



# friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“A world of friends is a world of peace”

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

FFI Website: <https://friendshipforce.org/>

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### Journey Overviews

#### 2022

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

#### 2023

Inbound Western Colorado .....	April 23-29
Outbound Western Colorado.....	June 11-17

## Note from the President

### *No Meeting in July*



The Friendship Force Knoxville Board of Directors has postponed the July 26 meeting. The wine and cheese evening at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church was intended to introduce potential new members to Friendship Force. We had planned to show a Rick Steves’ video, “Why We Travel” that embodies the mission of Friendship Force, as well as welcome Friendship Force International Southeast Field Representative, Rob Kilpatrick. The CDC recently raised the Knox

County Covid risk level from low to medium. As a result of the increased risk, TVUUC requires masks to be worn indoors, and prohibits food and drink inside the building. We hope to reschedule at a later date.

### *Outbound Journey to Lower Columbia—a wonderful experience*

Five FFK members just returned from a journey to the Pacific Northwest where the Lower Columbia Friendship Force club hosted us. Thanks to Barbara Elder who did an excellent job coordinating the July 6-11 journey. The other FFK ambassadors were Jean and Ron Mayer, Jayne Raparelli and Mike McDonough. We were joined by four members from clubs in Des Moines, Iowa, Huntsville, Alabama, and Lake Hartwell, Georgia. We cruised the Columbia River, visited Longview and Castle Rock, Washington, Crown Point State Park, Fort Clatsop, the Oregon coast, and the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. We enjoyed getting to know the Lower Columbia folks and our fellow ambassadors. We will share much more about this journey at the August FFK meeting.

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### New Member Profile: Gail Tyson

Gail Tyson joined Friendship Force Knoxville in September 2021, shortly after she moved to Knoxville from Atlanta. She grew up in Philadelphia, lived in Palo Alto, California while earning her master's degree in creative writing at Stanford. She later lived in West Berlin, Germany and New Orleans before moving to Atlanta in the mid-90s. Most of her career before retiring in 2021 was in marketing, primarily for colleges and universities. In Knoxville, Gail joined the Board of the Flying Anvil Theater and became actively involved in the Knoxville Writer's Guild. Bill Cherry introduced her to Friendship Force where she is an active member of the Program Committee.

Her interests are writing, travel, theater, reading, art, biking and hiking. Many of her most interesting travels have been hiking trips in Europe, including in Wales, Provence, Northern Ireland, and the Italian Lakes Region.

*Betsy Tonkin, VP Membership*

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### FFK Journey Information for 2022

Nine Ambassadors just returned from a Journey to Lower Columbia. Kudos to Barbara Elder for coordinating this successful Journey!

The visit from Open World Uzbekistan Judges is still scheduled for October 7-15, 2022. Contact Betsy Tonkin if you are willing to assist. (betst@mac.com).



Our Australia Journey (#22408) is October 19 - November 2, 2022. This Journey has been featured in this month's FFI Journeys Catalogue. We have openings for 2 more Ambassadors. Please contact Leslie Badaines if interested. (BadainesL@aol.com)

We received the "it's a match" form for an incoming visit from FF Western Colorado (Journey #23166). The visit is tentatively planned for April 23-29, 2023. A coordinator, or co-coordinators, for this Journey are needed. Please contact Leslie Badaines if interested. (BadainesL@aol.com)

We will be visiting FF Western Colorado Journey # 23192 in June of 2023. Our mutual exchange to this Grand Junction area club is tentatively scheduled from June 11, 2023, to June 17, 2023. FFWC can accommodate 15 Ambassadors, with a minimum of 10. A coordinator, or co-coordinators, for this Journey are needed. Please contact Leslie Badaines if interested. (BadainesL@aol.com)

We are also hoping to receive an invitation to a Friendship Force club in Mexico for 2023 and are awaiting this assignment.

*Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator*

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## Check Your Passport Renewal Dates!

Travel is picking up speed and it would be a good idea to check your passport to be sure it doesn't need to be renewed. The 26 European nations in the Schengen Accord require that a passport be valid for at least three months past your date of departure. Many other countries will not allow you to cross their borders or board an airplane to fly there unless your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your intended date of departure. Maybe you don't have specific travel plans now that require a passport but why not be ready?

You can pick up Passport Renewal forms at the Post Office or print them from online. If you want assistance filling them out, you will need an appointment at the main USPS location to speak to someone at their passport counter but you can also complete them and ask questions at the general counter. It is a good idea to request the expedited service but it still may take several weeks to get your new passports. You will also have to send your old passports with your renewal forms so you can't travel abroad until the new ones come back. A new photo will be required which can be obtained at the USPS as well. The photo service is offered at other places like the Knox County Office, Fed-Ex, even Walmart or CVS and Walgreens.



More specific information can be found:

U.S. Postal Service: <https://www.usps.com/international/passports.htm>

State Department: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/have-passport/renew.html>

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## FFK Journey to the Lower Columbia FF Club

Outbound Ambassadors for the Lower Columbia Friendship Force club returned after having a great time with their hosts. Hear all about their journey adventures at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> FFK meeting.

FFK Members in the photo are:

- Barbara Elder, Journey Coordinator
- Jean and Ron Mayer,
- Jayne Raparelli and Mike McDonough.
- They were joined by members from clubs in Des Moines, Iowa, Huntsville, Alabama, and Lake Hartwell, Georgia.



**Joint Meeting with FF WNC  
At The Shelton House, Waynesville, NC  
Great Visit! Great Fun! Good Eats!**

What began as an idea in Leslie Badaines' head for a joint meeting with FF Western North Carolina resulted in a lively and collegial event in Waynesville, NC. FFK Program Chairman Marsha Mitchell along with Harriet Hilton of the WNC Club arranged for the gathering to take place at the historic Shelton House in Waynesville, built in 1875, which included a guided tour of the main house and museum collection, a tour of the lower barn featuring medical and agricultural antiques, and a catered lunch in the upstairs with harp music and vocalists. Fifteen members from each club attended and all made new friends. Presidents from both clubs- Jayne Raparelli and Susan Harvey- made welcoming remarks and summarized a few of their clubs' respective past programs and events.



Photo 2 The whole group at lunch



Photo 3 Presidents Susan Harvey (FFWNC) & Jayne Raparelli (FFK)

Several members spent the quaint Route 19 Inn in on the creek and enjoyed eateries- dinner at the Haywood Smokehouse in Pancakes in Maggie Valley. Not only was the food superb.

To say that this meeting was a success is an repeat. Abingdon, anyone?



night at the Maggie Valley delicious food at two famous Waynesville and breakfast at Joey's memorable, the conversation was understatement. Everyone wants a

Photo 1 Leslie Badaines & Sonja DuBois

*Marsha Mitchell, Program Chair*

**Travel/Friendship Quotations**



“We meet no ordinary people in our lives.” C.S. Lewis

“When the world is so complicated, the simple gift of friendship is within all of our hands.” Maria Shriver

“Best friends are the people in your life who make you laugh louder, smile brighter and live better.” Unknown

“How lovely this world is, really: one simply has to look.” Joyce Carol Oates

“Best friends are never apart, maybe in distance but never in heart.” Unknown

“Looking at your best friend and saying, ‘I’ll do it if you do it.’ “

“The great thing about new friends is that they bring new energy to your soul.” Shanna Rodriguez



**Upcoming Dates–Mark your calendar**

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

August 9      September 13      October 11

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:**

- July 26: ..... Postponed until further notice
- August 23: ..... Lower Columbia Journey

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