



Janis Robinson <janisrobinson27@gmail.com>

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## April Newsletter, 2026

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Elizabeth Gregor <elizabethgregor@hotmail.com>

Sat, Apr 18, 2026 at 12:48 PM

FFK Friends -

Greetings from England. Apologies for the format of this month's newsletter. I have limited access to computers over here, hence the plain format. However, the information remains the same. Cheers, Liz Gregor

### **APRIL NEWSLETTER, 2026**

**Our next program will be Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at TVUUC on the recent journey to Florida. No meeting in April due to our visitors.**

**Please note that Mike McDonough's celebration of life will be held on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at TVUUC @ 1pm.**

**Journey Information** FF Connecticut visitors are here. Nine ambassadors arrived Friday, April 17, and were welcomed by hosts Joan Turbyville, Karen Swander, Cynthia Headrick, Ellen and Dave Greenwood, and Leslie Badaines. They attend the Rossini Festival on Saturday followed by a trip to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. Bill Cherry, Paulette and Gary Anderson and Courtney Shea hosted small group dinners that night.

Sunday is the Free Day for our ambassadors. Several have expressed an interest in going to Dollywood.

Monday, our ambassadors will be on the ORNL Bus tour lead by our very own Art Mitchell. After the bus tour, we will have lunch at Harrison's Grill in Clinton and then proceed to Norris Dam, where a TVA docent will discuss the history and building of the project and answer questions about what TVA is doing today.

Tuesday, we head to the Smoky Mountain National Park (meeting first at the new Great Smokies Welcome Center at 7929 E Lamar Alexander Parkway in Townsend). The farewell dinner is once again at the Abbey in Townsend.

**New Zealand- November 1- 15, 2026**, with an optional pre-tour of the South Island (October 26- November 1), for those interested.

If going only on the journeys to FF Southland and FF Taupo, transportation arrangements will be to fly to Invercargill on the South Island (most likely via Auckland), no later than the afternoon of November 1. This entails leaving the USA no later than October 30, as a day is lost in travel. Flights home after the Taupo journey, ends on November 15, will be from Auckland, as Taupo is on the North Island.

Costs for the two journeys will be approximately \$680 US (contingent on gasoline prices), plus transportation and 2 nights in a hotel on the way from Invercargill to Taupo (approximately \$400 US). Airfare from the US and a New Zealand ETA are your additional expense.

Those interested in the 6 day pre-trip on the South Island will need to arrive in Christchurch by October 26. Pre-trip tour is estimated to be \$2000 US, but those traveling can discuss modifications.

We will likely be opening up the journey to other clubs soon, so please send in your application to Leslie Badaines, if you would like to join this trip. [BadainesL@aol.com](mailto:BadainesL@aol.com)