



# friendship force

KNOXVILLE

## “Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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

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### Journey Overviews

#### 2022

Inbound Des Moines, IA .....	April 20-25
Outbound Lower Columbia Club .....	July 6-11
Open World Uzbekistan .....	TBD
Inbound St. Louis, MO.....	September
Outbound Australia: .....	Gold Coast: Oct 19-26
.....	North Moreton: Oct 26-Nov 2

#### 2023

The FFK member survey results of the FFI 2023 Outbound Request Form are in! See Page 4 for details on the destinations we are requesting.

### Note from the President

I invite all FFK members to attend the Welcome and Farewell Dinners for the Greater Des Moines Friendship Force Club. Ten ambassadors are scheduled to arrive in Knoxville on April 20. Their journey begins with a potluck Welcome Dinner provided by our FFK members at the Cherokee Bluff Condominiums Clubhouse. During their stay, the ambassadors will experience the beauty and wonder of East Tennessee, including a walking tour of downtown Knoxville, and visits to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Norris Dam. On April 24, FFK will host a Farewell Dinner at Calhoun’s on the River. The ambassadors and their home hosts will share their experiences and memories. For more information, see article on page 2. **Note that reservations are required.**

We have more events slated for the spring. In May, we’re planning to hold an outdoor social gathering, possibly at a local park. This event will replace our monthly Zoom general membership meeting. It’s time to socialize with our fellow FFK members in person once again! Check future newsletters and your inbox for more information.

FFK reached out to the Western North Carolina Friendship Force club to plan a joint social event. We’ve scheduled a June 22 tour of the historic Shelton House and Gardens in Waynesville, North Carolina. (See article on page 4). This promises to be lots of fun.

Hope to see you soon!  
*Jayne Raparelli, President*

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## March 22 General Event: From Tagine Cooking to Camel Riding the Sahara: A Three-Week Journey Through Mysterious, Magical Morocco



Join Knoxville residents Rusha and Bert Sams as they experience a cooking school in Marrakech and then a two-week journey to Morocco's legendary cities. You'll be immersed in shopping the souks of Fez, touring movie sets in Ouarzazate, climbing the ancient structure of Ait Ben Haddou, and marveling at the blue city of Chefchouen. It's a colorful country steeped in tradition and rich with cultural places and practices.

**Date:** Tuesday, March. 22, 2022  
**Time:** 06:30 PM Social, 7:00 PM Program

**Link:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/uzd2t3kr>

**Meeting ID:** 819 2608 9957  
**Passcode:** 533413

**Dial** by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Find your local number:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kmAEiTGzh>

For all methods of entry, you will be put in the Waiting Room and Betsy Tonkin will let you in.

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## Farewell Dinner on the River with Greater Des Moines Guests

In order to keep our finances in the black for the Journey 22509 Farewell Dinner at Calhoun's on the River, *Sunday, April 24*, we need 30 people to attend and pay \$36. We know that our 10 Ambassadors and their 8 Hosts will be there, for a total of 18 attendees. This means we really need at least 12 more people to attend.

Please consider attending this wonderful dinner and hear about the Greater Des Moines, Iowa, inbound journey experiences. We will have a private dining room overlooking the Tennessee River with our very own cash bar. The dinner begins at 6 p.m.

Think about any relatives, friends, neighbors, or co-workers you know who might have an interest in joining our Friendship f Knoxville club and invite them to attend the dinner with you.

R.S.V.P. to Mike McDonough at 423-201-3181 or email him at [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com) by **April 11**.

Send your check (\$36 per person) payable to Friendship Force Knoxville no later than **April 18** to:

Bruce Robinson  
P.O. Box 53104or  
Knoxville, TN 37950

*Mike McDonough*, Host Coordinator

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## FFK Journey Information for 2022

Des Moines, Iowa will be visiting us during the Dogwood Arts Festival, April 20-25, 2022. Save the dates for our welcome dinner on April 20 at Cherokee Bluff Condominiums, and our farewell dinner at Calhoun's on April 24. The cost for the Calhoun's dinner is \$36. **We need 30 participants to break even, so consider inviting a non-member friend! This will be a good way to promote our club, and for prospective members to learn about Friendship Force Knoxville.**



Our first outbound visit of the year will be Journey #22637 to Lower Columbia, which encompasses the Columbia River Valley of Oregon and Washington states. Additional information on this journey #22637 was sent to members in early February. Ambassadors are picked up by the host club at the Portland, Oregon airport. **The dates for this journey are July 6- 11, 2022;** the cost, including fees to FFI totals \$425. Among the activities offered are a Steamboat ride down the Columbia River Gorge, a trip to Mount St. Helens, a trip to the Oregon coast, and a visit to Columbia Valley wineries.

