



THE

Friendship

NEWS

OF THE *Friend Family Association* OF AMERICA

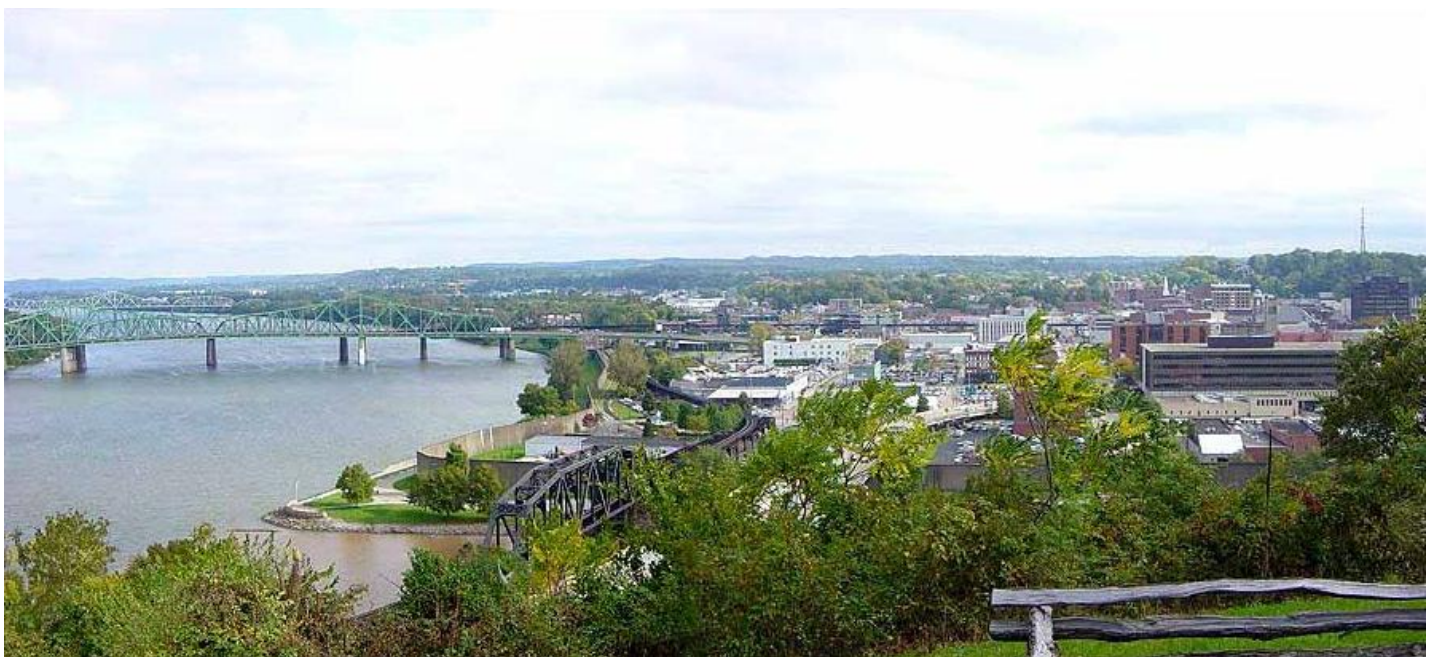
Visit Our Website at www.friendfamilyassociation.com

P.O. Box 96 Friendsville, Maryland 21531

Gathering at Parkersburg Special Edition 2018

The Gathering of Friends

The Friend Family Association of America (FFAA) will be holding the 2018 Gathering of Friends in Parkersburg, West Virginia on July 12 – 15, 2018 at the famous Blennerhassett Hotel.



Downtown Parkersburg as viewed from Fort Boreman Historical Park

2018 Gathering of Friends (continued)

The Gathering of Friends

Location

The location of our 2018 Gathering will be held in Parkersburg, West Virginia at the historical Blennerhassett Hotel

The guest rooms are presently being held for the Friend Family Association and reservations are available now. The Blennerhassett Hotel has set special rates for us which are \$119.00 for standard Doubles and \$129.00 for the Standard King. These rates are available on the nights of July 12, 13, and 14, 2018. (*Rates do not include 7% State Sales Tax and 6% Occupancy Tax.)

These rooms and special rates will not be held after June 12, 2018 so making your reservations as soon as possible for this popular hotel is strongly suggested.

The Blennerhassett has given our group a special code that will need to be given when making your reservation with either the hotel, online or with the 800 number. That code number is 300841

Blennerhassett Hotel reservations:

304.422.3131

800.262.2536

[Visit the Blennerhassett Hotel's website by clicking here](#)



For more than a century, The Blennerhassett has imparted upon its guests the uniquely attentive service for which its name has become legendary. While we celebrate our storied past, we believe our legacy to be an obligation, not a birthright. Our enduring commitment is a passionate and unfaltering dedication to fulfill the needs and surpass the expectations of every guest. Share the legacy.

