

Hello, Friendship Force Sarasota members. We have a chocked full newsletter this month. Mark your summer calendars. We look forward to seeing you at our **monthly meeting, Wed, Sept 4, 6:00 pm at Fruitville Library.**

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a world of friends
is a world of peace



Happy 35th Anniversary to Friendship Force Sarasota

In May 1989 our club charter was signed. The first inbound was 5 New Zealand ambassadors in April 1989.

Kudos! Our social, membership and program committees have created many fun events and programs. We have more events coming, so keep an eye on the calendar. All events are posted on our website,

www.ffmpeg.org See photos at the end of the newsletter of this past month's fun events.



Join us at our first meeting of the fall season, 6:00 pm, Wed, Sept 4. Come early to socialize. Bob & Judy recently participated in a journey to Izmir, Turkey, with the Long Island FF Club. Bob will share their fun experiences.

We need you! We have opportunities for you to be active in our club-see **sign-up sheets**. Thanks to all the volunteers for Greeters and Meeting Hosts.

1. We need **greeters** for Feb, April, May and June 2025. Thanks Ramona, Dan & Hilda for being **Sept greeters**. **Oct** is Virginia and Gary & Debbie.
2. Thank you, Joan Emrich, **for being the Sept Meeting Host**. We need a **Meeting Host for June 2025**. We have PowerPoint with an agenda ready. The agenda is created by Terri and she will review with you prior to the meeting. Being a meeting host gives our members a chance to get to know you better and for you to know our club business and activities. Thanks to Diana, Joan, Mary Ann/Bonnie, Diane, JoEllen and Debbie for volunteering.

See Sept social event hosted by Hilda & Dan, Japanese Steakhouse, Sept 18, full details in calendar and the signup sheet at the meeting.

FF SRQ Meetup Group Update. Due to raised membership costs (now \$380 per year), the FF SRQ board decided to drop our subscription. Abe sent out an email to all subscribers of our group. "We would like to let you know that effective September 2, this Meetup group will no longer be active. The Friendship Force of Sarasota Club continues to host monthly meetings the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Fruitville Library from September to June. Visitors are welcome to attend these monthly meetings. They are a great way for members of the Sarasota community with an interest in travel and cultural exchanges to learn about our Club and possibly join us."

Mark your calendars (you're going to need a big one) All events are on our club website at: <https://ffsarasotafl.org/calendar/> Please check dates.

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.
Wed, Sept 4th, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing) — General meeting at the Fruitville Library, Bob & Judy Joyce recently participated in a journey to Izmir, Turkey, with the Long Island FF Club. They also added a 16-day OAT tour of Turkey from Istanbul to Cappadocia, Ephesus, a Gullet boat cruise and a return to Izmir.
Thurs, Sept 12, Kayaking -see info below
Wed, Sept 18, Daruma South Sarasota - Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Lounge, 4910 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Enjoy a fun time. Seating is promptly at 5:30 to receive their Sunset Specials. Please arrive by 5:15 to be seated by 5:30. The hibachi seating is limited to 30 , which is 10 guests per table. Contact: HildaDeRoner, must RSVP before Sept 11!
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; 6 of our members are attending.
Thurs, Oct 10 Kayaking -see info below
Oct 14-22, 2024, #24260 Outbound to Ft Worth, TX and Dallas pre-trip, Debbie, Amb Coordinator.
Wed, Nov 6, 5:30 Friendsgiving Dinner , Unitarian Campus, 3975 Fruitville Rd. There will be email and signup sheets later.
Thurs, Nov 14, Kayaking -see info below
Wed, Dec 4, meeting , Abe and Diane will speak on their journey to Cuba.
Thurs, Dec 12, Kayaking -see info below
Wed, Jan 8, meeting , Fruitville Library
Wed, Jan 22, 2025 , social event, possibly trivia night, more info to follow once confirmed
Wed, Feb 8, 2025, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing) — General meeting at the Fruitville Library
Feb 20-25, 2025, Inbound Birmingham, ALA, Joan, Host Coordinator
Wed, Mar 5, 2025, 5:30 FF Annual Intl Potluck Dinner , Unitarian Campus, 3975 Fruitville Rd. There will be email and signup sheets later.
Wed, Apr 2, 2025, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing) — General meeting at the Fruitville Library
Wed, May 7, 2025, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing) — General meeting at the Fruitville Library
Wed, June 4, 2025, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing) — General meeting at the Fruitville Library



2024 FALL KAYAKING SCHEDULE

Please note our start time for these trips is 9 am

You are responsible for your kayak – you can rent or bring your own. All are welcome.



