



**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**
thefriendshipforce.org

Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

January, 2014

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katygoodwin@msn.com
Vice Pres.: Reeta Dean
Secretary: Donna Schaeffer
Treasurer: Dona Brannan
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President's Message

I hope all of you had a very happy holiday season with family and friends and are ready to support our club in its busy year ahead. We have been so fortunate to have had excellent officers and committees and have welcomed many new members thanks to all of their efforts. Now it is time to make our new members feel welcome, encourage them to participate and teach them about the meaning and workings of Friendship Force. Our members come from different backgrounds with different skills and strengths. We want to utilize these various talents in serving on committees and exchanges and preparing for leadership roles. In other words, this is going to be a "Getting to Know You" year for all of us. Our program on Thursday, January 2 will start us out on this theme. Don't miss it!!

If you have not sent in your \$25 dues per person for 2014, please do so now to our new treasurer, Dona Brannan, 4147 Oakhurst Circle, Sarasota, FL 34233 or be ready to pay at the January 2 meeting. We would like to have new directories as soon as possible.



The first opportunity to serve our club will be during the Global Arts Exchange January 31-February 9. I know that most of you have been contacted to serve as home host, day host, dinner host, or committee member or several of these. What a wonderful opportunity to experience first-hand the workings of an active, involved Friendship Force club. This is a large undertaking on our part, and it takes the cooperation of a large number of members to make it a success. If you can volunteer in any additional way, please call Gloria Grenier, 358-1383 or Barbara Peterson, 925-3755.

If the Global Arts Exchange dates don't fit with your calendar, don't fret - you have two opportunities to serve in March - the Folk Festival at Oscar Scherer State Park March 22-23 and the inbound Hamburg, Germany exchange March 24-31. And there are always opportunities to provide refreshments at meetings, join a wine tasting group,

help with the International Dinner and get acquainted with other members.

It's time to Explore - Understand - Serve.

Katy

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside*****

January 2	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm****
January 21	Board Meeting at home of Katy Goodwin
January 30	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm**** (in lieu of February meeting due to Global Exchange)
Jan 31-Feb 9	Inbound Global Themed Exchange****
February 25	Board Meeting at home of TBA
March 6	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm
March 18	Board Meeting at home of TBA 7pm
March 22-23	Folk Festival at Oscar Scherer State Park
March 24-31	Inbound Exchange from Hamburg, Germany

Note from Editor

This is a truly bittersweet moment in my life as I write my last issue of *Friends Connection*. I have been your Editor for the past 10 years and it is time for a rest for me and a change for you. We have taken this newsletter from a monthly job of printing, hand folding, stamping, and addressing envelopes to a new invention called the internet. In the process, we have saved our club considerable funds and saved me from a lot of boring labor. Now it is time to step even further into the future. Your new Editor will have even better ideas how to make more improvements and make your newsletter current and interesting. Thank you to all of our FFSRQ board members and contributors to the last 10 years of *Friends Connection*. It could not have been written without you.

Nancy

JANUARY DOUBLE HEADER----MARK YOUR CALENDARS



January is a big month for FF meetings. Because of the exciting Global Exchange in early February, we will have our usual Feb meeting at the end of January. Therefore---we have 2 meetings in January. Make sure you attend both because you will be glad you did.

Jan 2-----Meet the new officers.

Learn about the new special interest film group forming.

Hear about the International Conference from our past president.

See some of our new members interviewed.

It's an action packed meeting that you won't want to miss!

Jan 30-----On the cusp of the Global Exchange we will hear from Jim Shirley, the executive director of the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, who will fill us in on all the wonderful cultural venues in Sarasota----many of which we will attend during the Exchange.

Be sure to be there so you can learn and impart lots of new information to our incoming ambassadors from around the world.

Congratulations to our New Officers for 2014!

President –Katy Goodwin Secretary – Donna Schaeffer
Vice President –Reeta Dean Treasurer – Dona Brannan

The committee chairpersons of the board for 2014 are listed in the banner at the top of this Newsletter.



Sunshine Corner



- **Joan March** was hospitalized in Sarasota Memorial Courtyard for diagnostic testing. Get well wishes are on their way..
- Two **of Linda Vendeland**'s grandsons were seriously injured in a car accident over Thanksgiving weekend. The 25 year old has two fractured femurs and has had surgery. The 29 year old has head trauma and was in a medically induced coma. Jack and Linda would like you to keep them in your prayers.
- **Dick Rehbock** fractured his left arm over the Thanksgiving weekend. He is doing well and enjoying his respite from household duties.
- Congratulations are in order to **Debbie Boyd** and **Gary Kuhns** who became engaged on Thanksgiving Day. The wedding was held December 22nd. Best wishes to you both.
- **Edna Schneider** broke her leg while visiting her son in Arizona. She has since returned home. We are wishing her a speedy recovery.
- Get well wishes go out to **Barb Baptist** who recently suffered a stroke while visiting in Indiana.



