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**2024 Journey Preview**

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 1-7
Outbound Stratford/St. Mary’s, Ontario, Canada, .....	TBD

**Club Website:** [www.friendshipforceknoxville.org](http://www.friendshipforceknoxville.org)  
**FFK on Facebook:** Friendship Force of Knoxville

**My Friendship Force:** <https://my.friendshipforce.org>  
**FFK Club E-mail:** [FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com](mailto:FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com)

**FFK July 23<sup>rd</sup> Program**



**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, have taken a 19-day road trip to visit eight locations on the East Coast 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!!!*



RSVP to Jayne Raparelli by July 18 at [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com) or 423-871-1739.

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

When you enter the Asia Cafe, our meeting is in a room immediately on the left in the front of the restaurant.

## Note from the President



FFK's summer began with quite a treat - members Marsha and Art Mitchell hosted a poolside shrimp boil dinner on June 25 at their lovely home for 35 members and guests! This event featured delicious food and a program by Marsha and Art to celebrate their trip to Uzbekistan last fall to visit the judge whom they had hosted in FFK's 2022 Open World program. The evening also included an opportunity for cultural exchange with guests from Uzbekistan -- prosecutors who were in Knoxville serendipitously that week to learn about the U.S. criminal justice system! They accompanied my former colleague, Greg Weddle, a retired Assistant U.S. Attorney, who spent most of his career in Knoxville, and now teaches periodic short courses for prosecutors in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Marsha, also a retired prosecutor and a member of an international organization of prosecutors, graciously welcomed them. Everyone present had a wonderful time! Thank you, Marsha and Art!

Summer fun will continue later this month on July 23 with a lunch program by member speaker extraordinaire, Mike McDonough, on the life and times of Henry Knox, for whom Knoxville is named, and about whom Mike is writing a book! See details above on page 1 and be sure to join us for this interesting event.

Then FFK ambassadors will depart for back-to-back outbound international journeys from August 13-27 to FF Hamburg and FF Metropole Ruhr. Bon voyage, Ambassadors! Have a wonderful visit with both German clubs!

With an Open World program from Poland and an inbound domestic journey from St. Louis both coming up this fall, there is work to be done! Please reach out to coordinators Courtney Shea and Karen Scott to see what you can do to help!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and try to stay cool!

*Betsy Tonkin, President*

## Programs Planned for 2024

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

**September 27- October 5-** Open World- Mayors from Poland.  
**Farewell Dinner is Friday, October 4.**

**October 24-29-** Inbound ambassadors from St. Louis, MO. **Welcome Dinner is Thursday, October 24.**

**November 24, Sunday-** *Special event:* We're going to the Clarence Brown Theatre for the 2pm performance of "A Christmas Carol!" We should be able to finagle the group rate of \$36; payment details will follow. Afterwards, we'll enjoy great food and merriment at the Fieldhouse Social restaurant near campus. *I can't think of a better way to get into the Christmas spirit!*

**November 26-** Zoom meeting at 7:00pm for the sole purpose of electing our officers for 2025. Please plan to vote!

**December 10, 5:30 p.m. - FESTIVE HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY!** Location: Holly's Gourmet Market on Kingston Pike (yummiest food ever!). More details will be announced soon, but believe me when I say, "You don't want to miss it!" Mark your calendar now!

*Marsha Mitchell, Program Chairperson*



## Your Journeys Start Here

### 2024 Journeys

- 8 FFK Ambassadors are ready to depart in a few weeks for Germany. Barbara Elder is Ambassador Coordinator for what should prove to be an exciting journey to FF Hamburg and FF Metropole Ruhr.
- September 27-October 5 Open World Mayors from Poland: Courtney Shea and her committee are planning an informative program for what we expect will be 5-6 mayors from Polish cities. Mark your calendars for the October 4 Farewell dinner, 6:30 pm at TVUUC, to hear a presentation by our guests and a recap of their visit. See article page 4 for more information.
- October 24-29 FF St Louis: St Louis has 11 ambassadors who would like to attend. Our planning committee has come up with a varied program to be announced soon. We hope club members will attend many of the activities, which will include several new ones.



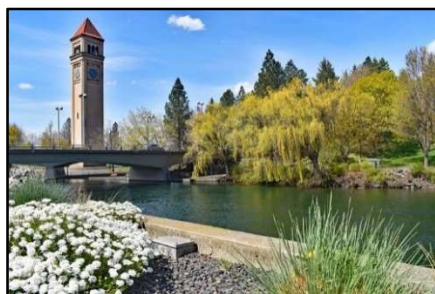
### 2025 Journeys

- FF Los Angeles will be coming to Knoxville in late April.
- FF Lower Columbia will be visiting us in mid or late October.
- Bruce and Janis Robinson are coordinating our outbound journey to FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho (Spokane) for a June 1 arrival and a June 7 departure. See article below on this page for more information.
- FF Stratford/St. Mary's, Ontario, Canada, September of 2025. Karen Scott is Ambassador Coordinator. The host club can house as many as 16 ambassadors from Knoxville.

*Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator*

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## FFK to Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho Journey – We have dates!



