



Your President's Report By David Motherwell

Thank you, Peggy Olds, for sharing a summary of Art's Celebration of Life held on March 11th : Jerry Mueller, Margaret Schlinger, and Paul Ohlendorf joined Art's friends from other groups to share memories of travel, service projects, and good times over several decades of friendship. He was a longtime supporter of theater groups, the Wabash Frisco and Pacific Railroad, and Camp Penuel near Ironton. Our thanks to his good friend Marilyn Bohnsack for making the arrangements and inviting Art's pastor from Concord Trinity United Methodist to offer a prayer.



This month, Doris Yohe, Judy Neary, and I were hosted by the Lincoln, Nebraska club. They drove us to the central part of the state to view the annual sandhill crane migration. Each spring, these tall, gray-bodied, crimson-capped birds gather in Nebraska's Platte River Valley, taking a break from their migration north. The stopover draws about 80 percent of the world's population, turning the river's wetlands and nearby fields into one of North America's most remarkable wildlife spectacles. The shallow, braided channels of the Platte River are perfect for night roosting, while surrounding cornfields provide food. They group together in great numbers, filling the air with distinctive rolling cries. After resting and gaining weight, they continue north to their breeding grounds in Canada, Alaska, and Siberia. We viewed the cranes from camouflaged blinds early in the morning and in the evening when they settled down in the shallow riverbed. It was an unforgettable wildlife journey with other nature lovers.



According to Judy Young, the movie discussion of "Solo Mia" was well-attended. She reported that some members wanted to go to Italy after seeing this romantic comedy.

Thanks to Doris Yohe for organizing two LEOs this month. On March 6, six members toured the First Missouri State Capitol Historic Site in St. Charles. This Federal-style brick complex served as the state capitol between 1821 and 1826, while a permanent capitol was being planned and developed in Jefferson City. Its rough-hewn timbers and dark wood floors whispered tales of the first legislature. Our excellent guide provided many interesting facts about frontier life in the early 1800s. Following the tour, we ate lunch at the Lewis & Clark Restaurant.

On March 27, nine members toured the National Museum of Transportation. Founded in 1944, it restores, preserves, and displays a wide variety of vehicles spanning 15 decades of American history: cars, boats, aircraft, and in particular, locomotives and railroad equipment from around the United States. The museum has its own railway spur to an active main line formerly owned by the Missouri Pacific Railroad. This has allowed the museum to take possession of large and unusual pieces of railroad equipment. The indoor museum has many unique cars, including an award-winning solar car that was built by the science department at Principia College.

The most impressive is Bobby Darrin's winged car. The custom-bodied, tail-finned, bubble-topped, diamond-painted, aluminum-bodied, aluminum-chassised, big-block-powered metallic red dreamboat was purchased by Bobby Darin in 1960. The car featured period-rare adornments like air conditioning, rain-sensing windshield wipers tucked away from the windows, retracting headlights behind thin metal slats, swiveling indicators, floating front and rear bumpers gleaming with layers of chrome. Each passenger seat received independent air conditioning, a cigarette lighter and ashtray, and a radio speaker that constantly played his first hit song "Splish Splash." We shared our own memories of that era when we were teenagers. In 1961, Darin paid \$150,000 for the car, a price high enough to set a Guinness World Record. In today's money, that would be equivalent to \$1.2 million—a hefty price for hedonistic supercar. He drove it with his wife Sandra Dee to the Academy Awards. In 1970, Darrin donated the car to the St. Louis Museum of Transportation, because he was impressed by how its vehicles were maintained.



Schedule for future book discussions are as follows:

April 21 – “Turning Right at Machu Picchu-Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time” by Mark Adams. This bestselling travel memoir is about an unadventurous writer retracing Hiram Bingham's 1911 expedition to the lost city, blending history, adventure, and humor

May 19 – “The Fifties” by David Halbertstam. This 731-page bestseller is a comprehensive history of post-war America, exploring the decade's cultural, political, and social transformations through profiles of key figures and trends.

Lincoln, Nebraska to St. Louis Inbound Journey Planning

On **April 9**, our board will meet to start planning for the Inbound Journey of the Lincoln, Nebraska club on October 25-29. As the Inbound Coordinator, I will need a lot of help in making this a successful journey. There is an urgent need for anyone with graphic skills on the computer. Any assistance as day or night hosts will also be appreciated. You can reach me at my cell 314-561-0111 or email Dmothe5626@aol.com.

