

EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT VIEWS. DISCOVER COMMON GROUND.



friendship force
MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES



COME ONE, COME ALL TO OUR GALA 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Barry ZeVan, Emcee

Barry ZeVan will always be remembered here in the Twin Cities as KSTP-TV's "Peek-a-Boo" Weatherman, garnering a record-breaking 51 percent share of the audience with his infectious presentation. Barry's career started in Pittsburgh, singing on KDKA radio when he was just five years old. He was trained as an actor in New York and appeared on several national TV series and radio shows. He served as a Meteorological Technician while in the Air Force, becoming one of the country's first formally trained TV weathermen. After stints on TV stations in Montana, Canada, Hawaii, and Las Vegas, he came to KSTP-TV in 1970 and became immediately popular for his energetic and engaging style. He also hosted *The Ski Scene*, about his favorite avocation. With regret, he left Minnesota in 1974, but returned in 1983 to KARE-TV as entertainment editor, weekend weatherman, and ski show host. Among Barry's many subsequent accomplishments is his 2006 Telly Award-winning documentary *American Indian Homelands*, which was featured on PBS and ABC stations nationwide. Barry continues to be a fixture on local media, delivering unique perspectives on his broadcasting career, travels via his Emmy-nominated documentaries, and the many celebrities with whom he worked, who were and are his lifelong close friends.

Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame
Inducted 2013

Richard Falk, Keynote Speaker

Richard Falk FFMNTC Pioneer

Richard Falk, one of our FFMNTC Life Members, will be our keynote speaker for the 40th Anniversary celebration on September 9th. Come hear his unique historical perspective of our club.

After traveling on our first exchange to Berlin in 1978, and subsequently serving on Friendship Force International's early Board of Directors, Richard Falk turned homeward to encourage Minnesota to create an official club. Phyllis Schurz, Betty Croonquist and Richard drafted the first FFMNTC Bylaws and chartered our club in 1981.

"If you travel and only stay in hotels, you miss the most important element of any trip, which is meeting the people, learning about the culture and customs, and experiencing the country in depth. And to me that is the most interesting aspect of traveling. Traveling with Friendship Force has been a highlight of my life."

Richard Falk; Minnesota Ambassador, Volume 31, Issue 1, January / February 2012.

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi



WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By Rita Mays

Are you having FUN being a member of FFMNTC? Are you attending events, getting involved, learning about new cultures, meeting new people and making new friends? Jump in and join us in the fun!

Local Cultures: As FF members, we share many values, and one is the joy of developing a better understanding of other cultures. Our FFMNTC board is exploring how we can reach out and embrace other cultures right here at home – person to person. We can do this without even traveling outside our state!!! We welcome your ideas on how this might happen! Talk to any Board member at the picnic in July.

40th Celebration: For me, it has been an absolute delight to hear the stories of our early members as we embrace our 40th Anniversary Celebration by Telling Our Stories. I marvel at the leaders who have made this organization possible for 40 years and thank you for your contributions!

Recruitment: Our 40th Celebration is a great time to promote our club to prospective new members. Invite a friend, your children and grandchildren to our 40th Celebration so they can hear why FF is important to you!

Give Back: Did you know that a great fun way to “give back” or “pay-it-forward” for your experience as an Ambassador (for example going to Costa Rica or the Iron Range) is to volunteer as a home or dinner host, or serve on a committee or event? Get involved at the picnic, 40th Celebration, the Open World Ukraine Exchange (September 7-15th) or the small dinner parties being planned for October.

Donate: Please consider supporting our parent organization, Friendship Force International, by contributing financially to their 40th Anniversary Campaign in honor of FFMNTC. Details are in this newsletter and on their donation site at www.friendshipforce.org

Namaste,

Rita A Mays, President
Friendship Force of Minnesota – Twin Cities
ritamnffi@yahoo.com

BOARD DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President: Rita Mays
ritamnffi@yahoo.com
612-730-5129

**Vice President -
Communications:**
Jane Bardon
ffminnesotavp@yahoo.com

Treasurer:
Buck MacDonald

Secretary: Tom Scott

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities Co-Chairs:
John Christensen
Jane Norman

Journey Coordinator:
Mary Cunningham

Membership Chair:
Jane Bardon

Newsletter Editor:
Barb Emer

**Open World Coordinator
Ukraine – Sept. 2018:**
Tom Scott

Non-Board Volunteers

Historian:
Jan Lanyk

Sunshine:
Val Hessburg

Webmaster:
David Balzotti

To email a board director, go to friendshipforcetwincities.org. Click on “Board Contacts” on the red menu bar, then click on the person you want to contact.

