



All Friendship Force Members and their Guests are Invited to an Afternoon of **FUN, FOOD, and FELLOWSHIP.**

Date: July 22, 2017 [SAVE THE DATE]

Time: Noon to 5 p.m.

Who's Invited? YOU! And GUESTS (family, friends, co-workers) – anyone who would be interested in joining Friendship Force.

Place: Home of Carol Kuntzman (First Vice-President, coordinator of Membership) – 225 Sheraton Dr., Belleville IL (carpooling is encouraged)

Attire: Casual

What's Provided? Ground beef secret recipe, buns, napkins, plastic ware, drinks, ice, tables, chairs, coolers, swimming pool (small/average, heated, non-diving), and croquet.

What to bring? If your last name begins with the following letter, please bring:

A-G: appetizer or side dish

H-O: salad of any type

P-Z: dessert

Plus serving utensils for your dish.

Also bring swimwear and towels if you plan to swim; sunscreen and hat; board or other games.

Please fill out the reservation form at the end of the newsletter and mail or email your information to Mary Lou Hudson: mhudson1208@yahoo.com
1706 Thorny Briar Dr., St. Louis MO 63146.



CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

June - LEO - to be announced.

June 10 - FF Board, Conference Room at Berkshire-Hathaway (thanks to Mary Lou Hudson).

July – LEO – to be announced.

July 22 – Summer Picnic at the home of Carol Kuntzman.

August 12 – FF Board, Conference Room at Berkshire-Hathaway (thanks to Mary Lou Hudson).

August 19 – LEO – Arrow Rock, National Historic District LEO Arrow Rock, National Historic District: Lunch and Theater (optional tours and overnight on individual basis).

Thanks to Judy Leonard for typing draft articles for the email edition of this newsletter. Mary Johnson compiled and edited this print copy while editor-to-be Nancy Hofheinz was busy with the Sacramento Exchange and then on a trip to Italy. Dick and Ellen Kaye Augustine prepared the mailing for this issue.

CURTIS COMMENTS

Being Friendly

It is a sad and very unfortunate set of facts that as I write this wars are going on in many regions of our world, fueled by religious extremism, deep-seated tribal hatreds and available supplies of weapons used for violence.

In our own county, divisions have divided and alienated us from one another along political, racial, and socio-economic lines. Fear, hate, and mistrust seem everywhere.

In April Sue Williams and I had the privilege of presenting "*Friendship Without Borders: The Story of Friendship Force*" to the STL International Travel Club. It was well received; brochures were passed out, including membership application forms.

Part of my opening remarks were to say that Friendship Force is dedicated to building bridges, not walls, finding the things that people of all cultures have in common in order to learn from and respect them, enriching each other's lives and making this world a safer place, a global home of Peace and Goodwill. This is FF's Mission, Purpose, and Goal.

In all our daily lives, from interacting with other members to meeting those of different cultures and backgrounds, let's put foremost the gift of Friendship.

In Friendship,

David Curtis, President, Friendship Force of Missouri-St. Louis

Update from Friendship Force International (FFI)

Friendship Force International (FFI) is the Atlanta headquarters for over 300 Friendship Force chapters worldwide. The staff coordinates matches for Journeys (domestic and international), arranges worldwide

conferences, supervises volunteer Regional Representatives, provides marketing and strategic planning for chapters, and many more functions.

Take a look! Browse around! The FFI website is: <https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/> and the Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/friendshipforce/>

FFI is now using new terms to designate some main chapter functions – "Exchanges" (domestic and international) are now called "Journeys" and "Exchange Directors" are now "Coordinators."

Task Force on Renewal (TFOR)

TFOR is to be a small group serving as a resource and sounding board for our St. Louis Friendship Force Chapter. In beginning stages it should not take much time, and being small, can meet at flexible hours, depending on member's schedules. Over time its composition may well change in terms of persons and agendas.

