



The Historical Society of Sarasota County

Calendar of Events 2025-2026

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Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 to 2. Summer hours differ; please call ahead.

[Follow on Facebook](#) for up-to-the-minute information and changes.

Check back often, as we will be adding events as they are confirmed.

Saturday, October 18: 9 a.m. - Noon. **Annual Autumn Garden Clean-Up.** Bring your own tools, come when you can, help make our Members' Garden beautiful. Weed, prune, rake, etc. Bottled water provided. *Can't physically help?* We could use a few bags of donated mulch and those big paper bags for yard waste. Can't do that? [Donate.](#)



Sunday, November 2: 42nd Annual LeBarge History Cruise. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Our guide through history is the incomparable John McCarthy. A relaxing way to learn about the people and places that made Sarasota what it is today. Sip a cold drink, enjoy a snack, feel the sunshine and gentle breeze on your face as you float back in time. Seating is limited; reserve soon. Boat leaves from Marina Jack. \$100.00 per person **NEXT CRUISE** Sunday, March 8, 2026.

Sunday, November 16: Conversation @ the Crocker 2:00pm The Maps That Change Florida's History: Revisiting the Ponce de Leon and Narvaez Settlement Expeditions. Author James MacDougald is working on an article that "provides evidence that the first European colony in today's U.S. was in Tampa Bay, most likely Old Tampa Bay in the vicinity of Safety Harbor. It has been assumed by many that the 1521 Ponce de León settlement from March to July 1521 probably occurred in the vicinity of Ft Myers, although there is no evidence to support that. The fact that the location of the first European colony in today's United States is unknown has caused it to be unrecognized and unheralded. I think, using newfound information, that a very compelling case can be made for Old Tampa Bay, with a standard of clear and convincing evidence." Mr. MacDougald will present maps and visuals explaining his findings. The Crocker Memorial Church, Members Free, Not-yet-members, \$10. Tours of the Bidwell-Wood house available an hour before the program starts.



Sunday, December 14. Annual Holiday Party. "Sweets, Savories and Spirits" in the Crocker Memorial Church. 4-6 p.m. Cafe style seating. Door prizes. Live entertainment. Members are invited to bring a guest who is perhaps interested in joining our organization.

NEW!! Saturday January 10 Special Performance for members! The Mark Twain Society presents *A Fork in the Road*, Two monologues celebrating resilience by Sarah Grigsby and Rhonda Liss. The only weapon against adversity is perseverance and laughter. Against these nothing can stand. @ 3pm in The Crocker Memorial Church. Members Free, Not-yet-members, \$10. See all [Mark Twain Society events](#). They also graciously offer discounted tickets to all their performances to our members.



Saturday, February 7: Sparkly Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. A huge show/sale of costume jewelry at bargain prices (thank you Linnea Appleby) in the Crocker Memorial Church as well as a curated Designer Tag Sale (thank you Jerry Chesley) on the porch of the Bidwell-Wood House. *Admission free, but donations of costume jewelry to pay it forward warmly welcomed.*



Sunday, March 8: LeBarge History Cruise. From 11 a.m-1 p.m. Our guide through history is the incomparable John McCarthy. This is our 45rd History Cruise. What a relaxing way to learn about the people and places that made Sarasota what it is today. Sip a cold drink, enjoy a snack, feel the sunshine and gentle breeze on your face as you float back in time. Reserve soon because seating is limited. Boat leaves from Marina Jack.

Saturday, March 14: Gardens Tour. From 10-3. A stroll through charming cottage gardens in the **historic Gillespie District***. Park at the Historical Society, buy your ticket and get a map to tour the gardens nearby. Included in ticket price is a tour of the Bidwell-Wood House in Pioneer Park and the Historical Society's Members Garden. Tickets \$20 each, purchase that day.



*** This is a correction from previous Calendar.**

Sunday, March 22: Conversation @ the Crocker 2:00pm *The Ormiston Colony and the Scottish Origins of the Town of Sarasota* Dr. Josh Goodman, Manager of Sarasota County History Center. With all the Mediterranean architecture in Sarasota, who would have guessed that many of the town's first settlers were Scottish? It all started when the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company acquired a hefty chunk of Florida real estate and began marketing it to both Americans and Europeans in the 1880's. A group of more than 50 would-be colonists sailed from Glasgow in 1885 to make their fortunes in Sarasota, but what they found when they arrived didn't exactly match the description in the brochure! Please join us for a closer look at Sarasota's fascinating Scottish origins. The program will incorporate archival materials from the History Center's collections, including an original 1886 plat of the town of Sarasota. The Crocker Memorial Church, Members Free, Not-yet-members, \$10. Tours of the Bidwell-Wood house available an hour before the program starts.

Tuesday, April 7: Early Music Consort presenting a delightful concert at 2:00pm on their Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque era instruments and in costume. Music dating from the 14th century to the 21st century on recorders and viols. Programs are varied, with descriptions of the instruments and commentary about the music shared at each performance. This concert is open to the public and no reservations are required. A \$5 donation is requested and appreciated.



Sunday, April 19: HSOSC Annual Meeting *NEW TIME! 2 P.M. Members only.* Election of Officers, annual Board reports, a look back on the year and forward to our future. Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards, Light buffet luncheon. Door prizes. General merriment.