

FRIENDSHIP FORCE

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

Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting

November 14th @ 6 p.m.

- Paul Filipkowski will give a talk on St. Petersburg
- Vote on Club Officers for 2022-2023
- Sign up for my.friendshipforce.org (laptops and assistance provided)



- Dish to share
- Your name tag
- \$1.00 for the basket
- Goodies you'd like to donate to the Congolese children.

From Our Co-Presidents

There are at least five good reasons for you to attend November's Friendship Force meeting. For one thing, it is the first indoor meeting we have had as a club since March, 2019. That's reason to celebrate!

Second, it is our last general membership meeting of the year.

Third, you'll have an opportunity to vote for your club's officers for 2022-2023. The nominating committee has chosen the following people, and they have consented to run for office (please see their bios later in the newsletter):

Janet Walsh and Pat Lehman: Co-presidents

Beth Duff: Vice President

Molly Hunter: Treasurer

Chalet Jules: Secretary

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

As the chair of this year's nominating committee, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the other members of the committee: Kay Atkins, Nada Huron, Judy Hornsby, and Judy Moermond. It was a pleasure working with you!

Fourth, after dinner, you'll be treated to an excellent program by member Paul Filipkowski focusing on his trip to St. Petersburg, Russia.

And finally, it will be an opportunity for you to do some good. As a gesture of friendship and goodwill, FFGC is collecting donations of snacks for the children of the Congolese families who use Northern Hills' building for services and ESL lessons. While the adults are engaged in adult activities, Northern Hills volunteers provide programming and snacks for the children. Rella Hadley reports that they are especially fond of nutigrain bars, fruit cups and juice boxes. If you would like to participate in



Virtual Experiences

Just a reminder that current “Virtual Experience” sessions are announced on the FFI website at Friendship Force Virtual Experiences.

Sessions are recorded and continue to be available for viewing at your convenience. The Faces and Places programs allow you to experience the land, culture and people while staying safe at home.

 Japanese Culture Chat
 in English: Rakugo
 Monday, November 8, 2021, 6
 a.m. EST

 Faces & Places:
 Northern Colorado, USA
 Thursday, November 11, 2021,
 12:00 p.m. Mountain Time

this snack drive, please bring your donations to our meeting.

Remember, we will meet at 6 pm on Sunday, November 14 at Northern Hills United Methodist Church, 6700 Winton Road, 45224. Bring a dish to share, your name tag, and a dollar for the basket (to help cover the cost of drinks) and goodies you’d like to donate to the Congolese children. Following CDC guidelines, please wear a mask regardless of COVID vaccination status, and come prepared to enjoy each other’s company—but from a safe distance.

Hope to see you there!

Janet Walsh & Katie Campbell

Membership Dues are Due

It’s that time of year again—the air is turning crisper, the leaves are falling, Thanksgiving is coming, and your Friendship Force membership dues are due!

You can find a membership renewal form on our website. If you are applying for membership for the first time, use this form. Download the form, print it out, fill in the blanks, and mail it with your check to the address on the form—or bring it to the general membership meeting on November 14.

Do you know what happens to your dues? In 2021, \$20 of each person’s membership dues went to Friendship Force International, and \$15 (or \$10 if you are half of a couple) stayed with our local club. FFI uses dues to pay staff to create programming, schedule journeys, and cover other administrative costs. FFGC uses the local portion to pay for venues for meetings, help cover the cost of refreshments, print membership directories, and other incidental expenses.

Recently, we were informed by FFI that they are raising the portion we owe them for 2022 to \$25 a person. By January 31, we will have to pay \$25 to FFI for each of our members. Many clubs are raising their local dues to cover this increase. After some consideration, your GCFF board decided not to raise dues this year. So, dues will continue to be a bargain at \$35 for an individual and \$60 for a couple.

Questions? Email our Membership Chair, Beth Duff.

September Pot Luck Picnic

Thirty-one members and seven guests came together on Sunday, September, 12th at Juilf's Park in Anderson Township for an amazing Pot Luck picnic. Although it was still warm, the rain held off and we were able to join as friends and get caught up on family and life stories. The food and desserts everyone shared were delicious.

Winners of the Panera gift cards for signing up to myfriendshipforce.org were Susan Schmidt, Lisa and Ted Miller.



Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park Excursion

Pyramid Hill Outing was a huge success. We had 34 people including 9 from the Dayton Friendship Force Club, 7 from Northern Hills United Methodist Church, members from our FF Club and friends join us. The weather was gorgeous with temps in the 70s and a few clouds.

There are 73 permanent sculptures and 18 on temporary loan spread over 300 + acres of rolling forested hills, meadows, lakes and gardens just outside Hamilton Ohio.

Thank you to everyone for helping make my birthday special and to Joe for bringing the cupcakes.

Rella Hadley





Nominating Committee Nominee Biographies

Janet Walsh, Candidate for Co-president



I was introduced to Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati as part of the “Great Recruitment Drive of Fall 2018,” and instantly fell in love with the group’s mission, values and extraordinary members. Over the past three years, I’ve served as vice president and, with Katie Campbell, co-president on the club’s leadership board. With other members, I also participated in ad hoc committees focusing on by-laws revision and archiving club records.

Although the pandemic limited my ability to participate in club outbound journeys, I gained an appreciation of the intrepid spirit of FFGC travelers by accompanying some of the members I’d met prior to joining the club on hiking trips to places including England and Ireland.

