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**2025 Journey Preview**

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Inbound FF Harrisburg, PA.....	Apr. 5-8
Inbound FF Los Angeles, CA.....	Apr. 24-29
Outbound FF E. Washington/N. Idaho.....	June 1-7
Outbound Stratford/St. Marys, Ontario, Canada.....	Sept. 22-29

**Club Website:** [www.friendshipforceknoxville.org](http://www.friendshipforceknoxville.org)  
**FFK on Facebook:** Friendship Force of Knoxville  
**Club E-mail:** [FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com](mailto:FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com)  
**My Friendship Force:** <https://my.friendshipforce.org>

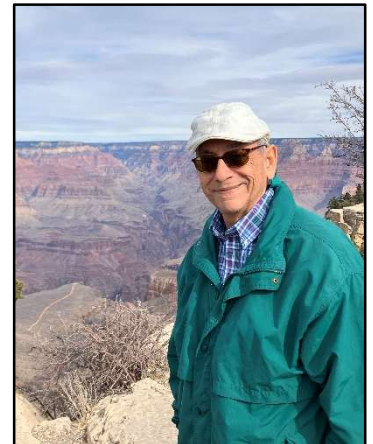
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**Living in Colombia: March 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Please join us the evening of Tuesday, March 25, 2025, for an engaging presentation by Dr. Raúl Rivero. Dr. Rivero will talk about the country of Colombia. He has lived in Colombia for most of the last couple of years but has now returned to the U.S. He will share photos and discuss the magnificent natural beauty and the culture of Colombia as well what it was like to live there.

Please join us at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian/Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The social half hour begins at 6:30 pm and the presentation will be at 7:00 pm.

Brief bio: Dr. Raúl Rivero is a native of Venezuela and received his doctoral degree in botany in the U.S. He has served on the botany faculty of several universities and has done botanical research in several countries. He now enjoys teaching Spanish and botany at Pellissippi State and other local universities and colleges.



**Details about the Meeting**

**Date:** .....Tuesday March 25, 2025

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

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

**Note: Cake and coffee/tea will be available**

## Note from the President



Friendship Force Knoxville used our February Program meeting to celebrate World Friendship Day (officially March 1). You will read about the experience at Aroma Kitchen Restaurant in this newsletter. Indian cuisine was sampled by all in attendance.

March will be a busy month as FFK prepares for two inbound journeys in the month of April: FF Greater Harrisburg, April 5-8 and FF Los Angeles, April 24 -29. If you have not yet responded to the participation survey for the Greater Harrisburg journey, please do so as soon as possible. Another participation survey will be distributed regarding your participation interest in the FF Los Angeles inbound journey. Please do not ignore these requests for your responses so that the Journey Committees can plan appropriately.

No sooner than our inbound journeys are leaving, our first outbound journey to the Spokane, Washington area is around the corner, the first week in June. As always, the fun and friendship never stop!

March also promises an interesting program regarding life in Colombia. This program will be given by a friend of Bruce and Janis Robinson, Raúl Rivero. Please plan to attend on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at TVUUC. It will be very informative. The Program Committee is working diligently to provide a variety of international and cultural experiences for our monthly programs.

*Karen Scott, President*

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## Let the Journeys Begin!

**Inbound Journey # 25292** Greater Harrisburg's five ambassadors arrive April. All Ambassadors are driving in from FF Central North Carolina. FFK club members were sent a list of activities and costs for this three-day incoming journey. IF you wish to participate, please send in your response by the deadline of March 17. If you need another list of activities and costs, please contact Leslie ([badainesL@aol.com](mailto:badainesL@aol.com))

**Inbound Journey # 25133** FF Los Angeles will be sending 9 ambassadors; arriving April 24. All are coming in the night before and staying at the La Quinta by the airport. FFK club members will be sent a list of activities and costs shortly. If you wish to participate in activities, including the welcome dinner, please respond promptly.

**Outbound Journey # 25097** FFK to FF: Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho: Bruce and Janis Robinson are ambassador coordinators. Twelve ambassadors will be on this journey. The cost is to be \$300 plus FFI nightly fees.



**Outbound Journey # 25096** FFK to FF Stratford/ St. Marys, Ontario, Canada: Karen Scott needs your application ASAP if you wish to be considered for this journey. ([kas491423@gmail.com](mailto:kas491423@gmail.com)). There is likely to be a waiting list. The cost to be approximately \$400 Canadian (currently \$278.30 US dollars), plus the FFI \$25 US dollar nightly fee.

*Leslie Badaines, Acting Journey Chair*

## Celebration of World Friendship Day

Surprisingly, it was a bright sunny afternoon when Friendship Force Knoxville met to celebrate *World Friendship Day* at the Aroma Cafe in late February. The respite from our previous cold weather added to the warm atmosphere.



L to R: Barbara Elder, Liz Gregor

Tasting several Indian dishes was a new experience for some members, and the casualness and enthusiasm made for great conversations.

For Friendship Force members worldwide, *World Friendship Day* is important as it reflects the organization's core mission of fostering global understanding and bridging the cultural divides and barriers that separate people.



L to R: Leslie Badaines, Mike McDonough, Betsy Tonkin

*World Friendship Day* is observed each year on March 1st, marking the date that Friendship Force International was officially established.

