



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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From the President

The past month has been incredibly difficult for the entire world as we face the pandemic together. Friendship Force Worldwide has been affected and so has our local club. At this point almost all FFI journeys and hosting opportunities 2020 have been cancelled because of COVID-19. I spoke with the regional director of FFI and the overall thought is either to move 2020 exchanges to 2021 or to have them occur in 2022 and maintain the proposed schedule for next year. They will continue to provide us guidance as we move forward. You are encouraged to visit FFI website (www.friendshipforce.org) to read further about their response to the pandemic. Now the challenge is for all of us in FFK to be consistent with the mission of FF and place our energy locally.

The Mission of Friendship Force International, Inc. is to promote world peace and understanding by creating an environment where individual friendships can be established across the barriers that separate people.

I challenge each of us to identify people and organizations locally that we could assist during this time of re-emergence. Bring these ideas to the board and let our creative spirits and caring hearts continue the work of FFI. May we emerge more connected locally and globally, a kinder and humbler people.

Blessings,

Kaye Bultemeier

Volunteers Needed

Friendship Force Knoxville will celebrate 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 board if you are able to help



Des Moines Journey Cancelled

The Des Moines club along with the Big Canoe club and our club decided to cancel the journey from Des Moines. It is regrettable, but under the current circumstances, it is the best decision. At this point, we would have nothing open to attend, and I fear that the Dogwoods and Azaleas will all be gone by the time the festival was to open. Looks like this simply wasn't the right year. We will try again in the future. We have returned their money, and we have received back all our deposits, so no one is out any money. Thanks to all who were involved in the planning and the hosting. We'll hold on to this program and look forward to future journeys!

Diana Lopez

Australia FF Trip

The Knoxville Friendship Force trip to Australia, scheduled for October 21 through November 4, 2020, has been canceled by the host club's due to Covid-19. We have asked the host clubs to consider us for a future journey once the "dust settles" on this pandemic.

Leslie Badaines

Napa-Sonoma Trip

I've been in touch with the president of the Napa-Sonoma, California, Friendship Force Club. Friendship Force of Knoxville hosted a group from the Napa-Sonoma club last October. We then planned a 2020 outgoing journey to Napa-Sonoma.

We don't know if this journey will be cancelled because of the coronavirus. More than likely, we won't know until the end of May, or possibly June. Nevertheless, I can provide some information about this domestic Friendship Force journey.

Dates: September 8-13, 2020. Five nights at a host's home.

Cost: Estimated cost per person: \$125-150.

Activities: in both Napa and Sonoma counties, itinerary may include visits to wineries, olive oil tastings, museums, parks, and places of historical interest.

If you're considering this journey, provided of course, it's safe to travel, airlines are flying, and so much more, please let me know. My contact information: Jayne

Raparelli jaynerap@aol.com 423-871-1739.

Stay well. May it be safe for us to travel later this year.

In friendship,

Jayne

New FFK “Travel from Home” Webpage

Friendship Force members love to travel but what can we do now when there are restrictions on moving around in our own city, let alone going on a trip somewhere. We can travel the world from our home! The FFK webpage now has a special section providing links to travel videos and photos to let us see some wonderful places in the USA and around the world. Take a look and enjoy the trip!

To view the photos and videos, go to the FFK website (<https://friendshipforceknoxville.org/>) and click on the “Travel from Home” link in the first paragraph.

New links will be continually added so if you know of some other online resources that show tours or adventures, send the link to Janis Robinson (jgr@utk.edu) and we’ll get it on the page.

Stay safe and healthy!

Comment from The Editor.

I highly recommend this new addition to the Webb site. I enjoyed exploring it briefly and recommend it to you all.

Don Dougall

MAUDLIN COMMENTS

From your errant editor

We’ve all been inundated with commentary on viruses– so- that is finished and not to be rehashed I sit here and wonder what it would be like to be infected. How sick would I get waiting for my Doctor to authorize testing or admission to a hospital? Would I have a mild case or a life threatening one? I don’t spend much time on these unhelpful speculations fortunately. I basically hope that the advice we are getting and my ability to follow it will leave me without the problems – hope springs eternal.