



## “Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

FFK Website: [www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org](http://www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org)

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### In This Issue

Note from the President.....	1
May 25: South African Adventures.....	2
Apply Now: Napa-Sonoma Journey.....	2
San Antonio, TX, Outbound Journey.....	3
Experience the Essence of Friendship Force.....	3
COVID Policy for Domestic Journeys.....	4
FFK Policy for In-person Meetings.....	4
Journeys This Year and Next.....	4
Reflection on FFK Apr 27 Meeting: Myanmar.....	5
Member Profile: Courtney Shea.....	5
Book Recommendations for Events.....	5
Travel Quotes.....	6
Upcoming Dates--Mark Your Calendar.....	6
FFK Officers.....	6

### 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.....	after Sept 2022
Outbound Romania.....	June 2022
Outbound Australia:	
North Moreton.....	Oct. 21-28
Gold Coast.....	Oct. 28-Nov. 4
Outbound Lower Columbia Club.....	TBD

### Note from the President

2021 is full of promise for our club. We are returning to the essence of Friendship Force -- traveling and hosting. I hope many of you can participate in our September and October journeys, whether as an ambassador journeying to Napa-



Sonoma or San Antonio, or becoming involved when we host the San Antonio club.

Looking forward, we are planning a holiday event in

December. At this month’s general event, we will poll attendees about their preference on dates. The holiday gathering will recognize a very important milestone — our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

When I reflect on that fact, I think of the many countries and American cities our club members

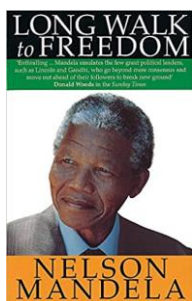
have visited during the past four decades, the many clubs we have hosted, the friendships that have been made. I am grateful to our founders, who back in 1981, decided to form a Friendship Force club. Because of them, and the members who have followed, who have traveled on outbound journeys, hosted inbound Friendship Force and Open World journeys, served on the board, and been coordinators, and committee chairs, and the dozens who have done a million tasks, Friendship Force of Knoxville has survived.

Our future looks bright. We need your involvement. Come join us at our monthly Zoom events and sign up to travel and/or host and serve on the host committee.

*Jayne Raparelli, President*

## FFK May 25<sup>th</sup> Event South African Experiences

Betsy Tonkin will share with us at our May 25 meeting her South African experiences in 2019 – spectacular scenery, diverse culture, important historical events, and, of course, amazing wildlife. Her tour will take us to Kimberley, South Africa, where the first diamonds were found in Africa and a new integrated university founded there in 2014. From there we will go to Cape Town at the foot of Table Mountain founded by the Dutch East India Company in 1652, the Cape Point peninsula including the Cape of Good Hope, and Robben Island where Nelson Mandela served most of his 20-year imprisonment, then on to the nearby Stellenbosch region winelands. Next on our agenda will be Kruger National Park and an adjacent game preserve with many amazing, up-close photos of wildlife, followed by Victoria Falls in Zambia, and, finally, Johannesburg, the largest city in South Africa.



**Date:** May 25, 2021  
**Time:** 06:30 PM (social), 7:00 PM (program)  
**Zoom Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/48rbn2yp>  
**Meeting ID:** 879 7697 4746  
**Passcode:** 336285  
**Dial in:** +1 929 205 6099

### Coronavirus Vaccination

FFK requires that our members who participate in domestic 2021 journeys, either as an ambassador or a host, be vaccinated for the Coronavirus. After we receive your ambassador or host application, you will receive a Coronavirus Vaccination Verification Form.

## Apply now for Napa Sonoma Journey! September 8-13, 2021

*California, here we come!*

It looks very promising that our scheduled Sept 8-13 outbound journey to Napa-Sonoma will happen. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of our first 2021 journey. The Napa-Sonoma Friendship Force Club can only accommodate eight ambassadors, and we've already received a number of applications.

Complete the Outbound Ambassador Application Link below and email to Jayne Raparelli [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com) or mail to  
 Jayne Raparelli  
 2427 Eppie Cove LN  
 Knoxville, TN 37931.

Here's the link: Outbound Ambassador Application  
<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Ambassador-Application-and-Agreement-1.pdf>  
**Journey Number 21440.**

There is a non-refundable \$25 *application fee* which will be applied to the journey costs. Mail a check payable to **Friendship Force of Knoxville** to our club treasurer (address below). Write on the memo line Napa-Sonoma journey. Send your check to:

Bruce Robinson, FFK Treasurer  
 PO Box 53104  
 Knoxville, TN 37950

Once the journey is set, we will send out the itinerary, and airport shuttle information to our meeting place. **Do not book airfare now.**

**Arrive:** Wednesday, September 8.  
**Depart:** Monday, September 13.  
**Cost:** The cost is estimated at \$200 per ambassador for the host club, plus a \$75 FFI domestic journey fee per ambassador - \$275 total. The host club provides free lodging in members' homes with 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.

