

EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT VIEWS.
DISCOVER COMMON GROUND.



friendship force

KANSAS



April, 2024

www.friendshipforceofkansas.org

www.friendshipforce.org

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS AND PLANS

Spring has sprung, and so have the activities and journeys planned by Friendship Force of Kansas.

In late February, 9 of our members visited our friends in the Lone Star State. The ambassadors traveled to San Antonio, Texas in cars and were able to celebrate old and new friendships. Everyone enjoyed the numerous activities planned by the San Antonio Club. The first full day was spent at the world-class San Antonio Rodeo and Stock show followed by a concert performed by Clint Black. The next days included a boat ride along the famous River Walk, touring the Alamo, attending a mariachi mass at the Mission, enjoying food at the outside market, visiting the San Antonio Shoe Factory, and discovering the beauty of the hill country, and shopping in the quaint little town of Grune, Texas. . . what a thrill it was to be reunited with our Texas buddies!

20 members of our club celebrated “World Friendship Day”, by touring the beautiful campus and chapel at Newman University. A member of the sisters and former president of Newman University, Sister Roths, was the host and regaled the members with stories of the order of nuns and of Newman University. The group learned not only about the history of the sisters of the “Adorers of the Blood of Christ” and how they started the university in the early 1900s, but they were also told about the Adorers passionate works of service and of their impact locally and around the world. Our group finished the visit with a wonderful meal that they were able to share with some of the sisters who live in the retirement center. These sisters happily shared their personal stories as the two groups ate together. Everyone had a beautiful and inspiring time together.

The journey, in early April, highlighted 13 FFK ambassadors traveling southeast to the “heart of Dixie”. During the weeklong visit to Birmingham, Alabama, our Kansas group made new friendships with the FF of Birmingham. Southerners are known for their hospitality and these southerners did not disappoint, as our

Calendar of Events

April, 2024

27th 10 a.m. Quarterly Meeting at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

May, 2024

28th Botanica Twilight Tunes

June, 2024

4th-5th Oklahoma Bus Journey

6th 10 a.m. Board Meeting

July, 2024

4th FFK leaves for Mongolia journey

27th 10 a.m. Quarterly Meeting @ GDL

August, 2024

22-29 Des Moines Outgoing

September, 2024

5th 10 a.m. Bd. Mtg.

25th-31 Open World (Kosovo) here

October, 2024

26th 10 a.m. Quarterly Mtg. at GDL

December, 2024

5th 10 a.m. Bd. Mtg

Kansas ambassadors were treated to fine southern hospitality and gentility. The ambassadors visited the World's biggest and most impressive Barber Motorcycle Museum, toured a working mill that was built in the early 1900's, and delighted in a beautiful riverside picnic. The journey continued with a visit to the town of Sylacauga and its renowned marble quarry. Luckily, our ambassadors were also able to observe many local, national and international artists carving beautiful works of art in the park. As was hoped, the Kansas group was moved by the tragic and heroic history that occurred along the Civil Rights Trail. The group visited museums and monuments in the cities of Birmingham and Montgomery where so much of the history of civil rights occurred.

This summer, you will have an opportunity to participate in another fun and interesting bus trip. The Dierking's (Sheri and Mike) are planning a 2024 adventurous bus getaway. Those who traveled by bus to northwest Kansas remember the great trip they planned in 2023. They have planned to take us on an exciting two-day bus trip to Northeastern Oklahoma on June 4 and 5, 2024. Please see the details in their article that you will find in this newsletter. Plan to join us on this sure-to-be-exciting venture with old and new friends.

The international journey this year is still being planned. 10 FFK members will travel to Mongolia on July 4th. They will visit Seoul, Korea for a few days before flying to the capital of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar. The ambassadors will spend nearly two weeks with the hosts in Mongolia. Cheers to New Friends!

There are also two opportunities to host visitors this year. We will welcome ambassadors from Des Moines, IA on August 22-29. And on September 25-31, we will host visitors from Kosovo who are participating in an Open World opportunity. If you would like to be a night or day host, please contact Ronda Holmes. She and her team are coordinating the visit of both groups. They would love to have you be a part of this adventure that builds friendships.

We're hopeful to be entertaining and hosting a group from India in early November. This is the same group who hosted us last fall.

As president of FFK, I couldn't be any prouder of this organization. There are outstanding members who are selfless in their commitment to making FFK a joyous experience for all the members and the people we meet.

Please take the opportunity to get involved. You will be happy you did, and you will help to achieve the mission of Friendship Force to build friendships and promote peace and understanding.

