



## “Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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

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### Journey Overviews for 2022

Inbound Des Moines, IA .....	Apr. 20-25, 2022
Outbound Lower Columbia Club.....	Jun./Jul. 2022
Inbound St. Louis, MO.....	Sept. 2022
Outbound Australia:	
Gold Coast.....	Oct. 19-26
North Moreton.....	Oct. 26-Nov. 2
Outbound Romania .....	Cancelled
More Journeys coming!	



### Note from the President

I am grateful for the many Friendship Force of Knoxville members who helped us get through a difficult year, venture outward with not one, but two outbound domestic journeys, and host one inbound U.S. club. It takes many to make this club operate, the people you see as well as the folks behind the scenes who make things happen. Thank you!



The San Antonio ambassadors—nine from the San Antonio club, and two from Austin, Texas, enjoyed a five-day visit in October. They got a good feel of East Tennessee, from downtown

Knoxville to the Museum of Appalachia, Norris Dam, and Lenoir Museum, to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. You’ll get a chance to hear what it was like to host an ambassador at our November 16 general membership event.

Next month we will gather in person at the December 11<sup>th</sup> Holiday Event which will pay tribute to FFK’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I hope to see many of you there at the Highland Point Clubhouse.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
*Jayne Raparelli*, President



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**Dues for 2022 are due  
by Dec. 31, 2021**

It is time to renew your Friendship Force Knoxville membership for 2022. The 2022 dues are \$45/person and are due by Dec. 31, 2021. The \$5 increase over the 2020 dues are because of a \$5 increase in the Friendship Force International dues which are included in your membership. The renewal form can be found on the FFK web site under the "About Us" tab and then under the "READ, PRINT OR DOWNLOAD CLUB DOCUMENTS" heading. The second and third pages of the form are a survey of your interests.

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**FFK November 16th Event:  
Hosting San Antonians**



Join us for the FFK November Event! The first part of the evening's event is a very brief annual membership meeting, including election of officers. The slate of officers to be elected are:

- President: Jayne Raparelli
- Vice President: Betsy Tonkin
- Secretary: Mike McDonough
- Treasurer: Bruce Robinson

The Program Event will be by the FFK members who hosted ambassadors from the San Antonio Friendship Force Club sharing their recent experiences about showing the San Antonians a wonderful time in the Knoxville area and describing how an Inbound Journey works. This was our club's first Inbound Journey since 2019 with a theme of Mountains and Music.

**Topic:** FFK General Event: Hosting San Antonio  
**Date:** Tuesday, Nov 16, 2021  
**Time:** 06:30 PM Social, 7:00 PM Program

**Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/28f823k2>

**Meeting ID:** 814 4549 2307

**Passcode:** 579925

**Phone:** +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

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**FFK Holiday & 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event**

Join FFK for our first in-person meeting since early 2020! We will be celebrating the holidays and our club's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Information is provided below.

**Date:** Saturday, December 11, 2021

**Time:** Gather at 2:00p.m., Program at 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Highland Point Clubhouse

7912 High Heath, Knoxville, TN 37919

Off Westland Drive

**Please RSVP to:**

Sandy Kehne

Email: [sbkehne@gmail.com](mailto:sbkehne@gmail.com)

Finger food will be provided as well as wine and other beverages.

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**Coordinator for Lower Columbia  
Approved: Barbara Elder**

Barbara Elder has been appointed as the Ambassador Coordinator for our journey to Lower Columbia. This region is located in Oregon and Washington as the Columbia River flows to the Pacific Ocean. Barbara and our host coordinator will be working on exact dates around the end of June.

If you are interested in going, contact Barbara, [barbara5448@bellsouth.net](mailto:barbara5448@bellsouth.net).

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## Member Profile: Meet Joanne & Al: Longtime, Active Members of Friendship Force

Joanne and Al joined FF Birmingham in 1991 upon learning that hosts were needed for a group from Russia. They hosted 3-4 times a year, for every exchange with the club. Al worked full time as an electrical engineer. Joanne had retired from PR work with hotels and theatre (publicity for pre-Broadway productions). Joanne led a trip to Australia and a journey to Russia and Siberia, a Discovery trip, both for the FFI headquarters in Atlanta. (Discovery trips visited countries where FF did not have clubs, with plans of establishing contacts in the country.)

In 1996, they moved to Knoxville, joined FFK and continued hosting. In addition, Joanne took on a leadership role, serving as president for two years and later for four more. She served as coordinator and co-coordinator for three Open World programs to Knoxville. She led an incoming exchange from Brazil and outgoing international exchanges: one to Japan and one to Ukraine and Poland. Joanne also served as coordinator for several domestic journeys for the club.

For four years, Joanne served as the Southeast Regional Rep for FFI. She planned and orchestrated a 3-day regional conference in Sevierville attended by FF members from AL, KY, GA, SC, and TN. As they made friends around the world, through travels with other clubs, Joanne and Al included participation in FFI Worldwide Conferences in their travel agenda, to Thailand, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Brazil, Germany, Dallas, and New Orleans.

Once Al retired, he joined Joanne on Discovery exchanges she led for FFI Atlanta, traveling to Cuba, India, Mongolia, Morocco, and Bermuda.

Joanne states that her favorite country was Japan: the people, the culture, and the food. Al's favorite

was Morocco for the desert, the food, and its art. They both enjoy music and theatre.



