



friendship force
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

September & October 2024 Newsletter

Let's Eat Out on Sept 27, noon
4458 Cleveland Avenue, Ft Myers

RSVP to Judy by phone or text 313-300-5891 by September 22



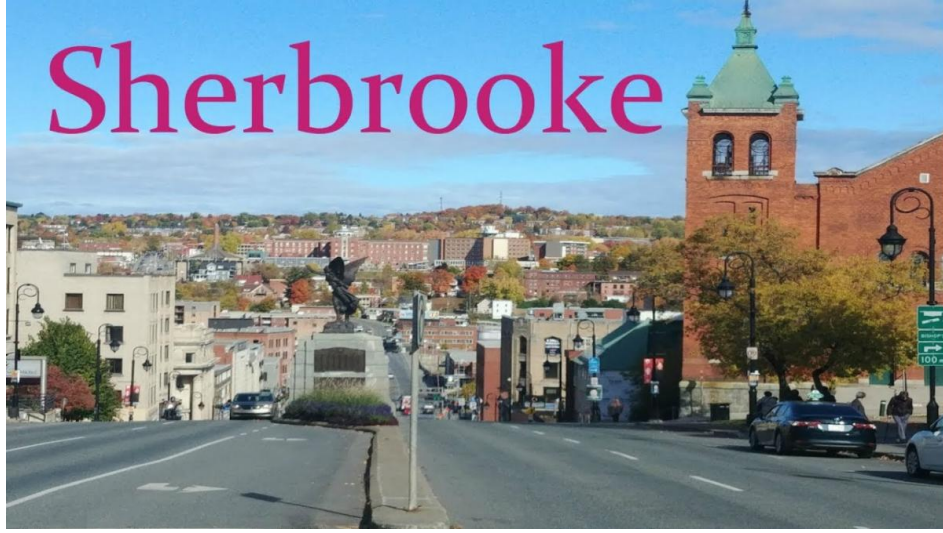
*Picture and article from
News-Press
Cape Coral and Fort Myers*

Argentinian Food at Taza's

Modernly quaint and charming, it's been serving Peruvian and Argentinian food, plus a "little American, a little vegan." "Everything here is homemade," said Arakaki, whose wife owns El Toro in Cape Coral. "Everything is done by us."

And there's lots of goodness to be found. All-day breakfast features omelets, eggs dishes, avocado toast, lox, tamal and sandwiches, including the best-selling El Limeno with fried pork belly (chicharron), sweet potato, tomato and red onion. More sandwiches — served on our favorite NY-NJ Par Baked breads — appear for lunch. Options include Peruvian ham, Argentinian chorizo and grilled chicken, eggplant or picania and more.

Sherbrooke



Some club members are enjoying Sherbrooke, Canada Outbound Journey on September 8 - 14

Don't miss opportunities to travel with your club and create unforgettable memories! It is always difficult to take the first step, but once you do, you won't regret it!



We are thrilled to welcome John McNamee to our club! John is a Canadian, lawyer, husband of Lee Fullerton, and a 4-month snowbird living in Punta Gorda.

His interest in travel and politics make him a great addition to Friendship Force. In fact, he is already interested in a journey to India that he spotted in the FFI Membership Portal. Welcome, John!

We're going to North American Friendship Force Conference

October 7-10, 2024 in Downtown Milwaukee



We are thrilled to announce that our Past President, Michelle Kemps, along with our dedicated Vice President, Terese Libby, and our diligent Secretary, Marci Ellis, are all set to attend the highly anticipated Milwaukee Conference!

This event promises to be great opportunity for them to gather invaluable insights and experiences that will undoubtedly enrich our Southwest Florida Friendship Force Club. At our October General meeting, they will share the exciting developments and knowledge acquired from the conference.

General Meeting and Program
Friday, October 18 - 10:30 am
North Fort Myers Library Conf Room
2001 N Tamiami Tr, North Ft Myers



Call a friend and car pool down to the North Ft Myers Library to welcome back the snowbirds and to update you on all the exciting happenings in our club. Lunch is optional, but it will be delicious at an Italian restaurant called Misto's Bar & Grill.

