



# Newsletter

friendship force  
GREATER CINCINNATI

February, 2020

*"encouraging all people to share in international friendships  
and global understanding"*

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 8, 6:00PM  
Pot Luck Dinner Meeting,  
First Unitarian Church,  
536 Linton, Cincinnati.  
Bring a dish to share.  
Drinks and table service  
will be provided. No need  
to RSVP! Program: Sou-  
venirs

March 29—April 12  
Saitama Japan Outbound  
Journey

Tuesday, April 7, 2:30PM,  
Hyde Park Library, Board  
Meeting

April 18-25 Ukraine Open  
World Delegation here

April 24 6:00 PM, Farewell  
Potluck for our guests  
from The Ukraine, St.  
Paul`s Episcopal, 7 Court  
Place, Newport. Bring a  
dish to share.

## Club Meeting March 8

The next meeting of our club will be a Pot Luck Dinner on Sunday, March 8, 6:00 PM at First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton, Cincinnati. We will begin with a social hour, followed by dinner at 6:30. Following dinner, Bobbie Tureen, our Program Chair, has a fun program planned for us, based on **souvenirs!**

What are souvenirs to you? Memories, sentiments, or the re-living of a unique experience? No matter the size of our suitcase, we travelers can't help but bring a little something back from the places we visit. Maybe your charm bracelet has a miniature Eiffel tower, a pyramid, or a pair of Dutch clogs. Do you frame photographs or buy artwork for your walls? T-shirts any one?

"Souvenirs" will be the topic for our next Friendship Force gathering. Let's each bring a special little something from a place we've visited. Be ready to share with others what its significance and meaning is for you.

You also have a choice, if you would like, to bring one of those "White Elephant" souvenirs for an exchange. You know the ones.....they were neat elsewhere but just don't translate well into your every day life stateside. We think, "Surely there must be SOMEONE who would like to have this.." Here's your big chance!

**NOTE:** We have just received word that we may have to change the location of this meeting. You will receive an email verifying the location of the meeting at the beginning of March.



# ***Reflections from our President***

Zdras VOY ta! That's how you say "hello" in Ukrainian.

From April 18 to April 25, Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati will host our first ever **Open World** program. Five delegates, an interpreter and a facilitator from Ukraine will arrive at CVG from Washington, DC, where they will have spent two days getting acclimated to the US and checking out our nation's capital.

Recently, Mimi Gingold, Janet Walsh and I participated in a webinar with Britton Holmes, our Friendship Force International contact, and several representatives from other US clubs who will be hosting Open World programs in their cities.

Following are some of the things we learned, as well as information that is specific to our club.

## **What is Open World?**

Open World is a program sponsored and funded by The Open World Leadership Center, an independent government agency of the US government. It has been in operation for over 30 years, and there are over 29,000 alumni of the program. 8,300 US host families have participated as well.

## **What is the purpose of Open World?**

The purpose of the Open World program is to bring emerging leaders from mostly Eurasian countries to expose them to American-style democracy and governance. Open World delegations are organized around a theme. The theme may be health, education, or the environment, for example. The theme of our delegation is judiciary. Our delegation will be comprised of court administrators of the High Anti-Corruption Court in Ukraine. They will be able to share their expertise in a reciprocal manner with Greater Cincinnatians involved in jurisprudence and government.

## **How does an Open World program differ from our regular club-to-club exchanges?**

Open World programs are much more focused on a theme. Al Gerhardstein is working with other club members to plan a program that may include courtroom visits as well as visits to witness rooms and juror rooms. The delegates may meet with judges, attorneys, journalists, a mayor, a city manager, and others to help them understand such issues as protection of juror identities, support of witnesses, and legal ethics. The delegates will be busy and away from their hosts from around 9 to 5 each weekday.

Will the delegates have any time for fun?

# President's Message Cont'd

## Will the delegates have any time for fun?

Sure! On Saturday, April 18, there will be a welcome dinner for the delegates and their hosts (Al Gerhardstein and Mimi Gingold, Kay Atkins, MaryCarol Hopkins, Dale and Kathy Elifrits, Chuck and Alice Schneider, and Jerry and Marianne Mundy). On Sunday, April 19 there will be a trip to the Underground Railroad Freedom Center and other significant local sites. Wednesday, April 22 will be a shopping night at Rookwood Commons. On April 25, there will be a farewell potluck dinner to which the whole club is invited. And if that's not enough, the hosts may fit in some evening activities with their guests.

## How can I help?

- We will need a van driver on Friday, April 24 to transport the delegates to their various appointments, and possibly to pick up lunch. (Many thanks to Phil Schmidt who will be driving Monday through Thursday.)
- We will need two or three volunteers to prepare food for the welcome dinner for hosts and delegates at Al and Mimi's house.
- We will need folks to set up and clean up for the farewell dinner at St. Paul's Episcopal, Newport, on April 24.

