

MS-645: Friendship Force of Dayton Records

Collection Number: MS-645

Title: Friendship Force of Dayton Records

Dates: 1977 – 2012

Creator: Friendship Force of Dayton

Summary/Abstract:

The Friendship Force of Dayton, founded in 1979 by Jeanne Comer, is a subgroup of the Friendship Force International, a non-religious and non-profit group dedicated to nurturing international friendships. They do this by planning both outbound trips with Ambassadors, or representatives, from Dayton as well as inbound trips with Ambassadors from other countries. The collection consists of trip planning documentation, newspaper/media articles, photographs, administrative files, and files pertaining directly to founder Jeanne Comer. The collection would be of particular interest to those researching international peace efforts.

Quantity/Physical Description: 3.18 linear feet and 263.5 MB of data

Language(s): Predominantly in English. Also contains material written in Russian, Japanese, French, Polish, Bosnian, Portuguese, Spanish. These materials are rare. If a folder contains documents in a language other than English, the language(s) are noted in the folder description.

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no donor-imposed restrictions on accessing the material in this collection. All electronic records listed in this finding aid are processed and available; however, researchers are requested to provide two days advance notice when requesting electronic records. Call (937) 775-2092 or e-mail us at library-archives-ref@wright.edu.

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-645, Friendship Force of Dayton Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:

The Friendship Force of Dayton Records were donated to Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries by Joan Lambert in November 2013.

Accruals:

Because the organization is still active, additional accruals may be anticipated in the future.

Separated Material:

Original electronic media has been separated to the E-Archives. Plaques donated with the collection have been copied and the originals returned to the donor.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms645.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

Some electronic photos originally on CDs are preserved in the E-Archives (ms645_e0001 and ms645_e0002). A computer able to read *.JPG formats will be required for viewing these files.

Related Material:

[MS-300: Dayton Peace Action Committee collection](#)

[MS-411: Dayton: A peace process collection](#)

[UA-1: Reed Smith Wright State University Peace Studies Collection](#)

Processed by:

Finding aid written according to DACS standards by Jesse Damsteegt, April 2019.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into five series:

Series I: Administrative Files, 1977 – 2009

Series II: Country/Exchange Files, 1981 – 2008

Series III: Event/Special Project Files, 1995 – 2009

Series IV: Jeanne Comer Files, 1980 – 2012

Series V: Graphic Materials, circa 1982 – 2002

Biographical/Historical Note:

Friendship Force International was founded by then-president Jimmy Carter and Reverend Wayne Smith in 1977. They wanted each state to have a branch of the Friendship Force International, but unfortunately, Ohio's group did not come to be until two years later. In August 1979, Jeanne Comer caught an intriguing article in the *Wall Street Journal*, discussing this new "friendship group" that promoted inexpensive travel, an opportunity to make friends in other countries, and both international and interracial peace. Comer reached out to the organization and was quickly able to establish the Friendship Force of Dayton. Its first exchange occurred in 1980.

Anyone can apply to be an ambassador of the Friendship Force of Dayton, and the trips manifest themselves in either inbound or outbound trips. Club members can additionally apply to be Exchange Directors to assist in the organization and planning of inbound and outbound trips.

One is required for each of the two groups participating in the exchange. Originally taking over 100 ambassadors during a trip, future exchanges shrank to no more than twenty-five per trip. This applies to both inbound and outbound trips. In the past, the countries which the ambassadors visited remained a mystery to participants until about a month before the trip began. Trips are planned in extreme detail, complete with guest-host matches, correspondence about trip planning, and activity/travel itineraries. The organization is still active.

For the most current information about the Friendship Force of Dayton, please visit the organization's website at <http://friendshipforcedayton.com/History.html>.

Source Citations for Biographical/Historical Information

"Dayton Friendship Force Club History." Friendship Force of Dayton, Ohio.
<http://friendshipforcedayton.com/History.html>.

Moss, Meredith. "Jeanne Comer, Founder of Friendship Force, Dies at 89." DaytonDailyNews. November 26, 2012. <https://www.daytondailynews.com/news/local-obituaries/jeanne-comer-founder-friendship-force-dies/LfaOIZhXGqsKqJYZWRhaol/>.

Terrell, Charlene. "Rev. Wayne Smith Dies on June 16." Rev. Wayne Smith Dies on June 16. http://archives.bigcanoenews.com/2004_07/2004_07_a_rev_wayne_smith_dies_june_16.htm.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists of documentation of the Friendship Force of Dayton's initial creation, activity in organizing trips to other countries for the purpose of forging international friendships, and biographical information about the organization's founders.

