

Confluence Park



Did you leave this at the FFGS meeting?

**The Friendship Force of Greater Seattle Newsletter #56 September 1, 2024**

**FFGS Summer Picnic!**  
 Tuesday, Sept 3, 2024  
 Confluence Park, Issaquah  
 10:30 am – 2 pm  
 595 Rainier Blvd N. Issaquah

**Cincinnati Outbound**  
 September 16 – 23, 2024  
 Ambassador  
 Coordinators:  
 Pura, Sharon, and Doug

Sunday, Oct 20, 2024  
 General Meeting 2pm  
 Carol & Mark –  
**Touring Tanzania!**

September 25, 2024  
 Board Meeting: Noon  
 Location TBD

**Christmas Luncheon**  
 Anthony's in Des Moines  
 Sunday, early December  
 1 – 4 pm (more to follow)

**President's Letter: Welcome to almost Fall!**

I hope everyone is having a wonderful Labor Day weekend!

We have our annual picnic on Tuesday so we can share our adventures. The summer has gone by quickly. The group from Harrisburg had a wonderful time in Seattle. Thank you to all those who pitched in to make it another great inbound. It was fun to have a mix of ages to keep things lively.

Our trip to Cincinnati is right around the corner. Everyone should have received information about their hosts. I am excited to be going to a city that I have not seen before.

Next year is going to be a busy one. We need coordinators for 2 inbound and 2 outbound journeys. I think that co-coordinators are great. Let us know if you would like to pair up to coordinate. We have lots of experienced people to help if needed.

Thanks again! I hope to see most of you on Tuesday.  
 Judi, FFGS President

*“Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.”— Buddha*

## Confluence Park, Issaquah, WA: FFGS Summer Picnic!

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 from 10:30 am to 2 pm, lunch about 11:30 am



“[This central park](#), located in the heart of Issaquah’s Olde Town at the confluence of the East Fork of Issaquah Creek to the main stem, is the crown jewel of Issaquah’s park system. Inspiration is drawn from two historic farmsteads around a grand central meadow framed by a wooded backdrop of Issaquah Creek. A majestic barn shelter, a replica of one once found the site, looks out to the meadow and natural play areas.”

We will plan to eat about 11:30am. The club will provide the main course, including a vegetarian option. We will have pulled pork, beef, chicken and veggies, for a ‘make your own’ sandwich. *Please bring a salad or side dish.* The club will also provide coffee, tea, non-alcoholic drinks and a dessert.

*See you on Tuesday!*



“Camping is a chance to live with nature and learn valuable life lessons from her wisdom.”  
Paul Kortepeter

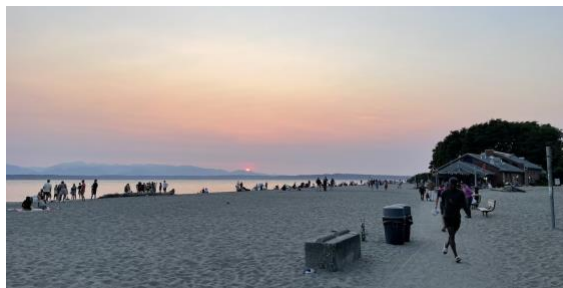
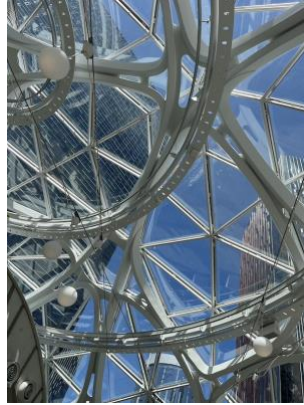
“Camping turns strangers into lifelong friends around a campfire.” Walter Winchell

“Camping is the ultimate way to disconnect from the chaos of the modern world and reconnect with what truly matters.” Rachel Carson



# Harrisburg Inbound, July 19 – 26, 2024

Enjoy this lovely collection of photos of a terrific hosting week! Many thanks to Judi for organizing such a fun and varied set of activities. A great time was had by all!



