Friendship Force Utah

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2026

Building Global Unity One Friendship At A Time

Calendar

General Meeting & Potluck:
Nov. 17 (Tues), 5:30pm
SL Gov. Complex 2100 S State cafe end - *(Bring food to share & your plate, utensils & cup)*

Presentation: Betsy Heath's FF trip to Baton Rouge/New Orleans

December 8: Holiday Party
5:30pm at The Other Place Restaurant (Greek restaurant at 469 E 300 S SLC).
Order off the menu/Self Pay

Please RSVP to Jeanne so she has a count to give the restaurant for accomodations marvandjeanne1@gmail.com

Jan 19, 2027
General Meeting & Potluck
5:30pm (3rd Tuesdays every other month)
Presentation: FF Japan trip Annie&Dan's May 2026 trip with Kiel Germany club, to the Oita club that visited us in June 2025

Feb 2027 (watch for more info about a "Lunch and Bowl" get-together

Teasers for Betsy's presentation at Tuesday's meeting





Art Vingiello is a fun guy Betsy met on her trip to Baton Rouge, Louisiana with another FF club. She will present on that trip at this month's meeting on November 17.

You won't want to miss it, 'cuz the Baton Rouge club is coming to stay with our Utah club next year! He is the club president Judy is coordinating that Inbound trip with.

My visit to Baton Rouge / New Orleans - May 2026

Marta Meares was the Journey Coordinator for a North Carolina Raleigh Durham club trip to Baton Rouge in May of 2026. Marta spent a week with me 15 years ago as a guest on their club's exchange to Salt Lake City and we have been email buddies ever since.

She called me up one day and said their club could take one more guest on their exchange to Baton Rouge. The club was going for a week to New Orleans after the exchange. I jumped at the chance to go – remembering the warm hospitality from the FFI conference in New Orleans so many years ago.

So… at Tuesday's meeting, I will be showing you a few pictures of the Journey I took with my FF Charlotte friends last May – and some of the new friends I met in Baton Rouge / New Orleans.

Betsy Heath



JOURNEYS FOR 2027

Outbound - to Fukuoka and Oita (Taketa) Japan clubs - April 7-18

Inbound – Our Utah club will host the Baton Rouge club (tentatively June 8-15)

Outbound - FF Utah club to Atlanta, Georgia area - November 3-8

We are also exploring a Regional trip to a Colorado club next year.

New friends to meet!



Outbound trip to Japan - April 2027 - Update

We are excited to visit the FF Fukuoka club, followed by a homestay with our friends in the FF Oita club (who visited us in June of 2025). Both are on Kyushu, the southern island.
We already have homestay matches for Oita and will hopefully soon have the matching list from Fukuoka.

FF Utah ambassadors who are going on this upcoming trip are:
Annie and Dan Eastmond (Journey Coordinators)
Jeanne and Marv Goldstein, Susan Worley, Jeff Driggs,
David Anson (new member), Donna Mirabelli, Lotti Wann,
Deb Escalante (new member)



FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

In September our club hosted eight lovely ladies from the Florida Suncoast Friendship Force club. Showing them around our part of the country proved to be as much fun for us as for them. Their visit showcased what Friendship Force is about – get to know your neighbors and enjoy their company.

A big thank you goes out to all who helped including our Rocky Mountain regional representative Nancy Wood who drove up from her home in Cedar City to be a day host.
Our club will have the opportunity to do it again when we host members of the Baton Rouge club in June 2027.

Leadership Team 2026

To contact an officer below
(if you don't have their direct email),
put their name in the subject line at
UtahFriendshipForce@gmail.com

Team Leader -- Judy Cohen
Secretary -- (any volunteers?)
Treasurer -- Judy
Membership -- Susan Worley
Social Chair -- Jeanne Leigh-Goldstein
Member-at-Large – Carol Milliken
Newsletter Editor - Annie Eastmond

Technical Support -- Betsy Heath

TREASURER'S REPORT

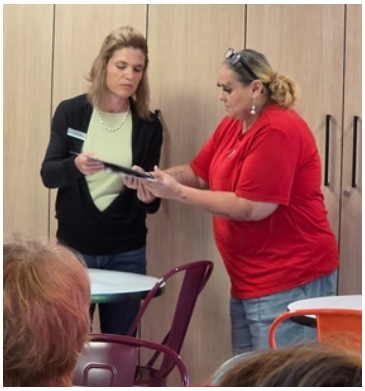
The balance in our club bank account is $3,806.
There are no outstanding debts.

Internet services by XMISSION

Betsy Heath helped Judy Cohen coordinate the week's activities for our Florida Suncoast visitors in September. Betsy shared this summary of some of the week's highlights.

On Friday September 11, our guests and quite a few FF Utah members visited one of the Other Side Donut shops in the morning and the Springville Art Museum in the afternoon.





