



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



March, 2016

Volume 27, No 2

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Presidents Message

I'm sure we can all recall from school "The Ides of March" and wondering if March will come in as a lion or a lamb. Many of us are from "up north" and can possibly remember the last snow storm of the winter being in early March or heavy rains or if we were fortunate the lovely beginning of spring weather. March, at times, is like a turning point from winter to spring. We will be jumping forward on March 13th with the beginning of Daylight Saving Time. New plants will be purchased, along with mulch and ground cover as our yards are spruced up from our winter season.



For Friendship Force Sarasota you might say that our February Global Dinner was a wonderful start for our year. We had such great attendees, contributors and guests. Our membership grew by five new members and we welcome them to our club. Each and every one of them will bring great contributions to our membership. Welcome to each and every one of you!



Our meeting in March is going to be "From Russia with Love" presented by Terri and Stan Holsinger. This is one of my secret hopes to one day be able to go to Russia and experience its people, visit the Hermitage and see Red Square. It's going to be a wonderful evening and I look forward to seeing all of you there on Thursday, March 3rd.



Thank you, Barb Hahn, 941-266-9802, barbhahn@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars

Mar 1, Tues	World Friendship Day (1977 Pres Jimmy Carter)	
Mar 3, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7 pm
Mar 4, Fri	World Peace and Friendship Day, Venice	7 pm, see info on page 5
Mar 10, Thurs	Wine Group I	5:30 home of Gary & Debbie Kuhns
Mar 14-18	Inbound Stopover – Belgian Coast Club	Gary & Debbie Kuhns, EDs
Mar 21, Mon	Wine Group II	4:30 home of Stan & Terri Holsinger
Mar 27, Sun	Easter	

Mar 28, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Mar 30, Wed	Board Meeting	7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Apr 7, Thurs Apr 7-27	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station Outbound to FF Greater Taipei	7 pm Reeta Dean & Terri Holsinger, EDs
Apr 18, Mon	Wine Group II	
April 21, Thurs	Wine Group I	
April 25, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
April 27, Wed	Board Meeting	7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
May 4, Wed	Wine Group 3 rd Annual Get Together	Reeta Dean
May 5, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7 pm
May 23, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
May 25, Wed	Board Meeting	7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Jun 2, Thurs Jun 27, Mon	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station Film Talk	7 pm (last mtg until 9/1/2016) Dot Flynn
July Jul 25, Mon	No Regularly Scheduled Meeting Film Talk	Dot Flynn
August Aug 22, Mon Aug 24, Wed	No Regularly Scheduled Meeting Film Talk Board Meeting	Dot Flynn 7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Sept 1, Thurs Sept 15-18 Sept 26, Mon Sept 28, Wed	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station FFI World Conference Film Talk Board Meeting	7 pm Marrakesh, Morocco Dot Flynn 7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Oct 6, Thurs Oct 10-15 Oct 17, Mon Oct 20, Thurs Oct 21-22 Oct 24, Mon Oct 26, Wed	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station Outbound-Western NC (Asheville) Wine Group II Wine Group I All Florida Conference, FF Suncoast Film Talk Board Meeting	7 pm Annual Meeting, Elections Donna Schaeffer, ED Tampa/St Pete Dot Flynn 7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Nov 3, Thurs Nov 4-11 Nov 16, Wed Nov 17, Thurs Nov 21, Mon Nov 24, Thurs Nov 28, Mon	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station Inbound, Cornwall England Board Meeting Wine Group I Wine Group II Thanksgiving Film Talk	7 pm Ramona McGee, ED 7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room Enjoy Dot Flynn
Dec TBA Dec 15, Thurs Dec 19, Mon Dec 28, Wed	Holiday Dinner Party Wine Group I Wine Group II Board Meeting	7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room

Global Feast

What a fun Global Feast we had at our February meeting! More than 50 members and numerous guests tucked into a groaning smorgasbord of international dishes brought to the potluck. Some members dressed up for the occasion, and the event brought out several who have not attended a meeting for a while. Welcome back! Our first food drive was very successful, too. We gathered 12 heavy bags of groceries that we donated to All Faiths Food Bank. The food bank volunteers thank you for donating nonperishables to help replenish their supplies after the busy holiday season.

Upcoming Meetings

From Russia with Love

Our **March 4** meeting is a colorful travel presentation called "From Russia with Love" given by Terri and Stan Holsinger, members who took a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Russia in June 2015. Come join your friends and make new ones while we

travel to the other side of the globe to discover real life among the Russian people. Our meeting time returns to the usual 7 pm. See you then!

Coming Up

April's topic isn't yet confirmed. At our **May 5** meeting, we welcome Rick Piccolo, CEO of Sarasota Airport. He'll talk to us about the current facilities and services and sketch out changes that will affect our entire community. Join us for a unique behind-the-scenes look at the future of our closest airport.

