



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



January, 2016

Volume 27, No 1

OFFICERS

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COMMITTEES

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Exchange Coordinator	Barbara Peterson	941-925-3755	bandwpeterson@verizon.net
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Sunshine	Board		
Web/Facebook	Donna Schaeffer	908-577-0974	rdontrip@hotmail.com
Wine Tasting	Linda/Jack Vendeland- Debbie Kuhns	941-342-6278 863-781-4344	linvende@aol.com ruffabowow@hotmail.com

Presidents Message



Congratulations Friendship Force Sarasota. At our first meeting of the New Year we were graced with several guests and since our January 7th meeting we have increased our membership by three. I thank each of you for making our guests feel welcome.

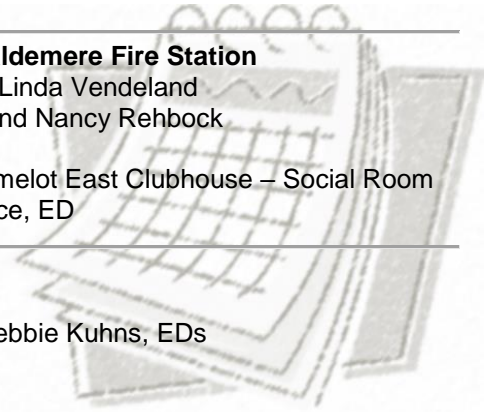
February's meeting is going to be our Global Dinner (aka International Dinner). Lorrie Holm has been working very hard on this dinner and program. It's going to be interesting and with lots of food samples of all types.

These next two months are going to be quite busy for Friendship Force Sarasota. Toward the end of the month we have ambassadors coming from Western North Carolina (Asheville) and then it will feel like the blink of an eye – Friendship Force Belgian Coast will be stopping over for four days. We are such a strong club and our members are so involved and dedicated to the Mission of Friendship Force that our exchanges, be it inbound or outbound, would not be possible without the assistance of each and every one of you. And for this I thank you!

Thank you all for the opportunity you have all given me, Barb Hahn, 941-266-9802, barblhahn@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars

Feb 4, Thurs Feb 15, Mon Feb 18, Thurs Feb 22, Mon Feb 24, Wed Feb 25-Mar 1	Global Feast and Food Drive Wine Group II Wine Group I Film Talk Board Meeting Inbound from Western North Carolina	5 pm, Waldemere Fire Station Jack and Linda Vendeland Richard and Nancy Rehbock Dot Flynn 7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room Phillip Price, ED
Mar 1, Tues Mar 3, Thurs Mar 14-18 Mar 17, Thurs Mar 21, Mon Mar 27, Sun Mar 28, Mon Mar 30, Wed	World Friendship Day (1977 Pres Jimmy Carter) Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station Inbound Stopover – Belgian Coast Club Wine Group I Wine Group II Easter Film Talk Board Meeting	7 pm Gary & Debbie Kuhns, EDs Dot Flynn 7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Apr 7, Thurs Apr 7-27 Apr 18, Mon April 21, Thurs April 25, Mon April 27, Wed	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station Outbound to FF Greater Taipei Wine Group II Wine Group I Film Talk Board Meeting	7 pm Reeta Dean & Terri Holsinger, EDs Dot Flynn 7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
May 5, Thurs May TBA May 23, Mon May 25, Wed	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station Wine Groups Get Together Film Talk Board Meeting	7 pm TBA Dot Flynn 7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Jun 2, Thurs Jun 27, Mon July Jul 25, Mon August Aug 22, Mon Aug 24, Wed	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station Film Talk No Regularly Scheduled Meeting Film Talk No Regularly Scheduled Meeting Film Talk Board Meeting	7 pm (last mtg until 9/1/2016) Dot Flynn Dot Flynn 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 TBA Oct 17, Mon Oct 20, Thurs Oct 24, Mon Oct 26, Wed Late Oct 2016	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station All Florida Conference, FF Suncoast Wine Group II Wine Group 1 Film Talk Board Meeting (annual meeting) Outbound Western North Carolina	7 pm Annual Meeting, Elections Tampa/St Pete Dot Flynn 7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room Donna Schaeffer, ED
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



**Friendship Force of Sarasota
invites you to our annual**

GLOBAL FEAST AND FOOD DRIVE

Bring guests who would enjoy a nice potluck with the friendliest people in Sarasota!
Bring a salad, entree or dessert

Please **bring a non-perishable food item** to donate to All Faiths Food Bank

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AT 5:00 PM

Waldemere Fire Station Community Room
2090 Waldemere Street Sarasota, FL 34239

RSVP WITH WHAT YOU ARE BRINGING!
The phone number is Lorrie Holm, 215-805-0558
Looking forward to seeing you!