The Other Side Donut Shop supports homeless individuals in reentering the work force in a supportive housing / work training setting. Jennifer and her assistant Nikki talked with us about the organization and were kind enough to tell us their personal journey from homelessness to sobriety, community, purpose, and tiny homes. Jennifer led us on a tour of her home in the Tiny House Village just around the corner from the Donut Shop. There was not a dry eye in the place - we all are rooting for their continued success and for the organization to give the gift of hope to other participants.

The Springville Art Museum is a treasure of Utah history, and in a strange twist of fate, houses one of the largest post Soviet era art collections.
Emily Larsen, Executive Director and Vern Swanson, Executive Director Emeritus joined us for lunch in the Atrium. Emily gave us an overview of how the museum began and the unique community involvement it fosters with the city of Springville.







Vern, who collected Russian art on numerous Russian trips in the 1990's, regaled us in the gallery with tales of the often poignant and sometimes dangerous Russian buying trips. Vern gave us an entirely new appreciation of the art work and how the paintings reflect the artist's lives. For instance, we learned that Ukrainian artists paint with much brighter colors than their Soviet counterparts.

After the busy day, our guests and hosts were free to return to Salt Lake City or spend some more time at the Springville Art Festival in the city center.





The Timpanogos Storytelling Festival night was also a fun memory they took home.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RENDEZVOUS - OCTOBER

The Rocky Mountain Rendezvous was held at the YMCA in Estes Park, Colorado October 19-23. Annie and Dan Eastmond and Jeff Driggs attended, representing our Utah club. This was a regional get-together of about 50 Friendship Force members from other clubs in our region - 4 Colorado clubs (Greater Denver, Northern Denver, Pikes Peak, & Western Colorado), Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexico.

The scenery was gorgeous and we had afternoons to go explore the area with others.

On the final night, Annie and Dan did an entertaining Cowboy Music and Storytelling program for the whole group.

No other region has had a Regional Retreat.
We set a precedent!

It was a great way to get to know members from other clubs in our region,
to talk about best practices, concerns, FFI updates, and
our Regional Rep Nancy Wood provided some great training and information.
They are talking about doing it again in a couple years.

















Membership Fees Update

Friendship Force International will be sending each of us a reminder to pay our annual dues of **$100** on your year anniversary. As a reminder, FFI prefers payment online. You would go into your My.FriendshipForce.org account and click on the link Payments to pay by credit card.

Friendship Force of Utah will resume charging local club dues. Beginning January 2027 members will pay their local club FF of Utah a fee of **$20.** This money will be used to pay for the cost of renting a pavilion in a park for our summer picnic; pay fees to the web site host; renewal of the state permit for our nonprofit status; and unexpected expenses.

Change in Journey Fees
FFI has informed us that beginning January 1, 2027 a 3% processing fee will apply to all online Journey fee payments.

Please come to the November 17th potluck meeting with any questions you have about dues and fees.

In Memoriam

We have lost two wonderful members of our club this year.
Orion Sherwood and Ron Toth. Both men passed away in October 2026. Their obituaries can be found at Larkin Mortuary and Legacy.com.



Friendship Force of Utah Holiday Party
December 8 (Tues.) 2026 5:30 pm

This year we'll be having our party at "The Other Place Restaurant", a downtown SLC Greek restaurant at 469 East 300 South. Since you will be able to order off the menu I won't need to collect money at the November 17th Friendship Force meeting, but I do need to know if you're coming to the party so I can give them an accurate number in advance.

Please let me know if you plan to attend by November 17th.

I will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting or you can email me at marvandjeanne1@gmail.com.

This year we're going for Greek food and hopefully next year we'll find a nice Mexican restaurant for our party. These are the basic criteria for selecting a place for our group:

1. affordability
2. tasty food
3. central location in the valley
4. a space that would allow for some socializing and movement among people
5. a separate room or quiet space in the restaurant so conversation can be easily heard and
6. availability of wine and beer. I'd love to have your suggestions for next year.

This year let's enjoy Greek food and getting together in the early part of the holiday season!

---Jeanne Leigh-Goldstein





FUN THINGS TO DO 2026

Enjoy Storytelling?

November 19, 2026 – 5-7pm

Club member Jeff Driggs will portray founding father John Adams at the America 250 Storytelling as part of the national celebration of the country's 250 year anniversary. The presentation will be at the new Salt Lake Art Museum located on 249 South 400 East in the historic B'nai Isreal Temple.
Admission to the museum and this event, is free.

There are several more storytelling events in this series, there.
Check it out!
https://saltlakeartmuseum.org/events

FUN THINGS TO DO 2027

Carol Milliken is planning another "Lunch and Bowl" get together for February 2027. Exact date will be announced in January.



See you Tuesday November 17, 5:30pm at the FF Utah club potluck meeting and presentation!