The classically designed European-style elegance of The Blennerhassett's guestrooms offers unique accommodations to business and leisure travelers alike. Convenient amenities include a daily newspaper and evening ice service. Well-appointed guestrooms feature rich jewel-toned fabrics and beds that offer the extravagance of triple sheeting and the choice of down or synthetic



The Blennerhassett is the perfect blend of old-world charm and modern convenience. Take advantage of complimentary high-speed, wireless, broadband Internet access throughout the hotel, and state-of-the-art motion sensors that turn closet light on and off and control the heating and air conditioning in your room.

2018 Gathering of Friends (continued)

The Gathering of Friends

Local Attractions

Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park

Site of the alleged plot by Aaron Burr and Harman Blennerhassett to establish a southwest empire. Feature the reconstructed Blennerhassett Mansion, guided tours, concession stand, gift shop, narrated wagon rides, hiking trails and picnic facilities.

Access via Sternwheeler from Point Park, Parkersburg ☎304.420.4800, 800.CALL.WVA

www.blennerhassettislandstatepark.com

Blennerhassett Museum of Regional History

The museum is located in downtown Parkersburg with three floors of intriguing archaeological and historical exhibits of the Blennerhassetts and the areas, extensive gift shop and video explaining the Blennerhassett's story.

Second & Juliana Streets, Parkersburg

304.420.4800, 800.CALL.WVA

www.blennerhassettislandstatepark.com

The Blennerhassett Museum of Regional History is about 1/2 mile from the Blennerhassett Hotel. This is also the location where the tickets are purchased for the Sternwheeler that takes you to the Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park.

In order to enjoy all the Island has to see The Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau suggests at the very minimum allotting three (3) hours but recommends more time if available.

For additional attractions available in the area, [click here](#).

(Courtesy of The Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau)



During the tour the Friendship Store will remain open, with various items available, along with the Friend Series genealogy books.

Books purchased at the Gathering will be mail with free shipping.



2018 Gathering of Friends

The Gathering of Friends

The Friend Family Association of America (FFAA) will be holding the 2018 Gathering of Friends in Parkersburg, West Virginia on July 12 – 15, 2018.

The purpose of the Gathering is to continue to provide opportunities to research and share family genealogies, meet new family members, renew acquaintances of the past, and visit attractions of the local area.

Included at the Gathering is the election of Board of Directors whose terms are due to expire or are vacant. The Gathering will also include a time for 'Show & Share', that gives opportunities for attendees to give a brief presentation that may include a family story or showing an item of interest.



Photographs from past Gatherings

Schedule of Events

Thursday

All day –Registration desk at the historic Blennerhassett Hotel will open at 1:00 p.m. Meals are on your own for the day.

Friday

Registration desk will be open at 11:00 a.m. for the remainder of the day.

7:00 p.m. Guest Speaker—Susan Sheppard

Saturday

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast Buffet

9:00 a.m. - Opening comments followed by Show and Share and Silent Auction.

Noon- Lunch Buffet

1:00 p.m. - A group visit to Blennerhassett Island, details are on page 4

5:30 p.m. – Group Photograph

6:00 p.m. Dinner Buffet

7:00 p.m. Guest Speaker—Janet Rae Cantrell

Sunday

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast Buffet

9:00 a.m. - Opening service, followed biennial business meeting with elections.

The seminar will adjourn at noon.

To fill out the registration form online and pay by PayPal, click on this link: [Online Registration Form](#)

To print and mail-in the registration form click on this link: [Printable Registration Form](#)

2018 Gathering of Friends (continued)

The Gathering of Friends

Susan Sheppard

Guest Speaker—Friday at 7:00 pm

Biography

Susan is a well-known psychic medium, a self-taught astrologer, a talented artist-poet and masterful storyteller. Her areas of expertise are ghosts and hauntings, non-human spirits, fairies and fairy lore, astrology charts and forecasts, psychic dimensions, cryptozoology, Indrid Cold, Men in Black, Mothman, past lives and reincarnation, tarot and cartomancy, Appalachian folklore, remote viewing, divine magick, astral travel, Wicca & Witchcraft, ancient origins, creative writing in various genres, DNA studies, Native Americans, tribal wisdom and spiritual growth.

Susan Sheppard is the creator and main story-teller for the Haunted Parkersburg Ghost Tours, the founder of the Sacred Way Astrologers and Spirituality organization. She is also a founding member of West Virginia Writers, Inc.

Janet 'Rae' Cantrell

Guest Speaker—Saturday at 7:00 pm

Biography

Janet 'Rae' Cantrell was born and raised in Oklahoma. She and her husband currently live in the Tennessee Valley in view of the Smokey Mountains. Rae is retired as an early childhood education after 25 years of teaching. She received her B.S. Degree from Oklahoma State University and M.Ed. from Southern Wesleyan University.

Rae Cantrell is the writer for the Oklahoma Press Association's 2016 Award winning Nowata Star's personal column, "The Kinfolk Did WHAT!". She is author and illustrator of the children's book, "The Mountain Lion and The Vail Ranch Mice...An Aesop Fable Retold, Western Style."