Lorrie Holm, Vice President, 215-805-0558, Lorrie.holm@gmail.com

Committee Reports

Membership- Membership Salute--To those of you who are willing to reach out to others who may be interested in Friendship Force, we have brochures and business cards that you may find helpful. You can pick these up at our membership table. Of course, our Friendship Force Sarasota website is also a great resource. We also have a new Friendship Force Question and Answer (Q&A) pamphlet (see email attachment).

Another special thanks to the members of our **Membership Committee: Joan Emrich, Gail Gardner and Karen LaChance**. These people serve as greeters for our visitors...to make them feel welcome and answer any questions they may have about Friendship Force. If you are interested in serving in this important capacity for our group, please let me know. You don't need to be able to attend all of our meetings, just as many as you can. Most of us will need to miss a meeting from time-to-time due to travel, illness, etc. However, if we have 4-6 committee members, we should be able to have good coverage at each meeting and this should not be a burden on any one person.

Peggy Hayden, Membership Chair, hayden.peg@gmail.com, 941-306-5197

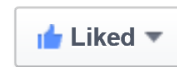
Social – We need 3 volunteers for the social committee. Please contact **Mary Brand** and **say yes** to set up refreshments. Email/call **Mary Brand** at: 941-342-8540 or brandmary@comcast.net.



NEWS FROM THE WEB

Please email your travel and group photos to Donna Schaeffer at Rdontrip@hotmail.com.
<http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org/sarasota.htm> and
<https://www.facebook.com/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota> Check out photos from Stan Holsinger on the web site and FB page.

Facebook is a prominent force in the world of social media and has become a major means by which people of all ages and backgrounds communicate and keep in touch with each other. FF SRQ is linked to Friendship Force International (FFI) and other FF chapters around the world who also have Facebook pages. Our Facebook page provides FF SRQ the opportunity to share stories and photos of our exchanges and other chapter events. Newsworthy items and accomplishments are highlighted on our Facebook page. Visitors have the opportunity to comment on the photos and exchanges or just view the activity. Members of the worldwide FF community can easily communicate with us and each other through Facebook. International FF members access site. We believe social media enables us to better engage our members and more effectively promote our chapter and spread the word about FF SRQ to our friends, neighbors and others in the community. Please 'like' us at <https://www.facebook.com/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota>



WINE TASTING GROUPS (FF members only)

Wine Group 1 A great time was had for by all as we met at home of Dick and Nancy Rehbock on **Thurs, Feb 18. Our next tasting is 5:30 on March 10 at the home of Gary & Debbie Kuhns.**



Wine Group 2 tasting was held on Monday, February 15 at the home of Jack and Linda Vendeland. The group tasted a variety of red Zinfandel wines. The #1 wine that evening was Oak Ridge Zinfandel from Lodi, CA. The cost of this wine is \$13.99. Following the tasting they had dinner at the Bangkok restaurant. Their next tasting will be held at the home of Terri and Stan Holsinger on **Monday, March 21 at 4:30** with dinner following at 6:00 at the new restaurant, The Rusty Bucket.

Our 3rd Annual Combined Wine Groups' Get-together will be held on Wednesday, **May 4 at 6 PM** at Reeta Dean's Community Club House.

If you are interested in joining a wine group, please contact Jack & Linda Vendeland, linvende@aol.com 941-342-278



Film Talk now meets at **Burns Court Cinema on the 4th Mon of each month**. We send a note to our membership each month a few days ahead with the movie details. **WE NEED YOU!** We had **10 join us** for **The Lady in the Van** and dinner at PF Changs. We all enjoyed the movie contrary to NY Times review. Maggie Smith was her awesome self. We had a great time.



MARK your calendars! **Dot Flynn, dafsarasota@comcast.net**

2016 Florida Exchanges

If you're looking for an opportunity to travel with other Florida clubs, below are the upcoming exchanges. Many exchange dates have changed.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ✿ SW FL to Turrialba, Costa Rica | Feb 1-14, 2016 |
| ✿ D Western North Carolina to Sarasota | Feb 25-March 1, 2016 |
| ✿ D All USA to Orlando | March 11-18, 2016 |
| ✿ D Harrisburg PA to FL Suncoast | March 13-20, 2016 |
| ✿ Belgian Coast to SW FL & Sarasota | March 8-18, 2016 |
| ✿ Sarasota to Greater Taipei, Taiwan | April 6-28, 2016 |
| ✿ Helsingborg, Sweden to Orlando | Sept 12-19, 2016 |
| ✿ Derbyshire UK to OLLI at FSU | Sept 12 - ?, 2016 |
| ✿ Orlando to Reinhausen & Hamburg, Germany | Sept 23/24 - Oct 8/9, 2016 |
| ✿ D Sarasota to Western North Carolina | 2 nd week of Oct 2016 |
| ✿ FL Suncoast to Coatepec, Mexico | Nov 7 - 13, 2016 |
| ✿ Cornwall UK to Sarasota | Nov 4-11, 2016 |
| ✿ All FL Conference @ FL Suncoast | Oct 21-22, 2016 (2-day event) |
| ✿ Bujumbura & All Africa to SW FL | Dec 2016 |
| ✿ D FL Suncoast to Harrisburg PA | TBD |
- D = Domestic exchange**

Florida Suncoast Friendship Force club announces the dates for the 2016 ALL FL CONFERENCE which they will host. It will be held in the Suncoast area on October 21 and 22, 2016. There will be a leadership meeting Friday afternoon, plus a welcome dinner and entertainment for conference attendees. Saturday will be a full day of conference speakers, panels, group activities. Many more details will follow as planning proceeds. Mark your calendars now.

