tasting a variety of red wines from

France, California, and

Argentina. The winner was Double Black Zinfandel from California which cost \$12.99. After the tasting the group enjoyed appetizers. Their next tasting will be on Thursday, April 20 at 6 pm, at the home of Donna Schaeffer.

Group 2 tasted red wines from Chile and Argentina at the home of Peg & Hal Hayden. Their #1 rated wine was Cruz Alta Malbec Reserve from Argentina which cost \$12.49. After the tasting they enjoyed shared appetizers.



Their next tasting will be on Tuesday, April 18 at 5:30 at the home of Gretchen Castner.

Group 3 canceled their tasting due to travel and lack of wine tasters. Their next tasting will be on Tuesday, April 25 at 5 PM at the home of Wahib & Lois Habib.

To join, contact Jack & Linda Vendeland

FF SRQ Journeys

We received our assignments from FFI for 2018.

As your Journey Coordinator I responded positively to each club involved and am waiting for responses.

Our possibilities are:

1. March or April we would **host Florianópolis, Brazil** with FF Houston.
2. In November we were given **Rostov-on-Don Russia** plus possibly 2 other clubs from the area. This would be with Orlando.
3. For **outbound Journeys** we have been given **Xalapa and Mundo Maya do Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico** in Feb. Again we are waiting for their response.
4. For our Domestic Journey (within our own country) we will be going to **Connecticut**. Yes, it is a go! They would like us in early Oct, to enjoy the turning of the leaves and many other adventures. This fall we will put out a list for those interested and also be looking for a Journey Coordinator. We will be looking for Coordinators for the other Journeys as well as more information as it becomes available.

Journeys for 2017. These Journeys are well under way.

1. For the **outbound**, ED Marie Beck and Treasurer Terri Holsinger are well into the planning and final touches for the Journey to IOW and Cornwall England, August-30-Sept 13th.
2. **Incoming** from Wellington, New Zealand, John Kestly and his committee are getting ready. You still have time to sign up and help: home hosting, day hosting, dinner parties and other activities. Watch for more news and requests from John. This will take place Thurs Oct 19-26th. It seems like a long time from now--but will be here before we know it!

Barbara Peterson, Exchange Coordinator,
bandwpeterson@verizon.net or (941) 925-3755

Ramona McGee and Katy Goodwin will be celebrating World Friendship Day 40th Anniversary Celebration aboard the Holland America ship, Westerdam, with 60 fellow Friendship Force members on the Transatlantic Voyage from Florida to Rome.

Our members on the cruise are from Australia, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand and United States.



Photos from February – April (email your favorite photos to ffsrq@outlook)

Rehbocks at Snook Haven, Banjo Thursday



Vendelands at Snook Haven

Amsterdam

Feb
Wine
Tasting
Group 1



Sammy, Maasai in Kenya



Maasai leaping in dance

The Holsingers took an FFI Humanitarian trip to Kenya and Tanzania with the FF Lincoln, NE club

Maasai Dancing,
Tanzania

