

Our President's Report By David Motherwell

On June 16, Jerry and Mary Johnson and I had a good book discussion about "Six Days in Bombay," a historical novel by Alka Joshi. We gave the book a high rating and agreed that the author is an excellent writer who takes the readers to another time and place with her vivid descriptions. Identity, self-discovery, art, loss, and the complexities of female relationships are central themes to this story that took us from Bombay to Prague, Florence, Paris, and London.



On June 20, six members attended the LEO, where we toured the Missouri Civil War Museum and Telephone Museum at Jefferson Barracks. Movies in several rooms of the Civil War Museum show the history of Jefferson Barracks and the deeper meaning of a place where many heroes enlisted, trained, and are buried. Their stories, weapons, equipment, and uniforms line the walls of the exhibits for the Civil War and other wars.

The Telephone Museum is housed in a restored 1896 building and features an extensive collection of telephones, telephone-related equipment and memorabilia. We had an excellent guided tour by a young man who told us about the various advancements. In one demonstration, he pointed out that in the 1970s, Bell System developed an optic cable where two strands of wire could carry as much telephone traffic as six heavy cables with 4200 wires. Needless to say, the advancements since Alexander Graham Bell introduced the first commercial telephone in 1877 have been astounding. Thanks to Doris Yohe for organizing these very informative tours.

I am looking for to our annual picnic on July 8 and hope everyone is keeping cool in the meantime.

Schedule for future book discussions is as follows:

July 21 – "The Pursuit of Happiness - How Classical Writers on Virtue Inspired the Lives of the Founders and Defined America" by Jeffrey Rosen. This New York Times bestseller explores how six Founders were influenced by classical Greek and Roman moral philosophers Rosen explains how they understood the pursuit of happiness as a quest for being good, not feeling good—the pursuit of lifelong virtue, not short-term pleasure. Among those virtues were the habits of industry, temperance, moderation, and sincerity, which the Founders viewed as part of a daily struggle for self-improvement, character development, and calm self-mastery.

September 21- At this meeting, we will have a group discussion about one of our favorite books. Everyone is encouraged to participate and share what you like in a particular book.

From Dory Lamont, Outbound Journey Coordinator:

*The St. Louis to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul August 24-29, 2026, attendance is **now full** with a waiting list.*

From Doris Yohe, Social Committee VP

ANNUAL PICNIC - JULY 8TH

From Stephen Wolfe:

The "*Picnic*" will be held **next week** on **Wednesday, July 8th** at noon at **Vlasis Park, Ballwin** (same location as last year) .

There is still time to attend. However, if interested, to ensure that we have enough food, please **contact Maria Carson asap**, at (314 401-4034) or marcar1914@gmail.com for attendance confirmation, entree preference, and payment arrangement. **You are encouraged to "Bring a Friend" to join us.**

Directions to Vlasis Park:

Address: 300 Park Dr, Ballwin, MO 63011 Vlasis Park

Pavilion #1 (Nearest to the pond and playground)

From the junction of Manchester Road/I-270, take Manchester Road **west**, (about 3 miles) then turn right at **Seven Trails Drive north** to the park. The park is just east of the **Lowe's** store. Watch out for the geese!

Cowboy Sam is bringing back his delicious **Barbeque savory beans**. You can choose from these **three** chuckwagon features to complete your meal (put preference on your check) :

- *Slow pit cooked sliced **steak**,*
- *Atlantic roasted **salmon**, or*
- *slow baked tangy **chicken**.*

Pick up one of the sides on our tables, then enjoy your meal with plenty of conversations with your friends. When you are done eating, head over to Cowboy Sam for your generous **slice of chocolate-cream cake**. Enjoy! Costs this year are the same as last year!!! **\$13** per person for your choice of **steak, chicken, or salmon**. **If you bring a non-dessert "side" of your** choice, the cost drops to just **\$8**.

LEO FOR JULY

We are scheduled for a guided tour of the **Nine PBS television station**, found at 3655 Olive Street, St. Louis, 63108, **July 23rd at 11:00 AM**. The tour is free. The station requires a list of all attendees prior to our visit, so please let me know if you plan to join us. **Call or text Doris Yohe, 314-805-8932**.

Following the tour, we will head to The **Fountain on Locust** at 3037 Locust Street for lunch. You can look forward to scratch-made dishes, retro ice cream cocktails, and beautiful Art Deco murals.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The Holiday Luncheon is to be held at **Bartolino's South**. Detail to follow in future newsletters.

From Judy Young, Movie Group

The next **Movie Group** will be held at **4:30 pm on Wednesday, July 15th**, and we will discuss **Disclosure Day** - Playing in all the major theaters and sounds like a good one to discuss. *Disclosure Day* is a 2026 sci-fi thriller directed by Steven Spielberg. The story revolves around a band of whistleblowers and everyday people who are racing to reveal decades of hidden evidence about extraterrestrial contact, all while navigating the looming threat of global war and a sinister corporate cover-up.

As always, after you have seen the movie, bring a dish to share another lively discussion. Please call/text **Judy Young** at her cell at **636-634-1458** if you plan to attend.

From Judy Cagle, VP of Membership

July Birthdays

7/1	Dory	Lamont
7/10	Judith	Leonard

From Judy Cagle - FF Cedar Rapids Journey

On May 28th, I drove the "Avenue of the Saints" from St. Louis to Cedar Rapids. Highlights of the trip were a guided bus tour through downtown Cedar Rapids, a drive up to Mt Trashmore (a former solid waste landfill converted to a park with walking trails and a beautiful view of the city). We also visited the studio of famous artist Grant Wood who may be best known for his painting of the American Gothic, and a visit to see the beautiful stained glass he did at the Veterans Memorial. We then visited a couple of mansions once owned by Quaker Oats and Sinclair Meat Packers from the area.

One day we spent in Kolona, Iowa which has both a large Amish and Mennonite community. We visited an Amish Casket maker, a horse drawn buggy maker, and was also served a family style lunch in the home of an Amish family.

Another day took us up to the site where the movie "The Field of Dreams" was filmed. After lunch we all went out to hit a few on the ballfield(no injuries). We then were given a presentation from the famous Dennis Rima(Coach) who has been a Ghost Player for several years.

We also visited many other sights, took a hike, and visited the Katz Family Healthcare Simulation Ctr which was amazing. It is part of the Kirkwood Community College which consists of several lifelike mannequins that are used to train the medial students.

As always, the Welcome dinner and Farewell dinner were wonderful as were the great group of ambassadors, hosts, and members of FF Cedar Rapids.