FRIENDSHIP FORCE

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

Upcoming Events

July 10 @ 6:00 p.m.

Annual membership picnic at the Stone Shelter in Devou Park

Sept 17 - 25

Hosting students from the ALEX program

Sept 28 - Oct 5

Outbound journey to Utah

From Our Co-Presidents

Ambassadors, Hosts and the Power of Friendship

In 1842, Charles Dickens, remarking on visiting the United States, said: "Cincinnati is a beautiful city: cheerful, thriving and animated. I have not often seen a place that commends itself so favorably and pleasantly to a stranger at first glance as this does."

Judging by the responses of our recent ambassadors from Central North Carolina, the Queen City's charm hasn't waned over the past 180 years. One of the visitors made a special point of personally thanking Pat, expressing how impressed they all were with our city, the fascinating activities planned for their delegation, and the warmth and friendliness of their home hosts, volunteers, and all the club members they met during their stay.

Prior to this visit, not since FFGC hosted ambassadors from Piracicaba, Brazil in 2019 did we have the opportunity to share our lovely city and hospitality with "strangers" who, over the course of their stay, became friends. It's the essence of Friendship Force, and it felt good! Thanks to our superb coordinator Rella Hadley and everyone who contributed to this highly successful experience.

With Covid 19 hopefully entering a more manageable phase, we can look forward to more such exchanges, including hosting an international group of young people in the ALEX program from September 17-25 and an outbound trip to Utah September 28-October 3. (See Katie Campbell's story on the ALEX experience, and please consider becoming a host.)

Recently, we received official word from Friendship Force International that two journeys canceled because of the pandemic – outbound to Saitama, Japan and inbound from Lower Columbia, Washington – have been approved for 2023. It's a welcome development and a long time coming.

Upcoming Journeys

National Capital Area, USA to Pikes Peak, USA
Journey #22808
July 10 - 17, 2022

Central Virginia to Krems, Austria
Journey #22749
September 7 - September 14, 2022

In the meantime, be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, July 10, at 6 p.m., when we will gather at Stone Shelter in Devou Park in Covington, KY, for our annual picnic, sure to be a summer highlight!

In Friendship,

Pat Lehman & Janet Walsh

Greater Cincinnati Friendship Force to host ALEX students in September

From September 17 through 25, GCFF will host ten to twelve 17- to 19-year-olds through ALEX, a program of the U.S. State Department. The young people will have passed a rigorous vetting process, will know English and will be vaccinated for COVID. After spending a week in Washington, D. C., they will come to Cincinnati to live with Cincinnatians and participate in a week's worth of activities focusing on the environment. They will meet and volunteer with other young people, students at Winton Woods High School. We are seeking home hosts for these students.

Top Ten Reasons Why You Should Host an ALEX Student:

1. You probably don't know anyone from Saudi Arabia, Cameroon, Jordan or Suriname. Here's your chance to meet a new friend!

2. Young people have a refreshing outlook on life and are fun to be around!

3. You are a kind and generous person, and you joined Friendship Force so you could share your time, talents—and your home—with others.

4. You would be an excellent example of American culture for a young person who wanted to learn about our country; besides, hosting an ALEX student is a chance for you to give back to your country.

5. Have you travelled with Friendship Force in the past? Then you know that home hosting is a unique and wonderful way to experience another part of the world and its people.
6. Do you hope to travel with Friendship Force in the future? We can't exist as a club if we can't find enough home hosts. If we don't exist, we can't travel.
7. Past home hosts have priority for selection for a seat on future trips.
8. You think it's interesting to shake up your routine once in a while; you think hosting an ALEX student would be an excellent way to broaden your horizons.
9. Connie Taggart; Janet and Dan Schneider; Karen and Rick Lipscomb; Pat and Burk Lehman; Jim and MaryEllen Millar; Mimi Gingold and Al Gerhardstein; and Katie Campbell and Ray Sinclair are all hosting, and they would love your company.
10. Your club needs you!

Questions? Please contact Katie Campbell at 513-600-1343 or Mimi Gingold at 513-659-5260.

Journey Updates

Outbound Journey to Salt Lake City Utah

Our Friendship Force Club will visit the FF Club of Salt Lake City, Utah beginning September 28 through October 5, 2022. Mark Bowers and Nick Sakelos are the Ambassador Coordinators for this Journey. We are still waiting on a definitive total for the allowable number they can host. Currently the spaces have been filled, but if you are interested in going, please request you be added to the waiting list by emailing chefmarkbowers@gmail.com or nick@hrprofile.com in case the numbers change.

