



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

December 2023 Newsletter

May your **December** be filled
with **Joy**, lots of **Laughter**,
Good Friends, and
unexpected **Miracles!**



Christmas Holiday Gathering
Carol & Chris Nasby Home
2509 Deborah Dr, Punta Gorda
Wednesday, December 13, 5 pm

It's that time of year again to celebrate the holidays with your friends in our great club! Set your GPS to arrive on time with an appetizer-salad dish, main dish or dessert that will feed at least 8 - 10 people. Last names **A to C**, please bring appetizers; **D to K** salads; **L to N**, bring a main dish entrees; and **O to Z**, come with desserts.

Christmas Wassail Punch and water will be provided. Decaf coffee will be available with dessert. Please email **Carol Nasby** by 12/10/23 or give her a call/text 507-236-6704 on what dish you are bringing. Please let her know if you are coming so that we have enough place settings and drinks for everybody! Call someone close by to car pool or offer them a ride!

If you do not want to drive home in the dark, call Carol and she will find a bed for you to overnight at one of our member's close-by homes

Our past tradition is that if you would like to participate in a fun gift exchange, bring your wrapped gift costing in the **\$10** range for holiday fun. Will will also have the Annual Meeting which will feature

Garden's Aglow Holiday Event Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens

5827 Riverside Drive, Punta Gorda
Sunday, December 10, 6 p.m.
Cost is \$25



Our Social Committee booked a fun holiday event sure to raise your spirits and provide you with holiday cheer! Click [website](#) to purchase tickets! **Tickets are going FAST!** Enjoy the magic of the gardens lit up at night! Arrive with your tickets by 6:15 pm.

Instructions: *There will be a line and parking directions to a field. You will walk 10 minutes to the Ticket Booth. Everyone will meet there between 6-6:15 pm and tour the gardens together. If you miss us, do the tour on your own and look for us. If you don't want to drive home in the dark, notify Michelle and you can overnight in one of our homes.*

Please **notify Michelle Kemps** if you purchased a ticket and are coming. The group will wait until 6:15 pm for you. Notify her by texting Michelle at [TEXT](#). Alternatively, email her at [EMAIL](#). FYI - Like everyone, Michelle gets too many spam calls and rarely answers her phone! By the way, Terese has an **extra ticket she cannot use**. Please call her if you would like to purchase it from her. Price is \$28.52.

Time to Pay Your Dues!

Have to mailed in your check to renew your membership to our wonderful club? Cost is only **\$45** per person (\$90 per couple). Associate Members (those whose primary club is located outside of Florida) can rejoin at only \$15 each (or \$30 per couple). Your dues must be paid by December 31, 2023. Questions?



Email our treasurer, **Richard Collins**. Mail your check made out to FF of SW Florida to 257 Lido Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

Announcing 2 Inbound Club Visits



We are *hosting* FF of Western Kentucky Feb 1 - 7, 2024

Western Kentucky ambassadors will arrive on February 1 and their journey begins on **Friday, February 2 with a Breakfast Brunch Welcome Party and ends Tuesday, February 6 with a Farewell Party**. They will depart on Wednesday, February 7.

Maureen Butt & Linda Supakoff are the Host Coordinators *with help from club members*



We are *hosting* FF Minnesota Twin Cities March 3 - 9, 2024

FF Minnesota ambassadors will arrive March 3 and their journey begins with a Breakfast Brunch Welcome Party on **Monday, March 4 and ends Friday, March 8 with a Farewell Party**. They will depart on Saturday, March 9
Click on [Journey Activity Sign Up](#) to see what is planned!

Joanne Collins is the Host Coordinator with valuable assistance from Terese Libby and Michelle Kemps and our *club members*

Have you signed up for hosting, doing a group dinner, or being a day host? Please be ready to help



with one or both of the inbound journeys coming in from Kentucky and Minnesota in February and March of next year. Contact Joanne or Maureen.

Sign up for Outbound Club Journeys in 2024



Journey Coordinator, Terese Libby, arranged Twin Cities to host our club from **June 20 - 24**. From there, Luvvy Kovacik helps her as our club journeys to Northern Colorado from **June 26 - 30**. (There is a one day break to travel there on June 25.)

Terese reports that MN is recruiting a host coordinator for our journey there. Luvvy shares that 3 people in Colorado are coordinating our visit, they can host 14 from our club, and our fee for the days there will be about \$125 total (paid to their club). They ask those going to fill out a **Health & Mobility Form** (click on it) because the air in Colorado will be thinner and some activities will be on outdoor unpaved trails.