Judi Stratton, FFI Florida Field Rep, jaspetite@comcast.net or (941) 497-5684

FF SRQ Exchanges - Inbound

A **HUGE** shout out to all that have helped with our North Carolina inbound exchange. Also, for those that have volunteered to help with Belgian Coast exchange! Don't forget to sign up for activities. Even if you are not hosting we really need your support at the welcome on the LeBarge Cruise Boat and the farewell (St. Patrick's Day) at Stottlemeyer's Smokehouse. Wear your **GREEN!**

Barbara Peterson, FF SRQ Exchange Coordinator, 941-925-3755, bandwpeterson@verizon.net

February 25-March 1, 2016 Inbound Exchange from Western North Carolina ED Phillip Price

The Western North Carolina Friendship Force Club inbound exchange ended March 1. Our circus-themed exchange was fun ending with a delicious farewell dinner at Downunder Bar & Seafood House in Osprey. We visited some new and not recently visited venues to make an exciting exchange for our members and ambassadors alike.

Phillip Price, ED, phillip@pvprice.net (813)642-5990

**March 14-18, 2016 Inbound Exchange from FF Belgian Coast
EDs Debbie and Gary Kuhns**

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered. See FF Belgian Coast Inbound Exchange Activities RSVP form at end of this newsletter and attached to this email. Please take part in our activities and welcome our Belgium Ambassadors.

Debbie and Gary Kuhns, ED, 863-781-4344 or ruffabowow@hotmail.com

**Nov 4-11, 2016 (8 days) Inbound Exchange from Cornwall, England
ED Ramona McGee**

To be announced

FF SRQ Exchanges - Outbound

**April 7-27, 2016, Outbound Exchange to Greater Taipei, Taiwan
EDs Terri Holsinger and Reeta Dean**

Only 5 weeks to go! The Friendship Force of Greater Taiwan exchange and China tour April 7-27, 2016 is full with 18 participating in our exchange to Tai Pei, Taiwan and the China tour and cruise. We've attended lectures, presentations, read and educated ourselves on the sights we will see. We have 13 SRQ ambassadors and 5 from other FL clubs.

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

**Oct 10-15, 2016, Outbound Exchange to Western North Carolina (Asheville)
ED Donna Schaeffer**

To be announced

Celebration of International Peace and World Friendship Day



**Friday, March 4th at 7:00 pm
Venice Gardens Community Center
406 Shamrock Blvd, Venice, FL 34293**



Songbird Mindy Simmons is a delight to see and hear. She is fun and funny. "Think Carol Burnett meets Peggy Lee and you've got Mindy Simmons." Her focus will be songs of peace, brotherhood, diversity and friendship. In addition to Mindy there will be musical surprises sprinkled through the evening....

Presented by Venice Peace Project; www.venicepeaceproject.org www.facebook.com/venicepeaceproject

All are welcome! Suggested donation of \$10 No one turned away

Peace and friendship for everyone.

**Activities RSVP for FF Belgian Coast Exchange
March 14-18, 2016
Sponsored by Friendship Force of Sarasota**

We need your reservations by March 7

**If questions, contact Debbie Kuhns
863-781-4344 or ruffabowow@hotmail.com**

Activities – please indicate activities you will attend by entering the # attending each activity and other applicable information; enclose a check for the total cost of all activities when returning this RSVP.

Mon, Mar 14 6:00p Welcome cruise on LeBarge \$25 per person
attending: _____ Total for this activity \$_____

Tue, Mar 15 10:45a Myakka State Park \$12 per person
11:30a boat ride
attending: _____ Total for this activity \$_____

Wed, Mar 16 10:00a Ringling Museum \$15 # attending: _____ Total for this activity \$_____

Will attend but use membership card for free admission #_____

Will attend and use membership pass to get others in for free - # of passes

Thur, Mar 17 10:00a Selby Gardens \$15 per person # attending: _____

6:00p Farewell dinner at Stottlemyers Smokehouse \$25
Cash Bar
Attending: _____ Total for this activity \$_____

NAME(S): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

TOTAL of enclosed check for **ALL activities** selected above \$_____

All ambassadors' admission fees and their welcome and farewell events are covered and included in their program fee. RSVP by Fri, March 4, 2016

Send this RSVP and Check Payable to: Friendship Force of Sarasota

Mail to: Gary Kuhns
4541 Chimney Creek Dr, Sarasota FL 34235
941-320-6557 or 863-781-4355

Reservations due by March 7, 2016