



**friendship force**  
MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES



**2021 SUMMER  
NEWSLETTER**

## The Best of Both Worlds

*by Tom Scott, FFMNTC President*

Greetings!

I look forward to emerging from my role as your virtual president and seeing many of you in person at our summer picnic on Sunday, August 8.

The picnic also serves as our semi-annual membership meeting. The Board and I will be looking for your input on general club operations and programs, your participation in future inbound and outbound journeys and, as always, ideas on how to attract new members.

So, what does an organization like ours, whose activities are centered around travelling to and hosting people from other parts of the world, do with itself during a global pandemic shut down? Well, of course, like the rest of the world we go virtual. Our Board meets virtually (usually with 100 % attendance). We initiated the monthly Travel-Tuesday sessions, conducted some special zoom social events (thanks to Cindy Cauble) and started a Spanish conversation group. Also, like with most organizations, the virtual world, I am sure, will remain and supplement our real-world activities. The best of both worlds going forward, one could say,

But you can't beat getting together in person on a summer (hopefully not too hot) afternoon for a picnic with old and new friends. See you on August 8 at noon.

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## Travel-Tuesdays

Many thanks to our Travel-Tuesday presenters for their interesting and enlightening programs so far this year. We will restart our series of virtual travel presentations beginning in September. Watch for email announcements of dates and programs. Presentations will be 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. 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.

***The FFMNTC Board invites you to share your own adventure story with our members at an upcoming virtual Travel-Tuesday. Contact President Tom Scott at [tscott1909@gmail.com](mailto:tscott1909@gmail.com) or 612-804-4102. If you would rather share your story in written form, contact Newsletter Editor Jane Bardon at [FFMinnesotaVP@yahoo.com](mailto:FFMinnesotaVP@yahoo.com).***

## 2021 Semi-Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, August 8 at 12:00 Noon

**PICNIC LUNCH– FRIENDSHIP TIME– BUSINESS MEETING**

Oak Hill Park Main Picnic Shelter in St. Louis Park

3201 Rhode Island Avenue South, St. Louis Park, MN 55426

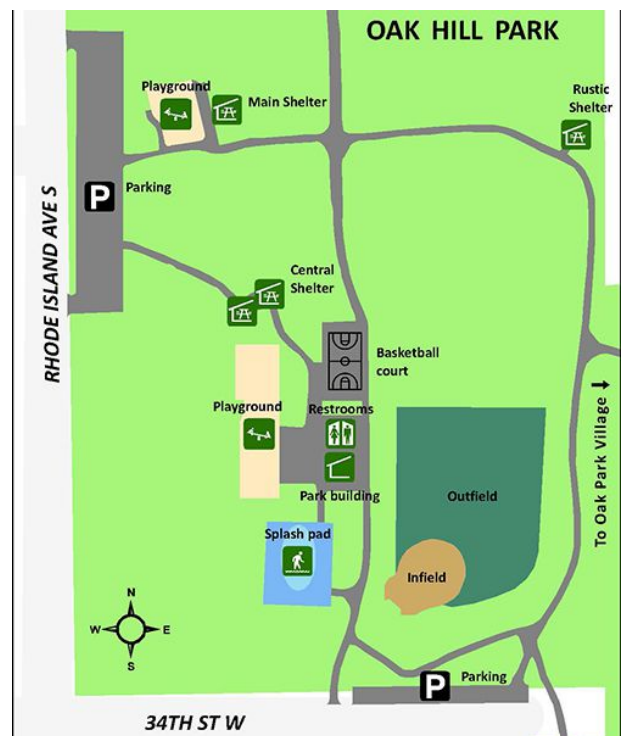
- *This will be our first in-person gathering since March of 2020!*
- Due to the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and its variants, this event will only be open to individuals who are fully-vaccinated for COVID-19. Since we all want to protect our friends, we will be on the honor-system. Feel free to wear a mask, if you wish.
- A picnic lunch with grilled brats and burgers (sorry, no vegetarian option), salads, and dessert will be served. All food will be provided by the Club and served by designated volunteers. There will not be a potluck this year.
- A cooler of ice-water will be available. We recommend that you also bring a personal beverage of your choice. If the hot weather continues, adequate hydration will be a concern. Please note that alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the park.

**VENUE LINK:** <https://www.stlouispark.org/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/32/85>

We will be at the Main Picnic Shelter shown in the upper left corner on the map.

Copies of the 07.21.21 FFMNTC Member Roster will be available. Check with Secretary Louise Anderson.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Cindy Cauble at [cindyc219@msn.com](mailto:cindyc219@msn.com) or 952-686-8278.



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## JOURNEY NEWS AND UPDATES - Summer 2021

*By Cindy Cauble, FFMNTC Journey Director*

It's exciting to see things really coming together for our 2022 journeys.

### Inbound LA – May 21-28, 2022

Please consider volunteering as Host Coordinator for this group. Home Hosts are needed too.