Curtis Zerr, President of Friendship Force of Kansas

Officers

President:

Curtis Zerr
316-706-6252
czerr@ici.insurance

Vice President:

Kathy Smith
316-833-0532
kathas1949@gmail.com

Past President:

Steven Dunn
316-204-7501
dunwan@aol.com

Secretary:

Alice Kreissler
316-706-1742
akreissler80@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Sherril Lichtenberger
316-729-7028
sherrilich46@gmail.com

Board Members

Social:

Kathy Lindquist

Publicity:

Diane Schuetz

Program:

Diane Gjerstad

Membership Chair:

Kathy Smith

Activities

Susan Harrington

Merchandise:

Ronda Holmes

Courtesy:

Helene Longhofer

Website Coordinator:

Alice Kreissler

Newsletter/Directory

Facebook Editor

Lottie Miller

Bylaws

Cynthia Miller

Inbound Hiroshima, Japan

HC- Steve Smith

Assistant-Kathy Lindquist

Inbound Open World

Kosovo Ronda Holmes

Outbound India HC-

October JC Curtis Zerr and

Co JC Angela Pirner

Outbound to San Antonio,

TX February JC Steve Dunn,

AC Kathy Smith

Outbound to Birmingham,

Alabama JC Buddy Dooley

AC Helene Longhofer

Outbound to Des Moines

JC Ronda Holmes



QUARTERLY MEETING, APRIL 27, 2024

Our upcoming April 27, 2024 quarterly meeting provides another chance to share a potluck meal together.

All are invited to participate in our pot luck lunch. To assure that we have a variety of foods, if your last name starts with I-R you are invited to bring fruit, veggies or side dishes, Q-Z Appetizers or deserts and A-H main dish/protein.

Consider bringing your items in insulated carriers/crock pots that can keep them hot so we don't have to heat up the oven unless absolutely necessary. If you have a baking stone, try heating it up in your oven while you prepare your dish, then place it in the bottom of your carrier. It will keep your items hot for a couple of hours in a nicely insulated carrier. We can use the church's oven. It's just quicker and easier to keep them hot in an insulated carrier. Looking forward to seeing you!

Kathy Lindquist, Social Chair



Botanica Twilight Tunes

This is being held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at Botanica. Put this on your calendar! Details coming later.

Sue Harrington



COURTESY REPORT

A Get Well card was resent to Glenn Owens.

A Get Well card and Muffins were delivered to Sandra Tholen following back surgery

A Sympathy card was sent to Gloria De Roulet upon the death of her brother.

Numerous phone calls were made to Kathy Smith who became ill with a kidney infection while on our journey to Birmingham.

Helene Longhofer
Courtesy Chairman



FACEBOOK PAGE

As many of you know, and I know I am repeating this, but we have had issues with the FFK facebook page...the former FFK page. That former page got corrupted and had inappropriate content on it. So, I created the new page, but had a hard time getting rid of the old one. I couldn't get it deleted. But, I did manage to put it on pause so nobody can access it. The link below leads to the correct page. Since our settings on facebook are set to public, anyone, even one without a personal facebook account, can see the page. But, some people do not wish to deal with facebook. In that case, be sure to check the quarterly newsletter to get the information you need for meetings, etc.

Lottie

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069985356447>

FFK BUS TRIP TO OKLAHOMA



Join us for a fun-filled 2-day journey June 4-5!

Highlights include:

Pioneer Woman Mercantile in Pawhuska

Price Tower in Bartlesville (the only fully realized skyscraper designed by Frank Lloyd Wright)

Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve

Dinner stop on Old Route 66

Overnight stay in Pryor

The Cheese House in Chouteau

Lunch at an Amish farm

It will be a busy 2 days including game night at the hotel.

Trip cost is **\$185 per person**, which includes the bus transportation, hotel (double occupancy), entrance fees and all meals except Tuesday lunch. Don't delay as there are only a few spots left! **Call Sheri Dierking at 316-993-1903 to reserve. Funds can be paid at the April meeting.**



Friendship Force San Antonio



Nine members of the Friendship Force of Kansas traveled to San Antonio, Texas, in February to visit the Friendship Force of San Antonio. We were looking forward to this trip because our friends from San Antonio have visited Kansas twice- once for an exchange in 2022, and last summer to participate in our trip to Western Kansas. We were welcomed to Texas with a dinner at the Towers on Park Lane, a retirement village totally encompassed in a multi-floored tower, complete with restaurants, a fitness center and other activities for seniors. We were treated to a tour of the building after our welcome dinner.

On Saturday, we attended the San Antonio Rodeo, looking at the exhibits outside, and watching the finals of the Rodeo. We saw the best rodeo cowboys perform roping, bare-back riding, bull-riding, and all the events that make up one of the best rodeos in the U.S. After the finals, there was a concert by Clint Black, a country singer who is also a native of San Antonio. Sunday morning, we visited the San Jose Mission and the Mission Conception, where we attended a mariachi mass. This was a different experience for most of us—a religious service with Mariachi music. What a treat!

During the week, we also visited the Alamo, the River Walk and the S.A.S. Shoe Factory, where most of our group bought at least one pair of shoes. Did you know that S.A.S. stands for San Antonio Shoes? I didn't. On our free day, some of us went to the town of Gruene, a little north of San Antonio. Gruene is home to German shops and restaurants and the largest dance hall in the U.S., and George Strait began his career playing in that dance hall. After a farewell dinner at a Mexican restaurant, we returned home on Wednesday, almost all of us driving through Texas and trying to avoid the traffic from San Antonio to Dallas. We enjoyed visiting our friends in San Antonio and experiencing their city, but we also realized the advantages of living in wonderful Wichita, where you can get anywhere in the city in less than 30 minutes!

