



friendship force

GREATER ORLANDO

GENERAL MEETING – Nov 2nd, 2025
Location: Maitland Public Library 501 S. Maitland Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751
3:00-3:15 pm Meet, Greet, Socialize
3:15-4:00 pm Business Meeting
4:00-5:00 pm Program

Program: Share Your Travels

All members are invited to share something/anything about any of their travels and/or hosting opportunities. You can wear something, bring something, tell a story, demonstrate a dance or sing a song you learned. “Share travel stuff”, like what to wear, how to pack, best time to visit a place, what not to miss, host gifts, souvenirs, etc.

President’s Message

We live in interesting times, much different than the era that we grew up in, that in retrospect seems calm compared to the fast technological and social changes we see today. However, being able to change and do things differently is why the human race has been so successful. With that in mind, Friendship Force has had to change as the old model is no longer functioning as intended. This is not to say that we no longer will take journeys as that still remains an important linchpin in what makes Friendship Force special.

I imagine by now some, if not all of you have heard rumors of a Friendship Force dues increase to FFI. Yes, that increase is coming in January 2026 with direct payments to International with different options of payment. Since there are probably going to be many questions regarding this subject, I will discuss this in length at our next general meeting on November 2nd and there will be follow-up communications. Please plan to attend that meeting as it may be the most important meeting that I can remember since joining this club in 2007.

On Friday, October 10 you should have received an email from FFI with a subject line of “A Message from Our CEO: Building a Movement for Peace.”

The email states: “Together, We’re Becoming a Movement for Peace

Friendship Force International President and CEO, Jeremi Snook, shares a powerful video message about where we’re headed — and how you’re part of it.

From its beginning, Friendship Force has stood for understanding beyond borders. Today, our mission is more important than ever.

Join us as we embrace our next chapter — as a true movement for peace in the world.

Please watch the video before the General Meeting .

Lewis Messer
2025 President

JOIN US FOR DINNER

Some of our club members go out to dinner after our General Meetings. On Sunday, Nov. 2, we will go to City Pho & Grill, located at 156 Lake Ave., Maitland in The Village Plaza just south of Lake Lily. 321-422-0181

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**

a world of friends is a world of peace

FFGO 2025 Calendar

Nov 2 –General Meeting: 3-5 PM

Dec 8 - Old/New Board Meeting – Lewis Messer's Home*

*All FFGO members are welcome to attend any Board Meeting; however, please RSVP to the host. Time : 1:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE: POST HOLIDAY PARTY-January 11, 2026

Recap Taste Travelers

Izziban Sushi & BBQ



Host, Vickie Bentham reported that eight people had lunch at Izziban Sushi & BBQ. It was a great experience! They had a great view of Lake Barton and the food was very good! Several people said they had passed the place many times but had never been there and were glad to give it a try and found it to be a place they would enjoy returning to.

>>>>> NEW FFGO PROCEDURE <<<<<

In 2017, FFI made a commitment to protect member data by becoming compliant. GDPR stands for “General Data Protection Regulation” which is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy in the European Union and the European Economic Area. It also addresses the transfer of personal data outside the EU and EEA areas. FFI is responsible for meeting these standards. What this means for you as a member is: a) your information will never be shared outside of FF with third parties and, b) FF is committed to handling your data with care.

Going forward email addresses and phone numbers of our members will no longer be published in our newsletter. You will need to use your Membership Directory when you need to contact a member to RSVP for an event, respond to requests for help, or other requests or inquiries to other members.

Thanks to our volunteers!

Sunshine

Thanks to our volunteers!

Thank you to **Joan Flewelling, Lynn VanHorne, and JoAnn Gatlin**, who have volunteered to make calls to members who have missed two general meetings in a row. If you would like to be part of this elite group, please contact Anita Williams, Membership Chair, who will identify who needs a call. We are doing this in an effort to make sure that our members know that we care about them. With several volunteers, this means that you may only have to make a couple of calls in a year.

We are providing a little bit of “Sunshine” to our club members who have become ill, have had surgery, or have had a death in the family. If you know a member who is experiencing any of this, please contact **Joan Flewelling**. Contact information is in the Membership Directory. She will send them a card on behalf of our club.



Recap of Getting to Know You Dinners



Many thanks to our Coordinator, Barbara Buchele for an excellent job.

Guests:
Susan Carbone and
Nicki Wise

<~Dinner Host



Daryl
Fullerton

Loan
Kromolicki

Annie
Sanders



Madeleine Taub
Dinner Host
& daughter
Lisa Carroll



Dinner
Guests

John Puhek
Fran Burns

Madeleine

Steve & Joan
Flewelling

Deborah
Martel

Jiti
Chahal

Linda
Brown

Anita
Williams

Lou
Williams

John
Alphon



Dinner Hosts

Lisa
Hollingshead

Linda Piantieri



Wanda & Lew
Messer

Jackie
Hughes

Jerry
Chilik

8 Host Homes (12 Hosts)
31 Members Dined
3 Guests/Prospective Members

New FFGO Store Merchandise

!!Help Wanted!! Someone to take over management of our FF merchandise. Contact Maggie Shoemaker to find out what's involved.



This little notebook with stickies and a pen will be sold for \$2.00.



The pins will sell for \$3.00 each and the sports bag, which is made out of nylon will sell for \$4.00.

If you wish to purchase any merchandise before we have an in-person meeting, please use your Membership Directory to contact Maggie Shoemaker.

Great little gifts when you host an Ambassador or are an Ambassador.



SAVE THE DATE!

April 24-27, 2026
Memphis, Tennessee

2026
North American
Regional
Conference



Sail Through the Soul of the South
FESTIVAL ON THE MISSISSIPPI

April 28 - May 6, 2026 | Memphis to New Orleans

Reserve your spot today!



