



friendship force
SARASOTA

a world of friends is a world of peace



friendship force
international



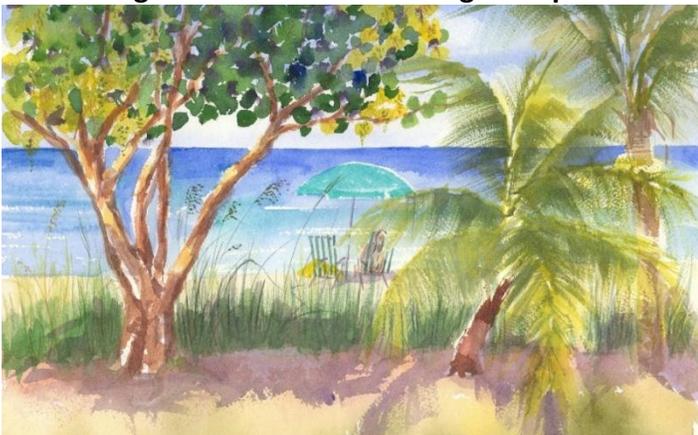
Happy New Year! May 2025 bring you endless joy and unforgettable adventures. Whether you're planning new journeys, revisiting favorite destinations, or even exploring your own hometown, I hope this year is full of wonderful experiences. If you have any exciting travel plans, please share. Cheers to new beginnings and amazing travels ahead! 🌞 ✈️

It is with profound sadness that FFI announces the death of President Jimmy Carter. President Carter passed away December 29, 2024, surrounded by his family.

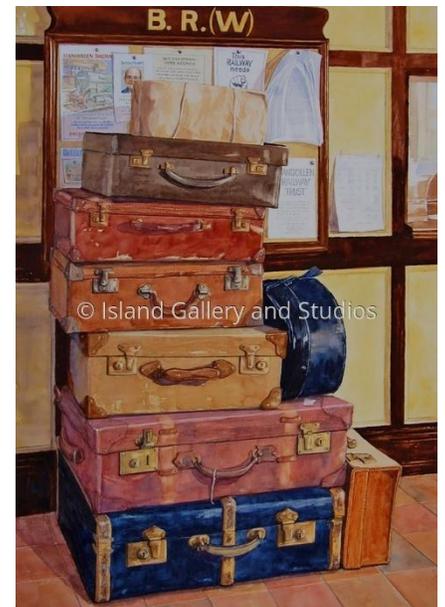
On March 1st, 1977, the newly inaugurated President Carter in support of his long-time friend, Friendship Force founder Wayne Smith, took the monumental step of formally introducing Friendship Force at a White House gathering of State Governors. The two men could not have known how much this decision and the vision behind it would impact world communities in the next 45 years. What began as an experiment has become a global phenomenon, with thousands of people from more than 80 countries having participated as hosts or citizen ambassadors to date.



Artist Marg Williamson will be our guest speaker at the Jan 8 meeting. She



turns her journey photos into watercolors and acrylics. Please give her a hearty welcome.



1. **We need you on the social committee for 2025, use the sign-up sheet at back table!** See photos at the end of the newsletter of this past month's fun events. Help plan ONE event for the year!
2. We need **greeters** for Feb, April, May and June 2025. Thanks **JoEllen Lane and Nancy Troy** for being **Jan greeters**.
3. Thank you, **Diane Schulman, for being the January Meeting Host**. We have a PowerPoint agenda ready. The meeting host will talk through the meeting slides. 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.
4. **Annual \$50 dues are due Dec 31. WE promise you will have a printed directory this year!** You can mail a check to **JoEllen Lane, made out to FF Sarasota**. (or use PayPal) or bring **check to Jan 8 meeting**. PayPal [How to pay dues-events-activities using PayPal](#). Payment type: you MUST choose For Friends and family, otherwise, a purchase protection fee will be taken out of your payment to FF SRQ.



Mark your calendars. All events are on our club website at: <https://ffsarasotafl.org/calendar/>
Please check dates.

Wed, Jan 8, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing)—General meeting at the Fruitville Library. Following the meeting, we will go to Geckos. We have a wonderful presenter for our January meeting. Thank JoEllen for inviting **Marg Williamson to share her amazing watercolor talent**. Marg takes photos of her journeys and then uses those inspirations to create her beautiful watercolors. She is a former resident of the Midwest and now calls Bradenton her home. After a career in advertising, she now expresses her love of nature and expresses it with watercolors and acrylics. Her paintings are included in the Island Gallery and Studios, 456 Old Main St, Bradenton. Marg belongs to the Lakewood Ranch Art League and is a signature member of the FL Suncoast Watercolor Society and is an associate member of the FL Watercolor Society. See some of her work on the last page of newsletter.



Wed, Jan 22, 2025, Social Event, TRIVIA night, 5:30 at Glen Oaks Ridge clubhouse, 1215 Glen Oaks Dr East, Sarasota to gather, nosh and set teams. Trivia will start at 6. We will have a Trivia Master. Bring your own beverage and a snack/appetizer to share. No charge to participate. Send your RSVP to ffsrq@outlook.com



Wed, Feb 5, 5:00 Fruitville Library, Birmingham: Home, Dinner, Day host meeting prior to meeting, hand out program books, Joan Emrich review the agenda with the booklet. All interested are invited.

Wed, Feb 5, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing)—General meeting at the Fruitville Library. We are delighted to welcome back E Scott Osborne, President and Chair, to present a preview of films from the **Through Womens' Eyes** festival prior to the event in March.

