



In This Issue

Pg	Article
1....	March 26: Trip to Dandridge, TN
2....	Note from the President
2....	A Look Ahead at FFK 2024 Programs
3....	2024 Journeys
4....	February 29 th program about the Tuxtla Gutiérrez Journey
5....	New Member Profile: Manfred Grote
5....	Travel/Friendship Quotes
6....	Upcoming Dates--Mark Your Calendar
6....	2024 Club Officers & Committee Chairpersons

2024 Journey Preview

Outbound Central North Carolina.....	April 4-7
Inbound Manitoba, Canada.....	May 1-8
Outbound FF Hamburg.....	Aug. 13-27
Open World: Mayors of Poland.....	Sept. 27- Oct. 5
Inbound St. Louis, MO	Oct. 24-29

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

MARCH 26 MONTHLY MEETING IN HISTORIC DANDRIDGE, TN
“Tennessee’s Second Oldest Town!”

It's time once again to meet somewhere besides Knoxville and enjoy the beauty, flavors and history of a nearby locality. Among the many options in our area, historic Dandridge, TN is one of the very best. Sixteen (16) FFK members have signed up for the 11:30 am tasty lunch and informative tour of the consequential Shepard Inn, located at 136 Main St. E, which is about a forty (40) minute drive from Knoxville. Afterward Bob Jarnigan, the official Dandridge Historian and lifelong resident, will conduct an easy walking tour of the other downtown historic sites. *Isn't this the fun way to learn history?*



Today, March 17 is the deadline to sign up. Please contact Marsha **immediately** if you're interested. *I hope you can!* (Email globalmarsha@gmail.com or call/text 865-335-3875.)

Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Location: Shepard Inn, 136 Main St. E

Note to those who have signed up: Please bring \$20 per person, cash or check made payable to FFK, to hand over to our treasurer, Bill Cherry. The club is covering the rest of the expenses. Contact me if you would like to carpool with one of us, and I'll find you a seat. *A good time will be had by all!*

Marsha Mitchell, Program Chairperson

Note from the President

Friendship Force ended February with a big hit! FFK ambassadors to Tuxtla Gutiérrez Mexico, Barbara Elder, Leslie Badaines, and Bill Cherry, presented a wonderful program of their November journey at lunch at a local Mexican restaurant. The program was well attended, including by several new members and guests. Kudos to the presenters and Program Chair Marsha Mitchell who made all the arrangements!



Now that spring flowers have arrived, spring and early summer programs and journeys have been finalized by hard-working members of our program and journey committees. See details on page 1 for our visit to historic Dandridge on March 26. Always interesting to learn more about our own region as we prepare to host ambassadors from other countries. Did you know Dandridge was founded in 1783 and named for 1st Lady Martha Dandridge Washington? Details for other upcoming programs and journeys are described on pages 2 and 3, respectively.

Another reminder - if you have not yet responded to the membership survey sent to you in January and again in February, or otherwise volunteered to serve on a FFK committee, or take an active role in FFK, please do so ASAP. The Friendship Force team needs your help!



Happy St. Patrick's Day! Hope to see you in Dandridge!

Betsy Tonkin, President

A Look Ahead at FFK 2024 Programs



April 23 at TVUUC: A representative of Bridge Refugee Services will tell us about the important work of this organization that has been providing opportunities since 1982 for refugees to rebuild their lives after suffering persecution and become productive members of our community. Betsy Tonkin will share her experiences as a Bridge volunteer learning about refugees and their cultures. Join us at TVUUC at 6:30 p.m. for social and 7 p.m. for the program. Sparkling water, iced tea and light snacks will be provided.

May 2 at TVUUC: After a busy first full day with our club, the ambassadors from Friendship Force Manitoba will enjoy a potluck dinner with us at TVUUC. More details to come soon.

Marsha Mitchell, Program Chairperson

2024 Journeys!

Hi Folks! These are updates on this year's journeys:



Old Salem Museum & Garden

Journey #24310, April 4-7, 2024 (3 nights), Knoxville to FF Central North Carolina: 5 participants have signed up and are looking forward to the opportunity to meet our Central North Carolina club counterparts!

Journey #24131 FF May 1-8, 2024, Manitoba, Canada to Knoxville.

We have an exciting itinerary planned for the eight ambassadors from Canada AND for members who would like to attend. A signup list will be heading your way in the next few weeks. Some highlights include:

- May 2, Oak Ridge History Museum, lunch, and K-25 Museum; welcome potluck dinner at TVUUC;
- May 3, Mike McDonough's Fabulous City Tour and the Blue Plate Special and lunch at Barley's;
- May 5 The Museum of Appalachia, lunch, Norris State Park Visitor Center and Norris Dam which includes a video about the CCC, and an informative talk from our own Ron Mayer, plus the Lenoir Museum (music) and the Historic Grist Mill;
- May 6, Mighty Musical Monday, The Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, and a dinner cruise on the Volunteer Princess Yacht;
- May 7, Smoky Mountain National Park, lunch at Metcalf Bottoms, Gary Anderson's Awesome History of Elkmont, a walk, and visit to the restored cabins, plus a farewell dinner at Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant;
- May 8 (departure day) Jonesborough Storytelling Center for lunch, 2:00 PM storytelling by award winning Heather Forest (www.heatherforest.com), and handoff of our guests to our fellow FF Western North Carolina club.



Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

A reservation form for these events with cost and lunch choices will be heading your way in mid to late March, but feel free to contact co-coordinators Leslie Badaines (badainesl@aol.com) or Karen Scott (kas491423@gmail.com) if you have questions.



Hamburg City Hall

Journey # 24064 FF Knoxville to Hamburg and Metropole Ruhr, Germany, August 13-27, 2024. Barbara Elder is the Ambassador coordinator. Based on the number of beds each host club has, and our configuration of more single applicants than couples, Germany has agreed to accept 8 (2 couples, 4 singles). Barring cancellations, the journey applications are now closed, unless you are willing to secure your own lodging. Ambassador coordinator for this journey, Barbara Elder, has held the first zoom meeting for those participating.

Open World Program - Mayors from Poland - Courtney Shea is coordinating FFK's hosting this delegation of 5-6 mayors from Poland Sept. 27-Oct. 5. The program is to introduce these Polish officials to the U.S model of local governance. The delegates will be accompanied by an interpreter. Courtney has begun contacting local officials and planning for the itinerary for the delegates. If you'd like to assist with planning or host one of these delegates, please contact Courtney. (courtshea@aol.com)



Poland Coat of Arms

Journey #24159, FF St. Louis, Missouri to Knoxville, October 24-29, 2024. Please let Leslie know if you will be available to host, day host, or host a small group dinner.

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

February 29 FFK Meeting on Tuxtla Gutiérrez

t

Twenty-eight members and visitors attended the February 29th program at Pelancho's Mexican Grill. The three FFK members who went on the journey to Tuxtla Gutiérrez gave a presentation with beautiful photos and wonderful memories. Copies of the itineraries for the main journey as well as the post-journey to Palenque are available on the FFK website in the "Journey" section. Enjoy the photos from the meeting below.

 <p>Barbara Elder, the first presenter</p>	 <p>Leslie Badaines, the second presenter</p>	 <p>Bill Cherry, the third presenter</p>
 <p>The couple in the center are Robin & Ron Scott. They came up from Atlanta to join us for the meeting. Robin (in pink) joined FFK on the journey.</p>	 <p>A packed audience!</p>	<p>The presentation and the map were full of color & showed us the adventure.</p> 
	<p>The FFK Journey to Tuxtla Gutiérrez took our ambassadors to the state of Chiapas, way down in the lower right of the map next to Guatemala.</p>	 <p>Pelancho's Mexican Grill</p>

New Member Profile: Manfred Grote

Manfred Grote was born in Bremen, a city in northwest Germany. He received a college scholarship and emigrated to the U.S. at the age of 17. Manfred graduated from the University of Kansas and earned his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Maryland. For over 30 years Manfred taught political science at Purdue University.



“I was very lucky. I met the right people at the right time. Prospects in post war Germany were not good. America was great for me,” he said.

Manfred became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1968. His siblings still live in Germany.

Through mutual friends, Manfred met his late wife, Patty Wheeler, a practicing attorney in Knoxville. After becoming professor emeritus in 2003, Manfred made Knoxville his home. Traveling became a big part of Manfred and Patty’s retirement years. “We were constantly traveling, and took two to three major trips a year,” he said.

FFK member Marsha Mitchell introduced Manfred to our club. Recently widowed, and wanting to meet new people, Manfred joined FFK last year. He has another connection to our club. Retired attorney FFK President Betsy Tonkin knew his wife.

Manfred hosted ambassadors from the Spokane Friendship Force Club this past September.

Traveling remains a constant in Manfred’s life. He’s taking his stepson to Ireland in June. He scrapped a trip to the Middle East but hopes to travel to Indonesia in the fall.

Manfred serves as the FFK Journey Co-Coordinator.

Jayne Raparelli, Past President

Travel/Friendship Quotes

“A man sees in the world what he carries in his heart.” Goethe

"Friendship is the wine of life." Edward Young

"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you; spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life." Amy Poehler

"Friendship isn't a big thing—it's a million little things." Paulo Coelho

“A friend may be waiting behind a stranger’s face.” Maya Angelou, Letter to My Daughter

"Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together." Woodrow Wilson

“Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'You too? I thought I was the only one.’” C.S. Lewis (Editor’s note: I think this is a repeat but I like it)



2024 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar

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

Apr 9	May 14	June 11
July 9	Aug 13	Sept 10
Oct 8	Nov 12	Dec: No meeting

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

- March 26: Historic Dandridge, TN
- April 23: Bridge Refugee Services at TVUUC
- May 1-8: Inbound Manitoba Journey in lieu of a monthly program
- May 2: Welcome dinner potluck at TVUUC for Manitoba

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

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

2024 Club Officers & Chairpersons

Officers:

President:Betsy Tonkin
 Vice President: Tammy Enix
 Secretary: Karen Scott
 Treasurer:.....Bill Cherry

Committee Chairpersons:

Program Chairperson:..... Marsha Mitchell
 Membership Chairperson: Tammy Enix
 Journey Coordinator: Leslie Badaines
 Communications Chairperson: ..Janis Robinson
 Club Concerns: Paulette Anderson
 Historian: Karen Swander
 Hospitality Chairperson:..... OPEN POSITION

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

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

