



FRIENDSHIP FORCE MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

President's Report By David Motherwell

On April 22, Jerry Johnson, Barbara H. Robinson and I had a good book discussion about "A Passage to India." This novel depicts two cultures in the 1920s and has unusual wording with numerous themes and symbols. Following the book discussion, Barbara told about her recent Friendship Force trip to Cuba. She said that Cuba is grappling with economic stagnation and energy shortages that have severely impacted the quality of life for its citizens.

On April 25, Paul Ohlendorf led eleven members to the Soldiers Memorial Museum, where we had a free guided tour of the current "Ghost Army" exhibition. The 1,100-man unit was given a unique mission to deceive Hitler's forces and mislead them as to the size and location of Allied forces, while giving the actual units elsewhere time to maneuver. During their tenure, the Ghost Army carried out more than 20 deception campaigns, putting on a "traveling road show" using inflatable tanks, sound trucks, fake radio transmissions, scripts and pretense. Ghost soldiers were encouraged to use their brains and talent to mislead, deceive, and befuddle the German Army. Many were recruited from art schools, advertising agencies and other occupations that encouraged creative thinking. In civilian life, ghost soldiers had been artists, architects, actors, set designers, engineers and lawyers. Our guide did an excellent job of explaining how the Ghost Army operated and crucial battles where it was used. While three of its members were killed and approximately 30 were wounded, the Ghost Army saved the lives of between 15,000 to 30,000 American servicemen, according to military estimates.

Following the tour, we ate lunch at Rosalita's Cantina, where we shared stories about our travels and personal lives.

The next Book Club meeting will be at **1 pm on Tuesday June 17** at **Des Peres Dierberg's** on Manchester Road east of West County Mall. We will discuss "Trust" by Hernan Diaz. This best-selling novel delves into the life of a financier who rises to immense wealth by betting against the 1929 stock market crash. It explores themes such as the influence of wealth, the intricacies of financial systems, and gender dynamics.

Coming in Year 2026

Journey information:

Outbound

August 2026 - St. Louis to Northern Illinois
Dory Lamont will be coordinator.

Inbound

October 2026 - Lincoln, NE to St. Louis

David Motherwell will be coordinator. He would like to accommodate 10-12 ambassadors. Please let David know ASAP if you are available to assist as a day or home host to make this a very worthwhile journey for our ambassadors.

2026 North American Regional Conference:



UPCOMING SCHEDULED EVENTS

From Doris Yohe, Social Committee News:

- The **International Party** will be held on **May 16th** at noon at **Pan d'Olive**, 1603 McCausland Ave, 63117. You can park in their rear parking lot and enter the "basement " door. The cost of the meal is \$27 (see the attached menu). Check, payable to Friendship Force of Missouri-St. Louis, must be mailed to our chapter Treasurer, Maria Carson, to 15957 Fox Trotter Court, Ballwin, MO. 63021. Phone/text Maria at 314-401-4034 or email [her](#). Remember to wear something from an international trip and bring items from your international trips that you have that you would like to donate to an auction. If you would like to give a short talk about a recent trip you have taken, please contact Doris Yohe, text or call 314-805-8932 or Pam Comello, text or call 314-603-4839.
- There will be **no Coffee Talk** in May as we are meeting on the 16th for our International Party.
- **The Picnic** will be held on **Thursday, July 17th** at **Vlasis Park, Ballwin** (same location as last year) at noon. *What to expect this time around. As usual, we will have many varied tempting and delicious side dishes provided by you. From the depths of the Atlantic ocean **salmon filets** cooked in a lemon/sweet sauce as well as plenty of **barbeque Chicken** dripping with our Midwest Kansas City sauce. Chef Wolfe's Tasty barbeque beans will also be provided. For dessert, a chocolate mousse cake will satisfy your sweet tooth.* See you there.

From Judy Young, Movie Group:

There will be **no Movie Group in May**. There are no good movies playing to choose from right now and the International Party is scheduled for the 2nd full week . If anyone has seen a movie in theaters lately worth discussing, let us know!

LEO For May from Char Balettie:

A Country Church Breakfast!

Please joined Char Balettie for a picturesque ride through St. Charles County to an "**All You Can Eat Breakfast**" at **Immaculate Conception church in Augusta, MO**. We will meet at the church at **10 am, May 25th**. You can contact Char at 314-800-6686 or email [her](#).

Vets eat Free!!

LEO For June from Judy Cagle:

LEO at the ZOO

Mark your Calendars! LEO on **June 18th** with lunch at the **Boathouse** in Forest Park at **11:30 am** and then visit the **ZOO**. For information, you can contact Judy Cagle at 314-304-5644 or email [her](#).

All you can eat!

Immaculate Conception - Augusta
5912 Highway 94 South (1 mile west of Augusta, MO)

May 25, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

 **Biscuits & Gravy**
Regular & Potato Pancakes
Bone-In Ham ~ Pork Sausage
Scrambled Eggs ~ Baked Apples

Country Store

Adults - \$12.00

Children (ages 6-12) - \$4.00

The best breakfast!