

Friendship Force Focus

Explore, Understand, Serve – Changing the Way You See the World

The Friendship Force of Missouri – St. Louis

www.friendshipforce-stlouis.org

September 2017



All Friendship Force Members and their Guests are invited to attend the Annual Friendship Force Annual Meeting and catered BBQ lunch.

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2017

Where: At the Windegger Shelter in Tilles Park, 9551 Litzinger Rd.

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch will be at 12:30 p.m. and will include Sugarfire BBQ: Brisket, Smoked Turkey, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, and Iced Tea. Dessert will be provided by members. **Cost for Lunch: \$10.00**

We will also:

- Elect new officers -
- Introduce new members -
- Hear about upcoming JOURNEYS to New Zealand, Cincinnati Super Conference, and Northern Colorado.

With hopes of good weather, beautiful leaves, “REFRESHMENTS” from food, new officers, and new members, this gathering offers an opportunity for every member and guest to learn more about each other as friends old or new, and Friendship Force International.

Meeting & Lunch Reservations: Please completely fill out the Reservation Form found on the end page of this Newsletter and mail the form with your check by the September 20th deadline.



**UPCOMING LEOs -
Let's Eat Out**

September: We will gather on Saturday, September 23rd at 10 a.m. for a tour of the **Asadorian Rug Company**, 8466 Natural Bridge Rd.,

63121. We are not going to just a "rug" store. This is a family owned business of fine Oriental, Persian, etc. area rugs from around the world. As you enter the store you will be delighted with the color and beauty of rugs to treasure and enhance your home. Surround yourself in your knowledge quest for an unusual piece. These rugs are of great intrinsic value and they may become heirlooms. See you there!

At 11:30 a.m., following the tour, we have a treat at **Woofie's Hot Dogs**, 1919 Woodlawn Rd, 63113. Please contact Char if you are coming: by phone or cebalettie@gmail.com

October: Theresa Abounader is planning the October LEO. Please hold the date: Wednesday, October 18th, 2017.

Please consider sponsoring a LEO. Several people have made suggestions. Charlotte would be happy to help others with their ideas. Call her if you have an interest or email her cebalettie@gmail.com.

**July's LEO at
Kamp's Orchard**



CURTIS COMMENTS

Reflections

As our Nominating Committee secures names for nominees to lead STL/FF for 2018, I pause to reflect upon four years of service: two years as VP Membership and now in the home stretch of two years as President.

It has been a Challenge. Writing many articles, doing presentations, making phone calls, sharing in all general meetings and LEOs, strategizing how best to serve the overall interests of our club, etc. While I have focused on re-building the infrastructure of our club through encouraging leaders and coordinating/communicating activities to our membership, some have been disappointed we have not had more Journeys. I respect that opinion and hope that the necessary Journey Co-coordinators that FFI requires will come forward.

It has been a Blessing. While there have been doubts along the way, I am totally convinced of the urgent need for FF's mission and purpose in our city, country and world. The unique approach of homestays and cultural exchanges offering friendships and building understanding and peace is an ultimate value as Friendship Force International reaches its 40th landmark anniversary. In a world saturated with wars, violence, meanness, hatred, lack of civil discourse and common decency, FF members can be a source of inspiration and steadfast goodwill to people of every color, gender and ethnic origin around our globe.

Thank you for this opportunity to be a small part of an ongoing history in serving a very worthwhile cause.

In Friendship,
David Curtis, President

Officers in 2017

David Curtis – President
Mary Lou Hudson – Vice President for Social Activities
Carol Kuntzman – Vice President for Membership
Jerry Johnson – Treasurer
Judy Leonard – Secretary

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Nominating Club Officers for 2018

Your Nominating Committee is gathering names for nominees to leadership positions for 2018: Nominees are needed for President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

We are very open to considering positions in a “co-” manner, with two members helping each other fulfill responsibilities.

Committee Chair: Sue Williams sjwillia43@att.net
Members:

Nancy Brower r_n_brower@sbcglobla.net
Barbara H. Robinson brobin313@aol.com
Ron Williams rwwillia@att.net

We know everyone is busy and most feel underqualified, but persons in the past who were willing to serve FF have found it rewarding.

If you know of persons you think might have good potential (**INCLUDING YOURSELF**) please pass along the names to any of the committee members in the next two weeks. Your input is needed and appreciated!



