Newsletter

friendship force
GREATER CINCINNATI

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

October, 2019

Calendar

Tuesday, October 8, 2:30 PM Board Meeting. Clifton Library. All members are welcome at the meeting.

Thursday, October 17, 10:30AM Gathering at Plum Street Temple. 11:45 lunch at Izzy`s Deli. RSVP to Molly Hunter 973 342-9721

Sunday, November 17, 6:00PM Pot Luck Dinner Meeting, First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton, Cincinnati. Kay Atkins will present a program on our club`s journey to Leicester and Norderstedt last summer.

"Gathering" in October

A few years ago, our club decided to change the format of its meeting structure from monthly pot-luck dinners with programs to a format with 5 pot-luck dinner meetings a year alternating with social "Gatherings" held in venues of interest around our area.

This year Molly Hunter has planned some great Gatherings for us. On Thursday, October 17, we have the opportunity to have a tour of the Plum Street Temple, led by Cindy Burgin. Following the tour, we will walk over to Izzy`s Deli for lunch. Meet at 10:30AM inside the front doors of the Temple, 720 Plum St. Lunch is scheduled for 11:45AM. **Contact Molly Hunter at mahunter123@gmail.com or 973 342-7921 to make reservations.**

Isaac M. Wise Temple
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From the Board

At its last meeting the Board discussed the following:

- We will start a 'mentoring` program to help new members fully participate in our FF club.
- Given the results of our recent survey, for 2021 we will submit to FFI requests to host 2 international exchanges, 1 domestic exchange, and will work on creating a Global exchange. We can host 8-20 ambassadors, and would prefer not to host during December, January, or February
- We will look into hosting an Open World program in 2020
- A nominating committee for 2020 officers was formed.

Reflections from our President

Did you know that Friendship Force International has a 2019-2021 Strategic Plan? The planners have developed some interesting ideas to help support and strengthen the organization.

You can read all about it on the FFI website (https://www.friendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Strategic-Plan-2019.pdf), but here`s a quick summary.

The planners see the Friendship Force organization as consisting of 3 interdependent entities: the 12-member Board of Directors, the international headquarters in Atlanta, and the 350+ local clubs scattered throughout the world. Each facet has its own responsibilities for growing the organization and making it run efficiently and effectively.

The Board of Directors is responsible for governance, including setting a direction, fiscal oversight and evaluating themselves, the CEO, and the clubs in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. One goal of the Board is to build an international advisory council to partner with other organizations focused on peace and citizen diplomacy.

Some of Headquarters` plans are to provide member recruitment materials to clubs in multiple languages, use technology to enhance communication between clubs and to educate the public on the organization`s mission. Headquarters plans to build partnerships with other organizations that can help fulfil that mission and to identify outside funding sources.

That brings us to the charge to local clubs that are responsible for traveling, hosting, and recruiting new members. What can Greater Cincinnati Friendship Force do? We can add a different kind of journey type to our club`s hosting calendar. For 2021, besides our traditional international and domestic journeys between clubs, we hope to offer a Global exchange focused on a theme and draw travelers from multiple locations. We can encourage our members not only to travel with our club, but to travel with other clubs or participate in Global exchanges. Many of our members—Beth Duff, Phil and Sue Schmidt, Sandra Small, Fawzy Mansour, Ann Bowers, Mark Bowers, Nick Sakelos and others– have taken advantage of travel to exciting locations publicized on the international website. Check it out—you might find a place you would like to go. The FFI Journey catalog can be found at

https://www.friendshipforce.org/journeys/ and the US eFlyer is on web site at

http://www.friendshipforcecincinnati.org/us-eflyer.html

Working as a team, the Board of Directors, Headquarters in Atlanta, and individual clubs will ensure that Friendship Force is a vibrant and viable organization for many years to come.

