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2024 Journey Preview

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Outbound FF Hamburg & FF Metropole Ruhr.....	Aug. 13-27
Open World: Mayors of Poland.....	Sept. 27- Oct. 5
Inbound St. Louis, MO	Oct. 24-29

2025 Journey Preview

Inbound FF Los Angeles, CA.....	TBD
Inbound FF Lower Columbia	TBD
Outbound FF E. Washington/N. Idaho (AKA Spokane)	June 2025
Outbound Stratford/St. Mary’s, Ontario, Canada,	TBD

Club Website: www.friendshipforceknoxville.org

FFK on Facebook: Friendship Force of Knoxville

My Friendship Force: <https://my.friendshipforce.org>

**FFK June 25th Meeting
POOLSIDE SEAFOOD DINNER PARTY!**

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED for DINNER



Art and Marsha Mitchell are hosting the June meeting beside their pool at 407 Doublehead Lane. The Shrimp Dock chefs will prepare a Seafood Boil with shrimp, mussels, potatoes and corn, and andouille sausage prepared and served separately compliments of the Mitchells. Some beer and wine will be available, but feel free to BYOB.

After dinner Art and Marsha will briefly report on their trip to Uzbekistan where they were escorted around the country by the judge who had come to Knoxville during our Open World program in October 2022 and stayed in their home.

Special guests: Visiting prosecutors from Uzbekistan! Greg Weddle, retired Assistant U.S. Attorney, will also attend. He spent most of his career in Knoxville, and now teaches periodic short courses for prosecutors in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Date: **Tuesday, June 25** (Those with mobility issues may park in the driveway, otherwise, please park on the street.)

Time: **5:30 pm** (If you want to swim before dinner, you may come earlier! 🏊)

Location: Art & Marsha Mitchell’s Backyard, **407 Doublehead Lane**, Knoxville, TN 37909

*If you want dinner, you must **RSVP** by **FRIDAY, JUNE 21** to Karen Scott, kas491423@gmail.com, or text/phone her at **(810) 515-0780**. If you would like to bring a dessert, let her know.*

*If you have a shellfish allergy, please contact Marsha Mitchell, globalmarsha@gmail.com or **865-335-3875** and a substitution will be arranged.*

Note from the President



May 1 was a red-letter day for FFK as we welcomed ambassadors from Friendship Force Manitoba, Canada! This was our first Friendship Force inbound journey from outside the U.S. (except for hosting an Open World delegation from Uzbekistan in 2022) since well before the pandemic! From May 1-May 8, FFK members introduced our new friends from Canada to the past & present in

downtown Knoxville, Oak Ridge, Norris, the Smoky Mountains, and Jonesborough as well as in our homes. See wonderful photos of these activities on the FFK Facebook page and page 5 of the newsletter. Thanks much to Journey Coordinators Leslie Badaines and Karen Scott who did such a terrific job planning and organizing this journey!

Marsha and Art Mitchell are hosting our June 25th program meeting with an al fresco dinner at their home with tales of their trip to Uzbekistan last fall when they stayed with the Uzbek judge who was their house guest as a member of the 2022 Open World delegation from Uzbekistan. We will have another special treat - we will be joined by several Uzbek prosecutors and their interpreters who will be participating in an educational program in Knoxville that week to learn about U.S. federal prosecutions. Details about this upcoming event are on page 1.

Welcome to new members Poonam Harsh, who joined in February, and Tirthankar Ghosal, who joined this month! Please take an opportunity to get acquainted with both of them. Thank you to Dee Pierce for introducing them to FFK.

