



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



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**Presidents Message**

**WELCOME BACK!**

I hope that each and every one of you enjoyed our “summer break” and had the opportunity to travel, visit with family and friends and join us for our Pizza Get Together, Summer Happening and Pot Luck Supper. Have a fun and safe Labor Day on Sept 5.



It doesn't seem possible that here we are in September and before we know it – there will be the holiday cards, wrapping paper and gift ideas showing up in the grocery stores and pharmacies.

At the time of our meeting on September 1<sup>st</sup> I will be in Amsterdam touring the city and then boarding a barge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September to do a biking and barge trip from Amsterdam to Bruges. Sandy Tuveson, our treasurer is also on this adventure with me.

Patda De La Torre, our vice president, will be leading our meeting and doing a fine job. We have an interesting program for September – we will have Debby Ericson, from Visit Sarasota, coming to our meeting with a film that will be full of information for our members and guests to know about Sarasota as we entertain our Global Arts exchange the first of the new year.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting,

Thank you, Barb Hahn, 941-266-9802, [barbhahn@gmail.com](mailto:barbhahn@gmail.com)

**NEED YOUR HELP**

Friendship Force Sarasota is in **search of a vice president for this coming year**. Patda De La Torre kindly stepped up to assist the club in the vice president position through the end of this year – December 2016.

Our nominating committee has been working diligently to find a member to join the board in 2017 in the vice president position to no avail. Thus, this “Help Wanted” notice in our newsletter.

I can speak from my own experience; I had just joined FF Sarasota in January of 2014, when a similar “call” was sent to everyone for a vice president in late summer of 2014. As all of you, when I join something I do so because I truly believe in it and want to be involved and contribute to its continued success. I responded to the “call” and became the club’s vice president in 2015.

It’s not a difficult position to serve. There may be three items that could possibly concern a potential candidate: 1. board meetings are held once a month (the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday) of our “meeting months”; 2. the other possible “big item” is doing the programs for our 6 months that require a program. Please don’t be intimidated, you have a whole board at your right arm who are only a phone call away to assist in any needs you have. Finally, 3. is the impression that “if you are vice president” you are expected to be president. Nothing could be further from the truth! There are **no presumptions** that the vice president goes on to be president. Certainly, you can if you should so desire, but you are not expected to do this.

Right now programs have been planned up to and including January 2017. The months remaining are: April, May, June, September, October and November. March is our annual dinner and December is the Holiday Party. During the summer break months we attempt to have a “Summer Happening” as a social get together.

We are reaching out to all Friendship Force Sarasota members to seriously consider assisting their club and stepping up to be the vice president in 2017. **Please contact Katy Goodwin, chair of the nominating committee** if you have further questions or concerns or just need to talk with someone.

Thank you all for your time, attention, and consideration – Barb Hahn

### Mark Your Calendars

<b>Aug 29, Mon</b>	Film Talk	4:30 Burns Ct, <i>Florence Foster Jenkins</i>
<b>Sept 1, Thurs</b>	<b>Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station</b>	<b>7 pm</b> , Debbie Ericson Visit Sarasota (prep for Global Arts Exchange)
<b>Sept 15-18</b>	<b>FFI World Conference</b>	<b>Marrakesh, Morocco</b>
Sept 26, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Sept 28, Wed	Board Meeting	7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
<b>Oct 6, Thurs</b>	<b>Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station</b>	<b>7 pm Annual Meeting, Elections</b> Sarasota Architectural Foundation, <i>SRQ School of Architecture</i> Donna Schaeffer, ED
Oct 10-15	Outbound-Western NC (Asheville)	
Oct 17, Mon	Wine Group II	
Oct 20, Thurs	Wine Group 1	
<b>Oct 22</b>	<b>All Florida Conference, FF Suncoast</b>	<b>9-4 pm St Pete College (see attached invite)</b>
Oct 24, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Oct 26, Wed	Board Meeting	7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
<b>Nov 3, Thurs</b>	<b>Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station</b>	<b>7 pm, FF Greater Taipei/China Exchange</b> Ramona McGee, ED
Nov 4-11	Inbound, Cornwall England	
Nov 16, Wed	Board Meeting	7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Nov 17, Thurs	Wine Group I	
Nov 21, Mon	Wine Group II	
Nov 24, Thurs	Thanksgiving	Enjoy
Nov 28, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
<b>Dec 15, Thurs</b>	<b>Holiday Dinner Party</b>	
Dec 15, Thurs	Wine Group I	
Dec 19, Mon	Wine Group II	
Dec 28, Wed	Board Meeting	7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
<b>Jan 5, 2017 Thurs</b>	<b>Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station</b>	<b>7 pm</b> Toni & Curt Feldmann on FF cultural exchanges, Bogota and Somerset, England
Jan 19, Thurs	Wine Group I	
Jan 23, Mon	Wine Group II	
Jan 24, Wed	Board Meeting	7 pm, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room

## Committee Reports

**Membership- Peggy Hayden.** Thanks to everyone who is spreading the word about FF to their friends. In fact, the majority of our new members are the result of one of YOU, our members, recruiting your friends to be a part of our club.

