



“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

Website: www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org

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Note from the President

The warmest of holiday greetings to everyone in FFK. This is a most blessed and wonderful time of the year. This year I find many of the things I had always read about but did not necessarily live have come into place. We are asked to slow down, pause, and enjoy the wonder and warmth of the season. This year we all slowed down and I have found that I am noticing many small wonderful things that other years might have gotten lost in the holiday festivities. In many ways it feels every day we are experiencing what is sung about in “Oh Holy Night”.

- The most beautiful holly berries and bushes I ever remember-stunning
- The quiet of not having to get ready for gatherings/parties
- The gift of not needing to worry about clothes, make-up or physical characteristics

- The tranquility of a glowing fireplace
- The beauty of the first snowfall
- The joy of sitting and enjoying the Christmas tree and the lights on buildings and houses
- The time to bake cookies and deliver them to neighbors
- Beautiful Christmas music
- The thoughts and memories of people all over the world and in our country that you cherish
- The pure joy of thinking about the people we care about most and sending them a card, a small gift, or just thinking about how important they are
- The profound appreciation of the life I have been given.

This is my last month as president of FFK. It has been a challenging year and yet in many ways it brought us closer as we tried to navigate the year and the limitations placed on gathering. Friendship Force is not a necessity in our lives, but it is one of the things that adds beauty, wonder, and meaning to our lives. I am thankful to have been allowed to serve as your president and look forward to seeing all of you in person sometime in 2021.

Enjoy the wonder
Kaye Bultemeier-President



December 22nd FFK Program

The December meetings for FFK have always been a special time with our friends not only here



but around the world. At our December 22nd meeting, we would like to hear and, maybe, see your past

Christmas travels OR simply come and listen to others sharing. If you have a photo or a special memory of a Christmas you spent while traveling, join us virtually on December 22nd to share that memory with your FFK friends.

The link for joining the Zoom meeting is:

Date: Tuesday, Dec 22, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM EST; program begins at 7 p.m.

<https://tinyurl.com/yxjcwyny>

Meeting ID: 819 0253 6829

Passcode: 609555

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

See you there!

Janis Robinson, Program Coordinator

Improved Zoom Security & Other Issues

Over most of 2020, the world has been using Zoom as an alternative to meetings of all kinds and they work continuously to create an environment where people can gather virtually and safely. In the early days of this year, there were many incidents of people breaking into meetings and behaving badly. Zoom has greatly improved their security and if you are new to Zoom and want to try it in advance or if you are having problems logging in to the meetings, you can contact the following members to help walk you through the process before our meetings:

- Betsy Tonkin (865-405-0837) for iPads and Apple computers
- Diana Lopez (865-223-4036) for PC and Android devices

We would love to see you and you can attend the meetings from the comfort of your own home!

Janis Robinson, Program Coordinator

December Fun Activities

Take a few minutes and visit the FFK Website “About Knoxville” page where you will find an interesting list of places to go and things to see in December. Our Club’s web address is on page 1 of this newsletter below the title.

Ray Simko, Web Coordinator

Membership Renewal, Interest Survey

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their Friendship Force of Knoxville (FFK) membership and completed the member interest survey. If you haven’t already completed the renewal form and survey, please do so by December 31st.

The FFK Board decided to waive 2021 dues for current members, however the club is required to pay Friendship Force International \$20 per member. Therefore, we need to know you wish to continue your FFK membership, and we certainly hope you do. This payment to FFI will be covered by existing club funds.

Please return the form and survey to Treasurer Bruce Robinson at the address on the form or scan it and send via email by **December 31**.

Thank you for your membership and involvement.

Jayne Raparelli, Vice-President

A Successful November Meeting

The special annual club business meeting was held on November 24th before the program.

Twenty club members were present and elected the slate of Club Officers nominated for 2021 and, also, approved the up-dated By-Laws. Our officers for the 2021 year are:

- President: Jayne Raparelli
- Vice-President: Betsy Tonkin
- Secretary: Barbara Elder
- Treasurer: Bruce Robinson

Congratulations to all!

After the vote, Bruce and Janis Robinson shared a trip to Lisbon, Portugal, about the history and culture of that wonderful city They said it was fascinating and one of their best trips!

Virtual Reunion w/Georgia Delegation



Open World hosted a very successful Zoom reunion on November 12 between delegates from the Republic of Georgia and our FFK hosts. The program

began with introductions by Open World Senior Program Manager Lewis Madanick, a recorded welcome from the cultural attachè at the U.S. Embassy in Georgia, and a brief talk by Kimberley Daly, a professor at George Mason University on higher education policy making in COVID-19 times. The discussion by Professor Daly initiated some dialogue with the Georgian delegates on the issues COVID has required them to face. Following this discussion, Britton Holmes (who supports the Friendship Force International Open World Program) was introduced, and then FFK representatives Kaye Bultemeier, FFK President, Joanne Schuetz, the Host Coordinator for the 2019 visit and Betsy Tonkin, the Reunion Coordinator, initiated the opportunity for each of the FFK hosts and the Georgian delegates to catch up on their respective lives over the last year.

