



“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

FFK Website: www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org

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Journey Overviews

2021

Outbound Napa/Sonoma	Sept. 8-13, 2021
Outbound San Antonio, TX.....	Oct 1-6, 2021
Inbound San Antonio, TX	Oct 22-27, 2021

2022

Inbound Des Moines, IA	Apr. 2022
Inbound St. Louis, MO.....	Sept 2022
Outbound Romania.....	June 2022
Outbound Australia	Oct/Nov TBD
Outbound Lower Columbia Club	TBD

Note from the President

If all goes as we hope, we will travel in September to Napa and Sonoma counties in northern California, followed by an outbound journey to San Antonio, Texas, in early October. In late October, when hopefully East Tennessee’s fall colors will be at their peak, we will host the San Antonio Friendship Force Club.

Planning a Friendship Force journey during a pandemic isn’t easy to say the least. The Journey Committee, under the leadership of journey co-coordinators Diana Lopez and Leslie Badaines, have spent many hours working on a COVID 2021 journey policy. The FFK Board approved the journey committee’s recommendations at the April 13 board meeting. The board is hopeful that our policy requiring FFK ambassadors and hosts to be vaccinated, as well as the host club’s requirements that their hosts be vaccinated, will encourage many

of you to travel and/or host this September and October. We need ambassadors to travel and members to host to make the outbound Napa-Sonoma and outbound and inbound San Antonio journeys a reality!

In the meantime, you have many wonderful opportunities to travel vicariously in the comfort of your own home. The Program/Membership Committee, under the leadership of co-chairs Betsy Tonkin and Helen Bachrach, have planned informative, entertaining, and educational monthly programs. The April 27 general membership event will be about FFK member Diana Lopez’s experience on a Friendship Force International Global Journey to Myanmar. I hope to see you there.

Jayne Raparelli, President

In Memoriam: Jim Dennis

Jim Dennis, FFK President in 1999-2000, passed away on April 12, 2021. He and his wife Judy have been active members of Friendship Force of Knoxville for nearly 30 years participating in many Journeys and “enjoyed every minute” Judy tells us. Jim was always generous with his expertise and served in many positions in FFK including VP Membership, Journey Coordinator and on the Financial Advisory Committee. In these roles, he worked to create Journey procedure documents and assisted with audits of the club accounting. A \$50 donation was sent to Second Harvest in Jim’s memory.

FFK April 27th: Best of Myanmar Discovery Tour

Come join Diana Lopez at our April 27th meeting as she takes us through her global journey with Friendship Force in 2019 and discover Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Laos. In Myanmar, we will visit many temples, rural villages, major cities and use a variety of modes of transportation, as well as meet people of different ethnic groups. She will also take us into Laos for a brief look at more temples, villages, and cities.



Time: Apr 27, 2021 06:30 PM (social), 7 PM (program)

Zoom Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/b3ej8j9h>

Meeting ID: 861 5509 3072

Passcode: 268019

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Diana Lopez joined Friendship Force in 2014. She has traveled extensively, often in small groups with international educators or Friendship Force, when not on lengthy cruises.

For information on the current political situation in Myanmar, see daily newspaper coverage.

Suggested books:

- [Saving Fish from Drowning](#) by Amy Tan
- [The River of Lost Footsteps: Histories of Burma](#) by Thant Myint-U

Food:

Rice is the staple food except among those in the highland areas where rice is difficult to grow. In those areas, rice, millet, sorghum, and corn are the staples.

Outbound to Napa Sonoma, California! September 8-13, 2021

Our first 2021 Friendship Force journey will finally be here this September! At least, that is our plan and our hope.

We’re keeping our fingers crossed that the Covid situation in California continues to improve allowing us to visit to the Napa-Sonoma Friendship Force Club in northern California. We didn’t know it at the time, but the inbound Napa-Sonoma journey to Knoxville in October 2019 was our last pre-pandemic Friendship Force journey.

