



**GENERAL MEETING – June 14, 2026**  
**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**

### PROGRAMS

FFGO member, Mary Ann Lynn will present a program on her trip to **Indonesia** which included Borneo, Java, Bali, and the Komodo Islands.

FFGO Ambassadors to Cape Town, South Africa and Nairobi Kenya, as well as a safari on the Maasai Mara will recount their experiences.

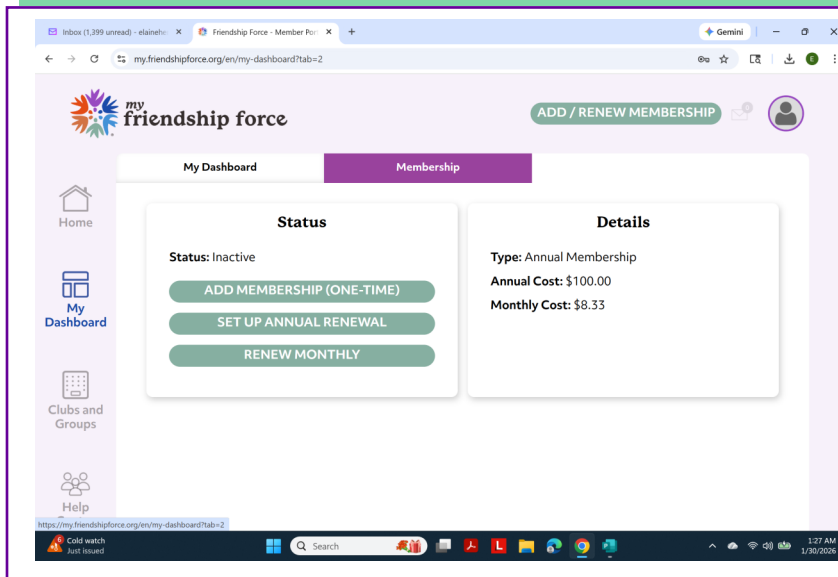
### President's Message

Your board is not insensitive to the issue of the increase in FFI dues and has been working to find a possible solution. It has become obvious that some members of the club no longer travel for various reasons but still want to be involved in local club activities and therefore feel the increase is unwarranted for them. This issue has been discussed with other Florida clubs as well as other U.S. clubs and the consensus is that we need to establish a new membership category where current members, who don't want to pay FFI dues, could still pay local club dues and take part in FFGO activities. They would be restricted from travelling as an Ambassador or participating in some activities on an Inbound Journey. Any new member joining in 2026 would have to pay FFI dues. Your board will be working to better define what those restrictions are and what to call this form of membership, so stay tuned for updates on this subject.

Lew Messer, President

FFI launched its new public website at the end of April. If you haven't seen it please visit [www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org).

a world of friends is a world of peace



It's quite easy to make your payment and you have three choices. Simply login to [my.friendshipforce.org](http://my.friendshipforce.org). On the Home Page click on the Add/Renew Membership. The Membership screen pops up and you choose the payment plan that you prefer.

Option 1 is a one-time \$100 payment for the first year. A year later on your anniversary date you will have to renew your payment.

Option 2 will make your first year payment and then renew automatically every year on your anniversary date.

Option 3 allows you to pay \$8.33 a month until you decide to change your payment method or cancel your membership.

### JOIN US FOR DINNER

Some of our club members go out to dinner after our General Meetings. On Sunday, June 14, we have not chosen a restaurant, so enjoy your summer and we'll see you on August 30 for the Annual Meeting.

# CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

**FFGO 2026 Calendar**

Jun 14 - General Meeting: 3-5 pm	Jul 15 - Taste Travelers– Woodlands Indian, Orlando: 1:30 pm
Aug 10 - Board Meeting, Shoemaker Clubhouse: 1 pm*	Aug 20 - Taste Travelers – Thailicious, Longwood: 1:30 pm
Aug 30 - Annual Meeting: 3-5 pm	
Sep 18 & 19 - Getting to Know You Dinners	Sep 25-27 - Getting to Know You Dinners
<b>Sep 28</b> - Board Meeting, Flewelling’s Home: 1 pm*	Oct 6-12- Journey to Western North Carolina
Oct 15 - Taste Travelers– TBD	Oct 31-Nov 6 - Greater Seattle Incoming Journey
Nov 1 –General Meeting: 3-5 pm	
Dec 7 - Old/New Board Meeting – Lewis Messer’s Home: 1 pm*	

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

**Wanted: Hosts for the FFGO Getting to Know You Dinners & Lunches**

The Getting to Know You Dinners & Lunches will be held on the weekends of Sept.18 & 19 and Sept. 25-27. At this time only potential hosts should contact Barbara Buchele to tell her which date, time, number of guests they can accommodate and whether they want to provide the whole dinner and charge everyone who attends \$20.00 or provide just the main entree and others bring an appetizer, sides, wine, and desserts in which there would be no extra charge. Later in the summer Barbara will ask the hosts what they want to serve, so that guests can sign up for meals that meet their dietary restrictions. Potential guests will be able to indicate their intention to attend a dinner or lunch on the sign up list at the General Meeting on June 14. This way Barbara can make sure that she has enough hosts to accommodate the number of potential guests. After the hosts and their menus are published in the summer, guests will then select a date and host.

**Nominating Committee Created for 2027 Board Officers**

Sue Easton will be the chair of the Nominating Committee and Maggie Shoemaker and Lynn VanHorne will assist her. Three positions need to be filled: Vice President, Secretary, and Director. If you would like to be considered for one of these positions, please contact Sue Easton.

**Taste Travelers: Woodlands** (an Indian restaurant)

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 1:30 PM  
 Address: 6040 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 32809  
 Host: Jiti Chahal  
 RSVP by Friday, July 10,2026



>>>>> **“General Data Protection Regulation”** <<<<<<

In compliance with the European Union’s regulation on data protection and privacy (which FFI complies with), 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, because email addresses and phone numbers will not be published in our newsletter. Your information will never be shared outside of FF with third parties and FF is committed to handling your data with care.

**Sunshine**

Please contact Maggie Shoemaker, Membership Chair, if you would like to volunteer to make calls to members who have missed two general meetings in a row. 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 **Mary Ann Lynn**. Contact information is in the Membership Directory. She will send them a card on behalf of our club.





### Where In the World Have You Been?

**Sue Easton** recently spent a week volunteering at a soup kitchen in Cordoba, Spain. This was followed by a week at wineries, Michelin Star restaurants, and paragliding in Mendoza, a small community in the Basque Country of northern Spain.



After 26 days in Africa, **Mary Jane** and **Reed DeVault** flew to Portland Oregon the next week. They visited their son and family. Mac is 15 and their youngest grandchild. They never tire of the Pacific NW.

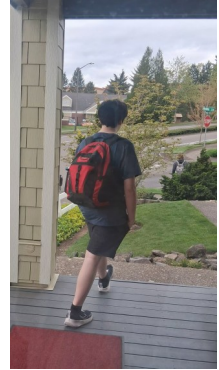


*Downtown Saturday market.  
Sunny skies the entire 6 days.*

*Off to school mid 50 degrees, no jacket.*

*Driving in downtown Portland with Mt. Hood  
in the distance.*

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### New FFGO Store Merchandise

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



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

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 Fred Shoemaker.





Join fellow members from around the world for an unforgettable **Festival at Sea** as we explore one of the most remote and biologically rich regions on Earth — the breathtaking Great Bear Rainforest.

This exclusive 7-day Friendship Force cruise sails roundtrip from Seattle, WA, to Ketchikan, Alaska, offering dramatic coastal scenery, incredible wildlife viewing, and meaningful connections with your global Friendship Force community.

**Festival at Sea: The Great Bear Rainforest**

**Journey #: 26434 (MyFF)**

**Dates:** 4–11 October 2026

**Departure:** Roundtrip from Seattle, USA

**Spots Available:** 80

**Costs:** Cabins start at \$1,084 per person plus additional \$225 FFI program fee.

Oceanview, verandah, and suite options are available.

