



“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

FFK Website: www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org

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In This Issue

Note from the President.....	1
FFK Facebook Page	2
Farewell Dinner for FF Greater Des Moines.....	2
FFK Social May 24	2
FFK Journey Information for 2022	3
Road Trip! With FF Western North Carolina	4
FFI Seeking Volunteers	5
Magical Morocco on March 22	5
Member Profile: Phyllis & Ely Driver	6
Travel/Friendship Quotations.....	7
Upcoming Dates--Mark Your Calendar	7
FFK Club Officers& Chairs	7

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 17-22
Outbound Australia:	Gold Coast: Oct 19-26
.....	North Moreton: Oct 26-Nov 2



Note from the President

April, May, June, and July are filled with social events, and inbound and outbound journeys. I invite you to participate in as many as you can. Take a look at what’s planned:

- **April 20:** Welcome Dinner for the inbound Greater Des Moines club, 6 p.m. at the Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse.
- **April 20-25:** Ambassadors from the Greater Des Moines Friendship Force Club will be treated to East Tennessee hospitality during the Dogwoods Arts Festival by our home hosts, day hosts, and dinner hosts. Ambassadors will explore downtown Knoxville, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Norris Dam State Park. A free day provides an opportunity to visit more places.
- **May 24:** Lunch gathering at Suttree Landing Park in South Knoxville overlooking the Tennessee River. See article on page 2.
- **June 22:** Private tour and lunch at historic Shelton House Museum and Gardens in Waynesville, N.C. Reservations are required. See article on page 4.
- **July 6-11:** Outbound journey to Lower Columbia. See article on page 3.

I look forward to these activities and journeys with the anticipation of more to come.

Jayne Raparelli, President

Friendship Force of Knoxville now has its own Facebook page! Friendship Force of Knoxville

Become a friend! You'll see upcoming journeys listed and pictures from past journeys. Thanks to FFK member Leslie Badaines for creating our club's page.

Farewell Dinner on the River with Greater Des Moines Guests

Come hear about the Greater Des Moines, Iowa, journey experience to Knoxville at the Sunday, April 24 Farewell Dinner at Calhoun's on the River.

The event will take place at 6 pm in our own private dining room overlooking the Tennessee River with our own cash bar.

Think about any relatives, friends, neighbors, or co-workers you know who might have an interest in joining our Friendship Force of 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 by **April 18**.

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

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

Mike McDonough, Host Coordinator

FFK Social May 24

On Tuesday, May 24, FFK invites you to a social from 1-4 p.m. at Suttree Landing Park. We'll enjoy a late lunch together, and the Club will provide a light entree. Kindly bring either a simple summer salad, side dish or dessert to share, and please bring your own beverage (non-alcoholic). We have reserved the pavilion with six picnic tables, which is near a greenway along the river. Wear your walking shoes!

The Park is close to the South Knoxville bridge, on the west side, at 1001 Waterfront Drive SE, Knoxville 37920. Hope to see you there!

Please RSVP by May 20 to: Gail Tyson
dgmtyson@bellsouth.net



For directions and more information, see: [Suttree Landing Park - City of Knoxville \(knoxvilletn.gov\)](http://knoxvilletn.gov)

FFK Journey Information for 2022

We are eagerly awaiting the visit of 10 Ambassadors from Des Moines, Iowa. Many of our members will be continuing friendships made from our club's journey to Des Moines in August of 2019; others will be creating new ones. Many thanks to Mike McDonough, his committee members, and to all those who are helping with the welcome dinner, small dinners, and the numerous daily activities.

Our first outgoing visit of the year will be Journey #22637 to Lower Columbia. Barbara Elder is the Ambassador Coordinator for this July 6-11 journey. Information about this journey was sent to members in early February. 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. There is still room for one more participant, so contact Barbara ASAP if interested. (Barbara5448@bellsouth.net). Final payment to be made by May 1.

Further into 2022, we will be hosting a group from Friendship Force St. Louis. This journey will occur September 17-22. Phyllis Driver is the host coordinator. If you would like to host, please contact Phyllis (pndriver@comcast.net).

In October we expect to host several judges from Uzbekistan through the Open World Program. Details are still being finalized. Please contact Betsy Tonkin (betst@mac.com) if you are interested in hosting or assisting.

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 be fully vaccinated. Masks are required by Australia on all incoming international flights. The US is currently requiring a negative covid 19 test prior to return to the USA.

Our host clubs of Gold Coast and North Moreton are in Queensland. Here is some additional information on the two host clubs:

Gold Coast

The Shoreline of Gold Coast stretches for 37 miles along the Pacific Ocean, featuring some of the best surfing beaches in Australia. With names like Surfers Paradise, Broadbeach, Palm Beach and Mermaid Beach, visions of glistening white sands, rolling surf and gently swaying palms spring to mind – and that's exactly how it is.

The Gold Coast is recognized as the Holiday Capital of Australia. Last year, approximately four million visitors came to spend some time there. And why wouldn't they? When you consider the sub-tropical climate, with an average of 7.5 hours of sunshine every day of the year, and a temperature ranging from 75 F to 82 F in October and November.

North Moreton

Beautiful beaches, scenic mountains, lakes, rainforest walks, boutique wineries, kangaroos on the doorstep. North Moreton is just north of Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, Australia. As you head north for the Sunshine Coast, you pass through our North Moreton district. It encompasses the regions of Caboolture, Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Bribie Island, now known as The Moreton Bay Region. It is an area rich in culture and history. Redcliffe was the first settlement in Queensland and was once a penal colony. Enjoy a barbeque on the shores of Pumicestone Passage as the sun sinks down behind the Glasshouse Mountains.

