

August 2020

For the latest information on Friendship Force of Fort Worth go to <http://www.fffw.org>



friendship force

FORT WORTH

A Non-Profit Organization Promoting Peace Through Homestay Journeys
Changing the way you see the world
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September Quarterly Meeting CANCELLED

Once again our Friendship Force quarterly meeting is cancelled due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. Even so, we continue to assume the best and aim for future Club activities.

Paula Thomson and the board are surmising improved conditions as they plan for our Holiday Meeting. Jeri Edmunds is again planning the Central Texas tour cancelled this last Spring. Linda Doyle is coordinating with the Southern Oregon and Willamette Valley FF Clubs for an Outbound Journey in August 2021. Fort Worth and San Antonio are both invited, so spots may go quickly. Sharon Jackson is in early stages of planning an inbound from the Harrisburg Club we visited in 2019.

You should also be interested in how Friendship Force International plans for the future in view of the pandemic. FFI's Strategic Plan can be viewed at

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/presenting-the-2019-2021-strategic-plan/>

Our thoughts are with Fort Worth Friendship Force Club president Jo Thomson as she rests at home while recovering from hip surgery. Best wishes, Jo!
In the meantime, for the rest of us, FFI says practice social connection while physical distancing.

“Tough Times Never Last, But Tough People Do!”
Robert. H. Schuller



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Historian
Open

“If you wish to travel far and fast, travel light. Take off all your envies, jealousies, unforgiveness, selfishness and fears.” – Cesare Pavese

The President's Letter August 2020

Greetings members,

We continue to be impacted by the pandemic, with no opportunity to have our usual events and board meetings. Your officers and committee chairs do manage to stay connected through online virtual meetings.

As time has passed by, it has become more obvious that we are in for a much longer period of sheltering in and social distancing that we may have originally planned. Consequently, your board has begun planning for some virtual events that will be entertaining and most importantly safe. Dave, Jim and Randy are investigating an on-line virtual Quarterly Membership Meeting for September. By now, you probably will have received or will soon receive a survey to assess your interest in such an event, and get your ideas on making it a success. The board is open to any ideas and suggestions from members for this and any other club function. It is vital for the health of the club and each of you, for us all to stay connected during this challenging time.

Eventually, the holding pattern will end and we will all resume our personal face-to-face contact, including our ethnic dinners, quarterly meetings, and, of course, our Journeys, both domestic and international. This time of sheltering-in and communicating by emails, phone calls and other electronic means has given many of us a much greater appreciation for physical greetings and hugs.

Please feel free to contact any board member to let us know how you are negotiating this unprecedented club situation. There is an email link on the Club Profile page of the website, <https://fffw.org>, that will allow you to contact any officer or member of our board, if you are unsure how to contact us.

I want to offer special recognition to Sharon Jackson for her continued oversight and renovation plans for our International Friendship Garden, on Bluebonnet Circle. Stop by and see it. You may see Sharon or one of her helpers pulling weeds, pruning roses or doing any number of other things to keep the garden presentable. Call Sharon and offer your assistance. Helping in the garden, outside, will be a nice respite to “sheltering-in”. Pulling weeds is good medicine for boredom.

Be safe and stay healthy,
Jo Thomson, President FFFW

CONNECTICUT INBOUND FEBRUARY - MARCH 2020



The Fort Worth Club hosted the Connecticut Club the first week of March showing them all about Fort Worth. Pictured here are the Journey Hosts and Ambassadors at our Welcome Dinner at the Lake Worth Spring Creek Bar B Que restaurant.

OREGON OUTBOUND - AUGUST 2021

The Southern Oregon and Willamette Valley Friendship Force Clubs have invited the Fort Worth and San Antonio Clubs for a visit in August of 2021. Linda Doyle is Journey Coordinator working with the three clubs tying down dates and events. But plan on visits to Oregon casinos, wineries, Crater Lake and the Oregon Coast are definitely in the mix. The Journey is still many months away, However, there will only be 12 openings to be shared between us and San Antonio so let Linda Doyle know of your interest as soon as possible.

Oregon Fun Facts:

- 75% of all Oregonians live in the Willamette Valley
- Willamette Valley has over 500 wineries
- Southern Oregon is home to Crater Lake National Park
- Ashland, Oregon is a walker's paradise with 48 places on the National Register Of Historic Places.
- Pumping your own gas is illegal in Oregon.
- There is no sales tax in Oregon

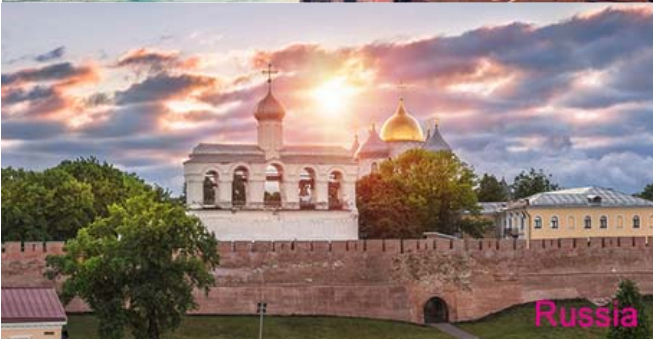
CARIBBEAN ISLAND OF GUADALOUPE OUTBOUND

On Outbound is tentative for Fall 2021. Jeri Edmunds is reading *A History of the American People* by Paul Johnson and shares with us interesting historical facts about Europe's approach to possession and colonization of the Caribbean Islands.

