



# Newsletter

friendship force  
GREATER CINCINNATI

September, 2020

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

## Upcoming Events

Please check our web site calendar for the latest schedule:

[www.friendshipforcecincinnati.org](http://www.friendshipforcecincinnati.org)

**Sunday, Sept 13, 4PM Picnic at the Chipmunk Shelter in Woodland Mound Park, Cincinnati**

**October Zoom presentation.** Time and topic to be determined.

**October 13 2:30PM, Zoom Board meeting.** If you would like to participate, email Katie and she will send you the link for the meeting.

**Nov 8, 6PM Club meeting via Zoom.** Election of officers. Presentation on Central Europe by Phil Schmidt

## Sunday, Sept 13 Picnic Meeting

Our September 13, 4PM. club meeting will be a picnic at the Chipmunk Shelter in Woodland Mound Park, Cincinnati. We have reserved a large shelter in this beautiful park along the Ohio River. The shelter has picnic tables for 100, but we should also be able to sit in 'socially distanced' circles out under the trees. Please bring your own food and drink, wear a mask, and bring your own chair if you like.

Our picnic in July at this shelter was enjoyed by all who attended. Heavy rain, however, prevented several from attending, so we are giving this great idea another try!

We've tried to plan this event to be as safe as possible, but we understand that some of our members may still not feel comfortable attending the picnic. If you do plan to attend, please **RSVP to Janet Walsh** at 513.708.7505 or [janetlynettewalsh@gmail.com](mailto:janetlynettewalsh@gmail.com) **by Sept 10.**

Directions for Woodland Mound Park, 8250 Old Kellogg Road, : From I-271 South: After crossing into Kentucky, take I-275 E toward Anderson Township. Go 3.5 miles and take the exit to US-52 east. Go 3 miles and turn left on 8 Mile Road. Go 400 ' and turn R on Old Kellogg. Go .2 miles to reach the park (see map on the calendar page of our website, [www.friendshipforcecincinnati.org](http://www.friendshipforcecincinnati.org)). The Chipmunk Shelter will be on your left, across the street from the restrooms and the playground.



## From Our President

“The only certainty is that nothing is certain.” Pliny the Elder said that almost 2000 years ago, and his words are no less true today. Uncertainty makes planning difficult for everyone. We cannot predict when the coronavirus will be under control, when we will have a vaccine, when we will be able to travel or safely host people in our homes. Though nothing is certain, we can try to do the best we can under challenging circumstances.

We don't know what 2021 will bring, but thinking optimistically, we hope to host a group from Lower Columbia, Washington in October, 2021. (This is the same FF club that hosted many of us in September, 2019.) Connie Taggart is the Exchange Director for this journey. She'll be looking for hosts and volunteers for other jobs once this trip is definite. We hope to travel to Moscow and Kirov Oblast, Russia sometime in 2021 as well. Fingers crossed.

In the meantime, here's some good news. Friendship Force International has exceeded their fundraising goal of \$340,000. The total to date, including all international contributions, is \$486,000. So FFI has the means to keep going.

Hoping for safe travel in 2021, FFI has announced these journeys on their website:

- 4/10 to 4/24/21 – Grand Tour of Italy – <https://www.friendshipforce.org/journeys/grand-tour-of-italy/>
- 7/10 to 7/21/21 – Croatia & Slovenia, the Old World Adriatic – <https://www.friendshipforce.org/journeys/croatia-slovenia-the-old-world-adriatic/>
- 7/24 to 8/7/21 – Discover Mongolia and Ulan-Ude Russia – <https://www.friendshipforce.org/journeys/discover-mongolia-and-siberia/>
- 8/15 to 8/29/21 – Festival at Sea 2021 aboard Holland America Nieuw Statendam – <http://totaltravelandevents.com/Page/FriendshipForce2021>
- 8/29 to 9/8/21 – Best of Scotland – <https://www.friendshipforce.org/journeys/best-of-scotland-2/>
- 9/10 to 9/25/21 – Krasnogorsk and Velikiy Novgorod, Russia – <https://www.friendshipforce.org/journeys/krasnogorsk-and-velikiy-novgorod-russia/>.

For now, FFI is offering virtual journeys including a Trivia Quiz, a “Let's Paint Party” and a tour of India. There are 21 archived presentations also available, including presentations on places like New Zealand, Japan, Siberia and Mexico, culinary programs and tutorials designed to help you hone your skills in travel photography, Zoom and What's App. You can investigate all the offerings at [blog.Friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/](http://blog.Friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/). More great news!

Our club will be offering more Zoom presentations like the one Beth Duff did on Ethiopia last month. If you missed it, you missed a real treat!

And finally, we will all meet on September 13 at 4 pm for a picnic in Woodland Mound Park. It will be great to see everyone again; it's been awhile!

Hope to see you soon. Stay well.

Katie Campbell



## News From Friendship Force International-

Friendship Force International is working hard to encourage all of us to maintain a global perspective and to find ways to connect members from around the world. If you go to <https://blog.friendshipforce.org> you can find postings for various initiatives. For instance, they have started a new pen pal program. You can apply for a pen pal with shared interests or a pen pal who speaks a language you would like to practice, or just take pot luck... FFI will match you up to another FF member and you begin exchanging letters in the old fashioned way, with pen and paper. Look for more information in the Aug 26 blog post. Go to [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSekE5eMfn3YGhFwFdnG8oNxIY4x3zbtZ99qbweSKbpP\\_9RhEq/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSekE5eMfn3YGhFwFdnG8oNxIY4x3zbtZ99qbweSKbpP_9RhEq/viewform) to apply.

