

The Newsletter May, 2020



friendship force
SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY
Serving the Delaware Valley

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**



May 2020

Message from Our President

As a member of . . . Friendship Force. . . (my) mission is to be a friend to the people of the world.

(Excerpts from The Friendship Force Pledge)

As I sat down to begin writing this message, I glanced through the glass of my front door and noticed a cardboard box sitting on my porch. Peering inside the box, I saw that it contained cans of fruit, applesauce and chicken noodle soup. Where did this box come from? I was overwhelmed with gratitude when I figured out that my church friend Gina (knowing that I was craving these things) must have brought it to me. And so this is the inspirational side of this awful pandemic, the part where people are helping others in any way they can.

What does this pandemic mean for Friendship Force? At first I was very discouraged because many journeys and meetings had to be canceled. And so I asked myself, “Will we *ever* be able to do journeys again?” On top of that is the financial crisis of Friendship Force International.

Since most of FFI’s income is based on fees that we each pay to FFI for every journey we take and *all* current journeys have been cancelled, the organization is in dire financial straits!

But then, I realized that Friendship Force is *us*! We have a strong community of friends here and around the world. We may not be able to do exactly the same things we have been doing, but we can still find ways to communicate with each other and to support Friendship Force International. Your board has begun this work. Hey, we updated ourselves by having a Zoom board meeting last Wednesday, April 15. At that meeting we made some decisions about our upcoming FF elections, started planning this newsletter and talked about other ways of reaching out to our members. Finally, we voted to donate \$500. to support our parent organization. I have learned that many other clubs around the world are raising funds for FFI.

In my own life, I am inspired by the actions of everyday people who are heroically tending the sick or working in supermarkets and by neighbors who help each other by putting canned fruit on porches or by sewing a mask for someone. Together we *can* and *will* make it through this pandemic.

Please feel free to contact me at 856-261-4588 or lucile.lenore@gmail.com

Lucie Lenore, President

The Current Board Members

Lucile Lenore, President

Joe & Bridget Kasinskas, Co-Vice Presidents

Gwen Deas, Treasurer

Robbie Thorton-Peek, Membership

Sue Trout, Secretary

Osa Meekins, Immediate Past President

Roz Goldstein and Judy Isaacs, Programs

Communications/Newsletter, Joe Kasinskas

Joan Markovic, Hospitality

Val Bolan, Webmaster

Sue Hoke, Journey Coordinator



Friendship Force Calendar 2020 – 2021

With Covid-19 social distancing in effect, our calendar has changed.
We will notify the club when dates become more definite.

Sun, May 3 – General Meeting 2pm* *Canceled*

June 14 – 21 - Incoming Journey from New Zealand *Canceled*

Sun, Sept 13 – Annual Meeting* ??????????????????????

Oct 14 – 21 – Incoming Journey from Canada *Canceled*

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 International Covid-19 Donations

The Friendship Force has been **severely** impacted financially by the pandemic affecting the entire world. As you know, the mission of the Friendship Force is financially supported through the act of members participating in Journeys around the world. All of the home-stays have been cancelled putting the organization itself in peril. Without a miracle, FFI will deplete its \$200,000 in savings and lay off all of their staff by August. Consider giving a special donation to the organization to ensure the infrastructure of FFI into the future. You can donate on the FF web site: <https://www.friendshipforce.org/donate/>

To receive the Friendship Force International Newsletter directly - put your email address in the box labeled “Subscribe” at the bottom of the donate page.

Or send your check payable to
The Friendship Force International
Attn Finance Department
PO Box 570
Asheville, NC 28802

Our club, Friendship Force of Southern New Jersey is donating \$500 from the club treasury. We hope that our members would consider making a personal donation to FFI in addition. An email describing various other methods of donation will follow in a few days entitled “Ways to Give”.

For more information on the financial impact Covid-19 here is a detailed report:

<https://blog.friendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FFI-TRANSPARENCY-SHEET.pdf>

Nomination of Officers

Can you help us? We need to nominate officers for two year terms, beginning in January, 2021. Who can you think of to fill the offices listed below? Or which office would suit your own skills and interests? Please contact nominating committee member Judy Isaacs at 856-234-0814(Hm) or 856-912-7504(cell) or Osa Meekins— osajrmeekins@aol.com if you wish to make a nomination. Please send her your recommendations by May 15. Our plan is to elect officers at the Annual Meeting which is now scheduled for November 8, 2020.

Here are some of the duties of the officers.

President:

The President presides at Club and Board meetings and makes sure that details are organized for these meetings, writes a Message for the newsletter, serves as liaison to regional and international contacts and initiates the process of nominating officers.

Vice-president:

The Vice-president performs all duties and responsibilities in the absence of the President and assists the President.

Secretary:

The secretary keeps minutes of Board and General meetings and sends copies of the minutes to the President and Board members. S/he handles the correspondence of the club.

Treasurer:

The Treasurer collects all monies due the club and pays all expenses, keeps accounting records of the club and prepares periodic financial reports. S/he works with the Finance Committee to prepare the Budget. The Treasurer receives membership dues.

The Communications and Newsletter Editor position will also be available this year, as my wife, Bridget, and I are moving out of the area. The job entails putting together 4 (seasonal) official Newsletters and occasional mass emails to inform the club of upcoming meetings, parties and such. If you are interested, respond to this email or call / text 609-790-7210.

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2020 – 2021 Journeys

Inbound 2020 Journeys

Journey #20113 Hamilton and Waikato, NZ

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FF Hamilton and Waikato club that was scheduled to be with us June 14 - June 21, 2020 reluctantly decided to **cancel** their visit which was probably a wise choice. I enjoyed all the months of communicating with Roy.

Journey # 20227 Penticton - Okanagan, Canada

This journey was scheduled for October 14 – 21, 2020. They were planning to arrive in Philadelphia on October 14 and probably fly home on October 21. The other day they emailed that the journey is **canceled**. Once things settle down and travel is opened up again, we can assess if this Journey can be rescheduled.

2021 Journey

On March 5 we received our 2021 Journey assignments. Lucie emailed it to me with the question “Did we ask for Uganda?” I said that we had asked for Iringa, Tanzania and they had requested us. I emailed Atlanta to see what had happened and didn’t hear back, but this was the time that problems were developing with lots of journeys needing to be canceled because of COVID-19. On March 17 I made a comment on Osa’s Facebook page about contacting Atlanta and Allison Lindsey, Vice President of Member Engagement, saw the comment and asked what the problem was. I told her and she said she would look into it. Very late that night I had a reply from someone in FFI Planning who said that they could easily change it to Tanzania. Because of the pandemic there has been no further communication. They are really busy with journeys for the rest of this year that need to be canceled or rescheduled.

Here are the assignments:

Inbound: June: **Piracicaba and Fortaleza, Brazil** to Canadian Capital Region, Canada and **Southern New Jersey, USA**

Outbound: September: **Southern New Jersey, USA** to Kampala, Uganda but hopefully changed to **Iringa, Tanzania**

Domestic Outbound: Southern New Jersey, USA to Northern Colorado, USA – no date suggested

The club draws members from Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley, and Estes Park in northern Colorado. During a journey they schedule a day in each of the four towns. The arts, especially bronze casting and life-size sculptures, are featured in Loveland. Fort Collins shows off craft breweries, Colorado State University, Horsetooth Reservoir, and the Old Town area. Greeley features Centennial Village reconstructing the pioneer days, and a local museum. Estes Park is the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park. They



include small group dinners in the homes of their members, a welcome party, and a farewell hoedown with square dancing.

It's a beautiful area and I'm sure it will be a fantastic experience.