Friendship International Information

Headquarters is in Atlanta, Georgia

Website: www.thefriendshipforce.org

Office: 404-522-9490

Travel Insurance: All Ambassadors traveling with Friendship Force are required to have travel insurance. For U.S. travelers, the new FF preferred insurance provider is Nationwide, but of course you may choose any provider you wish. Check the FF website for more details.



One of our long-time members, Thomas Emil Widmer, died on August 6, 2017. Tom and his wife Mary were Club leaders in many ways. Tom served several times as an Exchange Director, as a home host, and participated in many Club activities. He was a warm, gentle, caring person. He is survived by Mary, two daughters, and a son. Memorial services were held on August 12 at Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood. Memorials in his name may be made to the local Alzheimer's Association or the Humane Society.



Photo by Nancy Brower

Membership Matters

Hello everyone, I am Carol Kuntzman VP of membership and I wanted to weigh in on the subject of our growing membership. As of this date we have 74 members – 48 individual memberships and 13 family memberships. I am totally thrilled at how many of our established members are getting the word out and bringing their friends into our club.

The free picnic/pool party held July 22nd, and the Party for new and potential members that was graciously held at Dory Lamont's home on August 12th were big successes. Thanks in a big part to Dory, Mary Lou Hudson and Ron Nagel, who really worked at bringing in guests. We have quite a few new members and several who are planning to join in the next week or so. We have had an unprecedented growth in 2017 with 22 new members.

I just want to say welcome to all the new members and welcome back to some of the more established members who are renewing their interest in becoming more active in our events. Welcome everyone. Let's show our continued interest and support by attending some of the interesting and delicious monthly LEOs that Charlotte Balettie is planning for us. See you then!

Bring the World into Your Home!

The Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) is looking for host families to provide housing for students from Asia and Europe for 5 to 10 months.

Help change a young person's life and make a dream come true. If interested please contact Celia Mullikin, teacher and Friendship Force member.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

NEW MEMBERS IN 2017

Alias, Susy	- susyaliasmd@yahoo.com
Beck, Jo	- mobecks@sbcglobal.net
Brislinger, Becky	- bbrislin@hotmail.com
Cook, Linda	- lindacook2529@yahoo.com
Goods, Yvette & Webb, Stan	- your_shield@yahoo.com
Grueneberg, Wanda	- wgrueneberg@juno.com
Jackson-Durity, Dorothy	- mstitty2003@yahoo.com
Jeske, Jim	- jim2119@msn.com
Lee, Ruth	- RLEE1314@gmail.com
MacConachie, Betty	- chirhmac@aol.com
Mahler, Monica	- mrmahler@yahoo.com.
Mechele, Lisa	- om4@aol.com
Mennell, Art	- artmenxxx@aol.com
Merrill, David	- cdavid1224@hotmail.com
Ohlendorf, Paul	- pohlendorf@charter.net
Shrum, Lynne	- leslessail@yahoo.com
Sobol, Paula	- Psobol07@aol.com
Sontag, Patti	- ljjpson@gmail.com
Sponemann, Frieda	- no email address
Tyrey, Laura	- lauratyrey@att.net

International Members:

We are so pleased to have 2 international members; may their numbers grow!

Concepio Gross invited a FF member to stay in her luxurious condo in Barcelona (Catalonia) Spain. "Conxita" then joined as full participant in our Las Vegas-Grand Canyon-Phoenix Journey at the beginning of this year. She keeps in touch with our FF happenings via newsletter and emails.

conxita.gross@hotmail.com +34 696-95 35

Pearl Ashitey is from Accra, Ghana, West Africa. She was a guest of Carol Kuntzman at the Summer Picnic and was popular right off, with a winning smile and pleasing personality. She also attended the New Member Party. She is an undergraduate student.

pashite@gmail.com +1 636-633-0562

UPDATE ON THE NEW ZEALAND OUTBOUND JOURNEY, 2018

The 21 day New Zealand Journey for **March 2 to March 24, 2018** has been researched thoroughly by Bonnie Hindelang and Jerry Wunderlich.

The estimated cost based on single occupancy is **\$7,645.00**. Trip cancellation insurance would cost an **additional \$568**. (highly recommended). The cost **DOES NOT INCLUDE** local host club fees.

