



friendship force
SARASOTA

Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota



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

December, 2016

Volume 27, No 10

OFFICERS

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COMMITTEES

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Exchange Coordinator	Barbara Peterson	941-925-3755	bandwpeterson@verizon.net
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Presidents Message

Well here it is everyone - - the official beginning of the Holiday Season of 2016.

I'm sure we all will reflect on this past year with excitement as we realize the growth that is taking place within Friendship Force Sarasota. We have officially concluded 2016 with a net membership of 101. There are exciting plans and exchanges in the works for 2017 that you won't want to miss.

This wonderful growth within our club could not have happened without many of you who have contributed in shaping our club in positive and significant ways. I value my relationship with each and every one of you and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

The members of the board and I wish you and your families the very happiest of a New Year filled with peace and prosperity.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Holiday Dinner Party on December 15th,

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



Mark Your Calendars

Dec 13, Tues
Dec 15, Thurs
Dec 20, Tues

Wine Group I
Holiday Dinner Party
Wine Group II

home of Judi Stratton
5 p, Heritage Oaks Country Club, see flyer
home of Karen & Warren Gregg

Jan 5, 2017 Thurs

Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station

7 p, Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Assoc
2017 World Rowing Championships
Meredith Scarba, Exec Dir and staff; intro of who & what they are and info about the championships. Great oppty for Global

Jan 17, Tues
Jan 19, Tues

Wine Group II
Wine Group I

Jan 25, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Jan 26, Thurs	Regular Meeting, Waldemere Fire Station	7 p, no Feb meeting due to Global Exchange
Jan 28-Feb 4	Global Exchange-The Arts of Greater Sarasota 2	ED Judi Stratton
Jan 30	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Feb 16, Thurs	Wine Group I	
Feb 21, Tues	Wine Group II	
Feb 22, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Feb 27, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Mar 1, Wed	World Friendship Day (1977 Pres Carter)	
Mar 2, Thurs	Regular Meeting	Waldemere Fire Station – Dinner
Mar 16, Thurs	Wine Group I	
March 20, Mon	Wine Group II	
Mar 22, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Mar 27, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
April 6, Thurs	Regular Meeting	7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Apr 16, Sun	Easter	
Apr 18, Tues	Wine Group II	
April 20, Mon	Wine Group I	
Apr 24, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Apr 26, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
May 4, Thurs	Regular Meeting	7 p Waldemere Fire Station
May 16, Tues	Wine Group II	
May 18, Thurs	Wine Group I	
May 24, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
May 29, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Jun 1, Thurs	ANNUAL Meeting	7 p Waldemere Fire Station, last until 9/2017
Jun 26, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Jul 31, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Aug 19, Thurs	2 nd Annual pot luck supper	Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Aug 23, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Aug 24, 1989	1 st mtg of FF SRQ, 28 yrs-met every other month in the beginning	
Aug 25-28	Global Conference, Manchester UK	
Aug 30-Sept 6	Outbound to Isle of Wight, UK	ED Marie Beck and Terri Holsinger
Aug 28, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Sept 6-13	Outbound to Cornwall, UK	
Sept 7, Thurs	Regular Meeting	7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Sept 25, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Sept 27, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Oct 5, Thurs	Regular Meeting	7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Oct 17, Tues	Wine Group II	
Oct 19, Thurs	Wine Group I	
Oct 18-25	Inbound from New Zealand	
Oct 25, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Oct 30, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Nov 2, Thurs	Regular Meeting	7 p Waldemere Fire Station
Nov 8, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room
Nov 21, Tues	Wine Group II	
Nov 16, Thurs	Wine Group I	
Nov 23, Thurs	Thanksgiving Day	
Nov 27, Mon	Film Talk	Dot Flynn
Nov 14, Thurs	Holiday Dinner Party-no general mtg	TBA
Dec 13, Wed	Board Meeting	7 p, Camelot East Clubhouse – Social Room

Dec 19, Tues
Dec 21, Thurs
Dec 25, Mon

Wine Group II
Wine Group I
Christmas Day

Committee Reports

Membership- Peggy Hayden. Membership - With our membership of 100+, we are a club "on the grow". Learn about 3 of our new members below and make sure to get to know them and the many other interesting people in our club.

Susan Davis (2016) first heard about FF a year ago from FF member Judy Joyce. She heard about FF again from Curt Feldmann in their Spanish class after which she attended one of our meetings this fall and joined. She is passionate about human rights and dignity and feels that travel is the best way to promote world peace. Since this philosophy is the basis for our organization, it was a good fit for her.

