

Philo meeting on Friendship info sheet for January 26, 2022



Dear friend,

This email is about our Philosophy Club, which has been around for about 20 years. I am sending this message to a broad list, which includes you. There will probably be no more than 6 such messages a year. But if you'd prefer not to receive them, let me know!

The Philosophy Club will hold its next meeting on Thursday evening, January 26 to discuss one of the most significant dimensions of our lives -- **friendship**. And you're invited to attend!

We all need to know how to form and maintain great friendships. This meeting will give you the benefit of wise thoughts from both ancients and moderns.

The meeting will take place via zoom or in-person attendance on at on that date. Here is all you need to know, in chart form:

Date and time:	Thursday, January 26, 2022, 7 pm Eastern Time for the meeting only. 6 pm for those attending in person and who wish to receive a home-cooked meal from member Ray Haupt. Ray advises that he will not be masked. Attendance will be limited to a small number of people as a Covid precaution.
Participation:	Via zoom or in-person at the Mt. Airy home of member Ray Haupt. For the zoom url, see further below. For in-person attendance, only those whom we know will be given Ray's address. Write to me, Albert, at albfcc@icloud.com for further details.
Presenters:	Jeffrey Berger, philosophy professor at Community College of Philadelphia; and Albert Fried-Cassorla, a founder of our club.
Pre-readings and watching:	No pre-readings are required. But some are recommended for a richer experience and for true learning. See list below.
Zoom link:	See further below.
RSVP:	Yes, if possible. Email Albert at albfcc@icloud.com



Jeffrey Berger



Albert Fried-Cassorla

Friendship is one of the most important determinants of our happiness, as many psychologists agree. Much has been written on the subject, and some of the most cogent writings have been by ancient philosophers, especially Aristotle and Epicurus. Readings follow below.

Our presenters will be Jeffrey Berger, philosophy professor at Community College of Philadelphia; and Albert Fried-Cassorla, a founder of our club.

Our meeting will have 5 distinct segments. Each will have a cut-off time, except te open discussion.

1. Prof. Berger presents on Aristotle for 10 minutes.
2. A 10-minute discussion follows
3. Albert Fried-Cassorla presents for 10 minutes on Epicurus
4. A 10-minute discussion follows
5. open discussion.

Participants are encouraged to focus on the reading and “watchings” and specific questions posed here. NO shouting down

of speakers will be tolerated, or other unfriendly behavior will be allowed. The moderator will decide, in a friendly manner 😊 , who is recognized as having the floor.

But what do we know (or need to know) about friendship? It is one of the areas studied by philosophers through the millennia. Our friends can do so much: console us, comfort us, keep us company, confirm our worth, and provide the launching point for many discoveries.

Among the many philosophers who have written on the topic eloquently are Aristotle and Epicurus. On the 26th we will hear brief presentations about two of these greats.

Presenters should not be criticized for “hogging the floor.” They have worked hard to provide something of substance. As noted, there will be plenty of time subsequently for every voice to be heard.

READINGS

General:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/fulfillment-any-age/202211/the-5-ties-bind-the-best-friendships>

On Epicurus:

[https://daily-philosophy.com/epicurus-on-friendship/#:~:text=Epicurus%20tells%20us%20more%20specifically,\(Principal%20Doctrines\)](https://daily-philosophy.com/epicurus-on-friendship/#:~:text=Epicurus%20tells%20us%20more%20specifically,(Principal%20Doctrines))

On Aristotle:

Read the section of his *Nicomachean Ethics* dealing with friendship. It is Books 8 & 9 (similar to chapters) and maybe found in the following pdf of the book:

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html>

Also, check out this well-thought-out article:

<https://bigthink.com/personal-growth/do-you-have-true-friendships-why-aristotle-thinks-you-dont/>

See the list of questions to ponder lower down in this document.

Ponder them!

WATCHINGS:

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGedUxTfBk>

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

This initial portion of the event will be followed by an open discussion, in which some of the following ideas may be addressed:

Should the nature of friendship be altruistic, in the sense of wishing the best for the other person? (Whether true altruism is possible is a different and related topic.)

Can parents and their children be friends?

Can friendships be imbalanced and still successful, such as with one person initiating the contacts almost always? Is it possible when most of the attention in a friendship is on one person rather than the other?

Is there a limit to how many good friends a person can have?

Are Internet friendships as valid and potentially rich as multi-dimensional as friends we see in person?

How different or similar are the concepts of Love and Friendship?