



Our President's Report By David Motherwell

On **August 12**, seven members and one guest gathered in the spacious home of Suzy Alias for a potluck dinner and discussion of the movie "Odyssey." In this film, Christopher Nolan captures the full scope of Homer's epic poem, including the lineup of mystical creatures and figures that Odysseus and his men encounter along the way. However, the movie is more than just a mystical and supernatural journey from war-torn Troy back to the Greek city of Ithaca. It is a powerful story with many deeper layers of subtext. The common theme is "Zeus' Law, a governing force in Greek mythology that determines fates at key intervals. The "law" is based on Zeus' status as the god of hospitality, in addition to the god of thunder and king of the gods. It is based on the real-life Greek concept of *xenia*, which held that a host had to treat guests with complete respect and care, since you never know if the lowliest beggar is actually Zeus or another god in disguise. In modern times, it would be the Golden Rule. Breaking Zeus' Law was considered to be an insult to the gods punishable by karmic retribution. Zeus punishes Odysseus when his crew eats the Cattle of the sun god Helios. He also allows Athena to help Odysseus and allows Poseidon to hurt him.

The qualities of cunning, disguise, and self-restraint are also closely related in "The Odyssey." Penelope, the wife of Odysseus, is renowned for her unwavering fidelity during his long absence, which lasted twenty years. Her character embodies the virtues of patience and fidelity, making her one of the most admired figures in the Odyssey.

In August, six members traveled to Minneapolis-St. Paul, for a memorable journey with very accommodating hosts showing us around the Twin Cities area. Dory Lamont did an outstanding job as the Outbound Coordinator. Highlights included touring the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the St. Paul Capitol, the St. Paul Cathedral, a sightseeing cruise on the Mississippi River, the Mill City Museum, and the Minnesota State Fair. The Minnesota State Fair, also known by its slogan "The Great Minnesota Get-Together", is the largest state fair in the United States by average daily attendance. The 322-acre fairgrounds are renowned for its park-like setting, beautiful gardens and architecture reflecting the art deco and Works Progress Administration eras. Minnesotans come to the fair to be entertained, exhibit their best livestock, show off their abilities in a variety of activities including art and cooking, learn about new products and services, and eat many different types of food, including cheese curds, corn fritters, and slices of chocolate-covered bacon called "Pig Lickers." The fair's mascots are two anthropomorphized gophers. The choice of gophers is an homage to the University of Minnesota mascot, which was originally an historical reference to the expansion of railroads in Minnesota, with towns popping up across the state like gophers. We were all very impressed by this state fair and its extensive exhibits. One of the most fascinating was by a sculptor who carved twelve 90-pound blocks of butter to resemble Princess Kay of the Milky Way and her court.

Schedule for next book discussion:

September 21- At this meeting, we will have a group discussion about one of our favorite books. Everyone is encouraged to participate and share what you like in a particular book.

Social Committee Chairperson for 2027

We still **urgently** need a volunteer to serve as Chairperson of the Activities/Social Committee. If interested, please contact me, David Motherwell, at 314-561-0111 or dmothe5626@aol.com.



From Doris Yohe, Social Committee VP

On **August 22**, five members met for an enjoyable lunch at the restaurant, The Train Shed at Union Station. After lunch, the group went on to visit the St. Louis Aquarium, also at Union Station.

LEO FOR SEPTEMBER

On **September 19th**, we will meet for lunch at **12 noon** at the **Blue Owl Restaurant** at 1 Main Street, Kimmswick, Missouri 63053. Afterwards, for anyone interested, we will be going to the Anheuser Estate and Museum located at 6000 Windsor Harbor Ln, Kimmswick (Imperial), MO 63052. Admission is \$10.00 per person. Tours are not available this time of year.

If you would like to go, please **text or email Doris Yohe, 314-805-8932 or dorisyoye@gmail.com**.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The Holiday Luncheon is to be held at **Bartolino's South**. Detail to follow in future newsletters.

From Judy Young, Movie Group

The Movie Group will **not** meet in September due to the lack of a suitable movie available.

From Judy Cagle, VP of Membership

A membership committee has been formed to explore ways to recruit new members and has met via Zoom to share ideas.

The Atlanta team is developing a pilot program and has provided a toolkit that includes a phone script, newsletter, sign-up sheets, and other resources. A brochure package is also in development.

We encourage all members to actively promote our club. To join the committee or just share questions or ideas, please contact Judy Cagle at 314-304-5644.

About Friendship Force International

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 provides club members valuable information about 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