



# friendship force

## KNOXVILLE

## “Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

Volume 21, No.2

February, 2020

### Meetings

The General Monthly Event of Friendship Force, Knoxville will be held on **Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. The Church is located at 2931 Kingston Pike on the right (north) side of Kingston Pike next to Second Presbyterian Church.

The **program** will be about the different options members have for travel within the organization. There is an article in this newsletter and on the FFK Webpage by Diana Lopez about this subject to get you started so come to the meeting to learn more and ask questions.

Social time and snacks begin at 6:30 p.m. with the program at 7:00 p.m. Members with surnames between K and Z are asked to bring snacks or finger food.

The **board** will meet on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12 noon at TVUUC. The meetings are open and members are encouraged to attend.

We request that members with last names beginning with K - Z bring light snacks or cookies to the February meeting. So far, the majority of our members who responded to the questionnaire seem to prefer this. We realize this is not easy for some people because of their schedules, so feel free to pick up something. We will continue to provide coffee, tea and water. Starting in March, we will divide the alphabet into three sections, so each of us will have fewer times during the year to bring food. Thanks, hope to see you on the 25th!

*Sandy Kehue*

Activity Chair

## Note From the President

In January we had a very interesting and educational presentation by Janis and Bruce Robinson about their journeys to Spain. We also welcomed several new members and the return of a past member Pat Jobe. Please



reach out and welcome new members.

Back row: Left to Right  
Kathryn Atkins-Roberson, Gary Anderson,  
Dave Greenwood, Martin Schoonheim, Dee  
Pierce, Kaye Bultemeier.

Front row: L to R  
Paulette Anderson, Marlys Staudt,  
Leslie Badaines

Not in the picture  
Ellen Greenwood, Pat Jobe.

I share the words of one new member as she speaks beautifully about why she joined Friendship Force Knoxville.

*I joined Knoxville's Friendship Force to fulfill my passion for knowledge and understanding of our wonderfully diverse world alongside others with similar dreams. While I'm expanding my horizons by teaching English to UT international students and immigrants at the Center for English in the inner city, I look forward to engaging with more people from other countries through the local FF chapter and by someday visiting FF club members in other nations. Traveling as a tourist can be fun and educational, but living with local*

*residents (even for a short time) offers a rare perspective of another nation and culture. And it has the potential to transcend a more ordinary travel experience. When I contemplate travel, I often think of Mark Twain's popular words: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." Twain's words were never truer than they are today.*

*Dee Pierce*

FFK is preparing to host ambassadors from Des Moines in April, and Open World Delegates from Uzbekistan in June. Outgoing journeys to Napa-Sonoma and Australia will be this fall. Each of these provides opportunities for us to learn and share the lives of others.

*Kaye Bultemeier*

## How Can I Travel with Friendship Force?

Let me count the ways! That's the question most heard from members of Friendship Force. Although it is not a travel club, learning about other cultures and experiencing first-hand the ways of other people is found thru travel. There is a lot of information available on the Friendship Force International website, <https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/>. Here's a brief breakdown of the different types of journeys.

The most common way to travel is with your club. Each year Knoxville requests an inbound domestic and international and an outbound domestic and international journey. We learn in February the locations we've been assigned and if anyone is

coming to Knoxville on international journeys for the following year. Domestic journeys may not have as much lead time. To travel with FFK, watch the newsletters and announcements at meetings. If you're interested in going on an outbound journey, you must complete the Ambassador application

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Ambassador-Application-and-Agreement-1.pdf> found on the FFI website. There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee to accompany the application (fee will apply toward the cost of the journey if accepted). If you want to host someone in your home for an inbound journey, you must complete the Host application

[https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/HOST\\_APPLICATION\\_and\\_agreement.pdf](https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/HOST_APPLICATION_and_agreement.pdf) and submit it to the coordinator for that trip. For FFK policies, refer to the Journey Policies on the FFK website

<https://friendshipforceknoxville.org/> Larger clubs may have more than one of these journeys each year. And I mention other clubs because you too can travel with any other FF club. How do you know where anyone is going? If you've signed up on FFI's website, bottom of almost every page, you'll receive emails and notices from FFI regarding journeys that are available to you. One is the E-Flyer which is sent to you on a regular basis. You can flip thru that, find a journey that interests you, and submit the application (same as above). These may not have as much lead time as for those we are planning, but you meet Friendship Force members from other clubs in addition to meeting the people overseas. Clubs are required to post their journey 100 days in advance if the maximum number of ambassador places have not been filled. Members from other clubs can then join. The FFK president also receives from time

to time a request from our regional coordinator to recruit for a club's journey. Those are forwarded to all members of FFK for your information.