Betsy Tonkin, President

Many Hands Make Light Work

One of the basic goals of Friendship Force is that members broaden their horizons and build their understanding of the world through meeting different people and learning about their cultures. Participating in either inbound or outbound journeys is the pathway that the founders of Friendship Force created. Our club has many journey opportunities for you to participate in and a few of the ways you can help are listed below:



- The Host Coordinator has the responsibility to organize the itinerary and events for incoming ambassadors to enjoy. You can also help plan a part of the itinerary.
- The Ambassador Coordinator has the responsibility to organize FFK members who wish to participate in an outbound journey to another club.
- A Home Host opens their home to incoming ambassadors from another club and coordinates their attendance in the various activities our club has planned for the visitors. The Home Host is responsible for providing a bed & bathroom, breakfast, and, perhaps, other meals depending on the itinerary for the visit.
- A Day Host helps the FFK Home Host by providing transportation for a day to one of the activities, giving the Home Host a rest for the day. You get to know our visitors that you are transporting as well as participate in the event for the day.
- Hosting a Small Group Dinner also helps the Home Host by breaking up the cooking duties and introducing the visitors to more members of our club. You can host a dinner on your own or share the job with another membe.

However you choose to help, participating in inbound journeys is enriching, interesting and gives a boost to the club. See the article about FFK Journeys on pages 3 and 4.

Janis Robinson, Communications Chairperson

Journeys for 2024

Our new friends from FF Manitoba departed for FF Western North Carolina, the second leg of their journey, on May 8. We bid them a fond farewell at the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, with plans to continue contact and hopefully meet up, again, in the near future, perhaps on their turf.



Journey # 24064, Meanwhile, seven ambassador's from FFK will be heading to Germany to FF Hamburg and FF Metropole Ruhr this August for two weeks! Barbara Elder is the coordinator.

New Opportunity for the Journey to Germany!

FFK now has an opening in our Journey to Germany in August 2024 for the second week of our two-week Journey to Metropole Ruhr. The dates are August 20-27. This opening creates a slot for one single OR one couple for just this second week of our journey. Please email Barbara Elder at barbara5448@bellsouth.net if you are interested in joining the seven other ambassadors.

We are also looking forward to our upcoming **Open World - Mayors from Poland**. Courtney Shea is Coordinator for this program from Sept 27 through Oct. 8. She has begun planning the professional activities for the Polish officials including a tentative schedule for 3 days with Knoxville City officials, as well as contacts with both the Knox County Mayor and the Mayor of Gatlinburg, and a gathering for them at the home of Victor Ashe, former Knoxville Mayor and former Ambassador to Poland. Please contact Courtney if you are interested in hosting one of the Open World mayor delegates or otherwise assisting with this program. FFK will not likely learn specific information about the delegation until sometime in August. (courtshea@aol.com)

Journey #24159, FF St. Louis, Missouri to Knoxville, October 24-29, 2024. Please let Leslie know if you will be available to home host, day host, or host a small group dinner for this incoming journey (badainesL@aol.com).

Please keep in mind that our journeys depend upon volunteers to help organize our trips. If assistance is not available, some of these journeys may not happen. Please let Leslie Badaines (badainesL@aol.com) know if you are able to help coordinate (or co-coordinate) a journey OR want to help in other ways. **Training and help are available!**

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

Announcing Journeys for 2025

We have received our 2025 assignments from FFI and will begin planning this summer. Here are the assignments with potential dates:



Inbound:

- **FF Los Angeles, California** Spring 2025 (Host Coordinator needed)
- **FF Lower Columbia** potentially Fall 2025, possibly Spring, depending on arrangements with FF Los Angeles. (Host Coordinator needed)

Outbound:

- **FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho (AKA Spokane)**, June 2025. Thanks to Bruce and Janis Robinson who have graciously offered to be Ambassador Coordinators for this Journey!
- **Stratford/St. Mary’s, Ontario, Canada**, Fall of 2025.