We will give a short interesting presentation about our club journeys this summer to Twin Cities Minnesota and Northern Colorado. And...an update on all the EXCITING

INFO learned by us at the Milwaukee North American conference. Don't miss it!



**LEO October Fest
October 25 at noon
Sandra's Restaurant
111 W Olympia Ave
Punta Gorda**

Join us for a fun Let's Eat Out at an authentic German restaurant in downtown Punta Gorda. Let's come together and make this gathering a wonderful celebration of camaraderie and cultural appreciation!

RSVP Judy by phone or text 313-300-5891 by 10/23

Announcing next year's Inbound Journey... Winnipeg Canada FF arriving here February 17-23, 2025

The Winnipeg Club, established in 2001, is a vibrant community of 60 enthusiastic members who embody the spirit of friendship and cultural exchange. Recently, they showcased their warm hospitality by hosting the San Diego and Quad Cities Clubs in June, creating lasting bonds and memorable experiences. This September, 10 adventurous members will embark on an exciting international journey to Leicester, England FF Club.

We are fortunate to be the next club to host them and we ask that you save the dates so that you are able to help us. This help can be hosting, or day-hosting, preparing a small group dinner or serving on the Committee to plan the events with experienced Host Coordinator, Sue Linehan.



Nestled at the geographic center of North America, Winnipeg stands at the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, serving as the capital of Manitoba and the seventh largest city in Canada. With a metropolitan population of 825,000 and a provincial population of 1.38 million, Winnipeg is a tapestry of cultural diversity, where over 100 languages are spoken, including the largest Francophone community outside Quebec.

**Unique Opportunity
Reciprocal Meeting
visit Orlando Feb 3-6
host Orlando here March 17-20**

Did you receive the email on whether you have an interest in a Reciprocal Meeting? If there is enough interest, we will proceed with the planning. Contact Marci, Club Secretary, by clicking on [Marci's email](#)



**Mark your Calendar!
Save the Dates!**



September 8 - 14 - Outbound International Club Journey to Sherbrooke, Canada FF Club

September 27 - Let's Eat Out at Taza's Cafe (Argentinian food), 4458 Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, 12 noon

October 7 - 10 - Regional Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

October 18 - Monthly meeting North Ft Myers Library at 10:30 am followed by optional lunch at Misto Bar & Grill, 231 Del Prado Blvd S, Cape Coral. Topic is Club visits to Minnesota and Northern Colorado Friendship Force Clubs; also **EXCITING INFO LEARNED** at North America FF Conference with questions answered.

October 25th - October Fest at Sandra's Restaurant (German food), 111 W Olympia Ave, Punta Gorda, 12 noon, RSVP by 10/23 to Judy

November - POSSIBLE DATES, NOV 23, 13 or 14, depending upon new member availability at 10 AM- New Member Coffee and Orientation at Carol's home, 2509 Deborah Drive, Punta Gorda

November 15 - Monthly meeting North Ft Myers Library at 10:30 am followed by optional lunch. Topic is guest speaker from Transportation Security Administration known as TSA discussing new travel requirements and options.

December 8 - Holiday Party in Fort Myers with Lou & Cheryle and the club. Election of Officers for 2025, small fun gift exchange.

December 10- 10 AM - Marci's home, 631 Andros Ct, Punta Gorda - discuss book entitled **The Caliph's House: A Year in Casablanca** by Tahir Shah (Book can be borrowed from Lee County Library on line)

January 10 - General Meeting at North Fort Myers Library, 10:30 am followed by optional lunch. Topic is Sherbrooke, Canada Journey and pre and post visits to Quebec and Montreal

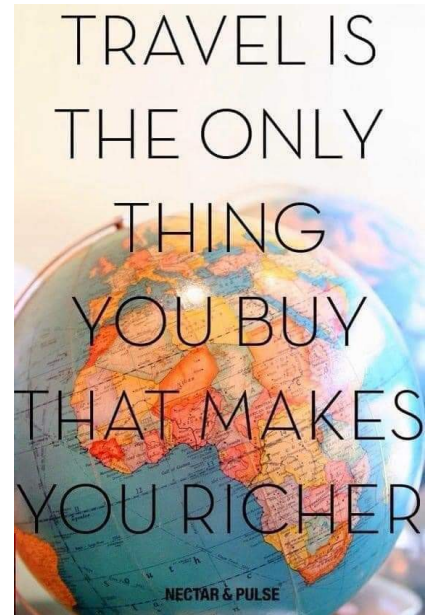
Missed meeting? Need to Keep Up with our Club?

