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| |  | | --- | | **Member Profile: Marilyn Whelan**  *By Sandy Lindberg*  *﻿*  *﻿*Marilyn Whelan has led a very interesting life, to say the least! She’s traveled 53 countries over the years and has befriended people all over the world. Marilyn says she’d “rather travel than eat.” She’s been a member of FFFS for six years and was the Florida rep for FFI for two years. In this position she helped chapters with any issues, was the liaison with other chapters, and represented all Florida chapters with the International organization. Marilyn has a Masters Degree and worked in the criminal justice field. She’s also owned a very successful international Mystery Shopping business. Besides traveling, Marilyn’s hobbies include reading, Mahjong, and crafts. | |

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| |  | | --- | | She served in the Peace Corp for two years in the Philippines and still maintains friendships there. The Philippines is her favorite place. Marilyn traveled extensively with her husband, Jim, before he passed away in 2003. Marilyn now travels with her youngest daughter, Ivy, along with her many friends. She has three children, seven grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren. She has lived in Florida for 40 years and now lives at Top of the World in Clearwater.    COVID slowed down everyone’s travel plans for awhile, but Marilyn took a six-week road trip this summer visiting places such as Alabama, Nashville, the Dakotas, Nevada, and points in between. Plans are already in place for another road trip in the spring of 2022 visiting places such as the Smokey Mountains, Virginia, and Myrtle Beach. Marilyn doesn’t sound like she’ll be stopping her joy of travel any time soon.    Marilyn’s most memorable experience was volunteering for a month at the Andersonville National Historic Site in Andersonville, Ga. It’s a cemetery and museum honoring POWs of the Confederate military during the Civil War. Marilyn lived on the grounds assisting group tours, helped people conduct research, and other tasks. She tells the story about the sloppy record keeping during that time and a man who was arrested for publishing a list of prisoners. Marilyn found this volunteer job a bit difficult because there was no internet to keep in touch with her family and friends except from a McDonald’s on her days off. Who could do that nowadays? However, the time alone gave her the opportunity to finish the book she had been working on and published, *Caviar Living on Fish Stick Money.*Check it out on Amazon.  ﻿  Marilyn’s best trip was being captain of a 60-foot boat on the canals in London. She had never driven a boat and admits that everyone was scared to death. However, when the trip was over, she says she felt an extreme sense of accomplishment. Being captain would have been a whole lot easier if she had a wheel to steer the boat rather than a lever! Her saying after this trip was “Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.” Marilyn still has two places to see on her bucket list – Scotland and Lithuania. To be sure, she will accomplish these two places and more! | |

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