Meet Our New Members

Please welcome **Carol Poteat-Buchanan** who joined us in December. Carol is a former member and attended the FF International Conference in New Orleans in November of 2013.

Michele Conley and **Peter Smentkowski** also joined us in December.

Make it a point to seek out these new members and say hello.

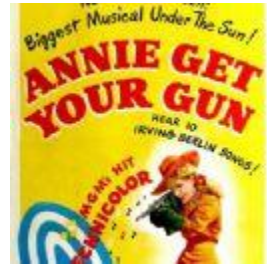
Musical **"Annie Get Your Gun"** at Booker Visual Performing Arts School

Nancy Rehbock has 30 tickets available at \$10.00 each for the 7pm performance on Friday May 2, 2014.

Please bring cash to pay Nancy directly. She will be at the January meeting.

Before the play, meet the group at the Hob Nob Drive-in on US41 in Sarasota at 5:30pm and experience some 'fine dining'.

Additional tickets can be purchased at the Booker HS box office.



Film Talk is a new group starting in January.



On the **Third Sunday** of every month, from 4-6PM, we will meet in someone's home to discuss a movie playing at Burns Ct. We'll all bring appetizers to share and whatever you're drinking.

A couple of weeks before we meet, I will email you the name of the movie to see on your own and whose home we will be meeting in for the discussion. We will take turns facilitating and hosting each month.

Please email me if you are interested in joining us and I'll put you on the list.

Judith Collier

jcscoots@verizon.net

NEWS FROM THE WEB

Nancy Rehbock posted some great photos of our Holiday Party on our Website and Facebook page. Be sure to take a look at them because you may find a photo of yourself there.



www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org.

Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator linvende@aol.com

WINE TASTING GROUPS – for members only!

Wine Group 2 will meet on January 8 at Bonnie Frey's home, and Wine Group 1 will meet on January 16 at Nancy & Dick Rehbock's home. If anyone is interested in joining a wine group, please contact us via e-mail or phone.

Jack and Linda Vendeland linvende@aol.com - 941-342-6278



REMINDER! If you have not yet paid your dues, they can be paid at the Jan. 2 meeting or if mailing, please be sure to send all checks to our new treasurer's address as shown below.

Please renew your FF Membership for 2014 by filling out this form as soon as possible!

All dues run from January to December and need to be paid for the coming year by **December 31, 2013**. We try to put our Membership Directory out by the first of the year so it is important for you to **renew now**. Please send the following form, one per household, with your check. **Please update with current information and indicate if it is new.** Thank you.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email(s) _____

Dues \$ 25 per person x _____ = _____

Name Badge \$ 12 per person x _____ = _____

Total \$ _____

Please mail with check made out to FF of Sarasota to **Dona Brannan, 4147 Oakhurst Circle W. SRQ FL 34233**

FFI World Conference NOLA November 2013

The World Conference was one big party in the city known for never-ending mardi gras. Musical entertainment was wonderful, and the closing gala dinner was followed by a "mardi gras" parade down Bourbon Street. But it was much more than a party too. On the FFI website you will find downloadable photos, videos of musical entertainment, and links to materials shared with attendees in the various plenary sessions and workshops. Here are some of the ideas other clubs have incorporated which impressed me and which our club might want to consider.

- The future of the club is in the community, not in the current members.
- Invite as featured guests at every general meeting the members of one club of the community.
- Ethnic dinners with ethnic groups can lead to more diverse membership.
- Publicizing exchanges to the whole community, inviting guest hosts and guest ambassadors can bring in potential future members.
- Try "speed dating" in languages, splitting time between English and the other language.
- Breakfast scramble, a fun idea to get to know other members better.

