



friendship force  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## October 2023 Newsletter



Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 10:00 am  
General Meeting & Presentation  
Colonial Country Club Community Center  
9181 Independence, Fort Myers



Set your GPS and come to our first meeting "in season" featuring club news and an entertaining presentation by Jack & Jo Cooley, ***"Around the World on a Viking Cruise Ship."***

We've arranged this meeting with Cheryle Phelps' assistance so that it is convenient to everyone because it is at the center of our region of southwest Florida.

When entering guard gate you must say "FRIENDSHIP FORCE."

DIRECTIONS: When you see the Club House on your left, it will be the 2nd building on the right. Ask for Community Room at front desk and again say "FRIENDSHIP

FORCE." Cheryle says, "The Room is free, but they would like for us to have our lunch at Club. This is not a huge room so an approximate head count is necessary. The menu changes weekly and you're sure to find something delicious!" RSVP to [Cheryle](#) by 10/3. (click on her name to



email her) or phone her at 678-469-8171. Let her know if you will come to the meeting and if you will have lunch afterwards.

---



## Punta Gorda Halloween Event October 31, 6 pm Meet at Linda's home 1353 San Mateo Drive, Punta Gorda

We are meeting at Linda Supakoff's home at 6 pm to carpool to our city's very popular Halloween event downtown sponsored by the wonderful neighbors in the Historic District. The downtown residents go **all out** for fabulous displays in their yards and provide a fun event for everyone! Costumes are encouraged but are optional.

If you don't want to drive home in the dark, bring an overnight bag and stay with Linda or at Joanne's home. RSVP by 10/30/23 to [Linda](#) (click on her name) to email her if you are coming or call/text her at 772-539-1476.

---



friendship force  
Southwest Florida

## Club Bylaws

A subcommittee ([Joanne Collins](#), [Marcie Ellis](#) and [Judy Carson](#)) recently proposed changes and updates to our club Bylaws to the Board. The Board proposes that our membership approve them at the November meeting. Please plan on attending so that we have a quorum.

You can click on [Bylaws](#) to view the newly proposed bylaws. To summarize, the major points are:

1. Updated Board Duties (p 2-3)
2. Updated way board meetings are held (in person or application *i.e.*, Zoom, Microsoft Teams)
3. Quorum regulations for Board Members (at least 3 of 5)
4. Updated duties of officers

5. A new Administrative Calendar, to help Board plan, p 7
  6. New **Reimbursement Policies** for Journey Coordinators and Host Coordinators, p 9
  7. Annual Meeting time frame, p. 10
  8. Quorum requirements on membership vote (at least 10 members or 20% membership, whichever is the lesser)
  9. Updated policies on processing of new members and reimbursement of expenditures by members
- 

**Friday, November 10, 2023 10:00 am**  
**General Meeting & Presentation**  
**Punta Gorda Police & Fire Conference Room**  
**1410 Tamiami Trail, PG (across from IHOP)**

**Topic: Stunning SINGAPORE by Joanne & Richard**  
**Optional Lunch to follow at Burg'r Bar**  
**317 Tamiami Tr, Punta Gorda**



**It's the 1st Friday of the month  
- and you know what that  
means!**

**It's Friendship Force General  
Meeting time with an  
entertaining segment by  
Joanne & Richard Collins on a  
truly magnificent world class  
destination - Singapore.**

**It is spread across 63 islands at the tip of the Malay Peninsula and  
is the world's only island city-state. It has stunning parks and  
gardens with magnificent light shows, colorful water displays and  
more.**

**Joanne and Richard will present pictures and videos and we think,  
by the time we are finished, you will be longing to travel to the  
other side of the world to experience it too! Margie Clyde will also  
speak on cross cultural awareness. Don't miss it!**

---

# Announcing 2 Inbound Club Visits



## We are *hosting* FF of Western Kentucky Feb 1 - 7, 2024

Western Kentucky ambassadors will arrive on February 1 and their journey begins on **Friday, February 2 with a Breakfast Brunch Welcome Party** and ends **Tuesday, February 6 with a Farewell Party**. They will depart on Wednesday, February 7.

Maureen Butt & Linda Supakoff are the Host Coordinators *with help from club members*

---



## We are *hosting* FF Minnesota Twin Cities March 3 - 9, 2024

FF Minnesota ambassadors will arrive March 3 and their journey begins with a Breakfast Brunch Welcome Party on **Monday, March 4 and ends Friday, March 8 with a Farewell Party**. They will depart on Saturday, March 9.

Joanne Collins is the Host Coordinator  
*with help from club members*

---

## Get Ready for 3 Outbound Club Journeys in 2024







Journey Coordinator, Terese Libby, arranged Twin Cities to host our club from June 20 - 24. From there, Luvvy Kovacik helps her as our club journeys to Northern Colorado from June 26 - 30. (There is a one day break to travel there on June 25.)