*The Harrisburg inbound was a special first for FFGS in that we hosted a 3 generation family group! Included were FFGH grandparents Don & Ginny, parents Don R and Christine, and their sons, Jack & Kevin. We enjoyed them all!*





Argosy Lock's cruise (sailing by the Sleepless in Seattle Houseboat)

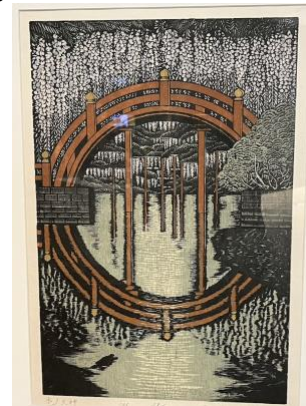


Modeling Karen's beautiful handmade earrings!

Kevin's birthday!



Vashon Island Troll, Lighthouse, Picnic, and beautiful view!



Thank you from Harrisburg!

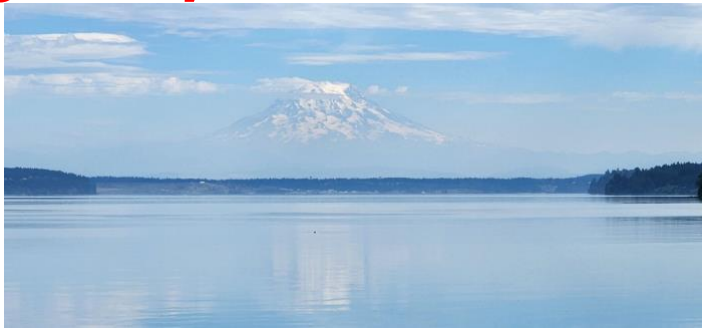
Major kudos from the FF of Harrisburg. Seattle is ever beautiful and memorable! Barbara B. Seattle: simply beautiful and memorable: the Space Needle, the Amazon Spheres, the incredible Chihuly Glass Museum, the many lakes, the cruise through the locks, etc. Ambassador Kathy Everett.



# Summer getaways!



*Free miniature golf near the spheres!*



*The ever beautiful Mt Rainier*



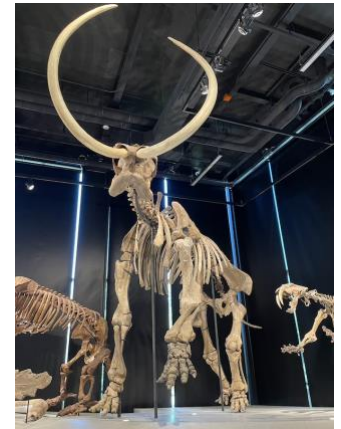
*Highline SeaTac Botanical Garden.*



*Iron Creek Fall near Randle*



*Seattle skyline with Mt Rainier*



*1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Free Museum Day at the Burke Museum!*



