



Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

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

August, 2015

Volume 26, No 7

President:	Mary McClendon	
	marymc5936@verizon.net	
Vice-President	Barb Hahn	
Secretary:	Irma Blake	
Treasurer:	Dona Brannan	
Membership		
Database & Directory		Margaret Lewis
Club Expansion & Mentoring		Gary Kuhns

Editor:	Terri Holsinger
	ffsrq@outlook.com
Web Administrator:	Linda Vendeland
Social:	Grace Rowland
Publicity:	Lorrie Holm
Sunshine:	Margaret Mills
Exchange Coordinator:	Judi Stratton
Past President:	Katy Goodwin

President's Message

See you **August 6** at the Phillippi Estate Park **Summer Happening**.

Be sure to register for the **All Florida FF Conference** in Ft Myers on Oct 10. See info below. Please let me know if you are attending.

We have an opening for a new web administrator starting in January. Our web queen, Linda V, is stepping down after maintaining a beautiful web face for FF SRQ for many years. Linda will continue to work on the web site until 12-31-15 and will gladly share everything she knows with the new web administrator. The job description is: **maintain FF SRQ web pages as needed** www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org. Please contact one of our officers if you are interested in being our new web administrator.

Please volunteer--it's the only way our club will remain viable--**we need home hosts**. See opportunities below. Thanks

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



Mark Your Calendars

Aug 6, Thurs	Summer Happening , Phillippi Estate Park Info below; No regular August meeting	9 am to 1:30
Aug 19, Wed	Film Talk, see info below	Dot Flynn
Aug 25 Tues	Board Meeting	7:00 TBD
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
Oct 10	All Florida FF Conference, Ft Myers	9:30 am – 4:30 pm
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

Thurs, September 3rd meeting—Waldemere Fire Station, 7:00 pm. Not to be missed!

LYNNE BUCHANAN – FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHER

We are so very fortunate to have as our program speaker, Lynne Buchanan, fine art photographer.

Lynne is going to share some of her stories and photos from her 10-day trip to Cuba, a cross cultural journey last fall where she visited Santiago, Baracoa and Havana. While there Lynne met musicians, dancers and other cultural groups.

With Cuba opening its doors and the opening of embassies in the US and Havana, we will get a front row view of Lynne's adventure.

Lynne lives in Micanopy and grew up in Sarasota. Lynne will have some of her matted photographs for you to see and purchase. More examples of her fine work can be seen on her website at <http://lynnebuchanan.blogspot.com>

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

Lorrie Holm, VP Elect for 2016-17

Meeting Speakers

I want to pick the brains of our brainy members for a moment. I'm putting together the meeting programs for 2016 and 2017 so I need your input.

My plan is to alternate between speakers who have a special knowledge about an aspect of travel and speakers in our club who would share their experiences of Friendship Force exchanges.

If you would be willing to speak for a half hour and show pictures of your FF trip, just let me know and we'll work out a date for that to happen. If you know someone in the travel industry or who "wrote the book" on a travel topic, please pass along that information.

Also if you have a topic you'd like to learn about, send that too. I'll do my best to make the next two years of Friendship Force Sarasota meetings fun and interesting.

Thanks in advance for **volunteers** and your suggestions. Please email me at: lorrie.holm@gmail.com



FRIENDSHIP FORCE SARASOTA

SUMMER HAPPENING

Thursday, August 6th
9:00am – 1:30pm

Touring **Phillippi Estate Park and Mansion**
The winter home of Edson Keith
Wear comfortable walking shoes and casual/comfortable clothing



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

Cost for Lunch \$19.00, check made payable to Barb Hahn
(Mail to: 5581 Axminster Drive, Sarasota 34241)

Looking forward to this exciting 2015 Summer Happening

Committee Reports

Welcome New Members

New membership directories for 2015 were distributed at recent meetings. Please call Margaret Lewis to make arrangements if you have not received your copy at 941-378-3553 or mmlewis@comcast.net.

Sunshine Corner – Let Margaret Mills know of any health updates, 941-921-7946 or 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. We **need volunteers** for the Sept, Oct and Nov. refreshment table. Please email Grace Rowland, SarasotaTraveler@gmail.com with the month you can volunteer. Grace will be at the **SUMMER HAPPENING** and you can volunteer there as well.

Film Talk will meet at Burns Court Cinema. Please contact **Dotty Flynn** dafsarasota@comcast.net if you would like to be added to the email list. **WE NEED YOU!** Film Talk will continue through the summer.



NEWS FROM THE WEB

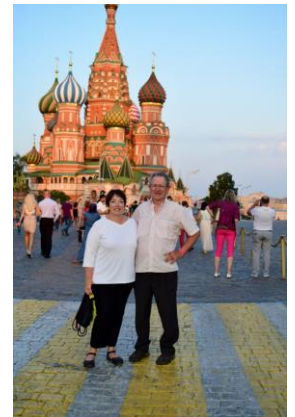


For those attending the Summer Happening at Phillippi Estate Park and Mansion; **please take photos** and send them to me for the web site.

