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Club Website: www.friendshipforceknoxville.org
FFK on Facebook: Friendship Force of Knoxville

2025 Journey Preview

Outbound Stratford/St. Marys, Ontario, Canada.....
..... Sept. 22-29

2026 Journey Assignments

Inbound: FF Connecticut..... April TBD
Outbound: FF Tallassee, FL..... March 1-6
Outbound: FF Southland & Taupo, New Zealand
..... November TBD (2 weeks)

Club E-mail: FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com
My Friendship Force: <https://my.friendshipforce.org>

Mark Your Calendar -- Holiday Dinner Party

Date:Tuesday, December 2nd
Time:5:30 pm
Place:Holly's Gourmet's Market, 5107, Kingston Pike.
Cost:.....\$25 per person



The low price of \$25 covers all food and service fees -- you will partake in a full Dinner Buffet:

- Delicious appetizers,
- Garden Salad with Cruze Farm Ranch & Red Wine Vinaigrette,
- Sister Shubert Rolls,
- Garlic Roasted Beef Tenderloin with Red Wine Demi and Herbs,
- scalloped potatoes,
- glazed carrots, and
- a rich Chocolate Torte.

A cash bar will also be available, offering red and white wine, beer, and coffee.

Please contact Liz Gregor if you or your guest needs a vegetarian option;
elizabethgregor@hotmail.com

Your check is your RSVP. Deadline is **November 15.**

Please mail your checks as soon as possible to Treasurer, Marsha Mitchell, 407 Doublehead Lane, Knoxville, TN 37909.

Come join us for an evening of fun and friendship. All of us on the Program Committee look forward to participating in these festivities with you!

Note from the President



Busy times! FFK ambassadors are preparing to depart soon for their journey to Stratford-St. Marys Ontario, Canada. Be safe and make many new friends on your journey!

Our September program was cancelled due to the small number of RSVPs. Thank you, Susan Dakak, for your willingness to host us. Hopefully, this is a postponement rather than a total cancellation and the club would be interested in having this potluck at a later date.

These opportunities to travel, host, and gather with FFK friends are only possible with members volunteering to serve -- on the Board, as committee chairs, as coordinators, and active committee members. If you want FFK to continue to be a viable club, please step up!! Each member will be receiving a letter from me regarding the meeting and urging each of you to save the date on your calendar (October 28, at 6:30 p.m. at TVUUC).

Karen Scott, President

REMINDER: Important Club Meeting

Date: October 28. Mark it on your calendars and plan to attend.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC),
2931 Kingston Pike,
Knoxville, TN 37919.



The Memory Theory

A few years from now... You won't remember the cost of the trip. You won't remember the stress of booking flights or asking for a day off. You'll remember how you felt. The nights under foreign skies. The laughter with strangers who become friends. The sunsets that made you forget about home. Travel isn't about perfect

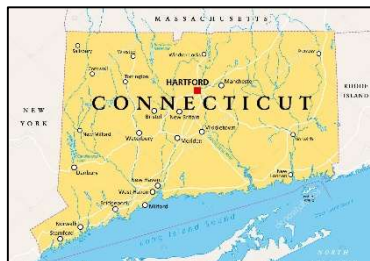
plans; it's about imperfect moments that stay with you forever. So, travel as much as you can, while you can.

https://www.instagram.com/venturista_

Last Journey for 2025 and Updates on 2026 Journeys

Greetings! Eleven of us will be off to Canada shortly after this newsletter is issued. Wish us luck at Border Control! We are eager to meet our Canadian fellow club members.

2026 journeys are beginning to develop (see below for our outgoing journey info).



Scheduled Inbound Journey:

April 2026 (Tentative month)- Connecticut, USA to Knoxville, USA.
If you are willing to help with this Journey, please contact Leslie Badaines or Joan Turbeyville.

Outbound Journeys:

NEW INFO: March 1-6, 2026, Knoxville, USA to Tallahassee, Florida; 5 nights, arriving Sunday, March 1 and departing Friday, March 6. The approximate cost will be \$250, plus the \$25 per night FFI fees (approximate total of \$375) This is an opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of the Tallahassee Club (and hopefully warmer weather than in Knoxville). The host club can accommodate 10-12 ambassadors.

The Tallahassee Club was originally part of a Florida State University group but joined FFI in 2021. Although journeys may vary, their FFI profile indicates that they usually spend one day south of Tallahassee visiting Wakulla Springs at either the St Marks Refuge or the Gulf Specimen Lab. Another day may be spent slightly north in South Georgia visiting a Plantation home and the beautiful city of Thomasville, Ga. In Tallahassee, ambassadors usually tour the Goodwood Plantation, Mission San Luis, The Grove, and Maclay Gardens. **If you are interested in this Journey, please contact Leslie Badaines, or Joan Turbeyville.**



November 2026- Knoxville, USA to Southland and Taupo, New Zealand (2 weeks)
Expect long, bright, sunny days and temperatures between 61°F and 75°F. It's an ideal time to visit the lovely beaches or enjoy the many outdoor activities available, such as hiking and mountain biking.



