



friendship force
SARASOTA

a world of friends is a world of peace



friendship force
international



Happy LEAP Day. This newsletter is a compilation of emails sent to our club members in February. There are many journeys both domestic and international. Check out the member portal for a new Journeys Marketplace

https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in.

Our club website has been down as it was being rebuilt. Apologies if you've been trying to access. Its back up at: www.ffi-sarasotafl.org

1. **FFI created a new membership handbook.** Very cool looking with great information. Click PDF attached to email to view the new 2024 FFI Handbook.
2. **Wed, March 6, 2024, 5:30-Still time to register yourself and friends for World Friendship Day Annual International Dinner** at the Unitarian Universalist Campus, 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 international clothing if you have. We have **sign-up sheets for food and setup/cleanup volunteers at this link [use this form to signup online](#)**. We have 32 signed up so far with 1 appetizer, 9 mains, 8 sides, 5 salads and 4 Desserts. Bring your own drink (wine/soft drinks). We will have water. **We need your RSVP. Friends and guests are welcome.**
3. We have **4 openings** for the **Peru Journey May 8-21, 2024**. See **more info in the attached description**. [Here is application link](#). This journey is now in the Journeys catalog, so get your application and deposit into Diana Friedman ASAP.
4. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS for club journeys-Block off Oct 27-Nov 3** to be a day, dinner or home host. You are critical to our successful inbound from Belgium.
 - a. **May 8-21, 2024, Outbound #24069** Trujillo and Lima, Peru FF clubs
 - b. **Oct 17-22, 2024, #24260 Outbound** to Ft Worth, TX and Dallas pre-trip, Debbie Kuhns, Ambassador Coordinator
 - c. **Oct 27-Nov 3, 2024, Inbound:** #24219 Limburg, Belgium, Carol Hagglund Host Coordinator
5. **Attention Kayakers:** Bonnie/Judi/Dot have started a regular monthly kayaking event on the **3rd Tues of each month: March 19, April 19th & May 21st**.
 - a. **Tues, March 19** arrive no later than **9:30 am** Join us at **Snook Haven, Tues,**, 5000 E Venice Ave, Venice, FL 34292, Bring your own boat & gear or rent a kayak w/ gear there. Snook

Haven does not take advance reservations for kayaks. Bring cash or check for payment. Boats and prices, directions to the vendor/launch site available on the website: <https://www.snookhaven.com/canoe-kayak-rentals>; Bring your own lunch for snacking afterward, or plan to eat at the indoor/outdoor restaurant after paddling. Alternative for **non-kayakers**: meet the paddlers group at the restaurant for lunch and take a tour with Logan River Tours after lunch. Several tours daily starting at noon. Reservations highly recommended 941-875-2070. If you are interested in any of these options: 1 kayak outing, 2 lunch at Snook Haven, 3 Logan River Tour, **please email your RSVP to Judi Stratton jaspetite@comcast.net or Dot Flynn dafsarasota@comcast.net** and email in advance or bring with you on Tuesday your **signed "hold harmless" form** for the protection of the club.

- b. **Tues, April 19th 9 am-12:30** Bring your kayak and life vest or rent from one of the onsite vendors. 1. Sarasota Paddleboard Company appeared to have a lot of new equipment. To reserve just call Bob McFarland 941-650-2241. You can also go to their website sarasotapaddleboardcompany.com or email bob@sarasotapaddleboardcompany.com 2. Kayaking SRQ represents 2 companies. To make reservations call or text 941-799-1863 or 941-275-2971. You can book online <https://kayakingsrq.com/> . Stephen was the guy on duty when I was there. Rates: Sarasota Paddleboard Co. charges \$45.00 single & \$60.00 tandem for 3 hours. SRQ offers 2 options: \$45.00/\$65.00 for 3 hr and a 2-hour rental for \$30.00/\$45.00. We will **launch around 9:30** so please be there by 9:00. Suggested "brings": hat with broad brim, sun block, mosquito repellent, water & water, and snacks. It is smart to throw in a towel. Please RSVP Bonnie or Dot Flynn if you plan to come or have any questions. Bonnie Barton 404-423-9854, bjbartonmail1@gmail.com or Dot Flynn 407-747-5251, dafsarasota@comcast.net
- c. **Tues, May 21st, 9 am-12:00** Turtle Bay, Midnight Pass Rd to Turtle Beach Rd to Blind Pass Rd. Launch site on the left and parking on the right. Kayaking SRQ is onsite AND smart to make reservations-call or text 941-799-1863 or 941-275-2971. You can book online <https://kayakingsrq.com>.