Tentative Itinerary:

March 2: Flight from St. Louis, MO to Wellington or Auckland, NZ then to Gisborne; possible overnight to rest in Wellington/Auckland

March 4-8: Gisborne, NZ FF Club Home Stay: 5 nights

March 9-12: Rotorua (Maori Village and thermal springs) - Independent Club travel Matamata (Hobbiton Movie Set) - independent Club Travel

March 13: Fly from Rotorua to Nelson

March 13-18: Nelson, NZ FF Club Home Stay: 6 nights

Post Trip: Hire ground transportation to drive us to Nelson, NZ to Queenstown:

March 19: Greymouth/Punakaiki, Pancake rocks and overnight in Greymouth

March 20: Fox Glacier 1 overnight

March 21: Town with greenstones (Hokitika)

March 21-24: Queenstown (arrive early evening) and stay 3 nights

March 22: Milford Sound Nature Cruise

March 23: Day of sightseeing via charter coach

March 24: Fly/from Queenstown to Christchurch and the USA. Possible overnight in Christchurch

IMPORTANT NOTE

We need to know if there is enough interest in pursuing this further at this point. Members interested should send an email to Bonnie Hindelang at hindelang@gteccom by September 15.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING
MORE ABOUT FRIENDSHIP FORCE
ACTIVITIES BEYOND OUR ST. LOUIS
CLUB?**

IF SO, CONSIDER ATTENDING THE

FRIENDSHIP FORCE 2018
SUPER CONFERENCE

GREAT LAKES
MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST

APRIL 20-22, 2018
RADISSON HOTEL CINCINNATI RIVERFRONT
668 W. 5th Street
Covington, KY 41011

Please join the Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati for the Great Lakes 2018 Super Conference. Arrive at 2:00 pm on Friday for the "Executive Board" meeting and depart on Sunday at 11:00 am after the "Farewell Breakfast." The clubs of Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan are planning many special activities. Louisville and Dayton will have home hosting before and Cincinnati is planning home hosting after. Cincinnati was once called the "Queen City of the West." Come and see all the special attractions in both Cincinnati, Ohio and Covington, Kentucky.

**Friendship Force International
Celebrates Its ...**



In 1977 The Friendship Force was formed under the leadership of Rev. Wayne Smith and personally supported by then President, Jimmy Carter. His wife, Rosalynn, became honorary Chairperson because, she said "... it will promote peace in the world." Our Club in St. Louis was established in Florissant in 1979 and our first Exchange was to Guatemala in December of that year with 122 "ambassadors" on the trip.

Among Our Members

Special Congratulations to Don and Betty Johnston who will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on October 26th. Twenty-two family members gathered lakeside to honor them over the August 12th weekend.

As a part of their recent trip to Northern California, Sue and Ron Williams stopped off to visit members of the Sacramento Friendship Force, Marty McKnew and Chris Budwine, who stayed with the Williams' in May. Marty and Chris showed us their beautiful city, the state Capitol, the Crocker Art Gallery, and the Railroad Museum (a real gem). Getting to know FF folks in other parts of the USA and the world is one of the perks you get from hosting and being involved in exchanges. You never know when you might meet them again.

In September, Judy Leonard is going with a church group on a train trip to Hermann, MO for a tour of that historic community.

Doris Lamont and Doris Yohe are both attending high school reunions in September.

This summer Mary and Jerry Johnson spent 10 comfortably cool days visiting sites in Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec City.

**Remember Friendship Force:
Help Keep Us Going into the Future**

While our Club is not 501 (c)(3) certified, (FFI is so certified), we are a worthy organization to remember in WILLS, TRUSTS, BEQUESTS, CHARITABLE GIFTS.

Friendship Force has been a significant part of some members' lives. It's nice to be remembered. While we break even in budget most years, we are not in a financially endowed position to envision new, large projects which could contribute greatly to our outreach efforts. Help us strengthen our future; remember Friendship Force!

Club Newsletter News
Editor: Mary Johnson
mejohanson@mindspring.com
Mailing Preparation:
Ellen Kaye and Dick Augustine

August LEO at Arrow Rock, MO



July Pool Party at Carol Kuntzman's





**BBQ LUNCH RESERVATION FORM –
\$10 PER PERSON – DUE BY 9/20/17**

NAME OF MEMBER(S):

MEMBER(S) CONTACT INFORMATION:

PHONE OR EMAIL: _____

NAME(S) OF GUEST(S)

_____ I (WE) WILL BRING A DESSERT.
(CHECK IF YES)

_____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED

**MAKE YOUR CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$10 PER PERSON, PAYABLE TO
FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS,
AND MAIL BY SEPTEMBER 20 TO**

**JERRY JOHNSON
16068 ROSE WREATH LANE
FLORISSANT, MO 63034**

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 Club Treasurer:

Jerry Johnson

16068 Rose Wreath Lane

FLORISSANT MO 63034