



## “Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

FFK Website: [www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org](http://www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org)

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### Journey Overviews

#### 2021

Outbound San Antonio, TX.....	Oct. 1-6, 2021
Inbound San Antonio, TX .....	Oct. 22-27, 2021

#### 2022

Inbound Des Moines, IA .....	Apr. 2022
Outbound Romania.....	May/June 2022
Outbound Lower Columbia Club .....	Jun./Jul. 2022
Inbound St. Louis, MO.....	Sept. 2022
Outbound Australia:	
North Moreton.....	Oct. 21-28
Gold Coast.....	Oct. 28-Nov. 4



### Note from the President

Ten ambassadors flew to the San Francisco airport on Sept. 8. We then took a shuttle bus to the Sonoma County Airport in Santa Rosa where we were warmly greeted by our Napa Sonoma Friendship Force hosts. We were driven to the nearby Welcome Dinner at a host’s home where we enjoyed great food and California wines served on the patio. Ambassadors met their hosts, four of whom visited Knoxville in October 2019, which was our last Friendship Force journey pre-pandemic.

The six of us from Friendship Force Knoxville: Leslie Badaines, Diana Lopez, Jean and Ron Mayer, Mike McDonough and Jayne Raparelli, met our fellow Friendship Force ambassadors from

New York City, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Atlanta.

Our first day began with a docent-led tour of the Charles Schultz Museum in Santa Rosa. It was lots of fun to learn about the man who created the Peanuts cartoon that ran for fifty years. After lunch on the Museum patio, we drove to the Landpath’s Grove of Old Trees. We strolled along the trails, taking in the magnificent redwoods. The following day this small park was closed because of the fires. We were one of the last groups to get in! The next stop was a tasting at the Korbel winery. That evening we all went to small group



dinners in the towns of Santa Rosa, Napa, and Petaluma.

The rest of the itinerary included visiting the Chateau Montelena, hearing a history talk of wine country given by one of the Napa Sonoma Friendship Force members, and observing the crushing of grapes. We visited the Napa Olive Oil Manufacturing Company in Helena, enjoyed lunch outdoors overlooking a golf course, visited a Napa art studio and gallery, and tasted wines at a Friendship Force member’s ranch where she has a vineyard. On our free day, Mike and I went on a walking tour of Petaluma. The entire group learned about Jack London at the State Historic Park named after him. Our farewell luncheon was held in a Sonoma restaurant.

I think the other ambassadors would agree that despite the significant challenges of Covid, and the Northern California drought and fires, we are glad we took the plunge and traveled to beautiful Wine Country. As one of the ambassadors said, “What we had can only be experienced with Friendship Force.”

*Jayne Raparelli, President*

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### FFK Sept. 28th Event: Adventures in Napa Sonoma

Join us for the FFK General Event on Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> when six FFK members will share



their experiences from their journey to the Napa Sonoma Friendship Force Club. This was our club’s first Journey since 2019. FF Napa Sonoma were

great hosts and our club members had a great time visiting museums, wineries and more!

**Date:** Sept. 28, 2021  
**Time:** Social: 06:30 PM; Program: 7:00 p.m.  
**Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/2bj99bhw>  
**Meeting ID:** 882 1223 2431  
**Passcode:** 934391  
**Dial:** +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

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### Successful Journey and More to Come

Ambassadors to Napa-Sonoma completed the first journey since COVID began, and it was a huge success! Now planning for our club’s next outbound journey is well underway as several club members will head to San Antonio October 1-6, 2021.



Then we will welcome the San Antonio

club to Knoxville from Oct 22-27. Everyone is vaccinated and feels fairly comfortable sharing homes and meals with each other. The journey committee has planned an exciting itinerary for our visitors that includes: a full day downtown with a walking tour, a visit to the East TN History Museum, and music at the Blue Plate Special; a tour of Norris Dam and the Lenoir Museum; a day in the Smoky mountains with an easy hike and lunchtime at Spence Cabin in Elkmont. Please contact Jayne Raparelli if you are willing to host day trips ([jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com)). Save the dates for the welcome potluck dinner (Oct 22) at the Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse, and Farewell dinner (Oct 26), at Calhoun’s on the River. We hope that many members will join with us in welcoming our visitors.