Susan moved to this area 20 years ago from an area north of Boston. She is now an Acupuncture Physician and educator in Venice. Her interests include walking, cycling, nature, dancing, and music of all kinds. Like other FF members, she loves to travel and learn about new cultures. She has visited Brazil, England, Spain, Italy, Puerto Rico and Jamaica. She visited Chile with a friend who had family there and thus was able to have an immersion-type experience... like those she is looking forward to having with FF, particularly Spanish immersion. This December, she will take a small ship cruise to the Dominican Republic in which they will cruise for 2 days en route and back again and while there for 3 days, work with people in ESL classes and experience working in a factory. This cruise is sponsored through Fathom Impact Travel (fathom.org). In addition to participating in a future outbound exchange, she has already enjoyed serving as a day host on our recent Cornwall exchange. She is looking forward to attending our meetings and getting to know more of our members.

Marcia Okula (2016) joined FF after being recruited by her neighbor, Reeta Dean. She is interested in travel and appreciates FF's emphasis on experiences that help one get to know the cultures in other countries.

She has lived in Sarasota for the last 2 years. She is currently a snowbird and splits her time between here and her other home near Atlanta. Prior to retirement, she worked in interior design, contracting with various commercial firms in the Atlanta area. She subsequently earned her Masters in Social Work, working first as a therapist at the county mental health center and then working in management with United Health Care.

She has many interests. She enjoys gardening, reading (she's in 2 book clubs), exploring the area, the arts, kayaking, hiking and birding. She's a cat lover and considers her cat her "roommate".

In addition to traveling, Marcia is looking forward to FF involvement including helping to support and entertain other FF ambassadors through home and day hosting. She is also interested in serving on a FF committee such as database/directory, publicity and our newsletter. She will be involved in our Cornwall Exchange through attending one of our exchange dinner parties.

We are happy to welcome **Kay Consigny** to the Friendship Force in Sarasota. Kay was raised in Peoria, IL and attended Indiana University in Bloomington where she majored in Quantitative Business Analysis. After college she worked for Proctor and Gamble in Cincinnati where she managed the Marketing Analysis Department. She struck out on her own to start her own heating/AC/radon business which she grew over the years and sold in 2000. She moved to Sarasota to get out of the cold, enjoy the sunshine, and take advantage of the theaters, beaches and our friendly people. She enjoys being outdoors while kayaking, biking and walking. Her interests include geocaching, learning Spanish, traveling and quilting/sewing. Curt Feldmann told Kay about Friendship Force while they both attended a class in Spanish. Kay's favorite trips were to Sweden in a house exchange, and to Europe for three weeks of "random" visits to small-mid size cities. Recently Kay home-hosted two ambassadors from England which she really enjoyed. "We will be friends for life". Kay plans to see them in September when she goes to Cornwall. Kay is single and lives in Turtle Rock.

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.



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

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!**

Dot Flynn, dafsarasota@comcast.net or (407) 747-5251

Treasurer Reminder-Dues are Due. The most fun and greatest friends you've ever had for just \$25-it's a bargain! Be sure to update your information on the form for the new directory: cell, email, interests and hosting capability, address. Mail the form with your check or bring to December 15 Holiday Party or January 5 meeting. Form is also posted on our club web site, <http://www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org/>
See form attached to email.



Friendly reminder from your treasurer, **Sandy Tuveson**

Database and Directory – Thanks to Margaret Lewis for continued work on updating our database and directory. If you have any updates including phone, email or address changes please send to mmlewis@comcast.net. An updated directory is attached to this 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



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/>

Have patience with our web site. Eventually, we will be migrating to a new platform.

Terri Holsinger 317-753-2172, ffsrq@outlook.com

WINE TASTING GROUPS (FF members only)

Group 1 enjoyed tasting Gewurztraminer wines from Washington, California, South Africa and New Zealand. The winner was Two Vines Columbia Crest Gewurztraminer for \$8.99 btl. This wine is from Washington. After the tasting the group enjoyed dinner on St. Armands Circle at the Venezia. The next tasting will be on Tuesday, December 13 at Judi Stratton's.



Group 2 tasted sauvignon blanc wines from five different countries. Their #1 rated wine was Five Branches from California which cost \$7.99. After the tasting they went to the Bangkok restaurant for dinner. The next tasting will be on Tuesday, December 20 at the home of Kathy and Warren Gregg.

