



friendship force  
SARASOTA

a world of friends  
is a world of peace



friendship force  
international

## Friendship Force Sarasota Newsletter



### Welcome 2024!

Our club is gearing up for our first inbound journey of 2024, Feb 1-6 from Ft Worth, TX.

Oklahoma, Iowa,

We're so excited to have members of Ft Worth, Dallas, Sacramento, Colorado and Montana FF clubs included in this inbound. Lots of new friends to meet! Thanks to the many volunteers who are making this journey outstanding. The activities team has added some new and fun events to the agenda.

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**All home hosts, day hosts and any members who want to participate in any activities, need to fill out the [activity form](#), include a check or pay via PayPal and submit to JoEllen Lane by **Jan 10**.**

**OR print and bring the form to the Jan 3 meeting. Form also at end of newsletter.**

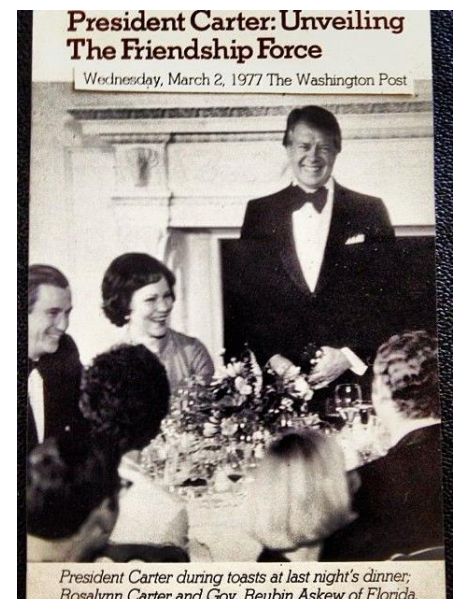
If you have a membership to **Selby Gardens** and can get a guest in for free or at reduced cost, please contact Kay and let her know. Selby is an optional activity for ambassador free time or if Myakka water is too low for our boat ride.

We have a fantastic program with author Jeri Sedlar scheduled for **Jan 3 meeting next week, *Don't Retire-REWIRE!***

We're saddened at the loss of **First Lady Rosalynn Carter**. She and President Carter were instrumental in the creation of Friendship Force International in 1977 with Dr Wayne Smith. FFI was mentioned in her memorial service. Mrs. Carter served as Honorary Chairperson of The Friendship Force through the first twenty-five years, working to ensure that the organization became vibrant and known around the world.

We've worked with the **Fruitville Library to open the meeting room prior to our meetings** to enable socializing and Q&A. Note new opening time for the room in calendar below. Meetings start at 6:00 pm.

**From your president, Kay Consigny**



## Mark Your Calendars for the new season!

### Fruitville Library Meeting Room

East of I-75, ½ mi on the south side of Fruitville Rd

See our club calendar on our website with the latest activities [www.ffsarasotafl.org](http://www.ffsarasotafl.org)

**Wed, Jan 3, 6:00 pm (room opens at 5:30)—General meeting** at the Fruitville Library—Speaker & Topic: **Jeri Sedlar** is an author, speaker and lecturer on the evolving topic of retirement. She is co-author of the book, *Don't Retire-REWIRE!* and *On Target: Enhance Your Life and Ensure Your Success*. She has traveled the globe actively researching individuals and organizations on the challenges associated with an aging society. Jeri is the former Editor-at-Large of *Working Woman* magazine and was a partner in an executive search firm that specialized in the placement of senior executives in the health and beauty industry.

**Thurs, Feb 1-Tues Feb 6, 2024, #24259 Inbound from Ft Worth, TX.** The 1<sup>st</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> are travel days for the ambassadors. We have activities, welcome/farewell **reservation forms** so all in our club can participate while Ft Worth is visiting. See attached.

**Wed, Feb 7, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00)—General meeting** at the Fruitville Library—Speaker & Topic: Stephanie Frasher from the **Arts Advocates**. Arts Advocates preserves the past and invests in the future through arts related programming, scholarships, and collection of art works by Sarasota Art Colony artists.

