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2025 Journey Preview

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

FFK on Facebook: Friendship Force of Knoxville

Club E-mail: FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com

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



November FFK Business Meeting on the 26th

The Nominating Committee for FF Knoxville is placing into consideration the following slate of officers for 2025:

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



The club will be voting on two things at the business meeting:

1. The membership will vote on the officers via Zoom (connection info below). **A quorum of 12 members is required to vote on the officers.**
2. The Board recommends approval by the membership of the Amendments to the FFK Bylaws. A copy of the amendments is attached to the same e-mail as the newsletter.

The following member volunteers have agreed to serve as chairperson of the respective committees:

- Journey – OPEN POSITION
- Program – Sonja DuBois
- Hospitality – OPEN POSITION
- Communication – Janis Robinson

Note the open positions! If you want our club to be viable, please consider volunteering for one of these positions or think of how you might help these committees have a successful year.

Zoom Meeting Information:

Date: Nov 26, 2024

Time: 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87965174831?pwd=JtBS3GW8SaJinpiUSF5IQaa3bbe25y.1>

Meeting ID: . 879 6517 4831

Passcode: 485281

Note from the President



Autumn has remained an active time for FFK members! We said farewell to the Polish Mayors who visited with us through the Open World Program and then welcomed inbound journey ambassadors from FF St. Louis, Missouri on October 24. FFK Ambassador Coordinators, Leslie Badaines and Karen Scott, along with home hosts, small group dinner hosts and day hosts, provided our guests with a wonderful introduction to Knoxville and other nearby locations in East Tennessee. See photos on page 6 below and on the Friendship Force Knoxville Facebook page.

Hope to see you at the upcoming Holiday events the Program Committee has planned to celebrate the season and give members an opportunity to socialize. See the details below.

But before the Holidays, please plan to attend our short annual meeting held via Zoom on November 26 at 7:00 p.m. See details on page 1. We must have a quorum to elect officers. You received last week a notice about the meeting, the slate of officers, and a proposed amendment to our Bylaws. We still need volunteers to serve as a Journey Coordinator or Chairperson and a Hospitality Chairperson. **This meeting is crucial to ensure Friendship Force Knoxville can continue to provide the experiences and journeys you have come to expect.**

Thank you.

In friendship, *Betsy Tonkin*, President

Holiday Program Notes

Eighteen of us will be attending at **Clarence Brown Theatre the production of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," Sunday, November 24 at 2pm.** After the performance, most will be going out to eat. I anticipate it will be entertaining and joyous.



Next, the date of our HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY is **Tuesday, December 10, at 5:30 pm at Holly's Gourmet's Market, 5107 Kingston Pike.** Thirty-four fun loving members and guests have made reservations. It will be a smashing good time for all! Ho, ho, ho!



I've enjoyed being your Program Chairperson this year. Hope you've enjoyed yourselves. Happy Holidays!

Marsha Mitchell, Program Chairperson



FFK Journey to FF Spokane

The Friendship Force club of Knoxville (FFK) will journey to the Spokane region club June 1-7, 2025. We will do and see so many interesting things. Downtown Spokane has a beautiful park and waterfall plus notable buildings and museums. The area is also home to mountains, lakes, wineries, mines, historical sites and theaters.

Some details are:

- The journey number is 25097.
- Spokane can accept about 12-13 ambassadors.
- Costs should run about \$300-\$350 plus FFI fees of \$25/day for a total of \$425-\$475.
- Ambassadors should arrive by 4 PM, Sunday, June 1 and not plan to leave before the morning of Saturday, June 7.

If you have an interest in this journey and have not already sent us a note, please let Bruce and Janis Robinson know at: janisrobinson27@gmail.com or 865-690-7841. This expression of interest does not commit you to the trip, but rather allows us to plan.

Below is additional information. **Please see the deadlines at the bottom of this article.**

Application: If you want to go on the journey, you must submit a formal application. We will gladly send you one when you are ready if you do not already have one.

Airport: Spokane is served by several major airlines.



