

Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

www.facebook.com/pages/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota-Florida

November, 2014

Volume 25, No 10

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| Treasurer: | Dona Brannan | |
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President's Message

We continue to welcome back our snowbirds and prepare for a busy fall and winter Friendship Force season. Other members have elected to enjoy fall travels while those of us here at home are enjoying beautiful weather. Many new members have volunteered to be home, day and dinner hosts for our upcoming inbound from Albuquerque and the Isle of Wight. We hope they will enjoy the new experience of hosting ambassadors from other clubs and learning the pleasure that Friendship Force membership brings.



You had an opportunity to get acquainted with your new officers at the October meeting, and I hope that you will say "yes" if you are asked to participate in the new board or committees that they will be establishing.

The Board of Directors of FFI has been talking about the future with a new strategic plan based on the global surveys which were done this year and is asking for input from each club to ensure the growth and sustainability of the organization. Your board will be discussing these issues and reporting back to FFI.

Now let's all have a fun, spooky Halloween and greet our guests from Albuquerque with gusto! Katy

Calendar of Events

| | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| Tues, Oct 28 | Board Meeting | 7 pm at Lorrie Holm's |
| Thurs, Nov 6 | Regular Meeting – Waldemere Fire Station | 7 pm |
| Nov 11-18 | Inbound from Albuquerque, NM | Vivian McNamara, ED |
| Tues, Nov 25 | Board Meeting | 7 pm at Barb Hahn's |
| Thurs, Dec 4 | Annual Holiday Dinner & 25 th Anniversary Celebration, Mattison's 41, 6-9 pm | |
| Thurs, Jan 8 | Regular Meeting – Sarasota Herald Tribune Comm Room | 7 pm |
| Feb 18-25, 2015 | Inbound from Isle of Wight, England | Terri Holsinger, ED |
| April 16-28, 2015 | Outbound to Santa Barbara/Napa/Sonoma | Bob and Judy Joyce, ED |
| Sept, 2015 | Outbound to Netherlands | Peggy Hayden, ED |

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



November 6, 2014 Meeting, 7-9p.

FLASH ON THE MOVE -- That's the name of our new November program. Due to health issues, our previous November presenter has had to bow out. Lucky for us we engaged a local photographer who has her own studio here in town and will give us a program that focuses on picture taking while on vacation--including when to use or not use your flash. Fortunately, Maria Lyle is free on the evening of our meeting and you will want to hear her tips on good picture taking.

December 4, 2014 Meeting, 6-9 PM, We will have our holiday party and celebrate our 25th anniversary at Mattison's 41

HOLIDAY PARTY

The holiday party and celebration of our 25th anniversary will be on December 4th at 6:00 at Mattison's 41
7275 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
Use RSVP form at end of newsletter to reserve your seat

Main course---choice of 1

1. Braised Boneless Short Ribs in a port wine reduction sauce
2. Chicken Marsala---pan seared chicken breast with wild mushrooms in a rich marsala wine sauce
3. Vegetable Torte---layers of white potato, sweet potato, yellow squash, eggplant, zucchini, Roma tomato, spinach and parmesan cheese

House Salad mixed field greens with toasted pine nuts, tomatoes and Gorgonzola tossed with our house made balsamic vinaigrette

Bread Focaccia with Boursin

Vegetables Roasted Rosemary Red Potatoes, Grilled Yellow Peppers, Asparagus, Zucchini and Mushrooms

Dessert Chocolate Torte---rich, flourless, dark chocolate cake with a Chambord raspberry coulis

Drinks: Coffee, tea or soft drinks

Cash bar (not included in the dinner cost)

\$35.00/person

(Your club is subsidizing this event \$9.00 per person)

Make check out to Sarasota Friendship Force. Complete RSVP and include with your check.

Barb Hahn
5581 Axminster Drive
Sarasota, FL 34241

Committee Reports



Note from your treasurer Dona Brannan.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN -- \$25 IS DUE FOR THE 2015 DUES.

Well, it's really not due until the first of January but why not pay now and get it off your mind.

As your treasurer will be off gallivanting, Gloria Grenier will happily be accepting your checks at the November 6th meeting.

Welcome our new members

Maeen Gorbett, RN, speaks Lithuanian and some French and enjoys swimming, reading and travel.

Madri Wilson joined Friendship Force this past May. She is almost a native Sarasotan, having moved here when she was 7 years of age. Madri is a massage therapist/reflexologist and nutrition consultant. Madri is an avid gardener and loves the arts, especially ballet and theatre. She also enjoys Zumba in her spare time. She has a grown daughter who lives in Bradenton. Madri lives near downtown Sarasota.