Rae is a member of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, First Families of Tennessee, and First Families of the Twin Territories, as well as the Friend Family Association of America.

Board of Directors Nominees

The following members have expressed their wish to be nominees for the FFAA Board of Trustees (2 positions to be filled). The election will be held during the Sunday morning business meeting at the Friend Family Gathering in Parkersburg, WV in July, 2018.

Below, the current list of nominees (alphabetical order) have submitted the following information about themselves:

The formal nominating process is open through March 10, 2018. Members still interested in placing their own name on the ballot as a nominee, please email a paragraph of intent, containing your resume, to Louise Pence at louponce3781@gmail.com.

Questions about the nominating process? Call Louise Pence 614-329-2541.

REMEMBER: ONLY MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR 2018 DUES CAN VOTE!



Ronn Friend

Over the past several years I have had both the pleasure and honor to serve as a volunteer at the Friend Family Museum and Library in Friendsville and work alongside some very special dedicated and innovative folk who also volunteer their time and talents to keep the library/museum open. Since 2016, I have served as the chair for the local headquarters committee and as the Secretary to the FFAA Board

of Directors. For a brief period from August 2015 to July 2016 I served on the FFAA Board of Directors, being appointed to fill a vacancy. I look forward to serving on the FFAA Board and to explore ways to grow our membership, expand research opportunities at the FFAA library, including the digitization of genealogical records, and working with organizations and groups to line up grant funding as well as interns and volunteers to help with the work of the library and museum.

I was raised on a small family farm in Sang Run, Maryland. I am the third great grandson of John Friend, Jr., who in 1799 settled at Friend's Delight in Sang Run. In September 2017, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources renamed and dedicated that property as Sang Run State Park. I am a retired educator, having been a classroom teacher, a school principal, and district administrator before serving in administrative and leadership positions with the Maryland State Department of Education and the United States Department of Education. I hold a doctorate in social and philosophical foundations of education from the University of Southern California.



Pat Smith

I have been a member of the FFAA since 2006. I have been a Life member (#1102) for the last ten years. I served on the Board of Directors from 2006 until 2104. I have volunteered at numerous FFAA events over the years. I have written (and co-written) forty-one books on the Friend Family. I have published two new books this year and I am currently working on the next book. I have over a dozen books outlined with more than three hundred pages each. I have set up a family tree on Ancestry.com (Emma Gus Tree) with over 23,000 Friends. This tree references the Friend books, stating they can be viewed at the FFAA Genealogical Library. I would be happy to serve in any capacity on the board.

2018 Gathering of Friends Registration

**2018 Friend Family Gathering
July 12 – 15, 2018**

**The Blennerhassett Hotel
320 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101
304.422.3131 or 800.262.2536**

All hotel reservations must be held with a major credit card or advance deposit when guests register with the hotel no later than June 11, 2018.

Cost of lodging is the sole responsibility of attendees.

Mention you are with the FFAA Gathering to receive group rate or use code number 300841

Registration Fees

Members \$85.00 _____ Non-members \$90.00

Early registrations before June 1, 2018

Members \$80.00 - Non-members \$85.00

**"Pre-Registration insures your meals for Saturday and Sunday".
On sight registrations will not guarantee meals.**

Staff will be at the registration desk at the hotel at 11 am until 6:00 pm Thursday and on Friday in the morning. Please stop by for your program and other Gathering information.

Friday afternoon and evening: Attendees will have this time to visit many of the attractions located in the area Friday meals not included in registration fee but are available nearby.

Saturday - Breakfast; Lunch buffet and Dinner Buffet.

Seminar includes: Opening ceremonies- Show and Share, Silent Auction and Group Photo

Evening; Guest speaker.

Sunday Seminar: Breakfast.

***** (cut)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

AMOUNT REMITTED _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____

[Make checks payable to FFAA and mail to:](#)

Pat Thompson, 5910 Lawrence Ct. Adamstown, MD 21710



**Remember to make your reservations at the hotel by
June 12, 2018**

The Blennerhassett has given our group a special code that will need to be given when making your reservation with either the hotel, online or with the 800 number. That code number is **300841**

The Friendship News is the official publication of the Friend Family Association of America, published semi-annually, in May and November. Complimentary copies are sent to libraries and genealogical organizations upon request. Members may submit historical records, news items and queries; published as space allows.

The Friend Family Association of America

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Email: president@friendfamilyassociation.com

Internet: www.friendfamilyassociation.com

The Friend Family Association of America, Inc., a tax exempt publicly supported organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, engaged in the collection, recording, preserving and sharing of historical and genealogical data.

Membership is open to all persons regardless of name, race, creed or place of origin.

Two classes of membership are available: Individual Regular member, \$25.00 per year; Individual Life member \$250.00.

FRIEND FAMILY ASSOC. OF AMERICA

P.O. BOX 96

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