

**The Friendship Force[®]
of
Knoxville**



**Chapter History
1981-1995**

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of
Knoxville**



Founded 1981

**Dedicated to Founding Member
Aileen Caldwell**

CHARTER MEMBERS

May - October 1981

Carrie Albert	Fritzi Vaughn Logan
Hugh and Dorothy Allan	Pearl Madden
Charlie and Margaret Angel	Don (deceased) and May Mattern
Frank and Edna Bell	Bob and Dolores McDonald
Olive Bezik	Margaret McKinney
Floyd and Hazel Bowers	Roy and Barbara Nix
Aileen Caldwell	Sarah Oakley
Dr. Ed Carver	Bob and Hannah Pedersen
Elizabeth Cooper (deceased)	David and Velma Pressly
Clarence and Elizabeth Crabtree	Betty Rose
Boyd Daniels	Laura Rose
Arleen Delozier	T. G. and Louisa Scott
Letha Dixon	Myrtle Seno
Jim (deceased) and Jane Dunlap	Carolyn Wilson Sergeant
Wilma Ebinger	Astrid Shell
Elinor Glass	Amy Sherrill
Claude and Mary Evelyn Haws	Charles and Sarah Shivers
Suzanne Henderson	Clara Smith
Grace Jones	Homer and Ella Swingle
Pat Keener	Don and Mary Thomas (deceased)
Elvira Kendig	Arlice Yount
Betty Lockett	Randall and Virginia Zepp

PRESIDENTS

1981	Aileen Caldwell	1991	Byrl Logan
1982	Aileen Caldwell	1992	Letha Dixon
1983	Claude Haws	1993	Betty Rose
1984	William Grieve	1994	Hugh Sells
1985	Bob Ebinger	1995	William Grieve
1986	Bob Ebinger	1996	Fritzi Logan
1986-7	Bob Young	1997	
1987-8	Bob Young	1998	
1988-9	Gordon Ford	1999	
1990	Byrl Logan	2000	

YEARS OF FUN, FLEXIBILITY AND FRIENDSHIP

Bold headlines announced "Exchange-Trip Plan Launched by Carter." This appeared on the front page of the March 2, 1977, issue of the Knoxville News-Sentinel. The story described a new massive exchange program to send Americans on trips abroad and bring foreigners to the United States — a program called The Friendship Force. The idea stemmed from an exchange program President Carter and his wife engineered while he was governor of Georgia with exchanges of Georgians and Brazilians. A White House statement declared The Friendship Force would be financed entirely by those who travel. Their motto was "A world of friends is a world of peace."

This news story caught the attention of Knoxville Aileen Caldwell who immediately wrote Mrs. Carter requesting information. A few months later she received a response from the Director of Projects for Rosalynn Carter with the information that Reverend Wayne Smith, Atlanta, Georgia, was the President of The Friendship Force and Rosalynn Carter was Honorary Chairperson. Dr. Smith's reply to Aileen referred her to The Friendship Force state director in Franklin, Tennessee. After several months went by with no word from the state director, she tried again in early 1978 and received a reply from Betty Blanton, Governor Blanton's wife, stating that the 1977 Friendship Force exchange between Nashville and Caracas, Venezuela, had been successful, but that Tennessee did not plan to schedule other exchanges at that time. On May 1, 1979, Aileen telephoned Atlanta Friendship Force headquarters and talked directly to Dr. Smith who agreed to put her name on a list of ambassadors who had no Friendship Force organization in their own states.

Dr. Smith telephoned Aileen November 12, 1979, and invited her to join the Richmond, Virginia, Friendship Force in its exchange with Seoul, Korea. The following year, when Aileen had an opportunity to meet Dr. Smith personally, he remarked that he remembered the pause in that telephone conversation and knew

she was silently exclaiming in shock, "Korea!" He said he sympathized with her qualms.

After a wonderful trip to Korea, Aileen was ready to go again. In October 1980 she took part in Atlanta's exchange with West Berlin and was invited to attend the 4th International Friendship Force Conference being held in Berlin at that time. There she met representatives from the Atlanta office and delegates from other countries who encouraged her to try to develop a Friendship Force club in Knoxville.

Back home, fired with enthusiasm and encouraged by new overseas friends, Aileen found she had an ally in Carolyn Wilson. Carolyn, whose brother, Landrum Bolling, was on the Board of Directors for Friendship Force International, had contacted the Atlanta office and been referred to Aileen Caldwell. Through the efforts of Dr. Pat Ball, Director of Public Affairs for the City of Knoxville, a luncheon was hosted by Mayor Randy Tyree on January 12, 1981, at Club LeConte with guest speaker Stanley Humphries, Executive Director of The Friendship Force International. Mr. Humphries was substituting for Dr. Wayne Smith who was scheduled to attend, but was delayed on a flight from Israel. Mr. Humphries explained that The Friendship Force was established in 1977 as a nonprofit organization chartered for the purpose of promoting understanding in the world through the "force of friendship." The goal is achieved through an exchange program. He answered questions posed by the guests.

