

EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT VIEWS.
DISCOVER COMMON GROUND.

January, 2021
1st Quarter



friendship force

KANSAS

January, 2021

www.friendshipforceofkansas.org www.friendshipforce.org



PRESIDENTS' *PONDERINGS AND PLANS*



Calendar of Events

January, 2021

30th 10:00 Quarterly Meeting at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. MASKS required.

February, 2021

Feb 24 OR Feb 27 Wichita Art Museum-African Americans in Art 1:30 with docent. Lunch is an option. TBA

March, 2021

4th FFK Board Meeting-place TBA

27th World Friendship Day-working on a possible focus on the Bahai faith and a visit to the center. TBA

April, 2021

24th Quarterly Mtg -GDL

May 5, 2021

10:30 Tour of Koch Gardens at Botanica

June, 2021

3rd FFK Board Meeting at Watermark

July, 2021

31st 10:00 Quarterly Meeting at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

18-24 Western Montana (Missoula) Outbound

September, 2021

2nd 10:00 Board Mtg. Watermark

10-21 Colombia, SA Outgoing

October, 2021

30th Quarterly mtg. at GDL

December, 2021

2nd 10:00 Board Mtg. at Watermark

9th Christmas Party at Cowtown Visitor's Center

It's wonderful to welcome in 2021 as 2020 was a difficult year for us all and our organization suffered in similar ways to all the other businesses and organizations that had to adapt to COVID-19. However, 2021 looks hopeful now that multiple vaccines have been developed that show promising results. Even with the more deadly strain emerging, it appears the vaccine will be just as effective. The social distancing guidelines have impacted our ability to meet and enjoy the benefits of Friendship Force. The leadership team has plans to continue to practice caution but to also hold meetings and events to bring the group together and to meet our goals of promoting friendship.

Currently, FFK has no scheduled inbound Domestic or International Journeys' for 2021, but we will be visiting Western Montana in July and Colombia (South America) in September. We intend to have meetings via ZOOM or in person as people feel comfortable in social distancing. Look for a Zoom link in an email if you choose that option and do not wish to attend the meeting.

Lastly, a quote from Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier ...'"

Yours in Friendship, Steve Dunn and Curtis Zerr, Co-Presidents

Autobiography of Steven E Dunn

I was born in Logan, Utah in 1948 to a Mormon family with pioneer ancestors. My ancestors immigrated from Europe to America in the mid-1800s and joined the trek of Mormon converts pulling handcarts or riding in covered wagons to reach the Salt Lake Valley.

My parents grew up in northern Utah and met in Logan and married young because of WWII. Dad finished his education degree and became a teacher/coach. He moved the family to northern California where I grew up with my three brothers and one sister until I was 12. My folks moved us all back to Utah where I attended junior high school through graduate school.

I got my first job teaching and coaching high school students. I married Allison in 1973 and we started our family that eventually included 5 children of which two were twin boys. I completed a doctoral program at BYU and took my little family to Bowling Green, Ohio, where I started my first university faculty position. I had an opportunity to return to Utah State University where I taught for several years. Allison eventually went back to work as an educator and became the principal of Logan High School until she died of breast cancer. My children were out of the house so I made a new start and moved to Wichita, Kansas to join the graduate education faculty at Newman University where I eventually became dean and director of the School of Education until I retired in 2018.

I became a trainer for an organization called Lions-Quest in 1988 and I continue to work with them and other professional organizations. Since '88, I have flown nearly two million miles to do trainings and other consulting work. I've been to every state in the U.S. including Puerto Rico, and to multiple countries around the world working with educators. My adult children are scattered, one lives in Wichita, one lives in Colorado Springs, one is in Chicago, and one is in Pennsylvania. I have three young grandchildren. I joined Friendship Force in 2015 and was able to take my first international trip last summer with the group that went to Kazakhstan.

I live in an older home in the North Riverside area of Wichita and continue to sing with a men's chorus and act in local community theatre productions. I was involved in Greenway Alliance and Optimists for a number of years as a volunteer and officer.

