



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

October 2025 Newsletter

Friday, October 17, 10:30 AM
General Meeting & Presentation
by Margie Kang

*"Visiting Italy and how it has changed
throughout the years"*

Optional Lunch to follow at
3 Fishermen, 13021 N Cleveland Ave,
North Fort Myers, 239-599-8568



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!



October Fest Dinner
Friday, October 24, 4 pm
Sandra's Restaurant
111 W Olympia Ave
Punta Gorda, FL

Sandra's is a German-owned comfy eatery dishing up authentic family recipes from Germany and other European countries. This club social is planned by long-time members, Jack & Jo Cooley.

Please RSVP by phone to either Jack at 262-309-4266 or Jo at 616-881-6257 or email them at Cooley email by October 20th so that they can give the restaurant a count and have seating available for all.

Club Inbounds for 2026

Inbound Clubs who will visit Southwest Florida:

National Capitol Area February 1 - 6, 2026

Our Host Coordinators, who will arrange this inbound, will be led by **Carol Nasby** with help from new members, **Susan Hills** and **Kathleen Davey**. They contacted the club and agreed on the tentative dates of February 1-6, 2026. Mark your calendar - **Save those dates** - we need your help!



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.

They are an active group and recently hosted FF of Albuquerque and are currently on an outbound to Phoenix and Santa Barbara.

We look forward to meeting and hosting them and showing them the best we have to offer in Southwest Florida.

Banjarmasin, Indonesia in November 2026

**Need 1 experienced HC and 1 new person to learn* Please volunteer.*

Soon they want to have our contact info of our club Host Coordinators!
Contact [Carol](#) today!

NAPA Valley with Pre-trip to Crater Lake



Our journey coordinator, **Terese Libby**, is leading an exciting outbound to California's gorgeous Napa Sonoma Valley on **October 3-8**. The pre-trip to reservation for Crater Lake is **October 1 and 2nd**. Great pictures are already posted on our Friendship Force Group FaceBook Page! (see end of newsletter to click on it).

Outbounds, our club will journey to other clubs in the world:

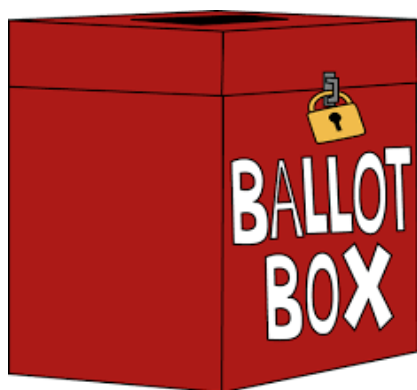


Cornwall, UK - Read about the club by checking the FFI portal under [Clubs and Groups](#). Briefly, Cornwall has 39 members who pride themselves in their enthusiasm and welcome they give visitors. They are located in the far south-west of England and visitors usually arrive by coach or train, a journey of about 6 hours from London.



The Journey Coordinator is [Joanne Collins](#) assisted by new members, [Jan Murphy](#) and [Susan Hills](#). Our host coordinator is Jane Parker, wife of club president, Andrew. We've communicated with them about our interests and have a tentative date of **May 18-24, 2026**. We have a lot of our club members who want to come on this journey. Keep in mind that their club can take only 14 of us. If you are serious about coming, please complete the [Host Application and Agreement Form](#) on the portal and submit it to [Joanne's email](#) or by mail at 257 Lido Dr, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. The application must also include a **\$100 deposit** check per person made out to **FF of SW FL**. We are looking at an *optional* rail pre-trip to Wales and also an *optional* coach or rail post-trip to Scotland. Information will be sent out about these trips soon.

Sri Lanka in December 2026 (a joint trip with the New Jersey club). It was known historically as Ceylon, an island country in South Asia. This exciting destination is one you won't want to miss - already some of our members are interested. Google Sri Lanka to see the amazing safaris and snorkeling opportunities. **Maureen Butt** will be the Journey Coordinator along with one appointed by the New Jersey club.



We need a President for 2026 - 2027

Are you ready to step up and lead us through the next few years? This can be a shared position between 2 of you!

Our Vice Presidents, **Terese Libby and Judy Carson (per our Bylaws)** are chairing the nominating committee.

Our [Club Bylaws](#) beginning on page 4, outline the duties of all our club officers. Generally club officers serve a two-year term, but we have some (e.g., Carol Nasby) who have held their positions for 3 years. For your information, current members who have been past presidents are Lou Rizek, Merline (Luvvy) Kovacik, Joanne Collins, Sue Linehan, Michelle Kemps, Maureen Butt with Linda Supakoff (shared role), and of course, Carol Nasby.

You don't have to have experience because there are many past mentors who can help you lead the club.

We are so pleased and grateful to hear from Terese and Judy that Jane McDonald has agreed to assume the role of Treasurer. Candis Penley will take over the newsletter and membership chair (not a voting member). Dianne Gooding will be our social chairperson (not a voting member). **Jane, Candis and Dianne** are new members who are stepping up to help. We so appreciate you!

The two current vice presidents, Terese and Judy, and secretary

Marci Ellis, have agreed to continue on next year. They are all board voting members. We appreciate you, too!

In order for the club to continue we **must find a new President or two to share the Presidency.** Please consider helping your club by agreeing to be President. Election of all new club officers will occur at the Holiday Party on December 14, 2025.

