

EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT VIEWS. DISCOVER COMMON GROUND



friendship force
MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES



2021 WINTER
NEWSLETTER

Better Times are Ahead

by *Tom Scott, FFMNTC President*

A world of friends is a world of peace. Friendship and peace, love thy neighbor; and at Friendship Force, our neighbors and friends are scattered around the globe. So as the grip of COVID-19 loosens, we understandably focus on our vaccination protocols and economic needs here in the U.S., but let us not lose sight of our friends and neighbors in under-resourced countries around the world. We are all in this together

Friendship Force members are a curious lot (maybe in more ways than one). We are involved in our local communities and the world that is brought to our doorstep. But we also want to learn about different places and meet new people. We want to bring those experiences back home to be shared, so that others can join us in the rewarding business of global exploration. Whether you can get on a plane and go to the other side of the world, or by choice or necessity choose to stay closer to home, Friendship Force will always provide a home for those who remain curious and eager to learn.

But alas, for the time being, we are all grounded and confined to our virtual world. As detailed elsewhere in the newsletter, we will be gathering via zoom for “Travel Tuesday’s” through June and perhaps longer. Please encourage friends and family to join us. The Board is continuing to work on other zoom get-togethers. (I urge members to explore the FFI website for additional virtual experiences.) We are planning to hold our semi-annual meeting and picnic in-person in August, and then onward and upward from there, including (keep your fingers crossed), an outbound journey to Taiwan in November.

So, keep the faith. Better times are ahead. Peace and Friendship.

Keep in touch with FFI

FFI continues to plan ahead for exciting Journeys for when the COVID-19 pandemic subsides and allows us to explore the world again. In the interim, they offer a variety of virtual options to satisfy our wanderlust. Keep up with current virtual options and future opportunities at:

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/>



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL

Travel Tuesdays

The 2021 FFMNTC Board invites you to join us for a series of travel presentations to be presented on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Each one-hour-plus program will begin with a travel-related or international-focused media presentation followed by a Q and A and social time. Also, there will be a special Valentine's Day social event on Sunday, February 14. All programs will be offered on the Zoom platform. Members and their friends and families are invited to participate. Potential members are welcome at all FFMNTC events.

SPRING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, February 14 at 7:00 PM. Valentine's Day Social Event, 2021 FFMNTC Board

Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 PM. A Visit to Iran. Presenter: Tom Scott, FFMNTC President

Tuesday, March 30 at 7:00 PM Adventure in Peru. Presenters: Cindy Cauble, FFMNTC Journey Director, and Valerie Hessburg, FFMNTC Member

Tuesday, April 27 at 7:00 PM. "A Towering Task" Peace Corps Documentary. Presenters: Jane and Jack Bardon, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and FFMNTC Members

Tuesday, May 25 at 7:00 PM. TBA

NEW TO ZOOM?

The link below will take you to an easy-to-follow YouTube tutorial on how to use Zoom:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=It0-FYKaj0c>

For personal help with Zoom, contact Cindy Cauble: cindyc219@msn.com or 952-920-6090.

2020 Don Wolter Service Award

by Louise Anderson and Rita Mays, 2020 Don Wolter Award Co-chairs

Three 2020 Don Wolter Service Awards were presented at the 2020 FFMNTC Annual General Membership Meeting on December 6. Club members receiving this award support the overall mission of Friendship Force to promote global understanding across barriers that separate people. They do this through exploring, understanding, serving, and stepping up in leadership roles. The Board reviewed the qualifications of the 2020 nominees, finding all equally outstanding. In a year when things are not typical, the Board decided to give the award to three worthy members, presented on the next page in alphabetical order

Don Wolter was our newsletter editor for 18 years. Since his death in 2013, we have honored Don and his many contributions to our club by giving the Don Wolter Service Award to a deserving member each year. See the story on Page 4 for more about Don's legacy and the criteria for receiving the Don Wolter Service Award.

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Congratulations and thank you to the 2020 Don Wolter Service Award recipients: Mary Cunningham, Jane Norman and Joyce Sharp for your many years of leadership and service to Friendship Force of Minnesota Twin Cities. We appreciate you and know we couldn't have done it without you.

