

If you are interested in becoming a member, go to our website www.ffsarasotafl.org and scroll down to application. Click, print and fill out. Bring to a meeting or mail. [CLICK FOR FORM](#)

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friendship force
SARASOTA

a world of friends is a world of peace



friendship force
international

Happy May! Our social, membership and program committees have been busy creating fun events and programs. Check out our calendar below. Many thanks to those who volunteered. See photos at the end of the newsletter of this past week's fun events.

As you saw in our last email newsletter, we do not currently have a **president** and we are working on a leadership team model to continue having a viable club.

We need you! We have opportunities for you to be active in our club-see **sign-up sheets**.

1. We need **greeters** for Sept-Jan.
2. Members to **preside** at meetings Sept 2024 and Jan 2025. We have PowerPoint with agenda ready.
3. Reply to email if you can **help** (even if you can't be at meetings) with presiding over a meeting, chair setup, greet or learn to easily post events on our club website calendar (maybe 15 min a month).



“Thriving 21st century communities are easily compared to strong and beautiful stained-glass windows. They are composed of many individual people who come together to create deep and meaningful experiences where everyone works together but each person can ALSO shine as themselves at their best”. Tracy Brown, RScP, *Stained Glass Spirit: Becoming a Spiritual Community Where Oneness Does Not Require Sameness*

Mark your calendars (you're going to need a big calendar) All events are on our club website at:

<https://ffsarasotafl.org/calendar/>

Wed, May 1, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:30)—General Meeting at the Fruitville Library. **Speaker & Topic**-Diana Friedman, President of Sister Cities and **Sue Gordon** also 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. Diana will share what SS is and her vision for the local organization.

Mon, May 20, 10 am International Book Club, New College, See Reeta Dean (3rd Mon every month)

Tues, May 21st, Kayaking, 9:00–12:00 Turtle Beach off Siesta Key, 8702 Blind Pass Rd, Sarasota. 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. See map on website. Book online at <https://kayakingSRQ.com> or by calling 941-799-1853. **RSVP to Bonnie**, bjbartonmail1@gmail.com or **Dot Flynn** dafsarasota@comcast.net that you're joining us.

Tues, May 21st, Tour of The Elling Eide Center, 9:45 am for 10:00 tour, \$10/person, Sue Gordon was able to secure a tour for FF SRQ, please **RSVP to: suemgordon@msn.com**. Sarasota Magazine calls the Elling Eide Center “one of Sarasota’s hidden gems.” The Center is a nature preserve overlooking Little Sarasota Bay and a research library dedicated to the study of classical Chinese literature and art. On our tour, we will join Docent Norman Burr on a 60+ minute fascinating trek through the historic arboretum, learning about rare, interesting, and exotic plants. Norman will discuss the geologic history of Florida and how plant life evolved. He will also share the history of the inhabitants of the Eide Center from pre-history to today! Then, we will venture inside the new library to see Elling Eide’s personal collection of Asian art and literature. The first hour of our tour will include walking through the unpaved grounds of the arboretum for about 1 mile so wear comfortable/sturdy footwear, sunglasses, a hat and bring some water. The Center is located at 8000 Tamiami Trail behind the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. The gate, on the left (south side) of the church will open at 9:45 for our 10:00 tour.

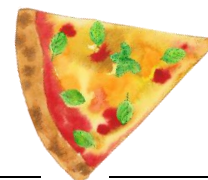
Thur, May 23, 5:30 pm Combined Wine Groups end of year potluck, Village Gardens

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.**

Tues, June 18, 3:00 pm, Miniature Golf, Barbara Benjamin and Steve Blumenthal are hosting golf at Evie’s, 4725 Bee Ridge Rd. With a group of 8 or more the cost is \$9/person, bring cash or check made out to Barbara Benjamin. After golf, we will have dinner behind Evie’s under the covered patio-this is order & pay for your own. A table will be reserved for us. See sign-up sheets to RSVP OR email Barbara.

Sun, July 14, 5:30 pm. Get ready to make and munch on some mouth-watering pizza at Bob and Diana Friedman's home! We're throwing a **MAKE-YOUR-OWN-PIZZA PARTY**. It’s that time again to get together in friendship while eating everyone’s favorite food. Please send or give \$3 to JoEllen or bring it to the party and Friedman’s will have all the popular toppings. **Bring your favorite beverage.** This event is open to all members of FF SRQ. RSVP to cell 941-374-9512 with your name and Diana will send you the address.