Dorothy Flynn is originally from the New York City area. She and her husband moved to Sarasota about thirty years ago. She is a graduate of Mount St. Vincent College in New York with degrees in English and Philosophy. They have three children. Dorothy was a case manager with Sarasota Memorial Hospital but is now retired. She also volunteers at The Ringling Museum as a docent. Dorothy enjoys travel but her husband prefers to remain at home. She recently returned from a trip to Israel. Dorothy is co-chair of the FFSRQ Film Group. She and her husband live in the Forest Lakes area of Sarasota.



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 continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month with members taking turns selecting the movie and restaurant. **Wednesday, Nov 12** is our next movie. We plan to attend a movie at Burns Court that afternoon; hopefully about 4 pm. Discussion will follow at a local restaurant. Details to follow. Please contact **Dotty Flynn** dafsarasota@comcast.net or **Betty Kuhns** bets.bk@gmail.com if you would like to be added to their contact list.



NEWS FROM THE WEB

Our club members who went on the New Zealand exchange will be returning on October 28, so hopefully we will have photos of their trip to post 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 October 16 at the home of Nancy & Dick Rehbock. They tasted a variety of Pinot Grigio wines and their #1 wine was Summit Estates 2013 from the State of Washington. The price of this wine was \$9.99. Following the tasting they went to Texas Road House for dinner. Their next tasting will be at Donna Schaeffer's on November 20th at 4:30p.



Wine Group II did not meet this month as most of their members were out of town. Their next tasting will be at Sandy Tuveson's at 5:30p on November 19.

If you are interested in joining a wine group, please contact Jack & Linda Vendeland. 941-342-6278

Exchanges - Inbound

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

On November 11th, we look forward to welcoming the Friendship Force club from Albuquerque who hosted our club so graciously in April. I am pleased so many of our Friendship Force club members have volunteered in some way to make this a memorable exchange for them. We've **extended the deadline** for activities and luncheons to Nov 6 at General Meeting. **There are 5 spaces available for the Welcome Luncheon** and no limits on the activities.

Please fill out the attached RSVP form and bring to meeting.

Reminder to all home hosts to meet at 6:15p prior to the Nov 6 FF General Meeting at the Fire Station.

Isle of Wight (IoW), UK – February 18-25, 2015 – Terri Holsinger, ED

We have a terrific set of coordinators now in place-thanks to everyone who said YES. We also have a home for every ambassador-Judy Joyce finished matches before she and Bob left town-wow! We still **need** a few day hosts and dinner hosts to make this a memorable inbound. Please contact Terri by phone or email, terriholsinger@hotmail.com or 317-753-2172.

We are in planning with Alan Logan, ED from IoW and the Suncoast FF ED, Connie DuBois, where our ambassadors will spend their first week in the US.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be at Nov 6 meeting. If you have an idea for a group event or group meeting place for pot lucks, please let us know. We'd like to try some different venues (that are no/low cost ☺)

Exchanges - Outbound

April 16 to 28, 2015, Domestic Exchange to Santa Barbara and Napa/Sonoma, EDs Bob & Judy Joyce

Reeta Dean has received initial confirmation from two Friendship Force Clubs in California that they are willing to host members of our Sarasota Club in April. So, Judy and I have volunteered to be ED's for this exchange.

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. Maybe renting a van(s) and stay in motels two nights as a group. Others may want to travel on their own to arrive there. 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 with any exchange, ambassadors can do pre- or post-exchange travel on their own. There are certainly many options while in California!

As of October 19th, there were 20 people signed-up. That number includes 5 couples. If you are seriously interested in going, you can sign the sheet at the November 6th meeting at the Waldemere Firehouse, or email: bobjoyce@gmail.com. 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".

September 2015 Netherlands Exchange and Post Exchange Tour of Germany including Oktoberfest & 2 days in Prague – NEW Updates! SIGN UP TODAY! Peggy Hayden, ED

Information Session: Sunday, November 9, 2014, 7 PM at home of Ramona McGee. **Please RSVP to Peggy Hayden at hayden.peg@gmail.com.** Come hear about this exchange + post-exchange tour & find out what you need to do to participate. If you can, bring snacks to share. We'll supply the rest.

Netherlands Exchange: August 30-September 5 (August 29 is travel day to the Netherlands for most participants) in Zutphen, a town with medieval history in eastern Netherlands. It is best to fly to Amsterdam & meet bus arranged by our hosts for transport to Zutphen.

