A World of Friends Is a World of Peace

Friendship & Travel

"Perhaps travel cannot prevent bigotry, but by demonstrating that all peoples cry, laugh, eat, worry, and die, it can introduce the idea that if we try and understand each other, we may even become friends."

Maya Angelou

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General Meeting

Tuesday May 21

Where: SL Government Complex Cafeteria
2100 S State, S building, SLC

Time: 5:30 PM Potluck Supper
6:30 PM Meeting & Program

Program: Christoph Dressler
Experiences of Little Boy from East Germany Who Became a Travel Agent In Utah
(More about speaker on page 2)

Let's Eat Ethnic
Layla Mediterranean Grill and Mezze

When: June 5, Wednesday, 11:30 AM

Where: 4751 Holladay Boulevard, Holladay, Ut

RSVP by Friday, May 31st to Milliken@xmission.com

Menu on https://laylagrill.com

Carol Milliken

Experiences of Little Boy from East Germany who Became a Travel Agent In Utah

I grew up in the 1970s and early 1980s in a East German village in the foothills of the Thuringian Forest. As a little child I lacked little but the freedom to leave. To leave the one Germany and see the other, the West. I often headed up the hills from my village and fixed my eyes south, to a dome of light on the horizon. Coburg, rich enough to leave their lights on all night, creating a silent spectacle for this little East German boy. Would I ever get to see it, I wondered. November 9, 1989 – a date that changed the lives of 17 million of us. Guenter Schabowski, the speaker of the Politburo, made the biggest and last mistake of his career. Three months later, I saw Coburg at last!

Weeks later, my teacher Antje, told me about a scholarship the West is offering. A free high school exchange year in the USA. A year later I found myself on an airplane, being one of first 100 East German exchanges students. After that year in New Hampshire, I returned to Germany, attending the sports school I was barred from under the East German regime. I picked up Bobsled for three years, did my mandatory service at the military, working on plans to return to Boston, to paint houses with my high school buddy. Soon I discovered that my exchange organization also offered a bachelor's degree. In 1997, I attended the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. The Experiment for International Living would be school, later a workplace in Boston, followed by working for the German branch in Bonn for two more years. A fun decade of non-profit schooling and working.

The wanderlust, however, never went away. I always was looking for the next hill to climb and to set my eyes on new horizons to cross and discover the unknown. When I landed a tour guide job with Rick Steves in the early 2000s, I had no idea of how many more horizons I would get to experience. I guided Rick's "Best of Europe" tours, and I was on a path of becoming a historian, or at least an avid student of history. In 2010, I pitched an idea of a travel program to the University of Utah. They liked it. The following 13 years were dedicated to building and managing Go Learn, the U's official travel program. Now, with 50 years being the new 40 years' itch for change, I decided to launch my own travel company, always adhering to the fundamental rules of sustainability, purpose, and unshakable love for travel. I also wanted to learn a new, completely different skill, and decided to pass my realtor exam. I wanted to see what this industry is all about and realized that this job is all about keeping people safe and caring for them. Two fundamental attributes I found so important in life.

I am looking forward to sharing some of my experiences with you, maybe revisiting some of Europe's history, or simply exchanging some of our favorite travel stories. Until next week.

Christoph Dressler

Home Hosts Needed

The key to Friendship Force travel is to be open to hosting in your home. One of the first questions we will get for 2025 is ' How many can your club host in your homes?'

In exchange for home hosting you will get relief with dinner parties and day hosts. And don't worry that your home is not adequate. Not everyone in the world has the high standards we have.

Jennifer Allred

Co– Coordinator Needed for Peru Journey

If you are interested in serving as co-coordinator or on the planning committee for the Journey to Northern Peru tentatively set for August, 2025, please let Julia Navarro know.

(Julia_navarro@hotmail.com).

Peru Flag

About our Club

Club meetings are held the third Tuesday of January, March, May, September & November in the cafeteria of the Salt Lake Co. Government complex, 2100 S State St, South Building. Use east entrance at north end of South Building. If door is locked, sign in at North Building and get directions to the cafeteria. Picnic in July.