Now is the time to sign up by filling out **Ambassador Application Form** (also found on your FF Member portal, under Help Center). The form and deposit check (\$100 for Twin Cities and \$100 for Colorado) should be sent to Terese Libby via **email** with check mailed to 11905 Silver Cobblestone Way,



Journey Coordinators, Marcie Ellis and Michelle Kemp, are organizing our club foreign destination to Sherbrooke, Canada. They have determined the dates of **September 8-14, 2024**. They are working on adding a visit to

Quebec, possibly Montreal, and visiting Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The Ambassador Application Form and \$100 deposit will be due later in 2024.



General Meeting & Program on recent Australia Club Journey

New Date ! Friday, January 12 - 10 AM

**Ft Myers Regional Library, Meeting Room A
2450 First Street (near back parking lot)**

Ft Myers, FL 33901

It's the start of a brilliant new year full of welcoming inbound visitors and traveling with club members to discover Minnesota, Colorado and the French Canadian region of Canada.

Meet us in downtown Ft Myers for a fascinating presentation from many club members who traveled to 2 clubs in Australia and some even added on New Zealand adventures. Afterwards, we will lunch at **The Lodge**, a club favorite, 2278 First Street for BBQ with faux mountain views.

Out and About with your Club

Do you like to Kayak?

If so, join Terese for a fantastic Saturday morning, December 16, 8 :15 to 11 AM in Matlacha, 4120 Pine Island Rd NW



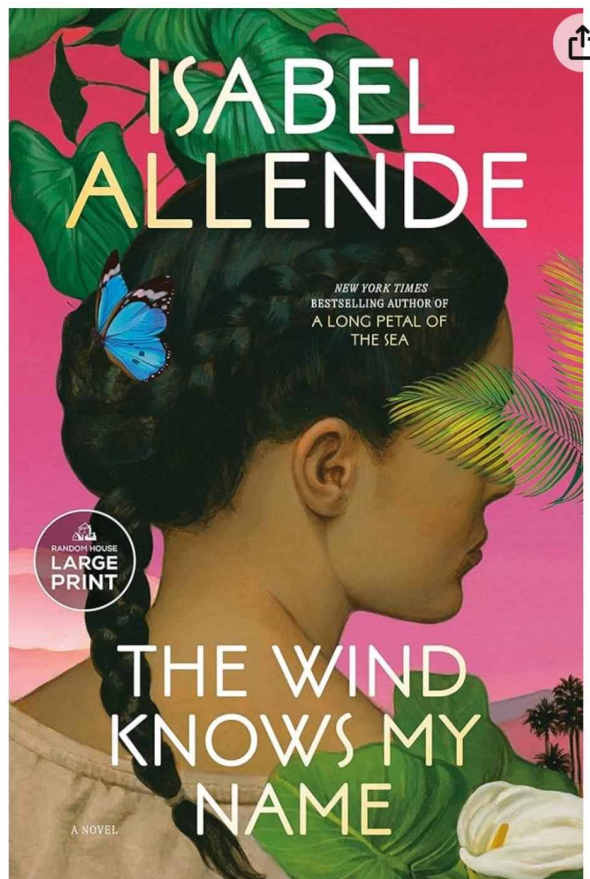
Cost is \$70.88 (includes tax) for 2-1/2 hrs
Just book your tour by calling 239-283-
1125 or on line at gulfcoastkayak.com But
wait - Terese has an extra ticket she
purchased. She had to book for 2 people to
reserve the event so if you want to go,
contact her and pay her \$70.88 for this
ticket! On this sunrise tour through the
mangroves, you may see manatees, dolphins, sea stars,
horseshoe crabs and other wildlife! Just awesome experience!

Announcing our new On-Line Book Club January 3, 2024 at 10 AM

Try something **NEW** for 2024!

Let Marcia Ellis know by 12/31/23 if you would like a Zoom invite to discuss this lovely book with our Friendship Force members. Contact Marcia by emailing her at Marcie. You can obtain this book from your local library or try downloading it from your library. The idea of this book club is to experience other cultures through reading.

Timely, provocative...emotionally satisfying... (a story about) the kindness of strangers who become family." - *The New York Times Book Review*



Mark your Calendar!
Save the Dates!



December 10 - Gardens Aglow

**December 13 - Annual Meeting &
Club Holiday Party**
at Carol & Chris Nasby Home,
2509 Deborah Drive, Punta Gorda
Bring dish to pass and wrapped gift in \$10 range

December 16 - Kayak at Matlacha with Terese 8:30 am-11:00. \$70.88/person includes guide and kayak.