Remember, if you are interested in joining a wine group or being on the alternate list, please contact Jack and Linda Vendeland, linvende@aol.com 941-342-6278

FF SRQ Exchanges - Inbound

HOSTS and TICKET RESERVATIONS NEEDED:

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. Take advantage of this opportunity to host interesting and talented ambassadors and to attend some of Sarasota's premier arts performances at group ticket prices.

We would be very pleased to have your help; in fact, **we cannot do it without you**. Home hosts have been assigned to our 22 ambassadors and that matching information will be sent out very soon. If you would like to volunteer as a **day host** or **back-up home host**, **PLEASE** contact **Barbara Peterson 941-925-3755** or **Marie Beck 941-914-0283** who will work together to match up ambassadors and hosts. If you prefer to be a **dinner host**, Connie Bergin 941-492-2222 would like to hear from you. If you are new to hosting, our committee members will help you learn how to be a good host.

Advance purchase tickets to exchange activities are available to all club members and are due to exchange treasurer Ramona McGee by Monday, Dec 19. Special instructions to home hosts about the tickets have gone out via email on Black Friday. Reservations for the welcome luncheon at Rosebud's and the farewell luncheon at Mattison's Forty-One are also open now through January 15. See the 2 forms to complete at end of newsletter and attached to email.

THANK YOU to all our volunteers in whatever role you can play. Judi Stratton, ED, 941 497-5684, jaspelite@comcast.net

FF SRQ Exchanges – Outbound

We will start talking about our outbound to **Cornwall and Isle of Wight** once the Global is behind us. Marie Beck and Terri Holsinger are the co-EDs for these outbound exchanges.

Barbara Peterson, Exchange Coordinator, bandwpeterson@verizon.net or (941) 925-3755

News from Friendship Force International, Valerie Malfara, Regional Support Manager, 404.965.4332, valerie@thefriendshipforce.org

Benefits & Services	Benefit Limits
Trip Cancellation	Total Trip Cost
Trip Interruption	150% of Trip Cost
Trip Delay (12 Hours)	\$500 (\$200 per day)
Missed Connection	\$500
Accident Medical	\$50,000
Sickness Medical	\$50,000
Dental Coverage	\$750
Emergency Evacuation	\$250,000
Baggage & Personal Effects	\$1,000
Baggage Delay	\$200
Travel Assistance Hotline (24/7)	Included

We are proud to announce that we are now able to offer the **Friendship Force Protection**

Plan for your travel insurance needs. It is a comprehensive policy that includes trip cancellation/trip delay and medical/evacuation insurance. It is available for purchase for your FF exchanges or for personal travel.

It is not based on age. If purchased within 15 days of booking your travel, there is a pre-existing condition waiver applied. Following is an overview of the benefits and pricing. To purchase this policy, please

Trip Cost Category	Plan Cost/pp Per Trip
Up to \$1,000	\$38
\$1,001 - \$2,000	\$113
\$2,001 - \$3,000	\$188
\$3,001 - \$4,000	\$263
\$4,001 - \$5,000	\$338

fill out and submit the following online form: [Friendship Force Travel Protection Plan Order Form](#). For questions, please feel free to contact Valerie.

Nov 4-11, 2016 Inbound Exchange from Cornwall, England ED Ramona McGee

Yes, after more than one year in planning, 14 ambassadors from Cornwall visited us for a week. From all reports from our members, as well as from our visiting ambassadors, this was a most successful exchange! And **YOU** made it happen - from those who helped with the planning and the execution, to those who hosted, home, day and dinners and/or participated in any other manner. It was wonderful to have so many who offered to volunteer for various positions, both new members and those who have been members for many years. We had 48 people involved. This made my position as Exchange Director much easier.

The reports from our visiting Cornwall members were very positive. They especially enjoyed the fact that we allowed ample "free time" to enjoy the area, as well as our planned activities, including Myakka State Park and the LeBarge.

A Big Thank You to all who helped to make this happen and let's continue this wonderful interest in Friendship Force!

Ramona McGee, ED, Cornwall Exchange #12731

FF SARASOTA HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY



Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club
4800 Chase Oaks Drive, Sarasota, 34241

Thursday, December 15th
Specially Created Holiday Menu

5:00pm Drinks in dining room
6:00pm Special holiday dinner entertainment

*Check for \$35.00 (includes sales tax and gratuity)
payable to Barbara Hahn confirms your reservation*
Be sure to note your main entrée choice on memo line of check
(Mail to: 5581 Axminster Drive, Sarasota 34241)

Holiday Menu

Includes glass of draft beer or house wine

Heritage Oaks House Salad

Fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, golden raisins, walnuts,
crumbled blue cheese & citrus dressing

CHOICE OF ENTREE:

Bourbon Glazed Pork Loin

Honey Bourbon Jus

Pan Seared Mahi Mahi

Grilled Pineapple Mango Salsa

Pan Seared Flat Iron Steak

Wild Mushroom Sauce

Vegetable: Buttermilk whipped potatoes & buttered broccoli

Dessert: Vanilla Bean Crème Brule

Whipped cream and fresh berries

Fresh rolls and butter, coffee and tea

DIRECTIONS

Bee Ridge Road east to Bee Ridge Extension. Turn right (south).
Entrance to Heritage Oaks Country Club will be on your right side.