After this luncheon and during the spring months that followed, persons interested in the Friendship Force met several times in the City-County Building. Some of these who are still members of the club were Olive Bezik, Myrtle Seno, Aileen Caldwell, Fritz Vaughn, Bob McDonald, Letha Dixon, Wilma Ebinger, and Charles and Elsie Durfee. Carolyn Wilson, as a member of Second Presbyterian Church on Kingston Pike, was able to obtain for us a meeting place at her church.

According to the Minutes, the first official meeting of The Friendship Force Club of Knoxville was held at Second Presbyterian Church in the parlor on Saturday, May 16, 1981, at 10 o'clock in the morning. A slate of officers was elected with

Aileen Caldwell as President, Dr. Jim Dunlap as Vice President, Letha Dixon as Secretary and Hannah Pederson as Treasurer. There was discussion about a constitution and by-laws. Pat Keener's motion that dues be set at \$10 annually was approved. Application for a license and charter was to be made to headquarters of Friendship Force in Atlanta by the President. It was decided the next meeting would be held on June 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Second Presbyterian Church. The Friendship Force of Knoxville was on its way!

Dr. Edmund Carver, Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, who was a member, was instrumental in helping provide a place to meet at the church, where the Club meets on the first Monday night of each month at 6:30. The Club is also grateful to the Knoxville Mayor's office for help with meeting notices and for the lovely receptions given to honor Friendship Force guests from other countries.

The first social was a potluck dinner at the home of Pat Keener in honor of the Ambassadors to Hamburg, West Germany. This was the forerunner of many happy times together when members became better acquainted and developed many close friendships with one another. This has made it easier to entertain Ambassadors from other countries.

In the summer of 1981, Betty Rose was interviewed at The Friendship Force International office in Atlanta and approved to be Co-Exchange Director with Aileen Caldwell for the Seoul, Korea, Exchange to be held in the spring of 1982. That fall the first President, Aileen Caldwell, and Betty Rose were delegates to the 5th Annual International Conference in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England, where they learned more about the organization and methods of The Friendship Force International. The Knoxville Club was fortunate to be invited to participate in the Asheville, North Carolina, Exchange with Hamburg, West Germany, in October 1981. That way they could gain experience without assuming the full responsibility while still learning. There were 45 from Tennessee in the group, 32 of these from Knoxville.

The Knoxville Club held workshops and provided German lessons to prepare its first Ambassadors, and several attended

workshops in Asheville. Dr. Homer Swingle and his wife, Ella, have arranged for most of our workshops to be held in the U.T. Plant Sciences Building. One of the great things about Friendship Force is the way the workshops provide knowledge about the country and the people to be visited in order to prepare members to be good Ambassadors and Hosts — a good way to erase the “ugly American” image! There is no better way to gain an appreciation for the people of another country than to live in their homes and share their lives, culture and customs for a week.

Excitement ran high when the Knoxville Ambassadors returned from that first exchange with Hamburg in 1981. Each person had a different experience to share — and pictures, slides, gifts, letters and souvenirs! Their enthusiasm poured over into TV talk shows, newspaper accounts, speeches and slide shows for other Knoxville Clubs, and personal contacts with friends. By 1982, the membership was 110, almost double that of 1981.

The first official exchange with Seoul, Korea presented many exciting challenges. Since Aileen had participated as an Ambassador to Seoul with another Friendship Force Exchange, she elected to be in charge of hosting the Koreans in Knoxville. Betty Rose led the group of Ambassadors who went to Seoul. At this time, Friendship Force required a Flight Coordinator (someone who could speak the language), and Jinhi Kim served in this capacity and did the interpretation for Betty Rose when she gave her presentation at the Farewell Dinner at the Scilla Hotel. It was especially appropriate that our Korean Ambassadors were entertained during Korea Week at the World’s Fair. The Ambassadors and their Hosts received special seating and recognition at the Court of Flags on Korea Day.

In the fall of 1982, six members attended the Annual Conference hosted by Asheville at Blue Ridge Conference Center in North Carolina. Aileen Caldwell, Letha Dixon, Margaret and Charlie Angel and Laura and Gordon Ford brought back many helpful ideas and met Trevor Pollitt, Exchange Director for their upcoming exchange with Guildford, England, to take place in August of 1983.