If you can help, please contact Mimi Gingold at [mimigingold@gmail.com](mailto:mimigingold@gmail.com).

For this program, we are very grateful to Janet Walsh, who will be handling publicity, and to Mimi Gingold and Al Gerhardstein who will be organizing the

entire program. We are lucky to have so many talented people in our club!

Katie Campbell,  
Club President



# Travel and Hosting Opportunities

'Ukraine' and 'Corruption' These two words have dominated our news for several months. In April, through Open World, our club will have the privilege of hosting 5 visitors from the court system in **Ukraine** who are working on developing an anti-corruption court system in the Ukraine. One of our members, Mimi Gingold, and her husband Al Gerhardstein have planned a week of court experiences for guests that center on anti-corruption and civil rights issues. Al is a partner in a [well known Ohio law firm](#) that is committed to using the law to help those on the margins of power. Ted Miller, a new member of our club, will also be involved in the program. Ted is an attorney who works for the Kentucky Supreme Court. You can participate in a number of ways; please check out Katie's message on pages 2 and 3 for a list of opportunities.



It was earlier announced that the club from Christ Church, New Zealand would be visiting us in June of this year. However, that club has had to cancel the Journey. Friendship Force International asked if we could instead host the clubs from **Krasnodar, Russia and Krasnogorsk, Russia**. Our board unanimously voted to extend an invitation to the two Russian clubs. Susan Richardson has been chosen to be the Host Journey Coordinator. She has been working with the clubs and with FFI to set a date for the Journey. At this point we know that the Russian clubs also plan to visit the club in Dayton, OH and that they hope to come at the end of June. They are working on securing VISAs, but that process is very slow and we cannot be assured that they will all be able to receive VISAs. We will continue to move forward with the planning and keep you informed of any progress!



Due to a cancellation, we have one opening on our **Journey to Japan** March 29—April 12. You can find out more information on our website: <http://www.friendshipforcecincinnati.org/outbound-journeys.html> Contact Rella Hadley as soon as possible if you are interested: [rella.hadley@gmail.com](mailto:rella.hadley@gmail.com) or 513 702-0288

Don't forget, you can go to the US eFlyer at <https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/journeys-and-eflyers/> to learn of opportunities to travel with other US clubs that are looking for people to join in their planned Journeys.

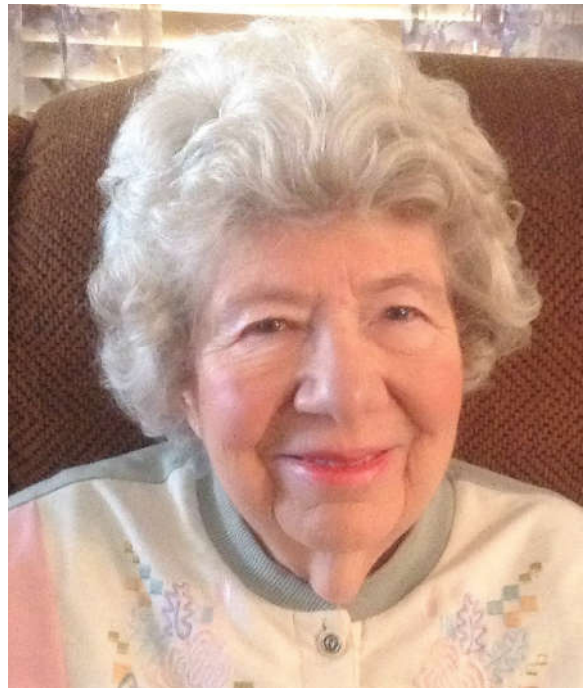
Or go to <https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/journeys/> to learn of Global Journeys or other Friendship Force opportunities

## Getting to Know You!

**Newish Members:** Please email a photo of yourself to Sonia Derge at [sbderge@twc.com](mailto:sbderge@twc.com). We can crop the picture, so don't worry if there are other people in the picture. You can also send the picture from your phone to Sue Schmidt at 859 322-5690. We will use the photos in this 'Getting to Know You' column, in our annual membership book, and in Journey books when you either travel or serve as a home host.

