



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“A world of friends is a world of peace”

FFK Website: friendshipforceknoxville.org

FFI Website: friendshipforce.org

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In This Issue

Note from the President.....	1
Program Notes for 2023	2
Journey Notes for 2023	3
Join My Friendship Force.....	3
Travel & Friendship quotes	4
2023 Upcoming Dates--Mark Your Calendar	4
2023 FFK Club Officers& Chairs	4

Journey Overview

2023

Inbound Western Colorado	April 23-29
Outbound Western Colorado.....	June 11-17
Inbound Spokane, Washington.....	September 13-19
Outbound Tuxla-Gutierrez, Mexico ...	November 1-8

Note from the President

Happy New Year!

I am optimistic that 2023 will be a great year for Friendship Force Knoxville.

We have interesting programs already scheduled for the first quarter of the year. Inbound and outbound journeys are planned for the spring, summer and fall. These journeys begin in April when we welcome the Western Colorado Friendship Force club to our wonderful city. Two months later, it will be our chance to visit Western Colorado.



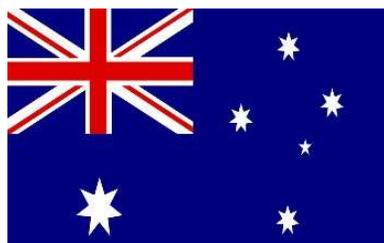
Our next in-person gathering on January 24 will be an excellent opportunity to invite people you know who may be interested to learn about Friendship Force. FFK members who journeyed to Australia in October-November 2022 will share their stories and descriptions of the places they visited and the interesting people they met on their phenomenal trip.

See articles in this newsletter and the FFK website listed at the top of this page -- friendshipforceknoxville.org -- for more information about 2023 programs and journeys. For those of you with Facebook accounts, visit our Friendship Force page for photos and additional information

I hope to see you on January 24.

Jayne Raparelli, President

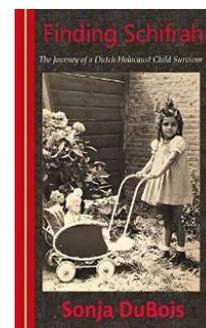
Program Notes for 2023



January 24: We'll meet at TVUUC at 6:30 to socialize, and at 7:00 our delegates who journeyed to Australia will share the highlights of their phenomenal trip. **Leslie Badaines, Joanne Hayden and Ellen and Dave Greenwood** will, no doubt, thrill us with their stories and descriptions of the places they visited and the interesting people they met. Don't miss it!

February 28: If you love international travel and/or learning about global challenges, look no further than our beloved university to find like-minded, sure 'nuff experts. Chief among these is **Dr. Gretchen Neisler**, Vice Provost for International Affairs and the Director of the Center for Global Engagement at UT, who's knowledgeable (*brainy*), experienced (*well-traveled*), and truly excited about meeting us! This is your chance to hear first-hand about the Center's strategic global vision announced recently. It's a clearly expressed pathway that will "guide faculty, students and leadership to fully embrace our global citizenship by enhancing our awareness of international challenges, participating in research and outreach that makes life and lives better, and embracing our partners globally." *Wow! Don't miss this opportunity to interact with Dr. Gretchen, who will satisfy our thirst for knowledge and suggest practical solutions to global problems.*

March 28: FFK is so proud of member **Sonja DuBois**, a noted author, lecturer and cherished friend. When asked if she would be willing to address our membership, she happily agreed! What an honor for us that Sonja will share her powerful family history, chronicled in her book, [Finding Schifrah, The Journey of a Dutch Holocaust Child Survivor](#). It's a story with a very sad beginning, but thankfully, a very happy ending. Please come and experience the joy Sonja brings to audiences everywhere.



April 24: The regular FFK Monthly program will be the Welcome Dinner for our in-bound guests from the Friendship Force Western Colorado club. Who doesn't love meeting new friends and enjoying delicious food? We want to see you there!

Marsha Mitchell, Program Chair



Editor's Note: The Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC) is our regular meeting location and its address is 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, 37919. We meet in the Fellowship Room which is at the back of the lobby on the right.