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

A Look Ahead at FFK 2024 Programming



July 23 - FFK member and acclaimed lecturer, Mike McDonough, will be our July program presenter. Mike is actually writing a book about the life and times of Henry Knox for whom Knoxville is named. He and his trusty traveling companion, Jayne, are taking a 19-day road trip in June to visit six locations on the East coast and one in Ohio with connections to Henry Knox. Fortunately for us, Mike will take us along on this interesting journey via visual aids and his always clever narrative. *He makes learning fun!!!*

Date: **Tuesday, July 23**
Time: **11:30 a.m. (Dutch Treat lunch); 12:00 Program begins**
Location: **Asia Cafe, 1708 Callahan Dr., Knoxville, TN**

August – No monthly meeting. Bon Voyage! to the Germany Ambassadors!

Jump ahead –

December 10, 5:30 p.m. - FESTIVE HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY! *It’s official!* After receiving overwhelmingly positive responses from the membership, the Board has embraced the notion and given the “go ahead.” Location: Holly’s Gourmet Market on Kingston Pike (yummiest food ever!). Mark your calendar now!

Marsha Mitchell, Program Chairperson

Wonderful Memories with FF Manitoba

Six ambassadors from Manitoba, Canada, visited us from May 2 through May 8. Enjoy the photos below to see some of the places and sites they went to – more photos are available on the FFK Facebook page.

 <p>Barbara Elder with Rose Gerbasi</p>	 <p>Carol Ann Johnson with Kristina Ryan</p>	<p>Leslie Badaines with Susan Finlay & Lenore Johnson</p> 
 <p>Bruce Robinson, Loretta Humeniuk & DollyTulkaluk</p>	 <p>Small Group Dinner: L to R: Lenore Johnson, Leslie Badaines, Karen Swander, Susan Finlay & Betsy Tonkin</p>	 <p>Small Group Dinner: L to R: Janis & Bruce Robinson, Jean Mayer, Dolly Tulkaluk, Gary & Paulette Anderson, Ron Mayer & Loretta Humeniuk</p>
 <p>Oak Ridge History Museum</p>	 <p>Left: Ambassadors at Norris Dam</p>  <p>Right: Ron Mayer tells the history of the dam.</p>	<p>Musicians at Lenoir Museum</p> 
<p>Right: Museum of Appalachia</p>  <p>Left: Grist Mill at Lenoir Museum</p> 	<p>Left: In the GSMNP*, Gary Anderson tells the history of the area.</p>  <p>Right: Our group for the picnic at Metcalf Bottom.</p> 	<p>Women's Basketball Hall of Fame</p>  <p>AND she scores!</p> 
 <p>Bears at Cades Cove (not the ones causing the traffic jam!)</p>	<p>Dinner cruise on the Volunteer Princess</p> 	<p>Dinner at Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant</p> 

*GSMNP: The Great Smoky Mountain National Park

Travel/Friendship Quotes



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

“No road is long with good company.” Turkish proverb

“A journey well shared is a journey well enjoyed.” Unknown

“Together is our favorite place to be.” Unknown

“There is an unspoken bond you create with the friends you travel with.”
Kristen Sarah

“Don’t walk in front of me; I may not follow. Don’t walk behind me; I may not lead. Just walk beside me and be my friend.” Albert Camus

2024 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar

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

June 11	July 9	Aug 13
Sept 10	Oct 8	Nov 12
Dec: No meeting		

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

- June 25 – The Mitchell’s visit to Uzbekistan & a Poolside Dinner Party!
- July 23- Presentation by Mike McDonough about Henry Knox
- **No August Event** – FFK Ambassadors to Germany

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

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

2024 Club Officers & Chairpersons

Officers:

President:Betsy Tonkin
 Vice President:.....Tammy Enix
 Secretary:Karen Scott
 Treasurer:.....Bill Cherry

Committee Chairpersons:

Program Chairperson:.....Marsha Mitchell
 Membership Chairperson:Tammy Enix
 Journey Coordinator:Leslie Badaines
 Communications Chairperson: ..Janis Robinson
 Club Concerns:Paulette Anderson
 Historian:Karen Swander
 Hospitality Chairperson:.....OPEN POSITION

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