



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

December 2025 Newsletter



Announcing New Member
Christmas Coffee or Tea
Monday, December 8, 10:00 am
2509 Deborah Drive, Punta Gorda

The Christmas Tea and New Member Q & A will be held Monday, Dec 8th at 10:00 am at 2509 Deborah Drive, Punta Gorda.

We ask the **new members to RSVP** to Carol Nasby 507-236-6704 by Dec 5th so we are ready for you. Board members will be there also, and anyone with questions about how SWF FF works, is welcome to come. This is a great time to invite prospective members ! Cheers!

Do you know that we welcomed the following 5 new members in 2025? It is time to get to know...

Kathleen Davey, Susan Hills, Lois Hillman, Jan Murphy, and Susy Riddle

*Please bring a few canned goods, non-perishables, as a donation to the local Food Pantry. It is our club's way of showing we care during this Holiday Season.

Christmas Holiday Gathering
Judy's Lake Fairways Clubhouse



19371 N Tamiami Trail, N Fort Myers
Sunday, December 14, 11 am to 2 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 G, please bring appetizer-salad dish, H to N, bring holiday brunch main dish and O to Z, come with desserts.

Christmas Wassail Punch, iced tea and water will be provided. The club asks you to bring your picnic basket with your own plates, utensils, and cups. Please email [Carol Nasby](#) by 12/10/21 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 seating for everybody! Call someone close by to car pool or offer them a ride!

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 election of officers for 2026.

**We decided to stream music for the Christmas Party. Is anyone bringing a speaker and checked internet connection?*



Election Update 2026 Officers

According to our [Club Bylaws](#), we will elect new club officers at our Holiday Party on December 14, 2026 at at Lake Fairway Club house from 11 am to 2 pm.

The Nominating Committee recommends for **President - Terese Libby**.

Two Vice President positions are open. Nominees are Judy Carson and Susan Hills.

The committee recommends for **Treasurer - Jane McDonald**. Our

current Secretary, **Marcia Ellis**, agreed to continue in this role. These 5 members make up our Board of Directors. Carol Nasby will remain on the board in an Advisory Role.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our current president, **Carol Nasby**, who served 3 years in the role. When we could not find a president last year, she stepped up for an additional year. She has been an excellent leader and brought in many new members. She educated new members by having teas and other educational events. She opened her home to us for many events. Please thank her for everything she did and continues to do for our club.

Our Treasurer, Richard Collins worked behind the scenes handling inbound and outbound reimbursements, dues and all things financial for 3 years. Please let him know your appreciation.

Please thank **Marci Ellis**, Associate Member of our club, who does a fantastic time being club Secretary, taking minutes and getting them published quickly on our club website.

Please thank **Terese Libby** and **Judy Carson** for being supportive Vice Presidents to Carol and for running to be our next President and Vice President.



Club Dues

\$15 is the amount our club needs to run its operation for 2026. There is no increase. Please bring your check made out to *Friendship Force of SW Florida* to the Holiday Party or mail it to our new treasurer, Jane McDonald, 800 Lucia Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 by 12/31/25.

FFI Dues

Starting in January 2026 our parent organization, Friendship Force International (FFI), will collect dues on your portal website via your credit card. It will be a yearly fee of \$100 per person. Check the email message with attachments sent out on November 23rd to you by Carol explaining the increase. If you

have questions, please contact one of your board members.

Club Inbounds for 2026

Inbound Clubs who will visit Southwest Florida:

National Capitol Area February 1 - 7, 2026

Our Host Coordinators, who will arrange this inbound, will be led by **Carol Nasby** with help from new members, **Susan Hills** and **Kathleen Davey**. They contacted the club and agreed on the tentative dates of February 1-7, 2026. Mark your calendar - **Save those dates** - we need your help! We need volunteers to host, day host, pick up and drive to airport, and/or prepare a dinner during the week. Would you like to plan/coordinate the Welcome or Farewell Dinner? Time to jump in and help. Let Carol, Susan and Kathleen know how you will help and what jobs you will do.



Friendship Force of the National Capital Area USA (FFNCA,) was founded in 1979, and consists of 61 members from a large geographic area including the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland suburbs and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

Banjarmasin, Indonesia in November 2026

Six years ago, March/April 2019, 9 members of our club traveled to Banjarmasin, Indonesia and had a fantastic time. Now, the club is coming to visit us in Southwest Florida. It is our turn to give back to these amazing ambassadors. Check out the group picture below showing some of us there. *Can you spot Carol, Chris, Michelle, Jack & Jo?*



Carol agrees to chair being the Host Coordinator; *but* needs others to help her. Please let her know if you are willing, especially those who went on this journey are needed! It takes the whole club to "pull off" a fantastic Inbound and we are counting on everyone to do something to help.

Outbounds, our club will journey to other clubs in the world:



Cornwall, UK - The club has 39 members who pride themselves in

their enthusiasm and welcome they give visitors. They are located in the far south-west of England and visitors usually arrive by coach or train, a journey of about 6 hours from London.

The Journey Coordinator is Joanne Collins assisted by Susan Hills. Our host coordinator is Jane Parker, wife of club president, Andrew. We've established a firm date of **May 18-24, 2026**. As of today we filled the 14 slots.

