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**2023 Journey Overview**

Inbound Western CO .....	April 23-29
Outbound Western CO.....	June 11-17
Inbound Eastern WA .....	September 13-18
Outbound Tuxla-Gutierrez, MX .....	November 1-8
Further details on page 3	

**Club Website:** [www.friendshipforceknoxville.org](http://www.friendshipforceknoxville.org)  
**My Friendship Force:** <https://my.friendshipforce.org>  
**FFK on Facebook:** Friendship Force of Knoxville

**FFK February 28<sup>th</sup> Event: Dr. Gretchen Neisler**



If you love international travel and/or learning about global challenges, look no further than our beloved university to find like-minded, sure ‘nuff experts. Chief among these is **Dr. Gretchen Neisler**, Vice Provost for International Affairs and the Director of the Center for Global Engagement at UT, who’s knowledgeable (*brainy*), experienced (*well-traveled*), and truly excited about meeting us!

Dr. Neisler will be sharing her thoughts on the role of international education in a post pandemic world. This is your chance to hear first-hand about the Center’s recently announced strategic global vision. *Fascinating!*

Don’t miss this opportunity to interact with a Vice Provost! She will satisfy our thirst for knowledge and suggest practical solutions to global problems. *I’m all in!*

*Marsha Mitchell*, Program Chair

**Date:** Tuesday, February 28

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.-Social; 7:00 p.m.-Program

**Place:** TVUUC, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church  
2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, 37919

**Dessert and drinks provided.**



**Note from the President**  
*Member Interest Survey Coming to Your Mailbox*

A Friendship Force Knoxville Member Interest Survey was emailed to all members on Thursday. Please check your email and take a few minutes to complete the survey and let us know how you will participate this year. A vibrant club needs many volunteers to perform a variety of tasks. The survey lists many activities. Choose one or more that fit you best.

The first question addresses preference for the time and refreshments of meetings/programs. Please respond so the Board can plan accordingly.

It was wonderful to see 25 FFK members and one guest at the January 24 program given by our FFK ambassadors, Leslie Badaines, Dave Greenwood, Ellen Greenwood, and Joanne Hayden, who journeyed to Australia in October-November. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the January program a success.

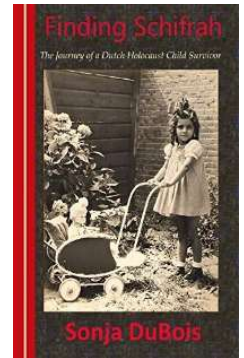
I look forward to seeing you at our Feb. 28 program with Dr. Gretchen Neisler, Vice Provost for International Affairs and the Director of the Center for Global Engagement at UT.

*Jayne Raparelli, President*

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**More Programs for 2023**

**March 28:** FFK is so proud of member **Sonja DuBois**, a noted author, lecturer and cherished friend. When asked if she would be willing to address our membership, she happily agreed! What an honor for us that Sonja will share her powerful family history, chronicled in her book, Finding Schifrah, The Journey of a Dutch Holocaust Child Survivor. It's a story with a very sad beginning, but thankfully, a very happy ending.



Please come and experience the joy Sonja brings to audiences everywhere.



**April 24:** The regular FFK Monthly program will be the Welcome Dinner for our in-bound guests from the Friendship Force Western Colorado club. Who doesn't love meeting new friends and enjoying delicious food? FF Western Colorado has 11 ambassadors coming to us April 23-29. The Welcome Dinner will be at the TVUUC and will be a potluck event.

We want to see you there!

*Marsha Mitchell, Program Chair*

## Journey Details for 2023

We are eagerly awaiting the visit of 11 Ambassadors from FF Western Colorado this April. **The welcome dinner for all FF Knoxville members, will be a potluck dinner held at The Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville 37919, on MONDAY, April 24 at 6:30 PM.** Mark your calendars, and come and meet our first guests of the year! If you are willing to be a driver of ambassadors, or to host a small group dinner, please contact coordinators Leslie Badaines or Betsy Tonkin ([badainesl@aol.com](mailto:badainesl@aol.com)).



June 11-17, we will be visiting Western Colorado (Grand Junction area)! There are still 3 openings for this journey. If you would like to attend this journey, which includes a visit to Arches National Park, please contact Janis or Bruce Robinson as soon as possible. ([jgr@utk.edu](mailto:jgr@utk.edu)). A call for Ambassadors has already been sent to other clubs.

September 13-18, 2023, FF Eastern Washington (Spokane area) will be our guests. Diana Lopez is the host coordinator for this incoming journey. If you are willing to home-host one or two guests, or host a small dinner, please contact Diana ([dlopez@utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@utk.edu)).



*Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator*

## Travel & Friendship Quotes



“There is just as much beauty visible to us in the landscape as we are prepared to appreciate—not a grain more.” Henry David Thoreau

“One of the great things about travel is you find out how many good, kind people there are.” Edith Wharton

“Friendships are like pieces of a quilt. Stitched together tightly with love.” Fons and Porter

“Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.” Mark Twain

“There is nothing better than a friend, unless it is a friend with chocolate.” Linda Grayson

“Wherever we are, it is our friends that make our world.” Henry Drummond

“Once the travel bug bites, there is no known antidote.” Michael Palin

“Collect moments, not things.” Aarti Khurana



**2023 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar**

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

March 14	April 11	May 9
June 13	July 11	August 8
September 12	October 10	November 14

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 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)  
6:30 p.m.-Social; 7:00 p.m.-Program**

- February 28 -- TVUUC, Dr. Gretchen Neisler, Global Engagement at UT
- March 28 -- TVUUC, Sonja Dubois, Finding Schifrah
- April 24 – TVUUC, Welcome Potluck Dinner for Inbound FF Western Colorado; NOTE: this is a Monday.

Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church  
2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, 37919

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

**2023 Club Officers & Chairs**

- President: .....Jayne Raparelli
- Vice President: .....Betsy Tonkin
- Secretary: .....Mike McDonough
- Treasurer: .....Bill Cherry
- Membership Chair: .....Betsy Tonkin
- Program Chair:.....Marsha Mitchell
- Communications Chair: .....Janis Robinson
- Webmaster: .....Ray Simko
- Newsletter Editor: .....Janis Robinson
- Journey Coordinator: .....Leslie Badaines
- Hospitality Chair:.....Barbara Elder
- Club Concerns: .....Paulette Anderson
- Historian: .....Betsy Tonkin

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