Committee Reports

Reminder from Margaret Lewis and Sandy Tuveson If you have not already paid your dues for 2016, please send them as soon as possible or bring to the Feb 4th meeting with the application form. Fill out the **attached application form and complete both pages**. This information is very useful in determining the areas in which you are able to support FF Sarasota.



Membership- Membership Salute--We had over 60 people attending our January 2016 meeting. Ten (10) of these people were visitors. One visitor was a former member. Two (2) visitors were members of the Lake Bluff, IL FF spending time in Sarasota this winter who came to our meeting at the invitation of Ramona McGee. All of the others were new visitors as guests of some of our members: **Mike Trautman, Marie Beck and Jim Chastain**. Special thanks to these members for their outreach on behalf of our club.

NEW MEMBERS as a result of this meeting: **Ingrid Campbell** - Welcome back! First time members – **Michelle Pariseau and Frank Hearon**.

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.

Finally, thanks to **Gary and Debbie Kuhns** who oriented me to my new role as Membership Chair and who will work with our membership committee to staff our membership table at our February 2016 meeting when Hal and I are gone for the month touring Australia and New Zealand.

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



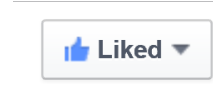
Social – We need 3 volunteers for the social committee. Please contact **Mary Brand** and **say yes** to set up refreshments. Email/call Mary at: 941-342-8540 or brandmary@comcast.net.

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>

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 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 What a great time was had for all at the first wine tasting of 2016 for group 1! Bobbie Jabas graciously invited us into her home for a smooth and flavorful selection of Chenin Blanc. For some of us who have never sampled this variety before, it was an amazing surprise. Our favorite was one of the more expensive wines of the night at the price of \$13.99 called Bougrier Famille Vouvry from Loire France. After our light indulging of this enjoyable fermented juice of grapes, 11 of us made our way by any means possible to a great place of seafood sustenance called Cedar Reef Fish Camp in Bradenton. Next month our group will be meeting on February 18th at the home of Richard and Nancy Rehbock. Looking forward to another fabulous night with friends!.



Wine Group 2 tasting was held on Monday, January 18 at the home of Gretchen Castner. The group tasted a variety of Pinot Grigio wines. Their #1 wine that evening was Conte Priola Pinot Grigio Gold Release which cost \$9.99. Following the tasting they had dinner at Pacific Rim. Their next tasting will be held at the home of Jack and Linda Vendeland on Monday, February 15 at 4:30 PM.

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



Film Talk will now meet at **Burns Court Cinema on the 4th Mon of each month**. Please contact Dotty Flynn, dafsarasota@comcast.net if you would like to be added to the email list. WE NEED YOU!

2016 Florida Exchanges

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

✿ SW FL to Turriabla, Costa Rica	Feb 1-14, 2016
✿ D W North Carolina to Sarasota	Feb 25-March 1, 2016
✿ D Harrisburg PA to FL Suncoast	March 13-20, 2016
✿ D All USA to Orlando	March 11-18, 2016
✿ Coastal Belgium 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	Oct 2-14, 2016
✿ D Sarasota to W North Carolina	Oct 2016
✿ FL Suncoast to Coatepec, Mexico	Oct 22-28, 2016
✿ Cornwall UK to Sarasota	Nov 2016
✿ All FL Conference @ FL Suncoast	Nov 5 or 12, 2016 (1 or 2 day event)
✿ Bujumbura & All Africa to SW FL	Dec 2016
✿ D FL Suncoast to Harrisburg PA	TBD

D = Domestic exchange

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

FF SRQ Exchanges - Inbound

We have two inbound exchanges, FF Western North Carolina (Asheville) in February and FF Belgian Coast is doing a 'stopover' March 14-18. The activity sheets are below and attached to this email. Hopefully, many of you will participate. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help on both exchanges. This is what we are about. Please let me know if you have missed a chance to do this.