Hold Harmless Agreement

The Participant recognizes that connected with any activity/event there are risks of loss, damage, and injury to persons and property, and the Participant is willing to assume and bear those risks. The Participant also recognizes that he/she/they is/are responsible for failure to comply with any law of any country visited. Therefore, the Participant, agrees to and does hereby release, indemnify, and hold harmless Friendship Force Sarasota (which shall include the directors and officers, thereof, as well as its volunteer workers) from all claims, actions, and causes of action based upon or by reason of any loss, damage, or injury to the Participant's person or property, arising out of or in any manner connected with any aspect of the activity or event.

Signature of Participant

Safe and Enjoyable Travels, your President, Kay Consigny, ffsrq@outlook.com

FF North American Regional Conference

October 7-10, 2024

Registration is now open to all members in Canada, Mexico and the USA. This is your chance to join us for an inspiring event celebrating cultural exchange and friendship while discussing the issues that matter in your region.

Location: Drury Plaza Hotel Downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA



Visit the [conference website](#) for more information about the conference and how to book your hotel room with our conference discount code. **Register now** to secure your place! Let Terri or Kay know if you plan to attend.

Mark Your Calendars for 2024 Club Meetings!

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.ffiarasotafl.org

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**.

Tues, March 19, Kayaking

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.

Tues, April 19, Kayaking

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.

Tues, May 21st, Kayaking

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.**

Wed, Sept 4th, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing)—General meeting at the Fruitville Library

Wed, Oct 2 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing)—General meeting at the Fruitville Library

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
Tues, Nov 12, 6:00 (change of day due to library conflict), room open at 5:00 for socializing)— General meeting at the Fruitville Library
Wed, Dec 4, tentative date for Holiday Gathering

Club Journeys Coordinator Report



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, March and April. Give them a call or send a card.

3/11	Peggy	Hayden
3/14	Cate	Diletto
3/14	Debbie	Grovum
3/22	Judy	Joyce
4/5	Diane	Schulman

4/8	Barbara	Delgato
4/16	Jeff	Sassano
4/25	Carol	Hagglund
4/26	Hilda	DeRoner

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, we can crop your photos. No member contact info is shared outside our club.



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** 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:

March 18– 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.

News from Friendship Force International (FFI)

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 an 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 If you need help, call Terri 317-753-2172.

Monthly Zoom Trainings Please register for these sessions using the registration links [here](#). FFI is offering training for new members and seasoned members alike throughout the year. There will be a time for Q & A in each session. Following are the topics and dates that are planned. Please note that all times shown are **US East Coast time**. You can use this online tool to convert to your own local time: <https://dateful.com/time-zone-converter>

February 20	2:00 PM	MyFF/Help Center Navigation	July 25	1:00 PM	New Member Orientation
March 11	2:00 PM	Journey Coordinator Training	August 27	12:00 PM	New Member Orientation
April 15	2:00 PM	Planning Special Journeys	September 2	1:00 PM	MyFF/Help Center Navigation
April 23	1:00 PM	New Member Orientation	September 25	1:00 PM	Recruiting New Members
May 9	2:00 PM	Planning For Succession In Your Club	October 17	1:00 PM	New Member Orientation
June 10	8:00 PM	Matching Process	November 7	1:00 PM	New Leader Orientation
June 20	7:00 PM	New Member Orientation	December 5	1:00 PM	New Member Orientation

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 >](#)



Photos from our February meeting at Geckos



Visitor Ruth Danielle and Margaret L



Leaf W, Gary K and Abe L (top rt)

Left: visitors Tish, Robert and Mike H
and Kay C
Below: Judi S



Debbie K and Ange W

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](#) 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.

2024 Friendship Force Sarasota Officers

President Kay Consigny

Vice-President Diana Friedman

Program Committee

Chair: Diana Friedman

Reeta Dean, 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/>