Spokane Falls

Hikes and walks: The distance of hikes and walks at the locations on the itinerary should only be about 25-30 minutes. While they may not be flat, they should not be difficult.

DEADLINES: February 15 is the target date to submit your application and the \$25 application fee. This fee is non-refundable but will apply to the journey fees. Submit the application to:

- If submitting electronically: janisrobinson27@gmail.com
- If submitting a hard copy: Janis Robinson, 7911 Woodland Brae, Knoxville, TN 37919
- Submit \$25 application fee to Bill Cherry, 7511 Little River Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920.

April 1 is the target deadline to submit the balance of your journey fees to the FFK treasurer.

Looking forward to traveling with you!

Janis & Bruce Robinson, Ambassador Co-coordinators



FFK to Stratford-St. Marys, Canada Journey

NOTE: Dates for the FFK journey (#25096) to FF Stratford-St. Marys Canada have changed. The journey is now scheduled for **September 22 to September 29, 2025**. The cost has been estimated, but not finalized to approximately \$400 per person Canadian plus the FFI Fee of \$25 per day in US dollars. The club has indicated that it can host 14 - 16 ambassadors depending on the mix of individual ambassadors and couples.

As we will be there during the Stratford Festival, attending a live theater performance is a must. We will choose from one of these performances for the entire group to enjoy. The 2025 playbill is:

- As you Like It
- Annie
- Sense and Sensibility
- Dangerous Liaisons
- Macbeth
- Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
- The Winter's Tale
- Forgiveness
- Ransacking Troy
- The Art of War



Village Logo for
Stratford-St. Marys

Activities that are currently being proposed beyond the theater performance are:

- Chocolate tour
- Tour of the Stratford Festival
- St. Marys day including the Pyramid Centre (a recreation and senior centre) & walking tour of the town
- Dairy farm tour
- Backyard parties
- Beekeeping tour
- A free day for you and your host to coordinate individually

FFK will start taking applications early in 2025 and will send out an e-mail with details. **Please let Karen Scott know by email at: kas491423@gmail.com or by phone at: 810-515-0780 as soon as possible if you believe this is a journey that would interest you.** You will not be committed at this time, however; the host club needs to understand our mix of ambassadors so they can determine the actual number that they can host.

It will be an exciting and fun filled journey making new friends in Stratford and St. Marys, Canada.

Karen Scott, Ambassador Coordinator



Journeys for 2025!

Eleven St Louis ambassadors departed October 29, 2024. The highlights of their visit included: A welcome dinner with a moonshine tasting; a trip to the Smoky Mountains; music at Rocky Branch Music Center in Walland; toffee making in Sweetwater; small group dinners; a Knoxville city tour; the East Tennessee History Center; an ORNL Oak Ridge bus tour; and a Farewell dinner at Dead End Barbecue.



2025 Journeys Inbound

FF Harrisburg, PA (#25292) April 5-8, 2025; this is a three-night journey. Hosts and journey committee members are needed for planning. If you are willing to participate; please contact Leslie Badaines (badainesL@aol.com)

FF Los Angeles (#25133) April 24-29, 2025. Hosts, and other volunteers are needed. (badainesL@aol.com).

2025 Journeys Outbound

FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho (#25097-Spokane) June 1-7, 2025. Bruce and Janis Robinson are coordinating this outbound journey. If you would like to go on this Journey, please send a \$25 application fee to Bill Cherry, and an application to Janis Robinson (janisrobinson27@gmail.com). Please see Bruce and Janis' article on page 4.



FF Stratford/St. Mary's, Ontario, Canada, (#25096), September 22-29, 2025. Karen Scott is the Ambassador Coordinator. The host club can house as many as 16 ambassadors from Knoxville, and are offering us many opportunities, including a performance at the Stratford Festival, (www.stratfordfestival.ca). If you would like more information, please contact Karen Scott (kas491423@gmail.com). See the article on page 4.

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

FRANK & ERNEST



FF St. Louis Inbound Journey to FF Knoxville

Enjoy a few photos from our Inbound guests from FF St. Louis – as always there are more photos on the FFK Facebook page.



