

2020: A Year Unlike Any Other

Our year started out with club members gathering at a general meeting and a Let's Eat Out. After March, our activities were mostly on Zoom or outdoors until later in the year.

Let's Eat Out:

February 8, members met at the Lucky Penny Restaurant in Hiawatha for lunch and conversation in small groups

Justice for our Neighbor's Project:

Club members provided a meal at one of the Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) events. JFON provides free, high-quality immigration legal services, education and advocacy to low income immigrants.

General Meeting Celebrating World Friendship Day

The club celebrated its 15th World Friendship Day with a potluck general meeting at Salem United Methodist Church. Thirteen international students from several area schools including Mount Mercy University and Kirkwood Community College joined us. They shared their experiences in the United States. Information about their native country and culture was very interesting.

Then the world (and our club activities) changed:

Mix and Mingle

- May 18 and July 24, small groups of 6-8 members gathered in backyards and garages

Zoom Meetings and Activities

- Zoom Wine and Chat: May 8 and September 11
- Zoom Coffee with club president, Mary Ann Nelson, May 21
- Zoom Trivia: July 17, October 23, November 20 and December 18
- Zoom Annual Meeting: December 6: with Jeremi Snook, CEO of FFI as guest speaker
- Zoom Holiday Cocktail Party: December 30

Outings:

- May 13 Drive by Parade
- June 16: Gathering in the Park in Monticello
- September 21: a Let's Eat Out (LEO) celebrated International Day of Peace at Shuey's Restaurant in Shueyville.

Other Activities;

- Humanitarian Project: Collection of games, toys, puzzles and other items for non-profit, Catholic Worker House
- August article on the Friendship Force in the Life in Eastern Iowa Section of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*