Openings for this trip are available. Final payment is to be made by May 1. If interested, contact Barbara Elder by March 31. ([Barbara5448@bellsouth.net](mailto:Barbara5448@bellsouth.net)).

Further into 2022, we will be hosting a group from Friendship Force St. Louis. This journey will occur in September. Phyllis Driver is working with the St. Louis club on finalizing the dates. If you would like to host, please contact Phyllis ([pndriver@comcast.net](mailto:pndriver@comcast.net)).

### **AUSTRALIA IS OPEN TO VISITORS!!**

Plans are underway for our first International Journey since 2018. (Journey #22408) Our club will be visiting Australia from October 19-November 2, 2022. Australia currently requires a passport within no less than 6 months before expiration, a visitor's visa, and all visitors to have an authorized PCR test result within 3 days of arrival.

Our host clubs of Gold Coast and North Moreton are in Queensland. Please contact Leslie Badaines ([badainesL@aol.com](mailto:badainesL@aol.com)) if you are interested in this exciting opportunity.

Note: Per FFK policy all club members and our hosts are required to be fully vaccinated and boosted. Our club members must also show proof of a negative covid test 3 days prior to the start of a journey, whether inbound or outbound.

### **RESULTS OF 2023 MEMBER SURVEY**

The survey results of the FFI 2023 Outbound Request Form are in. We are requesting the following countries:

1. Sweden,
2. Canada,
3. United Kingdom.

*Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator*

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## Joint Meeting with FF Western North Carolina



**What:** Joint Meeting between FF Knoxville and FF Western North Carolina

**When:** Wednesday, June 22 Joint Tour and Social

**Where:** The Shelton House, Waynesville, NC

<https://sheltonhouse.org/shelton-house/>

Plan now to meet in Waynesville for a private tour of the historic Shelton House Museum and Gardens, and feast on an upscale luncheon in the event barn on the premises. *We'll have the whole place to ourselves!*

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to meet (or meet again) our nearby neighbors. You might even be related! We'll soak in the ambience of yesteryear and be treated to good food and music.

The tour costs \$7 per person. Depending how fancy, lunch will probably be about \$20 per person.

If you'd like to book a hotel instead of driving back home, FFK member Marsha Mitchell [globalmarsha@gmail.com](mailto:globalmarsha@gmail.com) can offer suggestions, including a motel in Maggie Valley that's offering a 10% discount to Friendship Force members. We'll have breakfast on June 23 at the famous Joey's Pancake House in Maggie Valley.

**Please save the date and reply to FFK member Marsha Mitchell [globalmarsha@gmail.com](mailto:globalmarsha@gmail.com)** if you think you will attend. We'd like to get an idea of the number of guests for the benefit of the caterer and staff.

Hope to hear you'll plan to join us.

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## Memories: FFK Journey to Ukraine



Friendship Force Knoxville has connected over the years with many communities around the world, including several in Ukraine. FFK hosted an inbound exchange/journey in September 2002 from Lugansk, Ukraine. In 2009, FFK members visited Kyiv and Lviv, Ukraine in an outbound exchange/journey. All of these communities are now in the midst of strife and worldwide news.

The 2002 inbound exchange was from what is now known as Luhansk (in Russian, Lugansk), a city in eastern Ukraine, in the now-disputed Donbas region. Knoxville's then Mayor Victor Ashe welcomed the six ambassadors from Lugansk who were hosted in the homes of four FFK members – John Brown, Guenter & Lotte Heinrich, Byrl & Fritzie Logan, and Tom & Eleanor Bush. Activities included a club picnic, a visit to Dollywood, a mayor's reception, a dinner at Club LeConte, and a farewell dinner at the home of Fuad & Layla Mishu. [Note: Luhansk is currently the capital of the Luhansk People's Republic, a separate state established in 2014 by pro-Russian separatists.]