Lunch at Metcalf Bottoms in the Great Smoky Mountains Natl. Park



Small Group Dinner with Jean and Ron Mayer

Tennessee Valley Winery, Sweetwater, TN



Sweetwater Valley Farm



Small Group Dinner with Paulette & Gary Anderson



Farewell Dinner at the Dead End Barbeque



Welcome dinner at TVUUC



Urban walk in Market Square Mall



Farewell Dinner at Dead End Barbeque



Ambassadors from FF Missouri-St. Louis



L to R: Ellen Greenwood, Margaret Schlinger, Char Balettie, Karen Scott



Live music at the Rocky Branch Community Center in Walland



Green McAdoo Cultural Center Statue

THE FIRST

On a whim, I decided to attend the first Friendship Force International North American Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, last month.



City Hall

We had lived many years in Wisconsin before moving to Chicago and I had not been back in 25-30 years. What I found in Milwaukee was a beautiful City transformed over the years to a mini-Chicago, but without the traffic.

Sitting beside beautiful Lake Michigan with the Milwaukee River running through it, I found again in Milwaukee the many ethnic neighborhoods making it a majority minority city, the bridges, the mansions, museums, and yes, many beer gardens in this famously German city. As a bonus, I saw Milwaukee's beautiful and grand City Hall that is a replica of the Rathaus (City Hall) FFK had just seen in Hamburg, Germany.

If you haven't been to Milwaukee in a few decades, I highly recommend it. During the conference's free time, we were offered walking tours, a two-hour riding tour in the GEM you see pictured, museum tours, and many restaurants and forms of entertainment. A fun town!



GEM Tour Car



Judi Smith,
FFI Board

Judi Smith, at 83, is the newest member of the FFI Board. Judi was selected for her savvy and history with FF. She has been a member for 40 years and has traveled extensively with them after being on the very first exploratory trip. I met Judi three years ago when FFK went to Lower Columbia in Washington state. She asked me if I would like to be her roomie in Milwaukee, and plans were set in motion.

I didn't know what would unfold in the 3 days of workshops, but for a relatively new member of FFK, I could only open my eyes and ears and take in everything.

I attended a Southeast regional conference where we discussed why we need a screening process for new members, and how to obtain references. Another one was called "selecting qualified home and day hosts." And another discussion was on club fundraising.

Next, I listened to a local attorney who specializes in immigration law explain refugee resettlement, integration, and support. Very satisfying knowing some states are doing a thorough, though complex job to help people. I heard about Open World policies and purposes in another discussion group, but my favorite gathering was seeing and listening to all of the FFI Board members reflect on their ideas and answer questions that were put to them by all in the room. They were very forthcoming and I feel I have a better sense of their personalities and the scope of their jobs and where their visions lie.

And, of course, Judy was helpful, too, explaining procedures, but not giving away any private conversations. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to listen and learn with lots of friends who happen to look at life the same as I do.

Barbara Elder



L to R: Harriet Hilton &
Nancy Wood from FF
Western North Carolina

Ginny Renda from FF Greater
Des Moines



Mavi Ramirez from FF
Tuxtla-Gutierrez



Some of the current FFI Board members

Travel/Friendship Quotes



“Live your life by a compass not a clock.” Sir Richard Burton, British explorer and writer

“We wander for distraction but we travel for fulfillment.” Hilaire Belloc, French-English writer, politician, and historian

“Good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter.” Izaak Walton, English writer

“I may not have ended up where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I intended to be.” Douglas Adams, English author, humorist

Ubuntu (Zulu word): The African concept that emphasized the universal interconnectedness between people and can be translated as “I am because we are.”

“You’ve never felt true fear until your passport isn’t where you think you left it.” From www.datestravelpages.com

2024 Upcoming Dates—Mark your Calendar

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

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.

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

Upcoming FFK General Events

- **November 24 (Sunday)** – Special event to see “A Christmas Carol” at Clarence Brown Theater
- **November 26 (Tuesday)** – Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. 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