Newsletter Deadline: August 15

UPCOMING EVENTS

POTLUCK PICNIC AND SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 14TH NOON – 3:00 P.M.

Oak Hill Park

3201 Rhode Island Avenue South

St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Bring a dish to share and beverage of your choice
Water, plates and utensils provided
Sheltered area. Rain or shine
Our grill masters will be grilling meats and veggie burgers

Set-up starts at 11:00 a.m. Those wishing to volunteer to help with set-up or clean-up, please contact John Christensen at jchristensen2@juno.com

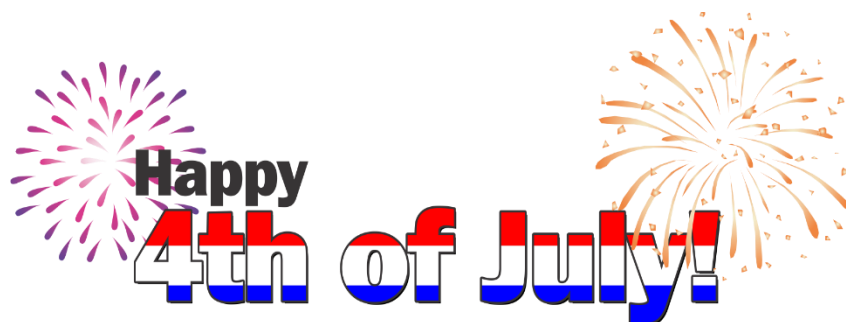
Directions to Oak Hill Park:

From the east or south: Take 494 West to 100 North, take the Minnetonka Blvd. exit west to Rhode Island Ave. South (or left). The park is on the left.

From the north: Take 394 West to 100 South and follow above directions.

Membership rosters will be available.

Credit card or other payment for the 40th Anniversary will be accepted.



UPCOMING EVENTS, CONT.D

NORTHERN MINNESOTA MESABI RANGE TOUR

August 14-16

Coordinated by Jane Norman

Contact Jane at 763-535-3096 for possible openings.

OPEN WORLD UKRAINIAN DELEGATION

September 7-15

Host Coordinator: Tom Scott

Contact Tom @ 612-804-4102 if you would like to be involved.

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 9th, 1:00-4:00

See pages 1 and 6 for additional information.

NEIGHBORHOOD DINNERS

October

To become better acquainted with Friendship Force members who live in your area, we are looking for members who would like to host a meal in their home. We need members from all areas of the Twin Cities, north, south, east and west. If you are interested, contact Jane Norman at 763-535-3096 or John Christensen at 612-612-361-1078.

SAVE THE DATE

December 1st, Noon-3:00

Holiday potluck and annual meeting

UKRANIANS ARRIVE

By *Mary Cunningham*

On September 7, a delegation of five Ukrainian Health Care Professionals, one Interpreter, and one Coordinator will come to the FFMNTC through the Open World Leadership Center (OWLC) in Washington, D.C. OWLC is an independent government agency of the United States Congress, in the Legislative Branch. Since 1999, OWLC has administered the Open World program, a series of ten-day exchange and partnership programs in all 50 states. They are designed to enhance understanding and cooperation between the Congress, American communities, and global leaders. OWLC awards grants to U.S. educational and non-profit organizations, such as FFI, which invites Clubs to participate. Open World delegates (average age 34) stay with volunteer host families, providing a rich cross-cultural experience. OWLC currently conducts programs for delegates from Russia, Ukraine the Caucasus, Central Asia, Estonia, Kosovo, Moldova, Serbia and Mongolia. FFMNTC has hosted OWLC delegations several times before.

As a recipient of a grant from OWLC, we in the Minnesota Twin Cities Friendship Force are charged with providing education and experiences focusing on the assigned theme: **Health Care Management and Quality Assurance Rationale**. *Ukraine is undergoing significant reform of its health care system. One of the main goals of this reform is an efficient allocation of funds for a new National Health Service that will focus specifically on procurement. They envision a health care system that reforms primary, emergency, and palliative care simultaneously and they aim to introduce medical insurance into the daily life of Ukrainians. Health care managers and practitioners look to this OWLC program in Minnesota to learn from the American experience and health care debate what might work best for the Ukrainians.*

With this powerful directive from Open World, our Coordinator Tom Scott has been very busy preparing. This has included communications with the OWLC in Washington and with FFI

UKRANIANS ARRIVE, CONT.D

Regional Support in Atlanta. Locally, Tom and his committee have met with health care and government officials to determine which Minnesota health care professionals and clinics and which government leaders can best provide information and guidance to the Ukrainian delegation during one short week. Former Minnesota Health Commissioner Dr. Ed Ehlinger is among those who have guided Tom and his committee in creating a strong and meaningful program.