Mary Cunningham

Mary joined Friendship Force in 1980 and has served in several roles within the club including club treasurer, exchange director for three outbound journeys, host for several exchanges, and as ambassador for several journeys.

Mary's first outbound journey as exchange director was in 1994 to Taiwan, the second was to Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand, which was followed by New Zealand in 2003. The New Zealand exchange was so successful that the New Zealand club requested an inbound journey to Minnesota in 2005, with Mary serving as inbound director.

Mary served as the club treasurer in 2009 and 2010. She and her late husband, Bill Cunningham, were ambassadors to Russia in 1996 and to Japan in 2013. When the club started to partner with the Open World program in 2013, Mary and Bill went the extra mile to make this successful. Mary has served on the planning committee for all four Open World programs, served as a host for two of the programs, and she and Bill opened their home for welcome dinners for the Open World delegates.



BILL AND MARY IN JAPAN

Jane Norman

Jane joined Friendship Force in 1981 as an ambassador to Venezuela, traveling with 250 people, as was common in early exchanges. She has continued to travel globally and home host, day host, and dinner host ambassadors from around the world.

Jane led exchanges in 1991 to Thailand and China, and the inbound exchange from Omaha in 1993. Club members loved the road trips she led to the North Shore in 2014, and the Iron Range in 2018, proudly promoting areas around her native home of Duluth. She offered a MN Up North mini-tour for the 2020 Super Regional Conference, which sadly was cancelled due to covid-19.

Jane served as club president (1992-93), vice president (2003-2004), co-leader with Joyce Sharp for the 1990 Midwest Regional Conference, and activities co-chair (2018). In these positions, she showed her enthusiasm, creativity and inclusivity. Throughout the pandemic, she reached out to club members and her neighbors to brighten their days.



JANE IN THE MN NORTHWOODS

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Joyce Sharp

Joyce has been on 23 Exchanges with Friendship Force since she joined in 1987, with her first trip to New Albans, England; she's stayed in touch with her home host all these years. Joyce has traveled to Europe, Asia, Japan, South and Central America and Cuba (in 2001). She's also traveled on domestic exchanges, remembering fondly Rio Grande Texas, among many. She also recalls joyfully holding a very soft koala on her trip to Australia.

Joyce frequently stepped into leadership roles, including five times as exchange director, two with incoming groups from Australia, and one outbound to South Australia. In 2011 she led a three-state exchange with a Mississippi River theme, taking ambassadors to Itasca State Park at the source of the river to kick-off their journey. More recently, in 2016, she led a Journey to Santa Barbara CA.



JOYCE CAMEL-RIDING IN TURKEY

Joyce has been a leader on the board in many capacities, including club secretary (1992-93), a role she had in her own career. In 2009 -10 she served as club president. She also was a co-leader with Jane Norman for a Midwest Regional Conference in 1990 in Bloomington MN.

UNDERSTAND – EXPLORE – SERVE

The Don Wolter Service Award

by Louise Anderson and Rita Mays, 2020 Don Wolter Award Co-chairs

UNDERSTAND. As a lifelong traveler, Don made it a goal to understand other cultures and to learn as much as he could about other countries. Don used his language skills to engage his host families and ambassadors. Besides being fluent in German, which he taught in Robbinsdale School District, he had studied Russian and Spanish.

EXPLORE. Don explored the world with the Friendship Force spirit of travel and adventure. He and his wife, Susanne, traveled to all seven continents, and over 70 countries, making friends in all lands. Don participated in sports from biking and Nordic skiing to bowling. He claimed to have bowled in over 30 countries. Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia in 2012, was his 31st bowling country.

SERVE. Don served as editor, contributing writer and photographer for our bi-monthly club newsletter, The "Ambassador," for 18 years (1996 to 2013). As an editor, Don was a stickler for grammar, spelling and deadlines. Each year, Don hosted an FFMNTC bowling and pizza event for high school foreign exchange students and club members to meet and socialize, introducing our older generation to youth who also like to explore the world.

Don Wolter exhibited all of the above with caring and humor. These three elements now form the basis for choosing individuals for the "Don Wolter Service Award."

