



friendship force  
SARASOTA

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## Friends Connection

### Friendship Force of Sarasota

[www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org](http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org)

[www.facebook.com/pages/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota-Florida](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota-Florida)

July, 2014

Volume 25, No 7

President:	Katy Goodwin <a href="mailto:katygoodwin@msn.com">katygoodwin@msn.com</a>	
Vice-President	Reeta Dean	
Secretary:	Donna Schaeffer	
Treasurer:	Dona Brannan	
Membership		
	Database & Directory	Margaret Lewis
	Club Expansion & Mentoring	Gary Kuhns

Editor:	Terri Holsinger <a href="mailto:ffsrq@outlook.com">ffsrq@outlook.com</a>	
Web Administrator:	Linda Vendeland	
Social:	Bonnie Frey	
Publicity:	Peggy Hayden	
Sunshine:	Margaret Mills	
Past Pres:	Judi Stratton	

#### President's Message

I hope everyone had a great time celebrating the birth of our country on the 4th of July. The fireworks in Sarasota were super!! I know many of you are enjoying your summer away from our heat and humidity - I plan to cool off soon in Iceland.

Meantime - some updates:

Bob and Judy Joyce presented a program on Brazil to the Southwest Florida FF club in June and their president and her husband will present a program for us at our September 4 meeting.

At our last board meeting it was voted to delete the position of Sister Cities from our committees as the relationship with them has not been productive. A big thanks goes to Carol Boofter for chairing this spot.

One of our new members, Lorrie Holm, has graciously accepted the Publicity Chairmanship and is already working with Peggy Hayden in assuming her new duties. Thank you, Lorrie!

As a result of the letter you all received from the Nominating Committee we have another new member who has volunteered to be our Vice-President for next year. Please see the Nominating Committee report on the proposed slate of officers for 2015.

We have received a report from FFI on the USA and Canadian Club Survey that was done in 2013 by contacting all club presidents and asking questions relative to their clubs. The survey is available on the FFI website or by reading my copy.

The Florida Regional Conference will be held in Orlando on Saturday, September 6. You will find information and a registration form at the **end of this newsletter**. All FF members are invited to attend. There will be a delegation from our club so please let me know if you are interested in joining us.



I look forward to seeing many of you at the Summer Happening on Thursday, July 31 at 11:00 for lunch at Bob's Train.

Toot - toot, Katy  
Katy Goodwin, President

#### Calendar of Events

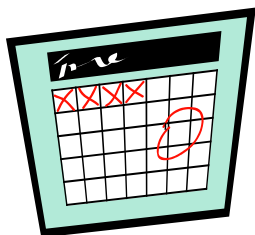
July 31	Summer Happening-Bob's Train	11 am – 2 pm
Aug 26	Board Meeting, Vivian McNamara host	7:00 pm
Sept 4	Regular Meeting – Waldemere Fire Station	7-9 pm
Sat, Sept 6	All Florida Regional Conference, Orlando	info at end of newsletter

Oct 2	Regular Meeting – Waldemere Fire Station (Elections)	7-9 pm
Nov 6	Regular Meeting – Waldemere Fire Station	7-9 pm
Nov 11-18	Inbound from Albuquerque, NM	Vivian McNamara, ED
Dec 4	Annual Holiday Dinner, Mattison's 41	6-9 pm
Feb 18-25, 2015	Inbound from Isle of Wight, England	Terri Holsinger, ED
Sept, 2015	Outbound to Netherlands	Peggy Hayden, ED

### Nominating Committee News

The Nominating Committee is very pleased to present to the membership an excellent slate of candidates for officers of FF-SRQ for 2015: President: Mary McClendon, Vice-President: Barb Hahn, Secretary: Irma Blake, Treasurer: Dona Brannan. The election of officers will take place at the October general meeting of the club.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**September 4, 2014 Meeting, 7-9 pm Waldemere Fire Station.** September is our chance to receive and share information with another Florida club. Joanne Collins, president of the SW Florida club, is coming to us from Punta Gorda to give a slide presentation with music on Australia. She presented it to the SW club and it was very well received. The timing is perfect since the International Conference will be held in Australia in October and our outbound will be nearby in New Zealand. Hope to see you there.

**October 2, 2014 Meeting, 7-9p.** Our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary party

**November 6, 2014 Meeting, 7-9p.** Presentation by Sandy Ramsey, owner of Artisans World Marketplace, a fair marketplace supporting groups in countries around the world.

**December 4, 2014 Meeting, 6-9 PM,** Annual holiday dinner at Mattison's 41. Members will be getting information on how to RSVP for this event.