All of the Georgian delegates took part, with the exception of their facilitator, who did not join the call. All the FFK hosts also took part: Diana Lopez, Kaye Bultemeier & Noel Kuck, Jean & Ron Mayer, Betsy Tonkin, Sonja & Ron Dubois, and Kathy Wright. The Georgians were all extremely complimentary of their visit in Knoxville. Several had been in contact with educators in the area with whom they had met while here. In fact, two had arranged for some type of interchange program with UT which had to be postponed due to COVID.

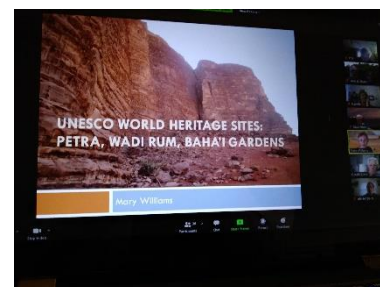
Not surprisingly, all of the Georgians were as impacted as we have been by the coronavirus. Most, if not all of them, were working from home. Those with children were involved with online learning. At least one had family members suffering from the virus. Another was isolated due to exposure.

All the hosts and the delegates thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to reconnect. The delegates reconfirmed their invitations for us to visit them sometime in the future when travel is safe for all. Open World personnel were clearly pleased with the success of the program in November 2019 as well as this reunion. This should bode well for us the next time we seek to host an Open World visit.

Betsy Tonkin

FF Dallas Program on Petra

The Friendship Force Club of Dallas invited members of our club to attend their virtual November meeting. Nine FFK members



accepted the invitation and joined the virtual program presented by the FF Dallas club on November 14th. The speaker was Mary Williams

of the FF Dallas club who spoke about her trip to Petra, Wadi Rum and the Baháí Gardens. The trip took place in 2018 after their club Journey to Israel. The Dallas Club warmly welcomed our members and we all enjoyed a great program.

Journey News for 2021 and 2022

The 2022 Outbound Request form has been sent to FFI. This form indicates our Club's preferences for 2022 travel. We have requested the reinstatement of our postponed Australia trip to North Moreton and Gold Coast, and an additional week in New Zealand as our Outbound International choices.

For Outbound Domestic journeys, we have requested to be assigned one or more of these locations:

- Columbia Cascades (Southern Washington and Northern Oregon),
- Albuquerque, New Mexico, and
- Missoula, Montana.

We expect to receive information from FFI on our assigned Journeys in February or early March.

Incoming Journeys 2021:

St Louis, Missouri Host Coordinator needed!!

FF St. Louis has requested the month of April for their 2021 visit to Knoxville. The visit will be 5 days. If you are interested in being the host coordinator (or co-host coordinator) for this Journey, please contact Diana Crisp Lopez (dlopez@utk.edu), or Leslie Badaines (badainesL@icloud.com)

San Antonio FF will visit us for 5 days in late October 2021 (one month after our visit to their fair city). Jayne Raparelli and Mike McDonough are the Host Coordinators for this visit. If you are interested in being a host for these Ambassadors,

please contact Jayne and Mike at jaynerap@aol.com, or call Jayne at 423-871-1739.

Outgoing Journeys 2021:

Romania- Dates are June 9-21, 2021. We'll spend 4 nights in Bucharest and one week with a host family in Sibiu. We will include a visit to Dracula's castle and Transylvania, plus old towns and villages plus much more. Cost is about \$1270, not including airfare and insurance. Contact Diana Lopez, dlopez@utk.edu, if interested. As an extra incentive, our host in Sibiu, Camelia Grigore, offers a virtual tour under Virtual Journeys on the FFI website. The link is: <https://vimeo.com/478692025>

Napa Sonoma- Date to the Napa-Sonoma Friendship Force Club is September 2021. If interested, contact Ambassador Coordinators Jayne Raparelli and Mike McDonough jaynerap@aol.com or call Jayne at 423-871-1739. We hope to spend five days in early September in Northern California wine country with the friends we made when their club visited Knoxville in October 2019 as well as make new friendships.

San Antonio- September 2021. This Journey will be a 5-day visit. The specific dates in September have not yet been set, but it is expected to be mid-September, in close proximity to our Club's Journey to Napa Sonoma. Travel with us to one or BOTH Clubs. For more information, contact Leslie Badaines, Ambassador Coordinator for this Journey badainesL@icloud.com.

Leslie Badaines,
Journey Co-Coordinator

Just for fun!

The year 2020 is almost over and it has been a very strange time. Just to lighten things up a bit, here are fun things for you to enjoy.



“I love the scents of winter! For me, it's all about the feeling you get when you smell pumpkin spice, cinnamon, nutmeg, gingerbread and spruce.”

Taylor Swift



Children's riddles for Christmas:

Q: What is Santa's dog called?

A: Santa Paws!

Q: Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas?

A: Santa Jaws!

Q: What do you get if you cross Santa Claus with a detective?

A: Santa Clues!