From Dory Lamont - Upcoming St. Louis to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul Outbound Journey

*Who is ready for a wonderful journey to the **Twin Cities** in August? Our friends there look forward to welcoming us to their beautiful area **August 24-29**. (And since the renowned Minnesota state fair is going on at that time you might want to add a day pre/post trip for a day at the fair.) Applications are open and may be submitted online, or contact Dory Lamont (314-600-5669) for a paper application.*

From Doris Yohe, Social Committee VP

International Luncheon

The **International Luncheon** will be on **May 8th** at **Pan D'Olive**, 1603 McCausland, 63117 at 11:30 am. We will order from a menu which offers Insalata: salad, soup, or appetizers, Entree: chicken, salmon, grilled kofte, and meat cannelloni, and Dessert: hazelnut tiramisu or limoncello tiramisu. The cost is **\$29.00**. There will be a 50/50 raffle. Please send your **check to our Treasurer, Maria Carson**, 15957 Fox Trotter Court, Ballwin, Mo 63021.

LEO FOR APRIL

On Thursday, **April 23rd at 10:00 AM** we will visit the **St. Louis University Museum of Art**, 3663 Lindell Blvd, and then the **Samuel Cupples House**, located across Lindell Blvd in the St. Louis University campus at 3663 Lindell Blvd at **10:00 AM**.

The St. Louis University Museum of Art showcases a diverse collection of art and artifacts from around the world. The building was completed in 1900 and was originally the ST. Louis Club, which was founded in 1878. Many US presidents visited this building as well as Prince Henry of Prussia. After a fire in 1925 it was bought by F.W. Woolworth Company to be used for offices and in 1992 bought by St. Louis University. It is a designated historic landmark by the City of St. Louis.

The Samuel Cupples House and stables were completed in 1890. There are 42 rooms and 22 fireplaces. The story of Samuel Cupples is very interesting. He was born in 1831, the son of Irish immigrants. He left home at the age of 15 and had very little formal education. He moved to Cincinnati, Ohio then to St. Louis where he started a business distributing wooden utensils. He and his wife were major benefactors of Methodist related charities, including the St. Louis Provident Association, which helped establish Barnes Hospital and Washington University. When he died in 1912 his estate was valued at \$1.5 million, which did not include his gift of \$2.5 million to Washington University and other gifts totaling \$5 million.

It is easiest to park on Lindell Blvd on the street near the Museum. After touring the Museum, we will cross Lindell and go to the Couples House. I called several times to arrange a tour at both places but no one returned my call, so we will not have a guided tour.

After the tours, we will have **lunch** at **The Fountain on Locust**, 3037 Locust Street, St. Louis, 63103. They offer classic American food, specialty ice cream drinks, and art deco murals. This restaurant DID NOT CLOSE; the branch on Delmar did close after being damaged during the May 16th tornado.

Please call or text Doris Yohe, at 314-805-8932 if you are interested in attending this event.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Mark your calendars. The Picnic will be held on **Wednesday, July 8th** at noon at **Vlasis Park**, Ballwin (same location as last year). More detail to follow soon.

From Judy Young, Movie Group

For the **Movie Group**, the movie pick is "**A Great Awakening**", on **Wednesday, April 15th**, at **4:30 pm** at the home of Susy Alias. *A Great Awakening* is an upcoming American historical drama film directed and written by Joshua Enck. The film follows the friendship between George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin, and Whitefield's impact during the pivotal Great Awakening religious movement. The film has received positive attention for its portrayal of the first Great Awakening and its influence on American history.

As always, after you have seen the movie, bring a dish to share another lively discussion. Please call/text Judy Young at her cell at 636-634-1458 if you plan to attend.

From Judy Cagle, VP of Membership

Membership Committee Formation

*We really need to grow our club, so I would like to create a Membership Committee to brainstorm ideas on how to promote the club and find new members. There may be other opportunities this summer to set up a table or have some events at the local library. Please let me know if you would be interested in joining the committee. Please call or text me, **Judy Cagle, at 314-304-5644***

Instructions on how to receive this and future messages from Friendship Force International (World Headquarters)

Now that you have set up an ID and Password when you renewed online and become familiar with the My Friendship Force Platform (<https://my.friendshipforce.org>), you can explore the site.

To ensure that you receive all the correspondence, you will need to make sure that you have the correct Communication Preference on in your **profile**:

- GO to My.friendshipforce.org
- Logon with email and password
- Upper Right click on picture and choose **My Profile**
- Edit Communication Preference
- Verify that Newsletter is toggled On

If you have been receiving correspondence with the incorrect eastern time instead of the **correct central time**, you can also resolve the issue by going to your **profile**:

- GO to My.friendshipforce.org
- Logon with email and password
- Upper Right click on picture and choose My Profile
- Edit my Profile
- Go down to and Chose Time Zone
- Select (GMT-05:00) Central Daylight Time (America/Chicago)
- UPDATE

Access to the website gives club members important information regarding the Friendship Force including:

1. A safe and secure place to learn more about Friendship Force International;
2. A listing and information about other clubs;
3. All upcoming journeys;
4. Virtual programs and
5. A place to engage with the global Friendship Force network beyond your local club.

If you have issues with renewing or getting online, please call Judy Cagle at 314-304-5644 or Maria Carson at 314-401-4034