**Wed, March 6, 2024, 5:30-Annual International Dinner** at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 3975 Fruitville Rd. This is a **potluck** dinner that provides a "getting to know you" atmosphere. Members are asked to bring some type of "international" dish, along with a small card naming the dish to set on the table beside it. Members are also asked to wear some type of international clothing. We have **sign-up sheets for food and setup/cleanup volunteers**.

**Wed, April 3, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:30)—General meeting** at the Fruitville Library. Speaker & Topic- **Visiting Nepal** – co-presented by Terri Holsinger and Kristina Skepton. Terri & Stan had an FF Journey to Nepal & India in 2023 (with the Central NC FF Club). Kristina was in Nepal for several months and will share her gorgeous photos and the work she did there. She is the president of the local chapter of *Together Women Rise* whose mission is to achieve global gender equality. They gather for monthly potlucks for Food, Fun, Friendship and Fundraising for Women and Children in developing countries.

**Wed, May 1, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:30)—General Meeting** at the Fruitville Library. Speaker & Topic-Sue Gordon – She is a member of FF AND **Sister Cities** Sarasota. Sister Cities was the vision of President Eisenhower, who had seen first-hand the ravages of World War II, created the people-to-people program of citizen diplomacy in 1956. Sarasota formalized its first sister city in 1963.

**May 8-21, 2024, #24069 Outbound** to NorPeru (Trujillo) FF club and Lima, Peru clubs.

**Wed, June 5, 2024, 6:00 pm (room opens at 5:30)—General meeting** at the Fruitville Library. Speaker & Topic-- **FF Journey to Japan** – Jo Ellen Lane will share her outbound FF Journey + plus commercial tour in March 2023 with The Villages FF club. **No meetings in July & August.**

**Oct 7-9, 2024, US and Canada FFI Conference**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Oct 17-22, 2024, #24260 Outbound** to Ft Worth, TX and Dallas pre-trip

**Oct 27-Nov 3, 2024, Inbound: #24219 Limburg, Belgium**

## Club Journeys Coordinator Report

1. **Inbound: #24259 Ft Worth TX, Feb 1-6** Host Coord (HC)-JoEllen Lane (mentor Sue Gordon). The general **meeting** where we **review the journey** before it happens with all home, day, dinner hosts, coordinators and chairs will be **Jan 30, 2024, 7 pm at Kay Consigny's home**. You'll get a reminder, and her address is in the directory.
2. **Outbound: #24069 Nor Peru (Trujillo) FF club, May 8-15 and Lima, Peru FF club, May 15-21**. AC-Diana Friedman (mentor Marie Beck), Diana is waiting for more info and full costs. She will contact those interested. If you would like to join this journey, fill out the online [Ambassador Application form](#) and include the refundable application fee of \$25.
3. **Outbound: #24260 Ft. Worth TX Oct 17-22**, Ambassador Coord (AC)-Debbie Kuhns (mentor Reeta Dean), Marie Beck worked with FF Dallas on a pre-visit prior to Ft Worth.
4. **Inbound: #24219 Limburg, Belgium, 10/27-11/3**. Carol Hagglund is Host Coordinator (HC) (Mentor-Terri Holsinger)

Thanks to all who volunteered for the many roles that make a successful journey.

Click this link to review the documents on our club website which includes all the roles and responsibilities. Good info: [FF SRQ & FFI Journey Documents](#)

Judi Stratton, Club Journeys Coordinator



Are you going on a journey and need a small hostess gift? We have pins and pens available. Pins \$4 each or 3/\$10 and pens for \$2. See Kay or Terri. We also have cork coasters with our club logo and small bamboo cutting boards with logo available. See Terri



Wow, lots of birthdays. Give them a call or send a card.

BDAY	First Name	Last Name
1/2	Phillip	<b>Price</b>
1/6	Karen	<b>Welcome</b>
1/7	Nedra	<b>Farwell</b>
1/7	Margaret	<b>Mills</b>
1/22	Obie	<b>Cherilus</b>
1/23	Margie	<b>Henry</b>

1/24	Abe	<b>Lederman</b>
1/25	Susan	<b>Brenner</b>
1/25	Anne	<b>Taylor</b>
1/26	Darlene	<b>Zimmerman</b>
1/27	Margaret	<b>Lewis</b>
2/7	Terri	<b>Holsinger</b>
2/11	Claudia	<b>Deschu</b>

2/14	Mike	Ries
2/17	Sara	Jones
2/17	John	Kestly

2/20	Sue	Gordon
2/22	Nancy	Troy

## Member Contact Information

All member contact information is included in a follow-up email. We need your photos and bios. Please email [ffsrq@outlook.com](mailto:ffsrq@outlook.com), we can crop your photos.



