



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

FFK Website: www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org

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Journey Overviews

2022

Inbound Des Moines, IA	April 20-25
Outbound Lower Columbia Club	July 6-11
Open World Uzbekistan	TBD
Inbound St. Louis, MO.....	September
Outbound Australia:	
North Moreton.....	October 19-28
Gold Coast.....	Oct. 28-Nov. 2

2023

Journey options from FFI came in Feb. 2022; Check your e-mail for a survey from Leslie Badaines to indicate your preferences.

Note from the President



We have much to celebrate. We’ve finally entered a period when international travel is once again possible! Australia has opened its borders to foreign visitors. Our long Covid-delayed journey to Australia will happen this fall. More domestic clubs are hosting. This summer, we will travel West to the Lower Columbia region.

Friendship Force Knoxville will share the beauty and wonder of East Tennessee when we welcome ambassadors from the Greater Des Moines Friendship Force club. Our visitors will be here April 20-25. I encourage you to participate in the activities that will occur during their stay. Experience the magic that happens when ambassadors and hosts share a meal, visit places together, and share their life stories.

Thank you for being a part of Friendship Force Knoxville. Tell your colleagues, neighbors and friends who we are. Invite them to our monthly events.

Jayne Raparelli, President

February 22nd General Event: Egypt

On Tuesday, February 22, Susana Navarro-Valenti & Susan Dakak will take us to Egypt via Zoom. Join us for a great evening!



Topic: FFK General Event

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022

Time: 06:30 PM Social, 7:00 PM Program

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83727763887>

Meeting ID: 837 2776 3887

NO PASSWORD REQUIRED

For all the methods of entry, you will be put in the Waiting Room and Betsy Tonkin will let you in

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83727763887>

Greater Des Moines Visits Knoxville April 20-25



We are now in the process of matching the 11 ambassadors from the Greater Des Moines Friendship Force Club with their home hosts, dinner hosts, and day hosts. We are also finalizing itinerary details. This will be our first 2022 inbound journey. We are looking forward to reconnecting with people from GDMFF who we met in 2019 when FFK journeyed to Des Moines, Iowa.

The Welcome Dinner will be Wednesday, April 20, and the Farewell Dinner will be Sunday, April 24. Please mark your calendars!

Mike McDonough, Host Coordinator

FFI Journey Catalog for 2022

Friendship Force International has an interim Journey Catalog with upcoming Special Journeys that are offered. Eventually this information will be on MyFF but for now, they will be using the dynamic link below when there are new Journeys to advertise. To view the catalog, click on the following link or type in it: <https://tinyurl.com/36pf6ceh>

When you get to the FFI Journey Catalog page, **use the up and down arrow keys** to move the catalog page forward and backwards.

Birthday Celebration for Fuad Mishu

FFK member Fuad Mishu celebrated his 100th birthday in January. The celebration with family and friends included his wife, Layla; his three children: Sam, Tom and Susan; and his seven grandchildren: Tanya, Michael, Peter, Jessica, Sara, Linda, and J. Paul.

Fuad was also honored by Congressman Burchett who gave him a US Flag that was flown over the Capitol building on his 100th birthday and State Senator Becky Massey gave him a resolution signed by 14 TN senators and the Governor of TN. The resolution listed the accomplishments, awards and extraordinary events that are listed below:

Accomplishments:

- Immigrated to the US, Knoxville TN
- Graduate of the school of Civil Engineering in Baghdad, Iraq
- Plays Violin, Clarinet, and Oud Player since 1935
- Graduate of The Iraq's Fine Arts Institute in 1952
- Co- founder of the Iraqi Symphony Orchestra in 1937
- Co-founder of the Iraqi Chamber Music



Watch interview on WATE:
[Knoxville immigrant celebrates 100th birthday \(wate.com\)](https://www.wate.com/story/100th-birthday-celebrates-knoxville-immigrant/2022/01/01/)

Former member of:

- The school of music at the University of Tennessee Advisory board
- The Knoxville Symphony Board of Directors
- The Knoxville Opera Board of Directors
- Music Study Club in Knoxville, Tennessee
- Friendship Force International
- The Arab America Club of Knoxville - Honorary and Founding Member
- The Classic Sounds of Knoxville



- Senior service at St. Mary's Hospital
- March of Dimes Board of Directors

Awards:

- Knoxville Opera Hall of Fame
- Catholic Foundation of Tennessee
- Ministry of Information of Iraq
- Ministry of Education of Iraq
- Embassy of Iraq in U.S.A.
- Iraqi Cultural Institute in Washington D.C.

