

Dear Friends,

We are wishing you the happiest New Year in 2024! Let's be sure to keep the love found in relationships and friendships as our Norh Star when navigating any choppy waters we may encounter in the year ahead.

The Friend Ship remains in the shipyard until we receive our 501 c 3 approval from the IRS. While we await the determination letter, we continue to build the foundation of our vessel so that we can ensure a safe and effective voyage once we leave port!

We want to thank our good friend, **David Schub**, for his generous donation of headshots for our Board of Directors. David's gift helps to put a face to the names of The Friend Ship captains who are committed to delivering our mission of building connectedness through long-lasting and inclusive friendship.



Susie Dellinger
President, Board of Directors



Jeremy Hancock
Treasurer, Board of Directors



Brian Clark
Secretary, Board of Directors

These headshots are on our [website](#), along with updated [community guidelines](#).

Adventures Ahead!

We are very excited about our upcoming MeetUp events which feature other Austin-based non-profit organizations! This includes:

[Ready, Set, Plant with The Tree Folks through The Friend Ship!](#) on Saturday, January 27

[Presence - A Special Night of Friendship with Austin Classical Guitar](#) on Saturday, February 17

Our friends at **Austin Classical Guitar** have kindly allotted free tickets to our group for their event. [You can learn more about Presence and reserve your ticket here.](#)

Check out our MeetUp to stay connected with each other and to partake in fun activities that celebrate our time together on this Earth, including our Friendship

Focus series and a fun evening of improv comedy with ColdTowne Theater on February 29:

[F****g Friends MeetUp Events Calendar](#)

The Shipyard

- Our quarterly Board meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2024. In this meeting, we will be signing off on our strategic plan. We are exploring ways in which we can easily share the plan with The Friend Ship community, including utilizing our new [YouTube channel!](#) (There's nothing up yet, more to come next month!)

- We continue to build our social media presence. Thank you to everyone who has so far expressed interest in being a part of our marketing committee. We will have more information on our needs once our strategic plan is finalized. In the meantime, please be sure to [follow us through LinkedIn.](#)

We are very thankful to our donors who helped with the initial cost of getting our framework in place. Although our 501 c 3 status is pending, we still incur administrative costs including our monthly expenses for Google Workspace, MeetUp subscription and insurance. We welcome donations through the following:

[Paypal](#)

[Zeffy](#)

We've been super happy with Zeffy, which is a donation site designed specifically for non-profits. We also happily accept Paypal!

The Captains Quarters

In upcoming newsletters, we will be featuring thoughts on friendship from leadership and community members of The Friend Ship. Our board president would like to start this off by sharing the following:

"Friendship is the Texas state motto. Growing up in Texas, we learned that you treat folks friendly and that means you've done your duty as a Texan. I can think of no other state better suited for the launch of a non-profit organization which puts friendship as its North Star. I am incredibly grateful and lucky to be a part of building this special organization for people to stay connected in friendship. I cannot wait to sail the high seas with you all." - In Service, Susie

We will see ya'll very soon!

Board of Directors
The Friend Ship
board@friend-ship.org