## Wine Groups



**Wine group 1** led Debbie & Gary Kuhns;  
**Group 3** is led by Marie Beck



To start a new wine group, we need at least 6-10 members. **If you are interested in a new group, see signup sheets at the welcome table at the meeting or send an email to [ffsrq@outlook.com](mailto:ffsrq@outlook.com)** and we will contact you. We are looking for participants who can commit to meeting once a month from Sept-April. Wine groups are hosted in member’s homes. We have instructions and mentoring.

## International Book Club

FF SRQ International Book Club meets each month on the 3rd Monday at New College bayfront at 10:00 am. We generally read books set in countries other than the US. **Bring your lawn chair and join us.** Enter the campus from Tamiami Trail and follow the road back to the left to a parking lot where you will see two buildings connected by a breezeway. Walk through the breezeway and meet up with your friends in a lovely, shaded area on the waterfront.

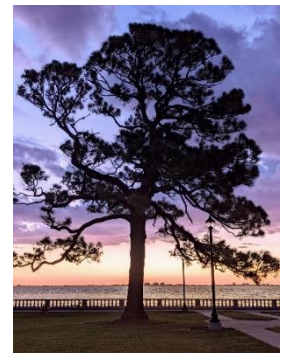
Book selections:

**Jan** - The Innocents Abroad (Europe)

**Feb** – The Alchemist (Egypt),

**March** – Turn Right at Machu Picchu: (Peru)

Happy reading, Reeta Dean



*Our tree at New College at sunset*

## Film Talk



**From Dot Flynn.** Join us on the last Friday of each month at Burns Court Cinema. Details come in email. All members and friends are welcome. We have a rousing discussion afterwards at PF Chang's. Dec movie was *Boys in the Boat*.

## News from Friendship Force International (FFI)

### HOLD THE DATE:

**There will be a North American Conference (US & CAN)**

**Oct 7-9, 2024, in Milwaukee, WI**

More information on hosted opportunities, tours and venues is coming.

### WORLDWIDE JOURNEYS

click on List of all Journeys Worldwide

[2024 List of All Journeys](#) Domestic and International

Journey opportunities 2023-2024 that are actively seeking ambassadors to join in:

Click to [EXPLORE JOURNEY CATALOG](#)

### Online Workshop Recordings

If you missed the 2023 world conference and some of its workshops, don't worry! You can catch up here by watching a recording of your chosen topic.

1. Top Apps Worth Exploring: [Watch here](#)
2. It's A Match! [Watch here](#) (Passcode required: qm&xhT^9)
3. Special Journeys, Special Leaders: [Watch here](#)
4. Using Social Media: [Watch here](#)
5. From Mission to Movement: How Anyone Anywhere Can Now Join Friendship Force: [Watch here](#)
6. The Club Leadership Conundrum: [Watch here](#)

### FFI MEMBER PORTAL:

Every member should have their own account on the FFI portal. Why?

- To learn more about journeys that are taking place worldwide, especially those looking for additional ambassadors. **ALL FF members can join any journey with any club if there are available spaces.**
- All members should have account on the FF Member Portal. Go to this link and begin Sign Up for your new account: [https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign\\_in](https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in) If you need help, call Terri 317-753-2172.

### Independent Journeys

With great anticipation, we announced our new program last April. On an Independent Journey (formerly "Individual Journeys"), Friendship Force members can now get to know other members and make new friends one-to-one! We feel happy and proud that, thanks to our generous FF host families, we have been able to present our members with a new way of creating friendships and making the world a friendlier place in addition to our traditional Club-to-Club Journeys, where it sometimes can be hard to secure a seat.