Sherri Lichtenberger



Friendship Force of Kansas will be welcoming two different groups this fall. On August 22nd, fourteen members from Friendship Force of Des Moines will be arriving in Wichita. We will be enjoying many activities during the week including the McConnell Air Show featuring the Blue Angels. Ronda Holmes is chairing this journey with the help of Diane Gjerstad.



On September 25th, seven guests from Kosovo will be arriving in Wichita to participate in Open World. Open World is sponsored by our Library of Congress. The group is required to attend 32 hours of panel discussions, meeting our local/state legislation, lectures, and tours. Cindy Miller and Ronda Holmes are co-chairing this group. The itineraries for both groups will be coming out soon. Members of Friendship Force of Kansas will be welcome to attend the events throughout the week.



We need committee members, day hosts, members to help with welcome dinners, and members to host small dinners for our guests and their hosts during the week. If you would like to participate with either group, please email Ronda Holmes at delronhol@yahoo.com.



BIRMINGHAM JOURNEY APRIL 3-9

Greetings Y'All,

Our group from Kansas just returned from an event-filled trip to Birmingham, Alabama. Our hosts rolled out the red carpet and continually showered us with hospitality and fantastic southern food! Curtis mentioned numerous activities in his "Presidential Ponderings and Plans" regarding this trip. I have a few more to share.

Our first night in Birmingham included a welcome party and Sock Hop. The dinner included BBQ sliders, coleslaw, hot dogs, cold drinks, and root beer floats. What a great meal! After dinner the joint really started rockin'! The DJ started playing great 50's music, and Birmingham and Kansans started dancing! What a way to meet our hosts! Sock Hop costumes were nominated for top awards with Helene Longhofer (in her poodle skirt) taking 1st place, and Greg King (in his "Fonzie" jacket) taking 2nd place.

On our first day, we went to the top of Red Mountain to view Vulcan, the world's largest iron statue which overlooks the city of Birmingham. Birmingham was once one of the nation's leading iron and steel producers because of the abundant deposits of iron ore, coal, and limestone nearby. Vulcan, the Roman and Greek god of fire and the forge, weighs 100,000 pounds of iron and is 56 feet tall. The statue's naked buttocks have been a source of humor for many years because they "moon" the neighborhood of Homewood, Alabama.

We learned about Alabama's aviation history at the Southern Institute of Flight, one of the largest aviation museums in the Southeast. Our docent was especially engaging and informative.

The Jones Valley Teaching Farm was quite impressive as we learned about an education model to help inner city children learn how to grow a healthy future for themselves. The 3-acre site connects students to food, farming, and culinary arts during the school day. The day we visited the resident chef helped elementary students create their own granola recipe.

The next day we visited Arlington House, an 1840's antebellum mansion displaying items relating to 19th century life. The gardens were lovely, and we had a delicious lunch in the restored garden room. I enjoyed the baked chicken with rice and creamed collards with Alabama sweet tea. Southern living at its finest!

That afternoon we visited three locations related to Birmingham's civil rights movement. Kelly Ingram Park was the site of large-scale demonstrations in the sixties. Across the street, we toured the 16th Street Baptist Church which was bombed by Ku Klux Klan in 1963. The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute promotes a comprehensive understanding of the significance of civil rights in our country.

On our last day, we traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, and visited the State Capitol Building and the First White House of the Confederacy. After lunch at Wintzell's Oyster House, we stepped outside to experience the solar eclipse. We finished our tour with Hank Williams Museum and the Civil Rights Memorial.





There are two articles in this newsletter about our San Antonio Journey and our Birmingham Journey. These are links to the pictures from those journeys. Some of those pictures have been selected out for this page, as well.

[Birmingham Journey](#)

[San Antonio Journey](#)



FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF KANSAS, INC.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Revised November, 2020)

FF International – www.friendshipforce.org

FF of Kansas – www.friendshipforceofkansas.org

Name _____ New ___ Renew ___ Date: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Home Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number(s) – Whose? _____ # _____

Whose? _____ # _____

Birthdate-Whose? _____ Mo ___ Day ___ Whose? _____ Mo ___ Day ___

Occupation(s) Current or Prior _____

Email Address(es) Whose? _____ email _____

Whose? _____ email _____

Please deliver the newsletter: by email _____ by regular mail _____

Recommended by _____

I/We will be interested in: Traveling _____ Hosting _____

Serving on a committee: Social _____ Activity _____ Publicity _____ Membership _____

Annual dues are \$35 per person.

Make checks payable to: Friendship Force of Kansas and mail to:

Sherri Lichtenberger, 12106 W Texas, Wichita, KS 67235

We look forward to meeting you!