### SUMMER HAPPENING Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 11:00 to 2:00

#### LAST CALL FOR BOB'S TRAIN

All aboard for our summer happening, Thursday, July 31 from 11 a.m. to 2:00. Join us for lunch and a unique experience as you browse through 3 railroad cars full of circus memorabilia and listen to Bob's many exploits. Bob, who owned a restaurant near downtown for many years, is the cook and has offered a menu of:

Balsamic Chicken OR

Beef Cordon Green (with spinach and cheese) OR

Tilapia

All meals include salad, veg and chip, beverage and Rum on the Rails dessert

Lunch is \$18 including tax and tip and you pay on the train

Please respond to Reeta Dean [reetatoc@yahoo.com](mailto:reetatoc@yahoo.com) by July 25th if you wish to partake of the fun. Be sure to let me know which entree you wish so I can alert Bob in advance.

<http://bobstrain.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Sarasota.Suncoast.Railroad>

Join us at 11:00 am on July 31st to enjoy the food and historical perspective on Bob's Train.

Directions - Bob's Train is located at 2211 Fruitville Road but because the train cars are real and are on actual train tracks, it's a bit tricky to find. From Interstate-75 take the Fruitville exit and go west toward downtown Sarasota; at N. School Avenue make a right; you'll pass the Budget Self-Storage (on left) and just as the street starts curving and N. School becomes 3rd St., turn right through the Vengroff, Williams & Associates parking lot and go past the little pink guard shack. Head to the back toward the old brown train car (that's Jomar) in the back, you'll see a big tin warehouse-like building (Sarasota Strength Center and Boxing Club), and enter the main car which is painted red, white and blue.

## Committee Reports



**Sunshine Corner** – Judi Stratton had shoulder surgery on July 15. Procedure was more complex than expected but Judy is doing well.

## Meet Our New Members

**Mariann Carmody** is originally from Brooklyn, NY. She moved to Sarasota 30 years ago from Maryland. She has a B.A. in English and a B.S. in Home Economics but went into business as a Purchasing Agent. Mariann's three children and five grandchildren in Maryland.

Mariann likes to quilt, crochet, read and of course travel. She and her three cats live in Oakhurst. Mariann is anxious to get involved with Friendship Force and make new friends.

**Bob Prince** is from Milwaukee and a graduate of Yale. He is retired from manufacturing and retail management, real estate and construction. He is widowed and has two grown children and a grandchild. Travels for personal pleasure have taken Bob to over 50 countries around the world. He has visited Sarasota since 1970 and purchased a home here in 2008.

Bob's hobbies are gardening, cars and doing things mechanical. He volunteers for five not-for-profit organizations in Wisconsin. When in Sarasota, Bob resides in Bent Tree.

**Pamela Brown** is retired from her job as Manager of the Library for the Blind in Virginia Beach and spent her first retirement year traveling. She visited Alaska, Hawaii, Costa Rica, Panama, and Mexico.

In November, Pamela plans to return to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico for 6 months. She will be in Spanish language school and volunteering with other Americans and Canadians to support Mexican women and children. In Sarasota, Pamela volunteers for the Sarasota Counties Public Library, the All-Faiths Food Bank and the Sarasota Public Schools. Pamela resides in Gillespie Park in downtown Sarasota. She is eager to participate in Friendship Force programs and meet new friends.

Welcome to our many new members.



**Film Talk** will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month with members taking turns selecting the movie and restaurant. The June 11 meeting will be hosted by Dorothy Flynn. Please contact these ladies if you would like to be added to their contact list, Jane, [janhemond@comcast.net](mailto:janhemond@comcast.net) or Dotty at [dafsarasota@comcast.net](mailto:dafsarasota@comcast.net).

## NEWS FROM THE WEB

Linda is creating a slide show of photos taken from the formation of our club in 1989 to the present. If you have any photos from 1989 to 2008 that you would like to be included please email them to Linda at [linvende@aol.com](mailto:linvende@aol.com). Also, please send me photos taken at the lunch at Bob's train. Thank you. [www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org](http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org). Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator  
[linvende@aol.com](mailto:linvende@aol.com)



## WINE TASTING GROUPS for members only!

Our wine tastings will resume in October. If anyone is interested in joining a wine group, please contact us via e-mail or phone. Jack and Linda Vendeland, [linvende@aol.com](mailto:linvende@aol.com) - 941-342-6278



## Exchanges - Inbound

### Albuquerque, New Mexico – November 11-18, 2014 – Vivian McNamara, ED

The Albuquerque Exchange is shaping up nicely; however, we are still in need of day hosts, dinner hosts and a few home hosts. It will be a fun exchange and if you haven't gotten involved in an exchange before, this is a good way to get involved and meet some wonderful Ambassadors from Albuquerque. Call Vivian McNamara at 941-412-9102.

**Isle of Wight, UK – February 18-25, 2015 – We need volunteers** to make this a memorable inbound. Need: day hosts, dinner hosts, home hosts, treasurer, gift bag person. Please see sign-up sheet at Bob's Train luncheon or contact me by phone or email. Terri Holsinger, ED, contact me at [terriholsinger@hotmail.com](mailto:terriholsinger@hotmail.com) or 317-753-2172. Thanks so much.