**We have reached the century mark with 101 Member.** According to FFI database, FF Sarasota is 1 of only 13 clubs that exceed 100 in the US! YAY! The FFI data base shows only 13 U.S. clubs with 100 or more members. With 179 members, The FF of Lincoln is #1 then The FF of Olympia (Washington) with 149. Next are: Wisconsin-Madison with 143 members, Greater Milwaukee with 131, Minnesota Twin Cities with 103. The other eight Friendship Force clubs with 100 or more members are: Sacramento, Denver, Atlanta, Southern New Jersey, Harrisburg, Sarasota, Kansas and New Mexico.

FYI, you can access on our FF Sarasota website

<http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org/membershipapplication.htm> under the membership tab our membership application, our Q&A and other materials of potential interest to people that you may be recruiting. Keep up the great work!

**Meet our Members** – We will highlight new and current members each month. The membership committee will be reaching out to you and we're looking forward to knowing each of our members better. We'd also like to include photos in future editions.

**Karen Bush** joined FF in 2016 at the invitation of Mike Trautman. She was interested in joining because of her love of travel. While she has traveled extensively domestically and internationally, much of it has been associated with business. FF travel will give her the opportunity for more in-depth and "authentic" travel experiences as a result of home stays and experiences organized by locals.



Karen grew up in the Hudson River Valley of NY and attended St. Lawrence University. She moved to Pittsburgh to pursue her PhD in Behavior Analysis. She taught psychology in higher education for 15 years and was Dean of Academic Affairs at Washington and Jefferson College. Then she took a job with Continuous Learning Group (CLG), an international consulting organization, providing support to Fortune 500 companies on strategy implementation.

While in Pittsburgh, Karen bought a house with 2 friends, Louise and Jean. This led to their writing, My House, Our House, a book for those interested in shared housing. You can see these 3 housemates being interviewed by Jane Pauley at [My House Our House Video](#) This video is part of a series that Jane Pauley did for the Today Show, offering advice to people interested in "reinventing" themselves in midlife and/or retirement. Karen moved to Sarasota last year and co-owns a condo with her friend, Louise, in the building where Mike Trautman lives. She is continuing to consult with small businesses to help them achieve their goals through her company, On Track Sarasota. In addition, she is pursuing photography and will exhibit 4 of her prints in a show this August at the Friendship Center. She is also involved with a photography Meetup Group. She and Louise are planning to present a workshop through the Lifelong Learning Academy in early 2017 on "reinvention" for boomers.

This busy new member finds time for other interests including travel, cooking, ballet, gardening (see her former garden in the Jane Pauley video), swimming and working out. And, as if she were already not busy enough, she is now actively involved with FF, regularly attending our meetings and social activities as well as being our new Marketing/Publicity chair.

**Barbara Maier** rejoined FF in 2016. She was a member of our club before and went on our exchange to Seattle in 2012. FF is a good fit for this person who enjoys traveling. Barbara is a retired college dean at Mineral Area College in the St. Louis area. She retired to Sarasota in 2002. Upon joining FF in 2012, she was pleased and surprised to have a "reunion" with Don and Kay Nicholson with whom she had worked in the St. Louis area.

In addition to traveling, she has been a volunteer with the Sarasota Ballet, Women's Resource Center, Ringling, the Asolo Theater Guild and a committee of Susan Komen. Interests also include other aspects of the arts that we are able to enjoy



so much here in the Sarasota area. She is looking forward to involvement with FF and has already volunteered to serve on the committee for the upcoming Cornwall exchange and to act as a day host.

**Michelle Pariseau and Frank Hearon** joined FF in 2016 at the invitation of their neighbor, Marie Beck. They moved here in 2006 from Newport, RI. They chose Sarasota as a place to retire, because Frank had a place on Lido Key that they visited regularly and enjoyed the area. While working, Michelle was an accountant and Frank was in computer sales.

They were motivated to join FF because of their love of travel and meeting people from all over the world. They just got back from a 45-day trip around the US by train and car. It was a loop that they started and ended in Chicago, spending 3-4 days each stop along the way. For international travel, 2 favorites among the places they have visited are Italy and Iceland.