We can use more help with home and day hosts.

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

Western North Carolina Friendship Force Club inbound exchange begins February 25 and ends March 1. Reservations for the Circus Sarasota Winter Performance are closed. We have 31 members and ambassadors attending the circus on Sunday, Feb 28 at 1 p.m. Attached is an agenda of activities and an RSVP form for you to participate in the activities of the exchange. We have some new and not recently visited venues to make an exciting exchange for our members and ambassadors alike. Please come out and meet our ambassadors from Western North Carolina. In particular, consider attending the Farewell Dinner on Monday, February 29 at Downunder Bar & Seafood House, 576 Black Point Road in Osprey (formerly the Bimini Restaurant). Come and join our guest ambassadors. Our Welcome Breakfast will be at Bob's Train on Fruitville Avenue on the morning of Thurs, February 26. See the activities detail following the RSVP forms in this newsletter.

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

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

This is a shorter exchange and we can still use some day hosts. 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.

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

FF SRQ Exchanges - Outbound

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

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.

Terri Holsinger, terriholsinger@hotmail.com 317-753-2172

Reeta Dean, reetatoc@yahoo.com, 941-360-8768

Western North Carolina Inbound Exchange
February 26-March 1, 2016
AGENDA

Thu, Feb 25 Arrival of ambassadors at home of hosts throughout the day
 Fri, Feb 26 9:00 am Welcome at Bob's Train \$13 per person
 Followed at 11:15 Ringling Museum \$15 per person
 Sat Feb 27 9:45 Meet at Apollo Beach Manatee and Wildlife viewing at discharge waters of TECO Power Plant
 Followed by return to Bradenton and a visit to Hernando De Soto National Memorial visit.
 No charge for either venue
 Sun, Feb 28 1:00 pm Circus Sarasota Winter Performance: Red, White & Bello
 6:00 pm dinner parties for ambassadors and home hosts
 Mon, Feb 29 1:00 pm Encounter Florida birds at Celery Fields. No fees for the activity
 Followed by visit to Big Cats Habitat \$15.00 per person
 6:00 pm farewell dinner, Downunder Bar & Seafood House,
 576 Blackburn Point Rd, Osprey, FL \$28 per person
 Tues, Mar 1 Goodbyes and farewells as our guests depart from home hosts

RSVP for Western North Carolina Exchange Activities

If questions, contact Lorrie Holm, Activities Chair, 215-805-0558, lorrie.holm@gmail.com

ACTIVITIES - Please indicate activities you will attend by entering the # attending for each activity and other applicable information then enclosing a check for the total cost of all activities when returning this RSVP. **RSVP must be received by Tuesday, February 16, 2016. It's very important to help our members if you have extra passes to Ringling to let us know.**

Fri, 2/26 9:00 Welcome breakfast at Bob's Train \$13
 # attending: _____ Total for this activity \$ _____
 11:15 Ringling Museum \$15 # attending: _____ Total for this activity \$ _____

Will attend Ringling but use membership card for free admission # _____

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

Sat, 2/27 9:30 Apollo Beach trip (no fee) # attending: _____
 # attending: _____
 Followed by De Soto National Memorial (no fee) # attending: _____

Sun, 2/28 1:00 Circus Sarasota winter performance. Reservations closed.
 Followed at 6:00 by home hosted dinner for ambassadors and home hosts

Mon, 2/29 1:00 Encounter Florida birds at Celery Fields (no fee)
 Followed by visit to Big Cats Habitat \$15 per person
 # attending: _____ Total for this activity \$ _____

6:00 Farewell dinner at Downunder Bar & Seafood House, 576 Blackburn Point Rd, Osprey, FL
 RSVP on separate form. \$28 # Attending: _____ Total for this activity \$ _____

NAME(S): _____ **Email:** _____ **Phone:** _____

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

SEND THIS RSVP form by Tuesday, Feb 16 with
CHECK Payable to: Friendship Force Club of Sarasota

Mail to: Exchange Treasurer – Ramona McGee
 5316 Dominica Circle, Sarasota FL 34233
 941-378-2094 or rmcgee0806@comcast.net

**Western North Carolina Exchange
Farewell Dinner at Downunder Bar & Seafood Grill
576 Blackburn Point Rd, Osprey, FL 34229**

