



GENERAL MEETING – Mar. 9, 2025
Location: Maitland Public Library
501 S. Maitland Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751
3:00-3:30 pm Meet, Greet, Socialize
3:30-4:00 pm Business Meeting
4:00-5:00 pm Program

Program: Avoiding Falls, a Skit, & a Video

Andy Huynh, Physical Therapist from Orlando Health, will provide tips and facts about fall prevention and safety.
A Saint Patrick's Day skit will be performed. **Please wear green.**
A Riverdance video will be shown.

Due to a family emergency, there is no President's Message for this edition of the newsletter.

INDEPENDENT JOURNEYS

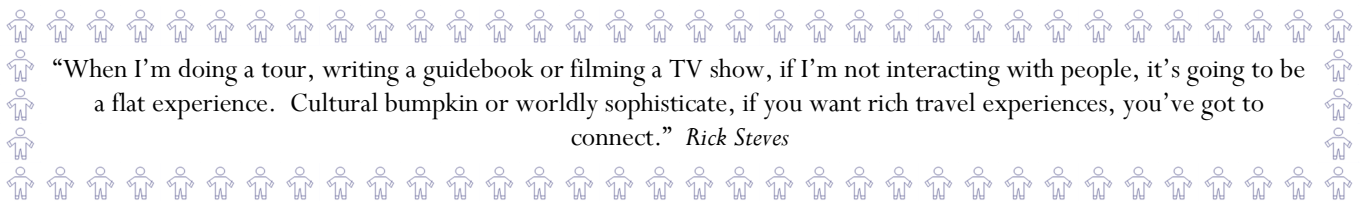
Friendship Force Independent Journeys offer opportunities for members to host and travel in addition to our Club-to-Club and Special Journeys. The same guidelines apply:
Hosts and ambassadors adhere to the Friendship Force Code of Conduct and the Friendship Force Ambassador pledge.
There is a nightly fee of \$25 and a processing fee of \$25 for Independent Journeys. FFI will announce independent hosting opportunities in their Journey Marketplace and members can apply and will be selected by the host. Once an official match has been made, host and ambassador will start communicating to arrange the details of the journey.

Any Friendship Force member who has paid the FFI membership fee and is registered on myFF is eligible to participate and can apply as host or ambassador for an Independent Journey. You host or travel independently and not with a group or your club. There is no host program for independent Journeys: Ambassador and host discuss what they would like to do together. Independent Journeys can be arranged all year round. You can not contact any member on myFF to ask for hosting. Independent Journey opportunities will be displayed in the Journey Marketplace. You can select and apply to be matched with one of the listed Independent Journeys. You can not request a specific country/ region that is not listed. Only the Independent Journey opportunities offered in the Journey Marketplace are available to choose from. A typical stay would be 1-7 nights. You are free to apply for as many Independent Journeys per year as you like. The Journey Marketplace will give details regarding the number of ambassadors and the sleeping arrangements at the host's home. As a host you fill out the Independent Hosting Application form and state what you would like to offer: home-hosting/ day-hosting, number of nights/days, possible months, etc. When you agree to host an ambassador, an official match will be made, and you can reach out to your ambassador to discuss the details of your journey.

For more information, copy this into your browser:

<https://helpcenter.friendshipforce.org/help/independent-journey-guidelines/>

a world of friends is a world of peace



“When I’m doing a tour, writing a guidebook or filming a TV show, if I’m not interacting with people, it’s going to be a flat experience. Cultural bumpkin or worldly sophisticate, if you want rich travel experiences, you’ve got to connect.” *Rick Steves*

JOIN US FOR DINNER

Some of our club members go out to dinner after our Meetings. On Sunday, March 9, we will go to Siam Garden Restaurant located at 1111 Webster Ave., Winter Park. 407-599-7443 Across from Winter Park Villages.

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**

FFGO 2025 Calendar

Mar 1 - World Friendship Day	Mar 9 – General Meeting: 3-5 PM
Mar 17-20 - SW Reciprocal Journey-SW Florida	Mar 24 - Board Meeting: 1 PM-Lew Messer's home*
May 12 - Board Meeting: 1 PM-Anita Williams's home*	May 14 - Taste Travelers-Aji Ceviche Bar, Casselberry: 1:30 PM
June 8 – General Meeting: 3-5 PM	Aug 11 - Board Meeting: 1 PM – Mary Jane DeVault's home*
Aug 14 – Taste Travelers-Pho Vinh, Orlando: 1:30 PM	Sept-Dates TBD: Getting to Know You Dinners
Sep 14 – Annual Meeting: 3-5 PM	Oct 13 – Board Meeting: 1 PM-Joan Flewelling's home*
Oct 16 – Taste Travelers-Izziban Sushi & BBQ, Orlando: 1:30 PM	Nov 2 –General Meeting: 3-5 PM
Dec 8 - Old/New Board Meeting – Lewis Messer's Home*	

The Ambassador Application is available in several different formats: to print and manually complete, to fill in as a fillable pdf or to fill out as a google form. To print the form and manually complete it, click on this link: [2025 Ambassador Application](#). To complete it online as a fillable pdf, click on this link: [2025 Ambassador Application and Agreement fillable](#). Instructions on how to fill in a fillable pdf are included in the document, or you can view them here: [How to Fill in a Fillable PDF Form](#)

Alternatively, you can fill in [this Google form](#) if you prefer. The completed application will be emailed to you once your responses are submitted.

