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2023 Journey Overview

Outbound Tuxtla-Gutierrez, MX November 1-8

2024 Journey Preview

Inbound Manitoba, Canada..... May 1-7

Outbound Germany (2 clubs) Aug. 2024
FF Hamburg & FF Metropole Ruhr

Inbound St. Louis, MO Oct. 2024

Club Website: www.friendshipforceknoxville.org
My Friendship Force: <https://my.friendshipforce.org>
FFK on Facebook: Friendship Force of Knoxville

October Recruiting Event!

FFK: Who We Are - Why We Travel - Why We Host

October 24, 4:45-7:00 p.m.

UT International House, 1623 Melrose Ave, Knoxville



Our October program will welcome guests who are interested in learning about Friendship Force, feature short clips from FFI's promotional video and Rick Steves' video "Why We Travel" and present a panel discussion of hosting and travel experiences by FFK members Ron Mayer, Leslie Badaines, Courtney Shea & Marsha Mitchell. The event will include a social period both before and after

the program. This format is designed to introduce Friendship Force to potential new members and remind current members of its mission.

Rick Steves has been a supporter of Friendship Force and has provided the program to FFK free of charge. Gretchen Neisler, Vice Provost and Director of the University of Tennessee Center for Global Engagement, who spoke at our February 2023 meeting, offered FFK the opportunity to hold an event at the International House to encourage participation by UT students, faculty and staff who may be interested in Friendship Force. Refreshments will be provided by Knoxville International, a new non-profit organization founded by long-time FFK member Susan Dakak. Knoxville International's mission is to bring more international tourists and guests to Knoxville.



Our membership needs a boost - with new members and younger members! Let's make this event a success. Please plan to attend AND bring at least one guest who may be interested in joining FFK!

Please RSVP for you and your guests by **Oct. 17** via email or text: betst@mac.com or (865)405-0837.

Betsy Tonkin, Membership VP

Note from the President



September Spokane Inbound: It takes a team to host an inbound journey. Thanks to everyone who participated in the successful visit of the Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho Friendship Force (Spokane) club. A huge thank you to host coordinator Diana Lopez who organized the journey and hosted an ambassador while selling her home and packing to move to Delaware.

October Membership event: Friendship Force Knoxville is striving to increase our membership. Please attend and bring a guest to the October 24 membership recruitment event at the UT International House. Vice President and Membership Chair Betsy Tonkin has prepared an informative program. **See page 1.**

November Tuxtla-Gutierrez Outbound: Five members from Friendship Force Knoxville and four members from other U.S. clubs will be journeying to Mexico. Friendship Force Tuxtla-Gutierrez has invited a Friendship Force club from Germany for the same week so it will truly be an international experience.

I look forward to seeing you on October 24!

Jayne Raparelli, President

In Memoriam: Ely Driver

Long-time FFK member Edward Ely Driver passed away on September 11th. His obituary was printed in the Knoxville News Sentinel and is available online at www.knoxnews.com under the obituaries section. Ely was an active member of Friendship Force of Knoxville since 2015 with numerous home exchange visits to foreign homes, hosting foreign visitors to Knoxville as well as serving as treasurer. Friendship Force Knoxville sent a donation to the First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, under Ely's name.

FFK Adventures for 2023 and 2024!

2023:

On October 31, nine ambassadors will be heading to Tuxtla-Gutierrez, Mexico. Eight of us will continue on to a post tour of the Mayan ruins of Palenque. Stay tuned for a report on this journey at a future FFK meeting!

2024:

May 1-8, 2024: Day hosts and dinner hosts are needed for our incoming group from Manitoba, Canada! The Manitoba club is located in the Winnipeg area. Co-Host coordinators, Leslie Badaines and Karen Scott have been working on a draft itinerary that we hope will be of interest to many of our members. If you would be willing to assist as a day host or small group dinner host, please contact Leslie (badainesL@aol.com)

August 2024: Plans are underway for an outgoing trip to Northern Germany. Barbara Elder will be Ambassador coordinator for this journey, which is scheduled to be shared with FF Birmingham, Alabama.

October 24- October 29, 2024: FF St Louis will be visiting us. Host coordinators are needed for this incoming group. Please contact Leslie if you are willing to assist!

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

Successful Inbound Journey with Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho FF Club



Megan Wells portraying Miep Kees, friend of Otto Frank, at the Jonesboro Storytelling Museum w/Sonja DuBois



Great Smoky Mountain Natl Park Day



GSMNP Day: Natl. Park history presentation by Gary Anderson



Norris Day; Grist Mill Tour



Norris Day: Jean Mayer enjoys Katheryn Atkins-Roberson playing the dulcimer



Urban Walk conducted by Mike McDonough



Urban Walk – we always see Dolly!



Eastern WA/Northern ID Ambassadors



Ambassadors & Hosts



FFK Host Coordinator, Diana Lopez w/ Lori Seibold Miller leading the group in Rocky Top



Small Group Dinners



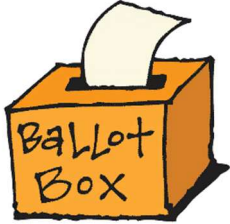
FF Spokane President, Joe Brabeck

Enjoy these photos of the FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho club and their inbound journey to Knoxville. As always, old friends met and new friends made.

FFK Officers Nominated for 2024

The Nominating Committee is placing into consideration the following slate of officers for 2024:

- President – Betsy Tonkin
- Vice President – Tammy Enix
- Secretary – Karen Scott
- Treasurer – Bill Cherry



The membership will vote on the officers at the **November 28** meeting. More information about the meeting will be sent out via e-mail. A quorum of 12 members is required to vote on the officers.

Travel/Friendship Quotes

“We are all travelers in the wilderness of the world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.” Robert Louis Stevenson

“Travel changes you. You will see possibilities everywhere, be filled with more questions than answers, and more to explore than you could ever imagine.” Anthony Bourdain

“I like the map feature on the iPhone that tells me where I am, because I travel a lot.” Gary Shteyngart

“What’s the use of a great city having temptations if fellows don’t yield to them?” P.G. Wodehouse

2023 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar

Virtual Board Meetings (2nd Tuesday, 2 p.m.)
 Nov. 14 No Dec. Mtg

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

- October 24: FFK Member Recruiting Meeting
- November 28: FFK Election & Business Meeting
- December: 3 FFK Holiday Party

Check newsletter articles about each event for date, time and place.

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
 Hospitality Chair: Barbara Elder
 Club Concerns: Paulette Anderson
 Historian: Betsy Tonkin

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