



friendship force  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## January 2026 Newsletter



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### Club Meeting & Presentation

Napa/Sonoma Valley Outbound

10:30 AM on Friday, January 16, 2026

North Fort Myers Library

2001 N Tamiami Trail, N Ft Myers

*"Pre-trip to Oregon & Crater Lake PLUS  
One week visit to FF of Napa/Sonoma Valley"*  
presented by Terese Libby and journey  
participants



Call a friend to carpool and set your GPS to attend our first meeting of the new year. Make it your New Year's Resolution to travel with your club this coming year and experience the magic of a journey with Friendship Force. You won't regret it! Optional lunch to follow the meeting.



## Election Results

Your new board and officers for 2026 are;

**President - Terese Libby**

**Vice Presidents - Judy Carson and Susan Hills**

**Treasurer - Jane McDonald**

**Secretary - Marcia Ellis**

Thank you for stepping up to lead our club in the new year!

## Club Dues



Our local chapter dues remain at \$15 for 2026. There is no increase. Please bring your check made out to *Friendship Force of SW Florida* to the January 16th member meeting at the North Fort Myers Library or mail it to our new treasurer, Jane McDonald, 800 Lucia Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

## FFI Dues

Starting in January 2026 our parent organization, Friendship Force International (FFI), will collect its 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.

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## Club Inbounds for 2026

**Inbound Clubs who will visit Southwest Florida in 2016:**

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

Our Host Coordinators, who have arranged this inbound, is led by **Carol Nasby** with help from new members, **Susan**

**Hills** and **Kathleen Davey**. Mark your calendars- Save the dates - 10 Ambassadors will arrive on February 1st and will be hosted by 5 of our members. We still need volunteers to day host, and to pick up and drive ambassadors to the airport. Let Carol know how you will help and what jobs you will do. ([Carol.nasby@gmail.com](mailto:Carol.nasby@gmail.com) or 507-236-6704)



A wonderful schedule of activities has been planned including a welcome brunch at Kathleen Davey's house and a farewell dinner at Susan Hills', a docent led tour of the Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Gardens, a day on Pine Island with lunch at the Tarpon Lodge, a full day on Sanibel Island with lunch at the Bubble Room, and an ECHO Global Farm Tour with lunch at Blossom and Brie.

A full schedule with times and prices will be distributed separately and later in January.

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.

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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 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**. 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.



**Sri Lanka** in August 2026 (a joint trip with the New Jersey club). **Maureen Butt (mayo97@gmail.com or 408-334-3216)** is the Journey Coordinator along with one appointed by the New Jersey club.

**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 with **an August 2026 time frame**. 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 mid-August, which can be adjusted to accommodate us. **Contact Maureen to explore your interest in participating.**

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

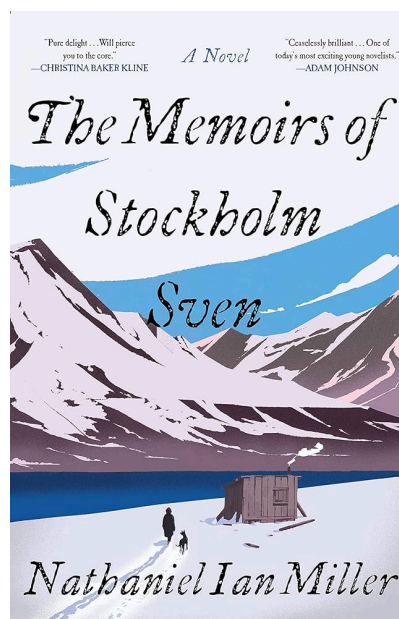
April 24-27, 2026

Memphis, Tennessee

**2026  
North American  
Regional  
Conference**



Get on the  
FFI Portal  
and sign  
up  
today!



## First book club discussion of the year

January 12, 2026 - 10:00 AM - Marcia Ellis' home

631 Andros Ct, Punta Gorda, FL

All chapter members are welcome to join the book club discussion of this most interesting story of a man who leaves Stockholm in 1916 for an Arctic adventure, survives an avalanche, and retreats to a solitary life until an unexpected visitor transforms his isolated existence. The book was long-listed for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and was described in the New York Time Book Review as "*Briskly entertaining*" and in People Magazine as "*transporting and wholly original.*"

*Marci thinks our readers also might find the following story interesting:*

Women wrote all of the top 10 books people borrowed this year through the public library app Libby.

[https://www.npr.org/2025/12/29/nx-s1-5645098/libraries-most-borrowed-books-2025?](https://www.npr.org/2025/12/29/nx-s1-5645098/libraries-most-borrowed-books-2025?utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20251230&utm_term=10531444&utm_campaign=news&utm_id=53730438&orgid=400&unique=CkLTTNpbVEn2RNlxAxgxWQ&utm_att1=)

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January 12 - Book Club 10 AM at Marcia's home. See info above!

**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.

**January 21** -Aquarium Day Trip to Mote Marine Lab in Sarasota.

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## 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!

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## CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

### My FFI

The members-only portal, [my.friendshipforce.org](https://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.

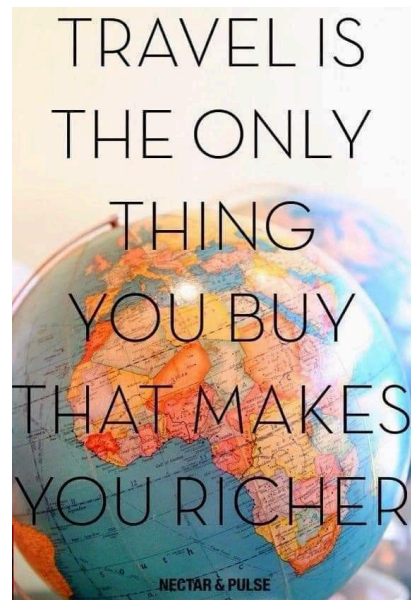
### More Travel Opportunities

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\*\*](#)



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# Parting Shot

**Friendship Force of  
Southwest Florida**

Email Us



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

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

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