•Possible ways to bring in new members from the Next Generation: Use “meetup” online tool to create Next Generation clubs or locate clubs in our community with similar interests to FF. Consider “Hosting Lite”, tandem exchanges and tandem clubs, two 3-day weekends treated as one exchange for fees and management. Be sure to consult the FFI website for more details about presentations. Judi Stratton, FF-SRQ delegate to the World Conference

Exchanges

Outbound

Albuquerque, New Mexico – April 24-30, 2014

The exchange is full and there is a long waiting list. Please address any questions to Don Nicholson, ED donkaynicholson@comcast.net

Sarasota/Orlando to Central Coast, Australia & Whangarei, New Zealand



Sept 29 -October 27, 2014

Departing Florida Sept 29 we arrive in Sydney Oct 1 for 2 nights for an excursion to the Blue Mountains UNESCO World Heritage site as well as free time to explore the city on your own. Two official 5 night homestay exchanges follow: Oct 3 - 8 in Central Coast AUS (north of Sydney), Oct 8 - 13 in Whangarei NZE on the North Island, followed by the FFI World Conference in Auckland. A

fabulous tour of NZE follows the conference including Rotorua and Wellington and the many highlights of the South Island known for its scenic beauty and unique flora and fauna. Optional pre-exchange touring in AUS including the Great Barrier Reef, Daintree Rainforest, Uluru and Kata Tjuta will begin with a departure from Florida Sept 25. Both groups will return to the USA Oct 27.



If you are interested in this exchange and have not yet added your name to the sign up list, please contact me. All people who have signed up as potential ambassadors will receive by early January updated information on itineraries and cost estimates via email.



Please turn in to me by **January 16** your ambassador application (form available on the FFI website) and a deposit of \$500 to hold your place



as well as the Exchange Trip Component Selection Form/ registration commitment version. This exchange will also be advertised in the FFI “World of Friends” Catalog.

ED Judi Stratton jaspetite@comcast.net

Inbound

Hamburg, Germany – March 24-31, 2014

Opportunity Continues to Knock

I know this is a busy time of year but the inbound exchange from Hamburg is coming closer.

Please consider being a home host or a day host and contact Grace Rowland (941-706-7679) or Dottie Reed (941-223-2431). We still need 4 home hosts: a couple, two ladies (twice) or one lady. I don't think we can have too many day hosts.

We are also still in need of the Farewell Dinner Committee chair and the Dinner Parties Chair and hosts. If you have never chaired these committees, you will be given a mentor to help you with the details. Contact ED Mary McClendon, marymc5936@aol.com (941-923-3785).

Global Themed Exchange Jan. 31 – Feb. 9, 2014

EXPERIENCE THE ARTS OF GREATER SARASOTA FL

January 31 to February 9, 2014

There has been a wonderful response from our members in support of our first themed global exchange. We will host 25 Ambassadors from Japan, Great Britain, Switzerland, Canada and all parts of the United States. The program has been well received. Here are some of the numbers that will astound you. To accommodate the Ambassadors, there are 17 home host families (couples or singles), 20 day hosts and 9 dinner party hosts. The planning committee consists of 7 members and there are 8 on the Exchange Committee. It does take a village!!! Thank you all for volunteering to make this unique FF-SRQ exchange an inevitable success.

Tickets for the Sarasota Orchestra, the Sarasota Ballet, the Chamber Soiree and FST are no longer available for purchase however the following events are still available and the deadlines are listed individually.

Saturday, Feb. 8 at 7 pm Circus Sarasota \$25 (available until Jan. 5)

Wednesday, Feb. 5 tour, lunch and matinee at the Asolo Rep \$59 (deadline Jan 29)

Friday, Feb. 7 at 2 pm Le Barge cruise \$17 (deadline Jan 29)

**Also do not forget to reserve for the Welcome and Farewell Parties
(details on another page)**

Please make your check out to:

**Ramona McGee and mail it to her at 5316 Dominica Circle, Sarasota FL
34233 by the stated deadlines.**

EXPERIENCE THE ARTS OF GREATER SARASOTA FL
JAN 31 - FEB 9, 2014

WELCOME BRUNCH - FEBRUARY 1 AT 11:00AM

Join us for brunch at Whispering Sands Tiki Hut on Siesta Beach
(In case of inclement weather, the main clubhouse is also reserved)
MENU: Assorted quiches, Breakfast meats, Fruit Salad, Baked Goods,
Yogurt
Orange juice, Coffee, Water
\$15.00 per person

After an exhilarating week of activities with our guests, we'll gather
for a

FAREWELL LUNCH at ROSEBUD'S RESTAURANT

(2215 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey FL 34229)

At 12 noon on Saturday, February 8

MENU:

Tossed Salad, Ranch Dressing
Choice of: 1. Sautéed Chicken Breast with onions, peppers &
mushrooms, Baked Potato
2. Herb Crusted White Fish, Baked Potato
3. Steak Kebob over Rice
Spumoni Ice Cream
Non-Alcoholic beverage
\$23.00 per person

Please select your entrée and mail your check to:
Ramona McGee, 5316 Dominica Circle, Sarasota FL 34233

The deadline for both parties is January 29, 2014