Thurs, Sept 12, 9:00 – 1:00 Robinson Preserve in Bradenton. There are miles of paddle trails in this beautiful pristine park. Check it out yourself at **website: <https://bit.ly/41XjMQo>** (This is the county website or www.robinspreserve.com). Bring your own or rent from **Jack's Kayaks, 941-538-1448**. All rentals are 4 hr. You can rent a single for \$30 or tandem for \$50. Life jackets and whistles provided. You must reserve your kayak **at least a week in advance** (if in season). All equipment will be waiting for you at the launch area. Robinson Preserve address is 1704 99th St., NW, Bradenton, FL.

Thurs, Oct 10, Oscar Scherer South State Park South Creek, 9:00 – 12:00. A beautiful shady lazy creek through most of the park. Truly reflective of old Florida, book your kayak online at www.silentsportsfl.com or call **941-966-5477**. Single Kayak \$30 1st hr = \$10 each additional hr. Tandem \$40 1st hr + \$10 each additional. Kayak brought to the launch site. There is a \$5/car park charge at the park gate.

Thurs, Nov 14, 9:00- 1:00 Durant Park, Town of Longboat Key. The Friendship Force “scouts” heard about this park in the heart of Longboat Key and are delighted to add this to our list of places to kayak. Durant Park is a wonderful example of a coastal environmental barrier island with many kayak trails and lagoons to explore. You can rent single or tandem kayaks from Happy Paddler, 941-773-1920, for 4hr at \$45.00 single or \$65 tandem, <https://happypaddler.com/> .

Thurs, Dec 12, 9:00-1:00 Lido Key Mangroves. This is a trip everyone loves so we do it every year! If you plan to rent a kayak here are 2 choices. **1. Sarasota Paddleboard Company.** They often have kayaks on site that are not reserved but I would not chance it. You can call Bob McFarland 941-650-2241 or go to their website sarasotapaddleboardcompany.com. to arrange a rental. **2. Kayaking SRQ** represents 2 companies. To make reservations call or text 941-799-1863 or 941-275-2971. You can book online kayakingsrq.com. **Rates:** Sarasota Paddleboard Co. charges \$45 single & \$60 tandem for 3 hours. SRQ offers 2 options: \$45/\$65 for 3 hr and a 2-hour rental for \$30/\$45.

Suggested brings: hat with broad brim, sun block, 2-hour mosquito repellent, water & water and snacks. I always throw in a towel. After the paddle we can **enjoy lunch** at one of the local eateries.

After reserving your kayak, RSVP for the trip by calling **Dot or Bonnie**

SAY! WHY DON'T YOU CALL SOMEONE YOU KNOW TO SEE IF THEY'D LIKE TO JOIN YOU AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FRIENDSHIP FORCE! [SEE YOU ON THE WATER](#)

Journey Coordinator Report-Judi Stratton

1. **Aug 24-Sept 5, 2024, Outbound** to FF Campinas and FF Belem, Brazil, Dorothy, Ambassador Coordinator
2. **Oct 14-22, 2024, Outbound** to FF Dallas/Ft Worth, Debbie, Ambassador Coordinator
3. **Feb 20-25, 2025, Inbound** from Birmingham, AL, Joan is our Host Coordinator. See the sign-up sheets for how you can support this inbound.
4. **April 23 – May 10, 2025, Outbound** to **FF Mount Barker, South Australia** and **FF Manawatu/Whanganui, New Zealand**. Abe is Ambassador Coordinator. There are 3 open seats. **See sign-up sheets. See presentation: [Click to view FF SRQ program and meeting presentations](#)**
5. **Oct/Nov 2025 inbound** from FF Lincoln, Nebraska. Carol has volunteered to be Lincoln Host coord. Lincoln is an active club and one of the largest clubs in the US.

Travel Insurance News

Kay shared a link that you might like to check out. This site allows you to view many different insurance companies side by side with their pricing and choose the options you want.

<https://www.squaremouth.com/>

Don't forget to check Friendship Force Insurance underwritten by Nationwide. This insurance is discounted to FF members and is available for FFI journeys as well as personal travel. The amount you

want covered is up to you. If you have the time, checkout pricing from both squaremouth and Friendship Force comparing Nationwide pricing.

<https://friendshipforce.org/trip-insurance-new/>

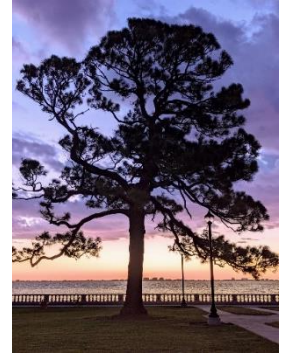
Have you looked at the travel options available in the Journey Market Place to you as a member of FF Sarasota. You can apply to join any club worldwide that has an opening on their journeys. 300 journeys per year!!

FF SRQ 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 a parking lot where you will see two buildings (admin) connected by a breezeway. Walk through the breezeway and meet up with your friends in a lovely, shaded area on the waterfront.

Book selections:

- Sept 16 – Native Speaker (Korea) by Chang-Rae Lee-Margaret Lewis
 - Oct 21 – Death of An Old Goat (Australia), Robert Barnard
 - Nov 18 – Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (US), Mark Twain – Dot Flynn
 - Dec 16– Choose books for 2025.
- Happy reading, Reeta Dean



Film Talk



From Dorothy. 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. **Next movie is: Fri, Aug 30.**

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



	Gina	
	Jo Ellen	
	Sherry	
	Linda	
	Diana	
	Mike	
	Hal	
	Gary	
	Chuck	
	Phil	

	Lauri	
	Carol	
	Virginia	
	Susan	

Logo Gift Items available



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



Travel Tips

From AARP magazine: Text your flight number to yourself. A lot can happen to cause travel hassles-delays and gate changes. The flight number includes a two-character airline code (such as UA for United Airlines) and a number with one to 4 digits. You can find it on your itinerary or boarding pass. Your phone will identify that as a flight number and generate a link you can tap in the text to display the flight status, the departure and arrival gates, the baggage claim number and even a GPS map showing the plane's current location. The best part, the information will be automatically updated. Julie Goldenberg.

FFI News

FF North American Regional Conference, October 7-10, 2024. Registration is now closed. We're very excited that more than 200 NA members have registered with 6 FF SRQ members traveling to Milwaukee.



Let the Fun Begin

Many fun events this summer



We had 15 at the Buffet City luncheon. This is a new place with plenty of choices. Thanks, Susan, for hosting.

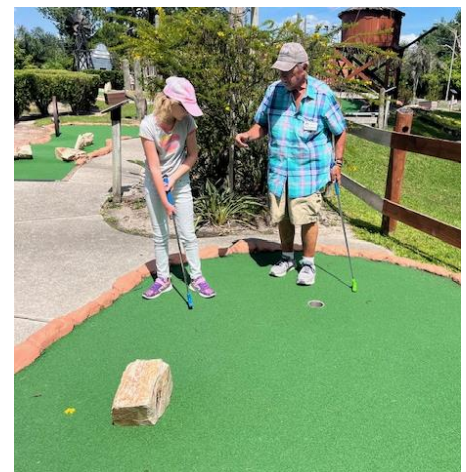
Cuban ballet, thanks to Reeta for sharing the invite to our club.



The Lazy Parrot, thanks Barb for planning this fun event, at least 20 attended 😊



Miniature Golf, Thanks Barb and Steve for hosting



Photos below by Judy from Outbound to FF Northern Colorado and FF Minnesota Twin Cities Clubs traveling with FF Southwest FL club

The group worked in a food pantry for 2 hours. Great idea.



Gary and Bob were happy, the host had a putting green.

Gary & Debbie at a college concert.



Pizza Party, thanks Bob & Diana



Kayaking, thanks Bonnie and Dorothy



2024 Friendship Force Sarasota Officers

President-pro tem – Terri Holsinger
Meeting Hosts volunteer 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, Diane Schulman, Debbie Grovum

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/>