



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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June, 2020

Note From Club President

June has arrived and we continue to navigate Friendship Force Knoxville and COVID-19. Some wonderful things have occurred which give some insight and perspective of how the remainder of 2020 and 2021 will be for Friendship Force Knoxville. I am thrilled to announce that Diana Lopez and Leslie Badaines have agreed to be co-chairpersons as overall journey coordinators. This is a very valuable role for our club and allows us to make wise and informed decisions about journeys. They also provide mentorship to those functioning host and ambassador coordinators. Also sincere thanks to Ron Mayer who served with integrity during the past year and has agreed to be a resource in the future.

We were asked by San Antonio to be their host for an incoming journey in October 2020. Jayne Raparelli and Mike McDonough have agreed to be host coordinators and it will be exciting to host this wonderful club. We have obtained guidance from FFI and also checked CDC guidelines for information regarding hosting. Many of you have expressed interest in hosting this incoming group and more information will follow.

For 2021 we have the following matches:

Spring-Incoming from St. Louis, MO-a host coordinator is needed

June-out going to Romania-Diana Lopez-ambassador coordinator

Fall-outgoing to Napa-Sonoma-Jayne Raparelli ambassador coordinator

October-outgoing to San Antonio-Leslie Badaines ambassador coordinator

Hopefully an Open World-Betsy Tonkin coordinator.

Many thanks to these members for organizing these exchanges. Please refer to their individual reports in this newsletter for specific details. It is still uncertain when we should return to holding full membership meetings. The Unitarian Church will not be opening their facility until after Labor Day. The board is discussing options for outdoor gatherings and hope this will be available soon. May each of you continue to enjoy and cherish the time at home with those you love.

Kaye Bultemeier

Help Needed:

Someone to set up a Facebook account for FFK

Someone to assist Ray Simko in setting up online membership renewal for this year
People interested in helping with the 40th anniversary celebration of FFK in 2021
A host coordinator for our incoming group from St. Louis in 2021.

From FFI

"Over the past two months, members from around the world have shown amazing solidarity and support for the ongoing mission of Friendship Force beyond the pandemic. Collectively, you have raised more than \$300,000 USD. Although fundraising will continue through the end of the year, we are asking those who have been considering a monetary gift to FFI to make one in the month of June. This will give the Board of Directors a clear picture for financial planning in 2021 and beyond as we assess recovery. It will also mark a shift in communications as we retire the formal drive for donations and focus more fully on virtual activities and programs to support club cohesiveness."

Knoxville Friendship Force Club has Virtual Meeting

About 15 people attended the May 26th FFK virtual wine and cheese event. Members enjoyed their own refreshments at home and shared stories with all. Kaye Bultemeier conducted a brief meeting and the Journey Coordinators for 2020 shared information about the postponed outbound and inbound Journeys that may now take place in 2021 and 2022. Members also discussed ideas of how we might meet outdoors for our monthly meetings, perhaps at a different time. Members are encouraged to contact Janis Robinson (jgr@utk.edu) with ideas of locations that would work for us. Betsy Tonkin shared her Zoom account with the

club for this meeting and coordinated the attendees. We thank her for her generosity and work on this.

For opera lovers, Phyllis Driver recommended watching the NY Metropolitan Opera's daily videos of their operas (link below). Each day, a new opera video is available for 24 hours and the production quality is very high.

Bill Cherry informed us that The Flying Anvil Theatre was producing a virtual play where all the characters would be performing from home. This particular work was sold out but FF Members are encouraged to keep checking their website (link below) for other opportunities.

Information about future meetings and events will be sent to Friendship Force Knoxville members via e-mail.

Links:

NY Met: (<https://www.metopera.org/user-information/nightly-met-opera-streams>)

TheFlyingAnvilTheater

<https://www.flyinganviltheatre.com/>

Friendship Force Knoxville:

<https://friendshipforceknoxville.org/>

Click on "Travel from Home" in first paragraph for travel viewing options

Virtual Tea Party with Leicestershire FF Club

On May 8, 2020, the Leicestershire, England, FF club threw a virtual tea party for their 21st anniversary and invited other Friendship Force members to join them. The party took place at 3 p.m. in Britain and 10 a.m. Knoxville time. Janis and Bruce Robinson attended the party and made lemon scones for the celebration. Friendship Force, International, helped the Leicestershire club organize this Zoom meeting and over 50 people attended during

the two-hour event. A few FFI staff also joined in and Jeremi Snook, FFI President, was spotted for a few minutes.