Names of qualified candidates are in order. It is hoped to have members with varying Friendship Force experience and membership, as well as race, age and gender diversity. All candidates should possess:

- Willingness to listen and respect other persons' viewpoints -
- Ability to see "the big picture" of Friendship Force's mission and goals (past, present, future) -
- Openness to new ideas and change.

If you know of someone possessing these traits who is a "team" person and you think would be a good TFOR candidate (including yourself), please contact David Curtis, President (307-760-3822 safarii2006@msn.com) or Judy Leonard, Secretary, (314-277-2852) judy.leonard@charter.net).

Everyone nominated will be considered, but because of group size and composition not all may be selected.

IN GRATITUDE AND HONOR



Tom and Mary Widmer

This newsletter is dedicated to one of the most gracious couples in our STL-FF. They have served our chapter faithfully in many capacities of leadership since joining in 1986. We commend their service and example.

Tom is from Louisville, KY, attended college in Santa Clara, CA and TN Tech, earning a Master's degree from Northwestern in Evanston, IL. Mary grew up on a dairy farm near Richmond, VA, attending Mary Washington College. They met at a party in Washington DC when they were both working in different sections of the Navy Department.

After 3 years in Sunnyvale, CA, they moved to STL in 1965. Tom worked at McDonnell Douglas as an engineer, while Mary became full time mom to their 3 children. Today daughter Amy works for IBM in Amsterdam and lives with her domestic partner Theo. Son Keith owns his own business in St. Petersburg, FL where he used to "pedal metal" and now "pedals plastic." Daughter Lory is an engineer and lives with her wife Lisa, an artist, in Ukiah, CA.

The Widmers joined FF 31 years ago, and have traveled to Canada (2), Costa Rica, Egypt (Tom as ED), Germany (2), Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and U.K. (2). Mary has been ED for 2 or 3 of these trips.

Tom has pursued golf as a main interest, while Mary enjoys computers and reading. For many years they played bridge monthly. Mary's first FF job was secretary; she also served as First VP and President.

Though health issues now limit attendance at FF gatherings and Journeys, they treasure FF memories and remain interested in our Chapter activities.

Whether you are new to the Chapter or close friends, it would be nice to send them a card, email, or call, thanking them for their faithful service:

Tom and Mary Widmer
megato@swbell.net



Sacramento Journey (a.k.a. Exchange) to St. Louis

From Monday evening, May 8th to early Thursday morning, May 11th, our Chapter hosted seven members of the Sacramento, CA Friendship Force Chapter along with two members of the FF-Las Vegas Chapter. The group had spent a week being hosted by FF Cedar Rapids, IA then traveled, along with 16 members of the Cedar Rapids Chapter, by bus to Springfield, IL to see the Lincoln Museum and other sites, before the C.R. members returned home.

Arriving by Amtrak, the Ambassadors and hosts enjoyed a dinner of huge, good tasting portions at the Bluff City Grill in Alton. While here, Ambassadors were given tours of the Gateway Arch, New Cathedral, Missouri Botanical Garden, and Cahokia Mounds and had special home dinners.

A HUGE THANKS!! to co-coordinators Nancy Hofheinz and Sue Williams. Recruiting hosts, printing programs, stuffing memento gift bags, and coordinating many details were well done.

Also Thanks to: Home Hosts: Sharon Beisher, David Curtis and Judy Leonard, Mary and Jerry Johnson, Wanda Grueneberg, Sue and Ron Williams.

Providing Dinners: David Curtis and Judy Leonard, Carol Kuntzman, Barbara A. Robinson.

Others Participating: Nancy and Rich Brower, Dolores and Bill Ebert, Charlotte Balettie, Mary Lou Hudson.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Linda A. Cook has lived all her life in STL other than a five-year stay in Greensboro,

NC. She earned Master's degrees from UNC and UMSL. She was married 32 years, having a son who lives in STL, and a married daughter in Hood River, OR who gave birth to a baby girl just on May 13th. Our congratulations upon this now her second grandchild.

