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2024 Journey Preview

Inbound Manitoba, Canada..... May 1-7
 Outbound Germany (2 clubs) Aug. 2024
 FF Hamburg & FF Metropole Ruhr
 Open World: Mayors from Poland Sept. 27-Oct. 5
 Inbound St. Louis, MO Oct. 24-29

The club is hoping to organize a domestic outbound journey for 2024 as well.

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

FFK membership renewal time!
 Form attached at end of newsletter.

Officer Election and Business Meeting on November 28

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 via Zoom (connection info below). A quorum of 12 members is required to vote on the officers. A short business meeting will follow.

The following member volunteers have agreed to serve as chair of the respective committees:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Journey – Leslie Badaines | • Club Concerns – Paulette Anderson |
| • Program – Marsha Mitchell | • Communication – Janis Robinson |
| • Hospitality – OPEN POSITION | • Historian – Betsy Tonkin |

Please consider how you might help these committees have a successful year.

Note from the President

Friendship Force Knoxville members have been busy!

Last month, we held a membership recruitment event at the UT International House. Thanks to Betsy Tonkin for organizing the program, and to FFK members who assisted and brought guests. Special thanks to FFK member, Susan Dakak, whose organization, Knoxville International, paid for the catered food.



FFK members recently returned home from a journey to Tuxtla-Gutierrez, Mexico, with raving reviews. We'll get to hear from ambassador coordinator Leslie Badaines, and ambassadors Bill Cherry, Barbara Elder and Joanne Hayden about their experiences at our January club meeting.

Vote! On November 28, FFK members will vote on the 2024 officers. We need a quorum so please attend the 6:30 p.m. zoom meeting.

Holiday Party—RSVP for the FFK Holiday Party on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2-4 p.m. at the Highland Point Club House. **See page 3.**

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.
Jayne Raparelli, President

Last Journey for 2023 – Looking forward to 2024!



Ambassadors returned from Mexico on November 11, filled with excitement and memories of a glorious journey. We arrived prior to the Day of the Dead and participated in the preparation leading up to this important holiday. A group of 20 ambassadors from Germany accompanied us to Tuxtla, so we actually had a double cultural exchange! Come and hear more about our journey at the January 23 club meeting!

FF Manitoba, Canada will be our first incoming International group since 2017. Mark your calendars for their visit May 1-May 8, 2024, and let Leslie (badainesL@aol.com), and Karen Scott (kas491423@gmail.com), know how you would like to help! We are in need of day hosts, drivers, and hosts for small group dinners.

Germany: plans are still underway for an August 2024 visit to FF Metropole Ruhr and FF Hamburg. Stay tuned for more information as plans develop.

Open World – We were excited to learn that we had been accepted to host Mayors from Poland, September 27 to October 5, 2024! Courtney Shea has agreed to be coordinator for this incoming group which typically consists of 5-7 individuals (including an interpreter and facilitator). If you are interested in hosting or helping, please let Courtney know (courtshea@aol.com)

FF St Louis, Missouri will be visiting us October 24- 29, 2024. We need 2 coordinators for this incoming group. Please contact Leslie (badainesL@aol.com) if you are willing to assist.

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator



FFK's Annual Holiday Party

Please join Friendship Force Knoxville for our upcoming in-person Celebration of the holidays! Details are provided below.

Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Highland Point Clubhouse
7912 High Heath, Knoxville, TN 37919
(Highland Point is off of Westland Drive)

Please RSVP no later than November 29 to Betsy Tonkin
E-mail: betst@mac.com or Text: (865)405-0837

Homemade eggnog, hot apple cider, sparkling water and appetizers will be provided.
Please bring holiday cookies to share!

What happened South of the Border won't stay South of the Border for long.

Those of us who were unable to go to Mexico with FFK in November missed out on a fun and rewarding trip! Fortunately for us, those who did complete the journey are willing to share their joy, the sights seen and the friendships gained. Come to our general meeting on January 23 to hear all about it from members, Leslie Badaines, Barbara Elder, Bill Cherry and Joanne Hayden. They are absolutely giddy about the whole thing but are keeping it under their sombreros until the great reveal. The event location will be a Mexican restaurant, to be announced later after we have time to visit a few. Feel free to dress the part and enjoy the celebration!



Come hear all about it, wear your Mexican attire, and enjoy Mexican food, drink and music!

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 6:15 for supper and social; 7:00 for the meeting and presentation

Location: Mexican restaurant to be announced soon

Marsha Mitchell, Program Coordinator

¡Un Viaje Exitoso — A Successful Journey! Tuxtla-Gutierrez, Mexico

Be sure to put **January 23, 2024**, on your calendar. The FFK Ambassadors to Tuxtla-Gutierrez will give a program about their experiences and tell us more about the photos below. You can see more photos on the FFK Facebook page at *Friendship Force of Knoxville*.



