



GENERAL MEETING – APR 14, 2024
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: Potpourri

FFGO Ambassadors to San Diego will share pictures from their February trip.

A "quiz" will be given about Islam.

A preview of FFGO's April trip to Turkey.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to report that our club is growing thanks to each of you.

Ideas? Is there a place you want to travel to this year with FF? I would be happy to contact the club that is going to that country or state. One of our members wants to visit Japan this year. I looked up all the clubs that are traveling to Japan on the my.friendshipforce.org website. After logging in, I scrolled down until I saw "Journeys" on the left side of the screen. I gave her a list and if she selects one, I will contact that club for her.

Our Taste Travelers had a great lunch at Santiago's Bodega. A request that day was to have more than four TT events a year. If you have a favorite ethnic restaurant, please contact Joan Flewelling and we will try to make that happen.

Another idea presented is a cruise for members and friends. If this is of interest to you, please let Joan Flewelling know. We'll see if this idea is worth implementing early next year.

We must appreciate each day, make it special and be thankful.

Mary Jane DeVault, 2024 President

My Wish List

We are started a new column called "My Wish List". The idea is to connect people who want to do the same things, like travel or activities. The newsletter will list the wishes, it will be up to individuals to work together to make that wish happen. Everyone will get one wish per newsletter, so email your top wish to Elaine Henrich.

MY WISH LIST

Name	Place or Activity	Comments
Georgia Langdon	Prague	Explore the area around Frenstadt, Albin Polasek's hometown.
Jiti Chahal	Italy & Greece	
Debbie Greenberg-Simmons	Iceland	
Fran Burns	Iceland, Phillipines, Japan, China	
Annie Sanders	Scandinavia	
Jackie Hughes	Rwanda	

JOIN US FOR DINNER

Some of our club members go out to dinner after our General Meetings. On Sunday, April 14, we will go to Athena Roasted Chicken, located at 487 S. Orlando Ave., Maitland. 407-539-0669

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**

a world of friends is a world of peace

FFGO 2024 Calendar

- | | |
|---|--|
| Apr 14 - General Meeting: 3-5 PM | Apr 24-May 14- Outgoing to Bursa, Turkey |
| May 20 - Board Meeting– Joan Flewelling’s Home* | May 16 - Taste Travelers-Columbia Restaurant 1:30 PM |
| Jun 9 - General Meeting: 3-5-PM | Aug 5 - Board Meeting-Cathy Farrar’s Home* |
| Aug 15 - Taste Travelers– Café Paisano-Longwood 1:30 PM | Sep 15 - Annual Meeting: 3-5-PM |
| Sep 14 & 21 - Getting to Know You Dinners | Oct 7-10 - N. American Regional Conf.– Milwaukee, WI |
| Oct 14 - Board Meeting– Cesta Newman’s Home* | Oct 17 - Taste Travelers– Pho Hoa, Orlando: 1:30 PM |
| Oct 27-Nov 2– Outgoing to Big Canoe, GA | Nov 17 - General Meeting: 3-5-PM |
| Dec 2 - Old/New Board Meeting-M.J. DeVault’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

North American Regional Conference-Mexico, US, Canada

Oct 7-10, 2024 Milwaukee, WI;

Drury Plaza Hotel, \$160+tax double occupancy.

Includes breakfast, WIFI, evening snack period (soup, casserole...) parking \$25/day.

Cap of 220 attendees for plenary spaces.

Milwaukee Club working on pre and post options.

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

In 2017, FFI made a commitment to protect member data by becoming GDPR 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, Joan Hansen, 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.



TASTE TRAVELERS RECAP - SANTIAGO'S BODEGA

Many thanks to Linda Brown for hosting the latest Taste Travelers at Santiago's Bodega. There were twenty-one participants. Everyone had a good time and commented on how good the food was.



Taste Travelers

Thursday, May 16 1:30 PM

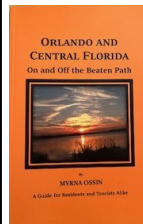
Columbia Restaurant

649 Front St., Celebration 34747

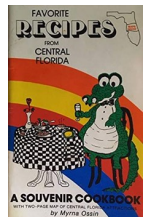
Host: Cesta Newman

RSVP by May 9

Contact information in your Membership Directory. On May 10, Cesta will send a list of attendees for car pooling purposes. Make your own arrangements.



HOSTESS GIFT POSSIBILITIES



FFGO member Myrna Ossin has written and published two books. One is called "Orlando and Central Florida On and Off the Beaten Path". It explains everything to do by city, month and interest. (\$15) The other book is called "Favorite Recipes from Central Florida". It is illustrated with alligator cartoons and has 10 pages of activities to do in Central Florida. (\$8) These are great to give as hostess gifts. Myra will have them available to preview at our April meeting. However, due to library policy no sale of merchandise can be made inside the library. The exchange of money and merchandise will have to be made outside in the parking lot. You can also purchase them on Amazon.com. Myrna intends to give the profits to the club.



