



April, 2016

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Presidents Message

DO OVER



I look at the Easter-Spring Break holidays as a **Do Over** because by now any New Year's Resolution that I made in January has fallen by the wayside and with Spring upon us I have another opportunity to **Do Over** and aim to be better.



I read a long time ago the egg is a symbol of spring because it is a new beginning and the egg when broken represents a fresh start.

So maybe I didn't follow through with my walking 20 minutes each evening or biking on the weekends or possibly contacting family more often; this is my chance (again) to pick it up off the floor and *Spring* forward.

It could be the same for our club. We are moving forward with new members and each of us needs to step up and say **hello** and introduce ourselves. You remember how you felt when you walked into a room and didn't know a soul or were unfamiliar with most of the people there. We all need to **step it up** and let others know we're happy they are spending time with us as we all hope to accomplish the same goals, **to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.**

Our next Inbound Exchange will be in November 2016 and our ambassadors will be coming to us from Cornwall England. It's going to be an exciting opportunity for everyone, new members included, to participate in some small way to make this exchange a wonderful success. Even if it's helping to greet guests at the Welcome or Farewell function **YOU** are participating and it doesn't involve a lot of your time. By being active in our committees or various exchanges you become a part of the club and you gain so much it's hard to describe.

Looking forward to seeing you Thursday evening at our April 7th meeting, Barb

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

Mark Your Calendars

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 Peggy and Hal Hayden home Donna Schaeffer home Dot Flynn 7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
May 4, Wed May 5, Thurs May 23, Mon May 25, Wed	Wine Group 3 rd Annual Get Together Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station Film Talk Board Meeting	Reeta Dean 7 pm 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 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

Upcoming Meetings

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

Database and Directory – Thanks to Margaret Lewis for updating, organizing, printing and mailing the 2016 Membership directory. Kudos. If you have any updates including phone, email or address changes please send to Margaret at mmlewis@comcast.net. An updated directory is attached to the email with new members and members with updates highlighted.

Sunshine – Jack Vendeland is scheduled for back surgery on April 19. Keep Jack in your thoughts for a speedy recovery. We need Jack upright!

Membership- 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).

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

Social – We need 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 of Belgian Coast St Patrick's Day at Stottlemyers and NC exchanges 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. Please 'like' us at <https://www.facebook.com/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota>

Like

Donna Schaeffer, 908-577-0974, rdontrip@hotmail.com

WINE TASTING GROUPS (FF members only)

Wine Group 1 met at the home of Debbie and Gary Kuhns with 8 attendees. The group tasted Pinot Noir wines from six different countries. The #1 wine was Mallee Point from South Eastern Australia. The cost of this wine was \$6.99. What a bargain! After the tasting we went to Carmel Café & Wine Bar for dinner. **Next tasting is Thursday, April 21st at Donna Schaeffer's home.**



Wine Group 2 tasting was held on Monday, March 21 at the home of Stan and Terri Holsinger. 11 of us had a great evening tasting Malbec. Stan read the description of each wine as we tried them. It was fun to try to figure out if we could taste what was described. We also learned that Malbecs are almost exclusively from Argentina. We had no idea. We did find 2 from France and 1 from Chile and 3 from Argentina. We had a tie for #1 Cruz Alta Malbec Reserve \$15 from Mendoza, Argentina and D'Autrefois Malbec from South of France (least expensive at \$11). Most expensive at \$25 came in 3rd. Everyone enjoyed the new restaurant in UTC area, The Rusty Bucket, where we had a private room and the best server we've ever experienced. **The next tasting is Monday, April 18 at Peggy and Hal Hayden's.**

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 or being on the alternate list, 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 6 **join us** for **Embrace of the Serpent**. Movie was based on diaries of two men who traveled the Amazon looking for rare plants and better rubber. We then we stopped in the nearby coffee shop to discuss. We missed you! This was a very spiritual movie with lots of symbolism. We were left with many questions and a need to look up the history of rubber and WWII.



MARK your calendars for Mon, April 25th! **Dot Flynn**, dafsarasota@comcast.net

2016 Florida Exchanges

Good news! We have a fledgling club **Friendship Force of The Villages-Florida**. Their club president is Mary Place, former president of FF of Binghamton, NY. If you have spaces to fill in your exchanges, please share information with Mary and her club members. If you have friends in the Villages, please share their meetup link. Mary Place, cpplace@stny.rr.com, 607-625-4597 <http://www.meetup.com/The-Friendship-Force-of-The-Villages-Florida/>

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

✿	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

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

FF SRQ Exchanges - Inbound

SUMMARY: WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, INBOUND EXCHANGE, February 25th thru March 1st 2016

The first exchange of the 2016 year was an in-bound exchange with Western North Carolina (Asheville). The group (13 Ambassadors) arrived during the evening of Thursday, February 25th. The following morning (Friday) there was a Welcome Breakfast held at Bob's Train where a total of approximately 33 people, including the Ambassadors, enjoyed a breakfast cooked by "Bob" and an enlightening talk about the Circus History in Sarasota and a tour of the train cars and the various photographs throughout. Following the breakfast, the rest of the day was spent with tours of the Ringling Museum, Circus Museums and the John and Mable Ringling home, Ca' d'Zan.

Saturday was a day spent outdoors; the first stop of the morning was viewing the manatees at Apollo Beach by the FPL Power Plant. The afternoon was free to wander and experience the Hernando DeSoto National Memorial Park in Bradenton. Sunday was an exciting experience for all concerned, FF Sarasota members and our ambassadors attended Circus Sarasota. In the evening, our ambassadors and their home hosts enjoyed delicious home-cooked dinners hosted by members.

Monday, the final day of our exchange, was spent visiting and experiencing our Mote Marine Lab & Aquarium. In the evening, a farewell dinner for our ambassadors, with many of our club members, was enjoyed at the DownUnder Restaurant in Osprey. The following morning our ambassadors headed back up to North Carolina with warm memories of their time in Sarasota. We will be reciprocating a visit to Asheville in October 2016 and reuniting with our guests once again.

This Inbound Exchange entailed a large participation of our club; 15 people were on the committee – comprised of home hosts, day hosts and dinner party hosts. It was a very successful exchange and none of it could have happened without the complete and total participation of our Friendship Force Sarasota Club.

Thank you to each and every one of you, Phillip Price, 3/31/2016

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

Before we get too relaxed regarding exchanges, Friendship Force of Cornwall England, will visit us November 4-11, 2016. I received a message from the Cornwall ED and currently there are 14 ambassadors with flight reservations. However, I will not be soliciting your help until the May 5th general meeting. Once again there is no language barrier, so this is a great opportunity for newer members to become involved without fear of language differences. If you plan to be going away for the summer or just for a vacation at that time, please feel welcome to send me an e-mail of your interest in being involved.

Ramona McGee, ED, RMcGee0806@comcast.net, 941-378-2094

FF SRQ Exchanges – Outbound

**FFI World Conference 2016 Update! Welcome to Marrakesh! FFI World Conference:
September 16 to 19, 2016**



To register click here: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/150979> Please contact Barb Hahn if you're thinking about attending.

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

We'll have lots to share when we return. Terri Holsinger, terriholsinger@hotmail.com Reeta Dean, reetatoc@yahoo.com

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

To date, we have 18 ambassadors signed up. The sign-up sheet is still open for those interested. I will be contacting the NC ED, Joy Williams, in the next couple weeks to work on plans for the exchange.

Donna Schaeffer, 908-577-0974, rdontrip@hotmail.com