

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF GREATER ATLANTA



FFGA

SIX PAGES

NOVEMBER 2018



Walk like an Egyptian

FFGA members and other travelers gather in the shadow of the pyramids — OK, in the shadow-less desert near the pyramids — during their October visit to Egypt and the Middle East. This photo was shot by Joan Sankey and emailed during their trip. See more photos on Page 6.

Coming up

Nov. 15: Books for Africa volunteer event. Help sort books that will be sent to Africa. 3655 Atlanta Industrial Drive NW. 10 a.m. Followed by lunch.

Dec. 8: FFGA Holiday party, Petite Violette, 2948 Clairmont Road, 12:30 p.m.

April 26, 2019: FFGA trip to Bogota, Columbia, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

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Happy travelers

Members of the Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta gathered Oct. 6 to trade travel tales and some fine Italian food at Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant during the club's annual business meeting.

At left, club members were smiling even before the food was served. During the meeting, club members elected officers for 2019 and expressed preferences for places to try to visit during 2020. To see their choices, please turn to Page 3.

To see more photos, please turn to Page 2.





Italian food and a taste for visiting other lands

FFGA held its annual meeting at Maggiano's Little Italy in October. Twenty-one members attended. They elected officers for 2019 and voted their preferences for countries the club should visit in 2020.

Above, at left, Mary Brickley, left, and Sue James discuss something that looks serious. Above, at right, Barbara Shields enjoys lunch. At left, Cynthia Williams, left, and Glenda Wilhelm share a private joke. Below, at left, members of the FFGA Hat Squad (Anne Earle, left, and Sue James) get feisty. Below, at center, Bonnie Evans finally finds the right cord to connect her photo show. Below, at right, Joan Sankey chats with tablemates and Robin Scott makes a call.



Joyce and John Mell

Linda Foley and Sue Mills

John Wilhelm and Ron Scott

August 2019: Heading west to Oregon!

By Bonnie Evans

FFGA vice president

OREGON!

Judy Hausmann and Sue James are co-journey coordinators for the reciprocal exchange to Oregon's Mid Willamette Valley. The tentative agreed date of the seven-night homestay to Mid-Willamette Valley is the week of August 13, 2019.

The plan is to also visit Portland, where we will possibly have a short home stay followed by several nights in a hotel.

Willamette Valley is a 150-mile-long Valley in the Pacific Northwest. The valley is surrounded by mountains on three sides, the Cascades to the east and the Oregon Coastal range to the west, and Calapooya to the south.

The area is the cultural and political heart of Oregon, and is home to about 70 per cent of its population.

The area is named after the Willamette River that runs through it. It was the destination of choice for the wagon trains of emigrants who made the perilous journey west to the fertile valley.

The valley is often considered Oregon's wine country since it contains over 500 wineries. Some of the places of interest



are Silver Falls Park, Schreiner's Iris Gardens, Washington Park, Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum. Guests enjoy a waterfalls tour, wine tasting and winery tours.

A prospect list is now being created by Judy Hausmann. Please send an email to Judi that you are interested in the Oregon Exchange to judyhausmann4437@att.net

Volunteer: Books for Africa

FFGA members have a chance to do some community service through volunteer work for Books for Africa, a charity that ships books of all types to several African countries.

On Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., our volunteers will help sort donated books by category. It's a fun and easy way to make a huge difference in the lives of people who desperately want access to books.

Books for Africa is located off I-285, exit 12, just outside the west perimeter. The complete address is: Books for Africa, 3655 Atlanta Industrial Drive NW, Building 250, Atlanta, GA 30331. Phone: (404) 603-8680

When you get there, the building is behind the warehouse closest to the street. There is a driveway on the right side of the first building. There should be a sign pointing to the Books for Africa warehouse.

Of course, every FFGA event involves eating, so we will have lunch after our volunteer service at Jack's New Yorker Deli, 4691 South Atlanta Road SE, Suite 150, Smyrna, GA 30080. It is just off I-285 North at exit 16. Take a right at the end of the ramp onto South Atlanta Road, The deli is a short distance away.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Cynthia Williams at madamew@hotmail.com or 404-351-5352.

