



**In This Issue**

| <b>Pg</b> | <b>Article</b>  |
|-----------|---|
| 1...      | Farewell Dinner for FF Spokane                        |
| 2...      | Note from the President                               |
| 2....     | Spokane to Knoxville                                  |
| 3....     | Farewell to Diana Lopez                               |
| 3....     | FFK Adventures for 2023 & 2024                        |
| 4....     | Why We Travel - Why We Host: October Recruiting Event |
| 4....     | FFK Journey to Tuxtla-Gutierrez                       |
| 5....     | A Great Time at Calhoun's                             |
| 5....     | Travel/Friendship Quotes                              |
| 5....     | Upcoming Dates--Mark Your Calendar                    |
| 5....     | 2023 Officers & Committee Chairs                      |

**2023 Journey Overview**

Inbound Eastern WA/Northern ID..... THIS WEEK!  
Outbound Tuxtla-Gutierrez, MX .....November 1-8

**2024 Journey Preview**

Inbound Manitoba, Canada..... May 1-7  
Outbound Germany (2 clubs) ..... Aug. 2024  
FF Hamburg & FF Metropole Ruhr  
Inbound St. Louis, MO ..... Oct. 2024

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

**Farewell Dinner for Friendship Force Spokane**

Everyone is invited to the Farewell Dinner for members of the Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho Friendship Force (Spokane) club who are leaving the following day after 5 days of activities showing off the beauty and hospitality of East Tennessee.



The dinner is being held in the Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse (address below) at 6:30. Parking is available in the tennis court parking lot on the left as you face the clubhouse. The dinner also serves as the FFK program for September.

If you plan on attending, please bring either a salad or dessert and let Barbara Elder know what you are bringing. She is coordinating the dinner. **Also let Diana know if you are coming to be sure your name is on the list for security to let you in.** We look forward to a great send-off for our new friends from Spokane.

**Date:** Sunday, September 17

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse, 1837 Cherokee Bluff Dr, Knoxville, TN

Bring a **salad or dessert**. Barbara Elder, [barbara5448@bellsouth.net](mailto:barbara5448@bellsouth.net)

Diana Lopez, Host Coordinator, [dlopez@retiree.utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@retiree.utk.edu)

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## Note from the President



Friendship Force Knoxville has become a sought-after club because of the hospitality offered by you—our enthusiastic members—and our carefully planned itineraries which showcase our beautiful city and region.

From September 13-18, FFK will open our doors and hearts to the Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho Friendship Force club. Home hosts will provide a bedroom, breakfast, and transportation. Other members will lead and support many activities and events. Some will offer small group dinners for home hosts and their ambassadors, while others will assist with driving.

I'm glad that many FFK members will participate! I'm looking forward to seeing you during our Spokane host week. I anticipate a fun time.

*Jayne Raparelli, President*

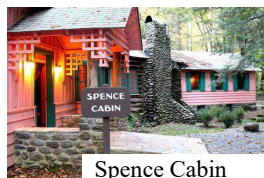
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## Spokane to Knoxville

Come join in on the fun! FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho (Spokane) is coming to town. We've got some exciting venues planned, some new and some old. Twenty members are participating in one or more activities. Hope that you can add to that number by attending the Farewell Dinner.

### Here are the highlights:

**Sep 13**, drive to Jonesborough for lunch from the Main Street Café and a performance at the International Storytelling Museum. If you have never been to Jonesborough, this is a good chance to see the oldest town in Tennessee.



Spence Cabin

**Sep 14**, visit the Spence Cabin at Elkmont in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for a hike and picnic lunch. There are lots of options for the afternoon and/or dinner at the Apple Wood Farmhouse Restaurant in Pigeon Forge.

**Sep 15**, spend the day in Downtown Knoxville with a tour of the highlights of Gay St., Krutch Park, Market Square, SunSphere and World's Fair Park. Lunch is at Barley's for the WDVX Blue Plate Special. Visit the East Tennessee History Center in the afternoon and/or join us for drinks atop the Hyatt.



Krutch Park

**Sep 16** is the free day for our ambassadors to choose what they would like to do. If you have suggestions and want to tag along, please let us know.

**Sep 17**, tour the Museum of Appalachia with lunch, then drive to Norris Dam and later the Lenoir Museum and Grist Mill. And if nothing else, please come to the Farewell Dinner at Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse. Bring either a salad or dessert, look at the views of Knoxville, and bid good-bye to our friends from Spokane. The more, the merrier! **See the information on page 1 to know who to contact about your attendance at the dinner.**

*Diana Lopez, Host Coordinator,*  
[dlopez@retiree.utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@retiree.utk.edu)

## Farewell to Diana Lopez



Friendship Force Knoxville member Diana Lopez is moving to Delaware at the end of September. We will greatly miss Diana. She's given so much to FFK. Diana is the host coordinator for the Spokane journey, Sept. 13-18, which ends shortly before she moves! Diana has served as FFK president as well as given the club memorable presentations on her extensive international travels.

