



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

April 2026 Newsletter



This year our club is celebrating 35 years in Southwest Florida!

Terese recently received the above certificate along with a congratulatory letter from Jeremi Snook, FFI's President and CEO. He tells us, *"Throughout the years your club has played a vital role in bringing people together across borders, fostering mutual understanding and quietly*

transforming countless lives. Your dedication and passion exemplify the true power of friendship in action."

Are you curious about our beginnings and history? Read about it on our club website by clicking on [About Us](#). While you are reflecting on your personal experience with our club, why not share a few wonderful moments or stories? Just send to [me](#) and I will publish it here so that all can appreciate how fortunate we are to be members of this unique organization.

Friday, April 17, 10:00 AM
General Meeting & Presentation
by Margie Kang
"Visiting Italy and how it has changed throughout the years"



Optional Lunch to follow at

Olive Garden
1910 NE Pine Island Rd, Cape Coral

Margie Kang visited Italy, the country of her heritage, at least 6 times beginning in 1968. She wasn't completely a tourist and spent time there with family. She is eager to talk to us about how culture changes, evolves and adapts to current events around us. We can explore our stereotypes that are embedded in our past experiences and be open to new ideas!

Don't miss this fascinating look at Italy and be ready with your questions and comments!



Welcome New Members

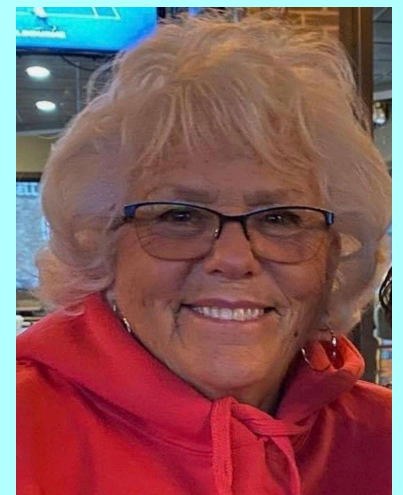
Linda Harrell met us at our recent World Friendship Force Day at Kim's home. Linda lives in Fort Myers and loves shell crafting, painting and pottery. Her field is information technology. Welcome and we hope you will travel with us and meet other FF members throughout the world.



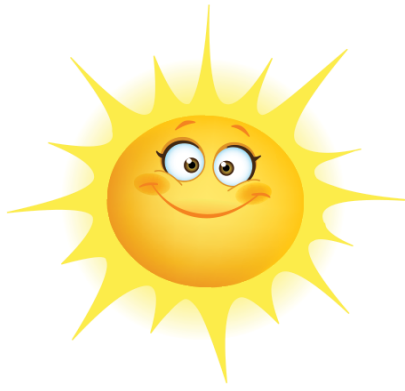
Marge & Jim DeWitt live in Cape Coral. Marge is a former middle school teacher and Jim is a commercial painter. Marge speaks French and they both love international travel. We are so glad they decided to give us a try and we hope to have them join us on many outbound journeys.



Linda Smidt lives in Punta Gorda and is also a snowbird from Maine. Her expertise is information systems in the insurance business. She is interested in sailing, cooking, swimming and kayaking. Welcome, Linda, and we hope to get to know you and that you enjoy Friendship Force in all its aspects of hosting and travel.



Wende Fowler lives in North Port and is a retired Executive Secretary. She is also a snowbird from Leslie, Michigan. Her hobbies are sewing, golf and cooking. Wende, we are happy you joined and look forward to getting to know you and travel with you.



Summer Social Events

As many of our group will be leaving soon for travel or to return to their summer homes, here are some fun summer events for members to stay connected during the summer months here in Southwest Florida

April - Thursday, April 16, Deb and the Dynamics This may be your last chance to see an awesome classic rock band this season! Deb and the Dynamics will be performing at Burnt Store Marina Country Club, 41312 South Vincent Avenue, Punta Gorda from 5 to 8 pm. Contact [Dianne Gooding](#) if you would like to join us.

May - Friday, May 8 - Game Time at Terese Libby's home in Fort Myers from 12 noon to 3 pm. Please bring a dish to pass or a dessert, your table service and a fun game to play with all. Sign-up available at April 17th monthly meeting.

June - Friday, June 19 - Pop Stroke Mini Golf outing in Fort Myers. An email announcement will be sent to members in early June.

Possible July social events are bowling, lunch out, movie matinee or a beach day.

August - Friday, August 7, 2 pm - Ice Cream Social at Linda Supakoff's home. An email announcement will be sent out to members in late July.

Octoberfest in Cape Coral second and third weekend of October.

This announcement courtesy of FF Southwest FL Social Committee. All members are welcome to contact the Social Committee with interesting ideas and places to visit in our area.

*"Happy Trails to you until we meet again,
Happy Trails to you keep smiling until then"
- Roy Rogers & Dale Evans*

Dianne Gooding
Kim Cullinan

Inbound Banjarmasin, Indonesia November 8-13, 2026

SAVE THE DATES on your calendar for November 8-13 for helping to welcome ambassadors from Indonesia!

Carol, our host coordinator, reports that the Indonesian club is having some difficulty obtaining visas and as of this date, only 4 club members are cleared to visit us. By August we should hear if others have been successful and have an indication of how many will journey here.