We will also take "waiting list" applications. Some of us will go on a pre-trip rail journey to Wales and some on a post-trip tour by a Canadian company, *Wing Buddy*, to Scotland in an 18-passenger mini van.

Sri Lanka in December 2026 (a joint trip with the New Jersey club). It was known historically as Ceylon, an island country in South Asia. This exciting destination is one you won't want to miss - already some of our members are interested. Google Sri Lanka to see the amazing safaris and snorkeling opportunities. **Maureen Butt** will be the Journey Coordinator along with one appointed by the New Jersey club.



SAVE THE DATE!

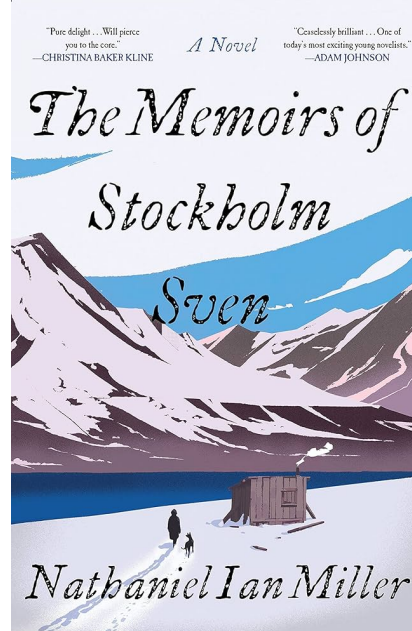
April 24-27, 2026

Memphis, Tennessee

2026 North American Regional Conference



Get on the
FFI Portal
and sign up
today!



Our first book club selection of the year
January 12, 2026 - 10:00 AM - Marcia Ellis' home
631 Andros Ct, Punta Gorda, FL

Longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, this pick tells the story of a man who leaves Stockholm in 1916 for Arctic adventure, survives an avalanche, and retreats to solitary life until an unexpected visitor transforms his isolated existence. *"Briskly entertaining" (New York Times Book Review), "transporting and wholly original" (People Magazine)*



December 8 - Membership tea for "new members" and interested club members at Carol Nasby's home

December 14 - **Holiday Party at the Lake Fairways Clubhouse, North Fort Myers.** This will be a potluck and gift exchange with the annual meeting to vote for next year's officers

January 16 - Monthly meeting at North Fort Myers Library, 10:30 AM. Topic: **Pre-trip to Oregon and our Club FF Trip to Napa Sonoma Valley, CA** - Presenters: Terese Libby and others who went with her. Optional Lunch to follow.

Missed meeting? Need to Keep Up with our Club?

If you've missed a meeting and want to know what happened, check out club MINUTES found on our FF Website under Membership Tab. Click [minutes](#). Go to minutes and read all about it. So easy!

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.

More Travel Opportunities

FFI has posted all club journeys throughout the world for 2025!

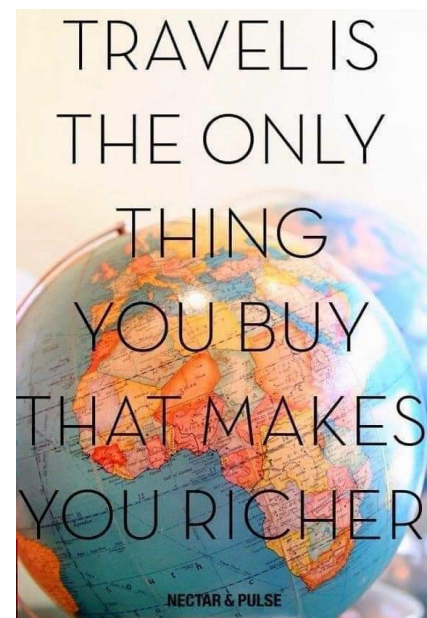
Click the link below to review a catalog of Special Journeys that are currently being offered by other FFI clubs. Perhaps there is a journey that interests you

[2024-2025 CLUB GROUP JOURNEYS](#)

[2024-2025 INDEPENDENT JOURNEYS](#)

President's Comments

Membership in SWF FF Matters, Spread the Word!





Did you know the way to bring in new members is to invite a friend, talk to a friend, and share the news with a friend!

We may be nervous about the increase in the FF dues at a national level, but we can sympathize when we learn that they ran a deficit in 2024, and they need to adjust to make the ink flow black again. Their expenses have not gone up, but their revenue has gone down. I received the financial reports this weekend, and they justify taking drastic steps to make the organization strong again.

So we can share the news that we are still dedicated to greeting the world at our doorstep, and that we care about making friends around the globe. We care about people on the local level, and we care about people on the international level.

Please help our club to be vital by joining on the local level for only \$15, and please pay that at the December 14th meeting. We want you, and need you to be with us.

We are better together! We can help each other to share with the world our little corner of the planet! If making the payment online to FFI is a problem for anyone, we will help each other to do that! If the lump sum is scary, then make it a monthly payment that is not so scary.

Friendship Force has turned my retirement into a dream of travels and excitement. Let others know. Invite them to give our club a try. The recruitment model that works best is sharing the joy. Mark Twain said *“staying in one place is like reading the same page in a book over and over again.”*

And don't forget about the North American FF Conference in Memphis next April. I hope to go!

*Peace and Friendship always,
Carol*

Parting Shot



**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 US

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