Book Club Selection for November



November 18, Tuesday at 10 AM
Carol's home
2509 Deborah Dr, Punta Gorda

The powerful and moving memoir of a fearless political opposition leader who paid the ultimate price for his beliefs.

Please join our book club for discussion of this interesting memoir.



October 3-8 - Club Outbound Journey to **Napa Valley** with pre-trip to **Crater Lake, Oregon**

October 17 - General Meeting and Program on ***Visiting Italy and how it has changed throughout the years*** - Margie Kang, presenter, at North Fort Myers Library with luncheon to follow.

October 24 - German Early Dinner with the Cooleys at Sandra's, 111 W Olympia Ave, Punta Gorda

November 8 - 13 - Inbound from Baku, Azerbaijan. 10 ambassadors have their visas. Marci & Michelle are Host Coordinators. **Save the Dates! Please help!**

November 18 - Book Club Discussion, 10 am, Carol's home, 2509 Deborah Dr, Punta Gorda

November 21 - March 2025 Outbound Japanese Journey - Joanne Collins and Linda Supakoff, presenters at North Fort Myers Library with luncheon to follow

December - Date to be determined - Membership tea for "new members" and interested club members at Carol Nasby's home

December 14 - Holiday Party at the Lake Fairways Clubhouse, North Fort Myers. This will be a potluck and gift exchange with the annual meeting to vote for next year's officers



Inbound Visit from Baku, Azerbaijan November 8-13, 2025

FYI - Some members of our club visited Baku, Azerbaijan a few years ago. Now, the Baku Club would like us to host them.

Just where is Baku? It is located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. It is known for the still waters of the Caspian Sea and its historic Inner city that reminds tourists of Dubai and Paris in equal parts! ***We've heard that they do not eat pork, most shell fish except shrimp and most do not drink alcohol.***

Marci Ellis and Michelle Kemps are the host coordinators who will be managing their visit here. The planning is in "full gear."

Here is Marci's update..."Our friends (6 singles and a family of 4 from Sweden) will arrive on Nov 3 in Orlando to visit the Greater Orlando Club. On **November 8** we will meet them at Bok Towers to have a picnic lunch, pick up our guests and bring them back to southwest Florida. We will have a

Welcome Light Dinner at Judy Carson's club house. Joanne Collins is arranging the food. If you would like to help her, contact [Joanne's email](#). We encourage all of you to come, eat and greet them. We are hoping to have group dinners on Sunday, Nov 9 and Monday, Nov 10th. We have quite a treat for the Farewell Dinner on Wednesday, Nov 12...our guests will be preparing their regional dishes for dinner for us! (Those club members who are not hosting will be asked to pay something towards the groceries). Please volunteer by contacting [Marci's email](#) if you have not talked to her already.

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

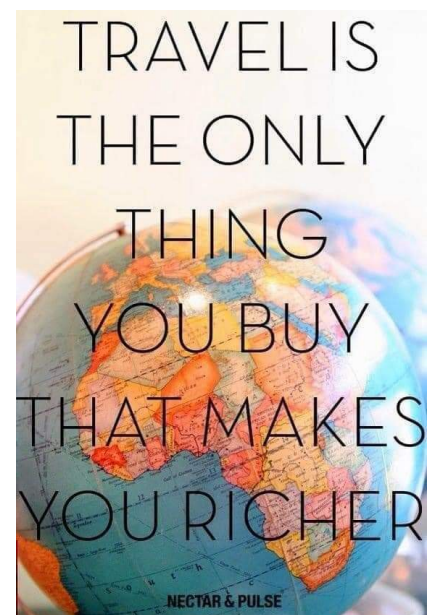
My FFI

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 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

President's Comments



Friendship Force North American
Regional Conference
April 24-27, 2026 in Memphis, TN

I hope you are looking forward to this gathering of friends from all over the US and from Mexico and Canada. I know I am!

Registration is open in **October**, so go to the member portal FFI website, **my.friendshipforce.org**, login, and explore the details. We can register and organize ourselves so that we maximize our fun. There will be pre trips and post trips no doubt.

Those who are interested could form a casual group to make travel plans, hotel plans and interesting activities around the event. We will have sign up sheets at meetings in the future, but it is always fun to explore options in advance.

Now, our fall activities will begin soon, and plan to join in the fun! Some of us are off touring in Oregon, and soon we will be with the Napa Valley FF club, getting to learn about that part of the world. And most of all, we will get to meet new friends who love exploring new cultures as much as we do.

Your board has been meeting online over the summer, and the minutes of those meetings are on the **[SWFFF website](#)** which you can check out. The summer was good for you I hope, no matter where you experienced it. As the snowbirds return, we will soon be busy hosting, welcoming, and making new friends.

*Peace and Friendship always,
Carol*

Parting Shots



Mary, Chris, Terese, Michelle, Jane, Carol and Candis enjoy Columbia River Gorge on their way to Crater Lake and NAPA Valley Club



Linda hosted another fab Ice Cream Social



2025 Extensive Ice Cream Flavors!



Visiting dear Luvvy

Michelle, Kim and Joanne drove down to visit dear Luvvy. We took her to lunch and she was so happy to see us! She is looking for visitors so please visit her soon!

Email Us

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

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

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