

The Newsletter

January, 2020



friendship force  
SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY  
Serving the Delaware Valley

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SEE THE WORLD**



January 2020

Happy New Year Friendship Force members! For me one of the highlights of the holiday season was the performance by the UU Ukulele band from my church—Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill - at our Holiday Party on Dec. 8. I especially enjoyed their liveliness and enthusiasm.

Did you know that volunteer diving at the Camden Aquarium is a thing? Just ask Mark Goldstein on Sunday, the 26th at our general meeting at Lumberton! He will come with his gear and answers to all of our questions about this exciting retirement activity. Come join us.

Our club has been looking forward to a journey taking us to visit two different clubs in Australia this March. However, the fire season in Australia has other plans for us. Sue Hoke our Journey Coordinator wisely decided that an optimal journey would not be one which is threatened by bush fires and/or poor air quality. So, not this year. It is possible that we will arrange a domestic journey to take the place of our Australian journey. In addition, all members are encouraged to go to the Friendship Force International website to find a journey to a country you would like to visit which is sponsored by another club. And we have two inbound journeys this year—one from New Zealand in June and one from Canada in the Fall.

Have you paid your 2020 dues? Several people have—thank you. If not, please pay the \$30 by January 31, the last day of our membership drive.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on Sunday the 26th and then at World Friendship Day on March 1.

Lucie Lenore, President

# Friendship Force Calendar 2020 - 2021

Sun, Jan 26 - General Meeting 2 pm \*

Sun, Mar 1 – Meeting for World Friendship Day 2 pm\*

Sun, May 3 – General Meeting 2pm\*

June 14 – 21 - Incoming Journey from New Zealand

Sun, Sept 13 – Annual Meeting\*

Sun, Nov 8 – General Meeting\*

Sun, Dec 13 – Holiday Party\*

Sun, Jan 31, 2021 – General Meeting\*

\*Denotes meetings held at Medford Leas 180 Woodside Drive, Lumberton, NJ

Directions to Medford Leas at Lumberton Community Center

From Route 295 take Route 38 East, past the Larchmont Shopping Center (Ark Road). Two traffic lights past Ark Rd. is Mount Laurel-Hainesport Rd. After passing this road, turn right onto Creek Rd. South, toward Lumberton. Go 1 1/4 miles and turn left onto Woodside Dr. The Community Center is on the outside of the loop, 180 Woodside Dr. Lumberton, NJ 08048.

From Route 70 take Route 541 North toward Mt. Holly. Go 5 miles to Lumberton and turn left onto Route 640 (Creek Rd). Medford Leas at Lumberton is about a mile from 541 on the right.



# Friendship Force Holiday Party



Our club's holiday party was held on December 8th, 2019 with a lot of good food and good company. We were entertained with wonderful holiday music by The Front Porch Ukulele Band from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Cherry Hill. The seasonal charm put us all in the mood for the holiday that was approaching.

## Our Club's New Website

We are pleased to announce that our Friendship Force of Southern New Jersey website is now ready to be visited and used by our members and those interested in learning more about our club and Friendship Force in general.

Thanks to the hard work of our Web Master, Val Bolan, our website has taken on a brand new look and is a great source of information about our organization, including journals from past Journeys and postings for future journeys. To explore - please visit: [friendshipforcesnj.org](http://friendshipforcesnj.org)

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## Local Club Happenings



Speaking at our General Meeting on January 26, we are pleased to have Mark Goldstein, a longtime member of our club, who will present the program - Diving with Sharks! Mark has been a volunteer at the South Jersey Aquarium for 23 years and has had experience diving in many sites around the world. As well as

introducing us to the various species of sharks, Mark will also introduce us to the gear needed to Scuba dive. This will be an educational and fun experience. Members are invited to bring guests and family members. It will be a chance to learn what it takes to view the Aquarium and the world from under water!

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## 2020 Journeys

### **FF Southern NJ to Salisbury and Northern Districts and Kempsey, Australia, # 20020**

We were supposed to go to Australia this March, but in late December after we had lost half of our ambassadors for various reasons and with little time to try to recruit more, we made the reluctant decision to cancel the journey. Given the low numbers of ambassadors and the terrible fires plaguing Australia, we decided that maybe this journey just wasn't meant to be this year. I'm sorry we weren't able to make it happen.

It might be possible to find a replacement journey. and people who want to travel somewhere should check the FFI website for journeys looking for ambassadors at <https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/journeys/>

or you can click on the link below to sign up to be on their mailing list

<https://friendshipforce.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ba1bffc1cec3dcb20c97569d1&id=a905da849f&e=09a256f6c2>

### **FF Hamilton and Waikato, New Zealand to Turrialba, Costa Rica and Southern New Jersey and Sacramento, USA Journey #20113**

**Roy Sledger**, the president and AC of the Hamilton and Waikato club and I have been in touch over since last June. Last week he said they have 11 ambassadors and all their reservations are made. They will arrive at Philadelphia Airport on June 14, 2020 and depart on June 21 to New York on a Greyhound Bus from the station on Fellowship Rd. in Mt. Laurel, NJ. The 11 ambassadors are 4 couples and 3 single women. One of the single women follows a gluten - free diet and one of the couples has someone who is allergic to cat hair. On June 21 they plan to go to New York City to spend three days before flying out to Sacramento on June 24th.

We need a **Host Coordinator** for this journey and **hosts, day hosts** and **drivers**, and **dinner party hosts**. If you can help in any way, please email or call **Sue Hoke**: [suehoke@aol.com](mailto:suehoke@aol.com) or 856-795-3720.

### **FF Penticton-Okanagan, BC, Canada to FF Central Virginia and FF Southern New Jersey Journey # 20227**

I checked in with **Judith Single**, the AC for Penticton and Okanagan, BC, last week just to see how their plans are coming along. We had some emails exchanged with Judith and **Deb Winslow** in Central Virginia trying to find suitable dates. We are looking at October 7 or October 8 to October 14 or October 15 for the first week and October 14 or October 15 to October 21 or October 22 for the second week. We requested the second week but we have to see how things work out. They are aiming for 8 to 12 ambassadors. We need a **Host Coordinator** for this journey and **hosts, day hosts, drivers** and **dinner party hosts**. If you can help in any way, please email or call **Sue Hoke**: [suehoke@aol.com](mailto:suehoke@aol.com) or 856-795-3720.

## 2021 Journeys

We submitted our choices for **2021** at the end of October. Our choices were **Tanzania, Canada** and **Costa Rica**. We might hear something next month.