Watch the kangaroos as they hop along the beach. Marvel at the calls of the whip birds as we walk through the rainforest. Get close to a koala at the fabulous Australia Zoo, the creation of legendary Crocodile Man, Steve Irwin. Walk with us along some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. A warm sub-tropical climate offers comfortable living throughout the year.

Ambassadors will enjoy the chance to walk through the rainforest near the Glasshouse Mountains or walk on the beaches of Bribie Island. They can cruise up Pumicestone Passage or along the Brisbane River or enjoy a barbecue at sunset as the kangaroos hop nearby or visit Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo.

Please contact Leslie Badaines (badainesL@aol.com) if you are interested in this exciting opportunity. A pre-stay in Sydney (at our own cost), will be an option for those interested.



Note: Per FFK policy all club members and our hosts are required to be fully vaccinated and boosted to travel. Our club members must also show proof of a negative covid test.

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

Road Trip!!! We're meeting our NC friends at The Shelton House, Waynesville, NC on June 22, 2022! 🚗 🚌 🚘



The Western NC Friendship Force Club will join us in Waynesville and, beginning at 10 AM, we'll be escorted on a private tour of the historic Shelton House Museum and Gardens: <https://sheltonhouse.org/shelton-house/>. Around noon we'll stroll to the "event barn" where a musician will be playing and fancy tables will be set for a luncheon of chicken salad sandwiches, additional salads, and dessert. (Vegetarians- you may substitute egg salad if you like.) During lunch we will have plenty of time to socialize with each other and our NC friends.

The cost for the tour, table setting and lunch is \$30 per person, but the Club is picking up \$10 of your cost! You will pay only \$20! Quite a bargain! *We want you to see you there!*

Please RSVP, *as soon as possible*, to FFK member Marsha Mitchell, globalmarsha@gmail.com, or call 865-335-3875.

If you'd like to book a hotel instead of driving back home afterwards, Marsha will offer suggestions, including a motel in Maggie Valley that's offering a 10% discount to Friendship Force members, but you must hurry. You can join the overnights for breakfast at the famous Joey's Pancake House in Maggie Valley in the morning. *It's the best!*

Don't miss out on the fun! Hit the road! Meet new folks! Make new friends!

FFI Seeks Volunteers to help with Online English Conversation Class



At the request of many members in non-English speaking countries, FFI is starting to offer online Conversational English classes. As part of their curriculum, the students will be going to chat rooms where they will practice their conversation. The classes will meet once a week for eight weeks. Most of the students signed up so far are Japanese. The teacher has asked for English speaking volunteers to help by participating in those chat rooms to help with conversations. **The volunteers would have no teaching responsibilities.** They would just be there to help things along. Please let Rob Kilpatrick, the FFI Southeast Region Coordinator (rocrob2020@mac.com) know if you are interested in helping with this effort.

Magical Morocco at our March 22nd General Event

Fifteen FFK members attended the Zoom meeting on March 22 and enjoyed the presentation by Rusha and Bert Sams. Rusha's experience at a cooking school in Marrakech and then their two-week journey to Morocco's legendary cities were featured. We saw shopping in 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. Many thanks to Rusha and Bert for a wonderful evening. Check out their blog at <http://ohtheplaceswesees.com> and if you want to watch the recording of the meeting, use the following link and password:

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/4jt62t6w>

Passcode: 0Zrr@Cw8 (the first character is a zero)



The video will be available until April 22nd.

Member Profile: Phyllis & Ely Driver

Phyllis and Ely Driver joined Friendship Force Knoxville in 2007 after they both retired. Phyllis taught accounting for 30 years at Carson Newman University. Ely was with TVA, the director of the Engineering Lab in Norris, and, after retirement, also taught at Pellissippi State Community College.



Ron and Jean Mayer introduced the Drivers to FFK, but they were both interested in cultural exchange and world travel long before that, in no small part due to their participation in 14 Rotary Club international conventions and hosting of guests through the Rotary Club from many other countries. They have traveled to 55 countries and all the States in the US. Among their most interesting experiences abroad were team teaching the basics of business in ZhengZhou, China in 1994, lecturing in Azerbaijan, visiting Angkor Wat, Cambodia, riding an elephant in Thailand, and experiencing the most powerful waterfalls in the world - Iguazu Falls (on the border between Brazil and Argentina) – in a boat under the falls and hiking down beside the falls in flip-flops!

Since joining FFK, Phyllis and Ely have participated in outbound journeys to Ukraine, Poland and Charlotte, NC. They have hosted Open World delegates - educators and doctors from Russia and teachers and students from Indonesia. They share a wide range of interests beyond travel including the opera, classical music, theater and reading.



Phyllis' Collection of Eggs from Around the World

Travel/Friendship Quotations

“It is better to see something once, than to hear about it a thousand times.” Asian Proverb

“The gladdest moment in human life is a departure into unknown lands.” Sir Richard Burton.

“Life was meant for great adventures and close friends.” Unknown

“A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles.” Tim Cahill.

“I have found out that there ain’t no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them.” Mark Twain

“A good friend listens to your adventures. Your best friend makes them with you.” Unknown



Upcoming Dates—Mark your calendars

Virtual Board Meetings (2nd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.)

May 10	June 14
July 12	August 9

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

Upcoming FFK General Events (all are in person):

- Apr. 20: Welcome dinner for Des Moines Club
- Apr. 24: Farewell dinner for Des Moines Club
- May 24: Outdoor Social for FFK Members
- June 22: Joint Tour & Social with FF Western North Carolina

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.