



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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Notes from Club President.

It has been a very interesting month for the entire world. Knoxville has begun phase I of reopening and it feels very emergent in downtown Knoxville. There is a cautious optimism in the air, which is a treat to experience.

This month I had a virtual meeting with our FFI president Jeremi Snook and with FF presidents from the Southeast. This is uncharted territory for all of FFI but the commitment is strong to continue to make the organization vibrant and continue the mission of building understanding and peace in our world. FFI is working diligently to raise adequate funds to keep FFI afloat and here is an excellent video from FFI Treasurer, which clearly summarizes the

concerns and their response.

<https://blog.friendshipforce.org/friendship-force-complete-2020-financial-overview/>

Almost all FFI exchanges worldwide have been postponed for 2020. The FFI staff is working with each club to help them plan and prepare to resume exchanges in 2021.

FFK is working with and communicating with Des Moines, Napa-Sonoma and with Australia to find alternative dates for the exchanges that were scheduled for 2020. We are also exploring a virtual “Open World” which would be followed up with them visiting us in 2021. Matches for 2021 for FFK are inbound from Missouri, and outbound

to San Antonio and Romania. More information will be forthcoming as to which journeys and exchanges we do in 2021 and 2022.

Special thanks to Diana Lopez, Jayne Raparelli, Leslie Badaines, and Ron Mayer for their work on these exchanges.

Special thanks also to Bruce Robinson and members of the Finance Advisory Committee for creating guidelines when using journey funds in our treasury. Members who worked on this include: Bruce Robinson, Bill Cherry, Jim Dennis, Diana Lopez, Ray Simko and Martin Schoonheim. This was excellent work that provides the board with needed guidance as we move forward.

Thanks to Ray Simko and the members of the Telephone Committee for contacting members and keeping us connected during this time of social isolation. The board is exploring ways for us to interact virtually as a club. Please bring forward ideas that you may have to help us stay connected till this pandemic is over.

FFI has asked each of us to contact previous friendship force guests or hosts and continue the connection worldwide of people in friendship force.

The following is a poem by an unknown author that clearly reflects what my hopes are for all of us.

*"When this is over, may we never
again take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theater
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.
When this ends
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay that way —
better for each other
because of the worst."*

In Friendship.

Kaye Bultemeier

Sad Events

With great sadness we report the passing of Jayne Parelli's mother **Ann Nadalin (89)** on May 7th at U.T. Medical Center. Jayne was at her side. A memorial service will be held at a later date

We are saddened by the passing of longtime former member **Dena Metts** at Westmoreland Health Center, Knoxville on May 9th 2020. An account of her travels and adventures will appear in the next newsletter by Jonathan Hash and Ray Simko. They ask if you have remembrances or anecdotes of Dena's travels to please let them know so they can be included

Volunteers Needed



We need your help 40th Anniversary in 2021.

- People who are willing to help with the planning of this wonderful celebration next year.
- Someone to set up a Facebook account for Friendship Force Knoxville
- Help with “Go Daddy” and our web site
- Ideas for keeping members connected virtually during the pandemic
- Members willing to host a virtual dinner with club members
- Members to submit photos, videos, blogs, or reflections from previous travel to upload on our website so we can continue to travel vicariously

Contact Kaye if you can help kayebultemeier@gmail.com

May 26th Virtual Meeting Planned

A virtual Zoom meeting for May is in the works and we hope many of you will participate. It will be a wine & cheese party and you can participate from your own home and choose whatever drink and snack you want to have! It will take place on **Tuesday, May 26th, at 6:30 p.m.** and if you wish to attend, you can begin to sign in 10 minutes before then. There will not be a program but some information about the Club and FFI will be provided as well as a chance to have a fellowship time with other members.

You do not need a Zoom account to join a meeting and the invitation will come from Elizabeth Tonkin before May 26th. There are several U-Tube videos available about using Zoom if you want to take a look and Janis Robinson will send out more information about that before the meeting

We hope to see many of you virtually at the meeting and please stay safe and healthy!

A Donation to Friendship Force International from Friendship Force of Knoxville

After much thought and many exchanges of opinion regarding the

merits, your Board decided to donate one thousand dollars to Friendship Force International (FFI), the parent organization of the hundreds of Friendship Force clubs around the world. As you know, the COVID-19 crisis has devastated the finances of many organizations. Much the greater part of FFI's operating revenue comes from journey fees with a much smaller portion coming from the affiliation fees that each member pays through their dues. With all journeys cancelled for the foreseeable future, FFI faces a serious financial crisis that could affect its existence. As FFI members, all of us believe in FFI's mission and certainly want to see it survive. The Board believes that we currently have the financial resources to make this donation, although the Board had hoped to use the funds for other club purposes. Note that the donation will come from our account used for journeys which has gradually built up funds mostly through our participation in the Open World program subsidized by the U.S. government. FFI is a partner in the Open World program and has supported FFI's participation several times over the years thanks to our members well executed hosting efforts. Notably, many other U.S. and international Friendship Force clubs are donating a thousand dollars or more.

From **Bruce Robinson**