2024 Officers & Board Members

To Contact officer below, send e-mail to

UtahFriendshipForce@gmail.com

President — Jennifer Allred

Secretary — Kris Hill

Treasurer—Judy Cohen

Social Chair—Jeanne Goldstein

Membership—Lynn Muller

Member-at-Large—Carol Milliken

Technology—Margret Boes-Ingraham

Past President—Anne Lemmon

Newsletter Editor—Dana Hughes

Calendar of Events

May 21, 5:30 PM—General Meeting

June 3, 12:00PM—Provo Adventure Lab
Art & History of Provo

June 5, 11:30 AM—Let's Eat Ethnic
Layla Mediterranean Grill
4751 Holladay Boulevard, Holladay

July 16, 5:30 PM—Summer Potluck Picnic
Washington Park

2025 Incoming Journeys

(Tentative dates)

Date, June—Oiko Japan Club

Date, September—North East Ohio Club
Co-coordinators: Lynn Muller, Donna Poulson

Outgoing Journeys (Tentative dates)

March 2025—San Antonia, Texas
Co-Coordinators: Betsy Heath, Susan Hilton

Date, TBD—Cincinnati, Ohio

August, 2025—Tarapoto Peru
Co-Coordinators: Julia Navarro, TBD

Treasure Report

Beginning balance in the club banking account for April 2024 was $3,448.51. A check for $103 was sent to Salt Lake City Parks to reserve a pavilion at Washington Park for the club's summer picnic. The beginning balance for the club bank account is now $3,345.51. *Judy Cohen*

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EXPLORE *UNDERSTAND* *SERVE*

President's Message

Friends, we had a fantastic journey to Guadeloupe this year and now we get some time to relax. But 2025 is already in the works and we have received our assignments. A timeline is impossible at this stage but our club is expecting one big international journey to PERU in August, 2025.

We also will likely travel to San Antonio in March. Cincinnati has invited us too. More importantly, we will be hosting the North East Ohio Club and the Oiko Japan Club.

YOU are needed! We need HOME hosts, DAY hosts, and Dinner hosts. We will need to determine how many we can welcome to Utah. It will require much more participation from each of you.

Although this was my last year, I won't be able to carry on with my duties beginning this month. I've been diagnosed and am undergoing treatment for a type of cancer. Friendship Force is such a wonderful group of friends, volunteers, and travel mates and I will truly miss being your president.

Jennifer Allred

Provo Adventure Lab—Art & History of Provo

Our next Adventure Lab will be Monday June 3rd. We will catch the FrontRunner at the Murray Station at 12:16. Have your ticket or card stamped by noon in case the train might be early! There has been a request to again ride the FrontRunner to Provo this time! This Adventure Lab touts itself as the **Art & History of Provo.** Come and let's see what this is all about. I believe this will involve a little more walking though I understand it is pretty level and we may walk between 3 & 4 miles. Of course you may be able to take the bus and cut the distance and you can do as much or as little of the Adventure Lab as you like. Our first order will be to find a place for lunch!

I recently learned you can apply for a **UTA Farepay card online**. Here is the link. https://www.rideuta.com/Fares-And-Passes/Reduced-Fare You can get a reduced fare if you are 65 or over. It comes fast, I applied over a weekend and it came on Tuesday. I think the convenience of it is the BEST. You just need to tap on and tap off when you ride the bus, Trax or the FrontRunner. You also get a discount on the fare. You have time to apply for one and call if you have any questions. I will send out more information closer to the time to those of you who are interested in joining me. Please let me know. You can reply to Utahfriendshipforce@gmail.com to RSVP. Let's go on an Adventure!

Margret Boes-Ingraham

San Antonio Journey - Mid March 2025

Susan Hilton and I are the Coordinators for this Journey and we wanted to update you on the progress.

The San Antonio club can best host in the middle of March, when the temperatures are an early Spring ideal. The Bluebell fields will be in bloom, but the April humidity has not yet started. Susan has been working on an exciting itinerary with the club, and we will soon have details. We are also working on finding the best air fare days from Salt Lake to San Antonio.

The club can host only 12 ambassadors. I will be sending out an email next week to gauge how many of our club members might be interested in this late winter get-a-way to the Southwest.

Also many of you may have heard that we contacted the Austin club to see if two cities were possible to visit. The Austin Club cannot accommodate our club due to prior commitments.

In friendship, *Susan and Betsy*

Utah Friendship Force Summer Picnic

We will have our summer picnic at **5:30 PM on Tuesday, July 16th at Washington Park** up Parley's Canyon. At this time in the season we will probably welcome the cooler temperatures in the canyon. Barbecued chicken and pork prepared by our dear Betsy Heath, buns, ice and water will be provided. Please bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to share. This is always a very fun, relaxing event. Come join us!