For 25 years, Linda was a classroom teacher and reading specialist for elementary grades. She loves history, is more spiritual than religious, and enjoys golf, Tai Chi, pickle ball, movies, plays, and books. She has traveled to Bhutan, Croatia, India, Kenya, and Vietnam. On her "bucket list" is Cuba, Machu Picchu and "just about anywhere."

Lindacook2529@yahoo.com PLEASE introduce yourself to Linda and send her a "Welcome!" message.

Other new members include:

Susy Alias - susyaliasmd@yahoo.com

Yvette Goods & Stan Webb - your_shield@yahoo.com

Conxita Gross - conxita.gross@hotmail.com

Ruth Lee - RLEE1314@gmail.com

Monica Mahler - mrmahler@yahoo.com

Patti Sontag - ljpson@gmail.com

Laura Tyrey - lauratyrey@att.net

Bob Stinson (member Wanda Stinson's husband)

wandastinson1@att.net

More information on each of the new members will be provided in future issues.

Journey to Vietnam and Cambodia with the Sacramento Friendship Force Chapter

Chris Smith, one of the Sacramento Ambassadors who recently came to St. Louis, is coordinating a journey to Vietnam and Cambodia, from October 1 – October 21. Most of the nights will be hotel ones, but there will be five home hosted nights. If you are interested and want further information, please contact Chris at smithinsac@gmail.com or 916-712-6979.

NEW ZEALAND OUTBOUND JOURNEY, 2018

Co-coordinators Bonnie Hindelang and Jerry Wunderlich met on May 17th with Chapter President Dave Curtis for a planning session. The previous night Bonnie was a participant for Coordinator's Training led by FFI staff, which she found helpful and productive.

The dates for our Journey will be mid-April, 2018. We will fly into the **North Island**, visiting the **Gisborne FF Chapter** for a few days with a bus trip to Rotorua (a popular attraction with cultural and thermal sites).

We will also tour the **South Island**, visiting the **Nelson FF Chapter**, including National Parks and Wearable Arts.

A Pre- or Post- Journey option could include Christchurch tours to Queensland and Milford Sound.

For those who have registered interest, next month you will receive a letter for getting more acquainted with you as an "Ambassador" (the name used for all those traveling on FF Journeys), including space for your expectations/questions.

There will also be included a date for an orientation time to review the entire trip with details and Q&A session.

Costs for the trip are still being negotiated to make it as reasonable as possible.

New Members and other members who may be interested should contact Bonnie Hindelang (hindelang@gtec.com)



New Zealand Coat of Arms



**SUMMER PICNIC
REGISTRATION
FORM**

Please fill out this form and
mail or email the information
to: Mary Lou Hudson:

1706 Thorny Briar Drive; St Louis, MO 63146
mhudson1208@yahoo.com

_____ I/We (circle) are coming to this Picnic

Member Names: _____

Guest Names: _____

_____ Bringing Food Item

TEAM EFFORT

Each member is encouraged to find one or more areas of
service within the Chapter that interests his/her.
PLEASE choose area of active participation you might
like to serve in or know more about:

Community Volunteer Project _____

Journey Coordinator _____

Home Hosting _____

Day Hosting _____

Dinner Hosting _____

Membership _____

Telephoning _____

Newsletter _____

Officer _____

(Pres., VP (2), Sec., Treas., (circle)

Other (write in) _____

Photographer _____

Social Activities _____

Please send to: David Curtis
22 Bellerive Acres
St Louis, MO 63121

2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

RENEWAL NEW MEMBER

DATE: _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE/ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

EMAIL: _____

DUES:

Individual Membership __ \$30.00

Family Membership __ \$45.00
(PEOPLE LIVING IN SAME HOUSEHOLD)

Amount Enclosed _____

Make check payable to:

**The Friendship Force of Missouri –
St. Louis**

Mail to Chapter Treasurer:

**Jerry Johnson
16068 Rose Wreath Lane
FLORISSANT MO 63034**