



## “Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

FFK Website: [www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org](http://www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org)

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### Journey Overviews

#### 2021

Outbound Napa/Sonoma .....	Sept. 8-13, 2021
Outbound San Antonio, TX.....	Oct 1-6, 2021
Inbound San Antonio, TX .....	Oct 22-27, 2021

#### 2022

Inbound Des Moines, IA .....	Apr. 2022
Inbound St. Louis, MO.....	Sept 2022
Outbound Romania.....	June 2022
Outbound Australia:	
North Moreton.....	Oct. 21-28
Gold Coast.....	Oct. 28-Nov. 4
Outbound Lower Columbia Club .....	Jun./Jul. 2022



### Note from the President

What a difference a month makes.

Last month I wrote that good things are about to happen. We believe that remains true, and indeed, we still plan to visit Napa Sonoma in Northern California, and San Antonio, Texas, and we eagerly await the San Antonio Friendship Force Club visit to Knoxville.

But we live in a time of great uncertainty. The widespread Delta variant is infecting both the non-vaccinated and the vaccinated. We had assigned all FFK members to a fellow member’s home for whatever their host chose—dinner, lunch, happy hour, appetizers. We realize that some will accept the invitation and some will decline. Likewise,

some hosts have decided not to participate because of the Delta variant in our community, which means not everyone will receive an invitation. For those who do and accept, I trust you will have a wonderful experience getting to know fellow FFK members.

I’m keeping my fingers crossed that our area and the entire country’s vaccination rates increase, and hospitalizations and deaths decrease. I’m keeping my fingers crossed we won’t contract the Delta variant, but if we do, that it will be a mild case. I am keeping fingers crossed that we will enter a time when we can travel, host, and make new friends without worrying about the Coronavirus.

Depending upon the course of the Delta variant, we must remain flexible, if necessary, to change

plans. All we can do is make adjustments as needed.

I wish everyone healthy last days of summer. Thank you for being a part of Friendship Force Knoxville.

*Jayne Raparelli*, President

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## FFK Aug. 24th Event: Living in Prague

The speakers for the August 24<sup>th</sup> General meeting will be the husband and wife team of John Schwartz and Vicki Ursitti. They lived in Prague for 5 months from August 2019 through January 2020. John worked at the Czech Technical University while on sabbatical from UT. They will focus their presentation on many of the natural historic areas and parks in the Czech Republic as well as their experiences with the people.



Topics they will talk about include:

- Biking in Trebon including 14th-15th century fishponds
- Czesky Raj - a Geopark with castles
- Divoka Sarka - natural area in Prague
- Pruhonice - castle park and Botanical Research Institute
- Grabovka Park

### Suggested books:

- Prague Winter by Madeleine Albright -- A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948. An excellent history of what is now the Czech Republic. Highly recommended!
- Prague: A Traveler's Literary Companion edited by Paul Wilson. A collection of short stories by Czech Authors.

One classic Czech food is a Christmas shortbread cookie. **The recipe is on page 4.**

**Topic:** FFK General Event

**Date:** Aug 24, 2021

**Time:** Social: 06:30 PM; Program: 7:00 p.m.

**Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/nva629he>

**Meeting ID:** 817 0055 0367

**Passcode:** 745876

**Dial:** 1 929 205 6099

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## Member Profile: Honorary Members Layla & Fuad Mishu

Fuad and Layla Mishu have a fascinating story. They have been members of FFK for more than 30 years and are, now, Honorary Members. They both are from Iraq, where Fuad was a prominent Civil Engineer, a violinist and the founder of the symphony orchestra in Baghdad. Layla has been a homemaker. They have three children, Sam, Tom and Susan and seven grandchildren. They are next door neighbors and dear friends too They enjoy travels, music, community service and entertaining.

Layla and Fuad heard about FFK from past president Fritz Logan and were very excited to join the organization soon after they arrived to live in the US from Turkey. They have enjoyed their participation in FFK for all those decades, both traveling and hosting many FF ambassadors and Open World delegates. Layla and Fuad have made dear friends through FFK over the years, many of whom they have continued to visit and communicate with. They especially liked traveling to Turkey, Brazil, UK, and a FFI cruise of international clubs where Layla won the global Friendliest person award. A special treat was meeting President Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter. [President and Mrs. Carter were involved in the founding of Friendship Force in the 1970s.]

Layla and Fuad have loved every minute of their time with FFK and believe the people and trips are second to none!

*Susana Navarro*  
FFK Membership Committee

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## Journeys Abundant!

Planning for our clubs first two outbound Journeys is underway; several club members will head to Napa/ Sonoma September 8-13, 2021, and San Antonio October 1-6, 2021.

2022 will also be an eventful year with plans for international trips to Romania and Australia, and a domestic journey to the Lower Columbia club located in Washington. FFK will also be hosting several domestic clubs.