Want a reliable way of reading world news? The blog posting for Aug 12 gives a listing of newspapers from around the world that you may enjoy reading.

Friendship Force has also started offering a wide variety of virtual experiences. You can reach a catalog of future offering by going to the Aug 26 posting on the blog above, or by going to [friendshipforce.org](http://friendshipforce.org) and clicking on the 'Virtual Experiences` button at the top of the page. A few of the recorded Zoom events are in Spanish, a bonus for those wishing to brush up on their language skills.



## Don't Forget to Vote by Nov 3!

### Rules for voting in Ohio:

- You can request an absentee ballot now. It can be returned by mail thru Nov 2 or returned in person by Nov. 3.—Don` t offer to turn in your neighbor`s ballot unless they are a close relative.
- Early voting will be Oct 6—Nov 2 at 4700 Smith Road. Check Country Board of Elections for times. You can also turn in an absentee ballot at this address.
- If you request an absentee ballot and then decide to vote in person, your vote will be provisional. Mail in your absentee ballot several weeks in advance of Nov. 3!!!
- Nov 3 polls open 6:30AM—7:30 PM. Bring unexpired OH drivers license, or Utility bill or bank statement with your name and address.

### Rules for Kentucky:

- You can request an absentee ballot now thru Oct 9. Rules have changed so that concern for COVID-19 is a valid reason for voting absentee. Ballot must be received by Nov 6, so be sure to mail it several weeks before Nov 3. Drop boxes will be available. If you request an absentee ballot, you cannot vote in person.
- Early voting Oct 13-Nov 2. Check online to find locations and times.
- Nov 3: Polls open 6AM to 6PM. Bring a KY picture ID

# Getting to Know You!

by Sonia Derge

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

**Marilyn Kaiser** has been an Eastsider almost all of her life. That changed four years ago when she moved from Hyde Park into Hammond North. She is another of our career educators. She was graduated from Edgecliff, a college now part of Xavier University, but fondly remembered by those who went there. Marilyn expressed gratitude to Xavier for its support to the Edgecliff Alumnae Association. She taught chemistry and physics at the junior high and primarily at the high school levels. Most of her career was at Marion (a Cincinnati girl's school) and Mariemont High school. She transferred to Reading Community Schools to start her counseling career, serving both at the elementary and high school levels. To her surprise, she spent most of her counseling career at the elementary level.



In addition to her teaching career, she has been a Spiritual Director for about 20 years. She currently does it on a private basis, but she has previously presented retreats at the Jesuit Spiritual Center of Milford. She is single and was able to travel extensively during her summer vacations. Her preferred way to travel was to know how people lived their daily lives. To this end, she arranged through a co-worker to be a nanny in France for one summer. Magnifique!

**Ann Benoit** grew up in Xenia, but has lived in Milford for 42 years. She worked at U.C. as an Accounting Professor and then as Department Chair before she retired. She is a CPA with an MBA from U.C. Ann is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Since 2007, she has been a real estate agent and is currently with Sibcy Cline. She is a recent widow whose two sons have followed the advice to "Go West, young man, go West". One lives in Colorado, and the other, who has supplied her with her granddaughter, lives in Texas. When one of her boys was living in Europe, Ann went there twice, visiting him. She enjoys nature, walking and boating in various lakes in the general area. She has recently refurbished the boat on which she enjoyed making so many happy memories, and is looking forward to making more.





## Getting to Know You, Cont'd

**Chalet Jules** grew up in Cleveland, but has lived in the Cincinnati area for many years. She is an educator, having gone to Capitol University and then on to Ohio State for her graduate work. She was considering going into the Peace Corps when she graduated, but reconsidered when a full-time teaching job was also offered. Chalet taught in the Cincinnati Public School System for 30 years, mostly in the Fifth and Sixth Grades. More power to her and to all others who find themselves in a classroom with tweens for whom puberty is just around the corner- or worse yet, is there. She has been married for 37 years, and has two children, one of each. Earlier, she travelled to Europe with her family. She says she has no hobbies, but is a reader and a walker; your scribe thinks those two count. As so many of us are, she is looking forward to a time when our lives are more settled.



**Susan Richardson** met her husband many years ago when they were going to Western Hills High School. She eventually married the captain of their football team! Their daughter teaches Art History at Cincinnati State and at Wilmington; their son is a painting contractor who is very much an outdoorsman. She was graduated from Miami University and then on to Xavier for her Master's Degree in Education. She and husband Dave live in Clifton. Susan taught for 30 years in the Cincinnati Public School System. Upon retirement she taught middle school math in the Covington Independent School system for three years.



She then became involved in a project many of our long-time members know. She worked with another of our members, Mimi Gingold, in a project to bring Chinese students who were high school graduates to America for one year of additional study in our high schools. When the students first came to America, six of them would spend three weeks in the Richardson home, becoming somewhat acclimated to America. If they required tutoring during their time with us, Susan was their tutor. As for her volunteering/hobbies: she volunteers at the Holocaust Museum, transcribing testimonials given in the 1990's by local Holocaust survivors. Her hobbies are travelling to far-flung places, and walking with friends on a regularly scheduled basis, for many, many miles.