Journey Coordinators, Marcie Ellis and Michelle Kemp, are organizing our club foreign destination to Sherbrooke, Canada. They are in the process of finalizing the dates for either August or September 2024.

Soon we will be accepting applications to travel on these journeys. You can start filling out your forms by getting on your FF Member Portal and clicking on the Help Center to pull up the forms.



**Join us for a new club tradition - Let's Eat Out - 4th Friday of the month!**

**Oct 28 - Australian Restaurant - Judy**

**Australia Extraordinaire!**

Some ambassadors are still traveling down under, but our Australia time is done. We spent 5 days in Sydney, some coming and going. We thoroughly enjoyed our time there. It was invigorating, yet comfortable, getting around in this metropolis. The highlight was not only the tour of the Opera House, but also an awesome concert there of the **Lincoln Center Jazz Ensemble** with Wynton Marsalis conducting and performing. **Totally exciting!**



The time in the Gold Coast showed us a totally different side to the country. Centered in Surfers' Paradise; it has beaches, 80 story high rises, and some fun loving hosts.

Then, we were on to The Blue Mountains and the wonderful hosts. We saw many gardens brimming with spring flowers, historic villages and mountains dating back to before dinosaur times. Wow! Our club's January program will be on these two wonderful Australia outbound journeys. (Reported by Carol)



**Mark your Calendar!**  
**Save the Dates!**  
**Here is what is in store for 2023. . .**

**October 7- 10 am - Club Meeting & Program - Colonial Country Club**

**October 28 - LEO**

**November 10 - 10 am- Club Meeting & Program at Fire & Police Station, PG**

**December 13 - Annual Meeting & Club Holiday Party at Lake Fairways Club House, North Fort Myers, Time to be determined**

**Topic - World Viking Cruise by Jack & Jo Cooley with lunch to follow**

**Australian Food at Outback - check with Judy**

**Singapore Journey with Optional Lunch to follow at Burg'r Bar, 317 Tamiami Tr, PG**



---

# CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

## Contribute to the Newsletter

Would you like to contribute something or share a travel experience in this newsletter? If you are willing to share your adventures, a photo, or anything related to travel, cultures, places you've visited, please email your article in to [Joanne](#) (click on name).

## My FFI

The members-only portal, [my.friendshipforce.org](https://my.friendshipforce.org), is the go-to place for news, journey opportunities, payments, virtual experiences and all other member-relevant information. If you have not yet signed up, please do so. Confused how to do it? Email [Marcie](#) (click on her name).

## More Travel Opportunities

Click the link below to review a catalog of Special Journeys that are currently being offered by other FFI clubs. Perhaps there is a journey that interests you!

[2023 Journey Catalog](#)  
[2023 Club to Club Journeys](#)

---

## President's Comments

Greetings, good people,

I've been doing Zoom meetings with the Florida regional coordinator, Terri Holsinger, and with other FF club Presidents. It is a good way to learn about



best practices in other clubs. So here are some of the things I have learned.

We were informed the dues to FFI, our parent organization, are going up by **\$5 annually**, so we will be increasing our club dues up to **\$50 annually** starting January 2024. We are sensitive to this increase, and will try to plan more outings and gatherings so that you can see your dollars at work. We want to expand social outings, and offer more small group activities. ***We need three or four people to work on a social committee. Please step up to***

***make that happen.***

### **Membership Committee needs 3-4 members**

In conversation with other presidents of Florida FF clubs, we agreed that a membership committee is needed to keep on revitalizing our clubs. FFI has a grant to share up to \$350 with any club that shows ***how they are recruiting*** new members, and ***how they will spend money*** to do that. We need members with ideas to implement this. We need to set a goal to gain 10 new members next year, and to maintain the 40 that we currently have.

### **Our Program Committee needs 3-4 new members**

Programming is being set for next year, and we would like more input. FF Florida is suggesting that we spread brainstorming and idea gathering over more people. So in the new year, we will ask all members to serve on a committee to better our club. These committee will be on a volunteer basis, but calls will be made if we do not fill slots

### **Incoming Journey support for Western KY and Twin Cities MN**

We will have a busy hosting season this year, and we have leadership in place, but we will need support from lots of people. ***Please volunteer to be in charge of one day of the events.*** Teamwork makes it all go smoothly. There is also a possibility of an incoming **3-day journey** to and from **Orlando in April**. More conversation about this will occur.

### **FFI is offering a Canada and USA Conference next October 7-9 in Milwaukee WI**

If you have not been to **Wisconsin in the fall**, you will be in for a real treat. Think fall colors and bright blue skies. Why Wisconsin, besides that it is the beer capital of the US? No! It is centrally located east and west, north and south. **Put that on your calendar**, and join your FF friends from the US and Canada for workshops and adventures. A logical post trip might be a visit to



---

## Parting Shots from Australia Outbounds





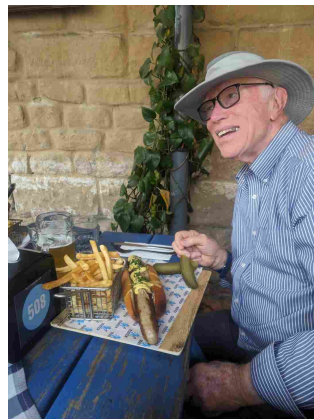
Watch out for snakes, Sue!