—Cynthia Williams



Bonnie's travels



Photos by Bonnie Evans

Bonnie's all over! Bonnie Evans contributed photos of friends she's made on recent Friendship Force trips she's joined, including an FFGA trip to Africa and a visit to Israel (bottom center). Send your travel photos to joeearle715@gmail.com and we'll include them in future newsletters.

Where in the world should we go next?

FFGA members voted during the annual meeting on which countries they'd like to visit in 2020. Voters were asked to choose five locales and rate them first choice through fifth. The votes then were scored with five points for a first place vote, four for second place vote and so on, down to one point for fifth place. Here are the results, collected and tabulated by Cynthia Williams.

England - 57 points

Netherlands - 33 points

Sweden - 25 points

France - 20 points

Switzerland - 12 points

Canada - 10 points

Belgium - 9 points

Germany and Azerbaijan - 8 points

Australia and Slovakia - 5 points

Peru and New Zealand - 4 points

Japan, United States (mainland), Uganda, and Hungary - 3 points

Taiwan, South Africa, and Turkey - 2 points

Mongolia, Nepal, Brazil, Ghana, Morocco, and Romania - 1 point

Three surveys were not counted in the total, as the respondents indicated that they would not, or probably would not, participate in an outbound international journey.

FFGA's holiday party returns: Celebrate, see your friends and stand up and sing (shout?) 'five golden rings'



December nears and it will soon be time to dine, renew old acquaintances, talk travel and stand up and sing when your verse comes around in "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Join your fellow members in the Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta for our annual holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 8. We will meet from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Petite Violette Restaurant, 2948 Clairmont Road, Atlanta, GA 30329. It's the same French restaurant where we met last year. This would be a great opportunity to invite potential new members to meet the crew during one of our best social events of the year.

The menu selection form is included below. Please make your selections and return the form and your check for \$30 per person to: Cynthia Williams, 1923 Claremont Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30318. We must receive your form no later than Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Here's the menu:

Salad

Salade de Noel Fresh-cut mixed greens topped with walnuts, cranberries, grape tomatoes, feta cheese and garlic herb croutons. Served with house French vinaigrette.

Main course (choose one by circling it)

Boeuf Bourguignon Herb-rubbed, slow-roasted and thinly sliced beef short rib, topped with cremini and button mushrooms, ripe tomato and green onion

Saumon grille Fresh grilled salmon topped with basil butter, served over rice pilaf

Chicken piccata Pan-seared chicken breast topped with an herb lemon caper sauce, served over rice pilaf

Dessert (choose one by circling it)

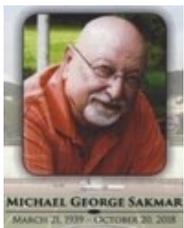
Strawberries Romanoff Vanilla bean ice cream with fresh strawberries, port wine sauce and topped with whipped cream

Gateau au chocolat sans farine Chocolate flourless cake topped with chocolate mousse and drizzled with raspberry coulis

Complimentary coffee and iced tea. Entrees served with bread and butter.

A cash bar will be available.

In memorium



FFGA member Michael George Sakmar of Cartersville passed away Oct. 20. He was 79.

His obituary may be found at www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/cartersville-ga/michael-sakmar-8030148.

Time to pay up

Linda Foley is collecting club dues for 2019. Please send a check made out to FFGA to Linda Foley, 1010 Freedom Lane, Roswell, GA 30075. An individual membership is \$35. A family membership (defined as two or more persons living at the same address) is \$50.

Read about us

Atlanta Senior Life magazine published an article about Friendship Force and our club in its October edition. The magazine included photos from the FFGA meeting at Nicola's Restaurant.

To see the article, go online to: atlantaseniorlife.com/journeys-with-purpose-friendship-force-builds-connections/.

Snapshots from Egypt

FFGA members touring Egypt in October emailed these photos to the newsletter or posted them on Facebook, where Bonnie Evans tracked them down. Counterclockwise, from top left: Ron Scott strikes a familiar pose; Glenda and John Wilhelm rock out; FFGA members at the welcome party; Ron and Robin Scott among ancient stones; the crowd at the welcome party; the river; and, at center, Cynthia Williams models appropriate eyewear for a desert trip.