If you've missed a meeting and want to know what happened, check out club MINUTES found on our FF Website under Membership Tab. Click [minutes](#). Go to minutes and read all about it. So easy!

CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

My FFI

The members-only portal, 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 [Marci](#) (click on her name).



More Travel Opportunities

FFI has just posted all club journeys throughout the world for 2025!

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

[2024-2025 CLUB GROUP JOURNEYS](#)

[2024-2025 INDEPENDENT JOURNEYS](#)

President's Comments

Friendship Force International offered
**"Discover the Hidden
Treasures of Morocco"**
and five members of our Southwest Florida
club answered the call!



Come October 10th our intrepid group of adventurers - myself, Maureen, Linda, Joanne and Richard - will embark on a fabulous FF Global Journey to Casablanca. We will join 19 other FF travelers from around the globe to spend two weeks exploring medinas, mosques, deserts and riads all while immersing ourselves in the local culture of this exotic part of the world, Morocco. It will involve a lesson in Arabic, 14 days of getting to know the people, and a short homestay.

Why is Morocco such a great destination? It is known for its harmonious blend of geographical wonders, rich cultural heritage, unique culinary experiences, and warm hospitality.

The journey is led by Vicki Vance from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who is a very experienced leader! Previously in Friendship Force, Linda and I discovered the beauty and wonders of Peru under her guidance, and we also explored the inner wetlands of Brazil with her. Wow, she is Friendship Force International's stellar leader of Global Journeys!

So we know we are in good hands!

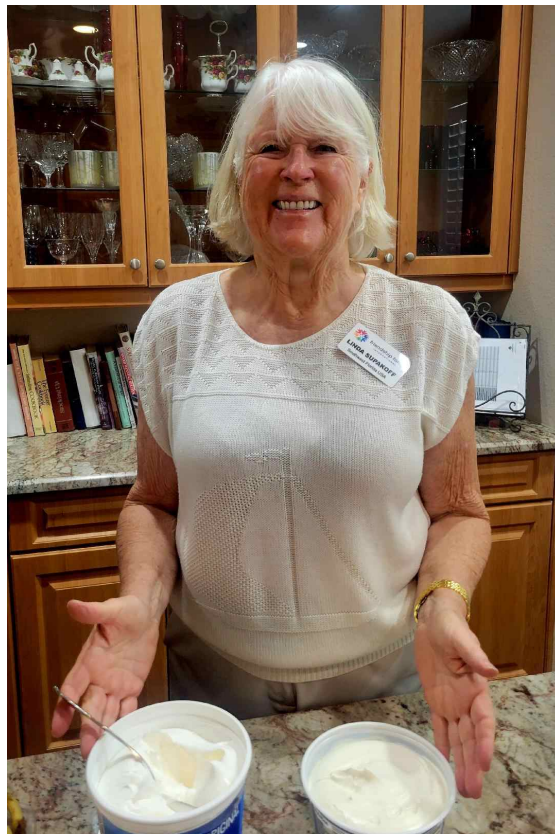
You, too, will discover the exciting possibilities available to you with the Friendship Force by signing into your portal on the my.friendshipforce.org website! You can also sign up for the newsletters to get the postings of the latest news on offerings and openings for journeys around the world.

I discovered that this Morocco Journey will be repeated in October of 2025. Don't delay as these trips fill up quickly because there is a world-wide audience of FF members who may be interested.

I am looking forward to seeing you in November and creating lasting memories together!

Peace,
Carol

Parting Shots from Ice Cream Social



Who can resist Linda's warm welcome?



Jean chose some healthy options



Marci flew here from Michigan to participate in the Ice Cream fun!



Sue and Michelle enjoyed everything!



Close up of Joanne's large portion

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida

[Email Us](#)



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



Try email marketing for free today!