You may notice in the E-Flyer and on the list of all journeys on the FFI website that not all the journeys are alike. There are Youth Journeys, which are ideal for your grandchildren to experience travel and other cultures. There are Global Journeys, in which the host club offers a specific topic to go in-depth and members from all over the world can join. This was the trip I took last November to Myanmar and Laos. It was titled "The Best of Burma Discovery Tour" and with me were two other Americans, one from Australia and one from New Zealand. It was a small group, and we had to stay in hotels because the Myanmar government does not allow us to stay in private homes. For other global journeys, you may also use hotels because of the locations and sites you are seeing. Many of the journeys advertised early on are global journeys, and the host is gathering ambassadors from around the world.

Another type of journey is the Festival at Sea. FFI has been offering a cruise for FF members to learn more about Friendship Force, how to conduct journeys, how to spread the word, and meet other members. It is NOT your typical journey. Usually done on a trans-Atlantic or trans-Pacific cruise when you have several sea days, the members would meet each day, listen to talks by FFI staff and board members, role-play, try out lots of ice breakers, work on various topics to find ways to accomplish goals, and most of all, tell others on the ship about Friendship Force.

I'm sure there is more that I've left out, but hopefully, I've triggered enough interest that you'll want to start looking at other opportunities, downloading forms, and

applying for the host of opportunities to you as a member of the Friendship Force. Travel often and enjoy every step of the way!

*Diana Lopez*

**Volunteers Needed**

Friendship Force Knoxville is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2021. This is a wonderful thing to celebrate. Anyone who is interested in helping to plan the anniversary celebration is welcome and needed. Please contact any member of the board if you are able to help.



**Member Survey Summary**

In January, an e-mail survey was sent to FFK members to provide the Board with input about meeting times and refreshment preferences. Twenty surveys were returned via e-mail and two were completed at the January meeting. If you did not complete the survey and would like to give feedback please forward comments to Janis Robinson, (jgr@utk.edu). The survey results are below including comments:

**Event Time Number of votes**

Evening: 13 (for consistency)  
 Daytime: 1  
 Combined: 5 (for others, occasionally in winter; either; maybe)  
 Other: 2 No preference

**Refreshments Number of votes**

No Change: 2  
 Drinks Only: 12 (Coffee & Decaf; more choices)  
 Light Snacks: 11 (Cookies; provide members w/suggestions for snacks)  
 Other: Up to Sandy

**Program Topic Preferences**

Various destinations  
 Travel topics  
 Interesting and informative lectures about destinations  
 Travel talks  
 Australia, related to journeys if relevant  
 Other cultures  
 Member travels consistent with FFI mission  
 Programs on member's travels  
 International travel speakers

Based on the survey results, FFK will have evening meetings and continue to request that members bring finger foods and/or snacks to the meetings based on the first letter of the last name. At the January Board meeting, it was decided to have the evening events on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month although special events like Journeys may change the dates/times. The dates are listed below but are also on the FFK webpage calendar.

January 28th	The Robinsons on Spain
February 25th	6:30 p.m., TVUUC; How to Travel with Friendship Force
March 24th	6:30 p.m., TVUUC
April 22nd	6:30 p.m., Cherokee Bluff; Des Moines Welcome Dinner
April 26 th	6:30 p.m., Calhoun's on the River; Des Moines Farewell Dinner
May 26th	6:30 p.m., TVUUC
June 13-20th	Open World Uzbekistan
July	Member home dinners; Date/Time determined by members
August 25th	6:30 p.m., TVUUC
September 22nd	6:30 p.m., TVUUC Informational meeting about Australia prior to Journey
October 1927	Outbound Australia Journey
November 24	TBD Election of Officers
December	TBD depending on the location of the FFK Holiday Party

## **FFK Journey to Australia**

(Journey # 20219)

Space is still available for Friendship Force of Knoxville's Journey to Australia. The dates are October 19, 2020 to November 2, 2020.

The Host clubs are North Moreton (about 1 hour north of Brisbane), and The Gold Coast Club (about one hour south of Brisbane).

North Moreton has Beautiful beaches, scenic mountains, lakes, rainforest walks, boutique wineries, and kangaroos. North Moreton is just north of Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, Australia. The North Moreton district encompasses the regions of Caboolture, Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Bribie Island. It is an area rich in culture and history. Enjoy a barbecue on the shores of Pumicestone Passage as the sun sinks down behind the Glasshouse Mountains. Watch the kangaroos as they hop along the beach. Marvel at the calls of the whip birds as you walk through the rainforest. Get close to a koala at the fabulous Australia Zoo, the creation of legendary Crocodile Man, Steve Irwin. A warm sub-tropical climate offers comfortable living throughout the year.