## Exchanges - Outbound

### Sarasota, FL to Netherlands East, September, 2015 – Peggy Hayden, ED

**Netherlands Exchange, September 2015** – Our club will visit the Netherlands East FF Club, tentatively some week in September 2015. Their club is located in Zutphen in the eastern Netherlands. They have approximately 55 members, both families and singles, living throughout the province. They can accommodate 15-20 ambassadors. Peggy Hayden, our ED, is in the early stages of planning in collaboration with their ED, Eilke Smid.

**THEIR CLUB/EXCHANGE OVERVIEW** - Learn more about their club at

[http://www.friendshipforcenederlandooost.nl/eng\\_club\\_profile.html](http://www.friendshipforcenederlandooost.nl/eng_club_profile.html). We will likely fly into Amsterdam or Dusseldorf, Germany and then take the train. They will meet us at the railway station. Depending on the time of day, there will be a welcome lunch or coffee with some cakes at our first meeting. During the week, they typically have 3 or 4 days of activities with the entire group and also 2 or 3 free days. Our visit will conclude with a farewell party.

**ZUTPHEN AND NEARBY POINTS OF INTEREST** - Learn more at <http://wikitravel.org/en/Zutphen>.

**OPTIONAL PRIVATE TOUR** - We are looking into options for a private tour to add to this exchange as FFI indicates that exchanges with 2 clubs in Europe will not be possible. Stay tuned.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS EXCHANGE** – Email Peggy Hayden at [hayden.peg@gmail.com](mailto:hayden.peg@gmail.com). Please do so even if you have spoken with her about this in order to reconfirm your interest.



### Sarasota/Orlando, FL to Whangarei, New Zealand, Oct 6 - 27, 2014

Good news! Four World Conference attendees will be joining our group for our post-Conference tour of the North and South Islands, so our tour price has decreased a little. Ambassadors, please watch your email in-box for information coming very soon about due dates and amounts to be paid. All further monies due will be paid directly to FFI by credit card, making payments easier for everyone. There will be lots more information coming soon about your fellow travelers and the New Zealand experience. It's getting closer to departure date! ED Judi Stratton, [jaspetite@comcast.net](mailto:jaspetite@comcast.net)





**All-Florida Friendship Force Conference  
Saturday September 6, 2014 9:30 – 4:30**

**Why:**

- Make new friends and catch up with friends you know
- Share best practices and ideas regarding club leadership
- Receive updates from FFI, Educational Project Manager, Allison Lindsey, and Florida State Field Representative, Sandy Gourdine
- Ask questions and share resources
- Network with clubs in Florida

**Who:** All Friendship Force members are welcome. Please include anyone in your club who is considered a leader (past, present, and/or future). Board members are specifically asked to attend together to share information and to take new ideas back to their clubs.

**Where:** Highlands Clubhouse <http://thehighlander.org/thehighlandsclubhouse.html>  
2200 Shepard Rd, Winter Springs, FL 32708

**Cost:** \$ 20.00 /person to cover lunch, refreshments and venue

**How do I register?**

**RSVP:** Respond to Beth Lange by email [Bal63@aol.com](mailto:Bal63@aol.com) or call 352-326-3319 with the following information:

- Name
- Club Name
- Email address / or mailing address if no email
- Leadership positions you have held or would like to learn more about

**Confirm your registration by sending your registration fee by August 25**

Make checks out to **Friendship Force of Greater Orlando** and send to:

**Mary Johnson**

633 N. Park Ave Apt. 5A  
Winter Park, FL 32789

**Home Hosting:** Although there is no formal program in the evening, home hosting arrangements are available and hospitality can be arranged with your host. Please contact JoAnne Gatlin [jamgat64@gmail.com](mailto:jamgat64@gmail.com) or 407-876-3569 by **August 1, 2014** if you would like a home host.

**Agenda:**

9:30-10:00	Registration check in /coffee/icebreaker
10:00-11:45	Welcome from Greater Orlando President, Bee Taylor <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Introductions</li><li>▪ Comments from Florida Field Rep, Sandy Gourdine</li><li>▪ Comments from FFI representative Allison Lindsey, Educational Project Manager</li></ul>
11:45	Overview of breakout groups
Noon	Lunch
12:30 – 1:15	Meet in Breakout groups 1 <sup>st</sup> choice
1:30 – 2:15	Meet in Breakout groups 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice
2:30	Meeting in whole group for report outs and debrief
3:30	Final comments
4:00	Depart

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ALL-FLORIDA FRIENDSHIP FORCE CONFERENCE  
Saturday, September 6, 2014, 9:30am– 4:30 pm

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS YOU HAVE HELD \_\_\_\_\_

TOPICS YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS CHECK FOR \$20 REGISTRATION FEE  
(Made payable to Friendship Force of Greater Orlando or FFGO)

SEND YOUR REGISTRATION FEE BY AUGUST 25 TO:

Mary Johnson  
633 North Park Avenue, Apt. 5A  
Winter Park, FL 32789