Series I, Administrative Files, consists of files that create the structure of the organization and how it is designed to function. It also contains published newsletters and pamphlets by the Friendship Force of Dayton as well as general information. Materials in this series date between 1977 and 2009.

Series II, Country/Exchange Files, consists of files directly related to organizing trips to other countries for the purpose of forging international friendships, including the planning of either inbound or outbound exchanges. These files may include travel applications, correspondence, travel itineraries and recommendations, photos, guest-host matches, and maps of countries visited. Files in this series are arranged alphabetically by country and then chronologically by date of trip. Materials in this series date between 1981 and 2008. While this series contains a few photographs specific to certain folders, most trip photographs can be found in Series V, Graphic Materials.

Series III, Event/Special Project Files, consists of documentation pertaining to special events of interest, such as the organization's 30th anniversary and the erection of the Dayton Peace Pole. It

also includes contextual paperwork for extra projects hosted and carried out by the Friendship Force of Dayton. Materials in this series date between 1995 and 2009.

Series IV, Jeanne Comer Files, consists of files directly pertaining to Jeanne Comer, the individual who founded the Dayton chapter of the Friendship Force International. Her files contain primarily awards recognizing her and her achievements given. Materials in this series date between 1980 and 2012.

Series V, Graphic Materials, hundreds of photographs, which document both the Friendship Force of Dayton's trips abroad and their activities with inbound representatives. The series also contains copies of plaques and awards of recognition granted to individuals. The recipients are sometimes unidentifiable. Materials in this series date from about 1982 to 2002.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Carter, Jimmy
Carter, Rosalynn
Comer, Jeanne
Smith, Wayne
Soros, George

Organizations/Corporate Names

Friendship Force of Dayton (Dayton, Ohio)
Friendship Force International

Places

Amman (Jordan)
Cairo (Egypt)
Cali (Colombia)
Dayton (Ohio)
Fukuoka (Japan)
Moscow (Russia)
Nairobi (Kenya)
Ottawa (Canada)
Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Trujillo (Peru)

Subjects (General)

Friendship Force International, 1977-present
International peace
Peace

International friendship
Friendship

Material Types

Applications
Correspondence
Maps
Business handbooks
Travel Itineraries
Clippings (newspaper)
Photographs
Negative strips
Certificates of recognition
Awards
Plaques (photocopies)

Occupations

Peace ambassador

Collection Inventory

Box	File	Description	Date
Series I: Administrative Files			1977-2009
1	1	Beginnings of Friendship Force International	1977-1998
1	2	Beginnings of Friendship Force of Dayton	1979-2008
1	3	Administrative Documents	1982,1994, Undated)
1	4	Newspaper clippings about Friendship Force	1979-2001
1	5	Publications: Friendship Force of Dayton Newsletters, Friendship Force International Publications, and Jeanne Comer's 1998 Letter to FFoD	1996-2009
1	6	Preparatory Paperwork for 2001 Exchanges	2000
1	7	Preparatory Paperwork for 2004 Exchanges	2003
1	8	Preparatory Paperwork for 2005 Exchanges	2004
1	9	Preparatory Paperwork for 2006 Exchanges	2005
1	10	Letters to Friendship Force of Dayton from international friends post-9/11	2001
1	11	1994-1995 Friendship Force International Financial Statements & Invitation to 20 th International Conference in Montreal	1996
1	12	Itemized Categories Report 7/31/98 – 6/2/00	2000
Series II: Country/Exchange Files			1981-2008
1	13	Bundaberg, Australia (Inbound: July 2001)	2000-2003
1	14	Bundaberg, Australia & Auckland-North Shore, New Zealand (Outbound: February 2004)	2003-2004
1	15	Krems, Austria (Inbound: July 2000)	1999-2000
1	16	Bosnia (Passage to Peace) (Outbound: December 1996)	1996
1	17	Sarajevo, Bosnia (Inbound: July-August 1997)	1997
1	18	Sarajevo, Bosnia; Philharmonic Orchestra (Inbound: November 1999)	1999
1	19	Bosnia (Outbound: May 2000)	2000
1	20	Bosnia (Outbound: October 2003) (some materials in Bosnian)	2003
1	21	Bosnia, Croatia, & Greece (Outbound: April 2005)	2005
2	1	Post-War Peace & Sarajevo, Bosnia	1988-2005
2	2	Enlarged Photos of Bosnia Trips and Subsequent Organization/Sending of Supplies from Dayton	1991-2000
2	3	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil International Conference (October 1984)	1984
2	4	Lethbridge, Canada (Outbound: July 2004)	2004
2	5	Ottawa, Canada (Outbound: June 2005) (some	2004-2005

