

FRIENDSHIP FORCE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



A message from your President

Happy Fall to you all!

Southwest Florida's temperatures and humidity are slowly lifting from Summer to Fall...and we are entering the time when we are all reminded of why we live here!! I've attached a photo of the Smoky Mountains trip Michelle Kemp's and I are currently on to enjoy some Fall scenery.

I invite you to join with other Friendship Force comrades at the many October events your Social Committee has planned, and don't forget an Inbound Journey is coming from Memphis, February 1-6, 2027. Also don't miss our **"Welcome Back" monthly meeting on October 16th at Lake Fairways Club House, 19371 North Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers, starting at 10 a.m., followed by lunch at Habaneros Mexican Grill, 547 Pine Island Rd North, Fort Myers.** Look forward to catching up with everyone and celebrating our many adventures and friendships.

Your 2026-2027 President, Terese Libby





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**

FFSWF October Social Events

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WALKING TOUR/ MEET UP
FRIDAY EVENING AT 5:30 P.M., OCTOBER 9TH**



In the spirit of the season please join us for a 90-minute, 1.5 mile, walking tour of historic and haunted downtown Punta Gorda. Come along and learn about the true history of Punta Gorda and hear about some actual spooky experiences of sites we visit!



We will be dining at Ortigia Cucina and Bar, 212 Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda at 5:30 **before our walking tour.** The cost of the walking tour is \$29.00 and please visit the websites swfloridawalkingtours.com and ortigiacucina.com for more information.

Contact Dianne Gooding at dgooding4499@gmail.com before October 7th if you are interested in joining us.

MONTHLY SMALL GROUP DINNER



Please join us on **Thursday, October 22 for Italian night at Bill and Dianne Gooding's home.** Dianne and Bill will provide the entrée, and guests will provide appetizers, side dishes, and dessert. Everyone will bring their own drinks. Small group dinner is limited to 12 people.

If you are interested in attending,
please contact Dianne at [517-655-4563](tel:517-655-4563) before October 16.

CAPE CORAL OKTOBERFEST 4:00 P.M. ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 24



**Grab your lederhosen and dirndls and meet up at the
German American Social Club for Oktoberfest!**

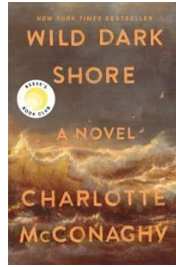
2101 S. W. Pine Island Dr., Cape Coral, FL

Tickets: Online tickets are eight dollars and parking is free.

For more information, please visit www.gasc-capecoral.com

**If you would like to join us, please contact Dianne Gooding dgooding4499@gmail.com or
517-655-4563 before October 16th. Signing up will allow you to see
who else is attending and possibly coordinate carpooling.**

BOOK CLUB



Check out *Wild Dark Shore*, by Charlotte McConaghly, 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

Member Meetings Save the Dates

October – Lake Fairways Club House, 19371 North Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers 10:00 am-Social time. 10:30 am -12:00. Lunch following meeting at Habaneros Mexican Grill, 547 Pine Island Rd, North Fort Myers.

November

Friday, November 20. Member Meeting. Location TBD. 10:00 am-Social time. 10:30 am -12:00 Meeting/ Presentation on Sri Lanka outbound journey, by journey leader Maureen Butts. Lunch following the meeting at a restaurant--TBD

December—Sunday, December 13. Holiday Party, Lake Fairways Club House. 12:00-3:00. Bring a \$10-15 gift for the “exchange” game.