2022 will also be an eventful year with plans for international trips to Romania and Australia, and a domestic journey to the Lower Columbia club in Washington. FFK will also be hosting a couple of domestic clubs, Des Moines coming in April and St Louis in September. We also hope to host an Open World visit of a delegation of judges from Uzbekistan.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, either by hosting overnight or day, hosting small dinner parties for the ambassadors and their hosts, serving on the planning committees, being an ambassador. These journeys don’t happen overnight. We have a great itinerary in our Music

and Mountains theme, but it can always be tweaked or changed as new venues appear, festivals are discovered, new ideas come up. It takes all of us to make any journey successful. When we ask you to help, please say yes! This is what Friendship Force is all about. Join the fun!

Here are the details and contacts:

- 2021 San Antonio Inbound** – Oct 22-27. Journey #21441. Contact Jayne Raparelli, [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com), Mike McDonough.
- 2022 Des Moines Inbound** – Apr 2022. Journey #22509. Contact Mike McDonough, [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com).
- 2022 Romania Outbound** – May/June 2022. Contact Diana Lopez, [dlopez@utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@utk.edu).
- 2022 St Louis, MO Inbound** – Sep 2022. Journey #21162. Phyllis Driver, [pndriver@comcast.net](mailto:pndriver@comcast.net).
- 2022 Lower Columbia Outbound** – Late June. Journey #22637. Need an ambassador coordinator.
- 2022 Australia Outbound** – North Moreton, Oct 21-28, 2022; Gold Coast, Oct 28-Nov 4, 2022. Journey #22408. Contact Leslie Badaines, [badainesl@aol.com](mailto:badainesl@aol.com).  
*Leslie Badaines and Diana Lopez*  
Journey Co-coordinators

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## FF San Antonio Visits Knoxville October 22-27

After two years, we are finally hosting an inbound domestic Friendship Force Club journey! We are looking forward to meeting nine members of the San Antonio Friendship Force Club and two from the Austin Club, who will visit Knoxville and East Tennessee, Oct. 22-27. The San Antonio Planning Committee invites you to read the itinerary below and see when you can join the fun. Please note if reservations and payment are needed for a particular activity.

Friday, Oct. 22— 6 p.m. Welcome Dinner at Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse, 1839 Cherokee Bluff Dr., Knoxville. We will have a local band perform at this potluck event. Everyone is welcome to

attend and meet our ambassadors. You do not have to be a host to attend!

Saturday, Oct. 23—Downtown Knoxville Walking Tour given by FFK member Mike McDonough. Lunch on your own. Highlights: Tennessee Woman Suffrage Memorial, Burn Memorial, Market Square, the WDVX Blue Plate Special and the East Tennessee History Center.

Sunday, Oct. 24—Norris Dam and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). We suggest ambassadors may want to visit the Museum of Appalachia, 2819 Andersonville Highway in Clinton (senior admission is \$15) in the morning since we will meet at the Museum’s Café for a *pre-ordered* lunch. If you wish to eat lunch at the Museum, please email Leslie Badaines [badainesl@aol.com](mailto:badainesl@aol.com)

After lunch, we will visit the Overlook and learn about Norris Dam and TVA from FFK member Ron Mayer. We’ll tour nearby Lenoir Museum, 2121 Norris Freeway, Norris, to see the early artifacts of East Tennessee, and enjoy a jam session at the museum. The day also includes a visit to the 18<sup>th</sup> century Rice Grist Mill.

Monday, Oct. 25—Great Smoky Mountains National Park

We’ve rented the Spence Cabin in the Elkmont Historic District of the GSMNP for the day where we’ll gather



for lunch and hear a talk about the Park and the Elkmont District. We’ll visit the Swimming

Hole, take an easy hike along the picturesque Little River Trail, and tour the renovated early 20<sup>th</sup> century cabins. We will have a *pre-ordered lunch* at the Spence Cabin. If you wish to order a lunch, email Leslie Badaines [badainesl@aol.com](mailto:badainesl@aol.com)

Tuesday, Oct. 26—Farewell Dinner, 6 p.m., Calhoun’s on the River, 400 Neyland Dr.,

**Knoxville. Reservations and payment required by Oct. 19.**

*Private Room With View:* We have reserved a private room on the second floor overlooking the Tennessee River. Access via stairs and an elevator. Calhoun’s will set up a few tables and chairs on our patio for those who wish to eat outdoors due to Covid concerns.