Important Event: Met with President Bush on March 29, 2005, in the Oval Office

FFK Journey Information for 2022

Planning for our first incoming visit of 2022 continues. Des Moines, Iowa will be visiting us during the Dogwood Arts Festival, April 20-25, 2022. Mike McDonough, Host Coordinator for this Journey, has set up an interesting itinerary for the eleven Ambassadors who will visit (see article in this issue). Drivers, day hosts, and small dinner hosts are needed; please let Mike know if you are available to help (jaynerap@aol.com).



Our first outgoing visit of the year will be to Lower Columbia, which encompasses the Columbia River Valley of Oregon and Washington states. Additional information on this journey #22637 was sent to members in early February. Ambassadors are picked up by the host club at the Portland, Oregon airport. **The dates for this journey are NOW likely to be July 6- 11, 2022;** the dates were changed due to a Lower Columbia club conflict. Confirmation of these dates will be received by February 20. Openings for this trip are available. If interested, contact Barbara Elder by February 28. (Barbara5448@bellsouth.net).

Further into 2022, we will be hosting a group from Friendship Force St. Louis. This journey will occur in September. Phyllis Driver is working with the St. Louis club on finalizing the dates. If you would like to host, please contact Phyllis (pndriver@comcast.net).

AUSTRALIA IS OPENING TO VISITORS!! Plans are underway for our first international journey since 2018. Our club will be visiting Australia from October 19-November 2, 2022 (Journey # 22408). Our host clubs of Gold Coast and North Moreton are in Queensland. Please contact Leslie Badaines if you are interested in this exciting opportunity.

Note: Per FFK policy all club members and our hosts are required to be fully vaccinated and boosted. Our club members must also show proof of a negative covid test 3 days prior to the start of a journey, whether incoming or outgoing.

A poll has been sent to all members regarding preferences for outbound international travel in **2023**. Please respond by March 15 with your 3 choices, in order of preference, to Leslie Badaines (badainesL@aol.com).
Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

FFI Website Feature: MyFF



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL

Friendship Force International has developed a new FFI website which is a simple way to include the entire membership. It is designed to help track journeys, resources and payments. This site keeps members up to date on FFI news worldwide and is a members-only site.

To sign up, connect to https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in then click SIGN UP.

You will not be able to use the same email address twice so a couple will need to have separate email addresses. **The only information required to register is your name, club and email.** Additional information is available for you to complete if you wish. When you sign up you must agree to the FFI Code of Conduct which is available for you to read from FFI. Several FFK members have already signed up and it is a quick and easy process. Please join us!

Travel/Friendship Quotations

“Yet occasionally we discover in the folds of an old handkerchief a shell or insignificant stone that had once embodied our happiest of afternoons.” Patti Smith



“Travel is wishing for one more bite of whatever that just was.” Nick Miller

“Once the travel bug bites, there is no known antidote.” Michael Palin

“Travel isn’t always pretty. It isn’t always comfortable. Sometimes it hurts, it even breaks your heart. But that’s okay. The journey changes you; it should change you. It leaves marks on your memory, on your consciousness, on your heart, and on your body. You take something with you. Hopefully, you leave something good behind.” Anthony Bourdain

“Wherever you go, go with all your heart.” Confucius

Upcoming Dates—Mark your calendars

Virtual Board Meetings (2nd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.)

- March 8
- April 12
- May 10

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 (6:30 p.m. Social; 7:00 p.m. Program); Zoom info in newsletter.

- Feb. 22: Egypt, Susana Navarro-Valenti & Susan Dakak
- Mar. 22: Rusha & Bert Sams, Moroccan Adventure with Culinary Component
- Apr. 20: Welcome dinner for Des Moines Club

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

Club Officers & Chairs

President: Jayne Raparelli
 Vice President: Betsy Tonkin
 Secretary: Mike McDonough
 Treasurer: Bruce Robinson
 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: Sandy Kehne
 Club Concerns: Renee Ioannides
 Historian: Jonathan Hash

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