In addition to travel, they stay busy with various pastimes. Frank enjoys golf and volunteering at the VA. Michelle volunteers at the Cat Depot and the Florida Cancer Specialist Foundation. They are also looking forward to active involvement with FF and have signed up to do dinner hosting with our fall 2016 exchange.

### August 20 Potluck

35 of us gathered for a potluck...an evening of food, fun and friends. The summer gatherings that we have had this year have been very well attended and have provided an opportunity for our members to get to know each other better. Thanks to Barbara Hahn for her leadership with these events and the great location at Camelot East clubhouse.



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

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

**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

Thanks **Donna Schaeffer and Linda Vendeland** for being responsible for the web site and Facebook club pages.

Now please email your stories and photos to **Terri**, for **posting on Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/Friendship-Force-of-Sarasota> . Send photos, club travel, documents for publishing to for posting on the club web site and newsletter <http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org/>



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 on FB.



**Terri Holsinger 317-753-2172, [ffsrq@outlook.com](mailto:ffsrq@outlook.com)**

## WINE TASTING GROUPS (FF members only)

The wine tastings will resume in October. Have a great September! If you are interested in joining a wine group or being on the alternate list, please contact Jack and Linda Vendeland, [linvende@aol.com](mailto:linvende@aol.com) 941-342-6278



**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!



**Monday, August 29, 4:30**, Burns Court Cinema, 506 Burns Lane, Sarasota, ***Florence Foster Jenkins*** starring **Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant**.

In the mid-'40s, amateur soprano Florence Foster Jenkins sold out Carnegie Hall even faster than Frank Sinatra, turning away nearly 2,000 people at the door. The difference between her and Sinatra? She was a terrible singer — critics called her the worst in the world. Discussion to follow at PF Chang's for a light supper or libation. Hope to see you there, Dot Flynn,

**Dot Flynn, [dafsarasota@comcast.net](mailto:dafsarasota@comcast.net) or (407) 747-5251**

## 2016 Florida Exchanges

Announcing our club's **second Global Themed Exchange**, a repeat and refinement of the first one: **Experience the Arts of Greater Sarasota, FL USA #2** is scheduled for **January 28 - February 4, 2017**. Announcement of this exchange opportunity appeared in the FFI Catalog of Exchanges in mid-July, and an ED Invitation went out mid-August and then the flood of inquiries and applications began. Our committee has selected from the applicants 22 outstanding ambassadors from around the world who will converge on the Sarasota area to enjoy together the arts our community has to offer. Included in the exchange activities will be an evening at the Sarasota Ballet, a Masterworks concert by the Sarasota Orchestra, backstage visits and attendance at one of the plays of the season presented by Asolo Rep as well as Florida Studio Theater. We will enjoy a Sinatra Tribute concert presented by the Artist Series at the brand new Venice Performing Arts Center, enjoy guided visits to Art Centers in the communities, and take an afternoon sightseeing cruise on Sarasota Bay. And, of course, we will spend a day at The Ringling visiting the three part complex.

We would be pleased to have your help. If you would like to volunteer as home host or day host, please contact Barbara Peterson 925-3755 or Marie Beck 914-0283 who will work together to match up ambassadors and hosts. If you prefer to be a dinner host, Connie Bergin 492-2222 would like to hear from you.

**Judi Stratton**, FFI Florida Field Rep, [jaspetite@comcast.net](mailto:jaspetite@comcast.net) or (941) 497-5684

**NEW!** FF Sarasota outbound to Cornwall England is now set for Sept 18, 2017 and Isle of Wight for following week, Sept 25, 2017.

New Zealand inbound will be here in Oct 2017. It will be a busy time!

**Barbara Peterson**, Exchange Coordinator, [bandwpeterson@verizon.net](mailto:bandwpeterson@verizon.net) or (941) 925-3755

## FF SRQ Exchanges – Outbound

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

WNC exchange update... We now have 13 ambassadors. A meeting with the ambassadors is scheduled for immediately after the general meeting on Sept 1st. We will discuss the exchange and **collect checks payable to Donna Schaeffer for \$250 per person**. If anyone is interested in joining this exchange, we have a wait list.