Please Join Us!

April 28 - May 6, 2026

Friendship Force International sailing on the Mississippi River from Memphis to New Orleans on the American Splendor Paddle-wheeler.

Including one night pre-cruise hotel at Graceland!

Festival price: Your chosen cabin fare (see below) plus \$250 FFI program fee.

****Premium 2 night pre-cruise package available for an additional cost through American Cruise Lines.**

Friendship Force is offering a special post cruise extension for this journey!

Join us and let the magic of New Orleans linger long after your journey ends.

Cost: \$695 per person, based on two sharing. Please inquire if you'd like to be matched with a roommate. Single occupancy is available for an additional \$100 per night.

Included in the cost: Transfer from cruise port to hotel; 4 nights hotel (double occupancy); lunch and art museum on May 6; breakfast and full-day tour of the French Quarter on May 7; group dinner on May 8; cooking workshop and lunch on May 9.

Questions? Contact Louisiana Journey Coordinator Bob Duncan at mardigrasbob@hotmail.com

HELP WANTED

Two or three volunteers to set up some tables and 40-50 chairs prior to our General and Annual Meetings. November 2 is our last meeting of 2025. Time commitment: about 30 minutes (2:30-3:00). Great way to support the club. Contact Lew Messer if you can help out.

BENEFIT

Read "Selection Guidelines for Over-Subscribed Journeys," page 29-31 in the 2025 Membership Directory. Pay particular attention to the first bullet point on page 30.



The music is calling, and so are we!

Registration is now LIVE for Friendship Force International's **2026 North American Regional Conference** in the heart of Memphis, Tennessee.

REGISTER NOW

Conference Details

When: April 24-27, 2026 (Friday arrival through Monday checkout)

Where: **The** Hyatt Centric Hotel on Beale Street - Memphis's most exciting district

What: A weekend of learning, friendship, fun and Southern hospitality

What awaits you in Memphis

- Opening plenary featuring inspiring speakers and entertainment
- Meet fellow attendees during our delegation introductions and social breaks
- **Workshops** by FFI staff and the Canadian and US Field Representatives
- Welcome gifts, personalized name tag and conference gift bag
- Optional excursions on Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday

Closing banquet on Sunday night with dinner, dancing, and entertainment

Early Bird Special!
Register by November 10th for just \$280
(regular price \$320)

Stay Where the Action Is

Book at our conference hotel, the **Hyatt Centric** which puts you steps away from world-famous Beale Street! Breakfast is separate to give you flexibility exploring Memphis's incredible food scene while keeping your accommodation costs down.

Where In the World Have You Been?



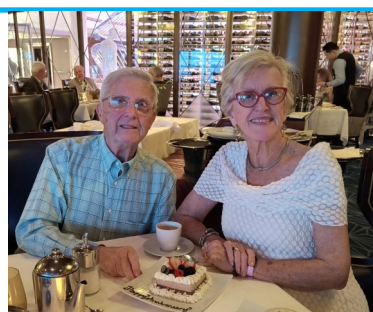
Fran Burns at Glacier Lagoon in Iceland says "I forgot my gloves in the hotel! Duh..,"



Travel buddies: **Fran Burns** and **John Puhek** at Skógafoss and a church in Varmahlid on the Ring Road.



Windy and chilly at Grindavík in Iceland In front of a lava field.



Mary Jane and Reed DeVault celebrate their 60th anniversary on a 17-day cruise.



Cesta Newman traveled to Brazil with FF West Michigan and made many new travel friends as well as experiencing the beautiful culture and cuisine of Brazil. Found an interesting cave to explore!

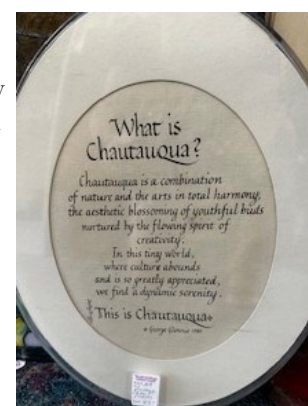


With the FF of Greater Des Simcoe and Toronto in June. the way. She also visited and longhouse - a bit Smokey in there!

She spent a week on the Chautauqua campus in NY with a new FFI friend she met on the Brazil trip. While there she enjoyed lectures, ballet, concerts, and peace and tranquility!



Oh, the places we go and the friends we make - that's Friendship Force!



Moines she journeyed to Lake Making new travel friends along celebrated in a Native American

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF GREATER ORLANDO BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2025

President: Lewis Messer

Treasurer: Cesta Newman

Vice President: Sue Easton

Secretary: Erica Johnson

Director: Cathy Farrar

Director: Maggie Shoemaker

Web Manager: Kurth Chin Fatt

Newsletter Editor: Elaine Henrich

2025 Oklahoma City, OK: Outgoing, Ambassador Coordinators-Cesta Newman & Mary Jane DeVault

2025 Baku, Azerbaijan: Incoming, Host Coordinator-Lynn VanHorne

2026 Western NC: Outgoing, Ambassador Coordinator-Deb Martel

2026 Manawatu/Whanganui, NZ: Incoming, Host Coordinator-Annie Sanders

2026 Greater Seattle: Incoming, Host Coordinator-TBD

Chair people:

Membership: Anita Williams

Programs: Annie Sanders

Communications: Deborah Martel

Activities: Fran Burns

For more information about Friendship Force of Greater Orlando, visit our website at www.friendshipforceorlando.org or contact us at ffgomail@gmail.com

Members should consult their FFGO Membership Directory for contact information of any Board Member or Chair Person.

Elaine Henrich, Editor



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TO:

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
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thefriendshipforce.org