Box	File	Description	Date
		materials in French)	
2	6	Vina del Mare, Chile (Inbound: June 2001)	1998-2000
2	7	China (Outbound: June 1983)	1981-1983
2	8	Cairo, Egypt (Outbound: November-December 1985)	1985
2	9	Cairo, Egypt (Outbound: October-November 1999)	1999
2	10	Cairo, Egypt (Inbound: August 2000)	2000
2	11	Pau, France (Outbound: September 1984)	1984
2	12	Pau, France (Outbound: September 2001)	2000-2001
2	13	Pau, France (Outbound: June 2003)	2003
2	14	Pau, France (Inbound: July 2004)	2003-2004
2	15	Herne, Germany (Outbound: September 1992)	1992
2	16	Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany (Inbound: October 2005)	2004-2005
2	17	Budapest, Hungary (Outbound: Friendship Force International Conference)	Undated
2	18	Pisa, Italy (Inbound: October 1992)	1991
2	19	Tokyo, Japan (Inbound: April 1992)	1992
2	20	Fukuoka & Yamaguchi, Japan (Outbound: October 2000) (some materials in Japanese)	1999-2001
2	21	Fukuoka, Japan (Inbound: October 2002) (see also E-archive)	2002
2	22	Amman, Jordan (Inbound: August 2004) (see also E-archive)	2003-2004
3	1	Nairobi, Kenya (Outbound: September 1996)	1996
3	2	Nairobi, Kenya (Inbound: June 2004)	2003-2004
3	3	Seoul, Korea (Inbound: April 1985)	1985
3	4	Seoul, Korea (Outbound: June 1985)	1985
3	5	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (Inbound: October 1999)	1999
3	6	Riga, Latvia & St. Petersburg, Russia (Outbound: June-July 1998) (some materials in Russian)	1997-1998
3	7	Chiapas, Mexico (Outbound: July 1984)	1984
3	8	Howick-by-the-Sea, New Zealand (Outbound: proposition)	1987
3	9	Marlborough, New Zealand (Inbound: September 2000)	1999-2000
3	10	Trujillo, Peru (Inbound: October 1999)	1998-1999
3	11	Trujillo, Peru (Outbound: January-February 2001)	2000
3	12	La Libertad, Peru (Inbound: August 2005)	2005
3	13	Warsaw, Poland (Outbound: July-August 1984) (some materials in Polish)	1983-1985
3	14	Portugal (various cities) (Outbound: November 1986)	1987
3	15	Moscow, Russia (Inbound: October 1997)	1997
3	16	Various unidentified Russia documents	1982-2008

Box	File	Description	Date
3	17	Inter-Friendship Force Visit to Knoxville, Tennessee (July 1999)	1999
3	18	Inter-Friendship Force Visit to Knoxville, Tennessee (May 2005)	2004-2005
3	19	Vietnam (Outbound: October 1994)	1994
3	20	Vietnam (Inbound: May 2004)	2003-2005
Series III: Event/Special Project Files			1995-2009
3	21	Presentation by Jeanne Comer on outbound Siberia trip	1995
3	22	Friendship Force of Dayton partners with JFK Elementary School Kettering, OH	1997-2001
4	1	Peace Network (Harvest of Peace)	1996
4	2	Global Village Project for Students	1996
4	3	Russian Leadership Program	2000-2001
4	4	Russian Leadership Program: Educational Materials	1999-2000
4	5	Walk of Fame: Chip Carter & Jeanne Comer	2000
4	6	Deed's Point/Peace Plaza/Peace Pole Concept, Fruition, & Dedication	2002-2003
4	7	Friendship Force International: Pilgrimage Project	2008
4	8	Friendship Force of Dayton 20 th Anniversary	1999
4	9	Friendship Force of Dayton 25 th Anniversary	2004
4	10	Friendship Force of Dayton 30 th Anniversary	2009
4	11	Dayton Peace Accords: Administrative Files	1996
5	1	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Title Page & Table of Contents	Undated
5	2	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Executive Summary	Undated
5	3	Dayton Peace Accords Project: DPAP Mission & Objectives	Undated
5	4	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Board Members & 1998 Expectations	Undated or 1998
5	5	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Dayton Peace Prize By-Laws for Selection & Nominee List	Undated
5	6	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Summary of DPAP Projects 1996-2002 (AKA: DPAP Project History)	1996-2002
5	7	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Letters of Endorsement & Support	1996-2001
5	8	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Sponsors & Participating Organizations	Undated
5	9	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Media Coverage	2001-2002
5	10	Dayton Peace Accords Project: 2002 Anniversary Events: "Dayton Peace Prize" (Nomination of George Soros)	2001