“The Treaty of Paris (1763) after the Seven Years War in Europe was one of the greatest territorial carve-ups in history. It says a lot for the continuing ignorance of European powers like Britain and France, and their inability to grasp the coming importance of continental North America, that they spent most of the peace process haggling over the Caribbean sugar-islands, which made quick returns in ready cash. Thanks to its command of the sea, Britain used the war to seize St. Vincent, the Grenadines, Tobago, Dominica, St Lucia, Guadeloupe, and Martinique. The British sugar lobby, fearing over-production, objected to keeping them all, so Britain graciously handed back Guadeloupe. In return the French made no difficulty about surrendering the whole of Canada, Nova Scotia, and their claims to the Ohio Valley--“Snow for Sugar,” as the deal was called...Spain was given Cuba and Manila and France gave Spain all of Louisiana to compensate for its losses in Florida to Britain... Thus, more American territory changed hands in this settlement than in any other international treaty, before or since.”

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYS

Friendship Force International is still offering numerous Journeys worldwide. I presume these opportunities are bound by Covid 19 and travel restriction mandates. If you are interested please visit the FFI website at <https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/journeys/> and see what is offered.



A Berry Good Time in Scotland

Adventures in Scotland

In September 2014 FFFW member Berry Bock traveled to the border towns of Scotland. The purpose was to visit the sites of numerous murders and visit with people who were intimately familiar with all the circumstances. *What was Berry thinking?* She was on a Murder Mystery Tour with Barbara Ford and other mystery lovers. The group started in Sterling, Scotland, attending the “Scotland, Bloody Scotland” international crime writing festival. We had dinner with **Denise Mina**, tea with **Lin Anderson** and rubbed shoulders with **Ian Rankin**. **Craig Robertson** took us to a murder grave-site in Glasgow’s magnificent necropolis! It has a fabulous view of Glasgow. These folks are all well-known mystery and crime writers. What a thrill for mystery lovers! At the awards banquet we were seated with **MC Beaton**, author of the Hamish Macbeth and Agatha Raisin mysteries, which some of you may have enjoyed. Berry also had the chance to visit castles and beautiful Scottish gardens.



Author Craig Robertson



Scottish Castle

She is especially proud of her photos of the sheep on the hillsides. May all of you have the fun of furthering your passions through travel.

Photos of Scotland



Rolling Hills

Mists over the Moors

Castle Ruins on the Hillside

Surrender Your Cardigans!



Plan Ahead

Further details are emailed each month, or can be found on the web page: www.fffw.org. Ethnic dinners are a great way to become better acquainted with members, and to introduce prospective members to The Friendship Force of Fort Worth

FRIENDSHIP FORCE 2020 CALENDAR

All Dates Pending Covid 19 Updates

September 4, 2020	September Quarterly Meeting CANCELLED
September 14, 2020	Northeaster Minnesota Pre-Conference Tour CANCELLED
September 18, 2020	Super Regional Conference CANCELLED
October 13, 2020	International Outbound to Brazil CANCELLED
October 16, 2020	Ethnic Dinner TBD
October 18, 2020	Board Meeting 4:00 pm Benbrook Library
November 15, 2020	Board Meeting 4:00 pm Benbrook Library
November 20, 2020	Ethnic Dinner TBD
December 4, 2020	Holiday Quarterly Meeting TBD
January 15, 2021	Ethnic Dinner TBD
January 17, 2021	Board Meeting 4:00 pm Benbrook Library
February 19, 2021	Ethnic Dinner TBD
February 21, 2021	Board Meeting 4:00 pm Benbrook Library
March 5, 2021	Quarterly Meeting 6:30 pm
April 15, 2021	Ethnic dinner TBD

- ◇ Ethnic dinners occur monthly, on the third Friday, except during quarterly meeting months.
- ◇ Meeting time is 6:00 PM, unless otherwise noted.
- ◇ Please RSVP if possible by Wednesday prior to the dinner with Judy Williams text 817-680-9316 or email judithwilliams04@yahoo.com, in order to assist in determining a reservation count.

!!!! IMPORTANT !!!!

The FFFW Exchange Policies and Procedures are posted on the website:
[http://fffw.org/newsletters/FFFW Exchange Policies and Procedures.pdf](http://fffw.org/newsletters/FFFW_Exchange_Policies_and_Procedures.pdf).



friendship force
FORT WORTH

The Friendship Force is a non-profit organization whose goal is to establish an environment where seeds of personal friendship are sown across the barriers which divide the peoples of the world. As an ambassador you share lifestyles in a private home in other countries for a week, then you may home host to share your lifestyles. The Friendship Force was started in 1977 by Wayne Smith with the support of Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter. The organization has now become one of the largest exchange programs in the world.

The Friendship Force of Fort Worth
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