Yours in Friendship,

Katie Campbell, President

Open World Proposal

The Open World Leadership Center (Open World or the Center) is a legislative branch agency that supports the U.S. Congress. The Open World program brings emerging leaders from participating countries to the United States in order to give them firsthand exposure to the American system of participatory democracy and accountable governance. The program allows American leaders and their counterparts from the following participating countries to engage in meaningful and unfiltered dialogue: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, North Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Counterparts engage constructively with one another in a manner that complements the U.S. Congress`s legislative diplomacy efforts on timely issues such as e-governance, young leadership development, entrepreneurship, health and social services delivery, education, environment, and the rule of law. The Center intends to award grants for the hosting of 151 delegations under these guidelines for calendar year 2020. Each delegation will consist of five delegates and one facilitator. Friendship Force has had a partnership with Open World for many years and each year several clubs host Open World delegations.

Mimi Gingold , a longtime members of our club, and her husband Al Gerhardstein, a civil rights lawyer, have submitted a proposal for our club to host an Open World Program in 2020. The program for which they have applied is for a delegation from Kazakhstan and is focused on the Judicial Rule of Law. The government of Kazakhstan is currently working to strengthen the rule of law and reform of the judiciary in Kazakhstan through supporting the implementation of a national policy of "humanization" of the justice system in an effort to enhance the protection of individual rights, particularly in the wider criminal justice system. Reforms are being made in the penal process and with other judicial procedures. The goals are improvement and humanization of the criminal justice system, modernizing sentencing, and improving the training and capacity building within the judicial system. Participants in the program would discuss best practices and share experience among colleagues with the goal of forwarding Kazakhstan`s judicial reform efforts and improving the judicial system in both countries. The program would most likely be held in March of 2020.

If the proposal is accepted, our club will need to provide home hosts, transportation and hospitality for the delegation. Hopefully, by our November 17th meeting we will know if we will be hosting the delegation from Kazakhstan in 2020.

Facts about Kazakhstan You Might Not Know

* It is the ninth largest country in the world, but is completely landlocked.
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* It is the dominant economy in Central Asia, producing 60% of the area`s GDP
* The major economic drivers are gas and oil
* Kazakhstan was the last of the Soviet republics to declare its independence, which it did

2020 Journey to Saitama Japan

Rella Hadley, Journey Coordinator for our visit to Saitama Japan, has set the dates, costs and extension plans for the trip and is now accepting applications with deposits for the journey. The journey will start with a week in the homes of members of the Saitama, Japan Friendship Force club, March 30 through April 6. The cost for this week is $485. Following the visit with the Saitama club, there will be an optional extension April 6 through April 12 with Samurai Tours. The cost of the extension is $2109. Information about the week in Saitama, the extension and the application can be found on our club website at:

http://www.friendshipforcecincinnati.org/outbound-journeys.html

Applications from our members will be accepted until **October 31, 2019**. If there are fewer than 20 applicants on this date, the journey will then be open to Friendship Force members from any club and it will be advertised on the US eFlyer and the FFI Journey Catalog. If there are more than 20 applicants, then the priorities listed in our policy handbook will be used to determine who will join the journey. Priority will be given to those going on the extension. Other priorities include application date, so be sure to apply soon, if you are interested. With you application, be sure to include your deposit of $250 for the week in Saitama or $500 for the week in Saitama plus the tour extension.

For glimpse into a Friendship Force Journey to Japan, go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjaTcB1bVJU (on Phil Schmidt`s YouTube channel)

Please contact Rella at 513 702-0288 or rella.hadley@gmail.com if you have any questions.

CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

Getting to Know You!

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

Joy Sallee-Scheal and her husband Ted live in the town of Melbourne in Campbell County KY. She has two children, Carla and Steve. She is one of our many educators. She taught elementary school classes from 1973 until 1991. From 1991 until 2001, she was a principal. One of her more interesting teaching experiences was when she was teaching one summer at a public school in China. The children were middle school/ junior high school age. There was an interpreter in the class even though the children were all bi-lingual; of course, all were well-behaved. The major subject she taught was math, but of course as questions arose, she was teaching in other fields as needed. Her hobbies are walking and taking photographs. She loves Friendship Force, most particularly the people who take us in, and the people who lead us on our journeys.

