



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

November 2023 Newsletter

Friday, November 10, 2023 10:00 am

General Meeting & Presentation

NEW Location North Fort Myers Library Conference Rm
2001 N Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers

Topic: Stunning SINGAPORE by Joanne & Richard
Optional Lunch to follow at Bubba's Roadhouse
2121 SW Pine Island Rd, Cape Coral



It's Friendship Force General Meeting time with an entertaining segment by Joanne & Richard Collins on a truly magnificent world class destination - Singapore.

It is spread across 63 islands at the tip of the Malay Peninsula and is the world's only island city-state. It has stunning parks and gardens with magnificent light shows, colorful water displays and more.

Joanne and Richard will present pictures and videos and we think, by the time we are finished, you will be longing to travel to the other side of the world to experience it too! Margie Clyde will also speak on cross cultural awareness.

We need at least 10 members to attend for a quorum to vote on new Bylaws. Don't miss this important meeting!



Club Bylaws

A subcommittee (**Joanne Collins, Marcie Ellis and Judy Carson**) recently proposed changes and updates to our club Bylaws to the Board. The Board proposes that our membership approve them at the November meeting. Please plan on attending so that we have a quorum.

You can click on [Bylaws](#) to view the newly proposed bylaws. To summarize, the major points are:

1. Updated Board Duties (p 2-3)
2. Updated way board meetings are held (in person or application *i.e.*, Zoom, Microsoft Teams)
3. Quorum regulations for Board Members (at least 3 of 5)
4. Updated duties of officers
5. A new Administrative Calendar, to help Board plan, p 7
6. New **Reimbursement Policies** for Journey Coordinators and Host Coordinators, p 9
7. Annual Meeting time frame, p. 10
8. Quorum requirements on membership vote (at least 10 members or 20% membership, whichever is the lesser)
9. Updated policies on processing of new members and reimbursement of expenditures by members

Time to Pay Your Dues!

Bring your checkbook to the next meeting and renew your membership to our wonderful club. Cost is only **\$45** per person (\$90 per couple). Associate Members (those whose primary club is located outside of Florida) can rejoin at only \$15 each (or \$30 per couple). Your dues must be paid by December 31, 2023.



Questions? Email our treasurer, [Richard Collins](#). You may also mail your check made out to FF of SW Florida to 257 Lido Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

Announcing 2 Inbound Club Visits



We are *hosting* FF of Western Kentucky Feb 1 - 7, 2024

Western Kentucky ambassadors will arrive on February 1 and their journey begins on **Friday, February 2 with a Breakfast Brunch Welcome Party** and ends **Tuesday, February 6 with a Farewell Party**. They will depart on Wednesday, February 7.

Maureen Butt & Linda Supakoff are the Host Coordinators *with help from club members*



We are *hosting* FF Minnesota Twin Cities March 3 - 9, 2024

FF Minnesota ambassadors will arrive March 3 and their journey begins with a Breakfast Brunch Welcome Party on **Monday, March 4 and ends Friday, March 8 with a Farewell Party**. They will depart on Saturday, March 9.

Joanne Collins is the Host Coordinator with valuable assistance from Terese Libby and Michelle Kemp and our *club members*

Sign ups for hosting, doing group dinners, being a day host and other helpful duties will happen at Nov 10th meeting! Please be



ready to help with one or both of the inbound journeys coming in from Kentucky and Minnesota in February and March of next year.

Get Ready for 3 Outbound Club Journeys in 2024



Journey Coordinator, Terese Libby, arranged Twin Cities to host our club from **June 20 - 24**. From there, Luvvy Kovacik helps her as our club journeys to Northern Colorado from **June 26 - 30**. (There is a one day break to travel there on June 25.)



Journey Coordinators, Marcie Ellis and Michelle Kemp, are organizing our club foreign destination to Sherbrooke, Canada. They have determined the dates of **September 8-14, 2024**. They are working on adding a visit to Quebec, possibly Montreal, and visiting Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Soon we will be accepting applications to travel on these journeys. You can start filling out your forms by getting on your FF Member Portal and clicking on the Help Center to pull

up the forms.

Garden's Aglow Holiday Event Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens

5827 Riverside Drive, Punta Gorda
Sunday, December 10, 6 p.m.
Cost is \$25



Our Social Committee booked a fun holiday event sure to raise your spirits and provide you with holiday cheer! Click [website](#) to purchase tickets! **Tickets are going FAST!** Enjoy the magic of the gardens lit up at night! Arrive with your tickets at 5:15 pm.