**Donna Schaeffer, 908-577-0974, [rdontrip@hotmail.com](mailto:rdontrip@hotmail.com)**

## FF SRQ Exchanges - Inbound

**Nov 4-11, 2016 (7 days) Inbound Exchange from Cornwall, England**  
ED Ramona McGee

Fourteen (14) ambassadors from Cornwall will be visiting us for 7 nights, commencing Fri, Nov 4th. They will arrive in SRQ from New Orleans about 2:30 pm. We hope as many as possible of you will participate in this exchange to help make our ambassadors welcome, as well as enjoy this opportunity to meet them. Our schedule for the week is as follows:

- Fri, Nov. 4**     **2:30 pm** Home host meet ambassadors at SRQ airport, photos of ambassadors and hosts on the Ringling Grounds.  
                  **4:30 pm** Welcome dinner at Salut  Restaurant, 23 N. Lemon, Sarasota
- Sat, Nov. 5**     **9:30 am** Visit The Ringling Museums
- Sun, Nov. 6**     **Free Day** Suggestions: Venice Art Festival - all day, downtown Venice  
Ski-A-Rees, 2:00PM, 1602 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota
- Mon, Nov.7**     **9:30 am** Mote Marine Biology & Science Museum, rest of day free or if you found The Ringling too much to fully experience in one day, you can visit the Art Museum only for free on Monday afternoon.  
  
                  **6:00 pm** Hosted dinner parties for ambassadors & their hosts
- Tues, Nov. 8**    **9:30 am** Myakka State Park and airboat ride, plus host provide picnic lunch (Election Day)
- Wed, Nov. 9**    **2:30 pm** Guided walk of downtown Sarasota  
                  LeBarge Sunset Cruise
- Thurs, Nov 10** **Free day** to walk Ringling Bridge or explore Celery Fields,  
search for shark's teeth on Caspersen Beach or your choice  
                  **4:00 pm** cocktails  
                  **5:00 pm** Farewell dinner at Waterfrontoo Grille & Steakhouse, 2205 N Tamiami Trail, Nokomis, FL
- Fri, Nov 11**     Ambassadors depart

The reservation form plus costs is on last newsletter page and attached to email. Menu selections are included for the welcome and farewell dinner. Please indicate your entree choice with your name so that we can prepare color-coded name place cards. If you are attending Ringling or Mote, indicate if you have a membership or any additional guest passes. We try accommodate our hosts with a free admission for these events if possible. I believe we should be able to provide a host with a free pass for Ringling and possibly for Mote.

I will hold a meeting for all involved in the exchange at my home on Thurs., Sept. 29th, at 7:00 pm.

Ramona McGee, ED, home 941-378-2094, cell 941-320-5804, email: [McGee0806@comcast.net](mailto:McGee0806@comcast.net)

**RESERVATIONS FOR CORNWALL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES**

Include next page with menu choices with your check

		Cost	No. of People	Total
<b>Fri, Nov 4</b>	Welcome Dinner at Salute Restaurant	\$25	_____	\$_____
<b>Sat, Nov 5</b>	The Ringling Museums	\$15	_____	\$_____
	Membership? _____			
<b>Mon, Nov 7</b>	Mote Marine	\$15	_____	\$_____
	Membership _____			
<b>Tues, Nov 8</b>	Myakka Airboat Ride	\$15	_____	\$_____
<b>Wed, Nov 9</b>	LeBarge Sunset Cruise	\$25	_____	\$_____
<b>Thurs, Nov 10</b>	Farewell Dinner-Waterfrontoo	\$35	_____	\$_____
<b>TOTAL PAID FOR ALL ACTIVITIES</b>				<b>\$_____</b>

Please submit payment, **payable to FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF SARASOTA** by October 15, 2016 to:  
**Donna Brannan, 4147 Oakhurst Circle W, Sarasota, FL 34233**

**Be sure to include welcome and farewell dinner choices with your payment check with your name on your menu choices!**

**Entrée Choices for welcome dinner at Salut , Nov 4**

23 N Lemon, Sarasota

Fill in your name next to menu choices

Include this page with your check

\$25 per person

#1 Chicken Canciofi \_\_\_\_\_

Breast topped with prosciutto, mozzarella, artichokes, lemon capers & white wine

#2 Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

#3 Agnolotti \_\_\_\_\_

Pasta filled with ricotta cheese & spinach in a light cream

All dinners include a choice of soup du jour, spring mixed salad **OR** Caesar salad

Dessert is a choice of tiramisu, cannoli, ice cream or Italian sorbet

Coffee, Tea, or Soda

Cash Bar Available

**Entr e Choices for Farewell Dinner at Waterfrontoo Grille, Nov 10**

2205 N Tamiami Trail, Nokomis

Fill in your name next to menu choices

Include this page with your check

\$35 per person

#1 Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

#3 Coconut Shrimp \_\_\_\_\_

#4 Chicken Teriyaki \_\_\_\_\_

All dinners include house salad with choice of dressing and, choice of  
Potato, vegetable **OR** rice

Dessert choice of key lime pie, bourbon pecan pie  
**OR** seven-layer chocolate cake

One glass of wine. beer or non-alcoholic beverage included