In 2009, five members of FFK, Joanne & Al Schuetz, Phyllis & Eli Driver, and Nancy Schowalter, participated in an outbound journey to Kyiv and Lviv with a group of 24 ambassadors from around the U.S., England, and Canada. Joanne was coordinator of this journey. They all have fond memories of this special trip and the families with whom they stayed in Kyiv. Phyllis and Eli have stayed in touch

(continued on next page)

periodically with the young family who hosted them and who have since moved to Australia. Nancy has primarily kept up with Kylinka, who was 12 when she stayed with the Kurocha family. Her last contact with Kylinka was about two weeks ago, at which time her plan was to get to France. Joanne reports that the organizer of the Kyiv exchange has moved to Canada, and friends of the Schuetz in Lviv have had to leave their homes. The FFK ambassadors’ time in Kyiv included visits to important public museums, memorials, squares with historic statues, a monastery founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and cultural experiences such as a fantastic folk music and dancing event, a school visit where children performed, a BBQ at a dacha in the countryside and other opportunities to try interesting food. They also spent several days in Lviv and had a tour of its downtown built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, enjoying this beautiful very Ukrainian city. Although Lviv is not a member of FFI, Joanne arranged this personal visit through her friends in New York City.

Our hearts are with the friends made with both exchanges. We hope they and their families are safe.

*Betsy Tonkin, VP Membership*

 <p>Nancy Schowalter &amp; her sister-in-law with their hosts, the Kurocha family.</p>	 <p>Women in traditional Ukrainian attire.</p>	 <p>Mayor Victor Ashe presenting FF Lugansk exchange director Inna Goryankikova with Certificate of Honorary Citizen of Knoxville</p>
 <p>This plaque with photo of Kyiv was given to Phyllis by the Kyiv Friendship Force club. Note: she has given it to the club to put in the historical records of FFK.</p>	 <p>FFK ambassadors visited this Babi Yar Memorial in memory of the massacre of 33,000 Jews in 1941. This memorial has been recently in the news as the area around it had been bombed by the Russians.</p>	 <p>Phyllis Driver wearing T-shirt from Friendship Force Kyiv</p>

**NYT Article on Travel**

The New York Times had an article in their Feb 5th edition by Melissa Kirsch about why we travel. Her words, “We travel not just to escape, but to find novelty, new heights and new sensations.” may hit home for many of us who are starting to travel, again. The article describes her re-discovery of the fun of seeing and doing new things ... through travel. “Small moments of noticing small things, new or forgotten sensations that provoke new or forgotten thoughts — you don’t have to travel very far or very high to experience them. Thanks to Karen Setzfand for sending this article and you can see it at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/05/briefing/covid-travel-weekend-culture.html>

### Travel/Friendship Quotations

“Perhaps there is a language which is not made of words and everyone in the world understands it.” Frances Hodgson Burnett

*Note from Editor: Perhaps that language is friendship.*

“I love to travel. Don’t you love that feeling when your first waking thought is, “Oh, yeah ... I’m going somewhere today!?” Travel.Quotes

“If you never go, you will never know” Anonymous

“There is a kind of magicness about going far away and then coming back all changed.” Kate Douglas Wiggin, American educator, children’s book author, and composer

“If you wish to travel far and fast, travel light. Take off all your envies, jealousies, unforgiveness, selfishness and fears.” Cesare Pavese

“Love will find a way. Indifference will find an excuse.” Ukrainian Proverb



#### Upcoming Dates—Mark your calendars

**Virtual Board Meetings** (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.)

April 12                      June 14  
May 10                         July 12

NOTE: If you are interested in attending the virtual Board Meetings, please e-mail Betsy Tonkin ([betst@mac.com](mailto:betst@mac.com)) for the Zoom link.

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

- Mar. 22: Rusha & Bert Sams, From Tagine Cooking to Camel Riding the Sahara
- Apr. 20: Welcome dinner for Des Moines Club
- May TBD: Outdoor Social for FFK Members (in person)
- June 22: Joint Tour & Social with FF Western North Carolina (in person)

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

#### Club Officers & Chairs

- President: ..... Jayne Raparelli
- Vice President: ..... Betsy Tonkin
- Secretary: ..... Mike McDonough
- Treasurer: ..... Bruce Robinson
- Membership Chair: ..... Betsy Tonkin
- Program Chair: ..... Marsha Mitchell
- Communications Chair: ..... Janis Robinson
- Webmaster: ..... Ray Simko
- Newsletter Editor: ..... Janis Robinson
- Journey Coordinator: ..... Leslie Badaines
- Immediate Past Journey Coordinator:  
..... Diana Lopez
- Hospitality Chair: ..... Sandy Kehne
- Club Concerns: ..... Renee Ioannides
- Historian: ..... Jonathan Hash

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