We’ll be staying in the homes of Napa-Sonoma Friendship Force Club members. Friendship Force Knoxville requires our ambassadors on outbound journeys this year to be vaccinated against COVID. Napa-Sonoma also expects their hosts will be vaccinated against COVID. (For more details on the FFK COVID Policy on Domestic 2021 Journeys, please see page 3.)

Here are our plans:

Dates:

- Arrive: Wednesday, September 8.
- Depart: Monday, September 13.

Cost:

The cost is estimated at \$200 per ambassador for the host club. The host club provides free lodging, breakfast, and transportation to daily activities. The cost of other items, such as special dinners, and attending attractions are covered by the \$200 fee.

It does not include our individual traveling costs getting to and from California.

The FFI domestic journey fee per ambassador is \$75.

Places we may visit:

- Charles Schultz Peanuts Comic Museum
- Cornerstone Sonoma
- Hallberg Butterfly Gardens Sebastopol
- Jacuzzi Family Vineyards
- Ferrari Carnaro Vineyards and Winery
- Luther Burbank Gardens
- Petaluma Historic Museum
- Sonoma Mission & Barracks
- UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab
- Buck Institute for Research on Aging (Novato)
- Bay Model Museum (Sausalito)

Are you ready to fill out an Outbound Ambassador Application?! Here's the link: Outbound Ambassador Application (include \$25 fee):

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Ambassador-Application-and-Agreement-1.pdf>

One of the questions on the application is the journey number. FFI has given us the **Journey Number 21440**.

Mail your *application* to Ambassador Coordinators:

Jayne Raparelli & Mike McDonough
2427 Eppie Cove LN
Knoxville, TN 37931

Mail the \$25 *application fee* payable to **Friendship Force of Knoxville** to our club treasurer. Write on the memo line Napa-Sonoma journey.

Bruce Robinson
PO Box 53104
Knoxville, TN 37950

Because the journey is still tentative, please **do not** book airfare at this time. We hope to have confirmation from Napa-Sonoma by mid-June when they expect the state will be 100 percent open. We need to have a minimum of 10 ambassadors to make this journey happen.

Questions? Please email Jayne and Mike jaynerap@aol.com or call Jayne at 423-871-1739.

We are looking forward to experiencing Napa and Sonoma Counties with you in September!

Jayne Raparelli & Mike McDonough

May 16th is the FFK Charter Anniversary

This year, 2021, is the 40th anniversary of Friendship Force Knoxville's charter. The official celebration will be held later in the year but the charter date is May 16th, 1981. Be sure to raise a glass of wine (or your beverage of choice) and think about our journeys and the friends, domestic and international, we have made.

The "History" section of the FFK Webpage has several PDF documents of the brochures created for many earlier celebrations that you can examine. There is also a document called "Chapter History 1981 – 1995" which has a history of the club during that range of years including a list of the charter members. An interesting read!

COVID Policy for Domestic Journeys in 2021

For the health and safety of all members of FFK during this time of the COVID pandemic, the Board approved, upon the Journey Committee's recommendation, the following protocols for the three journeys this fall:

1. An Ambassador on an outbound journey must be vaccinated against COVID. The ambassador has the right to require that his/her host also be vaccinated.
2. A Host for in inbound journey must be vaccinated against COVID. The host has the right to require that an ambassador also be vaccinated.
3. Masks must be worn at all times when out in public, at airports, in restaurants (unless actively eating), at meetings and all gatherings until such time as the CDC no longer recommends that masks be worn. The host and ambassador

should agree as to the most comfortable protocol in the home.

4. FFK will comply with all recommendations that may be developed by the CDC at a later date.

This policy is effective April 13, 2021 for domestic journeys concluded in 2021.

Travels This Year and Next

We hope that everyone will be able to join us on at least one of our journeys either this fall or next year. Check out the inbound and outbound



journeys and decide where you want to go and/or if you want to host. The call for ambassador and host applications will be forthcoming. Watch for announcements in the newsletter, at meetings, by email, and on the website (Hint: there is a call for applications in this edition!).