Taupo, a town near the center of New Zealand's **North Island**, is distinguished by its lakefront setting and outdoor sports ranging from fishing to jet-boating. The vast waters of Lake Taupo, a volcanic caldera, drain into the Huka Falls, dramatic, crystal-blue cascades reachable by hiking and biking trails. Surrounding Taupo are hot springs.

The Southland club is located in the southernmost part of the **South Island**. The Southland region has some unique scenery including beaches on the south coast, typical native bush with waterfalls and a petrified forest on the Catlins Southern Scenic route, wonderful views along the coast in several directions including

Stewart Island (there is the possibility of traveling to Stewart Island).

Leslie Badaines, Acting Journey Chair

Member Profile: Jayne Raparelli and Mike McDonough

How long have you lived in Knoxville or some other city?

Mike and Jayne became East Tennesseans in 1992 when they left Dayton, Ohio, and moved to LaFollette, TN. They have lived in Knoxville since 2016.

Jayne grew up in Tenafly, New Jersey, 20 minutes from New York City, and attended public schools and a Catholic boarding school. She ventured to Ohio where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Dayton, and a master's degree in journalism from Ohio State.

Mike grew up in Dayton, Ohio, and graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio with an undergraduate degree in management and a master's degree in education.



Jayne & Mike in Northern California on a FFK journey.

Current or past career/jobs

Jayne worked for the City of Dayton in the public information office, and the Dayton YWCA as communications director. She was the volunteer coordinator and public relations person for LaFollette Medical Center. She also worked for Remote Area Medical in Knoxville.

After college, Mike served for four years at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. He returned to Preble County, Ohio, outside Dayton, where he had an organic farm and worked as a community organizer. He then became a federal grant writer with the City of Dayton. When they moved to East Tennessee, Mike became a reporter for the weekly LaFollette Press.

How did you hear about Friendship Force?

While hiking with the Thursday Hikers, Ron Mayer asked if they could host for an upcoming journey. They had a delightful experience hosting an ambassador from Calgary, Canada, in October 2017.

Interests/hobbies

As members of the West Knox Lions Club, they support service projects, such as monthly vision screenings. They also volunteer with the Knoxville Family Promise program through their church.

Mike's hobbies are landscaping their yard and observing and rescuing wildlife. Jayne enjoys writing, walking/hiking and traveling.

In recent years they have visited Malaysia, Singapore, England and Croatia. Back in 1991-2, they took a 17-month tent camping trip to all 50 states.

Activities within FFK

Jayne and Mike have hosted many ambassadors from domestic Friendship Force clubs. Our Friendship Force Knoxville journeys include visits to the Napa/Sonoma Friendship Force Club in California and the Lower Columbia Club in Washington.

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Mike and Jayne's first ambassador experience was in 2019 when they traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, and attended the Iowa State Fair. A highlight of that journey for Jayne was standing several feet from two presidential candidates who spoke on the famed Soap Box. Mike's highlight was eating a piece of the award-winning cake at the Fair--chocolate with a wild cherry jam filing.

Their international hosting experiences have been with Open World when they hosted an attorney from Uzbekistan and a mayor from Poland.

Mike served as FFK secretary for two years, and Jayne was the club president for three years. Mike often gives a downtown Knoxville walking tour for visiting ambassadors.

**2025 Upcoming Dates
Mark your Calendar**

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

Oct. 14 Nov. 11 Dec. no 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

- October 28: Special Member Meeting, TVUUC
- November 25: FFK Annual Business Meeting & Officer Elections
- December 2: Holiday Dinner Party

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

These dates and more are on the
FFK *Event/News* web page.

2025 Club Officers & Chairpersons

Officers:

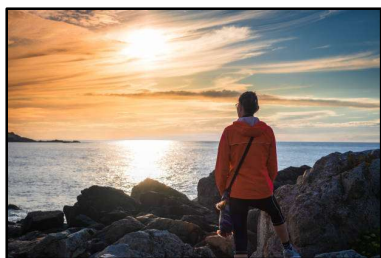
PresidentKaren Scott
Vice President.....OPEN POSITION
SecretaryCarol Ann Johnson
TreasurerMarsha Mitchell

Committee Chairpersons:

Program ChairpersonOPEN POSITION
Membership ChairpersonOPEN POSITION
Journey ChairpersonOPEN POSITION
Communications ChairpersonJanis Robinson
Club ConcernsPaulette Anderson
HistorianKaren Swander
Hospitality ChairpersonOPEN POSITION

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

FFK members can request a copy of Board meeting minutes from Janis Robinson by sending an email to FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com



“The best part of travel isn’t ticking off famous landmarks or sticking to a perfect itinerary. It’s the tiny, unplanned moments – the quiet mornings in a new city, the incredible dinner at a place you stumbled upon, the stranger who offered directions with a smile, the sunset you watched from a spot you didn’t even mean to find. It’s the stories you collect, not the checklists you complete.” Warpaint Journal on Instagram