FRIENDSHIP FORCE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
2026 NEWSLETTER



A message from your President

Whether you've been away or stayed right here at home, your friendship and commitment to the Friendship Force philosophy is what makes our club so special. I look forward to seeing many of you on **November 20th** for our **member meeting at the North Fort Myers Library…10:00 am-Social time, 10:30 am -12:00 Meeting/ Presentation on the Cornwall outbound journey, by Susan Hills and Kathleen Davey. Lunch following the meeting at a restaurant OR join others at the art complex of FGCU campus at 12:00 for the Empty Bowls fundraiser (see details below.)**

Don't forget to check out ALL the social gatherings your Social Committee has been planning… uncovering interesting things for us to do together throughout Southwest Florida! And, of course, help us host the Memphis Chapter in February and consider three outbound journeys, all highlighted at the end of this newsletter.

Mark your calendar: Sunday, December 13th, Holiday Party, Lake Fairways Club House. 12:00-3:00. Bring a $10-15 gift for the "exchange" game. More details to be announced at the November member meeting.

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Your 2026-2027 President, Terese Libby



November/December Events

Small Group Dinners



Thank you to all who signed up for the November small group dinner at Kim Cullinan's home on November 7th. **At this time there is a full house…**so thanks to Kim and Terese for hosting this event. Enjoy!

Sign up to **be a small group dinner host in <u>your</u> home! Choose a month and an entrée**. Determine a maximum number of guests (6-10), prepare the entree, and provide table service. Each guest then brings a salad, appetizer or dessert. **Please let Kim Cullinan (913-221-9197) or Dianne Gooding (517-655-4563) know if you are interested in hosting. They have done it and can tell you all about it!**

Empty Bowls Fundraiser



The 20th Annual FGCU Empty Bowls Fundraiser takes place on Friday, November 20, 2026, at the Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. The event is supported by the Interfaith Charities of South Lee County and is organized by the FGCU art program and ceramic studio.

Friendship Force members that would like to attend after our monthly meeting, will meet at the art complex on the FGCU campus at 12:00. For a twenty-dollar donation to support local food insecurity, guests enjoy a soup lunch and get to select a handcrafted pottery bowl to take home Parking is free, yet guests need to scan a parking pass in advance. **Please contact Dianne Gooding (517-655-4563) for more information and visit Facebook FGCU Empty Bowls.**

Sand Sculpturing Championship



American Sand Sculpturing Championship on Fort Myers Beach Sunday, November 22nd, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Meet up for lunch at Nervous Nelly's just over the bridge at 1:00 p.m. ($10 parking) or take the Lee Tran free bus service. After lunch take the shuttle service to stroll the competition at Diamond Head Beach. If you are interested, please contact Dianne Gooding (517-655-4563) before Friday, November 20th. Go to fmbsandsculpting.com to purchase advance tickets $8.00.

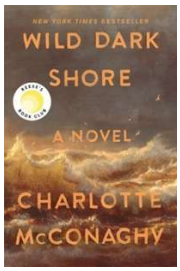
Dinner and Dancing-Eagle's Landing at Sable Palms



Dinner and dancing to the classic rock and roll group BandStand at Eagle's Landing at Sable Palms. Saturday, November 28th from 5-8:00 p.m. Come for dinner, come to listen to music, or come to dance the night away. Please contact Joy Perez (239-851-5743) before November 21st if you plan to attend so she can add you to the table reservation.

All events are planned and produced by our Social Committee: Dianne Gooding, Kim Cullinan, Joy Perez, Linda Harrell, Wende Fowler and Carol Nasby. A hearty thanks for their hard work!