- **2021 Napa-Sonoma Outbound** – Sep 8-13. Journey #21440. Contact Jayne Raparelli, jaynerap@aol.com, and Mike McDonough.
- **2021 San Antonio Outbound** – Oct 1-6. Journey #21243. Contact Leslie Badaines, badainesl@aol.com.
- **2021 San Antonio Inbound** – Oct 22-27. Journey #21441. Contact Jayne Raparelli, jaynerap@aol.com, and Mike McDonough.
- **2022 Des Moines Inbound** – Apr 2022. Contact Mike McDonough, jaynerap@aol.com.
- **2022 Romania Outbound** – Postponed until Jun 2022. Contact Diana Lopez, dlopez@utk.edu.
- **2022 St Louis, MO Inbound** – Postponed until Sep 2022. Need a host coordinator.
- **2022 Lower Columbia Outbound** – Date TBD. Need an ambassador coordinator.
- **2022 Australia Outbound** – Late Oct-early Nov. Contact Leslie Badaines, badainesl@aol.com.

Leslie Badaines and Diana Lopez
Journey Co-coordinators

Down Memory Lane-March 23 Event

Twenty-four people attended the March 23rd Event: FFK Journeys Down Memory Lane. Long-time FFK member Ron Mayer hosted this program of highlights from FFK ambassadors and hosts from the many types of journeys Friendship Force Knoxville has participated in over the years. These include:

- FFK club inbound and outbound international journeys
- FFK club inbound and outbound domestic journeys
- FFK-hosted delegations from Open World
- FFI-sponsored or Global journeys
- FFK individual members joining another FF club outbound journeys.

Member Profiles

Art and Marsha Mitchell joined Friendship Force Knoxville in February 2021. Both have lived in Knoxville much of their adult lives. They first learned about FFK several years ago from Panos and Renee Ioannides and most recently again from Betsy Tonkin. They both enjoy hiking, cycling, spending time with their 5 grandchildren who live in Memphis, and, before the pandemic, traveling.

After graduating from the University of Tennessee, Art served in the Air Force for 5 years and then was employed at Y-12 National Security Complex as a process engineer for 37 years before retiring. He has visited over 65 countries and lived overseas for 4 years at various times in Greece, Germany and Kosovo. Art also enjoys playing trivia and studying history.

Marsha's undergraduate degree is from Memphis State University, and her law degree is from the UT College of Law. Following her lengthy career as a criminal prosecutor with District Attorney's Offices in Tennessee, primarily in Knoxville, she served for two years as an International Prosecutor in the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, and then was employed as a mentor and advisor to prosecutors in Afghanistan and later in Liberia, through programs funded by the US State Dept. Marsha has been an active member of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) since 2007, and she and Art have attended IAP

conferences in several countries. While mostly retired, Marsha occasionally teaches as an adjunct professor at the LMU Duncan School of Law. She is also an avid bridge player and enjoys swimming and audible books.

Both Art and Marsha look forward to taking part in Friendship Force programs, hosting and other activities.

Book Recommendations for FFK Events

Every month in the newsletter, the club will feature book recommendations about the places our speakers will take us. This will give you an opportunity to read them before the meeting. If you have a book to recommend that fits in with any future events (see Upcoming Dates), please send to Janis Robinson (jgr@utk.edu).



April 27 - Best of Burma (Myanmar) Discovery Tour by Diana Lopez

Suggested books:

- Saving Fish from Drowning by Amy Tan
- The River of Lost Footsteps: Histories of Burma by Thant Myint-U

May 25 - South African Experiences by Betsy Tonkin

Suggested books:

- Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela
- Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
- The Covenant by James Michener

Upcoming Dates—Mark your calendars

Virtual Board Meeting: May 11, 2:00 p.m.

Upcoming FFK Virtual General Events (6:30 p.m. Social; 7:00 p.m. Program):

- April 27: FFI Global Journey to Myanmar
- May 25: Adventures in South Africa & Zambia
- June 22: UN Mission in Kosovo & Touring Nearby Countries

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



“How wonderful to get outside again! To work in the garden. To stroll into the village. To see people also out and know, just know, that behind the mask they are smiling.” Louise Penny