*Ye Olde Curiosity Shop Pier 54 – Sylvester mummy*



*Have you had a Seattle Dog?*



# More Summer Getaways!



*Beautiful Zion National Park – pictures by Elaine*



*Mt Rainier*



*Snoqualmie Falls*

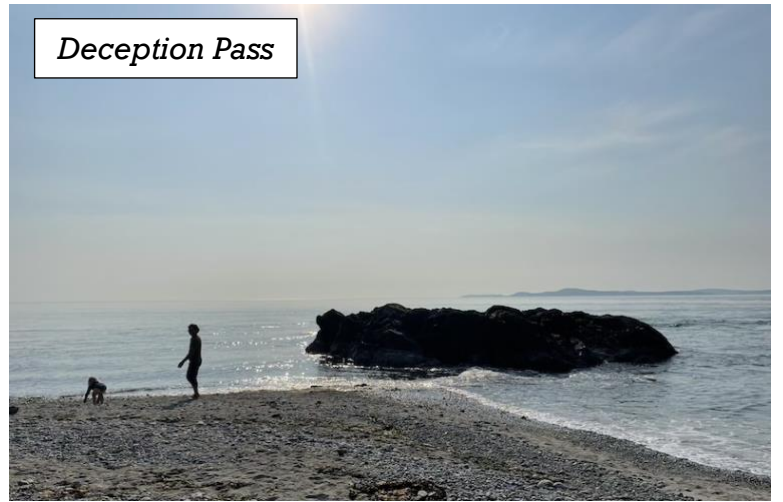


*Harrison Hot Springs*



Beautiful Harrison Hot Springs just 3 hours north of Seattle! Harrison Lake is spectacular.





## [14 Gorgeous Places to Visit in Arizona](#) (The Discoverer Blog)



[Havasupai Waterfalls](#)



[Horseshoe Bend](#)



[Hunts Mesa](#)

*“Autumn is the best time of year in the Southwest. While dropping temperatures mean breaking out the sweaters and heaters everywhere else in the country, in this corner of the U.S. it means the weather is just right for some outdoor exploring. While most minds immediately jump to the Grand Canyon when thinking of Arizona, there are plenty of other fantastic spots in this sunny state that you have to see to believe.”*

*“Arizona is a state of extraordinary contrasts, where every turn of the road brings into view something grand, mysterious, or lovely.” – Zane Grey*



**Tarangire National Park, May 30, 2024 from Carol's blog (Tanzania)**

We woke up early, excited to begin our safari in **Tarangire National Park**. We enjoyed another fantastic breakfast at the Masailand Safari and Lodge including fresh hibiscus juice, watermelon and pomegranate. We set off in 2 high top jeeps for Arusha Tarangire National Park, joined by our great guides Noel and Denis. We hadn't gone far when we saw a troop of baboons by the road and then a group of Weaver bird nests.



Our guides, Noel and Denis



Baboons by the side of the road

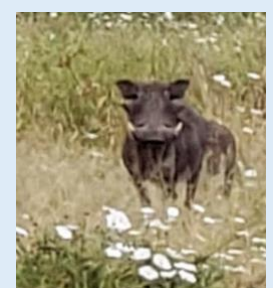
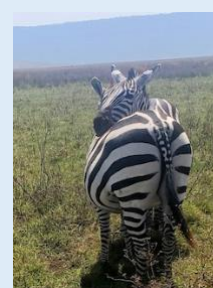


Weaver bird nests

Tarangire Park is popular for safaris because it is known for its large populations of wildlife. The Park has many elephant herds. Like all the animals, they are drawn there by the Tarangire River. They are almost always in family groups with a matriarch, other females and younger ones. If a baby is under one year it can still walk under its mother. This is great for shade, protection and easy access to mom's milk. The elephants are always on the lookout for water sources and love to wallow in the mud.



We saw gazelles, giraffes, wildebeests, zebras, and wart hogs.



The zebras stand head to tail resting their heads on the others back - a safe resting position to see in all directions and allows them to swat each others flies. A wart hog has large tusks for rooting up the ground in search of food. They are often in family groups. When they run, they hold their tails strait up like little flags to help them follow each other through the bush. Huge herds of animals are attracted to the Tarangire River, the only water source for thousands of animals, drawing large herds of elephants, zebras, wildebeest, giraffe, impala, eland (antelope) and warthog there to drink. It was nice to have Dave along with his geology background to explain the Great Rift Valley and other geological features. The river is fed by seasonal sand rivers originating from the East & Southeast areas of the park. Within the Park the river flows North and empties into Lake Burunge. The river also connects to Silale, Gursi, and Larmakan swamps within the park. The river and its permanent swamps are a critical water source for thousands of migratory animals and birds including over 550 different species of birds.