Stan and Terri Holsinger just returned from a trip with FF Central North Carolina to Russia “Journey of the Czars” that included a homestay in Moscow, a visit to the Golden Ring and 6 days in St Petersburg. This trip has to be on your bucket list.

Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org and <https://www.facebook.com>



WINE TASTING GROUPS (FF members only) Wine Tastings will resume in October. Have a great summer! If you are interested in joining a wine group, please contact Jack & Linda Vendeland, 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. 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! See you at the **All Florida FF Conference** in October.

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

Our five day exchange is getting closer. The committees have their plans almost complete. We are great on activities, day hosts, dinner parties,,,,,we could use a **few more home hosts**. There will be 10 ambassadors for sure, two couples and six ladies. We will have the program for you in the Sept newsletter. If you think you could help us out with **home hosting** we would love to hear from you. This is your opportunity to truly be involved in a FF exchange. For home hosting contact Katy Goodwin at katygoodwin@msn.com and all the other questions, concerns or comments contact Barbara Peterson, at bandwpeterson@verizon.net. Thank you. **Barbara Peterson**

February/March, 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. 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 the last week in February or the week that bridges February and March, 2016. Ultimately, we will need many volunteers. Currently I need to fill the committee position of **Home Hosts** chair for the exchange. Many thanks to the helpful members who have **volunteered** and provided needed advice thus far.

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

Exchanges - Outbound

Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 2015 (Sunday-Saturday) EXCHANGE TO EASTERN NETHERLANDS, ED, Peggy Hayden

EXCHANGE OVERVIEW: We will meet on Sunday, August 30 at the Amsterdam Airport with some coming directly from the U.S. and some coming from pre-exchange travel. Our hosts are arranging a bus to take us from the airport to our exchange "base", Zutphen, a town with medieval history in eastern Netherlands about 1.5 hours from Amsterdam. Exchange activities planned by our hosts include our welcome event in the beautiful gardens of "Ampies Berg" in 't Harde; explore Zutphen; a canal ride in Giethoorn, the "VENICE of the Netherlands"; touring Elburg, a special old fortified town; and visiting the national Open Air Museum with antique houses, farms and factories from different parts of the Netherlands focusing on the culture associated with the everyday lives of ordinary Dutch people. On free days, our home or day hosts will help us explore the area to visit places such as a Van Gogh Museum, tour an Airborne Museum and site of the Battle of Arnhem (depicted in the movie, "A Bridge Too Far") and much more. We will have our farewell dinner on September 5 and depart on September 6, with some of us traveling home and others continuing travel on their own.

OUR AMBASSADORS: 17 of us are traveling with 2 from Clearwater, 2 from Orlando, 2 from Iowa and 11 from Sarasota: Jim Chastain, Beverly Gerety, Hal & Peggy Hayden, Nancy Heart, Bob & Judy Joyce, John Kestly, Jeannetta Mouncey, Phillip Price & Jean West Walker. 17 is the maximum that our hosts can accommodate. Several of us – including the Clearwater and Orlando ambassadors - met at Peggy & Hal's house on June 6 to get acquainted over Dutch cheeses, talk about our itinerary, August 30 exchange meet-up and September 6 departures, plan our "hello" & "thank you" at the welcome and farewell events + learn some basic Dutch phrases and tips for traveling in the Netherlands from our fellow ambassador, Jeannetta, who was born in the Netherlands & travels there frequently. We will be looking forward to sharing with you the highlights of our travels when we return!

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

Ni Hao

Now is the time to jump in and join the FF exchange to Taiwan accompanied by a tour of mainland China.

What – 2-week tour of China including Beijing, the Great Wall, Yangtze River cruise, Xian (home of the terra cotta army) and Shanghai. Plus one week exchange with FF Greater Taipei.

When--April 7-27, 2016

Who --FF of Sarasota and possibly other club's members

How--plane, trains, boat and good feet.

How much—approx. \$3586 for 14-day tour/cruise, 1 week exchange costs and all air fare from Los Angeles to Shanghai, Beijing to Taipei and Taipei to Los Angeles. Additional costs will be visa, travel insurance, optional tours, room upgrade and transportation to and from Los Angeles within US. The single supplement is approx. \$374.

Why-- because this is your best opportunity to see the famous sights of China and meet friendly people in Taiwan.



Contact Terri or Reeta and we will give you more details and set you up with the website where you can pay your \$300 deposit. (The balance is due in January 2016.) We would love to fill this trip with our own FF SRQ club-max 20; we have 14 who plan to join this exchange. We are finalizing flight details with Gate 1 Travel and the web site will be able to take deposits within a week or two.

Terri Holsinger, terriholsinger@hotmail.com 317-753-2172 and Reeta Dean, reetatoc@yahoo.com, 941-360-8768
co-EDs

Please notify Mary McClendon if you plan to attend conference
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

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 or Respond via email to Ron Linehan at 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 1st choice
1:30 Rest room Break
1:45 – 2:30 Meet in Breakout groups 2nd choice
2:30 Meeting in whole group for reports and debriefings
3:30 Questions & Answers to FFI, Final Comments from the Group