

A Narrative of the Journey of Friendship Force of Central North Carolina
To Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati, May 2022



THE JOURNEY PRELUDE

Maybe we've finally got Covid on the run. We relaunched actual travel last April by hosting Northern Colorado. And, everything went off without so much as a wrinkle. Congrats Judy. Now, it's our turn to be on the road, eight ambassadors bound for Greater Cincinnati. "Not so fast", growled spoilsport Covid, "I'm not done yet". One week before our departure, Roger tested positive and the Poplins were out, reducing the group to six. We've not done the research, but we're probably among the smallest ambassadorial corps in FFI history. But, we're sure to be way ahead in the ratio of ambassador coordinator to group size. Family reasons limited Martha's availability to pre-travel planning and coordination, leaving Charles to enjoy the fruits of her efforts, coordinate the onsite activities with Rella Hadley, and wrap up the beautiful experience that was our journey to Greater Cincinnati.

There was one last noteworthy aspect of the prelude to the journey, and of the journey itself. For obvious reasons, ambassadors chose to drive to Cincy, Kiszelys and Johns in Ray's newish Rav 4, and Don and Woody in Don's vintage-ish Lexus. The originally assigned hosts for the Kiszelys and Johns were next-door neighbors in downtown Cincinnati, very convenient indeed. But, as we were finalizing departure arrangements, news came that the Johns would be hosted instead by Judy and Orson Hornsby who lived in Hillsboro, just over an hour away to the east of downtown Cincy. But, all's well that ends well. It turned out that Don was staying with Anne Lerch, also of Hillsboro. So, with three of our six ambassadors in Hillsboro, ride-sharing in Judy's trusty Sienna, the daily commutes were an extra helping of quality friendship-time that made the journey very special for us.

Charles John

A WARM WELCOME AFTER A DAY ON THE ROAD

Although our decision to drive to Cincy was unanimous, we all wondered whether we would be rested enough to enjoy the welcome potluck dinner after eight hours on the road. Charles reached out to Rella Hadley, Greater Cincinnati's Exchange Director, who had just completed an extended vacation road trip to Florida, including a stop-off in Clemmons to have breakfast with Martha on her way back. She advised us to set out early and to make frequent rest stops. Her experience guided us well.

Ray, Doris, Charles and Marilyn started on our adventure to Cincinnati at 7:30 am. It was a beautiful sunny day. We enjoyed the mountain scenery driving through West Virginia. Ray and Charles took turns driving and talked non-stop. Doris and I talked periodically, read and dozed. We made a brief breakfast stop and later had a great lunch at Bob Evans. We took our first photo of the trip at our first Ohio rest stop – Ohio, Find it Here.

We chatted with two interesting Ohio ladies at this stop and introduced them to Friendship Force. Ray gave a brief overview of the organization and contact information.



We arrived at our destination, the Northern Hills United Methodist Church, where we met members of the Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati and enjoyed a wonderful, tasty Welcome Dinner prepared by members. At long last we were able to put faces to names we'd spoken often in the weeks before our arrival. Handshakes, warm smiles of greeting, small talk about the delicious dishes and the drive up: friendships were forming and, in time, will crystallize. It's the mission of Friendship Force at work.

Doris and other photographers, Cincinnati and our club members, were busy recording the scenes. Each of our members and their hosts were introduced to the larger group and photographed together.

These photographs were later presented to us at the farewell event at the end of the trip. We all departed



to our hosts' homes at the conclusion of this event. Judy drove Charles and I all the way to the Hornsby home in Hillsboro more than an hour away. It seemed like a long drive in the dark with lights flickering occasionally as we drove past small towns and villages. We arrived at what seemed to be the most adorable cottage in the woods. Orson and Judy warmly welcomed us into their home for a restful night after a very long day.

Marylin Moniquette-John

CITY HIGHLIGHTS, BUILDINGS AND CULTURE

May 16 2022 - the Friendship Force Team's visit to Cincinnati started with a tour of the 'Cincinnati Music Hall'.



This very substantial red brick structure was designed and then completed in 1878. It was dedicated as a benefit, not just for the wealthy, but also as a service 'for the people'. The large indoor space was created for display of many advances in industry at that time. The building also provided spaces for events hosting music, opera, dance, and even weddings over many decades.

