

Outbound Journey to FF Dayton – September 2022

A Journey to Dayton

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Ambassador Co-coordinator

The Journey started with the Welcome Party. Bobi McDermott, Dayton Host Coordinator, reviewed the week's itinerary. In addition, the members recommended that we try their city's favorites while there: Bill's Donuts, Marion's Pizza and Killer Brownies from the famous Dorothy Lane Market, which many of us did.



We visited Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park & Interpretive Center, Wright Memorial, Huffman Prairie Flying Field, where the Wright Bros flew their experimental airplanes, and the National Museum of the US Air Force near the Wright Paterson Air Force Base. At the Air Force base, one set of the Dooms Day planes could be viewed ready and waiting 24 hours a day for a call. President Biden was visiting while we were there and we could see Air Force One in the distance. The Air Force



Museum is the oldest and largest military museum in the world and houses over 350 aircraft and missiles that can be toured. The Air Force base employs 30+ thousands of Dayton's residents. This base is strategic in the development of all tools in defense and its employees have the highest level of security clearance.



Dayton's club member Joe Scullion was our docent for the Dayton's Art Institute visit. Joe provided us with ways to look at art a little differently than we might be used to. He used one painting titled "The Flea Hunt" to illustrate how light enhances a story. On our visit to the International Peace Museum, Bill Meeks of Dayton's club told us how the Dayton Peace Accord came to be signed there in 1995 that



ended the Bosnia war. . We toured Historic Woodland Cemetery where significant gravestones were the Wright Brothers, Erma Bombeck, James Ritty, who developed the cash register and later sold the patent to James Paterson, who founded the National Cash Register Company. (NCR). Of interest in the cemetery were well placed benches with bowler hats attached to them to represent Dayton's fondness of Wilber and Orville Wright.

Dayton is a city of inventors. In the 1900's it became the invention capital of the USA. Throughout the city there are models of inventions to honor these important people. Charles Kettering invented the self-starter engine replacing the crank! Frei created the ice cube tray. James Ritty the Cash Register and of course the Wright



Brothers. As Kettering said, invention is creativity, curiosity, and perseverance. Can you believe that the man who designed airplanes did not believe in refrigeration and kept his ice in the wall on the outside of his home so no one would track dirt in, Wilber who suffered from sciatic pain most of his life remodeled a chair into a recliner with arm rests that held metal swings for his books, a back that was permanently reclined for his position and attached an ottoman to act as a foot rest.

Dubbed the “Poet Laureate of the Negro race” by Booker T Washington. Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906) is best known for his lively dialect poems. Dunbar also wrote fine poems in standard English that captured

many elements of the black experience in America. His home was one of the stops on our tour. He became the first African American to support himself financially through his writing. His three-story home was on our tour. Mr. Dunbar and the Wright brothers were good friends with him officiating at his sister’s wedding

One of our quieter mornings was spent on a walking tour of Deeds Park near the river walk. There we shared in celebrating Dayton’s Friendship Force Club’s contribution to this revitalized area. In 2003 a permanent Peace Pole



Monument was installed by the club with paver stones surrounding it with the names of the various inbound journeys they had hosted. This park provides quiet spots to “just look” with art works celebrating its former citizens.



Our last day in Dayton found us leaving for the town of Springfield to tour the Westcott House. Who knew that Frank Lloyd Wright designed and built a house in nearby Springfield, Ohio. The house was built between 1904 and 1908 and is described “as one of the top twenty Frank Lloyd Wright houses in the world. After a nice lunch we toured the Heritage Center of Clark County.

The center extends an entire city block, houses an extraordinary museum that recounts the history of America’s Heartland. In 1806 Thomas Jefferson authorized National Road: the first federally funded interstate highway. Priceless mementos have been assembled to open an exciting window on seven generations of history.



Our final event was an all-club picnic. Approximately 60 members attended and everyone enjoyed themselves reliving what we had done the last 7 days. Joe Scullion made Origami dragons for everyone attending. Unfortunately, by the next evening many attending, 6 out of 8 Des Moines attending, become ill with salmonella. It was later determined it was the catered chicken. However, that did not change our feeling of being totally at home with our Friendship Force partners in Dayton.