Q: What do you call Santa Claus when he doesn't move?

A: Santa Pause!



2021 Friendship Force of Knoxville Membership Application/Renewal

The COVID pandemic has clearly disrupted Friendship Force of Knoxville's journey events planned for this year and at least the first part of 2021. Fortunately, FFK entered this COVID era in good financial shape thanks to the many years of hard work of its members. Recognizing this, the Board has discussed at length the dues structure for next year and believes that we can forego dues for our current members for 2021. FFK will fund expenses from our current resources. This includes the \$20/member affiliation fee that we owe Friendship Force International (FFI).

Consequently, the dues for 2021 are:

Current members: no dues are owed for 2021 (if you are in the member directory sent to you by e-mail, then you are a current member)

New members (not currently a member): \$20 (this will pay for the \$20/member FFI affiliation fee)

We do want to receive positive feedback that you wish to continue your membership for 2021, and to learn how you might like to contribute to the mission of FFK and FFI. **Please complete the attached Membership Application/Renewal form and the Member Interest Survey and return to Bruce Robinson by Dec. 31, 2020 at the address below. Be sure to include a check for \$20 payable to Friendship Force of Knoxville if you are a brand-new member for 2021.** We also appreciate any donations.

Bruce Robinson, Treasurer, PO Box 53104 Knoxville, TN 37950

You may also scan the form and email it to rbr@utk.edu

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Please check: **Application** **Renewal**

Please print. (Write no change after your name if the directory is correct).

First name _____ Middle initial/name _____ Last name _____

New member--Name you would like on your name tag _____

Street address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____

Cell phone: Area Code _____ Number _____

Home phone: Area Code _____ Number _____

E-mail: _____

In accordance with sections of our charter with Friendship Force International relating to data protection, please note the information above will be included in a member directory provided to all Friendship Force of Knoxville members. An electronic contact/e-mail list will also be provided to committee chairs, members and the Board of Directors.

Revised November 2, 2020

Member Interest Survey

We understand the COVID situation will continue to evolve into 2021. While we are hopeful that 2021 will bring a renewal of outgoing and incoming journeys for our club, we understand every member will make his/her own decision whether to host and/or travel. Please indicate in comment sections of questions 1, 2, and 3 if COVID will impact your decision to host.

Name: _____

Friendship Force has meetings/events roughly monthly.

Please check the days and times that you could attend—

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

Times of day you could attend: Midday Early afternoon Early evening

Does your availability differ according to day? If yes, indicate here. _____

FFK needs your help in various ways in order to meet its mission. We encourage every member to be a part of making FFK active and vibrant. Please identify an activity or activities you would be willing to assist with. Check as many as you like, but please check at least one.

1) Home hosting

a) Are you able to host? Yes No

b) How many can you host? _____

c) Comment: _____

2) Day hosting

a) Would you like to Day Host? Yes No

b) How many people can you fit comfortably into your car besides the driver? _____

c) Comment: _____

3) Small dinner parties

a) Can you host or co-host a small dinner party? Yes No

b) Maximum number you can serve including yourself? _____

c) Comment: _____

Continued on next page

4) Which of the following committees/activities would you be interested in working on? You may indicate a priority if you wish.

- a) Communications (website) Yes No
- b) Communications (newsletter) Yes No
- c) Telephone committee Yes No
 (remind members of events, etc. by phone, text or email.)
- d) Publicity: Yes No
- e) Finance committee: Yes No
- f) Hospitality committee (prepare for and organize events): Yes No
- g) Program committee (identify speakers who meet FFK's mission): Yes No
- h) Membership committee (member recruitment/retention resources): Yes No
- l) Club historian (maintain history of club's activities): Yes No
- j) Photography of club events: Yes No
- k) Present a trip or journey you have taken: Yes No

5) Board of Directors

Every year we elect a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Would you be interested/willing to serve as an officer? Yes No

If yes, which position? _____

6) Program/event suggestions

a) FFK has several events during the year such as presentations, tours, etc. Please list below any travel or culture related programs that you would be willing to present or suggestions for speakers, or other events that fall within the mission of FFK:

b) Are you interested in participating in *virtual programming*, such as zoom presentations, meetings or reunions with Friendship Force and Open World clubs that FFK has hosted or visited? Yes No Comment_____

Continued on next page

7) Host coordinator/committee

A host coordinator and a host committee are needed when an incoming Friendship Force club, domestic or international, visits Knoxville.

Would you be interested in serving as a host coordinator? Yes No

Would you be interested in serving on a host committee? Yes No

8) Ambassador coordinator

An ambassador coordinator is needed when FFK has an outgoing journey to another FF club, domestic or international.

Would you be interested in serving as an ambassador coordinator? Yes No

9) Itinerary suggestions for ambassadors' stay with FFK

FFK creates an itinerary for our ambassadors' (visitors) stay in Knoxville and the surrounding area. Can you suggest a specific place or an activity for our ambassadors' stay? Yes No

If yes, please list here: _____.

Revised October 26, 2020