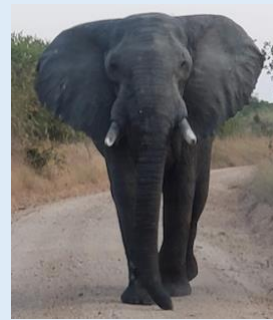
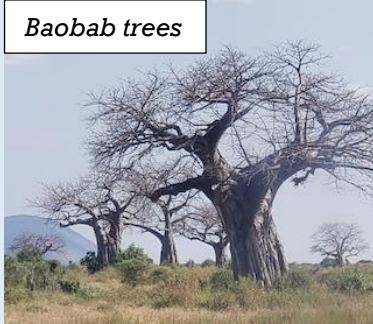


The park has many acacia trees and huge baobab trees, which look like a tree that's been turned upside down with its roots stretching skyward. Baobab trees can live for 3000 years with trunks that reach a circumference of 100 ft. Elephants like to eat the bark because it contains moisture.

The park gets its name from **Tara** (meaning snaking river in Mbugwe) and **Ngire** (meaning wart hog in Hadzabe). The park covers 2,850 square kilometers and has many wart hogs. We saw many herds of giraffes and families of elephants. The first 2 elephants we saw were two large bulls. A couple days before we saw **the charging bull elephant** which made my heart stop. These two guys had a nice mud bath, only looking for trees to scratch themselves.

We saw many impressive birds; a Ruaha Hornbill, several hornbill species, and a Gray Crested Crane, the national bird of Kenya. Amazingly beautiful, the male really steals the show. When hunters brought Guinea Hens to market they were worth one guinea, thus their name. True to the park's name we did see groups of wart hogs. They are so ugly they are cute, especially with their tails straight up to run after each other.

Baobab trees



Ruaha Hornbill

Gray Crested Crane

Guinea Hens

Wart Hog



Great Migration

Ray Missman (2<sup>nd</sup> from left)

Tour company

Wart Hog

We saw thousands of wildebeest and zebras on the "Great Migration". No matter how many days we saw them I never got over the number of animals coming from all directions with a single purpose. The Wildebeest need to cross the Grumeti River and turbulent Mara River to access to the fertile grasslands of the Maasai Mara. It is said that the wildebeest don't remember the way, so the zebras lead them. Wildebeest have a keen sense of predators and play their part protecting the herds. The zebra stop at the crocodile filled rivers' edge and only cross after the crocodiles have had their fill. The animals that make it to the Maasai Mara National Reserve feeding grounds fatten up before returning to the Ngorongoro to give birth. They face one of East Africa's greatest densities of lions. The survivors head south in a few months, leaving the lions that preyed on them. The second picture in is some of our trip companions including our trip leader, Ray Missman, in the middle. He did an amazing job both preparing us for the trip and leading us. It was definitely the trip of a Life time.



## ***Did You Know? - - Hamilton, New Zealand***

Source: [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org) [Weatherpark.com](https://www.weatherpark.com)

- *Is located on the North Island of New Zealand, about 75-miles south of Auckland. The Hamilton area's population of 185,000 is the country's fourth largest.*
- *Hamilton is located on the Waikato River, New Zealand's longest at 264 miles.*
- *In 2020 Hamilton was awarded the title of New Zealand's most beautiful large city, and is the country's fastest growing.*
- *Hamilton is known for its award-winning Hamilton Gardens, gourmet restaurants, and its colorful street art. The Lord of the Rings Hobbiton movie set is located approximately 45-minutes from Hamilton.*
- *February temperatures average a high of 76-degrees with a low of 59, average February precipitation is 2.6 inches.*



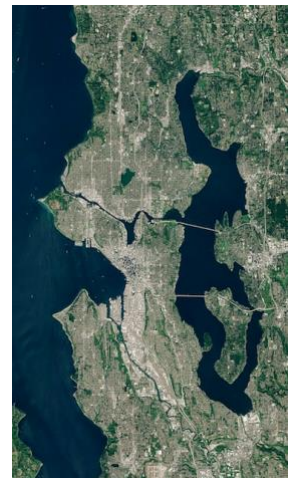
## **[Watch 100,000 Dominoes Topple to the Ground in a Dazzling Eight-Minute Display](#) Smithsonian magazine**