Spokane Riverfront Park

The FFK journey #25097 to FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho (AKA Spokane) will take place from June 1 through June 7. The costs generally run \$300-\$350 and they can accept about 12-13 ambassadors.

Activities can include visits to downtown Spokane, various parks, mining museums/exhibits, hikes, boat rides on Lake Coeur D'Alene, a winery, welcome and farewell dinners and more. Details about typical journey possibilities are available at the Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho MyFF page at ( <https://my.friendshipforce.org> ).

We are not taking applications yet. That will start in a few months but if you believe you might have an interest, please let Bruce & Janis Robinson know at: [janisrobinson27@gmail.com](mailto:janisrobinson27@gmail.com) or 865-690-7841. We would like to start getting an idea of how many might be interested and use you as a sounding board for what activities we might like to do. **Come on along!**

*Janis & Bruce Robinson, Ambassador Co-coordinators*

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## Polish Mayors Coming to Friendship Force Knoxville in October

FFK is excited about our upcoming Open World program with Mayors from Poland. The Open World program is implemented by the Congressional Office for International Leadership (COIL), a U.S. legislative branch agency. Our delegates will arrive in Washington D.C. on Wednesday September 25. On Friday, September 27, the delegation will fly into Knoxville and Friendship Force Knoxville will host them until they begin their journey back to Poland on Saturday, October 5. We are expecting five or six mayors, as well as a facilitator and interpreter. We will know their names and cities in late July or early August.



Poland's Coat of Arms

Thank you to all who have offered to host a mayor in your homes! Our hosts will need help, with specifics coming a little closer to our visit. We know that we need the following from those not hosting:

- help with small group dinners on Monday, September 30,
- someone to organize the Farewell Dinner (potluck) on Friday, October 4,
- potluck donors on the 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be in Gatlinburg for most of Friday so the hosts will probably not be able to help much with the Farewell Dinner,
- help with Welcome bags contents. It would be great to have a list of locally produced/Tennessee made products.

I have set a **zoom info session for Thursday July 25 at 7 PM**. No obligation, just join and learn details!

**Invitation from:** Courtney Shea, Poland Open World program coordinator, 865-387-7466

### Zoom info:

- **Date:** Jul 25, 2024
- **Time:** 07:00 PM Eastern Time
- **Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82697087760?pwd=WHqeyWtB4UTxe4K5xza1Oa0G1R9rxF.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 826 9708 7760
- **Passcode:** 863135

*Courtney Shea*, Poland Open World program coordinator



### Poem About Travel by Drewniverses

You are not a tree. You are not bound  
to the ground you walk on. You have  
wings and dreams and a heart full of  
wonder. So pick up your feet and go.

Spread kindness like a wildflower  
wherever you go. Fall in love with the  
life you live, and always leave people  
better than you found them.

## A Great Time Was Had by All on June 25th

Members Marsha & Art Mitchell hosted a wonderful dinner FFK gathering at their home on June 25th to celebrate their visit to Uzbekistan last fall with the Open World Uzbek judge whom they hosted in 2022. We were joined by a group of Uzbek prosecutors in Knoxville this week to learn about the U.S. criminal justice system. Great evening for all of us! See all photos on the FFK Facebook page.



Marsha finalizing the shrimp boil buffet – delicious!

Not to worry – dessert was available, too!



Greg Weddle (back row right w/UT shirt) with 2 of his Regional Dialogue colleagues, 2 interpreters, and 5 Uzbek prosecutors. Greg has been teaching courses in Tashkent, Uzbekistan for 6 years. He assisted FFK in preparing for our Open World program for Uzbek judges in 2022.



From Left to Right: Mike McDonough, Joan Turbyville, Darlene Ojala, Jayne Raparelli



From L to R: Greg Weddle (on left corner) between 2 regional staff members, Karen Scott, Liz Gregor (at far end), Phyllis Driver, Sonja DuBois, Karen Swander



From L to R: Jayne Raparelli, Liz Gregor, Poonam Harsh, Dee Pierce



Art & Marsha's souvenirs from Uzbekistan'



FFK President, Betsy Tonkin, with Rustam Giyasov, Head of the Intl. Legal Department of the Uzbekistan General Prosecutor's Office

Uzbek prosecutors



### Travel/Friendship Quotes



“Let me recommend the best medicine in the world: a long journey, at a mild season, through a pleasant country, in easy stages.” James Madison

“Adventure is worthwhile.” Aesop

“Live your life by a compass not a clock.” Stephen Covey

Blessed are the curious for they shall have adventures.” Lovelle Drachman

It’s not what you look at that matters. It’s what you see.” Henry David Thoreau

“Travel is about the gorgeous feeling of teetering in the unknown.” Anthony Bourdain

#### 2024 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar

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

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

- **July 23** - Presentation by Mike McDonough about Henry Knox
- **No August Event** – FFK Ambassadors to Germany
- **No September Event** – Open World is here!
- **October 4** – Farewell Dinner for Open World
- **October 24** – Welcome Dinner for FF St. Louis
- **November 24 (Sunday)** – Special event to see “A Christmas Carol” at Clarence Brown Theater
- **November 26 (Tuesday)** – Zoom meeting for 2025 officer election
- **December 10** – FFK Holiday Party

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