A quote from Joanne and Al: “As we enter our 31<sup>st</sup> year with Friendship Force, we look back at what we have learned over the years and the wonderful people with whom we exchanged lives, and we are thankful the organization is back to its original mission: A World of Friends is a World of Peace.”

Submitted by Helen Bachrach,  
Membership Committee

Editor's note: in the past, member travel between clubs was called an "exchange" and FFI changed the term to "journey" in recent years.

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## New COVID Policy for FFK

The board approved a new policy for protocols during this time of COVID. The previous one was approved only for the current year, and it appears that we still need to stay safe thru the coming year. In addition to the requirement of vaccination for all functions and masking at events, we are now asking both hosts and ambassadors to show results of a negative test within 3 days of the journey. The new policy reads:

For the health and safety of all members of FFK during this time of the COVID pandemic, the Journey Committee recommends the following protocols:

1. An FFK Ambassador on an outbound journey must be fully vaccinated against COVID including booster if recommended. Hosts for the journey must also be vaccinated. All ambassadors and hosts must provide a negative test result within three days of journey.
2. An FFK Host for in inbound journey must be fully vaccinated against COVID including booster if recommended. Ambassadors for the journey must also be vaccinated. All hosts and

ambassadors must provide a negative test result within three days of journey.

3. Masks must be worn at all times when out in public, at airports, in restaurants (unless actively eating), at meetings and all gatherings until such time as the CDC no longer recommends that masks be worn. The host and ambassador should agree as to the most comfortable protocol in the home.

4. FFK will comply with all recommendations that may be developed in the future by the CDC.

Effective Nov 9, 2021, for all journeys

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### FFI Journey Fee Change

The journey fee due to FFI has changed from a flat 'per journey' fee to a flat 'per night' fee. The fee will be set at \$25 USD per journey night regardless of accommodation type, ambassadors' origin, or the journey destination. There is no distinction between international and domestic journeys. This fee is in addition to the host club fee.

The change in the fee structure in the Journey Policies was approved by the Board. The deletion of our club's journey coordinator credit, *effective Jan. 1, 2023*, from the Journey Policies was approved by the Board.

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### Requests for Journeys in 2023

The journey coordinators have received the hosting availability form from FFI and will be completing the information before the deadline. We will request one inbound domestic journey and one inbound international journey during 2023. The form to request our outbound journeys will come in January. A poll will be sent to members to determine where you would like to go and why. That request will be due to FFI by the middle of March, and assignments will be made in early May.

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### Other Journey News

A big thank you went out to Leslie Badaines, Jayne Raparelli and Mike McDonough for their coordination of successful journeys in 2021 to Napa-Sonoma and San Antonio and inbound from San Antonio. In the midst of pandemic, they made it work and work well. Everyone involved had a wonderful time.

If you would like to get involved with the journeys either as ambassadors, overnight hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts, or in any other way, please contact the coordinator for that journey.

For the upcoming journeys, the details and contacts are:

**2022 Des Moines Inbound** – Apr 20-25. Journey #22509. Contact Mike McDonough, [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com).

**2022 Open World from Uzbekistan Inbound** – Aug. Contact Betsy Tonkin, [betst@mac.com](mailto:betst@mac.com).

**2022 St Louis, MO Inbound** – Sep. Journey #21162. Contact Phyllis Driver, [pndriver@comcast.net](mailto:pndriver@comcast.net).

**2022 Lower Columbia Outbound** – Late June. Journey #22637. Contact Barbara Elder, [barbara5448@bellsouth.net](mailto:barbara5448@bellsouth.net).

**2022 Australia Outbound** –Gold Coast, Oct 19-26; North Moreton, Oct 26-Nov 2. Journey #22408. Contact Leslie Badaines, [badainesl@aol.com](mailto:badainesl@aol.com).

*Leslie Badaines and Diana Lopez*  
Journey Co-coordinators

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### Romania Journey Cancelled for 2022

The journey to Romania originally scheduled for 2021 and postponed to 2022 has been cancelled. The situation in Romania is not likely to change soon, and the host coordinator says their club cannot accommodate a visit. We will request it again for 2023, if we still want to go and if it is assigned by FFI.



### Travel/Autumn Quotations

“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 anthropologist.

“If something is going to happen to me, I want to be there.” Albert Camus

“Travel is the answer. It doesn’t matter what the question is.” Anonymous

“Stop worrying about the potholes in the road and enjoy the journey.” Ray Bradbury

“There is no time to be bored in a world as beautiful as this.”

“I take to the open road. Healthy, free, the world before me.” Walt Whitman

### FFK T-Shirts for Sale

We have 5 Large Knoxville Friendship Force T-shirts to sell with our name and logo on the front and the Mountains and Music scene on the back. The cost is only \$10 for a good quality T-shirt.

To place an order, call Mike McDonough at 423-201-3181. First come, first served. They won't last long!



### Upcoming Dates—Mark your calendars!

#### Virtual Board Meetings:

- December: No Board meeting

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

- November 16: Officer elections & program on San Antonio: Inbound Journey

#### Upcoming FFK In-person Event

- December 11: FFK 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Holiday Party at the Highland Point Clubhouse; 7912 High Heath, Knoxville, TN 37919

#### TBD: Zoom? or In-person Event? Wait & see!

- January 25: FFK Ambassadors on Outbound Journey to San Antonio

### 2021 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 are listed on the FFK *About Us* web page