Cassandra Wooden and Joy Sallee-Scheal are sisters. Cassandra lives part time in Kentucky near Visalia on a now 80-acre farm, and part-time in Florida. Her husband much prefers life in Florida, so he can most generally be found there. He does of course come to Kentucky from time-to-time. Cassandra went to the University of Kentucky and earned both a bachelor`s degree and a master`s degree from there. She was an educator for 31 years; 14 years as a teacher of second and fifth grades, and 17 years as a principal. She has three children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She has been to more than 60 countries, France being her favorite. Sadly, she says she has forgotten all the French she ever knew.

Getting to Know You Cont'd

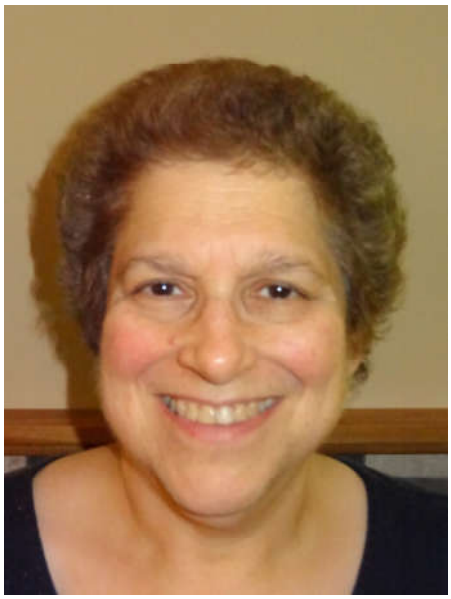
Greg Fasig is one of our 2019 new members. Those of us who were at our September meeting can confirm he is an excellent raconteur as he was one of our members who shared a story in which they had to rely on the kindness of strangers. He was raised in Bloomington IN by his mother who was a member of the faculty at Indiana University. When he was a child, they lived in the International Student Housing there. He went to Bowling Green State University, but his son went back to Greg`s roots and went to IU. His son was a Boy Scout, thus leading Greg to be a Boy Scout volunteer. Greg is now a financial planner who lives in Northside, and has as a never-ending hobby that of fixing up an old house.

Lori Farmer lives in the Oakley/Hyde park area. She comes from Greenville OH, which is a little north of Dayton. She went to Miami University and has a business degree from there. After college, she worked as a pharmaceutical representative for 15 years. She now has a very conveniently located Airbnb in her home. She has two daughters; one is 31years old, one is 29. Lori is quite a traveler, having been to 49 states and 36 countries. She has not yet made it to Alaska. She likes hiking, biking (the pedal-powered kind), and also horses and dogs.

Anne Lerch is a widow who lives in Hillsboro, OH. She raised seven children who have produced 10 grandchildren. She lived on a farm where they raised corn and beans and pigs and cattle. She was also active in the farm business she and her husband owned. She went to college for 2 years before she married, and then obtained her degree in Business Administration when she was in her fifties. She said one of the things most interesting to her was the different treatment of the idea of women in the workplace when she was in college in the 50`s, and then 30 years later. She loves to read, loves her church-related activities, and her Red Hat ladies. She has always enjoyed the Rose Bowl Parades, and went to the Rose Bowl in 2102 and again in 2016.

Getting to Know You Cont'd

Janet Kravitz spent her youth in Bethesda MD. Her first college experience was in Maryland where she majored in Recreation Administration. She then went to the University of Hartford, where she got her bachelor`s degree in Special Education, followed by a master`s degree in Counseling. She took these degrees to Fairbanks AK, where she was a substitute teacher her first year there, and then the Special Ed teacher for five different schools in the bush. She was able to drive the 3 hours to the closest school, but had to be flown into and out of the bush for the other four schools. She would stay for 1 week at a time at four of the schools and 2 days at one other. At each of the schools, her accommodations were very interesting. Sometimes she would sleep in the schools; sometimes she would stay with the schools` regular teacher, depending upon what space was available. She loved cross country skiing along the trap lines, and would ask the students if they wanted to go with her after class. As cross country skiing was their way of getting to school, they could not imagine doing it just for fun. Fun Fact: Janet met her husband Mike at a square dance in Maryland.



Memories of our Brazilian Friends

More Pics of Our New Friends