The updated information is as follows:

### Inbound

- San Antonio, Texas Journey # 21441- October 22-27, 2021. The Ten Ambassadors arriving from San Antonio will be fully vaccinated. Hosts for this group must also be fully vaccinated. The journey committee has planned an exciting itinerary for our visitors that includes: a full day downtown with a walking tour, a visit to the East TN History Museum, and music at the Blue Plate Special; a tour of Norris Dam, and the Lenoir Museum; a day in the Smoky mountains, with an easy hike, and lunchtime at Spence Cabin in Elkmont. Please contact Jayne Raparelli if you are willing to host day trips ([jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com)). Save the dates for the welcome potluck dinner (October 22, 2021) at the Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse and the Farewell dinner (October 26, 2021) will be at Calhoun's on the River.
- Des Moines, Iowa Journey # 22509, Late April 2022, Mike McDonough, Host Coordinator ([jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com)) is working with the Des Moines Ambassador coordinator for specific dates. The date for this Journey will coincide with The Dogwood Arts Festival.
- St. Louis, Missouri Journey # 22754, September 2022, Phyllis Driver, Host Coordinator ([pndriver@comcast.net](mailto:pndriver@comcast.net)), will be

working with the St. Louis Ambassador coordinator on specific dates.

### Outbound:

- Napa/ Sonoma Journey # 21440, September 8-13, 2021. Ten members are registered for this trip, including 4 from Friendship Force Clubs in Atlanta, Lake Hartwell and Central North Carolina.
- San Antonio Journey # 21243, October 1-6, 2021. Four members are registered for this trip, including 1 member from Friendship Force Western North Carolina. Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator ([badainesL@aol.com](mailto:badainesL@aol.com)).
- Sibiu, Romania This Journey is likely to occur in May or early June of 2022, depending upon the status of the coronavirus in Romania. Ambassador Coordinator is Diana Lopez ([dlopez@utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@utk.edu)).
- Lower Columbia, Washington Journey #22637. This Journey is likely to occur in Late June or early July, 2022. Ambassador Coordinator(s) needed for this journey to occur.
- Australia Journey #22408. October 21-November 4, 2022. Two clubs will be visited, North Moreton (October 21-28, 2022), and Gold Coast (October 28, -November 4, 2022). The host clubs have limited this Journey to 12 Ambassadors. If interested, contact Leslie Badaines, ([badainesL@aol.com](mailto:badainesL@aol.com)), Ambassador Coordinator.

*Leslie Badaines and Diana Lopez*  
Journey Co-coordinators

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## Another Look at the July Meeting

Fifteen members attended the July 27<sup>th</sup> FFK Event to greet Dr. Sharon Swallow of the Florida Suncoast FF Club, our guest speaker. Her topic was "Composition 'Rules' to Improve Your (Travel) Photography." We learned about quite a few options for framing our photographs and Sharon offered a handout with the information from the presentation. The



handout was sent to all FFK members via e-mail on July 28; please contact Janis Robinson ([jgr@utk.edu](mailto:jgr@utk.edu)) if you aren't sure you received your copy.

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## Travel/Friendship Quotations

“As surely as there is a voyage away, there is a journey home.” Jack Kornfield

“In the sweetness of **friendship** let there be laughter and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.” Khalil Gibran

“Summer afternoon -- summer afternoon! To me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.” Henry James

“The impulse to travel is one of the hopeful symptoms of life.” Agnes Repplier, American essayist

Hegira (noun): any flight or journey to a more desirable or congenial place.

“Not everyone will understand your journey. That's fine. It is not their journey to make sense of – its yours. [International Living](#)

“In search of my mother's garden, I found my own.” Alice Walker




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## Recipe: Czech Susenky

(Christmas time Biscuit or Shortbread Cookie)

10 oz butter  
3/4 cup sugar  
2 large eggs  
1 tsp vanilla  
4 cup flour  
Jam for filling  
Powdered sugar



Cream butter and sugar.  
Add eggs and vanilla.

Add flour and form into a dough ball. Roll dough between two sheets of parchment to 1/8- to 3/16-inch thick.

Use small sugar cookie cutters because the Czech like to make their Christmas cookies very small (1-1.5 inches diameter). This is a sandwich-type cookie where the base cookie is solid but the top matching cookie has a small hole or window in it to see the jam.

Cut equal numbers of top and bottom cookies and bake on parchment for 8-10 min at 325-350 degrees F.

Let cool and spread a small amount of jam on bottom layer. Sandwich the top layer and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

**Upcoming Dates—Mark your calendars**

**Virtual Board Meetings:**

- September 14, 2:00 p.m.
- October 12, 2:00 p.m.

NOTE: If you are interested in attending the virtual Board Meetings, please e-mail Diana Lopez ([dlopez@utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@utk.edu)) for the link.

**Upcoming FFK Virtual General Events (6:30 p.m. Social; 7:00 p.m. Program):**

- August 24: Living in the Czech Republic with John Schwartz
- September 28: Napa Sonoma Journey shared by the FFK Ambassadors

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

**Club Officers & Chairs**

President:	Jayne Raparelli
Vice-President:	Betsy Tonkin
Secretary:	Barbara Elder
Treasurer:	Bruce Robinson
Past President:	Kaye Bultemeier
Newsletter Editor:	Janis Robinson
Webmasters:	Ray Simko & Jonathan Hash
Hospitality Chair:	Sandy Kehne
Program & Membership Co-chairs:	Betsy Tonkin & Helen Bachrach
Club Concerns:	Renee Ioannides
Journey Co-coordinators:	Diana Lopez & Leslie Badaines
Historian:	Jonathan Hash

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