



“A world of friends is a world of peace”

FFK Website: www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org

Volume 23, No. 6

June 2022

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Journey Overviews

2022

Outbound Lower ColumbiaJuly 6-11
 Open World Uzbekistan..... October 7-15
 Outbound Australia: Gold Coast: Oct 19-26
 North Moreton: Oct 26-Nov 2

2023

Inbound Western ColoradoApril 23-29
 Outbound Western ColoradoJune 10-16

Note from the President

Friendship Force Knoxville members have been busy!

Last month, 18 FFK members attended a picnic at Suttree Landing Park in South Knoxville. The food was awesome! We got to meet in person and enjoy the delicious side dishes, appetizers, and desserts that members brought to accompany the food purchased by the Club. Thanks to the organizers, FFK members Marsha Mitchell and Gail Tyson. Phyllis Driver told us about a food packaging drive to benefit Ukrainian refugees in Poland. As a result, eight FFK members volunteered at the June 11 Operation INSOMUCH event and packaged over 500 meals!

On June 22, 30 members from FFK and the Western North Carolina Friendship Force club will meet for a tour and luncheon at the Historic Shelton House in Waynesville, North Carolina. It promises to be a lot of fun. Those staying overnight will enjoy dinner together that evening as well as breakfast the next morning. I look forward to seeing many of my fellow FFK members and meeting Western NC folks.

July—Spread the word about Friendship Force! This is your chance to invite people who might be curious about FFK. On July 26, we will return to our usual meeting place, the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville). We’ll have wine and cheese, and show a Rick Steves’ video, Why We Travel. We’ll welcome special guest, Rob Kilpatrick, volunteer Southeast Representative.

Here’s to a summer of friendships.



Photo: Leslie Badaines, Karen Swander, Joanne Hayden, Diana Lopez, Jayne Raparelli, Phyllis Driver, Sonja DuBois, Michael McDonough, Carolyn Dougall, Bill Cherry, Don Dougall at Suttree Landing Park

Jayne Raparelli, President

July 26 - Wine & Cheese Evening: A World of Friends is a World of Peace

Our July gathering will be a wonderful opportunity to introduce potential new members to Friendship Force! While enjoying wine and cheese board pairings, we will watch and discuss Rick Steves' short video "Why We Travel" that embodies the mission of Friendship Force. Rick Steves is a long-time friend of Friendship Force and has given us a free license to share his video. We will also welcome FFI Southeastern Representative Rob Kilpatrick who will bring us up to date on new developments with FFI. We will meet once again at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC), 2931 Kingston Pike at 6:30 p.m.

Now that traveling is again feasible, it is time to recruit new members! FFK will send an email to all members early in July with an invitation for the program that can be forwarded to friends and other prospective members.

While not required, members are asked to bring a bottle of wine to share. Also, please RSVP to betst@mac.com to ensure we have plenty of cheese pairings!

Please invite a friend to join us!

Betsy Tonkin, VP Membership

FFK Journey Information for 2022

Six FFK members, along with four members from clubs in Des Moines, Iowa, Huntsville, Alabama, and Lake Hartwell, Georgia, head to Portland, Oregon on July 6. We will be visiting FF Lower Columbia from July 6-11, and experiencing sites such as the Columbia River Gorge, Mount St. Helens, Fort Clapsop and the Lewis and Clark National Park, plus a local winery. The Knoxville participants will talk about the journey at the August General meeting.

Open World – we are still awaiting further information regarding Open World which is planned for October 7-15 of this year. Judges from Uzbekistan will be visiting us. Please contact Betsy Tonkin if you are willing to host or assist with this program.

Australia- Journey #22408, October 10-November 2, now has 12 Ambassadors, 4 from FFK and 8 from clubs in: Huntsville (1), San Antonio (1), Des Moines (3), Greater Atlanta (2), and Central North Carolina (1). Most are planning to go on our offered three-night pre-trip to Sydney prior to visiting two clubs in Queensland.

FFI assigned Journeys for 2023 - Unfortunately, FFI only assigned us one inbound Journey (Western Colorado), a mutual exchange that had been previously arranged between our two clubs. Our 3 top OUTBOUND choices: Sweden, United Kingdom and Canada were extremely popular and not available to us. After communicating with FFI, Leslie received an email from FFI Planning indicating that we would be assigned a club in Mexico (location, not yet divulged). We are awaiting the "It's a match" form for more details.

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

FFK Members Volunteer for Operation INASMUCH



Photo: Front L to R: Ron Mayer, Jean Mayer, Paulette Anderson, Leslie Badaines. Back L to R: Dave Ostermeier, Gary Anderson, Jayne Raparelli. Not pictured: Gail Tyson

On June 11, 8 members of FFK volunteered with Operation INASMUCH to pack meals for Ukrainian Refugees in Poland. Ron and Jean Mayer, Gary and Paulette Anderson, Dave Ostermeier, Gail Tyson, Jayne Raparelli and Leslie Badaines all donned hair coverings and gloves to pack over 500 meals that would head to Poland and hopefully, Lviv, Ukraine, which is close to the Polish border. Over 275,000 meals were packed by the many volunteers who participated.