**SEND THIS RSVP form by Tuesday, February 16
CHECK Payable to: Friendship Force Club of Sarasota**

Mail to: Exchange Treasurer –Ramona McGee
5316 Dominica Circle, Sarasota FL 34233
941-378-2094 or rmcgee0806@comcast.net

Starter: Choice of **one** – Bang Bang Shrimp on garden salad or Seafood Bisque

Choice of **Entrée:**

1. Sirloin Steak -Served with garlic mash and vegetable medley
2. Pistachio Chicken - Rolled in pistachio flour, pan sautéed. Served with coconut rice and vegetable medley
3. Grilled or Blackened Grouper - Topped with a tropical rum salsa. Served with garlic mash and Vegetable medley
4. 4 Shrimp Fettuccine Alfredo - Gulf shrimp tossed in a Alfredo creamy sauce, served on fettuccine

Dessert: Key lime pie

Cost \$28 per person includes tax and tip, but **no beverage**. Cash bar available

-----Tear/Cut-----

Tear off form and send check **Payable to Friendship Force Club of Sarasota**, to Ramona McGee 5316 Dominica Circle, Sarasota FL 34233 Deadline: ASAP but no later than Tuesday, Feb 16. I plan to attend Monday, Feb 29

Farewell Dinner @ Downunder Bar and Seafood Grill, 576 Blackburn Point Rd, Osprey, FL 34229

Enclosed is my check for \$28 x _____ = Total _____

My entre choice is #1 sirloin steak **OR** #2 pistachio chicken

OR #3 grouper grilled or blackened (**circle style** for cooking fish)

OR #4 Shrimp Alfredo

(**Circle one or two** entrées depending on # of attendees on this form)

Name(s) _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Any food allergies? _____

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

**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 6:00 pm 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

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

Western North Carolina Friendship Force Outbound Exchange to Sarasota Florida February 25- March 1

Thursday, Feb. 25: Inbound travel; meet your hosts and adapt to your surroundings. Additional activity will be dependent on your hosts considering the time of arrival of ambassador(s). You will be visiting the Sarasota area in season during the busy time. You are likely to experience traffic and people congestion as you travel to our venues and to the beaches and restaurants. It is just part of the experience for this time of year.

Friday, Feb. 26: 9:00 a.m. There will be the Welcome Breakfast at Bob's Train. Breakfast will be followed by a visit to the John and Mable Ringling Museum where you will tour the home of the Ringlings on Sarasota Bay. You will likely have lunch with your hosts at the restaurant or café on the grounds of the museum with separate checks for hosts and ambassadors. The circus museum has an extensive carved miniature circus. The circus museum also contains circus memorabilia that includes railroad cars, clown cars, horse drawn circus wagons and a truck mounted canon for shooting a human just like a cannonball across the circus ring into a net. The art museum contains the art collected by John and Mable Ringling.

Saturday, Feb. 27: Trip to rendezvous in Apollo Beach at 9:45 a.m. for viewing manatees and wildlife in the warm waters discharged by the TECO power station. We will return to Bradenton and visit the Hernando De Soto Memorial which has an outdoor interpretive area where you will encounter reenactors portraying life at the time of De Soto's exploration as well as the native inhabitants. There is an indoor interpretive center with displays as well as a nature trail into the mangroves along Tampa Bay as it joins the Manatee River.

Sunday, Feb. 28: An open morning provides an opportunity to explore Sarasota with your hosts which may include a walk on the beaches or a visit to Selby Gardens. In the afternoon at 1 p.m., we will be going to the Circus to attend the matinee performance of the Circus Sarasota Winter Performance. This circus will have professional performers under a big top tent with "BELLO" as ringmaster of the big show entitled "Red, White and BELLO".
At 6 p.m. we will have fellowship and the home hosted dinners in small groups with hosts, ambassadors and the home host.

Monday, Feb. 29: Again, the open morning provides an opportunity for further exploring of Sarasota with your hosts. In the afternoon we will visit the Celery Fields to get a flavor of birding in Sarasota. We will also visit Big Cat Habitat, a big cat and circus animal refuge.
At 6 p.m. we will have our Farewell Dinner at Downunder Seafood Bar & Grill on Black Point Road in Osprey.

Tuesday, March 1: Goodbyes and travel day home with your memories.