



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

Website: www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org

Volume 21, No.9

September 2020

Note From the President

September has arrived and all of us continue to adapt our lives to living with COVID-19. The board continues to provide opportunities for members to share in virtual experiences as we await a return to normal activities of FFK.

Janis Robinson is doing an excellent job of organizing interesting virtual sessions for the club, please join us.

Sincere thanks everyone on the telephone committee for contacting members about their interest in additional activities. It is clear that members are not ready to meet in person for gatherings until the COVID situation improves. We will continue to reach out to the members to offer virtual opportunities. I encourage each of you to check the FFI site regularly to find activities that are offered to the membership

<https://www.friendshipforce.org/>

I hope for all of you a beautiful fall and a new beginning after COVID.

Kaye Bultemeier

COVID-19 and the Flu

The CDC is suggesting the United States may be facing another surge of COVID-19 this fall. In order to prepare for the inevitable, we need to continue wearing masks when in public, washing our hands frequently and maintaining social distance when out in public.

We all need to be aware that we are entering the flu season. It is most important now that we all get our flu shots from our family physician or at our local pharmacy. The cost is covered by Medicare and health insurance. None of us need to be hospitalized with the flu as hospitals can be inundated with COVID-19 patients. **GET YOUR FLU SHOTS NOW!**

FFK September 22nd Zoom Meeting

Seventeen members joined our September 22 event. Carlos Pinilla, Architectural Designer, talked about Andean architecture in Peru and Bolivia and the conceptual values in today's architecture. Carlos is originally from La Paz, Bolivia, and has studied the architecture of the Andes. After the presentation, we had a question and answer session and then, enjoyed visiting with each other.



FF Sacramento Community Garden Presentation

On Sunday August 30th Pat Ghiglieri of FF Sacramento gave a lovely presentation about the Four Seasons community garden where she lives. Pat has spent years helping to make this a very special place for her neighborhood in Northern California.

For those of you who would like to view the presentation, FF Sacramento created a YouTube video link which is provided below and available on the Club News page of the FFK website.

Link to FF Sacramento Presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3zy3ccdnSk&feature=youtu.be>



First FFK Virtual Meeting

FFK had its first virtual Zoom meeting for its membership on August 25th. It was a complete success. There were 24 members who attended the meeting from their homes.

Members began signing in at 6:30 p.m. and they shared their experiences since the club had its last meeting in February of this year.

Promptly at 7:00 p.m. Kaye Bultemeier and Noel Kuck began their presentation about their 19-day excursion from St. Petersburg Russia to Beijing China. Much of the trip was aboard the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

Using maps and photos with their narrative of the trip they provided a great overview of their journey. They spent the first several days touring St. Petersburg giving the members an opportunity to see the beauty of the city.

They then boarded the train and headed to Moscow spending several days there too. One of the most interesting things was the Moscow subway or underground Metro system. It was built shortly before WWII and used as a bomb shelter then. Today it features beautiful artwork.

They made several other stops before they arrived in Mongolia. Members had an opportunity to learn about the nomad lives of the people there as well as see what yurt living was all about.

After leaving the train they flew to Beijing. From there they returned home. Both Kaye and Noel recommend the trip for others should they be able to go.

Requests for Journeys 2022 and More

The coordinators received the form for inbound journeys in 2022 and completed it requesting one inbound international and one inbound domestic (Des Moines). The form to request outbound journeys for 2022 will be forthcoming in September. We are requesting the postponed Australia journey and would like to add New Zealand to go along with Australia. Colombia/Costa Rica will be another option if a third choice is requested. The request for outbound domestic journeys for 2022 is Columbia Cascades, Albuquerque, and Missoula. The board will finalize the request at the October meeting.

The 6 people interested in going on the 2021 Romania/Azerbaijan Outbound met and decided not to go to Azerbaijan. The cost is prohibitive to fly to Azerbaijan and to Romania. There is another group coordinated by Bobbie Mulholland from Adelaide, Australia that is assessing interest in a journey to Armenia and Azerbaijan, so if anyone wants to go to Azerbaijan, they can join that group. We decided on June 9-21, and we will visit Bucharest for 4 days, then Sibiu for 7 days, and individuals can do anything else they would like on their own either before or after those dates.

The inbound and outbound journeys are:
2021 St Louis, MO Inbound – A host coordinator is still needed for this journey in April. No word from St. Louis about dates. Contact Kaye Bultemeier, kayebultemeier@gmail.com.
2021 Romania Outbound – Dates for Romania are June 9-21, 2021. If you have any interest, please contact Diana Lopez, dlopez@utk.edu.
2021 San Antonio Outbound – No confirmed date yet for our Sept 2021 trip to them. Contact Leslie Badaines, badainesl@aol.com.

2021 Napa-Sonoma Outbound – Date will be set just before or after San Antonio. Contact Jayne Raparelli, jaynerap@aol.com.

2021 San Antonio Inbound – Date will be set after the outbound journey is settled. Contact Jayne Raparelli, Jaynerap@aol.com.

2022 Des Moines Inbound – Des Moines will visit Knoxville in April 2022. Contact Diana Lopez, dlopez@utk.edu.

2022 Australia Outbound – TBD. Contact Leslie Badaines, badainesl@aol.com. Leslie Badaines and Diana Lopez

Friendship Force Knoxville Website

Our website is the best recruiting tool we have. When someone indicates an interest in our club please refer them to www.friendshipforceknoxville.org. When you as a member want or need to get information about the club just visit the website.

What will you find when you visit the website? Let's take a casual walk-around page by page.

Home Page

Here you will find the new "FFK Travel Page" that will take you various journeys around the world.

It provides an overview of "What FFK is. Each month the President posts her "Notes From the President" that gives you an update on what is happening with the club and Friendship Force International.

About Us

Here you find information about the founding of the club.

- A listing of 2020 Officers and Board Members,
- A listing of all past Presidents.
- An overview "About the Journeys"
- Next you will find Membership Applications, By-Laws, club Policies and

Procedures and Journey Policies. You can review the Board Minutes for 2019 and 2020.

About Knoxville

Visitors can read an overview of East Tennessee.

Usually you will find a listing of current events available to visit. But with the virus we caution visitors to check with sites before planning to visit. You can access www.visitknoxville.com or City of Knoxville for the most up-to-date information on local venues.

Contact Page

Here anyone can ask questions about the club.

Club News

Here you will find a listing of all current club events with an overview of recent events to let you know what you may have missed by not attending.

Presently you will find an update of the Knox County information about the virus.

You then can read about several of the trips other members have made. We are always interested in learning about other member's travels.

Next you can find FFK newsletters from January 2014 to the present. Here is a good chance to read ones you may have missed. There is no need to keep personal hard copies of the newsletter.

Journeys

On the left side of the page you can see all the upcoming inbound and outbound journeys. Take a look at the right side and you will find all the outbound, inbound and

Open World programs the club has participated in since 1981.

More

When you click on this tab the first thing that comes up is:

Club Calendar

Here is a listing of all scheduled club events and activities.

History

A brief summary about the club followed by more information About the Journeys. Take some time and read the Club History from 1981-1995.

The club will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in May 2021. You now can read the anniversary programs for the 20th, 25th, 30th and 35th.

Thank you for taking this tour of the FFK website. If there is something else you would like to see on the website please let us know. We are always looking to make things better.

Ray Simko

Jonathan Hash

Webmasters