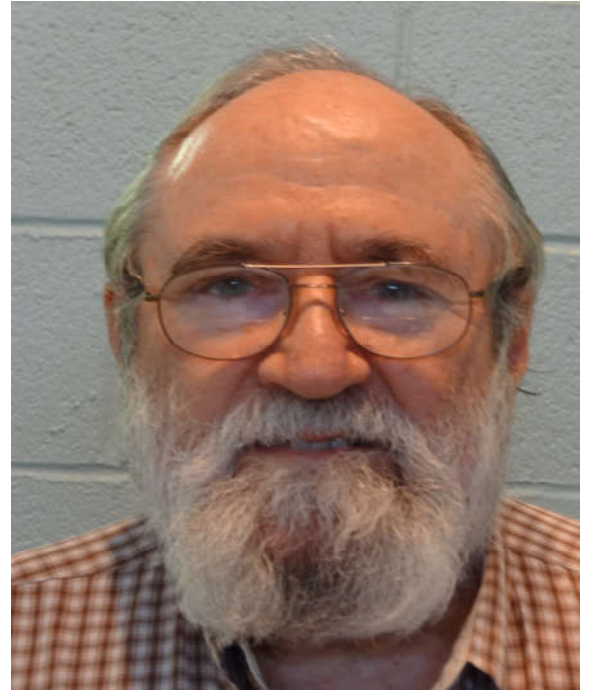
This column is written in the interest of helping each of us to learn more about the other members of our club. Meet:

**Mary Powell** is a Hoosier through and through, having grown up there and currently living in Judson Indiana. She is also one of our many educators having taught middle school math for 23 years. She and her husband raised seven children and she is a grandmother to fourteen. Her last child was born in what was a very eventful year for her. She was getting her master's degree from Purdue while she was also working and of course caring for and/or chasing the other six. She is one of the fortunate ones among us as her children live within driving distance for her. Mary has been a widow since 2004, but has continued on with a very active life. She has done volunteer work with her church, in a near-by nursing home, for St Vincent de Paul, and for CASA as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. She has traveled with family members to Europe and with Friendship Force to England, Germany, Costa Rica and Mexico. When asked for a favorite memory of her travels she said, "My favorite thing is always what I'm doing right now." May we all be blessed with that attitude.

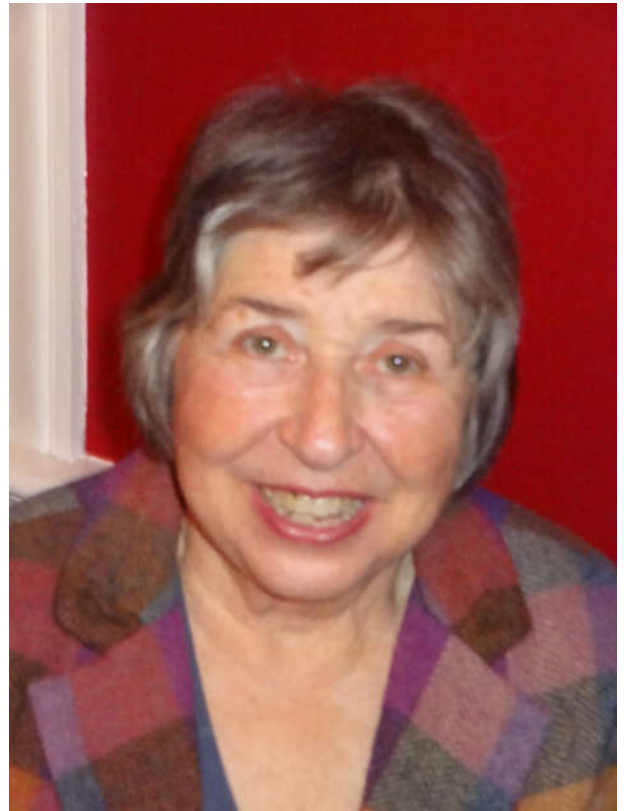


## Getting to Know You Cont'd

**Warren Sublette** grew up in Michigan and is also a multi-career person. He attended the University of Michigan, majoring in Industrial Engineering. He was an engineer at General Motors for 13 years before he decided to change his career and become a winemaker here in Ohio. He relocated to Clarksville first and finally to Cincinnati where he now lives in Walnut Hills. There were many other stops along the way as he became an Oracle data base consultant after he retired from winemaking. He traveled worldwide in this vocation, leading what he called a gypsy-like existence during this period; he now claims to no longer know the six languages he was once able to survive in. As your scribe was the most impressed with his Indonesian, she is citing only that one. When you see him at the meetings, you can chat with him about the others.



**Sandra Small** hails from Lakewood, a suburb of Cleveland; she now lives in Covington. She is a widow with one child, two grandchildren. She is another one of our educators, earning her Doctorate of Education at UC. She was a university professor, teaching Psychology, Problem Solving and Montessori Child Development. She later fulfilled one of her goals - being paid to travel - by teaching Communications and Problem solving on military bases at American schools in Europe where she has traveled extensively. She is quite a traveler, and one who often has taken off alone, with only her first night's lodging reserved and no set itinerary. Once, this led to her being lost at the gate of a military installation in Germany when she was to teach there. She asked the sentry if she could just park outside of the facility and sleep in her rental car. Answer: no. One of the other soldiers kindly led her to a hotel in a nearby town, where her room without a lock was often mistaken during the night by strange men wanting to use the bathroom. She taught Montessori in Korea five times, and has visited China, Thailand and Tibet. Fun fact: After she and her husband had retired, they lived on an Indian Reservation between Albuquerque and Santa Fe for eight years.