The FFK effort was inspired and spirited by Phyllis Driver who mentioned at the May FFK picnic that her Rotary club was participating in the event. Phyllis and Ely Driver had joined in a Friendship Force Journey to Ukraine several years ago.

FFI Testing New Website



**my
friendship force**

A beta version of the new Friendship Force International website is available (<https://friendshipforce.org/>) for all to use and review. There is a link to report any problems you find so we all have a chance to make it better. The new website will require members to sign into their account to see Journey information as well as access other resources.

THIS WILL BECOME THE OFFICIAL FFI WEBSITE so act now to create your basic account with FFI.

To sign up, connect to:

<https://friendshipforce.org/>

then click the MEMBER LOGIN button towards the upper right of the page. This will take you to another page where you can either login if you have an account or create one by clicking the SIGN-UP button below the login fields.

Each person must use their own e-mail address so a couple who is sharing e-mail will need to have separate e-mail addresses. The only information needed to register is your name, club and e-mail. Additional information is available for you to complete if you want to. When you sign up you must agree to the FFI Code of Conduct which is available for you to read from FFI.

Please join!

Journey with Another Club: Spokane



Photo: Manito Park with Diana, Larry, Tom, Susan, Peggy, Lory

Ever felt like you wouldn't be accepted in a crowd? Not one of "them" because you didn't belong? Well, not with a Friendship Force (FF) club! The Western North Carolina FF took me into their fold as soon as I met a few of them for breakfast in Atlanta on our way to Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho. Actually, it started before that with emails, welcoming me to the group, keeping me informed of what was going on, what flight individuals were taking, etc. While in Washington and Idaho, I

had to keep reminding others that I was from Tennessee. They assumed that we were all from the same club. There was one other couple from Iowa who had also joined us, but they had been to Asheville and knew many of the members already.

The journey was wonderful! This was a part of the U.S. I had never seen and so different from the west coast of Washington. I had heard that it is dryer (we had rain only one of the six days we were there, and that was simply a sprinkle), there are mountains surrounding us, but Spokane is in the valley, very similar to Knoxville. The mountains were all pines, however, no deciduous trees. It was 10° cooler than normal for this time of year, so most of us were in at least 4 layers of clothes. That didn't stop us from getting out in the nature. There were state parks, city parks, historic towns surrounding Spokane. Wallace, ID, has been declared the Center of the Universe (the mayor said so, and no one has disputed it!) It is also a silver mining town, and we went down into one of the mines to learn about silver mining. Coeur d'Alene is a beautiful resort town on the lake. We took a boat cruise around the lake to see the mansions and cottages.



Photo Riverside State Park

At Riverside State Park, we learned more from a park ranger about the Ponderosa pine trees and the resilience of the forest to take care of itself. The views from our hike were spectacular. Downtown Spokane is beautiful with a waterfall running right down the middle of the city. They've done a marvelous job of repurposing their 1974 World's Fair site with a playground for the kids, a carousel, a skatepark/ice rink, and a gondola ride over the falls. An old art deco hotel, the Davenport, is gorgeous, and the Fox Theatre, also art deco, has been completely refurbished and now houses the symphony orchestra.



Photo: Friends for Life, Lory, Gidget & Diana

And as usual with Friendship Force journeys, we had a welcome dinner at a BBQ restaurant, small group dinners with other members, a second home dinner divided between two members, and a potluck farewell dinner with many of their members. Everyone was so welcoming that I felt like I belonged.

And by the way, Spokane is pronounced Spo-Can, not Spo-Cane! You will be corrected every time!

Diana Lopez, FFK Ambassador to Spokane

Travel/Friendship Quotations

“It’s a funny thing coming home. Nothing changes. Everything looks the same, feels the same, even smells, the same. You realize what’s changed, is you.” #travelquotes

“When overseas, you learn more about your own country then you do the place you’re visiting.” Clint Borgen

“Live life with no excuses, travel with no regret.” Oscar Wilde

“The more we travel, the more we realize that fear makes strangers of people who should be friends.” Unite Strangers

“Where I was born and where and how I have lived is unimportant. It is what I have done with where I have been that should be of interest.” Georgia O’Keeffe

“I followed my heart and it led me to the airport.” The Bucket List Vagabond

“We travel not to escape life but for life to not escape us.” Unknown

Upcoming Dates–Mark your calendars

Virtual Board Meetings (2nd Tues, 2:00 p.m.)
July 12 August 9 September 13

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):

- June 22: Joint Tour & Social with FF Western North Carolina
- July 26: In-person meeting at TVUUC! Bring a friend!
- August 23: FFK Ambassadors on Journey to Lower Columbia

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