

No April Fool, welcome spring. We really do have a **meeting on Wed, April 3, starting at 6:00 pm at the Fruitville Library followed by our gathering at Gecko's.** We have an exciting program on a journey to Friendship Force Kathmandu, Nepal with Stan and Terri Holsinger.



Our social, membership and program committees have been busy creating fun events and programs. Check out our calendar below. We

have lots of opportunity for you to be active in our club. **We need you!** All events are on our club website at: <https://ffsarasotafl.org/calendar/> Please reply with updates. The summer will be filled with even more events, and we'll update you as we receive details. **Check the sign-up sheets** at the back tables when you arrive at the meeting.

Mark your calendars:

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| <p>Wed, April 3, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:30)—General meeting at the Fruitville Library. Speaker & Topic- Visiting Nepal –Terri & Stan had an FF Journey to Nepal & India in 2023 (with the Central NC FF Club).</p> |
| <p>Mon, April 15, 10 am International Book Club, New College, See Reeta Dean</p> |
| <p>Tues, April 16, 9-12:30 Kayaking, Lido Key Mangroves. Meet at Ted Sperling Nature Park, off Taft Drive on Lido Key. Bring your kayak and life vest or rent from one of the onsite vendors Kayaking SRQ. To make reservations book online www.kayakingsrq.com or call or text 941-799-1863 or 941-275-2971. We will launch around 9:30 so please be there by 9:00. "Brings": hat with broad brim, sun block, mosquito repellent, water & water, and snacks. It is smart to throw in a towel. Please let Bonnie Barton or Dot Flynn know if you plan to come or have any questions. Bonnie Barton 404-423-9854, bjbartonmail1@gmail.com; Dot Flynn 407-747-5251, dafsarasota@comcast.net</p> |
| <p>Thurs, April 25, 12:00 noon, Picnic, Dave Burke organizer, newly renovated Bayfront Park picnic area, 5 Bayfront Dr, Sarasota. There are 12 tables located directly behind O'Leary's on the hill. I'll bring tablecloths, plates, plastic utensils. Please bring a dish to pass and your own drink. RSVP to Dave Burke, dburkeup4run@gmail.com, 941-320-8984. Bring chairs if you don't want to sit at picnic tables.</p> |
| <p>Fri, April 26, Film Talk at Burns Court Cinema, see Dot Flynn (last Fri every month)</p> |
| <p>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.</p> |
| <p>Mon, May 20, 10 am International Book Club, New College, See Reeta Dean (3rd Mon every month)</p> |

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| Tues, May 21st, Kayaking , 9:00 – 12:00 Turtle Bay off Siesta Key, Midnight Pass Rd to Turtle Beach Rd to Blind Pass Rd. Launch site is on the left side of road and parking on the right. Kayaking SRQ is on site but smart to make reservations-call or text 941-799-1863 or 941-275-2971. You can book online www.kayakingsrq.com . |
| Thur, May 23, 5:30 pm Combined Wine Groups end of year potluck, Village Gardens |
| Fri, May 31, Film Talk at Burns Court Cinema, see Dot Flynn |
| Wed, June 5, 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. |
| Aug 24-Sept 5, Outbound Journey to FF Campinas and FF Belem, Brazil – Come to the Wed meeting and get all the details. Be ready to sign up. Dot Flynn is ambassador coordinator. Reeta Dean will share her experience in Belem. |
| 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 14-22, 2024, #24260 Outbound to Ft Worth, TX and Dallas pre-trip, Debbie Kuhns, Amb Coordinator |
| Oct 27-Nov 3, 2024, : #24219 Inbound Limburg, Belgium, Carol Hagglund, Host Coordinator |
| 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, meeting, Abe Lederman to speak on his journey to Cuba |

There are journeys galore now. Many of our members are taking advantage of travel with other clubs and going on special FFI Journeys. See all the latest at the member portal under Journeys. You can view by region, dates or type of journey, <https://friendshipforce.myshopify.com/> There are still openings to Brazil, Mongolia, Morocco, Cruise, Sri Lanka, Indonesia/Yogyakarta, Turkey Mexico, Eastern Europe, and many US destinations.

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Friendship Force Sarasota

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