

## Friendship Force



*Memphis, TN*

*August 1, 2021*

*Changing the Way You See the World*

<https://ffmem.com>



### Picnic Supper

(will postpone if raining)

Bring a side dish or dessert. (BYOB)

Saturday, September 25, 2021

Home of Mary Bullard

3624 Cowden Ave.

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

### President's Greeting by Margaret Dixon

Dear Friendship Force of Memphis Members,

With summer in full swing, it is with a tremendous sense of gratitude that we are beginning our activities and travel again. Our infection rate continues to climb, but we will be practical and cautious.

As a new president, I'm overwhelmed with memories of journeys of the past 12 years. Yes, it was

that long ago that I joined the organization at a friend's request to be her roommate. "Home stays" appeared to be a different way to travel. What an adventure it has been!

We thank Woody and Carolyn Pierce for inviting us to their home for a virtual presentation by Jeremi Snook, FFI president. He discussed the challenges the organization is facing and then presented his vision of the path forward.

Our two LEOs were well attended, and we gained two new club members, Brenda Hoolihan and September Young. And, we're so grateful to Shirley Kincaid for her diligence in getting cards, positive messages, and more to members who suffered illness and loss.

## **New Board Members**

President - Margaret Dixon

V-President - Kathy Gardner

Secretary - Sharon Roehrig

Treasurer - Woody Piece

Membership - September Young

Journey coordinator - Rick Thomas

Hospitality - Shirley Kincaid

Newsletter - Sharon McCall

Web master - Ray Rider



## **Welcome New Members**

### **Brenda Hoolihan**

Brenda recently returned to Memphis from East Tennessee, having also lived in St. Louis and Minneapolis. Her major interests are cooking, yoga, meditation and volunteer work for non-profits. She earned a PhD in educational psychology and research at University of Memphis and had several careers including associate director at Fogelman, consultant to St.Jude, and instructor for CBU. Her last position was Director of Catholic charities in Minneapolis, St. Paul. She has traveled extensively and now resides in Germantown, nearer to family.

### **September Young**

September is from Signal Mountain, Tennessee. She studied at the University of Memphis and lives in Cordova. She has initiated several businesses in the area and presently owns *Curls by September*. She sometimes refers to herself as a visual storyteller since communication through photography is one of her strong pursuits. She enjoys traveling and seeks to engage others in her activities. During the pandemic,

she recruited over 300 people to kayak safely on lakes in the area. We are grateful she has volunteered to help us with membership!

### **Treasurer's Report**

In keeping all members aware of our FF Memphis Financial condition, please find our current balances as of June 30, 2021.

Regular Checking account:	\$ 3,828.33
Exchange Account:	4.063.82
Bancorp South C.D.	<u>3.326.55</u>
Total	\$ 11,218.70

As all of you are aware, for the past 18 months, covid restrictions on travel have severely changed our normal activities. Membership renewals are down; however, our financial condition continues to be strong.

Respectfully,  
Woody Pierce, Treasurer

### **August 2021 Journey Report by Rick Thomas, journey coordinator**

#### **FF Travels Restart with Journey to Raleigh, NC**

After more than a year without any scheduled Friendship Force journeys, the Memphis club is scheduled to visit Raleigh, North Carolina, in mid-October. Slated for October 18-23, this five-night home stay will include a variety of activities. These include an historic trolley tour, trips to several museums and galleries, a stop at a lemur(!) center and visits to other notable sites. Currently, eight Memphis club members are signed up, and we could handle 2-5 more. Rick Thomas is coordinating the journey. A three-day extension is planned to the North Carolina Outer Banks, and Margaret Dixon is coordinating this part of the trip.

#### **All the Places I Didn't Get to Go by Carolyn Taylor**

What a year!! I can only tell you that I am sick of my living room and bored to tears with my own company. I am a "travelin' woman" who is not one bit happy about staying in one place, one house, and mostly one room. But, things will change. And the good, no GREAT news, is that no one in my Memphis family, my New Jersey family or my Boston family got sick. So the sacrifices were all worth it.

Make no mistake, I am so ready to go somewhere. I missed seeing my son and his family in NJ so that might be my first trip. However, he is now in Wisconsin, a state I've only driven through but never stopped. So my new adventure will be to explore Ashland and learn about some of the Great Lakes.

I also didn't get to see my Boston family. That trip is usually so much fun because of my niece and loads of nephews and now great nieces and great nephews. I only see them once a year so believe me when I tell you that I am treated better than the "Queen Mother".