Journey Notes for 2023



Many interesting Journeys are scheduled for this year. I hope you will take the opportunity to participate in some of them in whatever way you feel most comfortable. Here is what is planned for 2023:

April 23-29, 2023. FF Western Colorado is in the process of choosing Ambassadors for their visit to Knoxville. Leslie and Co-Host Coordinator, Betsy Tonkin, are still looking for home hosts and small dinner hosts. If interested contact Leslie. (badainesl@aol.com)

June 11-17, 2023. Our reciprocal visit to FF Western Colorado is this June. This trip will include a visit to beautiful Arches National Park in Utah! Janis and Bruce Robinson are Ambassador coordinators for this Journey. **Contact them, as soon as possible, if you are interested in participating.** (jgr@utk.edu).

September 13-19, 2023. Diana Lopez is the Host Coordinator for the September 13-19, 2023, incoming visit from FF of Eastern Washington-Northern Idaho. She would like to have someone working with her on this if possible. (dlopez@utk.edu)

November 1-8, 2023. Tuzla-Gutierrez, Mexico! Our visit will take place during Dia de los Muertos (the day of the dead). This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about this traditional celebration. A post-journey trip to the Mayan ruins of Palenque may also be available. This would be a two night add on. If interested in helping to coordinate this journey, please contact Leslie (badainesl@aol.com).

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

Please Join My Friendship Force!

Friendship Force International has developed a new website with information about journeys and other resources. This will be available only to registered members. The site will also keep members up to date on FFI news worldwide. **This will become the official FFI website.**



To sign up, connect to:

<https://my.friendshipforce.org>

then click the purple SIGN-UP button towards the middle of the page on the right.

Each person must use their own e-mail address so a couple who is sharing e-mail will need to have separate e-mail addresses. The only information needed to register is your name, club and e-mail. Additional information is available for you to complete if you want to. When you sign up you must agree to the FFI Code of Conduct which is available for you to read from FFI. FFI will assign a membership number to you which you can retrieve in your Profile area after you log in to your account. You will need this number to complete applications for Journeys.

Travel & Friendship Quotes

“And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.” Rainer Maria Rilke

“No matter how deeply you come to know a place, you can keep coming back to know it more.” Rebecca Solnit, American writer

“I travel light. I think the most important thing is to be in a good mood and enjoy life, wherever you are.” Diane von Furstenberg

“Good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter.” Izaak Walton

“Friendship is the golden thread that ties the heart of all the world.” John Evelyn



2023 Upcoming Dates—Mark your Calendar

Virtual Board Meetings (2nd Tuesday, 2 p.m.)

February 14 March 14 April 11

NOTE: If you are interested in attending the virtual Board Meetings, please e-mail Betsy Tonkin (betst@mac.com) for the Zoom link.

Upcoming FFK General Events (4th Tuesday) 6:30 p.m.-Social; 7:00 p.m.-Program

- January 24 -- In-person, TVUUC, Australia adventures
- February 28 -- TVUUC, Dr. Gretchen Neisler, Education in International Development
- March 28 -- TVUUC, Sonja Dubois, Finding Schifrah
- April 24 – TVUUC, Welcome Potluck Dinner for Inbound FF Western Colorado

Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, 37919

These dates and more are on the
FFK *Calendar* web page.

2023 Club Officers & Chairs

President:Jayne Raparelli
 Vice President:Betsy Tonkin
 Secretary:Mike McDonough
 Treasurer:Bill Cherry
 Membership Chair:Betsy Tonkin
 Program Chair:.....Marsha Mitchell
 Communications Chair:Janis Robinson
 Webmaster:Ray Simko
 Newsletter Editor:Janis Robinson
 Journey Coordinator:Leslie Badaines
 Immediate Past Journey Coordinator:
Diana Lopez
 Hospitality Chair:.....Barbara Elder
 Club Concerns:Paulette Anderson
 Historian:Betsy Tonkin

Host & Ambassador Coordinators are listed on the
FFK *About Us* web page