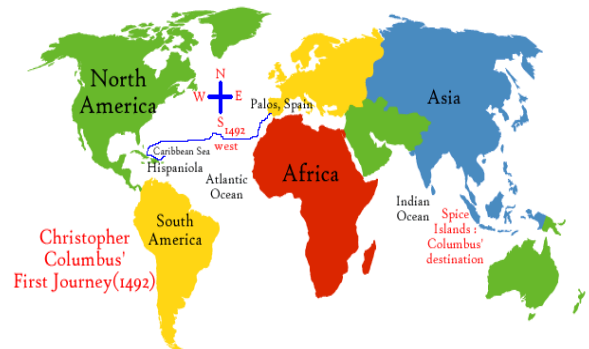
Jane Bardon is arranging for home hosts for the five Ukrainian delegates, their coordinator, and their interpreter. Now the suspense is building: who will be the members of this small but influential delegation? We will all get to meet them at the Friendship Force 40th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday afternoon, September 9th.

Have Fun! Get Involved!

- Contact Rita Mays, Jane Bardon, or Buck MacDonald to help with the 40th Anniversary Celebration on September 9th.
- Contact Nellie Hofmeister or Rita Mays to share photos and stories for the 40th.
- Contact Tom Scott, Chair, to help with the Open World – Ukraine Medical Delegation.
- Contact Jane Norman, Activities, to host or plan small “neighborhood” dinner parties.
- Join Board Members on fun FF committees:
- Help choose the 2018 Don Wolter Service Awardee. Contact Marge Runnako, Chair.

JOURNEYS 2019: OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER WITH NEIGHBOR CLUBS

Journeys! Where will we be going and who will be hosting us? Who will we be hosting and where will they be coming from? These are fundamental questions to Friendship Force members who thrive on building friendships with others from nearby and around the world. With today's shifting dynamics, we more often have opportunities to partner with other Friendship Force clubs to fill Journeys.

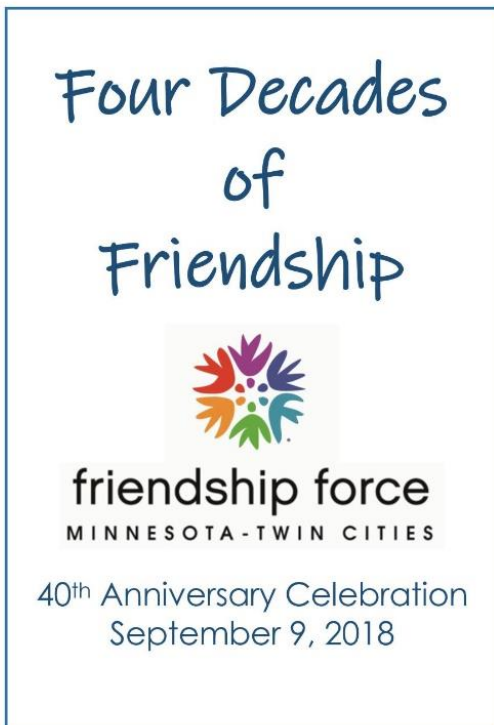


Inbound 2019, the Halle-Saale, Germany club will come first to our Minnesota/Twin City club and then go to the Greater Omaha club. As a bonus, they may also spend three or four days with the Greater Des Moines club, thus visiting three Midwestern States on their Journey.

Outbound 2019 may be in partnership with another Midwestern club to destinations yet to be determined. Stay tuned but don't pack your bags quite yet!

Mary Cunningham,
Journey Coordinator

CELEBRATE OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY!!



Anniversary Program

The line-up for 40th Anniversary Celebration program on September 9th is beginning to fall into place. The program will be emceed by the one and only Barry ZeVan (see article on page 1). His humor and wit are sure to entertain us all! Richard Falk, also on page 1, one of the pioneers of our Club, will be our keynote speaker, acknowledging the vision and perseverance to start our Club. A video production capturing highlights and stories will be shown while we enjoy the buffet specialties and desserts. To top this off, we will recognize past leaders and the 2018 Open World Exchange delegates from the Ukraine that will be with us that week.