3 or 4 days of activities with entire group

- Special day in Zutphen, <http://wikitravel.org/en/Zutphen>
- Giethoorn, "VENICE of the Netherlands", with tour on canals <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giethoorn>
- Beautiful garden near Zutphen + visit to Elburg, special old fortified town
http://www.elburg.nl/Ontdek_de_gemeente/Recreatie_en_Toerisme/Welcome_to_Elburg_English

2 or 3 free days to explore on our own &/or with our hosts

- Amsterdam <http://www.amsterdam.info/> A 1-way train ticket to Amsterdam is 25 Euro pp.
- Van Gogh Museum near Zutphen, "Kröller Müller, in Otterlo, has 2nd largest collection of Van Gogh paintings + those of other artists. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kr%C3%B6ller-M%C3%BCller_Museum

Cost: \$460 includes bus transportation from Amsterdam airport to Zutphen arranged by our hosts. If you make your own arrangements to get to Zutphen, cost will be prorated accordingly.

Air Travel: To be arranged individually given the # of people who want to combine this exchange with other travel plans before or after the exchange &/or our post-exchange tour.

Post Exchange Tour: 11 days total, September 6-16 including Oktoberfest in Munich. Tour arranged especially for us by David McGuffin of Exploring Europe, Inc. (Various FF members have traveled with him a number of times and recommend him.) He has arranged an exciting itinerary of sightseeing in each of the cities that we will be visiting plus

sights of interest along the way. In addition, we have a free day in Berlin & Munich to accommodate individual preferences for seeing things in each of those areas. Hotels are 4-star in prime locations to accommodate sightseeing with easy returns to our hotels as desired.

- 1 day - Tour guide picks us up in Zutphen. Travel to Hamburg for sightseeing <http://www.hamburg-travel.com/attractions/best-of-hamburg/>. Overnight Ibis Hotel Hamburg City
- 3 days - Travel to Berlin with sightseeing <http://wikitravel.org/en/Berlin> & a free day for optional day trips. 3 nights in Berlin at East Berlin Hotel i31 or similar.
- 1 day - Travel to Dresden & sightsee <http://wikitravel.org/en/Dresden>. Overnight in Dresden at Hotel Taschenbergpalais Kempinski.
- 2 days - Travel to Prague. Sightsee <http://wikitravel.org/en/Prague>. 2 nights in Prague at Novotel Hotel.
- 3 days - Travel to Munich <http://wikitravel.org/en/Munich>. Be there during Oktoberfest (starts in September) with sightseeing & a free day for optional day trips, e.g., day trip to Salzburg, day trip to Castle Neuschwanstein (Ludwig's Castle) or morning at Dachau. 3 Nights at Novotel Munich City in City Center
- 1 day - Our tour ends. Fly home from Munich.

Cost: \$3773 per person sharing a twin room

***FIRST PRIORITY** will be given to those who do BOTH legs of trip (exchange AND post exchange tour). Nevertheless, if only interested in Netherlands Exchange, please sign-up anyway as we may end up with a combination of members who want to do exchange only & members who want to do both exchange & tour. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION & DEPOSIT received by Peggy Hayden: January 10, 2015*

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS EXCHANGE – Email Peggy Hayden at hayden.peg@gmail.com & let her know that you are interested in:

- Exchange only OR
- Exchange AND in post-exchange tour

Include this RSVP form with your check to reserve your seat at the Holiday Party

HOLIDAY PARTY

The holiday party and celebration of our 25th anniversary will be on December 4th at 6:00 at Mattison's 41
7275 South Tamiami Trail, Menu and price below.

Main course---choose 1

✓ your choice

1. Braised Boneless Short Ribs in a port wine reduction sauce _____
2. Chicken Marsala---pan seared chicken breast with wild mushrooms in a rich Marsala wine sauce _____
3. Vegetable Torte---layers of white potato, sweet potato, yellow squash, eggplant, zucchini, Roma tomato, spinach and parmesan cheese _____

House Salad mixed field greens with toasted pine nuts, tomatoes and Gorgonzola tossed with our house made balsamic vinaigrette

Bread Focaccia with Boursin

Vegetables Roasted Rosemary Red Potatoes, Grilled Yellow Peppers, Asparagus, Zucchini and Mushrooms

Dessert Chocolate Torte---rich, flourless, dark chocolate cake with a Chambord raspberry coulis

Drinks: Coffee, tea, or soft drinks

\$35.00/person

(your club is subsidizing this event @ \$9 per person)

Name: _____ # attending: _____ Total \$: _____

Make **check** out to Sarasota Friendship Force and send with this RSVP to:

Barb Hahn

5581 Axminster Drive

Sarasota, FL 34241