Not many old red brick buildings are still standing after 150 year of public service, and numerous publicly supported renovations over

time. The Friendship Force Team appreciated the music hall as a signature monument for the public improvement of cultural and business life of the community

The unique collection of murals on downtown buildings are of special interest. Here the namesake of the city, (Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, c. 519 BC - 430 BC) is represented as the public-spirited leader who protected the early Roman Republic as leader of the army and Dictator, but then returned to his farm and plow. Not only did the city adopt his name, but his public spiritedness is embedded in the people's funding for the building and its modernization and



expansion, and support for the breadth of creative and performing arts that The Music Hall caters to.



There are ninety wall murals of buildings sprinkled among numerous places downtown for eating, drinking and dancing. A neighbor (of DW) from Louisville Ky has explained that



Cincinnati has long been the preferred place for young folks to play. No other city has this display of public art, maybe made possible when old buildings were removed to expose nearby bare walls suitable for large format art. One can type into Google -'cincinnati building wall murals' - to see all the murals.

These images speak to pleasures that citizens find in art. There are ancient heroes, decorative inventions, local sports legends, and whimsical dead dragons. What fun – as an introduction to the museums that explain the history and pride of the city!

Donald Woodward



FRIENDSHIP TIMES

The friendship and hospitality of the welcome potluck dinner to introduce our visiting group continued as we accompanied our assigned hosts to their homes to spend week.

I was disappointed to learn that Connie Taggart, my originally assigned hostess could not accommodate me because of an injury. At lunch one day we became acquainted in a most friendly exchange. I learned of the recent troubles experienced by one daughter, a successful Professor at Kent State, who is now on leave impaired with long covid. I was hoping to share more of my long familiarity with an academic environment.

That first evening I drove my newly assigned host, Ann Lerch, to her lovely home on the family's 200-acre farm at the edge of the small (pop 6400) but prosperous town of Hillsboro fifty miles east of Cincinnati. The town benefitted from a local Community College. Ann's spouse was trained as an engineer but moved Ann and the family with seven children. Over time the family farm grew in size along with a farm supply business. Ann completed a college degree in business in her early fifties, and is now clearly most happy in her current life with her role to encourage leaders of the town to make needed improvements.

Ann proudly showed off her town of Hillsboro and members of her family. I learned that one of Ann's sons lives in New York City employed as a nurse, and another son now owns and runs the farm supply business. One daughter is a Medical Doctor working in a nearby hospital, and works to coordinate medical care in the community. The daughter arranges training experiences of student doctors who work for a time in Hillsboro – and who stay at her mother Ann's house. Ann proved to be an experienced host pleased to have a flow of vigorous folks through her house – which as a mother of seven children she clearly handles with ease. As her house guest, I was clearly there to benefit from her skills, hospitality and friendliness.

Ann served breakfast with coffee toast, blueberries, banana, and conversation. Judy Hornsby provided transportation each day in her van to Cincinnati and back each day to Hillsboro. We were served dinner one evening at Ann's son's house and a second evening at Judy and Orson Hornsby's home to experience a growth of friendship and closeness at each instance.

The introduction, tours of the cities and town, and social times at each day blended together to promote the goal of Friendship.

Donald Woodward

UNION TERMINAL MUSEUM CENTER

The terminal presents an artdeco exterior of limesone and stainless steel dominated by a giant arc comparable in size to the railroad terminl in Washington, DC. The interior is beautiful, what at first



appears to be a mural of the history of people and transport is actually a mosaic. It is fabulous.

The City and the Railroad Companies have done much to preserve a structure that is emblematic of the art and architecture of the 1930's.

There is also a current display open to the public, of identification papers and photos and personal letters with translations of the Jewish people in the 1930's and 1940's in Europe.

One of our day hosts purchased tickets for us to see the history of Cincinnati in miniature in one of the wings of the terminal. The miniature city is excellent. It depicts Cincinnati in immediate post-war late 40's and early 50's. The buildings and street layout appear to have taken an extraordinary amount of time to build and maintain. The detail is excellent; you must see it to appreciate it.

Next stop at about 6:00 is Cincinnati Chili, a special treat that is a favorite in this town. Pasta, in this case spaghetti topped with beans, diced onions topped with an excellent Chili meat tomato sauce. After our Cincinnati Chili it was time for a visit to Graeter's Ice cream, a creamy and delectable end to a packed first day.