The Gold Coast shoreline stretches along the Pacific Ocean, featuring some of the best surfing beaches in Australia. With names like Surfers Paradise, Broadbeach, Palm Beach and Mermaid Beach, visions of glistening white sands, rolling surf and gently swaying palms. The Gold Coast is recognized as the Holiday Capital of Australia. The Gold Coast has a sub-tropical climate, with an average of 7.5 hours of sunshine every day of the year, and September to February temperatures of 15° to 29°C, (59 to 84 degrees Fahrenheit).

The cost of the trip, though not yet finalized, is expected to be \$3400 to \$3600, per person, for the two weeks. This amount includes all transportation, visa and travel insurance. Participation is limited, so if interested, send in your Friendship Force

Ambassador Application, along with an application fee of \$25 made out to Friendship Force Knoxville. Application and check should be sent to Bruce Robinson, treasurer, PO Box 53104, Knoxville, TN 37950. The Friendship Force Ambassador application form is a fillable PDF form. Please follow instructions to save it to your computer.

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/p-content/uploads/2018/02/Ambassador-Application-and-Agreement-1.pdf>

Application deadline is February 21, 2020.

For questions about the Journey, contact Leslie Badaines

([BadainesL@icloud.com](mailto:BadainesL@icloud.com))

## **Outbound Journey to Napa-Sonoma CA counties**

We're planning a five-night journey to the Napa- Sonoma, California, Friendship Force Club, arriving September 8, and departing September 13.

We'll visit places in both Napa and Sonoma counties that may include olive oil tastings, wineries, parks, museums and places of historical interest.

**Estimated cost** is \$125- \$150 per person. Members of the Napa-Sonoma Friendship Force Club visited Knoxville and surrounding area this past October. We're looking forward to seeing our friends again and making new ones.

Please let Jayne Raparelli know if you'd like to participate on this journey.

[jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com)

423-871-1739

## **Des Moines to Knoxville**

April 22-27, the Friendship Force Club of Greater Des Moines is visiting Knoxville. We want to show them a great time, as they did for us last summer up there. The committee is working already to establish an itinerary that will show off the many facets of Knoxville. Our theme is still Mountains and Music since that worked well for the Napa club. However, some changes will be made to accommodate the Dogwood Arts Festival and the city-wide project honoring Knoxville artist Beauford Delaney.

What we **need** from the rest of the club at this point are **hosts**, for overnight, dinners, and days. There may be 16 people from Des Moines and maybe Quad Cities. We don't currently have an accurate count as to how many couples and how many singles, but I hope that many of you are willing to open your homes and your hospitality to the Iowans. If you can host, please contact me at [dlopez@utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@utk.edu).

More details will be forthcoming, and hopefully many of you will participate in our planned activities, such as the welcome and farewell dinners.

### **Addendum**

On April 22 ten members from the Greater Des Moines Friendship Force club will arrive in Knoxville. Our FFK committee is hard at work planning an itinerary to show off the best of Knoxville and East Tennessee. There will be the usual welcome and farewell dinners, the tree planting, a trip to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a downtown walking tour during the opening of the Dogwood Arts Festival, a docent-led tour of the Knoxville Museum of Art during the Beauford Delaney/James Baldwin exhibit, a visit to Norris Dam and Lenoir Museum, plus free time to explore many options of interest.

At this time, there are ten single females coming, and we need a few more hosts. If you can host one or more, please complete

the host ambassador application,

[https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/11/HOST\\_APPLICATION\\_and\\_agreement.pdf](https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/11/HOST_APPLICATION_and_agreement.pdf).

Save it to your computer, complete it, then attach it to an email to [dlopez@utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@utk.edu).

I hope many of you will plan to attend any and all of our events. A detailed, day-by-day itinerary will be available in the next newsletter. Let's display our East Tennessee hospitality.

## **Friendship Force International**

The Journey Catalogues for Friendship Force International ([friendshipforce.org](http://friendshipforce.org)) and the US Flyer from FFI ([support@friendshipforce.org](mailto:support@friendshipforce.org)) are good sources of journeys being offered in the future which our members can join.

## **FFK Website**

The website for our club is available 24 hours a day and has the club calendar, photos and other news you can use. The web address is <https://friendshipforceknoxville.org>

## **Congratulation & Best Wishes**

Joanne and Al Schuetz will celebrate their golden anniversary (50 years) on February 28<sup>th</sup>.