



**friendship force**  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## February 2026 Newsletter



Club Meeting & Presentation  
10:00 AM on Friday, Feb 20, 2026  
North Fort Myers Library  
2001 N Tamiami Trail, N Ft Myers

***"Travel Insurance Tips and Recap of Recent Inbound Visit"***

**presented by Terese Libby with audience participation**

Call a friend to carpool and set your GPS to attend and hear about all the happenings planned. Optional lunch to follow at **Cafe You**, a popular Australian-style coffee shop with healthy flavorful food. Address is 1423 SE 10th St #1a, Cape Coral. Please join us!

**National Capitol Area  
February 1 - 7, 2026**

It's almost time to host our ambassadors from the Washington DC area. Unfortunately, our weather has



turned cooler, but hopefully they will catch a few rays of Florida Sunshine! Our Host Coordinators, Carol, Susan and Kathleen have arranged a fantastic schedule. Need to check details? just click [here](#). *Note that the sunset viewing at Gilchrist Park on Feb 1 is cancelled due to cold weather forecast*

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## 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.

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## Our clubs 2026 Outbounds



**Cornwall, UK** - The matches of our ambassadors to their hosts are complete and plans are moving along for a fantastic week.

We've agreed on our dates of **May 18-24, 2026**. We filled the 14 slots and 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. We have a Waiting List of 5 people just in case anyone's plans must change.

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**Sri Lanka - Maureen Butt (mayo97@gmail.com or 408-334-3216)** is the Journey Coordinator and she is in discussion of dates either in late summer or fall.

**Sri Lanka** was known historically as Ceylon, an island country in South Asia. This exciting destination is one you won't want to miss! Our journey size is eight. Two pre-trips are being planned: a 4-day stopover in Singapore followed by a 7-10 day Sri Lanka tour which will include a safari, botanical gardens, a peaceful coast beach escape and snorkeling, tea plantations, culture, history and stunning scenery . Our homestay will be adjusted to accommodate us. **Contact Maureen to explore your interest in participating.**

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

April 24-27, 2026

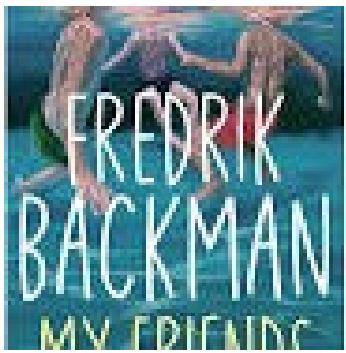
Memphis, Tennessee

**2026**  
**North American**  
**Regional**  
**Conference**



Get on the  
FFI Portal  
and sign  
up  
today!

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# Book Club Discussion

February 9, 2026 - 10:00 AM -  
Susan Hill's home at  
1306 Sea Horse Ct, Punta Gorda, FL

All club members are welcome to join the book club discussion of the book

***My Friends*** by Fredrik Backman. This novel is about the powerful, life-altering bond of friendship among four teens who find solace in each other during a summer, and how that bond, captured in a painting, impacts an aspiring artist years later. This was a New York Times bestseller, a Goodreads Choice Awards winner for Best Fiction 2025 and a Fallon Book Club pick.

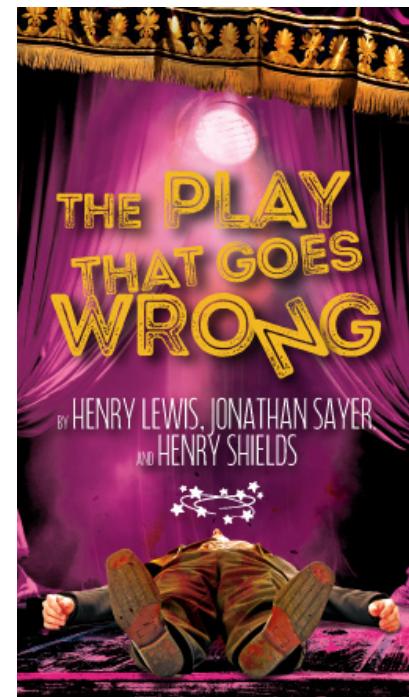
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## Lunch and a Florida Rep Play

February 15 beginning at 11:45 am

Carol arranged a wonderful day for you!

It starts at 11:45 AM with a fantastic lunch at *Izzy's*, 2282 First St, Ft Myers, located close to the theater. Following your meal you'll head on over to the theater to enjoy the play. Carol will send out a reminder to those of you who have already signed up to help you car pool.



## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

## February 22 at Jet Blue Stadium, 1:05 pm

Kim organized a Spring Training Game for the club to enjoy between Boston Red Sox vs Toronto Blue Jays. Of the 18 tickets sold as a group, there will be 8 FF members in addition to 10 additional people joining us. What a fun day at the beautiful park! Thanks, Kim!



### Recap on Visiting Mote Aquarium

Thank you, Dianne, for organizing such a fun trip to see the brand new Mote Aquarium! Fourteen of us had a blast. As for Richard and me, we really enjoyed the Virtual Reality viewing of whales in Antarctica along with the fabulous exhibits. And, we really loved lunching at the Cheesecake Factory! Here's a few pics for your enjoyment.



Manatee posed for us



Mary, Michelle, Dianne and Carol





Mesmerizing jellyfish creatures



Carol and Chris try out Virtual Reality

## Missed meeting? Need to Keep Up with our Club?

If you've missed a meeting and want to kn0w 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](http://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.

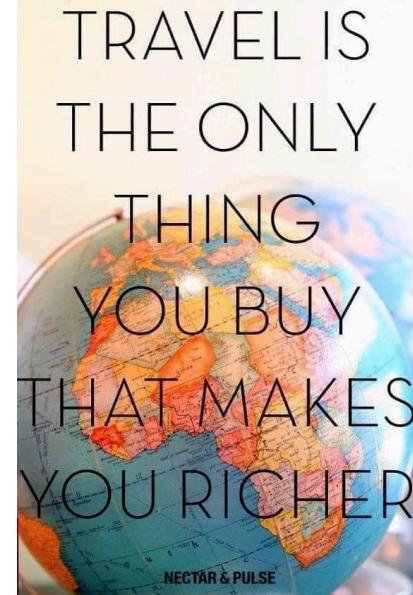
### More Travel Opportunities

FFI has posted all club journeys throughout the world for 2026!

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

## 2026 CLUB GROUP JOURNEYS

## 2026 INDEPENDENT JOURNEYS



## President's Comments

As we begin this year with new boardmembers, we look forward to welcoming new friends and growing a more peaceful environment across the world.

We have a busy, yet exciting year ahead of us as we host National DC Club and venture to Cornwall and Sri Lanka. The DC committee has done an amazing job organizing the incoming journey. Kudos to all of you! It's exciting to have so many SWFL members participating in all the events as well.

Are you interested in traveling to Memphis in April? The FFI Regional Conference promises to bring the culture of Memphis, mixed with time to learn more about FFI and discuss new concepts with other clubs in the US. I've registered and booked my hotel. Join me!

*In Friendship,*



**Terese**

**Parting Shot**



Pictured above are the seven of us who made the trip to Bonita Springs to attend Luvvy's Celebration of Life. It was a lovely tribute. Four of her grandchildren spoke about the profound influence she had on their lives. We also met Luvvy's identical twin sister and her daughter from Virginia. There we are surrounding her FF memorabilia! God Bless You and Keep you dear Luvvy. Rest in Peace!

## Friendship Force of Southwest Florida

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to Group Facebook Page!  
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