Clark Road (SR 72) east to Bee Ridge Extension. Turn left (north).
Heritage Oaks Country Club entrance will be on your left side.

Experience the Arts of Greater Sarasota 2
Activities Requiring Advance Purchase
January 28-February 4, 2017

Please indicate activities you will attend by entering the # attending each activity and enclose a check for the total cost of all activities when returning this RSVP.

RSVP must be received by Monday, December 19, 2016

- **Sun, Jan 29 3:00 *Tribute to Sinatra*, Venice Performing Arts Center (VPAC) **\$25****
- Will attend: _____ # attending; People attending x \$25 = total \$_____

- **Mon, Jan 30 7:30 *Sarasota Ballet*, FSU Performing Arts Center **\$90****
- Will attend: _____ # attending; People attending x \$90 = total \$_____

- **Tues, Jan 30 1:30 *LeBarge sightseeing & nature cruise* **\$20****
- Will attend: _____ # attending; People attending x \$20 = total \$_____

- **8:00 *Brownsville Song*, FST, Gompertz Theatre **\$29****
- Will attend: _____ # attending; People attending x \$29 = total \$_____

- **Wed, Feb 1 10:30 *Back-stage tour* of FSU Performing Arts Center**
 12:00 *Noon Lunch* on the mezzanine
 1:30 *The Originalist* at FSU Performing Arts Center **\$76 pkg**
- Will attend: _____ # attending; People attending x \$76 = total \$_____

- Thur, Feb 2 10:00 *Ringling Museum* **\$15****
- Will attend: _____ # attending; People attending x \$15 = total \$_____

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

- **Fri, Feb 3 8:00 *Masterworks Concert*, Sarasota Orchestra **\$64****
- Will attend: _____ # attending; People attending x \$64 = total \$_____

TOTAL for ALL activities selected above \$_____

Name(s): _____

Please circle the host position for which you volunteered: HOME HOST DAY HOST

SEND THIS RSVP by December 19 & CHECK Payable to: Friendship Force Sarasota

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

Welcome at Rosebuds Steak & Seafood
Sunday, January 29, 11:45 am-2:15 pm

RSVP due January 15

2215 S Tamiami Trail
Osprey, FL 34229

<http://rosebudssarasota.com/>

Entrée choices:

- #1 **Steak** Kabob over rice
- #2 **Chicken** Parmesan over linguine
- #3 Herb-crusted baked **white fish** with baked potato
- #4 **Vegetarian** entrées by special request

Tossed Salad

Dessert: Crème Brulee

Non-alcoholic beverage

Cash Bar

Total price is \$25 including tax and tip

Farewell at Mattison's Forty-One
Friday, February 3, 12:00 Noon-2 pm

RSVP due January 15

7275 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231

www.mattisons.com

Entrée choices:

- #1 Rosemary-honey glazed **salmon** with crispy fingerling potatoes, asparagus, citrus beurre blanc
- #2 **Pot Roast** reconstructed with braised cream potatoes, baby carrots, Cipollini onion cream, demi glaze
- #3 **Turkey** wrap: oven roasted turkey, gruyere cheese, house made bacon, tomato avocado
- #4 **Vegetarian:** spinach and mushroom omelet; goat & Monterey jack cheese, crispy fingerling potatoes

House salad: mixed field greens with toasted pine nuts, tomatoes and Gorgonzola tossed with house-made balsamic vinaigrette

Dessert: Assorted mini-desserts

Total price is \$27.50 including tax and tip

NAME(S): _____

of guests for Welcome x \$25 = \$ _____ Entrée # _____ Entrée # _____

of guests for Farewell x \$27.50 = \$ _____ Entrée # _____ Entrée # _____

SEND THIS RSVP by January 15 & CHECK Payable to: Friendship Force Sarasota

Mail to: Exchange Treasurer – Ramona McGee

5316 Dominica Circle, Sarasota, FL 34233

(941) 378-2094 or rmcgee0806@comcast.net