Back to Mimi Bailey's for the evening. At about 7:00 and we were visited by Marianne Mundy and we had wine and conversation about our first day in Cincinnati. Off to bed about 9:30 for a good night's rest.



OHIO HERITAGE MUSEUM and GLENWOOD GARDENS CENTER

At 9:45 we visited the Ohio Heritage Museum and Village reminding me of our Winston-Salem historical village of "Old Salem." Most outstanding was our guide, a vibrant volunteer of over 20 years who was dressed in period hoop skirt of red and appropriate head-dress. Her descriptions were thorough and occasionally whimsical.



Of most pleasure to me other than the continuous warm fellowship as we walked, was the "Porter" house where the Presbyterian minister and his wife cared for their 15 children in a two level frame house and a detached 'cook' house and detached privy. It was moved there from the city. Other structures included a store with attached printing press, a train depot and other period structures. We had to say farewell to our lovely guide to meet our lunch reservation at the Century Inn.

Post lunch we visited the Glenwood Gardens Nature Center- Highfield Discovery Center, enjoying the additional learning experience. That evening, I enjoyed a delicious dinner and the most stimulating conversation with my host, Kay Atkins, and an assemblage of very high-functioning ladies. All of them, including Kay, resided in the 180-unit condo association structure. My evening conversations with Kay, a part-time consultant in Leadership Development and past president of FF of Greater Cincinnati, would usually adjourn at about midnight only to resume the following night over tea.

Perhaps my review of the day tells you that the social dimension of a journey is what motivates me the most. It is those opportunities to develop new relationships and friendships that keep me coming back for more.

Woody Clinard

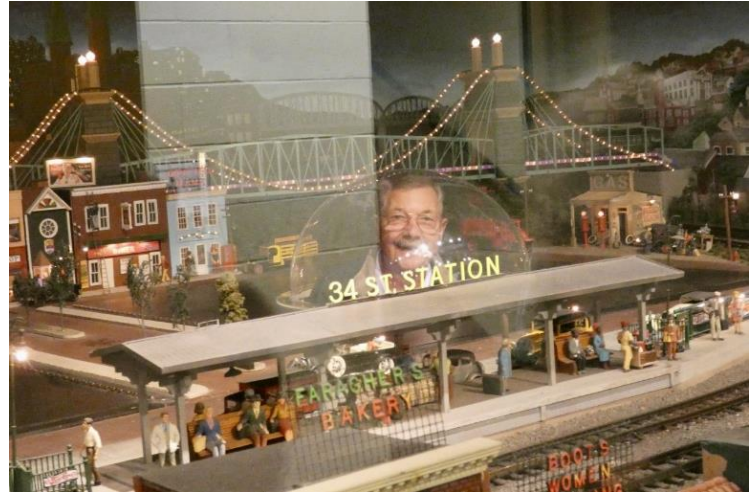
BEHRINGER-CRAWFORD MUSEUM and NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER

After another restful night's rest, breakfast was French toast and bacon, fresh juice, fruit, and coffee. Mimi is a wonderful morning hostess and makes mornings most pleasant. Nada Huron picked us up at 9:15 for a drive to the Behringer-Crawford Museum.

A beautiful old home at the top of a hill that has been made into a museum. Mr. Behringer was a businessman that traveled and had lots of collectibles, interesting and very entertaining.

We drove across town to the Yard House Restaurant on the Banks for lunch. It is a brewhouse with lots of draught beer from local breweries. I had a delicious salad with Ahi Tuna, while Doris enjoyed a Poke bowl.

At about 2:00 p.m. we walked to the National Underground Freedom Center. A guide summarizes the exhibits, after which we are on our own to study artifacts, read signs and posters and watch brief videos portraying the history of slavery from the early 1500's up to 1865. These videos narrated realistic stories about a brutal system of economics and agricultural development throughout the Americas.



This was the system that Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote about in her work "Uncle Tom's Cabin", originally published in the "New Era" magazine before being assembled into a one or two volume book and published by the Abolitionist Society. The book was printed in more than 40 languages for worldwide dissemination, ultimately becoming the 2nd most read book in the world.