The Leicestershire club gave a short presentation about English tea and one of their members had a tea party set up in her garden. She gave the group a tour of this beautiful garden including her properly set table of delicious food and tea. It was also the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the group acknowledged this important memory. There was an opportunity to ask questions about English tea and about the club.

After the official presentation, the attendees split into small groups of about ten people and visited together. The small group sessions lasted about thirty minutes after which everyone returned to the full session. At that time, there were only about 25-30 people left and the meeting finished with each attendee introducing themselves. Friendship Force members love meeting people from around the world and the attendees of this virtual tea party were no exception. Old friends greeted each other and new friends were made.

Thanks to the Leicestershire club for having this event and best wishes on their 21st anniversary.

Des Moines Journey in 2022

The Des Moines Friendship Force has agreed to request Knoxville for April 2022 when the requests are due in August and September. We're still working with Big Canoe and may or may not try to coordinate with all three clubs. I hope everyone involved in working on the planning committee for 2020 will agree to serve again, but that will be down the road. We'll hold on to the program and look forward to future journeys!

Imagine!

Yes, imagine medieval walls, Transylvania, Dracula, quaint towns, capital cities, beaches, June, 2021. The Friendship Force of Knoxville has been invited to visit Sibiu (see-BEW), Romania, and Baku(baa-ku), Azerbaijan for a fantastic journey. Sibiu is known as the City with Eyes, nicknamed as such because of its iconic houses with eyes. Our host says there will be a theatre festival going on while we're there and that we'll also visit some of the cities and mountain villages surrounding Sibiu. On our own, we might want to explore Bucharest or even take a bus tour of Romania. Lots of options! Sibiu is close to the same size as Knoxville, so we'll feel right at home, other than the medieval walls and Gothic buildings. Baku is nicknamed the City of Winds, so expect a brisk breeze coming off the Caspian Sea. The city is below sea level making it the lowest lying capital city in the world. It's the home to two million people, and is the cultural, scientific and industrial center of Azerbaijan. More details will be forthcoming as we begin working with our hosts in these two countries. I hope many of you will be interested. Please let me know, dlopez@utk.edu.

Diana

Australia Update

Although the October 2020 trip to Australia was canceled by North Moreton and The Gold Coast, both clubs are looking at dates in the Fall of 2022, most likely around the same time, late October through the early part of November. More news to follow when we receive a definite invitation.

Hosting San Antonio, Texas October 2020

San Antonio's Friendship Force Club has asked us to host them this Fall, depending, of course, on the status of Covid-19. So far, several FFK members have offered to host San Antonio. We will be looking at health and safety guidelines before a final decision is made. If you are interested in hosting, and have not yet responded to FFK President, Kaye Bultemeier, please let her know.

Journey to San Antonio, Texas 2021

Remember the Alamo! Walk along the River Walk, a pedestrian promenade with cafes and shops; the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, home to 4 Spanish Missions; and so much more. Friendship Force San Antonio has invited 8-10 FFK Ambassadors to visit in September of 2021. Dates are being discussed, with more information to follow.

Outgoing Journey to Napa-Sonoma

We're planning an outgoing journey to Napa and Sonoma, California, counties in September 2021.

We were supposed to have visited Napa and Sonoma this September, but because of the corona virus, it has been moved to 2021. The journey will be either before or after the outgoing journey to San Antonio, also in September 2021.

We will experience the wine country with visits to wineries, olive oil tastings, parks, museums and places of historical interest in both Napa and Sonoma counties.

The Napa-Sonoma Friendship Force Club visited Knoxville this past October. We look forward to seeing our friends once again and making new friendships.

Faces and Places in Brazil

Virtual -Tour

WEDNESDAY, June 17, 2020 at 8:00 PM
EST

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/288774797>