Telling Our Stories:

- Several creative members are working on displays and notebooks that will capture four decades of stories with photos and old clippings.
- Be interviewed and video recorded by Blaine McCutchan at the 2018 Semi-Annual Meeting and Picnic on July 14th and be part of an edited additional AV show.

Inviting our Friends and Family

Consider this opportunity to take your son, daughter, grandchildren or a neighbor out for a fall afternoon drive to Lake Minnetonka and share in a unique event! Perhaps they traveled with you and will enjoy reminiscing with you. Perhaps they are ready to know more about joining Friendship Force themselves!

Be part of the action!

We need your old Exchange photos! We are looking for Club newsletters (remember the "Ambassador"?) group exchange photos and useful records from 1978 to 1998. We'll take photos of these so you can keep the original! Look for Nellie Hofmeister at the 2018 Semi-Annual Meeting and Picnic on July 14th.

Interested in helping?

The 40th Anniversary "Triumvirate" Committee Leaders: Jane Bardon janesbardon@gmail.com, Buck MacDonald jbmc11@hotmail.com, and Rita Mays ritamnffi@yahoo.com, invite you to join us by helping with one of the many special tasks for this great event!

If you don't get your invitation by July 14th, contact FFMinnesotaVP@yahoo.com

We remember...



Lois Velasco

Lois Velasco, a member of Friendship Force Twin Cities, passed away on June 21st. Lois had been a member of our club for approximately 15 years. She graciously home hosted ambassadors many times and was always willing to help in any way she could. Lois, with her fun way and adventurous spirit will be greatly missed.

As this newsletter goes to press, the only information we have is that her service will be on July 21st. Watch the Minneapolis Star Tribune for further information.



Dear Members,

Please consider donating to our parent organization.

“Friendship Force International’s mission is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people. Whether those barriers are cultural, racial, or religious, the Friendship Force has worked to surmount stereotypes and uproot the seeds of prejudice, bigotry, and hatred. As we celebrate our 40th Anniversary, we recognize that the divisions in our world, even within our own nations, are different today than before. They demand that we as individuals band together to promote a better, more positive way forward”

The FFI 40th Anniversary Campaign Goals are to:

- 1) Expand our core by strengthening worldwide membership and building new clubs
- 2) Engage future leaders by providing new programs for youth and families
- 3) Activate a new socially-responsible travel network

If you have benefited from your involvement in Friendship Force International in any way, and you support FFI’s mission and goals, please consider donating to the international 40th Anniversary Campaign.

Their web link offers easy ways to give. including Matching Gifts and Planned Giving. We will also collect donations at our own 40th Anniversary Celebration in September.

Friendship Force of Minnesota – Twin Cities
Board of Directors

LEARN MORE AND DONATE AT: <https://www.friendshipforce.org/anniversary/>

2018 Friendship Force Regional Super Conference

Hosted by the Friendship Force Club of Greater Cincinnati April 20-21

Thank you for allowing Tom Scott, FF/MN/TC Secretary, Janet Scott, Blaine McCutchan, and Rita Mays, President, to represent our club at the Super (Fun!) Regional Conference in April. This event included the Great Lakes, Midwest and Southwest Regions and was attended by about 100 people. There were many leadership and development workshops providing ideas for our Board as we develop a 2018-2023 Strategic Plan for FFMNTC.

One useful piece for all of us, reported by Janet Scott at the May member meeting, is that FFI has a new Travel Insurance plan that can be purchased directly on their website for either personal or Journey travel.

Informally, we met ambassadors from neighboring states and learned about 2019 Outgoing Journeys that we may be able to join them on. These include Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, (Central Iowa), Thailand and Viet Nam (Northern Illinois), and Brazil (Cedar Rapids, Iowa). Mary Cunningham, Journey Coordinator, is investigating these options.

Our Minnesota club has been asked to host a U.S. Regional Conference in April 2020. Our committee will be formed in January 2019 to begin work on this. Let Rita know if you are interested in being involved.

Rita Mays, President



Rita Mays

Tom Scott

Cheryl Moore

Dale Moore,
Regional Rep



Buck MacDonald

Barry ZeVan

Rita Mays



Blaine McCutchan
Historic Covington, KY



Regional Conference