Autobiography of Curtis Zerr

I grew up on a family farm outside Grinnell, Kansas, way out on the high plains of Northwest Kansas. I grew up in a predominately German Catholic community and was the tail end of 7 children, 5 brothers and one sister. My parents' way of life was for all of us to be self-sufficient. Our lives as a farming family was physical. We grew or raised most of what we ate. We tended to cattle, chickens and hogs, and we grew two large gardens and harvested from various fruit trees, as well. The farm consisted of the commercial crops of wheat and corn, as well as milo, oats and sorghum for the cattle.



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Publicity:

Diane Schuetz

Program:

Steve Dunn ACTING

Membership Chair:

Kathy Smith

Activities

Susan Harrington

Merchandise:

Ronda Holmes

Courtesy:

Helene Longhofer

Website Coordinator:

Alice Kreissler

Newsletter Editor:

Lottie Miller

Bylaws

Jo Ann Pottorff

NZ Outbound 2019

AC Sherri Lichtenberger

Fukuoka Incoming

2019

HC Steve Smith

Outbound Kazakhstan

2019

AC Lynn Harrington

Portland Inbound 2019

AC Hoyt and Jo Hillman

Colombia, South

America Outbound

AC Curtis Zerr

Western Montana

(Missoula) Outbound

AC Steve Smith

I attended elementary school in the tiny village of Angelus and went to Jr. High and High School in the small town of Grinnell. I graduated with all the same original 16 classmates. I moved to Dodge and graduated from Dodge City Community College. I then moved to Wichita and graduated from Wichita State University with a degree in Business with Economics Minor and some Spanish for a little flavor. I enlisted and served in the Kansas Army National Guard and after 6 years was honorably discharged as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Signal Corp.

I made a career in the insurance industry. I purchased and operated my own independent insurance agency for 15 years. I sold my agency to ICI Insurance and currently work for them as a Broker and Risk Advisor. I provide coverage solutions for Non-Profits, Moving and Storage Companies, Municipalities, and all types of contractors, along with personal insurance needs, as well.

I have always been community minded and enjoy helping with local social needs and programs. Some of my community volunteer work includes President of the Kechi Arts Council and the Park City Park, Tree and Recreation Board. I continue to serve with the Wichita, Kansas Inter-tribal Warrior Society. I have enjoyed hosting FFK guests from China, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Kazakhstan, England, Canada, Oregon, Oklahoma and North Carolina.

I look forward to the challenge of growing and promoting unity among people with Friendship Force of Kansas. I'm particularly excited about making new friends, experiencing cultural gatherings, and increasing my own understanding around Kansas and the world.

COURTESY REPORT

A get well card and muffins were taken to Joan Fox following her shoulder surgery in December.

A thinking of you card was sent to Mary Lou Rivers, re: her good friend Bruce Tompkins who was in hospice care. Then, following his death, a phone call was made to Mary Lou expressing our deepest sympathy.

A card was sent to Helen Donley following a fall during the week of Jan. 11. She has a fractured hip and is, currently, in skilled nursing. No family or visitors due to COVID. Cards may be sent to her home, 2338 Lighthouse Cove, Wichita, 67205. A phone call was made and the family encourages and appreciates prayers.

Helene Longhofer, Chair Person



2021 ACTIVITIES

Susan Harrington

Please keep an eye to your email as COVID could change some of these activities.