Artist Lily Hevesh spent ten days creating an elaborate 50 - by - 50 - foot domino display installation at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

*“After an arduous ten days of lining up 100,000 tiles side by side, 25-year-old artist [Lily Hevesh](#) and a team of nine international builders completed a massive—and fragile—domino installation at the [National Building Museum](#) in Washington, D.C.*

*Then, on July 20, it was time to knock it down.”*



*Can you find your house on this Satellite picture of the Greater Seattle area?*





## Friendship Force Pledge

As a member of the Friendship Force  
 I recognize that I can make a difference  
 I recognize that I have a mission  
 That mission is to be a friend of the people of the world.  
 As I embark on this adventure,  
 I know that others will be watching me  
 I know that through my example to my fellow citizens  
 And the people of other nations  
 The cause of friendship, love, and peace will be furthered  
 I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Local Places worth exploring:

### [West Seattle's Schmitz Park](#)

West Seattle's Schmitz Park is a time capsule of ancient nature and old-growth forest.

by Tantri Wija (Seattle Times article).

[Schmitz Park](#) (aka Schmitz Preserve Park), is a 53-acre park/time capsule of old-growth trees and centuries-old biota. The land comprising Schmitz Park was donated to the city between 1908 and 1912, creating a strange little spot where you can step back in time to a former version of West Seattle.

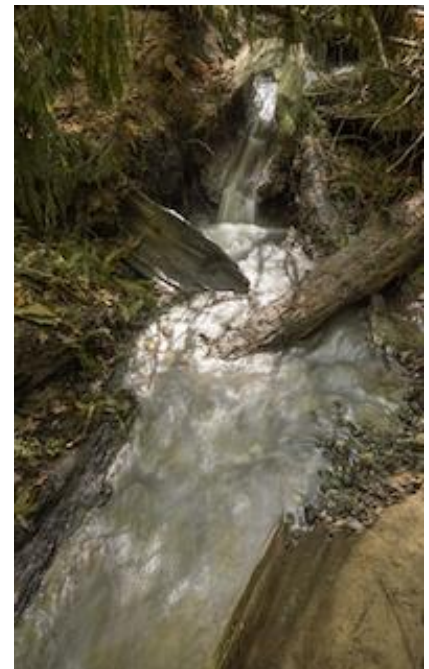
*"The majority of this patch of deep, dark forest was donated by German immigrants Ferdinand and Emma Schmitz.*

*There is very little signage inside (by design), so keep to the trail, as a skittish person might get distinctive "Jurassic Park" vibes while passing through this patch of wild on the polite fiction of its long walkways through fuzzy riots of ferns.*

*At the bottom of this park runs Schmitz Park Creek, coursing like a delicate vein through the ravine, and a few of the trees still bear the marks of some encroaching logging, serving largely to contrast the natural chaos of the rest of their brethren, whose advanced age bends them into strange, almost alien shapes.*

*Nurse logs abound, fallen timbers whose rotting corpses play host to hundreds of species of insects, fungi, lichens, etc. — a mesh of life as complex and subtle as an organism or a city itself, and hopefully this splotch of verdant green persists through the centuries as a lifeline to the fecund chaos of our wild past for those who one day might have to pay museum fees to see such trees as the great parking lot of modernity encroaches on paradise."*

*"There is nothing so American as our national parks. The scenery and the wildlife are native. The fundamental idea behind the parks is native. It is, in brief, that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us. The parks stand as the outward symbol of the great human principle." — Franklin D. Roosevelt*





## Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Smokey Bear (August 9, 2024)

Back-story: (from the Costco magazine)

