



friendship force

GREATER ORLANDO

AUG-SEP-OCT
2026

ANNUAL MEETING – Aug. 30, 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

PROGRAM

Club Member, Elaine
Henrich will share the
highlights of an EF Go
Ahead tour she took in
April 2025.



**Scandinavia: The Capitals
& the Fjords**



FFGO NEWSLETTER COMES TO AN END



Microsoft Publisher will be terminated at the end of September. It is with great sadness that I announce the demise of the FFGO newsletter. This is the last newsletter that will be published unless someone else takes over as newsletter editor. If someone else decides to assume responsibility they are free to use whatever software package they would like and redesign the newsletter any way they would like. Contact Lew Messer or Sue Easton if you're interested.



Going forward, for information on events, you will have to use the FFGO website at www.friendshipforceorlando.org, your Membership Directory, or read the Monday Updates email.

FFGO Merchandise Store

Some new merchandise will be available at the Aug. 30 General Meeting:
Florida magnets, Cosmetic Bags, Kitchen Accessories-pot holders, oven mitts, linen towels.

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

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



Pins-\$3.00

*Notebook
w/pen &
stickies
\$2.00*



*Nylon Sports Bag
\$4.00*



JOIN US FOR DINNER

Some of our club members go out to dinner after our General Meetings. On Sunday, August 30, we will dine at El Potro located at 501 N. Orlando Ave., Suite 217, Winter Park, FL 32789

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**

a world of friends is a world of peace

FFGO 2026 Calendar

Aug 20—Taste Travelers-Parea Greek Taverna: 1:30 pm #

Sep 18 & 19 - Getting to Know You Dinners

Sep 28 - Board Meeting, Flewelling's Home: 1 pm*

Oct 15 - Taste Travelers— Thai Blossom Restaurant: 1 pm #

Nov 1 —General Meeting: 3-5 pm

Dec 7 - Old/New Board Meeting — Lewis Messer's Home: 1 pm*

Aug 30 - Annual Meeting: 3-5 pm

Sep 25-27 - Getting to Know You Dinners

Oct 6-12- Journey to Western North Carolina

Oct 31-Nov 6 - Greater Seattle Incoming Journey

New listing

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

Election of 2027 Officers

Annual Meeting Aug. 30

Thank you to Sue Easton and her nominating committee (Maggie Shoemaker and Lynn VanHorne) for this proposed slate of officers for 2027.

Your presence at the Annual Meeting on Aug. 30 is very important so that we have a quorum to elect the nominees to the right. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. (Just make sure your nominee agrees to accept the position.)

Proposed Slate:

President – Sue Easton

Vice-President – Susan Carbone

Secretary – Mary Ann Lynn

Treasurer – Anita Nimmo

Directors – Joan Flewelling & Vickie Bentham

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

The Getting to Know You meals will be held on the weekends of Sept. 18 & 19 and Sept. 25-27, or suggest another date.

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. Also provide Barbara with your complete menu 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 Annual Meeting on August 30. The dinner hosts and their menus will be available that day. Get to the meeting early to get your first choice!

>>>>> "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.





**Friendship Force
International**
Building Global Unity

FESTIVAL AT SEA: SPIRIT OF THE PACIFIC

A Bucket-List Voyage

Imagine ending Friendship Force International's 50th anniversary year by visiting some of the world's most spectacular islands on a luxury Festival at Sea.

A Polynesian Festival at Sea will take you through breathtaking islands, rich Polynesian culture, and dream destinations many travelers never have the opportunity to experience.

**Tahiti – Bora Bora – Rarotonga –
Aitutaki – Niue – Tonga – Fiji**



**BUILDING
GLOBAL UNITY
ONE FRIENDSHIP
AT A TIME**

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Luxury sailing aboard Oceania Vista
- ✓ Free Wi-Fi and ship gratuities
- ✓ Dream destinations in Polynesia & Melanesia
- ✓ \$400 onboard credit per stateroom
- ✓ Scenic cruising through stunning islands
- ✓ FFI-sponsored farewell cocktail party
- ✓ Friendship Force onboard welcome and group activities
- ✓ Festival at Sea bag, 50th Anniversary gift, and souvenir photo book
- ✓ All onboard dining and entertainment

PRICING FROM
US \$6,099
per person
Depending on cabin category
+ \$350 FFI program fee

**SIGN UP
NOW!**



NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 9, 2027



**ABOARD THE STUNNING
OCEANIA VISTA**

Please note: There are 60 FFI spots available.

Two cabin categories are already sold out and waitlisted. In addition to cabin costs, there is a \$350 FFI Special Journey Fee.

REPLACEMENT NEEDED for MERCHANDISE STORE

Fred Shoemaker has been taking care of the FFGO Merchandise Store for the past year and is now ready to turn it over to someone else.

The task requires keeping the several boxes of store merchandise and bringing them to the FFGO Annual and General Meetings five times a year so that Hosts and Ambassadors can buy gifts for the Journeys that they take part in.

You'll also need to reorder merchandise and occasionally look for other possible sales items. If you're interested, please contact Lew Messer or Sue Easton.

Woodlands Indian Restaurant Recap



They had the dosa pancake which was very good. There were four attendees but they had an enjoyable time.

Taste Travelers

Thursday, August 20 1:30 PM

Parea Greek Taverna

111 S. Orlando Ave., Maitland



Host: Joe Flaherty

RSVP by Tuesday, Aug. 18

Taste Travelers

Thursday, October 15 1:00 PM

Thai Blossom Restaurant

99 W. Plant St., Winter Garden

Host: JoAnn Gatlin

**RSVP by Thursday,
Oct. 8**



HELP WANTED

Two or three volunteers to set up some tables and 40-50 chairs prior to our General and Annual Meetings. August 30 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.

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 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