### Inbound Utah – Late August or early September 2022

Marge Runnakko and Jane Norman have agreed to share the Host Coordinator position. Marge has a prior travel experience with the Utah club and Jane has experience acting as trip leader for trips to the North Shore. Thanks to Marge and Jane for volunteering! They will make it a good time for all. Home Hosts are needed upon ambassadors' arrival and after they return from up-north, four nights in all.

### Outbound Germany and Turkey – September 26 to October 9, 2022

Please consider volunteering as Ambassador Coordinator for this two-part journey.

- Germany: September 26 to October 2, 2022
- Turkey: October 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> to October 9, 2022
- Note: Germany and Turkey can only host 12 people

### Outbound Arizona – Winter 2022.

Awaiting information about a contact person to confirm our assignment and dates.

*Be sure to save these dates!*

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## Building Friendships and Building with Logs

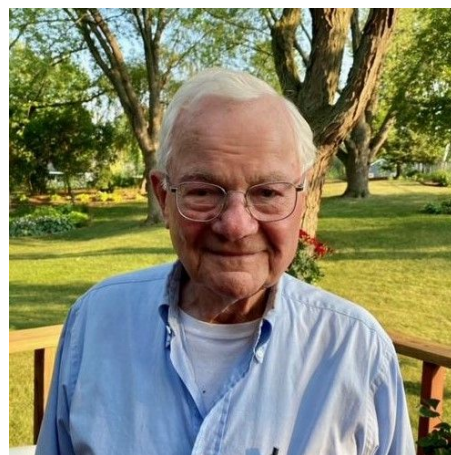
### An interview with FFMNTC Member Les Gable

*By Jane Norman, FFMNTC Past-President*

**Les and Marianne Gable** joined Friendship Force MN/Twin Cities at the invitation of their neighbor Willis Unke in the year 2000. They had previously been invited by the Unke's to join them on a domestic club trip to Florida. They had such a good time, enjoyed all the people and made lifelong friends with their hosts that they knew they had to join.

Although they have not traveled outside the North American continent, their favorite trip was to Calgary, Canada. Where once again the spirit of Friendship and getting to know a new place and people made for a fun and enjoyable trip.

Unfortunately, Marianne is no longer with us, but Les continues to be an active club member who lights up any group with his youthful appearance, radiant smile, gift of storytelling, and ready jokes. Les retired from his job at the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis in the mid 80's. Having lots of time and a cabin "up-north" that needed work he took a ten-day class in log building at the Great Lakes School of Log Building.



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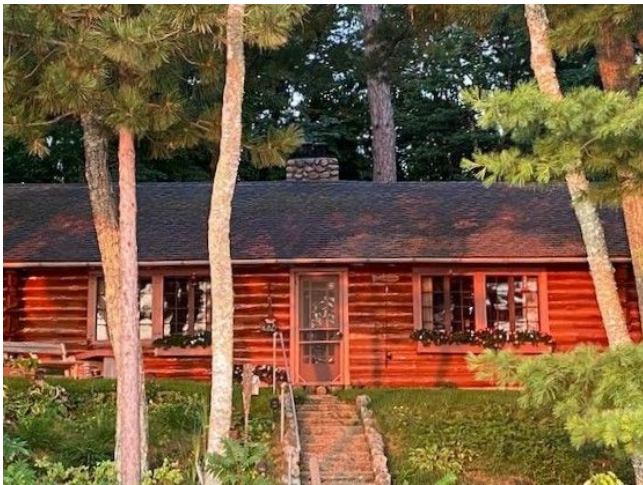


## Les Gable Interview – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

A garage made of logs was to be a learning experience in his transition into retirement. There was no blueprint or plan as such. The closest thing to a plan was the dimensions for the slab foundation. From there, the structure just grew to its final shape. The first log went in place in May of 1986 and the structure was complete in the Fall of 1990. Les's log garage was complete with an upper sleeping room and a chandelier.

But Les and Marianne didn't stop at a garage; a sauna and an outdoor toilet (complete with stained glass window and chandelier) were to follow – after they did a complete refurbishing of their cabin. I had the opportunity to occupy the upper room in the garage and to use his fancy toilet when four of us Friendship Force members were invited up to his cabin this past summer. We all were impressed with his craftsmanship and Marianne's sewing and needlework skills. This place is a labor of love and a testimony to two very skilled, dedicated people, and what can be accomplished after completing a lifelong job. *Their legacy will live on – and what a gift for their children!*

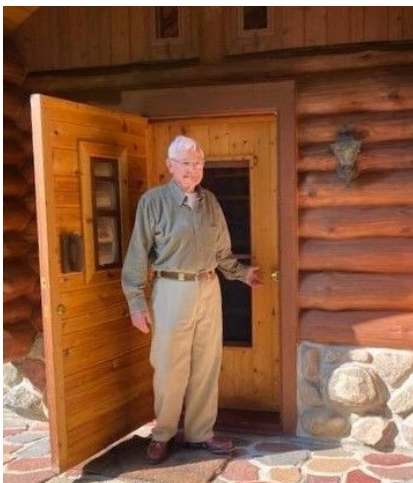
### **PHOTOS BY JANE NORMAN**



LOG CABIN



LOG GARAGE



SAUNA



LOG TOILET



TOILET INTERIOR

**EDITORS NOTE:** FFMNTC Member Les Gable celebrated his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday this year. Marianne Gable passed in 2017 at the age of 88.