Directions to Washington Park:

1. Head east on I-80 through Parley's Canyon
2. Take exit 134 and turn left toward East Canyon
3. Turn right onto East Mt. Dell Golf Rd.
4. Continue on that road past the golf course to the entrance to Washington Park
5. Proceed to the Upper Pavilion

Jeanne Goldstein

Training Opportunities for Friendship Force by FF International

Don't miss these great training opportunities with Friendship Force

In 2024, FFI is offering training for new and seasoned members alike, with time set aside in each session for you to ask questions on that topic. On the FFI website noted below you can see all the training topics planned for this year. The session times shown are US East Coast time, so you will need to convert times to Mountain Time.

See table in following website for training opportunities https://helpcenter.friendshipforce.org/help/where-can-i-find-training-opportunities-for-club-members-or-club-leadership/

We ask that you register for sessions you are interested in using the registration links. You can also watch recordings of training sessions that have already taken place. However, sessions are repeated throughout the year.

Friendship Force is an organization that takes ALL of us to participate in some way. You are very important to the success of our club. Take a look at these trainings and find a way to fit in and make your contribution. We think you will be glad you did. The more you put into the organization of Friendship Force the more you will get out of the organization. You will become more acquainted with other members and enjoy expanding your circle of friends. If these is an area you are curious about there are some other training sessions you can register for and participate in. Inquires may be made to Utahfriendshipforce@gmail.com

Margret Boes-Ingraham

Journey Market Place **FFI Help Center**

friendship force international

In Memory of Denice and Rose

Denice Wheeler, an original member of our club passed away peacefully this spring at the age of 94. She was active in many community organizations including AARP, Bear River Commission, Pioneer Theatre Board and the International Board of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. She started Western Discovery Van Tours and shared her love of our Western states with many travelers. During her life time she traveled to 54 countries, 49 states and was tour director for over 100 tours. She also managed to author and co-author several books on a variety of topics including auto tours in Utah.

She was an active member of Utah Friendship Force for many years and served in a variety of different roles including being President of our club, hosting ambassadors from many different countries in her Evanston, Wyoming home and coordinating many national and international journeys. She will be missed.

Ruzena (Rose) Novak died in March at the age of 90. She was a member of our club for many years and served in many different roles, including chairing the Membership Committee. She hosted ambassadors from many incoming journeys. In addition to her services in Friendship Force, she was a volunteer for the Natural History Museum of Utah. She was an avid hiker in the Utah mountains. In her professional life she taught in secondary schools. We will miss Rose.

Ogden 25th Street Adventure Lab—April, 2024

Duane Garwood

Margret has once again led a group of FF members on a trip to Ogden. It was fitting that she chose for us to ride the train via Front Runner. Ogden's 25th street area came into existence because of the railroad. The transcontinental railroad that joined the Midwest to California and Ogden became a major railroad station on that line. With this being a major stopping place, Ogden became known for its wild west atmosphere including all the vises known to man and woman— gambling, prostitution, murder, and mayhem!

This generally took place along 25th street which heads directly east from the train station. In recent times, the city of Ogden has preserved this historic section and today most of the original buildings are still standing and have been repurposed. Many legends and rumors are floating about a tunnel system under the buildings and street which may have made it easier for clients of the bordellos and the transport of booze.

Lunch was at the "No Frills Diner". The waiter was asked about the "tunnel" rumor, She replied that there is no tunnel!? Does that mean they just don't want you going down to the basement looking for one! The "No Frills Diner" shares a hallway leading to the restrooms with a busy tattoo parlor, very interesting! The restrooms were very respectful in keeping with the effort of Ogden city to have a well preserved locality.

Most of the buildings along 25th street have a plaque near the entrance which details what the building was originally used for and who the owners were. Yes, these buildings do indicate which were used by an old profession!! Our casual inspection of the area did not reveal any current use for any of the old businesses, but on the other hand we did not go down or up any stairs to verify!

There are several other attractions in the area of 25th street. The John Browning museum is in the train station and just south of the station is a large collection of old engines and other rail cars and train paraphernalia. The large steam engine that used to be in Pioneer park is now located there.

Scenes on 25th Street in Ogden

Photos of Club Activities

Several club members enjoying lunch at Let's Eat Ethnic at Francesco's Restaurant in West Valley.

Dinner with members of Grand Junction Friendship Force members vising Salt Lake Valley.

Margret Boes-Ingraham and members of Grand Junction FF Club enjoying dinner.