

Friendship Force



Memphis, TN

April 1, 2024

Changing the Way You See the World

<https://ffmem.com>

General Meeting

Eggs Up Grill

Thursday, April 11, 2024

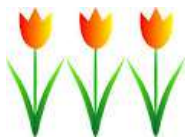
10:00 a.m.

9155 Poplar Avenue

Germantown, TN 38138

Speaker: Dale Lane, Collierville Police Chief

RSVP: Mike Farien's email mfarien@reagan.com



Greetings from the President, Kathryn Gardner

Greetings from your president, 2024. I want to welcome you into the Memphis Friendship Force whose goal is the same as our founder, Jimmy Carter, more than sixty years ago. He hoped thousands of ordinary citizens would travel to other countries on goodwill missions as citizen ambassadors. We know our world has huge problems. However, we will have some extraordinary opportunities to share

friendships with people this year. With over 300 clubs and thousands of members worldwide, we want to promote understanding wherever we go.

Journey with us. Host others in your home. FF is not a travel club-it is a way to forge new connections and share experiences that can transform social problems. We have a great year planned for you with interesting activities.

Leap Day Party and General Meeting: If you were able to attend our first general meeting at the Junior League mansion, you know what a wonderful group we have this year. Everyone seemed to enjoy the camaraderie of members and prospective members. The fabulous chili prepared by Carolyn Pierce, Sharon McCall and Kathy Gardner warmed everyone on the chilly evening. Pat Hayden presented two lovely charcuterie boards that were a hit, followed by delicious lemon squares and brownies brought by Karen Bowyer. Thanks Sandra Martin for the cute invitations, and all others who decorated, set up, cleaned up, and greeted everyone. All who attended enjoyed the event and we expect pictures to be in the April edition of “The Best of Times”, so pick up a copy and relive some of the event.



**Chili and Charcuterie
Party and General Meeting**



Mississippi Friendly Jaunt, February 22-24 by Kathryn Gardner: Richard Thomas and Karen Bowyer, our journey coordinators, organized a Friendly Jaunt through North Mississippi for fifteen members who signed up for this fascinating journey. Our first day included stops at Abe's at the legendary "crossroads", the Delta Blues Museum, a stimulating history conversation with Joe Porter at the lovely Clark House in Clarksdale and dancing at Ground Zero. The next day it was on to Indianola to tour the \$10 million dollar BB King museum and enjoy lunch at the Blue Biscuit. Ever moving, in Greenwood our local tour guide showed us the homes used in the filming of the movie, *The Help*.

We then arrived in Jackson, Mississippi for an unforgettable dinner in the lovely restaurant, 1917. The next day we visited the Picasso exhibit at the Mississippi Museum of Art. For lunch, we enjoyed a Mediterranean restaurant, Keifer's, which according to my friend, is the best restaurant in Jackson. We returned home after a tour of the Eudora Welty home. We loved every minute!



Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero



BB King Museum





Journey Report by Richard Thomas

More About the Mississippi Jaunt: Most “jaunters” spent the first night in the Clark House Inn, named for the founder of Clarksdale, John Clark. As mentioned by Kathy, the stint at Clarksdale also included a stop at the infamous “crossroads” where Robert Johnson reportedly “sold his soul to the devil”, followed by a visit to the Hopson Plantation, the first fully mechanized farm in Mississippi.

Upcoming Friendship Force Journeys: The “jaunt” to Mississippi was such a success that another jaunt is planned for April. On April 8-10 a van load of Memphis Friendship Force members will explore the attractions of north Alabama. However, the trip begins with a stop at Shiloh National Battlefield where the group will not only find out about one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War but will be able to watch the solar eclipse (complete with glasses and telescopes). The trip will continue to Corinth, Mississippi, where the travelers will visit the Corinth Civil War Interpretative Center. This is the perfect follow-up to Shiloh since the retreating Confederate soldiers escaped there—only to be involved in the fight for the Corinth “crossroads” railroad junction that was the key to winning the war. In Alabama the group will visit homes and museums of W.C. Handy and Helen Keller, tour a Frank Lloyd Wright house, visit a native American facility that rehabilitates horses, hike to see the bio-phosphorescent insects at Dismals Canyon. We will also tour the legendary FAME recording studio at Muscle Shoals and other sites of interest.