*Buffet Menu:* Pulled Pork Barbeque, Grilled Chicken, Cinnamon Apples, Creamed Corn, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Biscuits, Corn Muffins, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Iced Tea, Coffee, Water. There will be a cash bar.

*Cost:* \$30 per attendee.

To make a reservation:

\* Email Mike McDonough [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com) and let him know how many will attend.

\* Send a check payable to Friendship Force Knoxville to our club treasurer, Bruce Robinson, PO Box 53104 Knoxville, TN 37950.

**Remember the August 24th Meeting:  
Living in Prague**

The husband-and-wife team of John Schwartz and Vicki Ursitti lived in Prague for 5 months and gave a great presentation to around 20 FFK members on August 24th.



They focused their presentation on many of the natural historic areas and parks in the Czech Republic as well as their experiences with the people they encountered. They included photos on biking in Trebon including 14th-15th century fishponds, Czesky Raj - a Geopark with castles; Divoka Sarka - natural area in Prague; Pruhonice - castle park and Botanical Research Institute; and Grabovka Park.

**FFK Members Small Group Gatherings**

In the past, FFK has held a few small group dinners to get to know each other better, especially newer members.



Several of you volunteered to host a dinner and many of you chose to attend in spite of COVID. Care was taken to meet in small groups and/or outside and a good time was had by the participants.

The hosts included Diana Lopez, Jayne Raparelli & Mike McDonough, co-hosts Karen Swander & Leslie Badaines, Betsy Tonkin, Susana Navarro-Valenti, Susan Dakak, Fuad and Layla Mishu, Tom Mishu and Janis and Bruce Robinson (upcoming in October).

Photos of the gatherings will be on the FFK web site under *Photos/Other Club Photos*.

Thank you to all who took part in this activity!

**Travel/Friendship Quotations**

“Ah, September! You are the doorway to the season that awakens my soil.” Peggy Toney Horton

“As the traveler who has once been from home is wiser than he who has never left his own doorstep, so a knowledge of one other culture should sharpen our ability to scrutinize more steadily, to appreciate more lovingly, our own.” Margaret Mead

“All at once, summer collapsed into fall.” Oscar Wilde

“You will never be completely at home again because part of your heart always will be elsewhere. That is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place.” Miriam Adeney, American author

**Upcoming Dates—Mark your calendars**

**Virtual Board Meetings:**

- October 12, 2:00 p.m.
- November 9, 2:00 p.m.

NOTE: If you are interested in attending the virtual Board Meetings, please e-mail Diana Lopez ([dlopez@utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@utk.edu)) for the link.

**Upcoming FFK Virtual General Events (6:30 p.m. Social; 7:00 p.m. Program):**

- September 28: Napa Sonoma Journey shared by the FFK Ambassadors
- November 16: Officer elections & program TBA
- December 11: FFK 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Holiday Party

**\*\* Dinners for Inbound Ambassadors:**

- October 22: Welcome dinner for San Antonio inbound Ambassadors
- October 26: Farewell dinner for San Antonio inbound Ambassadors

\*\* See article on page 3 for information about events you may want to join and any reservations you may need to make for the San Antonio visit.

These dates and more are on the FFK *Calendar* web page.

**Club Officers & Chairs**

President:	Jayne Raparelli
Vice-President:	Betsy Tonkin
Secretary:	Barbara Elder
Treasurer:	Bruce Robinson
Past President:	Kaye Bultemeier
Newsletter Editor:	Janis Robinson
Webmasters:	Ray Simko & Jonathan Hash
Hospitality Chair:	Sandy Kehne
Program & Membership Co-chairs:	Betsy Tonkin & Helen Bachrach
Club Concerns:	Renee Ioannides
Journey Co-coordinators:	Diana Lopez & Leslie Badaines
Historian:	Jonathan Hash

Host & Ambassador Coordinators listed on the FFK *About Us* web page