Welcome Dinner

Marimba at Welcome Dinner



October 24 Membership Event

FFK hosted its October membership event - Who We Are, Why We Travel & Why We Host - at the UT International House where members and guests were welcomed by UT Vice Provost for International Affairs, Gretchen Neisler, and FFK President Jayne Raparelli. In addition to members, guests interested in learning about Friendship Force were invited.



Dr. Gretchen Neisler

The program provided information about both FFI and FFK. Member Betsy Tonkin presented the Who We Are segment, a short FFI & FFK history with screened video clips from FFI and Rick Steves and moderated the panel discussion on why we travel and why we host.

Panelists, FFK members Ron Mayer, Leslie Badaines, Courtney Shea & Marsha Mitchell, enthusiastically described their various experiences as travelers and/or hosts. Those experiences ranged from 20+ years of traveling and hosting to newer members who only had the opportunity to host. Each panelist had at least one experience with a host or guest who did not speak English, which they explained did not deter their ability to become friends! They described sights they visited while traveling, special times connecting with their respective hosts or guests, and how several had been able to stay in touch with their hosts or guests.



From Left: Betsy Tonkin, Moderator
Panel: Marsha Mitchell, Leslie Badaines, Cortney Shea, Ron Mayer

If you were not able to hear the program and want a flavor of their experiences: ask Ron about the chopstick, community bath and other experiences he and Jean had in Japan in 2001, get Courtney to tell you about the Uzbek Open World and the judge she hosted, encourage Leslie to describe her first outbound journey in Chile and more recent to Australia, and last, but not least, listen to Marsha tell about the benefit of becoming friends with one's guests and the visit she and Art recently had in Uzbekistan with the family of the Uzbek judge who they hosted.



FFK President Jayne Raparelli

Many thanks to Vice-Provost Gretchen Neisler, who arranged for our use of the UT International House including set up of tables, chairs and computer at no cost and to member Susan Dakak and her associate, Ziad Burbar, with the new non-profit Knoxville International, who paid for the food provided by caterer Goodness to Go.



Membership Renewal for 2024

Membership renewal time is here! FFK 2024 Membership Dues are **\$45 per member**. Make checks payable to *Friendship Force of Knoxville* and mail to:
Bill Cherry
7511 Little River Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37920

Dues are due by Dec. 31. The renewal form is on the last page of this newsletter and is also available on the FFK web page in the "About Us" section towards the bottom of the webpage.

Come to the FFK Holiday Party on December 3rd (see article on pg. 3) and pay your dues there.

Travel/Friendship Quotes

“Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival.” C. S. Lewis

“As soon as I saw you, I knew a grand adventure was about to happen.” Winnie The Pooh

“The best things in life are the people we love, the places we’ve been, and the memories we’ve made along the way.” Unknown

“Friendship isn’t about being inseparable...it’s being separated and knowing nothing will change.” Unknown

"It seems that the more places I see and experience, the bigger I realize the world to be. The more I become aware of it, the more I realize how relatively little I know of it, how many places I have still to go, how much more there is to learn." Anthony Bourdain

“A friend may be waiting behind a stranger’s face.” Maya Angelou



2023 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar

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

No Dec. Board Mtg

Upcoming FFK General Events

- 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

**2024 Friendship Force Knoxville
Membership Application/Renewal**

Friendship Force Knoxville (FFK) anticipates continuing normal activities in 2024. Dues for new and renewing members for 2024 are \$45/person which includes the \$25/person dues we pay for each member to Friendship Force International (FFI). These FFI dues are required and are included in your FFK dues.

In order to update your contact information, we ask that everyone complete the following **Membership Application/Renewal** form. We will send all members an email with a **Member Interest Survey** after the first of the year to assist the club in utilizing the skills and talents of our members.

Please return the completed **Membership Application/Renewal** form to the address below. Be sure to include a check for \$45.

Make all checks payable to Friendship Force of Knoxville and send to:

Bill Cherry, Treasurer, 7511 Little River Rd., Knoxville, TN 37920

You may also scan the form and email it to bcherry9246@yahoo.com.

The deadline for membership renewal for 2024 is Dec. 31, 2023. (Regrettably, in early 2024, we will need to drop folks from the membership roster who have not renewed given payment is due to FFI for all members as of that date.)

Please note: by submitting this application or renewal, you agree to support the goals and purposes of FFI and FFK and to abide by the Bylaws of Friendship Force Knoxville.

Please Print. Circle either application or renewal.

First name _____ Middle initial ____ Last name _____

If your current contact information in the directory is correct, please so note below.

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

Street address: _____

City, state, and 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.

October 24, 2023