But, one of the places I missed the most was my last home in the sweet village of Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts - home of the world famous Bridge of Flowers ( the only one of its kind in the world!) Really, it is an old trolley bridge that was abandoned after the trolleys stopped running in 1928. The Women's Club came up with the idea to plant flowers on the bridge and make it a thing of beauty instead of an eyesore. The women still take care of it.

And, I had to cancel the last of my 'Travel with a grandchild' trip. We were going to start in Rome, take a fast train to Venice (my favorite city in the world!) From there we were going to take a cruise on the Adriatic for 5 days stopping in places like Croatia and Montenegro. Ahh- maybe next year! However, I did get to a convention in Nashville so that was my big adventure this year. Can you tell I am ready to go somewhere, anywhere?

### **OUR JUNE LEO (LET'S EAT OUT): Food, Fun, and Fellowship Mexico Style!**



On June 29 our LEO group met at Abuelo's in Bartlett. There were 19 of us. We had a wonderful Mexican dinner and the best Margaritas and Sangrias. They were fantastic! As a bonus, we welcomed two new members to the club.





## AUGUST LEO

Dear FF members and friends:

The Memphis Friendship Force club has planned our next LEO (Let's Eat Out) for Monday, August 2. It will be held at Amerigo, which is located at 1239 Ridgeway. We have scheduled the event for 5:00 p.m. so that we may take advantage of the Early Bird menu. If you are able to attend, please respond to this e-mail [richardkthomas@att.net](mailto:richardkthomas@att.net) or text/call Shirley Kincaid at 901-921-1630. I look forward to seeing everyone and having another enjoyable meal!

Rick

### A New Member's Perspective



My name is Lynette Miller, and I am new to Friendship Force of Memphis. I first found out about the organization during a mission trip to Greece. (Go figure, I had to leave the country to find out about an organization located here in Memphis!) During a walk along the beach, I had a chance conversation with a member of the Memphis club, Margaret

Dixon. Among the many things we discussed was our mutual interest in travel. My preference when traveling is to meet the people and experience their culture (rather than visiting tourist traps). I explained that I was not a fan of cruises, since not only do you not really get to see the country, but you don't get to interact with the people (except those trying to sell you something). I was fascinated by the Friendship Force model, and after Margaret described the organization, I jumped at the chance to join. Then, the pandemic hit, and any and all travel plans were temporarily halted.

During the pandemic I was unexpectedly contacted by Friendship Force International (FFI) because of my stated interests to be part of a group dealing with diversity within the organization. I wasn't sure what I had to offer since I had not traveled with my new club or had any interaction with its members. However, after participating in several virtual FFI meetings, I became part of an "Affinity Group" that had been established to address the issue of diversity. The consensus of this group was that FFI needed to return to its roots and emphasize one of the organization's founding tenets: to be Inclusive rather than exclusive.

As I continue to work on the diversity issue for FFI, I hope you will all join us by taking a look at the Memphis club and determining how our club can become more inclusive. For anyone who needs more information or suggestions for improving diversity, the Affinity Group is there to support this effort. Members who have an interest in guiding the organization in expanding the breadth of its membership are encouraged to join.

I look forward to becoming involved with the Memphis club as things open back up. More than ever, Friendship Force needs to be inclusive both locally and internationally. Perhaps this Biblical commentary appropriately describes the organization's philosophy: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mathew 25:35).

### **Friendship Force International Updates**

When the effects of the COVID pandemic became apparent in early 2020, the leadership of Friendship Force International (FFI) took drastic steps to assure that the organization would survive until the pandemic ran its course. Since FFI's major source of income—journey fees—was totally eliminated, the organization solicited donations from its membership in order to ride out the storm. And the membership (including the Memphis club and its members) responded in dramatic fashion. A goal of \$220,000 was set for donations during 2020, but the membership responded by contributing nearly \$500,000 in donations! While these one-time contributions do not represent a long-term solution, they have enabled the organization to maintain a reasonable level of activity until a full program can be reinstated.

During the COVID pandemic FFI took the opportunity to totally rework the organization's website. The new-and-improved site includes some useful features and should serve as a valuable tool for FFI members and prospects. Members must sign up for the website in order to access any information related to the organization and its activities. In order to access the website, members should click on the following link to set up an account: [my.friendshipforce.org](http://my.friendshipforce.org).

### **August Birthdays**

Barry French - August 13

Demetra Lawrence - August 19

Charlotte Hayes - August 30



### **Sunshine News**

Thank you, Shirley, for the notes, messages, and acts of kindness you performed for those who have suffered a loss this year.

**Reminder: Please email Shirley Kincaid if you have any sunshine news.**  
[shirley@shirleykincaid.com](mailto:shirley@shirleykincaid.com)