

friendship force
SARASOTA

Nov 4, 6:00 pm

Unitarian Campus

Virginia Stephens, Host

Friendship Force Ambassador Pledge

As a member of the Friendship Force,

I recognize that I can make a difference.

I have a mission to be a friend to the people of the world.

As I embark upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching.

I know that through my example to my fellow citizens and the people of other nations, the cause of friendship, love and peace can be advanced.

I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Meeting

- Thanks, Ambassadors for sharing your amazing journey.
- Welcome to our visitors. Is your name on the visitor sheet? Raise your hand.
- Introduce new members
- Thanks to volunteers tonight, **Host** Virginia Stephens, **PPT**-Donna Schaeffer, **Greeters** Claudia Deschu and Dorothy Flynn
- Updates on Journeys and the FFI World Conference.
- Following the meeting, we'll meet at Geckos, 351 N Cattlemen Rd for a bite and socializing.



Welcome to our newest member

Kelly O’Leary

An airport discussion opened a new world- Thanks Claudia



Friendship Force Sarasota New Leaders-2027-28



Diana Friedman, Journeys Coordinator

JoEllen Lane, Treasurer



Marie Beck, Secretary, wine group 3







Terri Holsinger, President and Communications

Diane Schulman, Vice President & Programs



Abe Lederman, Membership Chair

Friendship Force Sarasota Leaders



Reeta Dean, Intl Book Club

Kay Consigny-Social,
Past President





Margaret Lewis, Database & Film Talk



Debbie Kuhns,
Wine Group 1
Home Host Coordinator

Friendship Force
INTERNATIONAL

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration Is Moving Forward!

50 Years

Celebrating friendship across borders for 50 years







Three days to celebrate together

- Explore Porto and its surroundings
- Take part in cultural workshops
- Reconnect with friends old and new
- Enjoy a fabulous 50th anniversary party

Mon, Sept 13	Full-day Leadership Summit Arrival day for all other celebration guests
Tue–Thu, Sept 14–16	50th Anniversary Celebration
Fri, Sept 17	Departure (morning)

We can't wait to celebrate 50 years of friendship with you!

Registration should open January 2027

2027 Inbound:	**Feb 10-16,** 26167 FF Greater Denver, Diana & Terri, Co-coordinators, Kay Consigny-Activities, see sign up sheet. October, FF Alajuela, Costa Rica, Host coordinator needed
2027 Outbound	#27339 FF Western Colorado, JoEllen Lane, ambassador coordinator. See sign up sheet. ** Change-May 2-8 #27265 FF Solothurn, Switzerland. Ambassadors will vote on which dates they prefer, arriving **Sept 17 or Sept 21, 6 nights. $450 USD** plus airport trans. Host coordinator needed. See next slide for mobility requirements

#27265 Solothurn Switzerland, Ambassador coordinator needed

Physical requirements for this outbound

1. FF Solothurn has a Health and Mobility Checklist; you must be able to:
   a. Walk up to 10,000 steps a day/2 hrs of walking per day.
   b. Walk on unpaved paths, cobblestones, uneven pavement
   c. Use public transportation
   d. All ambassadors are expected to **lift and carry their own luggage** throughout the airport, in and out of cars or buses, and inside the host home.
2. FF SRQ will use a points system to determine who will be accepted as ambassadors.
3. Sample itinerary: Arrive in Zurich, Berne UNESCO sites, Lucerne and Mt Rigi Kulm, cog railway, market and guided tour in Solothurn, visit of Schloss Waldegg (castle), Gorge of Verena and Hermitage.

Social & Marketing Committee



The social and marketing teams have a calendar of events. All members and friends are welcome.

1. Please see/contact Kay Consigny to help plan a club event. kay.ff@hotmail.com See sign up sheet at table.
2. **No Friendsgiving**
3. **Wed, Dec 9**, Donna S & Susan B reserved for our **Brooklyn Blues,** 2238 Gulf Gate Dr (near Brine & Hong Kong Inn) for our Holiday Celebration. We'll have family style tables in their beautiful banquet hall with activity thanks to Debbie & Reeta. We need your RSVP and entrée choice. Click the link in email or sign up. Bring your $45 per person to the meeting, or PayPal or mail. Choose your entrée, **click this link to select your entrée and RSVP number in your party.**
4. Kay & Terri are working on a **brunch** orientation for new members. More info to come.
5. Film Talk-last Friday of the month, reminder in email
6. Intl Book Club-3rd Mon of the month, see Reeta Dean
7. **Wed, Jan 6th**, 5:30 pm, the first meeting of 2027 at **The New Fruitville Library**. Peggy has Gail Sussman-Miller, an instructor from OLLI, discussing ChatGPT. A backgrounder will be emailed prior to meeting. This will be an interesting discussion on how we can use this tool.









Monthly Social Events
All event info at //ffsarasotafl.org/calendar

Film Talk (Margaret Lewis)	Burns Court (around 1pm) Last Friday of the month Email sent with movie and start time; PF Chang's-afterwards with discussion and social time
International Book Club (Reeta Dean)	Meets 3rd Mon at New College on the Bay Book info in newsletter
Wine group 2 start up – if we have at least 6 members interested	If you want to be on **alternate list**, give us your name and substitute in Groups 1 and 3.

Clockwise-book group, wine group 3, film talk at PF Changs, wine group 1

Membership Participation Update

1. **Greeters: We need you.** The sign-up sheet is on the table
2. **Meeting Hosts:** We need hosts. You'll get an email with a reminder. PowerPoint will be prepared and reviewed with host prior to the meeting.
3. We need a volunteer to run PowerPoint on the laptop.

November-December Birthdays

11/9	Nancy	McIlvennan
11/23	Gale	Midwood
11/29	Judy	Kozzi
11/30	Karen	Bush
11/30	Gudrun	Newman
12/2	Barbara	Benjamin
12/8	Judi	Stratton
12/16	Chris	Johnes
12/19	Bob	Joyce
12/26	Ruth	Danielle
12/29	Donna	Schaeffer



After Our Meeting

- Leave room as is, maintenance will take care.
- Next meeting is **Wed, Jan 6, 5:30 socialize, 6:00 presentation begins** at the **New Fruitville Library**. OLLI presenter on ChatGPT.
- The Presentation and Meeting PowerPoints are posted on our website and emailed to you following the meeting. https://ffsarasotafl.org/ff-sarasota-newsletters/
- Thanks to volunteers for meeting hosts, greeters and running the laptop.
- See you at Geckos.