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.





Mark your calendars for August 23 to September 1, 2024, and secure your place on a magical journey through the heart of the classical world with Friendship Force's Festival At Sea.

The Festival at Sea theme this year is *The Classical World*. Our immersive 9 day land and sea program starts in Athens and includes fun and engaging Friendship Force activities to bring our group together between port stops.

Our guest presenter, Blake Adams, will join us to share insights into our Greek and Italian destinations through the lens of their ancient civilizations, languages, mythology, and philosophy.

These lively, interactive sessions are designed for all to enjoy - you don't have to be a classics fan or academic to join in the fun.



Jacque Body hosted John Hannah, from New Zealand, prior to his attending the FFI World Board Meeting in Jacksonville. John was the coordinator for her FFI Global trip to NZ. The Valentine Dinner guests were Mary and Bob Young, Mary Jane DeVault, Christine and Daryl Fullerton.

John loved his Black Hammock airboat ride, the natural spring near Jacque's home, and Costco.



Where In the World Have You Been?

At the end of January, Elaine Henrich took a Viking Rhine River cruise with a 3-day pre-trip to Lucerne and a 3-day post trip to Amsterdam.



Lucerne-Cable Bridge & Water Tower

Overlooking the city of Lucerne



Oudezijds Voorburgwal Canal

Zaanse Shans, neighborhood in Zandam, near Amsterdam. Historic windmills moved here. Wooden shoes made here.



HELP WANTED: Two or three volunteers to set up a couple tables and 40-50 chairs prior to our General & Annual Meetings. There are four meetings remaining this year. Time commitment: about 30 minutes (2:30-3:00) for each meeting. Great way to support the club. **BENEFIT:** Read "Selection Guidelines for Over-Subscribed Journeys", page 28-29 in your Membership Directory. Pay particular attention to the first bullet point on page 29. Contact Mary Jane DeVault if you can help on April 14 and/or you would be willing to coordinate this for the rest of the year.

Where In the World Have You Been?



Jacque Body spent 10 days in Australia prior to her NZ FFI World farm tour. She visited Brisbane on the Gold Coast, and Sydney, Australia. Highlights were the Steve Irwin Australia Zoo and Brisbane's gorgeous river walk. In Sydney she toured the Royal Gardens and went to a Shakespeare play at the Sydney Opera House. She then took a day tour and hiked through the magnificent Blue Mountains.



Joan and Steve Flewelling were one of the FFGO couples who recently traveled to San Diego. The San Diego Botanical Garden had so many beautiful flowers, often larger than those in Florida.

The Midway tour was very educational and inspiring.



In January, Jackie Hughes took an OAT tour to Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco.

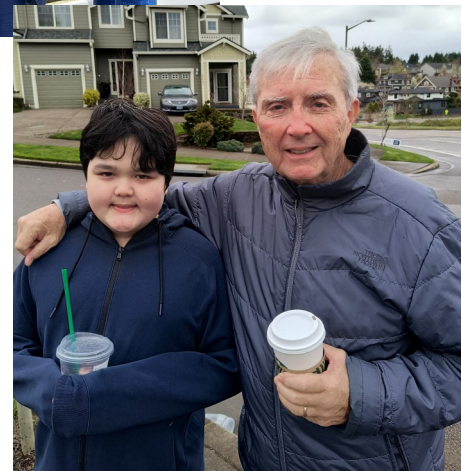
Dressed to enter the mosque in Algeria.



Camel riding in Tunisia



Mary Jane and Reed DeVault spent spring break in Oregon with their son and his family.



FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF GREATER ORLANDO BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2024

President: Mary Jane DeVault

Treasurer: Cesta Newman

Vice President: Lewis Messer

Secretary: Deborah Martel

Director: Cathy Farrar

Director: Lou Williams

Web Manager: Kurth Chin Fatt

Newsletter Editor: Elaine Henrich

2024 Outgoing Ambassador Coordinator to San Diego-Erica Johnson

2024 Outgoing Ambassador Coordinator to Bursa, Turkey-Wanda Messer

2024 Incoming Host Coordinator from Gold Coast Australia-Elaine Henrich

2024 Outgoing Ambassador Coordinator to Big Canoe Georgia-Deb Martel

Chair people:

Membership: Anita Williams

Programs: Lynn VanHorne

Communications: Lisa Ray

Activities: Wanda Messer

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
812 W. Vassar St.
Orlando, FL 32804-4923



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TO:

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
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thefriendshipforce.org