Central North Carolina Incoming Journey May 15 – 20, 2022

Please see Rella's report attached.

Other Chapter Activities

Cincinnati Reuse and Recycle Hub

On Wednesday, April 20th, 17 Friendship Force members took a tour of the Cincinnati Reuse and Recycling Hub. The "Hub" is a newer initiative, formed during COVID through the merger of several smaller local initiatives. They collect hundreds of items that Rumpke Recycling does not. We learned that many people put items into their Rumpke bins that Rumpke can't accept and must sort out and send to the landfill. The "Hub" takes much for free but there is a charge for certain items. They operate mainly through the efforts of volunteers, grants and donations. It seeks to keep as much as possible out of landfills and when possible put into the hands of others who can make use of it.

The "Hub" is located at 911 Evans St. in the Queensgate area and is open for drop offs Thursday 12-6pm and Saturday 10 am- 2 pm. The website gives more details on the kinds of items accepted. https://www.cincinnatirecyclingandreusehub.org

If you didn't have a chance to visit with our group, consider taking a few items during drop off and see what it's all about.

Of course no Friendship Force event is complete without food. After our tour we gathered at the nearby Incline Public House for lunch and conversation.

American Sign Museum

On 2-22-22 there were 22 Greater Cincinnati Friendship Force members who gathered at the American Sign Museum. We were treated to an interesting and entertaining tour by staff member Jesse. Following the tour we enjoyed our bag lunches, desserts and fellowship in the Museum's event room.

My apologies to Beth Duff. I forgot to include this story in the April newsletter.

DAIRY MADISON
ICE CREAM

Gulf

BAPTIST CHURCH
DRUG CO.
CANDY

DOES WHAT
DANGER
blue coal
NO CLINKERS
MORE HEAT
LESS ASH
GOOD TIRES

Recipes

Our very own, Chalet Jules, whipped up this amazing creamy cucumber salad at our last dinner meeting. She had so many requests for the recipe, she asked me to include it in the newsletter. Enjoy, it sure looks yummy!

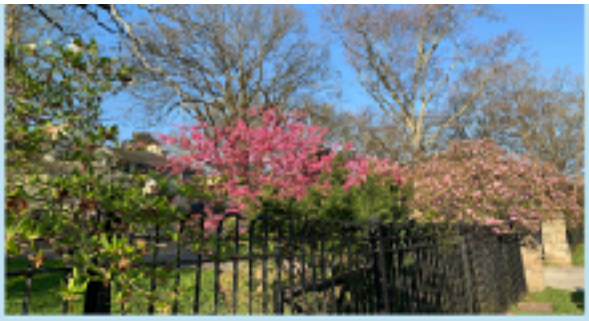
2 English cucumbers sliced
1 sliced red onion
½ c. sour cream
½ c. mayo
1/8 c. sugar
¼ c. white vinegar
½ t. salt
1/8 t. garlic
2 T fresh dill, 1 T for garnish

1. Mix sour cream, mayo, sugar, vinegar, salt, garlic and dill in large bowl.
2. Add the sliced cucumbers and onions. Stir to coat.
3. Cover and place in fridge for 2 hours. Garnish with dill.

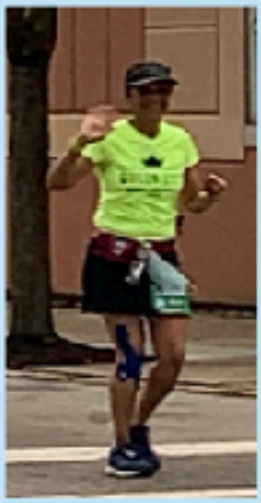
*if you like after slicing, salt the cucumber, then place on paper towels in colander to release extra liquid from the cucumber.

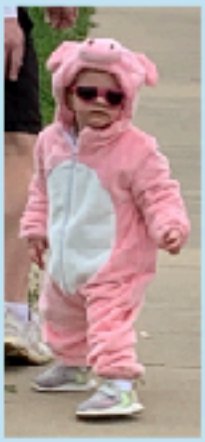
Note from Judy: I am more than happy to add recipes from future dinner meetings if you would like to share. Just email to: jmoermond@me.com with the subject line FFGC Recipe for upcoming newsletter

Around our Home Town - Spring in the Queen City



Spring in Washington Park





Congrats to Pat Lehman, Janet Walsh and Chalet Jules on completing the Flying Pig Half Marathon. The little Piggy is a future FFGC member.

Roebling Suspension Bridge taken in Smale Park