Please join us at Diana's farewell luncheon. Order from the menu and pay for your own food and beverage.

**Date:** Friday, Sept. 22

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Place:** Sullivan's, 7545 S. Northshore Dr., Knoxville.

**RSVP** to Jayne Raparelli [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com) by **Sept. 19.**

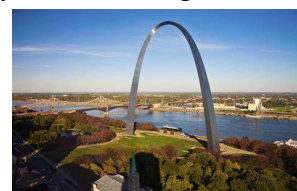
Thanks to everyone who has already RSVPed.

## FFK Adventures for 2023 and 2024!

September 13-18 Come join us in greeting eleven ambassadors from FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho. All members are invited to and encouraged to attend Sunday evening's farewell dinner at Cherokee Bluff Condominium clubhouse – see the article on page 1.

### Upcoming Incoming Journeys:

- May 1-7, 2024: FF Manitoba, Canada will be our first incoming group for 2024. Leslie Badaines and Karen Scott will be co-coordinators for this journey. Please contact Leslie if you are willing to be a home host ([badainesL@aol.com](mailto:badainesL@aol.com)).
- October 2024, (dates not yet determined): FF St. Louis. Please contact Leslie ([badainesL@aol.com](mailto:badainesL@aol.com)) if you are willing to serve as co-host coordinator for this incoming group.



St. Louis Gateway Arch

### Upcoming Outgoing Journeys:

- October 31-November 8, 2023: FF Knoxville to Tuzla-Gutierrez, Mexico. Nine ambassadors will be joining a German club in visiting this area. Many of this group will also be taking an optional post tour to the Mayan ruins of Palenque.
- August 2024 (dates not yet determined): FF Knoxville to Germany! We will be visiting FF Hamburg and FF Metropole Ruhr. Barbara Elder has agreed to be Ambassador coordinator for this Journey.

*Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator*



## Why We Travel - Why We Host: October Recruiting Event!

October 24, 4:30-6:30 p.m.  
UT International House, 1623 Melrose Ave, Knoxville



Our October program will feature the Rick Steves' short video "Why We Travel", a panel discussion of hosting and travel experiences by FFK members, and a social period before and after the program. This format is designed to introduce Friendship Force Knoxville to potential new members. Our membership needs a boost - with new members and younger members!



Rick Steves has been a supporter of Friendship Force and has provided the program to FFK free of charge. Gretchen Neisler, Vice Provost and Director of the University of Tennessee Center for Global Engagement, who spoke at our February 2023 meeting, offered FFK the opportunity to hold an event at the International House to encourage participation by UT students, faculty and staff who may be interested in Friendship Force.

**Let's make this event a success. Please plan to attend AND bring at least one guest who may be interested in joining FFK!**

An email will be sent soon to all members asking for names of individuals whom you would like to receive an electronic invitation.

*Betsy Tonkin, Membership VP*

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## FFK Journey to Tuxtla-Gutierrez



The preparation for the FFK Journey to Tuxtla-Gutierrez is underway with nine Friendship Force members traveling. Five members are from FFK and four are from other clubs. FF Tuxtla-Gutierrez has also invited a Friendship Force club from Germany for the same week so it will truly be an international experience! This journey is in two parts with the core activities taking place November 1-7, 2023, and a post-journey option from November 8-10, 2023.

Activities for the journey include Day of the Dead celebrations on November 2, 2023, trips to Chiapa de Corzo and San Cristobal, museums, a National Park, native villages, a botanic garden and a zoo. The post tour option is for two nights at the Chan-kah Resort Village hotel to visit the Mayan ruins in Palenque.



*Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator*



## A Great Time: FFK Lunch at Calhouns!

Twenty FFK members and two guests attended a luncheon at Calhoun's on the River for our August get together. It was great being with everyone and hearing about their summer.



Left front to back: Gary Anderson, Paulette Anderson, Sonja DuBois, Karen Scott, Betsy Tonkin, Denise & Allie (friends of Tammy), Renee Ioannides, Panos Ioannides, Marsha Mitchell, Art Mitchell

Right front to back: Mike McDonough, Karen Setzfand, Ray Simko, Leslie Badaines, Don Dougall, Bill Cherry, Diana Lopez, Tammy Enix, Jean Mayer, Ron Mayer and, of course, Jayne Raparelli took the photo.

### Travel/Friendship Quotes

“A person does not grow from the ground like a vine or a tree, one is not part of a plot of land. Mankind has legs so it can wander.” Roman Payne

“He who is outside his door has the hardest part of his journey behind him.” Dutch Proverb

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

“Running to the boarding gate is my favorite workout.” Travel Design by Lien

#### 2023 Upcoming Dates—Mark your Calendar

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

Oct. 10      Nov. 14      No Dec. Mtg

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

- September 17: Farewell dinner for Inbound FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho
- October 24: FFK Member Recruiting Meeting

Check newsletter articles about each event for date, time and place.

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