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# UPDATES FROM FFI – Summer 2021

A world of friends is a world of peace



## The FFI Member Portal (MyFFI)

Friendship International (FFI) is now offering individual members the opportunity to have their own accounts through the FFI website. To take advantage of this, you will need to sign up and create a password. Later, as this service evolves, you will be able to sign in to manage your Journeys and other FFI activities.

To sign up, copy this link into your browser: [https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign\\_in](https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in)

This is also the link to use to access the member portal after you create your account.

So far, 15 FFMNTC Members have registered for the MyFFI Portal. Although MyFFI is still a work in progress, some activities, like the Book Club below, are accessed through MyFFI.

## FFI 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Book Club Announced

### **“The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane” by Lisa See First Meeting September 27:**

The second book we will read together is “The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane” by #1 New York Times bestselling author, Lisa See. Please go to your favorite book store or borrow this historical novel from the library around the corner and start reading now!

Read what the media has to say about this spellbinding portrait of life as a Chinese American woman:

“A powerful story about circumstances, culture, and distance, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* paints an unforgettable portrait of a little-known region and its people and celebrates the bond of family” — *Dublin Literary Award*

“See is one of those special writers capable of delivering both poetry and plot.” — *New York Times Book Review*

“A lush tale infused with clear-eyed compassion, this novel will inspire reflection, discussion and an overwhelming desire to drink rare Chinese tea.” — *The Washington Post*

We look forward to sharing thoughts and impressions with fellow Friendship Force members in our Book Club meeting on September 27 at 2:00 pm EDT!(1:00 pm CST)

To register for the FFI Book Club: “The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane”, copy the link below into your browser:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlde-qrDluHdfvaYTEdNWs-O4KwqKcX50n>



## Travel Bytes

by *Buck MacDonald, Board Director*

Americans are once again on the move as Covid-19 restrictions are eased. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is no longer warning those who are fully vaccinated against cruise travel. It is however still recommending those who are unvaccinated to avoid travel on cruise ships.

The CDC has lowered warning levels for dozens of popular destination countries but still recommends vaccinations before travel. Europe has opened up to Americans this summer season under certain conditions and with roadblocks to easy passage, usually regarding proof of vaccination or negative Covid-19 test results. Rules vary in each EU country so do your homework beforehand.

In order to board a flight to the US, both visitors and returning American citizens must provide documentation of a negative viral test taken within three days of departure or show documentation they have recovered from Covid-19.

You now have until May 2023 before you will need a security-enhanced REAL ID instead of a regular driver's license in order to get through airport security. This deadline was recently moved up from October 2021.

## Memories of Past FFMNTC Picnics



MAX and CAROLE



BUCK, FLOYD and JACQUE



LOUISE and KEN



GODFREY and JOHN C.

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

### 2021 ELECTED OFFICERS

**President: Tom Scott**  
[tscott1909@gmail.com](mailto:tscott1909@gmail.com)  
612-804-4102

**Vice President/Membership: Max Harris**  
[xharris26@comcast.net](mailto:xharris26@comcast.net)  
952-938-2101

**Secretary: Louise Anderson**  
[louisemarieanderson17@gmail.com](mailto:louisemarieanderson17@gmail.com) 612-354-0927

**Treasurer: Rose Emerick**  
[rose3689@comcast.net](mailto:rose3689@comcast.net)  
612-723-6202

### BOARD DIRECTORS

**Jane Bardon – News Editor, Webmaster, Membership**  
[ffminnesotavp@yahoo.com](mailto:ffminnesotavp@yahoo.com)

**Cindy Cauble – Journey Director, Zoom-master**  
[cindyc219@msn.com](mailto:cindyc219@msn.com)

**Buck MacDonald – Member-at-Large** [jbmcd11@hotmail.com](mailto:jbmcd11@hotmail.com)

**Rita Mays – Member-at-Large**  
[ritamnffi@yahoo.com](mailto:ritamnffi@yahoo.com)

### Non-Board Volunteer

**Jan Lanyk – Facebook Admin**  
[janlanyk@gmail.com](mailto:janlanyk@gmail.com)

### WEBSITE

[FFTwinCities.org](http://FFTwinCities.org)

### NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly during the COVID-19 pandemic by the FFMNTC Board. Email submissions to:

[FFMinnesotaVP@yahoo.com](mailto:FFMinnesotaVP@yahoo.com)



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