Feb 20-25, 2025, Inbound Birmingham, ALA, Joan Emrich, Host Coordinator, see signup sheets at back table and in email. We must have your Activity Sheets to purchase tickets.

Wed, Mar 5, 2025, 5:30 FF Annual Intl Potluck Dinner, Unitarian Campus, 3975 Fruitville Rd. See signup sheets on the back table and in email. We love to enjoy your international dishes.



Wed, Apr 2, 2025, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing)—General meeting at the Fruitville Library; Share journey to Brazil with JoEllen Lane and team

April 23 – May 10, 2025, Outbound to FF Mount Barker, South Australia and FF Manawatu/Whanganui, New Zealand. Abe Lederman is Ambassador Coordinator. There are 4 open seats.

Wed, May 7, 2025, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing)—General meeting at the Fruitville Library

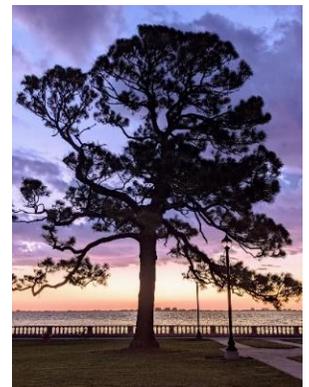
Wed, June 4, 2025, 6:00 pm (room open at 5:00 for socializing)—General meeting at the Fruitville Library

Journey Coordinator Report-Judi Stratton

- Feb 20-25, Inbound** from Birmingham, AL, Joan Emrich is our Host Coordinator. See the sign-up sheets for how you can support this inbound. All home hosts and day hosts must fill in the activity sheet.
- April 23 – May 10, Outbound** to FF Mount Barker, South Australia and FF Manawatu/Whanganui, New Zealand. Abe Lederman is Ambassador Coordinator. We have a wait list-talk w/ Abe. **See presentation:** [Click to view FF SRQ program and meeting presentations](#)
- Nov 4-9 inbound** from FF Lincoln, Nebraska. Carol Hagglund has volunteered to be the Lincoln Host coord. Lincoln is an active club and one of the largest clubs in the US.

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, turn left and meet up with your friends in a lovely, shaded area near the waterfront.



Book selections for 2025

Date	Title	Author
Jan 20	<i>Small Things' Like These</i>	Claire Keegan
Feb 17	<i>Taiwan Travelogue</i>	Yang Schuange
March 17	<i>Our Narrow Hiding Places</i>	Kristopher Jasma
April 21	<i>The Secrets Between Us</i>	Thrity Umrigar
May 19	<i>Orphan Train</i>	Christine Baker Kline
June 16	<i>Their Eyes were Watching God</i>	Zora Neale Hurston
July 21	<i>In a Country of Others</i>	Leila Slimani
Aug 18	<i>The Road to Unfreedom</i>	Timothy Snyder
Sept 15	<i>The Japanese Lover</i>	Isabel Allende
Oct 20	<i>The Choice: Embrace the Possible</i>	Dr Edith Eva Eger
Nov 17	<i>Enter Ghost</i>	Isabella Hammad
Dec 15	Socialize, choose 2026 books	

Happy reading, Reeta Dean

Film Talk



From Dorothy Flynn. Join us on the **last Friday of each month** at Burns Court Cinema. Movie details arrive in email. All members and friends are welcome. We have a rousing discussion afterwards at PF Chang's. **Next film talk is Fri, Jan 31.** We had a great discussion about Bob Dylan and his biopic, *A Complete Unknown*.

Member News

Barbara Peterson shared an update on **Margaret Mills**. Her last several months in Sarasota were at Bay Village recovering from a fall. What a wonderful surprise to hear from Margaret. She has adjusted very well to her new home in New Mexico, her daughter lives nearby. It is called The Legacy. She is glad to be back home! Margaret ended her note by saying 'please share with my Sarasota friends, whom I do greatly miss.'

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



FFI News

Link to purchase travel insurance for your personal or club journeys. <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!! **[View All Journeys](#)**

[New travel requirements taking effect in 2025 for domestic and international destinations](#)

Real ID for boarding domestic flights and other must-know travel requirements. By [Kelly McCarthy](#) ABC News

Americans should make sure their identification is up to date sooner than later this winter, because starting May 7, 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will enforce the use of REAL ID at airports and some federal facilities. U.S. travelers must be REAL ID compliant to board domestic flights. Read more about the requirement [here](#) and see how to obtain your REAL ID on time.

From Jeremi Snook, CEO and President of FFI

Full-Time Staff: Allison Lindsey (USA), Dana Jackson (USA), Debbie Powell (England), Jeremi Snook (USA), Tary Roberts (USA)

Part-Time Staff: Alexandra Lawson (USA), Caid Law (USA), Emma Kahl (USA), Hemily Nogueira (Brazil), Kerstin Hogan (Germany), Kimberly Fraser (AUSTRALIA), Mike Eckroth (USA), Noriko Kanamoto (Japan), Olga Dyakova (Columbia), Sebastian Alcazar (Canada)

Let the Fun Begin

We had 40 join us at Rincon Cubano for an authentic Cuban dinner following the fantastic presentation by Abe Lederman and Diane Schulman about their journey to Cuba. We had a bit of a slow start, but our server came through and we all enjoyed delicious Cuban cuisine. Thanks, Diana Friedman, for recommending and organizing.



Abe, Diana, Chris



Margaret, Sue, Steve & Barbara



Dan, Hilda, Debbie ...



Stacy (new member), Carol, Peggy, Susan



Diane, Maria, Gale

2024 Friendship Force Sarasota Officers

President – 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, 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

FB, Newsletter, Website, Email

Membership – 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/>