Although the friendly jaunts are not officially scheduled activities of the parent organization, Friendship Force International has offered us the opportunity to visit Ottawa, Canada, May 24-31. (We had previously been offered a journey to Fort Worth, Texas, but were unable to recruit enough ambassadors.) The Memphis club visited Ottawa in 2017 and it was a fabulous experience. Ottawa is not top-of-mind as a travel destination, but the experience is incredible. We will be exposed

to the history of the area (and Canada in general), visit various notable sights, and learn about Canadians and their way of life. There is still an opportunity to sign up for this journey, but you must contact journey coordinators Rick Thomas or Karen Bowyer immediately.

Looking Ahead: General Meeting Dates and Programs

June 13: Music at Mike Farien's Home (9125 Highway 196, Collierville, TN 38017)

September 12: Junior League (3475 Central Ave., Memphis, TN 38111)

Program by Kathy Gardner (Dubrovnik Friendship Force Conference)
and Peter Jarmulowicz (ESL in Germany)

November 14: Plans to be determined.

December 12: Christmas Party.

New Member Spotlight

We are excited to welcome our wonderful new members! For each newsletter, we plan to feature a few of those who have recently joined FF Memphis.



Alice Campbell

From my first trip to France for a six-week high school language study to now many travels every year to international and US sites, I love travel! Since retiring from a Federal Agent career, I have been working as a financial investigator on a number of government and private agency assignments including assignments as a contract Special Investigator for the U.S. State Department, Office of Diplomatic Security. Each year I attend international meetings of the Council of International Investigators, networking professionals on 6 continents and over 70 countries. I am thrilled to be a member of Friendship Force and begin this new chapter of travel and contacts!

Geri Meltzer

I arrived in Memphis from Canada in 1976. As a graphic designer, I was an International Art Director for Holiday Inn. I also freelanced for nonprofits, designing the Memphis Zoo publications for over 27 years. I am now a Volunteer at Theater Memphis in the costume department and stage design. My passion is travel, whether hiking in the Alps, paragliding in Austria, or walking with penguins in Antarctica. Life is an adventure!



Sharon and Paul Schaade

Paul and Sharon Schaade have recently joined Friendship Force. They both have enjoyed national and international travel throughout their adult lives. Together they enjoy nature hikes, daily walks, Pickleball, ping-pong, workouts, and various outdoor activities. Paul is a retired data processing manager and Sharon is a retired private school elementary principal.

Sharon participates in Bible studies, mentors children and teens, enjoys drawing, and volunteers often. Paul enjoys leading Royal Rangers, a boys' scouting group, Internet research, yard work, and helping others with small projects. They are looking forward to making new friends.

LEO (Let's Eat Out): A group of sixteen FF Memphis members gathered for a family style dinner at the Queen of Sheba Restaurant located on Summer Avenue. A delicious, aromatic Yemeni hot tea was offered as club members arrived and began to enjoy conversation. The food was delicious and flavorful and included: fresh mixed green salad with homemade dressing, lamb/vegetable soup, hummus with naan, phyllo pastry cheese/beef pies, lamb stew, and rice followed by *Basbousa* (cake with lemon, yogurt, milk, coconut, and butter). Many thanks to Rick Thomas for planning this gathering and to Sandy Martin for welcoming the group and recognizing our newest members. As an added treat, Rick provided each one of us with a sample bag of ground Middle Eastern spiced coffee. A great evening!

Queen of Sheba LEO Dinner





Sunshine Report: As our sunshine chair, Shirley Kincaid recently sent a sympathy card on behalf of the club to the family of long time FF Memphis member Charles Tilly, who passed away March 12th. A few of us were able to attend his service and reception at St. Louis Catholic Church. A memorial was also sent by Woody Pierce on behalf of FF Memphis. The obituary link is provided as many of you would find his life story to be very inspirational. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dailymemphian/name/charles-tilly-obituary?id=54600766>