NEW YEAR 2024

January 3 - Book Club discussion of *The Wind Knows my Name* by Isabel Allende
10 am **ZOOM** with Marcia Ellis & club members

January 12 -Monthly meeting & Australia Journey presentation **10:00 AM** Downtown Ft Myers
Library followed by lunch at **The Lodge**

January 13 - Pot Luck followed by Games
1 - 4 PM Luvvy's Clubhouse, Estero

January 19 - Beehive Musical in Ft Myers
2:00 PM Advance tickets through Joanne MacPeek

CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

My FFI

The members-only portal, my.friendshipforce.org, is the go-to place for news, journey opportunities, payments, virtual experiences and all other member-relevant information. If you have not yet signed up, please do so. Confused how to do it? Email [Marcie](#) (click on her name).

More Travel Opportunities

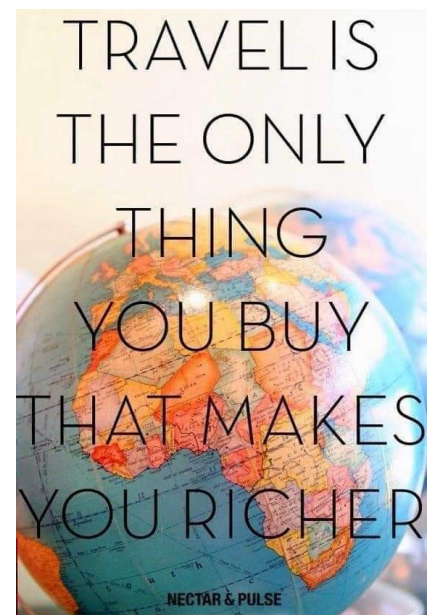
Click the link below to review a catalog of Special Journeys that are currently being offered by other FFI clubs. Perhaps there is a journey that interests you!

[2023-24Journey Catalog](#)
[2023-24 Club to Club Journeys](#)

President's Comments

Holiday Greetings to all Southwest Florida Friends!

Chris and I are excited to welcome you to our home on December 13 at 5 PM. Carpooling is encouraged and if you are a





distance away, you are welcome to do a homestay with friends in Punta Gorda. There will be holiday wassail to welcome you and a variety of potluck delicacies for the evening meal. There will be coffee to go with your holiday dessert. When you RSVP to me, please mention what you are bringing to the Potluck so we have a balanced menu. Please **RSVP by December 10. Text me at 507-236-6704.**

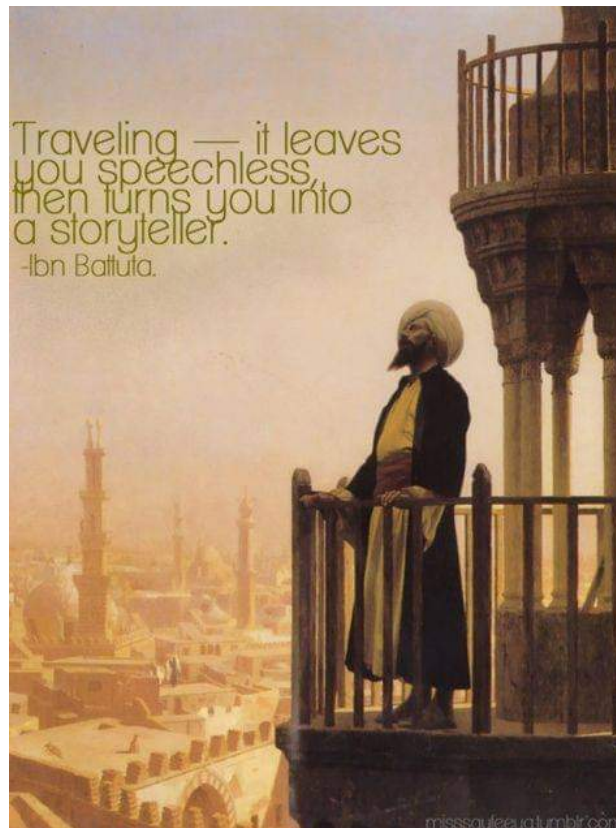
Don't forget your gift for the crazy holiday gift exchange. It is always a good time! Note that for the January meeting, the date and place changed due to damage to a room divider at the North Fort Myers Library. The new date is January 12, 10

a.m. We are always happy to be able to meet at the downtown Ft Myers Library!

In Joy, Peace and Love,

Carol

Parting Shots





Linda and Maureen act like Taiwanese locals



Michelle dresses up in Taiwan finery

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida

[Email Us](#)



*Check us out &
contribute to Group
Facebook Page! Click
FaceBook icon above!*

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida | 2509 Deborah Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

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