We are off to a great start! **64 independent hosting opportunities have been offered** so far worldwide. Both hosts and ambassadors loved the experience and they have testified that these journeys allow for especially close bonds between host and ambassador:

Some of our ambassadors are joining up their Club-to-Club Journeys with an Independent Journey, and you may be able to combine several Independent Journey opportunities, if you check what's on offer. Just **browse the [Journey Catalog](#)** and send off your application today!

Would you like to host an Independent Journey? Here's the [host application](#) for you to fill out.

### Did you know that FFI sponsors cruises?

#### 2024 Festival At Sea: The Classical World, Journey #24257

August 23 - September 1, 2024 Click here to [Learn More](#) >



#### A Steady Climb: Friendship Force International's Financial Recovery

As the year comes to an end, many are thinking about donations they can make, some to lower tax bills. Here is a link to donate to FFI, a 501c3 tax deductible non-profit. <https://donorbox.org/crossing-the-finish-line>

#### Donations to FFI - The Advantages of Donating Stock, Mutual Funds

### Some Photos from our Holiday Party Dec 6 at Salute

Virginia Stephens, Ramona McGee, Nedra Farwell,  
Judi Stratton, Phill Price



JoEllen Lane, Hal & Peggy Hayden, Peggy's sister, Dave Burke



Nancy Troy, Leaf & Ange Wanless, Barb Delgado, Sue Gordon



Terri & Stan Holsinger, Gary & Debbie Kuhns, Marcia Okula, Reeta Dean



Friend, Kay Consigny, friend, Jeff Sassano



Lauri Lykes, Karin Ehlers, Marie Beck, friend



Congratulations to Bob & Judy Joyce on their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrating on a Viking Cruise

## Travel & Local News

The **Florida Highwaymen** featured at City Hall exhibit beginning Jan. 8, 2024

A capsule collection of Florida Highwaymen paintings will be showcased in the cultural heritage exhibit in the City Hall atrium, 1565 First Street, beginning Monday, Jan. 8, 2024.

For more information go to: [City of Sarasota News](https://www.cityofsarasota.com/news) If you're hosting ambassadors and have some free time, this is an excellent place to visit.

**European Travel Information and Authorization System or ETIAS.** With the arrival of ETIAS expected in 2025, passport holders of 59 of the 62 countries that currently travel visa-free, will require an ETIAS waiver to travel to Europe for the purposes of tourism, business, or transit for a 90 days stay in any 180-day period, this includes the US.

ETIAS implementation is now delayed until at least **2025**. Designed to strengthen the security of the Schengen Area, the ETIAS will offer a way for Member States to pre-screen prospective visitors before they enter the region. <https://etias.com/what-is-etias/who-needs-etias> for updated information.

# FF SRQ Inbound Journey Activities Sign-up Sheet and Itinerary

#24259 from Ft. Worth, TX

February 2-5, 2024

**DEADLINE: January 10, 2024**

Kay Consigny, Activities Chair, 941-266-4304, kay.ff@hotmail.com

Diane Schulman, Ringling Museum, 941-248-7165, diane.r.schulman@gmail.com

Abe Lederman, Sarasota Bay Eco Boat Tour, 505-690-3271, deepwebabe@gmail.com

Joan Emrich, Myakka, 941-504-8645, jmemrich@comcast.net

John Kestly, Welcome/Farewell Chair, 941-330-6106, jkestly@gmail.com

Please RSVP for these events if you are a:

- Home Host or Day Host attending the event with your ambassadors
- Member and a friend/partner, you are encouraged to join events

You do not need to RSVP for the incoming ambassadors. They pay for their own tickets.

**DO YOU HAVE A RINGLING MEMBERSHIP THAT ALLOWS GUESTS FOR FREE OR REDUCED COST? REPLY immediately if you can bring a guest in for free or reduced cost.** We share these passes with our hosts to reduce their costs. \*\* We collect money for this event to make sure we can purchase tickets if needed and will refund any money not spent on tickets back to the hosts.