Sat, July 27, 6:00 pm, Claudia Deschu is organizing a very fun **game night**. We will be playing some old familiar games and some new lively ones! Bring an appetizer and drink of choice. This event will be held at Trailer Estates in Bradenton, 34281. Further details about the location to follow depending on the size of the group.

Aug 21-Sept 1, FFI Festival at Sea cruise, immersive 9-day land and sea program. See more details below with a discount if you register by April 30. Info also on member portal.

Aug 24-Sept 5, Outbound Journey to FF Campinas and FF Belem, Brazil – Come to the Wed meeting and get all the details. Dot Flynn is the ambassador coordinator. Judi Stratton & Marie Beck will discuss at the meeting. See sign-up sheets.

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, see sign-up sheets

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

Nov & Dec, Friendsgiving and/or Holiday Party, TBD

Journey Coordinator Report-Judi Stratton

We received 2 **outbound** international matches for **2025, our #1 choices!** We don't have journey details yet, but the clubs are **FF Mount Barker, South Australia** (The Adelaide Hills are home to some of South Australia's best food, wine and scenery, and it's all easy to access along the Epicurean Way road trip). **And FF Manawatu/Whanganui, New Zealand** (just north of Wellington). This city along the southwest coast of NZ, boasts a vibrant arts and heritage scene, with many galleries, museums and historical buildings. **We need an ambassador coordinator.** We don't have dates yet but clubs will be flexible. **See sign-up sheets.**

Our 2025 **inbounds** are **FF Lincoln, Nebraska** and **FF Birmingham, AL**. Lincoln is an active club and one of the largest clubs in the US.

2024 Matches are on the calendar above including outbound FF Dallas/Ft Worth, FF Campinas and FF Belem, Brazil (we still have seats available for Brazil) and inbound Limburg, Belgium.

May-June-July Birthdays-send a note or card or call/text/email 😊

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------|----------|----------------|
| Gretchen | Castner | Bonnie | Barton |
| Marie | Beck | John | Nollen |
| Dave | Burke | Leaf | Wanless |
| Debbie | Kuhns | Joan | Emrich |
| Ange | Wanless | Dot | Flynn |
| Steve | Blumenthal | Rebecca | DeWaele |
| Barbara | Peterson | Mary Ann | Shea |

Friendship Force International News

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 >**



FFI Meets First Lady of Cuba, Jeremi Snook,
President & CEO, April 25, 2024

Read this uplifting article at <https://my.friendshipforce.org/blog/9593c6a06b09eda2>

Security and Technology Update

Several members have asked that their birthdays and new member background information not be included in the public newsletter. The web admin will be removing all PDF's from www.ffsarasotafl.org that include this

information. We will have a member and public version of the newsletter. If you have other questions or suggestions about security or technology, please contact ffsrq@outlook.com.

Logo Gift Items available



Are you going on a journey and need a small hostess gift? We have a few pens for \$2 and pins available at \$4 each. We also have 4" cork coasters with our club logo, 2 for \$5. See Terri.



Let the Fun Begin



Thanks to Bonnie and Dot for arranging a delightful paddle through the Lido Mangroves last week. It is always a pleasure to enjoy nature. We had a record group of 10 paddling together.

15 members enjoyed a potluck picnic at the bayfront park. The weather was perfect, more than enough food (so much we invited a family to join us) and a gorgeous view of the bay. Thank Dave for organizing.





2024 Friendship Force Sarasota Officers

**President- ?? - Leadership Team
Meeting Leader volunteers each month**

Volunteer and be part of these great teams

Program Committee

Chair: Diana Friedman

Reeta Dean, Peggy Hayden, Sara Jones, JoEllen Lane, Anne Taylor, Gina Thomas

Secretary-Marie Beck

Treasurer- JoEllen Lane

Past Presidents-Terri Holsinger, Kay Consigny

STANDING COMMITTEES

Database-Margaret Lewis

Club Journeys Coordinator-Judi Stratton

Membership-Abe Lederman

Communications/Media-Terri Holsinger

Includes FB, Newsletter, Website, Email

Meetup – Abe Lederman and team

Wine Tasting Groups

Debbie & Gary Kuhns Group 1, Marie Beck Group 3

Book Club-Reeta Dean

Film Talk-Dorothy Flynn

Social Committee: Kay Consigny

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

<https://ffsarasotafl.org/>