Box	File	Description	Date
5	11	Dayton Peace Accords Project: 2002 Anniversary Events: "Challenges to Freedom, Peace, & Prosperity in the Information Age"	2002
5	12	Dayton Peace Accords Project: First Anniversary	1996
5	13	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Second Anniversary	1997
5	14	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Third Anniversary	1998
5	15	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Fourth Anniversary	1999
5	16	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Fifth Anniversary	2000-2001
5	17	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Bosnia & Herzegovina Country Profile & Historical Highlights	1999
5	18	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Dayton Peace Accords General Framework	Undated
5	19	Dayton Peace Accords Project: "Challenges to Peace" Address by Bill Clinton, first recipient of Dayton Peace Prize	2001
5	20	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Bill Clinton & Dayton Peace Prize Photos & Article	2001
5	21	Dayton Peace Accords Project: DPAP Contact Information	Undated
5	22	Dayton Peace Accords Project: Miscellaneous Meeting Minutes & Fundraising	2001-2002
5	23	Dayton Peace Place Project: Conceptual Proposals "Dayton Peace Accords Revisited"	1996
Series IV: Jeanne Comer Files			1980-2012
5	24	Jeanne Comer: Ambassador Application	1999
5	25	Jeanne Comer: Meet Your Directors	Circa 1999
5	26	Jeanne Comer: Identification Cards in three languages (materials in Russian, Portuguese, Spanish)	Undated
5	27	Jeanne Comer: Correspondence	1980-2012
5	28	Jeanne Comer: Volunteer of the Year for Friendship Force	1988
5	29	Jeanne Comer: Certificates of Recognition	1981-1992
5	30	Jeanne Comer: Lifetime Achievement Award	1999-2000
5	31	Jeanne Comer: Lifetime Achievement Award Photos	1999-2000
5	32	Jeanne Comer: Friendship Force Club of the Year	1997-2003
5	33	Jeanne Comer: Walk of Fame	2000
5	34	Jeanne Comer: Dayton Peace Hero Award	2011
Series V: Graphic Materials			Circa 1982-2002
5	35	Photocopies of Plaques/Awards	1982-1999
6	1	Lifetime Achievement Award?	1999-2000

Box	File	Description	Date
6	2	The Great Wall & Ming Tombs	1983?
6	3	Photos in Egypt	1985
6	4	Outbound to India	Undated
6	5	Recognition of Jeanne Comer during Dayton Lifetime Achievement Ceremony?	2000
6	6	F.F.o.D. Gathering (Asian Inbound?)	2002
6	7	Unknown Album	Undated
6	8	Farewell – Dubrovnik	1997?
6	9	Farewell Dinner Group Safita (?)	Undated
6	10	High School DN (?) Area around school (Croatia or Bosnia?)	1997?
6	11	Pictures of Dayton Friendship Force collecting supplies for Bosnia_Tipp City School	1997
7	1	Presentations – Gov. Cemetery – Jason (?)	Undated
7	2	First pictures in Jewish synagogue. High school computer labs	Undated
7	3	Sarajevo Cathedral	1997?
7	4	Leaving Sarajevo; Going through Mostar, Bosnia to Croatia	1997?
7	5	S.F. Golden Gate Bridge Conference	1997?
7	6	Exchange in Cali, Colombia	1980
7	7	Photos of Egypt	Undated
7	8	“58 custom slides; photos & negatives”	Undated
7	9	Loose box photos; miscellaneous events	Circa 1980-2002
7	10	Unknown album; no labels	Undated
7	11	Unknown location(s); unknown events	Undated
7	12	Unlabeled collection (India?)	Undated
7	13	Postcards from Irkutsk, Russia	1986?
7	14	Postcards from Siberia	Undated
7	15	Photos in Thailand	Undated
Ms645_e0002		Photos: Fukuoka, Japan (Photos by Bill Meers and Blaine)	2002
Ms645_e0001		Photos: Amman, Jordan	2004