**Please return the form in one of the following ways:**

1. Mail to JoEllen Lane, 11225 Estia Dr, Unit 134, Bradenton FL 34211
2. Email a picture or pdf of this form when filled out to [joellenlane8@gmail.com](mailto:joellenlane8@gmail.com)
3. **OR** bring form and check to Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting

**Payment** to Friendship Force Sarasota via check or PayPal (see instructions in newsletter and on web site).

**Day 1, Thu, Feb 1 5:00 pm Optional, Sunset (6:11pm) at Siesta Key Beach, BYO chair, beverage, food**

**Day 2, Fri, Feb 2 10:00 am - Welcome Brunch Buffet with visit from Mable Ringling**  
Mellow Mushroom, 6727 S Tamiami Trail

# attending Welcome Brunch Buffet \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**12:30 am – The Ringling Museums & Ca d’Zan Home, 5401 Bay Shore Rd**

# attending Museum and Ca d’Zan \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35\*\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# attending Museum only \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25\*\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Not attending but will meet to get # \_\_\_\_\_ people in on my pass.

Will attend # \_\_\_\_\_ and will use membership card for my admission.

Will attend # \_\_\_\_\_ and use membership pass to get # \_\_\_\_\_ others in

**TBD – Take the host to dinner night.**



**Day 3, Sat, Feb 3**      **9:30 am – Hermann’s Royal Lipizzans - 32755 Singletary Rd Myakka City, FL 34251**

# attending Lipizzans      \_\_\_\_\_      X      \$10      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**1:00 pm – Tour of Old Miakka Preserve with Master Gardener (Free)**

251 Myakka Rd, Sarasota, FL

**Optional:** Old Miakka Schoolhouse, 15800 Wilson Rd, Sarasota, FL

**Optional:** Old Miakka Church, 1620 Myakka Rd, Sarasota, FL

# attending Preserve Tour      \_\_\_\_\_

**5:30 pm – Pizza Party with visit from Bertha Palmer (bring your own beverage)**

Home of Diana & Bob Friedman, 2610 59<sup>th</sup> St, Sarasota, FL

# attending Pizza Party      \_\_\_\_\_      X      \$7      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Day 4, Sun, Feb 4**      **TBD am      Sarasota Bay Eco Boat Tour (1hr 45min tour), 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway**

# attending Eco Boat Tour      \_\_\_\_\_ X      \$35      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TBD pm      Ski A Rees (FREE)**

# attending Ski A Rees      \_\_\_\_\_

**6:00 Hosted Dinner Parties (ambassadors & home hosts are hosted)**

**Day 5, Mon, Feb 5**      **10:30 am (no later than) Myakka River State Park (MRSP) Boat Tour at Boat Ramp**

Allow 25 minutes to get to the boat ramp from the front gate (drivers pay \$6 per car entry fee)

# attending Myakka boat tour      \_\_\_\_\_      X      \$22      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional Picnic at MRSP - Bring your own picnic lunch and chair.**

# attending picnic      \_\_\_\_\_

**Free Time**

**5:00 PM Farewell hors d’oeuvres and drinks**

Unitarian Universalist Church, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL

# attending Farewell Party      \_\_\_\_\_      X      \$30      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I accept that the journey is a public event, and that photographs and names may be used by the local and national media and Friendship Force International in its publications.

**NAMES** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRAND TOTAL**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE(S)** \_\_\_\_\_

**PayPal Payment Instructions**

Click this link to see steps to pay your Dues or Activity Fees

[2023 How to Use PayPal](#)

## **2024 Friendship Force Sarasota Officers**

**President** Kay Consigny

**Program Committee**

Chair: Diana Friedman

Reeta Dean, Amy Ferrell, Sara Jones,  
JoEllen Lane, Anne Taylor, Gina Thomas

**Secretary**-Marie Beck

**Treasurer**- JoEllen Lane

**Past President**-Terri Holsinger, Sara Jones

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Database-Margaret Lewis

Club Journeys Coordinator-Judi Stratton

Membership-Abe Lederman

Communications/Media-Terri Holsinger

Includes FB, Newsletter, Website, Email

Meetup – Kay Consigny

### **Wine Tasting Groups**

Debbie & Gary Kuhns Group 1, Marie Beck Group 3

**Book Club**-Reeta Dean

**Film Talk**-Dorothy Flynn

**Social Committee**: TBD

<https://www.facebook.com/FFSRQ>

<https://ffsarasotafl.org/>