Instructions: *There will be a line and parking directions to a field. You will walk 10 minutes to the Ticket Booth. Everyone will meet there between 6-6:15 pm and tour the gardens together. If you miss us, do the tour on your own and look for us. If you don't want to drive home in the dark, notify Michelle and you can overnight in one of our homes.*

Please **notify Michelle Kemps right away** if you purchased a ticket and are coming. The group will wait until 6:15 pm for you. Notify her by texting Michelle at [TEXT](#). Alternatively, email her at [EMAIL](#). *FYI - Like everyone, Michelle gets too many spam calls and rarely answers her phone!*



Mark your Calendar!
Save the Dates!

December 10 - Gardens Aglow

**December 13 - Annual Meeting &
Club Holiday Party**
at Carol & Chris Nasby Home,

See article above for all the details!

2509 Deborah Drive, Punta Gorda
Bring dish to pass and wrapped gift in \$10
range



CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

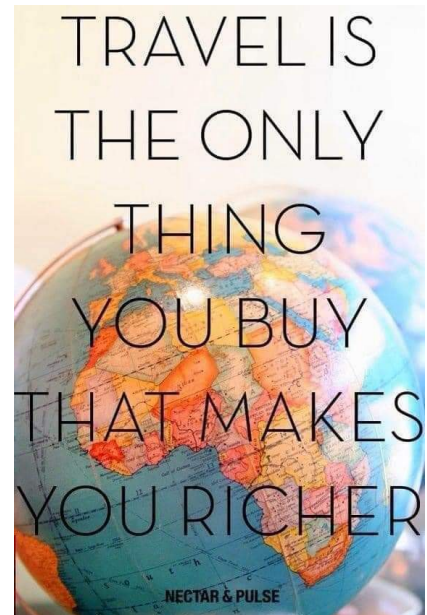
My FFI

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. Confused how to do it? Email [Marcie](#) (click on her name).

More Travel Opportunities

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!

[2023 Journey Catalog](#)
[2023 Club to Club Journeys](#)



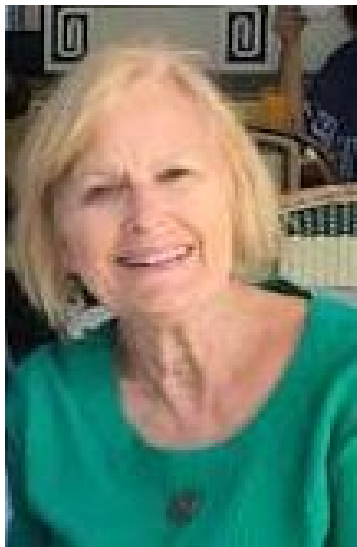
Christmas Holiday Gathering
Carol & Chris Nasby Home
2509 Deborah Drive, Punta
Gorda
Wednesday, December 13, 5 pm

It's that time of year again to celebrate the holidays with your friends in our great club! Set your GPS to arrive on time with an appetizer-salad dish, main dish or dessert that will feed at least 8 - 10 people. Last names A to C, please bring appetizers; D to K salads; L to N, bring a main dish entrees; and O to Z, come with desserts.

Christmas Wassail Punch, iced tea and water will be provided. The club will also supply our table setting plates, utensils, and cups. Please email **Carol Nasby** by 12/8/21 or give her a call/text 507-236-6704 on what dish you are bringing. Please let her know if you are coming so that we have enough place settings and drinks for everybody! Call someone close by to car pool or offer them a ride!

Our past tradition is that if you would like to participate in a fun gift exchange, bring your wrapped gift costing in the \$10 range for holiday fun. Will will also have the Annual Meeting which will feature election of officers for 2023.

President's Comments



News update from the SWFFF board

Celebrate! President Carol Nasby wrote an application, and our club has been given a \$300 grant by Friendship Force International to help increase our membership by 10 people.

With this money, we have joined **Meetup** to publish online our meetings and activities. Add the app to your phone and/or computer and **check it out**.

We are trying some more new things in January.

We will meet the **third Friday** of the month next year, and we will always meet at the **same library**, the North Ft Myers Library, which is a central location. We will the rotate the social events, from Punta Gorda in Dec, to Ft Myers in January and so forth.

Next, we will add in a **zoom book club** composed of our members and friends starting in January. Also, in January we will have more

active events, like kayaking around Matlacha and biking around Webb Lake.

See you soon!

In Peace,

Carol

Parting Shot from our Halloween Event



We walked throughout Punta Gorda's fabulous Historic District decked out in our best costumes. Can you find Chris Nasby? The homes had awesome decorations!



Friendship Force of Southwest Florida

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

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