Jan. 30, Sat.	Quarterly Meeting	10:00 Gloria Dei
Either Feb. 24, Wed. or Feb. 27, Sat. Special exhibit: African Americans in Art Wichita Art Museum, 1:30 with docent (Lunch is an option)		
Mr. 4, Thurs.	Board Meeting	10:00 Watermark
Mr. 27, Sat.	World Friendship Day- Bali Religion Ctr.	
April. 24, Sat.	Quarterly Meeting	10:00 Gloria Dei
May. 5, Wed.	Tour of Koch Gardens	10:30 Botanica
June 3, Thurs.	Board Meeting	10:00 Watermark
July. 18-24	Journey: Missoula, Montana	
July 31	Quarterly Meeting	10:00 Gloria Dei
June, August & November's Activities	TO BE ANNOUNCED	
Sept. 2, Thurs.	Board Meeting	10:00 Watermark
Sept. 10 – 21	Journey: Columbia & extra tour	
Oct. 30, Sat.	Quarterly Meeting	10:00, Gloria Dei
Dec. 2 Thurs.	Board Mtg.	10 a.m. Watermark
Dec. 9 Thurs.	Christmas Party	Cowtown Visitors' Center

Possible activities might include (baseball game at Wichita baseball stadium, wine tasting party, Etzanoa (Native American) Archaeology tour, small group activity (movie night, book talk, cooking class, bridge group), self-guided auto tour of barn quilt and/or bridges of Cowley County



2021 FFK Board. L-R: Steven Dunn, Co-President; Sherri Lichtenberger, Treasurer; Jo Hillman, Vice President; Alice Kreissler, Secretary; and Curtis Zerr, Co-President.

George Short, long time FFK member, receives FFK's Lifetime Membership.



Gretchen Eck, speaker for the October, 2020 quarterly meeting.

SPEAKER FOR OUR JANUARY 30TH MEETING

Ann Fox, our featured speaker for January 30, is the Executive Director of Wichita Habitat for Humanity.

Fox grew up in the Northeast and came to Wichita to attend Kansas Newman College in the 1970s. She married, raised a family, and worked. Her work included lots of experience working with volunteers in the health-care field, in project management for a construction firm, and with a board of directors as the Director of Alumni Relations at Newman University before taking on the director job with Habitat for Humanity.

Ann heads a 12-person staff and also works with a volunteer work force that has numbered well over 10,000 since the chapter's inception in 1986. Ann believes she has prepared her whole working life for the job as Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity.

"When I joined Habitat for Humanity, I experienced the transformation families experience when they achieve stability and learn self-reliance and achieve the goal of homeownership through the Habitat for Humanity model. When you have witnessed families change the trajectory of their lives, you can't wait to engage others as partners to make this happen for others."

Fox and her husband, Mark, a retired high school science teacher, have four wonderful children (two of whom Steve Dunn taught at Newman University)

SPOTLIGHT ON FFK MEMBERS



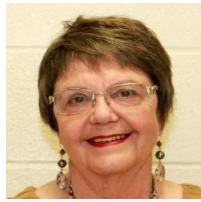
Jo Ann Pottorff

Jo Ann was born in Wichita and comes from a long line of Kansans. Her mother's family came to Augusta in 1869. She attended public school in Wichita and graduated from KState in elementary education. While at KSU, Jo Ann met her future husband who was in veterinary school. While he was still in school, Jo Ann taught for 2 years near Manhattan then later substituted in the Wichita Public Schools. They have two sons who live in Johnson County.

Jo Ann served on the USD 259 school board for 8 years and then served in the Kansas State Legislature. At the time of her retirement she was the longest serving woman in the Kansas Legislature. She has also run political campaigns and was a realtor. Jo Ann helped women in Korea, Japan, and Taiwan learn how to run for political office.

Travel and photography are Jo Ann's interests. Through her Legislative years she was able to travel and meet with legislators from many countries.

Through FFK Jo Ann hopes to continue getting to know and learn from people in other countries and to establish friendships. She looks forward to sharing our wonderful state of Kansas with others, especially the unique Flint Hills region.



Linda Ralston

Linda is from Fayetteville, Arkansas, but her family moved to Kansas when she was 12, so her dad could go to work at Boeing. She and Harold have two adult sons and 5 grandchildren. She has an undergraduate degree in English from Washburn and a graduate degree in counseling from WSU. She was an English teacher first then was a middle school counselor in Andover for the last 16 years of her career.