These Exchanges have taken the work of many people besides

the Exchange Directors. For each Hosting that we undertook, there were more members working on various committees than we have space to mention. There were applications chairpersons, finance chairpersons, activities chairpersons and those in charge of arrivals and departures. We had members working on banquets, teas, picnics, typing, programs and transportation for our guests. Without lots of help from the members, none of this could have taken place. Many people in The Friendship Force of Knoxville have joined hands to make friends all over the world and hopefully to promote peace and good will. To make such a club as we have, it has taken us all working together in friendship and love! We hope that we have truly made a difference in our world today.

Exchanges, Missions, Festivals and Inter-Club Visits

- 1981 - HAMBURG, WEST GERMANY, 45 Ambassadors, October 10-23.
Joined with Asheville, North Carolina.
- 1982 - SEOUL, KOREA, 22 Ambassadors, May 17-31. Co-exchange
Directors: Aileen Caldwell and Betty Rose.
Hosted: SEOUL, KOREA simultaneously, 49 Ambassadors.
- 1983 - GUILDFORD, ENGLAND, 80 Ambassadors, August 15-22. Co-
directors: Roy and Barbara Nix and Letha Dixon.
Hosted: GUILDFORD, ENGLAND, 20 Ambassadors, October 15-22.
- 1984 - SAO PAULO, BRAZIL, 50 Ambassadors, September 26-October 12.
Exchange Director: Letha Dixon, Asst. Director: Margaret Angel.
- 1985 - KIRIAT ONO, ISRAEL, 25 Ambassadors, June 13-28. Exchange
Director: Bill Grieve, Asst. Director: Bob McDonald.
Hosted: SAO PAULO, BRAZIL, 21 Ambassadors, August 9-15.
- 1986 - WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, 68 Ambassadors, April 19-26.
Exchange Director: Bob Young.
- 1987 - HAMBURG, WEST GERMANY, 42 Ambassadors, September 1-7.
Exchange Director: Claude Haws.
Hosted: HAMBURG, WEST GERMANY, 30 Ambassadors, October 2-16.
- 1988 - KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN, 41 Ambassadors, October 13-27.
Exchange Director: Joe Erpenbach.
Hosted: DERBYSHIRE, ENGLAND, 38 Ambassadors, July 16-20.
- 1989 - YUGOSLAVIA MISSION, 24 Ambassadors, August 16-31.
Exchange Director: Gordon Ford.

- Hosted: KOAHSTUNG, TAIWAN, 21 Ambassadors, April 12-19.
Hosted: KIRGHIZIA, U.S.S.R., 23 Ambassadors, July 6-11.
- 1990 - CHINA MISSION, 45 Ambassadors, September 6-20.
Exchange Director: Byrl Logan.
- 1991 - DUBLIN, IRELAND, 21 Ambassadors, May 15-20.
Exchange Director: Gray Beasley.
Hosted: SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, 16 Ambassadors, September 17-24. Exchange Director: Mary Evelyn Haws.
- 1992 - FFI ITALY, SWEETHEART EXCHANGE, with FFI Atlanta, 10 Ambassadors form Knoxville, February 7-17. Directors: Byrl and Fritzi Logan
- CURITIBA, BRAZIL, 21 Ambassadors, April 20-May 12, Exchange Director: Letha Dixon.
 - TUXTELA, CHIAPAS, MEXICO FESTIVAL, 30 Ambassadors, December 4-14. Director: Byrl Logan.
Hosted: DUBLIN, IRELAND, 20 Ambassadors, September 16-24. Exchange Director: Gray Beasley.
Hosted: CALI, COLUMBIA, 2 Ambassadors, July 18-25.
- 1993 - WEST SUSSEX & NEWCASTLE ON TYNE, with Houston Texas, 10 Ambassadors, July 6-24. Exchange Director: Letha Dixon.
- NAPIER, KAPITI COAST, NEW ZEALAND & NELSON, S. ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND, 15 Ambassadors, October 23-November 27. Exchange Director: Betty Rose.
Hosted: WOLFSBURG, GERMANY, 12 Ambassadors, July 26-August 2. Exchange Director: Jane Randolph.
- 1994 - KREMS, AUSTRIA, 23 Ambassadors, May 13-20. Exchange Director: Rodger Frey.
- SPOKANE, WASHINGTON & KELSO, WASHINGTON, (Domestic Exchange) 21 Ambassadors, August 11-24. Exchange Director: Hugh Sells.
 - ACUPULCO, MEXICO, 10 Ambassadors, November 2-9. Exchange Director: Hugh Sells.
Hosted: TUXTELA, CHIAPAS, MEXICO, 33 Ambassadors, July 17-25. Exchange Director: Barbara Nix.
- 1995 - COSTA RICA, 9 Ambassadors, March 10-19. Exchange Director: Bill Grieve.