As a reminder, 6 years ago, 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 show them the friendship of Southwest Florida!

How will you help? Host 1 or 2 guests? Do a dinner? Help drive them around, pick up and take to airport? Use your computer skills to create the program? Help put together a Welcome Bag? Help organize Welcome Party and/or Farewell Party? There is a job for everyone! Let Carol, Kathleen or Susan know what your contribution will be to this fun week in November!



Our clubs 2026 Outbounds



Cornwall, UK - The matches of our ambassadors to their hosts are made, fees wired and plans are complete for a fantastic week.

We're going to Cornwall on **May 18-24, 2026**. 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 7 people just in case anyone's plans must change.



Sri Lanka - Maureen Butt, Journey Coordinator, reports that she's filled 6 seats for this amazing journey to a club in east Sri Lanka with a pre-trip to Singapore and a post-trip Sri Lanka tour in October 2026. The trip number is 26425.

She is now taking Waiting List hopefuls who advise her that they would like to come. Questions? Contact [Maureen](#)

Get on the
FFI Portal
and sign up

SAVE THE DATE!

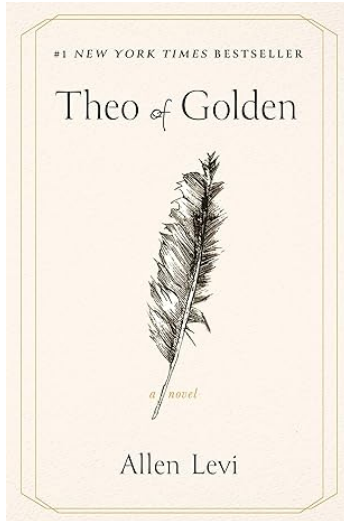
April 24-27, 2026

Memphis, Tennessee

**2026
North American
Regional
Conference**



today!



Book Club Discussion

April 13, 2026 - 10:00 AM - Monday
Kathleen Davey's home, 2881 Coral Way,
Punta Gorda, FL

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi has been making quiet but ever-swelling waves among readers since it was self-published two years ago. A table

of friendship with kindness at its core, this story follows an octogenarian who arrives, rather mysteriously, in a small town in Georgia and discovers a trove of drawings in a local coffee shop. As Theo reconnects pictures with their true owners, he sprinkles inspiration, revelation and hope on the listener like gold dust. - *Emily C., Audible Editor*

Save the Dates

May 8 - Game Day, 12 - 3 pm, Terese Libby's home, 11905 Silver Cobblestone Way, Ft Myers **Play your favorite board or card game with us, bring a lite snack**

August 7 - Ice Cream Social, 2 pm,



December 13 - Lake Fairways Club House, North Fort Myers - Holiday Party 12 - 3 pm.

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

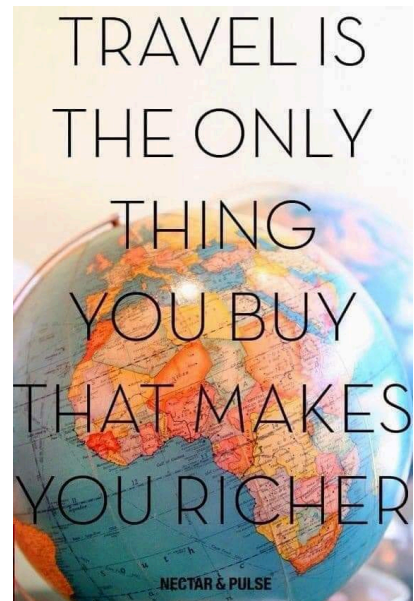
FFI has posted all club journeys throughout the world for 2026!

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





Our dear president is on her way to join the Minnesota FFI Club on a fantastic journey to Japan. In her absence, Kim says...

On Friday, March 13, 2026, FFSWFL celebrated International Friendship Day at Kim Cullinan's Fort Myers home. There were 23 attendees who brought an international recipe dish to share. There were some written recipes brought and Kim has offered to create an electronic recipe book celebrating the event. Please send to her your recipe by clicking on [Kim's Email](#) so tha it can be included. Deadline is April 13th. By the way, if you attended the luncheon, please check your tableware, specifically for a tablespoon, which might have inadvertently left my home to visit yours!

The day was gorgeous weatherwise and international flags were on display. After this event, four new members joined our club!

Our club hopes new members will join us on Friday, April 17th at the monthly meeting held at the North Fort Myers Library meeting room, 10 AM.

In Friendship,

Kim



Parting Shots

Great time at Kim's for World Friendship Force Day!



Bev & Dennis Haggarty enjoyed the hat trades. Maureen, Richard & Carol enjoyed the food.



A group shot on the lanai - and then - New members Wende & Joy show their ponchos.



New member, Wende, in yellow flowered hat with rest of group



Jo & Jack Cooley with guests they brought. Hoping they will join!



There were lots of amazing dishes to sample in Kim's Kitchen. Kathleen Davey, in foreground, helping. Thanks!



Some of us attended the *Van Gogh & Monet Immersion Experience in Estero*. Just great!
From left to right is Richard Collins, Kim Cullinan, president Terese Libby and Joanne Collins



Friendship Force of Southwest Florida

Email Us



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



Try email marketing for free today!