Linda's interests are reading, knitting, playing the piano, visiting with friends, and spending time at their vacation home in Red River, New Mexico.

She and Harold have gained new friends in FFK and have hosted couples from New Zealand and North Carolina. She has gone to Ashville, NC with the FFK group. They also hosted the annual Christmas party at their wonderful country home one year. Linda and Harold hope to do some traveling with the group when the pandemic is behind us.



Harold Ralston

Harold was born in Wichita and grew up on a farm outside of Augusta. He started driving a tractor at age 9 and worked with his father and grandfather until he left for college. In high school he played basketball and football. He went to Washburn on a football scholarship. He worked for Boeing, E-Systems in Greenville, Texas as an engineer and retired from Boeing. He and Linda have two sons and 5 grandchildren.

Harold loves hunting, fishing, and now being the cowboy he always wanted to be. They have a cattle and beef business called Clee Ranch which sells beef and brings it to your home. He enjoys watching their Andover grandchildren at their activities, particularly sports.

Through FFK Harold hopes to gain more friends and learn about people from other countries.



Nancy Jones

Nancy was born and raised in Topeka with several brothers, her twin sister, Georgia Deatrick, (a founding member of FFK), and a half-sister. Her father worked for Santa Fe, so they had a lifetime pass to travel. They visited relatives and historical cities around the country. Nancy had a good childhood, liked school, and was involved in activities and had friends. During college summers she worked on the east coast and loved going to the beach on weekends, meeting new people, and learning about different foods, ethnic groups, and places. Although she never intended to stay in Topeka once she graduated from Washburn University, she stayed to help care for her ailing parents. She married and had three children. Before her youngest was born, She went to graduate school and got a Master's in Social Work degree at KU and was accepted into a Master's Social Work program at the Menninger Clinic, a famous private psychiatric hospital in Topeka. She worked there for 25 years before opening a private practice. She closed it seven years later when her husband died.

One of Nancy's avocations is art. She loves working with pastels, oils, and mixed media. For the last 12 years she and some friends have taught at an art center that they started. Currently they are doing Zoom classes.

Flowers, particularly iris, are a passion of Nancy's. She photographs them and makes notecards which she sells.

Another passion is travel, both domestic and international. She was able to go with FFK to Australia and to the UK with the Des Moines FF. Going to familiar and not so familiar places has been not only interesting but enriching with meeting some wonderful people and making some long lasting friendships.

One problem in being active with FFK for Nancy has been the fact that she lives in Topeka, 120 miles away. She had attended some events with Georgia, but, when Georgia developed a rare, terminal illness – bulbar ALS – Nancy moved her sister to Topeka to care for her until she died last January. Nancy still hopes to be able to come to Wichita for some meetings or activities, return to Australia and Europe, and travel to New Zealand when all the Covid restrictions are lifted.

TREASURER'S NOTICE

Send any payments to Sherri Lichtenberger, 12106 W. Texas, Wichita, KS 67235.



DUES FOR 2021 HAVE BEEN WAIVED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF KANSAS, INC.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Revised November, 2020)

FF International – www.friendshipforce.org

FF of Kansas – www.friendshipforceofkansas.org

Name _____ New ___ Renew ___ Date: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Home Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number(s) – Whose? _____ # _____

Whose? _____ # _____

Birthdate-Whose? _____ Mo ___ Day ___ Whose? _____ Mo ___ Day ___

Occupation(s) Current or Prior _____

Email Address(es) Whose? _____ email _____

Whose? _____ email _____

Please deliver the newsletter: by email _____ by regular mail _____

Recommended by _____

I/We will be interested in: Traveling _____ Hosting _____

Serving on a committee: Social _____ Activity _____ Publicity _____ Membership _____

Annual dues are \$30 per person.

Make checks payable to: Friendship Force of Kansas and mail to:

Sherri Lichtenberger, 12106 W Texas, Wichita, KS 67235

We look forward to meeting you!