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FFMNTC DON WOLTER SERVICE AWARDEES

2014	Willis Unke	2017	Dagmar Runyan
2015	Barb Emer	2018	Louise Anderson
2016	Donna Leak	2019	Mary and Gordon Elscott
2020	Three Awardees: Mary Cunningham, Jane Norman, and Joyce Sharp		

REMEMBERING

David Grossklaus

Beloved Husband, Father Grandfather & Brother, Age 72 of Richfield, passed away on December 20, 2020.

Preceded in death by son, Eric; sister, Dianne Verley. Survived by wife, Jackie; daughter, Jenny Ellingson; son, Paul (Jenn); grandchildren, Michael Brant, Colton and Riley Ellingson, & Charlie; brother, Roger (Adele); sister, Linda Ganyaw; and many other family and friends. David was an amazing individual, always willing to help a friend or stranger, and was devoted to his family and the Lord.



David's wife, Jackie, was President of FFMNTC in 2006-2007.

OUR LEGACY

by Blaine McCutchan, past president

As I write 2020 holiday cards, greetings, and acknowledgments, the photos I reviewed brought up memories that took on deeper meaning. It became a reflection on how we individually and collectively create the ever-expanding world we live in. My simple year end ritual flooded me with wonderful memories of family, friends, and community relationships, and experiences.

2020 Friendship Force Minnesota (FFMNTC) membership has meant no travel for obvious reasons. So, I sat down and started looking at pictures and memories of the people I have traveled with, cooked with, committed with, sang with, pot-lucked with, talked with, shared and laughed with. It solidified my commitment to FFMNTC by creating joy and purpose in my life.

As a club, we collectively have lost a lot in 2020, but continue to enrich our lives through reflection, adaptation, and change. Several members have passed on this year and we miss them dearly. They have touched our lives, living on within the fabric of FFMNTC and FFI. A piece of them exists within the organization in its vibrancy, structure and commitment.

The true legacy of Friendship Force membership is what we give to others through connection and friendship. Thank you to those that have blazed a trail, in contribution.

A world of friends is a world of peace.

Travel Bytes

by **Buck MacDonald, board director**

Travel was at a near standstill for much of 2020 and the big question we're all asking is what will travel look like in 2021? According to AARP, you can expect the following:

1. Those \$200 airline change fees may be gone for good. Looking to get more passengers on planes, many airlines in 2020 stopped charging their exorbitant fees to cancel or change domestic flights.
2. Flexibility will be everything. Before committing to a trip, travelers will want assurance that they can easily cancel their cruise, hotel or tour without penalty.
3. Last-minute getaways will be all the rage. The more spontaneous, wait-and-see approach to travel will likely continue.
4. We may need documents that prove we're COVID-free. Proof of a negative test or perhaps even vaccination may become necessary for flying.
5. We may carry digital "health passports" that show we've been vaccinated. Health apps could store verified test or vaccination results on mobile devices.
6. Cruises will be a lot less carefree. Passengers can expect mandatory pre-travel testing for COVID-19, lots of conspicuous disinfection and cleaning onboard, and the touting of new ventilation systems.
7. We'll travel the United States. International travel will come back slowly due to the uneasiness of being many time zones away from home and the potential of border closings.
8. The great outdoors will attract crowds with the emphasis on social distancing. National parks will be crowded into the foreseeable future.
9. High-tech "touchless" options will expand. This will include the continuing implementation of touchless payment options in hotels and other tourist spots and the use of facial recognition at airports.

We'll be wearing masks through summer, at least.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

2021 ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Tom Scott
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Vice President: Max Harris
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Secretary: Louise Anderson
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Treasurer: Rose Emerick
rose3689@comcast.net
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BOARD DIRECTORS

Jane Bardon – 2020 President, News Editor, Communications
ffminnesotavp@yahoo.com

Cindy Cauble – Journey Director
cindyc219@msn.com

Buck MacDonald – Member-at-Large
jbmcd11@hotmail.com

Rita Mays – Member-at-Large
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Non-Board Volunteer

Jan Lanyk – Facebook Admin
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WEBSITE

friendshipforcetwincities.org

NEWSLETTER

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MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES