

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

The Friendship Force of Missouri – St. Louis

www.friendshipforce-stlouis.org

March 2018

FFI MISSION STATEMENT: Friendship Force is a non-profit cultural organization focused on promoting understanding, cultural education and citizen diplomacy through homestay Journeys and personal friendships. We are based in more than 60 countries and in six continents, with 15,000 active members and over 300 Journeys taking place each year. Through these exciting personal encounters, strangers become friends – and we know that by experiencing different views, you can discover common ground. Our programs bring diverse people together into each other's cultures and homes to share one-of-a-kind experiences not available to regular tourists.



Club Members and Guests are invited to attend the Club's Annual International Dinner

Thursday, April 12

The Highlands Golf and Tennis Clubhouse
in Forest Park
5163 Clayton Avenue St. Louis, 63110

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Cocktails (cash bar) and social hour on
the patio overlooking the golf course.

6:30 p.m. – Plated dinner served. \$25.00

MENU

Garden salad and Seasonal Vegetables

Entrée Choice (request on reservation form):

Chicken Piccata and fingerling potatoes

or

Garlic and Herb Roasted Pork with Chef's Wild Rice

or

Vegetarian Plate

Tea, Coffee, Assorted Desserts

The Clubhouse is located near the Science Center.
There is parking right in front of the building.

This is an opportunity to wear your international attire.

The reservation form is found at the end of this newsletter. The deadline to reply is April 6.



March 24 (Saturday) – LEO starting at 10:15 a.m. at the Vin De Set greenhouse, followed by lunch at Vin De Set.

April 12 (Thursday) – International Dinner at the Highland Golf and Tennis Club in Forest Park – 5:30 p.m.

April 14 (Saturday) – Board Meeting – 10 a.m. at the Berkshire-Hathaway Building in Clayton.

April 20-22 (Fri. – Sun.) – Friendship Force Super Conference in Covington, KY (across the Ohio River from Cincinnati).

<http://friendshipforcetwincities.org/2018/02/12/2018-super-convention-in-cincinnati-oh-april-20-22-2018/>

June 9 (Saturday) – Board Meeting – 10 a.m. at the Berkshire-Hathaway Building in Clayton.



The next LEO is scheduled for March 24. We will have a tour led by Jeff Seibel at the experimental garden he is in charge of. The garden grows hydroponic and aeroponic

produce which are used at the next-door restaurant, Vin de Set, owned by Paul and Wendy Hamilton. The restaurant is located at 2017 Chateau Ave., St. Louis 63103. Phone 314-241-8989, www.vindeset.com.

We will meet at 10:15 a.m. at the greenhouse immediately west of Vin de Set on the same side of the street. Carpooling is encouraged. For those wanting to carpool, meet in the lot directly south of Macy's Galleria by 9:45 a.m.

After the tour we will enjoy lunch at Vin de Set. A "comfortable yet stylish French Bistro situated on the edge of downtown St. Louis in the quaint neighborhood of Lafayette Square. The menu is approachable, creative cuisine, using straightforward ingredients, much of which is grown in the restaurant's hydroponic greenhouse."

The maximum number we can accept on this tour is 20. RSVP to Judy Leonard (judy.leonard@charter.net) by March 19.

Also, please think of a LEO that you would like to organize. This year we plan on having FF members rotate the LEOs in which our Club will participate. Please call or email Mary Lou Hudson with your suggestions. mhudson1208@yahoo.com

"Friendship Force Focus"

**Send Your News for the
Club Newsletter to ...**

Editor: Mary Johnson
mejohanson@mindspring.com

Mailing Preparation:
Ellen Kaye and Dick Augustine
ekmurphy@aol.com

UPCOMING JOURNEY **NORTHERN COLORADO OUTBOUND** **JOURNEY IN 2018!**



Ingeborg Ucinski, 314-842-4169, is the Coordinator for this homestay Journey. Planning is underway and more details will be forthcoming. The Journey begins with our arrival on Wednesday, September 5 with departure on Monday, September 10. Ambassadors will arrange their own transportation to / from Colorado.

The Journey cost will be between \$250 and \$300 per person.

Their large Club hosts several Journeys each year. We will have an opportunity to visit a different Club city each day: Estes Park (Rocky MT National Park), Ft. Collins, Greeley, and Loveland.

Currently 23 of our members have expressed an interest in this Journey. The Northern Colorado Club coordinator originally indicated they were only able to host 20. However negotiation are ongoing so it is possible that those on the waiting list will be able to go. Final cost, program details, and homestay assignments are still being worked out.

Please plan to attend the International Dinner on April 12, by then more information will be available.

If you want to be added to the wait list, please call Ingeborg. And if you're already on the list please let Ingeborg know what kind of activities you'd like to do while on this Journey.



CLUB GOVERNANCE

Officers in 2018

The Board will act as a Council in 2018, with no President.

First Vice President: - **Charlotte Balettie** - Membership Coordinator cebalettie@gmail.com.

Second Vice President: **Mary Lou Hudson** – mhudson1208@yahoo.com - with Co-Chair **Dory Lamont** dorylamont@yahoo.com - Social Activities Coordinators.

Secretary: **Jerry Johnson** – jerryjohnson@mindspring.com

Treasurer: **Barbara H. Robinson** - brobin313@aol.com

The Board decided that the Club would be governed this year as a Council. Each Board officer will preside over one bi-monthly meeting and handle business items during the time between meetings. Each officer will have the opportunity to prepare the agenda and preside over a meeting. When issues or decisions arise that need additional information or input, the Board will reach out to the membership, or to our Club's Regional Representative, Dale More, or to Friendship Force International in Atlanta.

Board meetings have been scheduled for April 14, June 9, August 11, and October 13. There was also a meeting held on February 10. Meetings begin at 10 a.m.

All Board meetings are open to Club members and are held at the Berkshire-Hathaway Alliance offices, 8077 Maryland Ave., Clayton MO 63105. To get to the parking lot, from Maryland Ave. go north on Brentwood Ave. for one block and turn right on Westmoreland. Go about ½ block and turn right on Maryland Way, which is the entrance to the lot. Parking for Berkshire Hathaway is about half way up the lot and indicated by a reserved parking sign.

Friendship Force SUPER Conference April

At least one of our Club members, Art Mennell, is planning to attend this Super Conference in Covington KY in April. Covington is across the Ohio River from Cincinnati.

If you are interested in attending register through the link below or contact Char Balettie, Mary Lou Hudson, or David Curtis for further information. The conference room rates will be held until March 30.

<http://friendshipforcetwincities.org/2018/02/12/2018-super-convention-in-cincinnati-oh-april-20-22-2018/>

Three FF Regions are combining for the Super Conference to be hosted by the FF Club of Greater Cincinnati
APRIL 20-22, 2018
at the Radisson Hotel, Covington, KY

- * Adjacent to Mainstrasse Historic Preservation District
- * Free Parking for Guests
- * 5 minutes from I-75, 20 minutes from Airport
- * Relatively close to St Louis.

The Dayton OH and Louisville KY Clubs are providing homestays before the Conference. The Cincinnati Club is planning post-conference experiences.

Journeys Around the World

As a member of the St. Louis FF Club you are eligible to apply to join a Journey organized by any other FF Club. To see a list of upcoming Journeys go to <https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/journeys>

Membership Matters

From Char Balettie

Dear Fellow Members and Friends,

We need your help, we need your interest. Here are activities that need your attention. You can contribute by yourself or with another member.

Please choose an area of interest:

Suggest a venue for lunch or dinner – there are great places all over the St. Louis area. There are also many places to see in a day / as a day trip. Tell us about them. Let's Eat Out (LEOs) are a fun way to get together.

Our Social Activities team would appreciate your ideas for our Club meetings and entertainment. We know you have talents – can you share them with us at a meeting? Can you suggest a speaker or group for a Club meeting?

Do you have a favorite charity? We have worked together as members and donated time as well as funds for various charitable organizations. Tell us what we can do to help your charity.

We all travel. Tell us about your trip and what you found interesting and why. Be brief. You can do this in the newsletter or at a meeting. We want to hear from you.

PLEASE PARTICIPATE. WE NEED YOU!

Having said all that, I want to recognize a couple relatively new members.

Recently, Art Mennell stepped forward and volunteered to take the position as Club President. After talking with Art at the February Board meeting, the Board thanked him for volunteering, but decided that the role of President should be filled by someone more experienced with Friendship Force so that he or she would have a better idea of what would be expected in that position. Last summer Art also drove his 8 passenger van to Arrow Rock as part of the car pool for our LEO day trip.

Last fall, Theresa Abounader sponsored at LEO at her church, St. Raymond Maronite. It was a huge success. Thank you Theresa.

These members wanted to help our Club. We appreciate them and all of you who want to get more involved in Friendship Force.

I am anxious to brainstorm with you. Get in touch with me or come to our Board meetings and learn more about how you can participate in Club activities.

Thanks to everyone.

Char Balettie 314-0095
First Vice President - Membership

Death of former long-time Club Member, Joyce Berney



Before moving to Escondido California three years ago to be nearer to their daughter and family, Joyce and her husband Paul were very active members of our Friendship Force Club for quite a few years. Joyce died on February 12, 2018. Her ashes were interred in a military cemetery in California.

Jerry and Mary Johnson visited Paul and Joyce in November, 2017.

Paul's contact information is 3012 Bear Valley Pkwy S., #251, Escondido, CA 92025 - pberney@mail.win.org.

March 2018

Dear Friends:

Hello Everyone!

To maintain your membership in our Friendship Force Club you must support the Club financially through your dues. Membership is on a calendar year, January through December. Your membership includes a subscription to the Club newsletter, the right to participate in all Club activities and bring guests, and eligibility to join Journeys with our Club and other Clubs.

Your dues help pay for the Club's newsletter and other mailings, the Club's website, Club functions, per member dues each Club pays to Friendship Force International, and activities when we have an inbound Journey from another Club.

Please send your membership dues and the form found in the next column to:
Friendship Force of Missouri
c/o Barbara H. Robinson
3119 Autumn Trace Drive
Maryland Heights, MO 63043-4906

Make your check payable to The Friendship Force of Missouri – St. Louis. The dues for an Individual Membership are \$30 and a Family Membership is \$45.00/

Note: If you joined our Club anytime from September through December 2017 the dues you paid are valid for 2018.

In Warmest Friendship,
Char Balettie, First Vice President-Membership

2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER

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
Friendship Force of Missouri – St. Louis

Mail to:
Friendship Force of Missouri
c/o Barbara H. Robinson
3119 Autumn Trace Drive
Maryland Heights, MO 63043-4906



RESERVATION FORM

International Dinner – The Highlands Golf and Tennis Club in Forest Park April 12, 2018

Deadline for receipt of reservation is April 6.

NAME(S) _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____

PHONE / EMAIL _____

GUEST NAME(S) _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____

INDICATE EACH PERSON'S CHOICE OF ENTRÉE:

Chicken Piccata and fingerling potatoes #_____ x \$25

Garlic and Herb Roasted Pork with Chef's Wild Rice Blend #_____ x \$25

Vegetarian Plate #_____ x \$25

**MAKE CHECK FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO: -
FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF MISSOURI – ST. LOUIS**

**MAIL CHECK AND RESERVATION FORM TO: Friendship Force of Missouri
c/o Barbara H. Robinson
3119 Autumn Trace Drive
Maryland Heights, MO 63043-4906**