**Your Festival at Sea Experience Includes**

- Your stunning cabin onboard the Noordam ship
- Friendship Force onboard welcome
- Scenic cruising through the Great Bear Rainforest
- Wildlife viewing opportunities
- Grenville Channel and Bella Bella
- All onboard dining
- Shipboard entertainment
- Friendship Force group activities and workshops
- Overnight stay in Prince Rupert
- FFI-sponsored farewell cocktail party
- Festival at Sea gift bag and souvenir shirt
- Souvenir photo book from Friendship Force International



Copy & paste the link below for more information and to sign up.

<https://friendshipforce.myshopify.com/products/festival-at-sea-the-great-bear-rainforest-26434-myff?variant=50888175157554>

**REPLACEMENT NEEDED**

After fifteen years as Newsletter Editor, Elaine Henrich is retiring, effective September 30, 2026. Starting October 1, Microsoft Publisher will no longer be available to users, not even for viewing. All files must be converted to PDF if you wish to be able to read them. The last FOGO newsletter she will create is the September-October edition.

A new editor will be needed to create the November-December newsletter in whatever software program the new editor chooses to use.

If you're interested in being creative and stimulating your brain, while pulling your hair out, please contact either Elaine or Lew Messer.

**HELP WANTED**

Two or three volunteers to set up some tables and 40-50 chairs prior to our General and Annual Meetings. June 14 is our next meeting of 2026. 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.

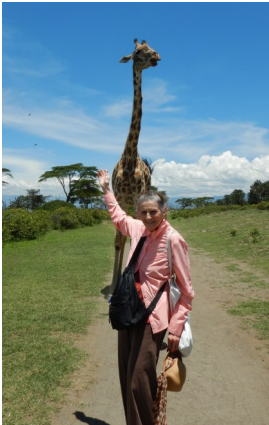
### Where In the World Have You Been?

**Daryl and Christine Fullerton** recently took a seven week trip to Australia visiting Sydney, Adelaide, Darwin, Uluru, and Perth. They took the Ghan Train from Adelaide to Darwin, which was a wonderful way to experience the outback.

While in Perth they met up with the Perth Friendship Force club. They were invited to attend a club meeting and enjoy lunch at the sports stadium with most of the club's members. The club President, Sue Evers, spent the day with them showing off her home. Sue showed them the Friendship Force Wall in Victoria Park that displays the Friendship Force logo and plaques of the many journeys the club has participated in. Sue also showed them the Matagarup Pedestrian bridge which crosses the Swan River, connecting the Sports stadium to the main city. Brave souls can zipline across the bridge, and at night the bridge lights up with a stunning colorful display.



**Elaine Henrich** went on the FFGO Journey to Nairobi, Kenya in March. The first few days of the trip was a safari on the Maasai Mara. One of the places they went to was the Crescent Island Game Sanctuary where "Out of Africa" was filmed.



*Standing on the Kenya Tanzania border.*



*Feeding giraffe at the Giraffe Center.*

*Elaine with home host Terry Gichuiya.*

### Poblanos Cocina Mexicana Taste Travelers Recap

While there were only 4 attendees, everyone said the food was delicious.



**FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF GREATER ORLANDO BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2026**

President: Lewis Messer

Treasurer: Anita Nimmo

Vice President: Sue Easton

Secretary: Erica Johnson

Director: Vickie Bentham

Director: Joan Flewelling

Web Manager: Kurth Chin Fatt

Newsletter Editor: Elaine Henrich

2026 Cape Town, South Africa & Nairobi, Kenya: Outgoing, Ambassador Coordinator– Wanda Messer

2026 Western NC: Outgoing, Ambassador Coordinator-Deb Martel

2026 Greater Seattle: Incoming, Host Coordinator-Annie Sanders

**Chair people:**

Membership: Maggie Shoemaker

Programs: Annie Sanders

Communications: Deborah Martel

Activities: Cathy Farrar

For more information about Friendship Force of Greater Orlando, visit our website at [www.friendshipforceorlando.org](http://www.friendshipforceorlando.org) or contact us at [ffgomail@gmail.com](mailto:ffgomail@gmail.com)

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

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Elaine Henrich, Editor



a world of friends is a world of peace

**TO:**

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