On March 1st, 1977, President Jimmy Carter introduced the organization's mission to a group of state governors at the White House, asking them to return to their states and identify a volunteer leader who would serve as State Director for the Friendship Force in their state.

Now, every March 1st is an opportunity to honor the connections that enrich our lives.



L to R: Ed & Barbara Elder, Liz Gregor, Carol Dougall, Bill Cherry, Don Dougall, Leslie Badaines, Mike McDonough, Betsy Tonkin, Jayne Raparelli



Buffet at The Aroma Cafe

*Barbara Elder, Vice President*

## FFK Journey to FF Spokane

Five members of FFK are preparing for the journey to Spokane from June 1-7, 2025! Six ambassadors from other clubs -- friends from San Antonio, St. Louis and Des Moines -- will be joining us for an interesting adventure. The process of assigning hosts has begun and a final itinerary will be available soon. We are excited to meet new friends on this journey and see a wonderful part of the world.



For the ambassadors traveling on to Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho:

- The journey number is 25097.
- Ambassadors should arrive by 4 PM, Sunday, June 1 and plan to leave the morning of Saturday, June 7.
- The cost is \$300 plus the FFI fees of \$25/night for a total of \$450 minus your \$25 application fee for a final total of \$425.

**March 25th is the target deadline to submit the balance of your journey costs to Marsha Mitchell at:**

Marsha Mitchell,  
407 Doublehead Lane  
Knoxville, TN 37909

*Janis & Bruce Robinson, Ambassador Co-coordinators*



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**Member Profile: Carol Ann Johnson**

In 2009, we retired to East Tennessee, Vonore, from Mid-Michigan. Jim said no more snow and nearly 12 months of golf; and I said three seasons, mountains and water. Tennessee fit the bill! I grew up in Fort Wayne, IN and the Berkley, MI, a near suburb of Detroit. I moved to the East Lansing, MI area and we retired when Jim closed his lumber yard and building company. I retired 2 years later. My career was in banking and finance. I have a business degree but my original field was Art History and Philosophy-Theology. Life has funny twists and turns!

I have been active in my Church in many capacities, belonged to Zonta Professional Women's Organization, and PEO, a Philanthropic and Educational Organization for Women.



My awareness of other cultures has been a part of my life: through Church Mission Festivals, Mission speakers, international students at our Thanksgiving table, and most especially my mother, who taught at Kobe College, a Christian Women's College in Kobe Japan 1938-1939. She would celebrate the Doll Festival in kimono, tobi socks and zori at a card table set on boxes in our living room and she often came in costume to my elementary school to do programs, perhaps on flower arranging or Haiku. My father tutored Ukrainian "displaced persons" and they shared making Pysanky eggs with us. When I was in high school, my father met an Italian gentleman and they started their own exchange program. He had 3 daughters and I have 2 sisters so we went back and forth; when it was my turn, I stayed 10 months. They did not speak much English and I spoke no Italian (luckily, I had 2 years of Latin and 2 years of Spanish). Living with a family of 6 kids, it didn't take long to learn!

My current hobbies are English dancing with Lark in the Morn, really any kind of dancing; music, I sing with the Athens Community Chorus and in a barbershop quartet. I also have a rowing shell and enjoy being on the water early in the morning. I have a lap loom and am a very beginner weaver!

I learned about FF from Barbara Elder who is in PEO with me. I have hosted, will host Harrisburg and look forward to going on the Stratford-St Marys trip.

A particularly interesting trip, perhaps because it was different in style, was the Norway trip on the Hurtigrutin Mail Boat along the entire coast of Norway, crossing the Arctic Circle and then standing at the Russian border. On the way down the coast, we were able to participate in the Norwegian National Holiday and walked in the parade from the boat into town along with the boat personnel, all in their beautiful Norwegian costumes. Another special event was an in-home lunch in Romania. Although there were language deficiencies, we complimented the beautiful embroidery and then the hostess brought out armloads of her exquisite work to show us.

## Travel/Friendship Quotes

“Living on Earth may be expensive, but it includes an annual free trip around the Sun.” Ashleigh Brilliant, American author and cartoonist

“May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds.” Edward Abbey, American essayist, novelist

“We are all just walking each other home.” Ram Dass, American spiritual teacher

“Friendship is the golden thread that ties the heart of all the world.” John Evelyn (1620-176) English writer diarist, gardener



### 2025 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar

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

Apr. 10**	May 13	June 10	July 8
Aug. 12	Sept. 9	Oct. 14	Nov. 11
Dec. no mtg			

\*\* The April 10th Board Meeting is in person at the Vienna Coffee Company in Maryville, TN

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

- March 25: Raúl Rivera, Living in Colombia, TVUUC
- April 7: Farewell dinner for Inbound Ambassadors from FF Harrisburg, PA, Barrington Pool Assoc. Clubhouse
- April 24: Soup & Salad Welcome dinner for FF Los Angeles, First Presby. Church
- April 28: Farewell dinner for Inbound Ambassadors from FF Los Angeles, The Abbey in Townsend

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

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

### 2025 Club Officers & Chairpersons

#### Officers:

President .....	Karen Scott
Vice President.....	Barbara Elder
Secretary .....	Carol Ann Johnson
Treasurer.....	Marsha Mitchell

#### Committee Chairpersons:

Program Chairperson .....	OPEN POSITION
Membership Chairperson .....	Barbara Elder
Journey Chairperson .....	OPEN POSITION
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

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