Rob loves birds, nice head ornament!



Is that a boomerang?

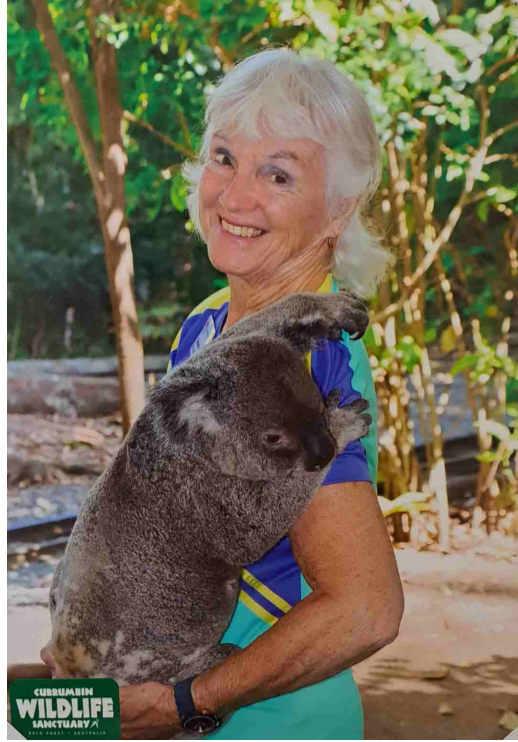


Chris found BIG hot dogs in Aussieland!



Pavlova is national dessert!





Maureen's new friend

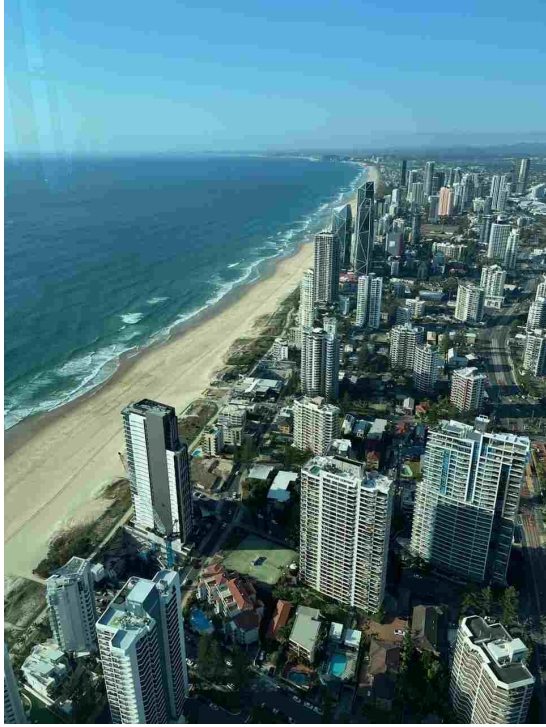


Love those 2 flags!

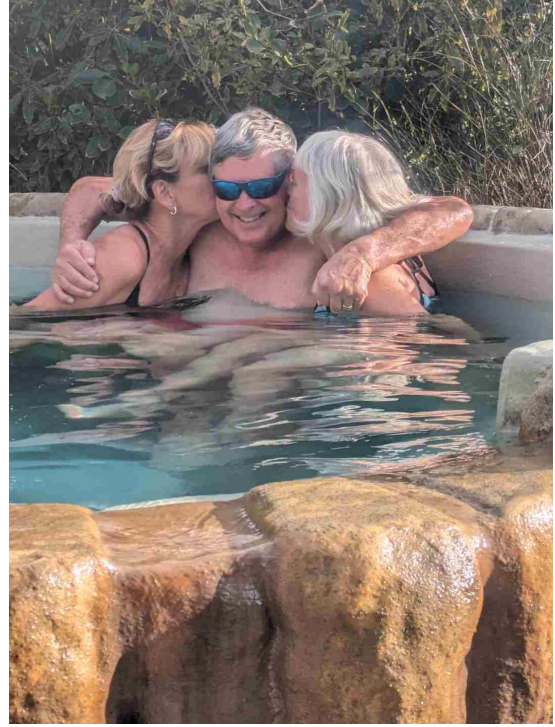


Sue hatched from DoDo egg!





Gold Coast High Rises



Hot tub Merriment - Rob !?!

---

## Friendship Force of Southwest Florida

Email Us



*Check us out & contribute to Group Facebook Page! Click FaceBook icon above!*

---

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida | 2509 Deborah Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

[Unsubscribe eagleswingsj@yahoo.com](mailto:eagleswingsj@yahoo.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by eagleswingsj@yahoo.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!