# Getting to Know You Cont'd

**Nikki Orlemann** lives in College Hill in the condo complex that is a popular place with several other members. She is a Cincinnati native, being from the area known as Sedamsville now. She is a 1966 graduate of UC College of Design, Art and Architecture with a B.S. in Advertising Design. She left Cincinnati and went to Hartford Connecticut when her first husband was transferred there. Nikki worked in an in-house art department at P&G and then moved to GE Aircraft Engine Business Group. She resigned her GE position in 1987 to relocate to Japan with her second husband. While living in Japan, she studied Japanese for the 3 years she lived there. Her son, Tom Barker, lives in Brooklyn with his wife of 14 years.

Creating brayer (a French word for roller) paintings has been a large part of her life. Though her art work has at times had to take a back seat to family responsibilities, she has exhibited at many venues here in Cincinnati. She is the Past President and also Newsletter Chair of the Pendleton Art Center and maintained a studio for six years. From 1991 until 1994, she was active with the Art Bank Gallery, a group of ten local artists who cooperated with all aspects of a gallery on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Cincinnati. She is still a very active woman



with

many current interests. Here are two of them: teaching a Tender Yoga class once a week, and considering how sustainability might be applied to condo living. Fun fact: Her journey with Friendship Force to the Lower Columbia Club in Washington was not her first trip to the area. She was near Mt. Saint Helen's on May 18, 1980, the day it blew.

## Bits of News

- We wish speedy recoveries to Judy Hornsby, who is recovering from hip surgery and Jane Kay who is recovering from knee surgery
- We celebrate with Lori Farmer on the birth of her first grandchild, Elizabeth Eileen Low (Libby), who was born to Lori's daughter Mackenzie and son-in-law Aron., on Feb. 11. Lori will be babysitting full time for Libby for 6 months to help give her a good start on life!
- Joe Hadley will have surgery for bladder cancer on March 6 at Bethesda North Hospital. He and Rella ask for your prayers.
- The Covington Neighborhood Association may have gone bankrupt, but Sonia Derge is still making costumes for the annual Covington Mardi Gras Parade, Saturday, February 22, 8PM, Mainstrasse.



**Have news to share?** Contact Sonia Derge at [sbderge@twc.com](mailto:sbderge@twc.com)

# Gathering at the Holocaust and Humanities Center

On Sunday, February 9, our club gathered for lunch at the Cincinnati Museum Center in Union Terminal and then went for a tour of the Holocaust and Humanities Center. Mimi Gingold led us on a wonderful tour of the Center, where we learned about the many Cincinnatians who either escaped or endured the Holocaust and then made their way to Cincinnati. The display in the terminal encouraged us all to think of ways we can stand up for those facing injustice.



We did have a short break outside in the cold while the fire dept addressed smoke in the Maintenance Room.



# FF Super Regional Conference

Friendship Force clubs in the United States are assigned to 'Regions' within the US. We are in the Great Lakes Region, along with the clubs from Dayton, Western Michigan, Northeast Ohio, Greater Lansing, Detroit, Western Kentucky, and Louisville. This fall, the Minnesota-Twin Lakes club will be hosting a **Super Regional Conference** for clubs in the Great Lakes, Midwest, and Southwest Regions. The Conference will be **Sept. 18-20** at an Embassy Suites hotel in Minneapolis. Early registration cost is \$175 and registration begins March 1. For more information, check out the website: <https://friendshipforcetwincities.org/> Everyone in our club is invited to attend!!!

The Regional Super Conference will have plenary group sessions presented by Friendship Force International staff and others, and a host of small group workshops on various topics. Members of our club will be presenting two of the sessions. The first will be a session that is focused on strategies for growing clubs that are stagnant, and the other will be an information session about Open World programs and their tie-in to Friendship Force. There will also be plenty of opportunities to meet with Friendship Force members from other clubs in these regions. Through networking at meetings like this, we learn of clubs that we might want to invite to visit with us, or they might invite us to come and visit with their club! If you are thinking of attending, please contact Katie Campbell ([Katie725campbell@gmail.com](mailto:Katie725campbell@gmail.com)) and let her know.



Don't forget that you can always check our website for information about upcoming events or to look for documents you need: [www.friendshipforcecincinnati.org](http://www.friendshipforcecincinnati.org)