



friendship force
SARASOTA

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Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

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January, 2015

Volume 26, No 1

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Vice-President	Barb Hahn
Secretary:	Irma Blake
Treasurer:	Dona Brannan
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Club Expansion & Mentoring	Gary Kuhns

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Social:	Need a volunteer
Publicity:	Lorrie Holm
Sunshine:	Margaret Mills
Exchange Coordinator:	Judi Stratton
Past Pres:	Katy Goodwin

President's Message



How busy the holiday season becomes. I hope you had a good time with friends and/or family and are now ready to take on 2015. A good beginning would be attending the Friendship Force Sarasota meeting on January 8th at the Sarasota Herald Tribune Community Room. The date had to be changed because the usual 1st Thursday was on New Year's Day and wasn't feasible for us to meet. Come so you can begin planning for your next trip with FFSRQ. As your new president, I hope to be able to guide us through 2015 and its exciting incoming and outgoing exchanges. Our board is still missing a Hospitality Chair. Please consider volunteering to fill this position. If you are interested but concerned about times you would not be here, we could have co-chairs.

See you on January 8th and future first Thursdays.

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

Calendar of Events



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
Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 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 8th meeting will be at the **Herald Tribune Building, 1741 Main St., Sarasota**

Don't miss this one!

Start the year with this interesting program. Remember the date and venue have changed for just this one meeting. On Jan 8th **Dr. Richard Benjamin will share 'friendship' stories of working with schools in Hong Kong and Mainland China during semi-retirement**. He has been visiting twice a year since 2005, forging deep friendships and working with courageous educators using key arts-based strategies to deepen academic learning and foster the development of good character. The approaches, initially piloted in the US when Benjamin was the school superintendent in Ann Arbor MI and Nashville TN, involve the preparation of students to teach other students using the arts to teach other academic subjects.

Committee Reports



Note from your treasurer Dona Brannan.

As of January 1st, your 2015 **Dues are OVERDUE**. The Membership Directory will go to printing the end of January and if your dues have not been received by then your name and information cannot be included in the 2015 Directory.

Bring your check for \$25 to the January 8th meeting.

Your checks should be made out to **FRIENDSHIP FORCE SARASOTA**

OR mail to:

Dona Brannan
4147 Oakhurst Circle West
Sarasota, FL 34233

Sunshine Corner – We're sending our wishes for a speedy recovery to Judy Joyce who has a broken wrist. And just after she returned from a major trip!



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 meet on the **third Wednesday** of each month in 2015.

"Theory of Everything" was seen in December at Burns Court. About 9 were in attendance and I do believe a good time was had by all. Discussion and light supper followed at nearby restaurant.



We meet at **Burns Court Cinema**, 1506 Burns Lane, Sarasota 34236, 941-955-3456. Hopefully, a foreign film will be playing. All members are very welcome.

Sarasota Film Society has a yearly membership of \$30 which enables you to see most films at Burns Court for \$5. Name and time of film will be emailed about one week prior. An RSVP is appreciated as this allows us to make reservations at a restaurant.

Hope to see many of you Wednesday, January 21 at Burns Court. Please contact **Dotty Flynn** dafsarasota@comcast.net if you would like to be added to the email list. **WE NEED YOU!**



NEWS FROM THE WEB

Photos taken during our club's New Zealand Exchange are currently 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 on 12-18-14 at Jack & Linda Vendeland's home. They tasted a variety of Chardonnay wines and their #1 wine was Calcareous Twisted Paso Chardonnay 2012 from Paso Robles, Central Coast, CA. The price of this wine was \$21.99. Following the tasting they went to the Bangkok restaurant for dinner. Their next tasting will be at Debbie & Gary Kuhns' on Thursday, January 15.



Wine Group II met on 12-19-14 at Mary McClendon's. They tasted a variety of Riesling wines and their #1 wine was Summit Estates Riesling 2013 from Columbia Valley, WA. The price of this wine was \$7.99.

Following the tasting they went to Gecko's for dinner. Their next tasting will be on Monday, January 19 at Gretchen Castner's at 5 PM. If you are interested in joining a wine group, please contact Jack & Linda Vendeland, linvende@aol.com - 941-342-278

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. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this exchange possible.

We **need another dinner host**. Please contact Connie Bergin at sunshine.bergin@comcast.net or 941-492-2222

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 at 6:15 pm.

An **Exchange Director is needed** for our inbound exchange from the **Los Angeles club** scheduled for some time during the last two weeks of **October 2015**. If you are interested in this position, please contact me at 941-497-5684 or jaspetite@comcast.net. New EDs without experience are welcome to apply. Don't worry, an ED Manual, training and mentoring will be provided. A simple domestic exchange like this one is a good way to begin.

Judi Stratton, Exchange Coordinator

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.

EXCHANGE TO EASTERN NETHERLANDS: 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) & much, much more. We have 2 free days back-to-back with options 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 on August 30 arranged by our hosts. Deposit \$100.

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

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 UPDATE: There will be no organized post-exchange tour due to lack of interest. However, interest in the exchange is good from members of our Sarasota club as well as other FL clubs.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS EXCHANGE – Email Peggy Hayden at hayden.peg@gmail.com or call [941-306-5197](tel:941-306-5197). Peggy will provide you with application materials.

MAKE IT YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO JOIN US IN THE NETHERLANDS!

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

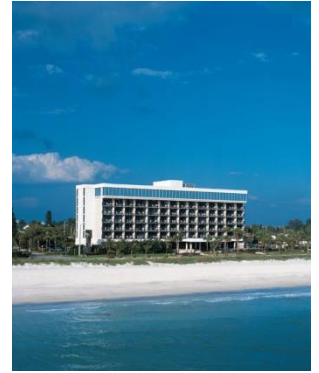
RSVP due February 2nd

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 soon and 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