



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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

Travel is thankfully becoming possible now that more Americans are being vaccinated against the coronavirus every day. But before we can pack our bags or welcome Friendship Force ambassadors to Knoxville, we need to know what our members think about a proposed Friendship Force of Knoxville journey policy during the pandemic.

The proposed policy only affects our domestic journeys this year: Outbound in early September to Napa-Sonoma, California, and in early October to San Antonio, Texas, and inbound in late October from the San Antonio Friendship Force Club. The FFK board discussed at length the proposed policy at its March 9th board meeting. And now, it is vital we hear from you. Please read the policy which you will find in the newsletter, and send your comments, concerns and questions

to our Journey Coordinators, Diana Lopez and Leslie Badaines. The FFK board will vote on the policy at the April 13 board meeting.

I hope we will hear from you on this very important issue.

Thank you in advance,
Jayne Raparelli, President

Note: A copy of the proposal is at the end of this newsletter and on the FFK webpage (Journey page) for your review.



FFK Journeys: Down Memory Lane- March 23 Event

Long-time FFK member Ron Mayer will host 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.

The program will bring back memories for many of us and will provide new members with examples of the experiences that await them in future journeys.

Suggested book: Travel as a Political Act by Rick Steves

Note: see the explanation of the types of journeys available to FFK members on the bottom of the Journeys section on the FFK website at <https://friendshipforceknoxville.org/journeys> .

Diana Lopez will open the Zoom session at 6:30 p.m. – 30 minutes prior to the Event – to allow time for everyone to sign in.

Zoom Meeting Information:

Time: Mar 23, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time EST

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2u7apjzc>

Meeting ID: 856 5695 5608

Passcode: 070991

Phone: 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Get ready for Some Traveling!

The Journey Committee has been busy this past month. We are pleased to announce that FFK has received our 2022 matches from FFI. We have

been assigned outbound trips to North Moreton and The Gold Coast of Australia, a trip that was canceled in 2020, We have also been granted one of our 3 domestic preferences, Lower Columbia; this club encompasses Upper Oregon and the lower part of Washington states, (think wine country). Des Moines, Iowa has been assigned to visit us (April 2022), but without local Host Coordinators, this journey is in question, as is an incoming journey from St. Louis (see below).

The Journey Committee met recently to discuss preliminary recommendations for a Coronavirus policy. A proposed policy has been submitted to the Board, but member input is desired prior to final board approval. A copy of the policy under consideration has been mailed to members and is also available at the end of this newsletter. Members are encouraged to provide feedback by **April 5, 2021** to Journey Coordinators Leslie Badaines (badainesl@icloud.com), or Diana Lopez (dlopez@utk.edu).

Get ready for some traveling, folks! The following dates are scheduled for **outbound** Journeys:

- **September 8-13, 2021- Napa/Sonoma, CA.** If interested, contact Jayne Raparelli and Mike McDonough, Ambassador Coordinators for this trip (jaynerap@aol.com).
- **October 1-6, 2021 – San Antonio, TX.** If interested, contact Leslie Badaines, Ambassador Coordinator for this trip (badainesl@icloud.com).
- **June 2022- Sibiu, Romania. (Specific dates not yet set).** If interested, contact Diana Lopez, Ambassador Coordinator for this trip (dlopez@utk.edu).
- **Mid October – Early November 2022- North Moreton, and Gold Coast, Australia.** If interested, contact Leslie Badaines Ambassador Coordinator for this trip (badainesl@icloud.com)
- **Lower Columbia-** Date to be determined; Ambassador Coordinator needed.

(Inbound journeys on next page)

The following are scheduled **inbound** Journeys:

- **October 22-27, 2021- San Antonio, TX.** If interested in hosting a guest from San Antonio, contact Jayne Raparelli and Mike McDonough, Host Coordinators (jaynerap@aol.com).

Your Journey Committee is desperately seeking Host Coordinators, or Co- Coordinators for Des Moines, Iowa- April 2022, and St. Louis, Missouri, September 2022.

Set itineraries are already available from our prior inbound journeys. Please consider volunteering, or teaming up with your best buddy, partner, or spouse to serve as Host Coordinators for these journeys. Without Host Coordinators, these journeys may not occur.

Leslie Badaines & Diana Lopez,
Journey Co-coordinators



“Little by little, we travel far.”
Spanish saying

Thirty attend Feb. 23 Virtual Event

Thirty FFK members attended the February 23rd Club Event. Mary Williams, FF Dallas Club, talked about their experiences with the Sibiu FF Club on their trip to Romania in 2009. Mary described Romania as "a delightful country."



Since her retirement in 1999, Mary has been an active member with the Friendship Force of Dallas and has been a Journey Coordinator for several Journeys. Traveling to 54 countries and all 50 states she also enjoys photography and presenting programs on her travels as well as other subjects.

FFI Opens MyFF Webpage

As part of their plans for 2021 and beyond, FFI wanted to create a member-only website. A simple, clear tool will eventually house all

member resources and exclusive member-only content and keep members up to speed with news from FFI and around the world. The minimum information required to sign up is your name, club and email address, all totally secure.

To learn more, FFI has created a PDF document with instructions for signing up for MyFF and using the basic webpage currently developed. A copy of this PDF document is available on the FFK “About Us” webpage.

New! Member Profiles: Vicki Creed

The newsletter is now adding this new feature to profile a member each month, beginning with the first new member to join FFK in 2021. The plan is to profile both new members soon after they join as well as profiles of those who have been members of FFK for the longest time. We hope this new feature will help members get better acquainted with one another, particularly during these times when we cannot socialize together.

Vicki Creed joined Friendship Force Knoxville in January 2021. She has lived in Knoxville for over 50 years, having moved here to attend the University of Tennessee where she obtained a degree in special education and later received a masters from Vanderbilt in organization and human resources development. Although Vicki is primarily retired now, she continues to provide organization development consulting services to clients through her business, <https://www.victoriacreed.com>.

Her hobbies include gardening, cooking, music, attending live performances, and reading. She is interested in expanding her travel experiences as most of her travel in the past was for business. Vicki first attended a FFK meeting in January 2020 as a guest of Betsy Tonkin. Vicki is very supportive of FFI's values involving cultural exchange as a means of developing relationships on a personal basis between people of different backgrounds.

Betsy Tonkin, Vice President

Book Recommendations for FFK Events

Starting this month, book recommendations about the places our speakers will take us will be featured in the newsletter. 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).



March 23 – FFK Journeys: Down Memory Lane by various members

Suggested book:

- Travel as a Political Act by Rick Steves

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: April 9, 2:00 p.m.

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

- March 23: FFK Journeys - Down Memory Lane
- April 27: FFI Global Journey to Myanmar
- May 25: Adventures in South Africa & Zambia

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

“Like all great travellers, I have seen more than I remember, and remember more than I have seen.”

Benjamin Disraeli



PROPOSED

FFK Policy on Domestic 2021 Journeys during COVID Pandemic

For the health and safety of all members of FFK during this time of the COVID pandemic, the Journey Committee recommends the following protocols:

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. Both Ambassadors and Hosts must be tested for COVID-19 within one (1) to three (3) days before the journey with a negative result. There is no refund of fees if tested positive.
4. 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.
5. FFK will comply with all recommendations that may be developed by the CDC at a later date.

Effective April 13, 2021 for domestic journeys concluded in 2021.