Are you aware we have a Club Facebook page? Friendship Force Greater Orlando, check it out.

>>>>> 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.



THANK YOU FAREWELL PICNIC VOLUNTEERS

By Fran Burns

- ★ Thank you for bringing your food items for the **SW Florida Incoming Journey Farewell Picnic on February 6th!** We had a nice variety and everything was delicious!!!
- ★ A special thank you goes to **Cathy and John Alphin** for getting there hours earlier to fumigate the picnic area and to set up the tables. Bravo!!!
- ★ Wasn't the weather absolutely beautiful!?!?
- ★ Thanks to **Sue Easton** for organizing the discussion groups. It was great to hear everyone's ideas of how to recruit and retain members, club dues, ideas for programs and so much more!
- ★ Thanks to **Kurth Chin Fatt** for bringing the microphone and playing music—always appreciated at *all* our events!
- ★ So grateful to **Anita Williams** for reserving the pavilion months ago.
- ★ **President Lew Messer** brought our club banner, so everyone could find the exact location!
- ★ **Lynn VanHorne** took all the plastic ware home to wash!!!
- ★ **Bob Young** shared, "*Many hands make light work!*" It's a familiar cliché but so true.
- ★ Thank you to every volunteer for your part in making the picnic a huge success!!!

Some Independent Journeys to Check Out

Sapporo, Japan #25352*

🌸 Solo Journey #25352: Explore Sapporo, Japan 🌸

📅 **When?** Flexible, except November–March

🕒 **Duration:** 1–3 nights

👫 **Who?** One couple (children may be considered)

🏠 **Hosting:** Home hosting and day hosting

Wilten, Switzerland #25272*

🌐 Solo Journey #25272: Wilten, Switzerland 🌐

📅 **When?** 2025 (Exact dates TBD, **not in April/May**)

💰 **FFI Fee:** \$25 per night + \$25 processing fee

🕒 **Duration:** 3 nights

Iringa, Tanzania #25334*

🌐 Solo Journey #25334: Iringa, Tanzania 🌐

📅 **When?** Exact dates TBD

💰 **FFI Fee:** \$25 per night + \$25 processing fee

🕒 **Duration:** 4 nights

Lübeck, Germany #25336*

🌐 Solo Journey #25336: Lübeck, Germany 🌐

📅 **When?** Exact dates TBD

💰 **FFI Fee:** \$25 per night + \$25 processing fee

🕒 **Duration:** 4 nights



New FFGO Store Merchandise

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.



Taste Travelers Recap

Mynt Fine Indian Cuisine

On Thursday, February 13 thirteen people enjoyed delicious Indian food, hosted by Madeleine Taub.



*Lynn VanHorne & Susan Carbone
enjoying their meal.*



New Member Coffee Recap

Anita Williams, Membership Chairman, hosted fifteen people at her home on Sunday, February 16. The breakdown of attendees was ten current members and five potential members.

Four of the potential members attended the Celebration of Life for Bob Flick, a former member, where they heard stories about the wonderful trips and experiences the Flicks had with Friendship Force.

The other guest, who is a member of the Atlanta Friendship Force Club, was a friend of Annie Sanders, who wanted to know more about Independent Journeys.

HELP WANTED

Two or three volunteers to set up some tables and 40-50 chairs prior to our General and Annual Meetings. March 9 is our next meeting of 2025. Time commitment: about 30 minutes (2:30-3:00). Great way to support the club.

BENEFIT

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

Contact Lew Messer if you can help on March 9 and/or you would be willing to coordinate this for 2025.

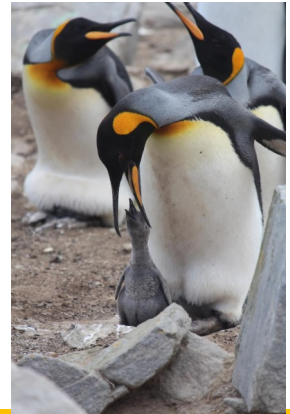


Where In the World Have You Been?

Jackie Hughes at the temple in the Citadel in Hue, Vietnam.



Anita Nimmo took a 17-day cruise to Antarctica in January. This was an unbelievable cruise for her. The scenery was beautiful, and she saw so many penguins, seals, and whales.



Mary Jane and Reed DeVault and Annie Sanders took a nine-day Holland America Caribbean cruise.



Mountain top view Tortola, BVI



Reed on the Island of Antigua



Annie and Mary Jane in British Virgin Islands



Mary Jane wading in the water on the Beach in Tortola



Beautiful San Juan, Puerto Rica



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 Xalapa, Mexico Outgoing, Ambassador Coordinator: Mary Jane DeVault

2025 SW Florida Outgoing, Ambassador Coordinator: Deb Martel

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

2025 Baku, Azerbaijan Incoming Host Coordinator: Lynn VanHorne

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



a world of friends is a world of peace

TO:

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**
thefriendshipforce.org