*On August 9, 1944, Smokey Bear was created, and the first poster, developed by artist Albert Staehle, depicted a bear pouring a bucket of water on a campfire. It's the longest-running public-service campaign in our country's history. Smokey's original catchphrase was, "Smokey says, care will prevent 9 out of 10 forest fires." Smokey Bear's message of "only YOU Can Prevent forest Fires" was changed to "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires" in 2001 to reflect that wildfires happen in natural areas other than just forests. Learn about campfire safety at [Smokeybear.com](http://Smokeybear.com).*



## A Seattle couple embraces the tug of the sea – and an ocean of possibilities – Christopher Sandford



Myra, 87, grew up in Yarrow Point and describes herself as a lifelong sailor, outdoorswoman and enthusiastic fixer-upper of homes. Bob, 94, a U.S. Air Force veteran, retired engineer and lifelong hiker, modestly allows he's climbed Mount Rainier three times, once during the depths of winter. They bought this tug, originally called Mary K, and renamed it Salish Lady. They have owned her for about a year. She is a recreational class of tugboat – the Lord Nelson Victory model – that's become a classic in the pleasure-boat world: only 86 of the tugs were produced from 1983 to 1997. At 49 feet long, and roughly as wide as the average living room, she boasts two sleeping cabins and three heads, and chugs along at a cruising speed of about 8 knots.

*What is the secret to living a full and contended life? According to Bob, "I try to keep an open and positive mind, and look out for the joy all around me." For Myra, "Enjoy. Surround yourself with loved ones and friends. And get plenty of fresh air. The Northwest is so beautiful, there's really no excuse for failing to get out and experience it every chance you get."*



## Cincinnati, OH Outbound: September 16 – 23, 2024

We are getting pretty excited for those traveling to Cincinnati in just over 2 weeks!

**We have quite a busy hosting and traveling schedule for 2025!**

Please let Judi know if you are interested in taking on the coordinator position for any of these! Of course, you may want to coordinate one of these with someone else – Sue, Elaine, and I really enjoyed working together on the Montreal Inbound.

- **Inbound:**

**Alajuela, Costa Rica** to Victoria and Vancouver Island, Canada and Greater Seattle, USA – June?

**Coordinator: Joyce (want to help?)**

- **Winnipeg, Canada** to Greater Seattle and Columbia Cascade, USA - **October**  
**We need a coordinator for this one.**

### Outbound:

- Greater Seattle to **Hamilton New Zealand** – Late February/early March?

**Coordinators: Bob and Karen**

- Greater Seattle, USA to **Richmond, Virginia USA** – late May?

**We need a coordinator for this one.**

- Greater Seattle, USA to **Manitoba, Canada** – **August**

**(they would like us during their 2 week Folklorama festival, August 3 – 16, 2025)**

**Coordinator: Pura**

- **Eleven FFGS members are also signed up for a Global Journey to Cuba in mid – April**

## Folklorama: August 3 – 16, 2025

The **Manitoba, Canada** club would like us to visit during this festival!

Here is some info about it:

*“Travel around the world while staying in one city— Winnipeg! See world-class entertainment, enjoy delicious authentic cuisine, take in vivid displays and experience the beautiful cultures that make up the fabric of our city during Folklorama, the largest and longest-running multicultural festival of its kind in the world (as determined in 2010 by CIOFF, the International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts).”*

### **Richmond, Virginia:**

*“Richmond was an important village in the [Powhatan Confederacy](#) and was briefly settled by English colonists from [Jamestown](#) from 1609 to 1611. <sup>[1][12]</sup> Founded in 1737, it replaced Williamsburg as the capital of the [Colony and Dominion of Virginia](#) in 1780. During the [Revolutionary War](#) period, several notable events occurred in the city, including [Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty, or give me death!"](#) speech in 1775 at [St. John's Church](#) and the passage of the [Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom](#) written by [Thomas Jefferson](#). During the [American Civil War](#), Richmond was the capital of the [Confederate States of America](#).”*