We came back to Mimi's for a short spell then off to dinner with Host Marci and Warren Taylor in the Wyoming section of the city. Homes built in the 1970's, the Taylor's have done significant remodeling and the kitchen and entertainment area were most welcoming. Marci is a lovely hostess and served us drinks and snacks before dinner. She offered us Scotch to drink, which Mimi and I accepted. I told Marci the story of my receiving a gift bottle of Johnny Walker Blue in 2006 at my retirement from New York Life. She showed me an unopened bottle of Seagram's Whisky in a Tiffany Crystal Decanter with the familiar blue box she received about the year 2000 or so. People do strange things with some gifts we receive, don't we?

Dinner was a delicious stew of sausage and meat bits, chicken, spices and veggies served over rice. Marci's neighbor and Friendship Force member Pat Lehman joined us for dinner and conversation. Pat is originally from England, and we really enjoyed her company.

Ray Kiszely



HARRIET BEECHER STOWE HOUSE and MULTIMEDIA BUS TOUR OF CINCINNATI & COVINGTON, KY

Charles and I awoke to a most amazing sight of a deer through our bedroom window. It was a full-sized buck in the backyard, reaching up on its hind legs to breakfast on the low hanging leaves of the surrounding trees. We were ourselves soon enjoying a delightful breakfast of bacon and eggs, which Orson prepared for the three of us, Judy included, before we headed for Cincinnati. We picked up Don and his host Anne and drove for the next hour through the now familiar Ohio countryside into Cincinnati to The Harriet Beecher Stowe House. There we got a detailed history of the house, where Harriet spent about 10 years with her family. The house is in the process of being restored. Years later Harriet wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin. The Southern States had a very negative response to the book and spread a version of Uncle Tom that was the opposite of the book's portrait of Uncle Tom. Harriet was furious and wrote a denunciation.



Following this visit we had a hearty lunch at the Hofbrauhaus which featured German-themed food. We then embarked on a Cincinnati Multimedia History Bus Tour. The tour included the highlights of Cincinnati and across the bridge to Covington, Kentucky. A video on the bus gave information and the history of all the significant landmarks. These included, among others, the World Peace Bell, the Court House, state of the art music venues, the 5 bridges over the Ohio River, most notably the Roebling Suspension Bridge, City Hall, Proctor and Gamble Twin Towers, Ball Parks/Stadiums.

The day ended with dinner hosted by a unique union of Friendship Force families. Our hosts were Mark and Mary K Lerch and their daughter Emma. Mark is Anne Lerch's eldest son and Mary K is the eldest daughter of Orson and Judy Hornsby. Naturally, Don and Anne joined us for a lovely evening. Charles later told Ray that the dinner was the most memorable time of the journey.

Marylin Moniquette-John

ROEBLING and COVINGTON FLOOD MURALS, B&B RIVERBOAT FAREWELL LUNCH



Today will be our last day in Cincinnati. We packed our bags and loaded the car, had a nice breakfast with Mimi and talked about a great week of making new friends as we enjoyed the many places and activities in Cincy. The Flood Murals are across the river in Covington, KY, with a beautiful view of the Roebling Bridge.

We arrived at the murals painted in a previously flooded part of Covington, Ky. We were the first to arrive and I began to take a self-guided tour. The murals were painted by a group of talented artists commissioned by a firm from Lafayette, Louisiana. Beautiful work telling the history of Covington and Cincinnati in pictures from ancient times up to today. After a short while the group arrived, and we had an excellent tour presented by Joe Hadley a Greater Cincinnati FF member and husband of Rella Hadley our Cincy Journey Coordinator.



Following the tour, we drove a short distance to the docks where boarded B&B Riverboat Paddle Wheel replica. It's a beautiful vintage looking craft with 3 decks, live banjo entertainment and livelier dancers. served a delicious roast We were served a chicken and veggie lunch on the Ohio River to say goodbye to our friends from Cincinnati, the perfect end to a great week.

The John's and Kiszely's then drove back to North Carolina and arrived about 11:00 p.m. Thankfully an uneventful trip. The Rav-4 was smooth but not quite as comfortable as our former Highlander, but it did the job and got 27 mpg, which is good news since most fuel was about \$4.25 per gallon.



Submitted with a smile on my face, it was an enjoyable week.

Ray Kiszely