BOOK CLUB



Check out ***Wild Dark Shore*, by Charlotte McConaghy,** and join other FF readers to discuss the book at the home of Susan Hills, 1306 Sea Horse Ct., Punta Gorda at 10:00 a.m. Let Susan know if you would like to join the discussion by calling her at 941-286-3452 or email her at Route66sr@yahoo.com. **All are welcome!**

Book Overview

REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK - INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER - BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB'S BOOK OF THE YEAR - LONGLISTED FOR THE WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION

A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR (NPR, *TIME, USA Today, The Economist, Scientific American, Good Housekeeping, Reader's Digest, BuzzFeed, BookRiot, HuffPost, Jezebel, The Globe and Mail, Kirkus*, and more)
"A breathtaking novel of ROMANCE, MYSTERY, AND TWISTS that will shock you...I love this book so much." --Reese Witherspoon
"A WILDLY TALENTED writer." —Emily St. John Mande

INCOMING AND OUTGOING JOURNEYS



Inbound from Memphis coming to us February 1-7 of 2027

We will be welcoming between 10 to 12 Memphis Friendship Force ambassadors to spend a week getting to know Southwest Florida. **We need you to sign up to host the ambassadors or to be a day host for ambassadors** to make sure they have a great week. Please email host coordinator, Carol Nasby, at carol.nasby@gmail.com to volunteer for hosting or day hosting. **We need you!**

New Caledonia is our next Outbound Journey April of 2027



With its gleaming white-sand beaches, exquisite French and Polynesian cuisine, and one of the world's largest barrier reefs, a trip to New Caledonia doesn't take much convincing. This tiny but mighty jewel-like cluster of islands in the South Pacific is a tropical playground of psychedelic coral systems, traditional culture, world-famous isles, and road trip adventures that beckon travelers from across the globe.

Linda Supakoff is the journey coordinator. She would love to hear from you to discuss more of the details of this journey. (772-539-1476 or supakoff@aol.com)

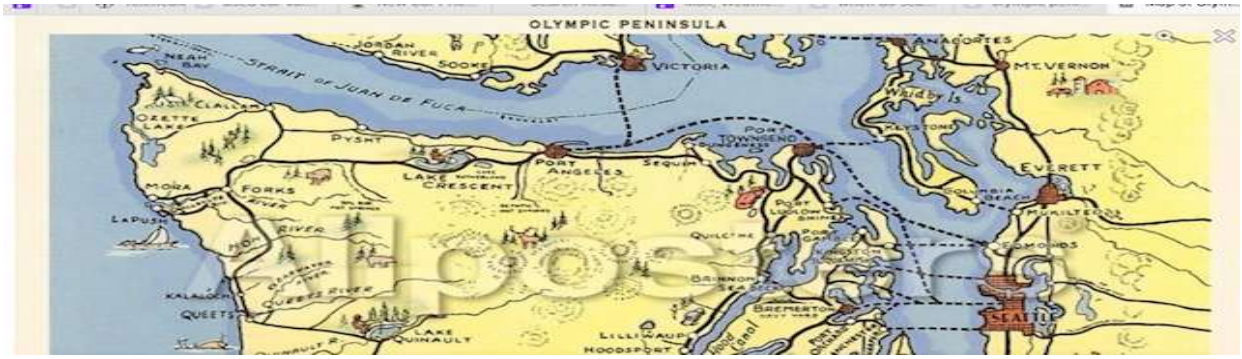
A third exciting travel opportunity!
The Seattle, Washington Area



Seattle Journey –September 2027 Dates TBD

The end of August/Early September seems to be the best time of year to visit. Specific dates TBD.

In addition to meeting new Friends with the Seattle Club, Seattle has many sites to see including: Pike Place market, Smith tower, 175'Ferris wheel by the waterfront, Space Needle, Chihuly Glass Museum, Danish artist Thomas Dambo 's Trolls.



Pre - or Post - Trips to Olympic Peninsula

We're in the planning stages of a pre- or post- trip to Olympic Peninsula. Vancouver Island-Bouchard Gardens, Vancouver, could be added. The highlight of the Peninsula is the Quinat rainforest with a view of Lake Quinalt. We'll rent cars to tour the island and enjoy the beautiful views. The length of the trip TBD. **Contact: Journey Coordinator-Terese Libby** terese.libby@gmail.com **Committee: Mary Montagne, Susan Hills, Terese Libby**