I trace my love of travel and exploration of the diverse beauty of people and places to my youth, when my parents would plop my siblings and me into their not-so- late-model car hitched to a pop-up camper and traverse the country on low-budget family vacations.

Prior to my retirement in 2017, I worked in daily journalism for 17 years (including as a reporter, assistant editorial page editor and columnist for The Cincinnati Post), then joined the Public Affairs Department of Cincinnati Public Schools, where I served as director for 13 years.

Friendship Force's tradition of breaking down barriers is more important than ever as we confront the challenge of heightened polarization and division. With optimism it can be overcome by the power of friendship.

Pat Lehman, Candidate for Co-president



I have been a member of Friendship Force for approximately five years. During that time, I have been the Vice-President for 2021, and previously I helped organize day programs and dinners. I traveled with Friendship Force on the Outbound journey to Oregon in fall 2019, but have not yet been “overseas” with Friendship Force.

My love for travel and meeting folks from different cultures began as a young child in the United Kingdom (UK). My father worked for British Railways, and as such, we qualified for extremely inexpensive rail travel. My family visited multiple European countries, often spending many days on trains as we traveled to Spain, Austria and France from my home in Northern England.

My travel experience continued as a college student, including spending one summer in the USA during which time I met my future husband. I returned to the United Kingdom where I trained as a teacher and taught for a short time. Having married my husband in the UK, we returned to the USA and settled in Ohio, where I continued my education and began work as a teacher and eventually as a School Psychologist. For approximately thirty years I worked as the School Psychologist for Wyoming City Schools.

During my time in education, I traveled both for my own enjoyment and learning, and as a leader for 10+ years with the People to People organization. As such, we introduced many high school students to the people, culture and beauty of such countries as different as Russia, Greece, and Australia.

My current hobbies/passions include spending time with family and friends; walking my dogs; ‘race’ walking; volunteering with multiple animal groups including transporting dogs from high kill shelters in the south, to rescue in the north; working with political and social action groups; and continuing my travels.

I look forward to being the Co-President of Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati working to expand the horizons of all who are members of Friendship Force.

Beth Duff, Candidate for Vice President

I joined Friendship Force in 2008 to travel with the Cincinnati club to Republic of Georgia. Since then I've traveled with Friendship Force to Peru, China, Morocco, Brazil, New Zealand and Columbia/Ecuador. I have been the Ambassador Coordinator /co-Coordinator 3 times. I am currently Membership

Chair. I've done Hospitality, Programs, a Hosting Coordinator (Brazil) and been a member of the Cincinnati Board.

In addition I've traveled widely with family and friends all over the world. Some travels also involved volunteering with kids such as in Zambia and China. I was a long time volunteer (over 25 years) with Children's International Summer Villages (CISV). With CISV I held many leadership positions at the local, national and international levels.

I was a high school science teacher for 31 years and retired in 2002. In retirement I've held several part time jobs including field interviewer for a national health study, hearing monitor for Social Security disability hearings and Geriatric Care Manager assistant.

Molly Hunter, Candidate for Treasurer

I have been a member of Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati for four and a half years. In 2019, I planned our Gatherings, which was great fun, and I've been Treasurer for 2020 and 2021.

I started my work life as a CPA and after earning my law degree, concentrated on Education Law, fighting for students with disabilities and, later, to win better opportunities for students in under-resourced schools. Those efforts are very difficult, but we had some wonderful victories for the kids and communities served by our public schools.

I learned to love traveling as a child growing up in rural Pennsylvania and always found other cultures fascinating. I marvel at the scenic beauty and natural wonders everywhere I go. With Friendship Force, I traveled to southern Mexico in the winter of 2017 and on FFGC's outbound journey to the Lower Columbia River club in the fall of 2019.

Previously, I had traveled to Europe three times, New Zealand and Australia twice, and Peru, Asia, and east Africa once each. I also traveled to the Caribbean, Central America, and Hawaii a number of times. In addition, I love Puerto Rico where I was fortunate enough to live for four years.

I would appreciate your vote and look forward to continuing to serve as FFGC treasurer and Board member.

Chalet Jules, Candidate for Secretary



I was a teacher for Cincinnati Public Schools for 35 years in grades three to twelve. I taught English and Reading many of those years. Children are of the utmost importance to our future and it is essential that we prepare them for life, future learning, and a willingness to be open to other cultures. Children can teach us so much about being open, friendship and understanding. They are always willing to help and are open and honest with you. Sometimes they will give too much information.

After retirement from teaching, I became a substitute and tutor for CPS, Mt. Healthy, Winton Woods and Wyoming City Schools. Hopefully when the pandemic ends I will be able to continue being involved with schools and children, I really miss working with them. They keep your mind busy and your spirit young.

I am a member of Queen City Walking which trains members for full and half marathons each year. With members in the walking group, I have traveled to Ireland, England and some cities in the United States. These were valuable experiences, albeit challenging for me, but it is important to be involved with others and to keep learning.

I am married and have two grown children who live in Philadelphia and Los Angeles. I joined Friendship Force in 2018 after being invited by Pat Lehman. I have been secretary of the organization since 2020 and I hope to continue a new two year term. I have enjoyed meeting new people and am looking forward to traveling with the group sometime in the future.