**Places we may visit and activities:**

- Winery tasting
- Olive oil pressing
- Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve
- Canine Companions
- Charles Schultz Peanuts Comic Museum
- Cornerstone Sonoma
- Hallberg Butterfly Gardens Sebastopol
- Luther Burbank Gardens
- Petaluma Historic Museum
- Sonoma Mission & Barracks
- UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab



Questions? Please email Jayne and Mike [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto: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*  
Ambassador Coordinators

**San Antonio, TX, Outbound Journey**

Remember the Alamo! Come along with FFK and visit San Antonio, TX, from October 1-6, 2021. Among the many highlights that we will visit are the Alamo, the Riverwalk, and the World Heritage Site Missions. This Journey is open to 10 Friendship Force Knoxville Ambassadors. We will be staying in the homes of FF San Antonio club members.

This Journey will require Ambassadors to be fully vaccinated **AND to take a Covid-19 test with a negative test result 2 to 3 days prior to arrival.**



The host club will provide lodging, breakfast, and transportation to daily activities. The cost will be \$200, plus a \$75 fee to Friendship Force International. Knoxville

Ambassadors will also be responsible for their own transportation to San Antonio.

Applications are available on the Friendship Force International website

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

Ambassador applications should be emailed to Leslie Badaines ([badainesL@aol.com](mailto:badainesL@aol.com)). In addition, a non-refundable \$25 application fee should be mailed to Bruce Robinson, FFK treasurer, P.O. Box 53104, Knoxville, TN 37950. The total cost will depend on the events but likely will be about \$275. The application fee will be applied to the cost.

Come join us in San Antonio and experience Texas hospitality at its best!

Leslie Badaines  
*Ambassador Coordinator*

**Experience the Essence of Friendship Force**

*Hosts needed for inbound*

*San Antonio Oct. 22-27*

Our club will host about 10 ambassadors from the San Antonio, Texas, Friendship Force Club,



October 22-27. We begin and end each inbound journey with a Welcome and Farewell Dinner. In between, we get to know each other as hosts and ambassadors experience the many diverse sights

of East Tennessee.

A host committee will soon be organized to determine the itinerary, who will be in charge of each activity, and a budget. *New and newer FFK members*—serving on the host committee will give you a good idea of how an inbound journey comes together. There are many ways to become involved: home hosts who provide lodging, breakfast, and transportation to the activities we plan for the ambassadors, day hosts who drive ambassadors to activities if home hosts cannot, dinner party hosts who provide a meal in their

home to a small group of ambassadors and hosts, as well as members to coordinate activities.

Becoming a Friendship Force host is how my husband and I became involved with FFK. Interested? Complete the Host Application and Agreement and email to Jayne Raparelli [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com) or mail to Jayne Raparelli 2427 Eppie Cove LN Knoxville TN 37931 Questions? Email or call Jayne 423-871-1739.

Inbound Host Application:  
[https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/HOST\\_APPLICATION\\_and\\_agreement.pdf](https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/HOST_APPLICATION_and_agreement.pdf)

Jayne Raparelli

### 2021 COVID Policy for Domestic Journeys

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.

### FFK In-person Meeting COVID Policy

The FFK Board hopes that we can begin to meet in person for some special events in the fall. Plans for small group events and regular club meetings were discussed taking into consideration number of attendees, room size, and outdoor locations.

In order to continue to act with caution, a policy regarding attendance at Club in-person events was enacted at the May 11<sup>th</sup> FFK Board Meeting. The policy requires that any member or guest attending an FFK event in 2021 be fully vaccinated.

CDC guidelines and the status of recovery in the area will continue to be monitored as FFK Club plans are made.



### Journeys This Year and Next

The journey committee is hard at work preparing for the upcoming journeys. Ambassador applications are being accepted currently for Napa-Sonoma and for San Antonio, as are Host applications for San Antonio. See other articles for links to the forms and further information. The big news is that dates are now set for an outbound to Australia. See below. Lots of good things happening and hope you'll join in one or more of them.

**2021 Napa-Sonoma Outbound** – Sep 8-13.

Journey #21440. Contact Jayne Raparelli, [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com), and Mike McDonough.

**2021 San Antonio Outbound** – Oct 1-6. Journey #21243. Contact Leslie Badaines, [badainesl@aol.com](mailto:badainesl@aol.com).

**2021 San Antonio Inbound** – Oct 22-27. Journey #21441. Contact Jayne Raparelli, [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com), Mike McDonough.

**2022 Des Moines Inbound** – Apr 2022. Journey #22509. Contact Mike McDonough, [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com).

**2022 Romania Outbound** – Postponed until Jun 2022. Contact Diana Lopez, [dlopez@utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@utk.edu).

**2022 St Louis, MO Inbound** – Postponed until Sep 2022. Journey #21162. Need a host coordinator.



**2022 Lower Columbia Outbound** – Date TBD.

Journey #22637. Need an ambassador coordinator.

**2022 Australia Outbound** – North Moreton, Oct

21-28, 2022; Gold Coast, Oct 28-Nov 4, 2022.

Journey #22408. Contact Leslie Badaines,

[badainesl@aol.com](mailto:badainesl@aol.com).

*Leslie Badaines and Diana Lopez*

Journey Co-coordinators

**Reflection on FFK Apr 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

**Myanmar & Laos**

Twenty-two members and two visitors met at our April 27th meeting to hear Diana Lopez on Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Laos. The trip was part of her global journey with Friendship Force in 2019. Diana visited many temples, rural villages, major cities and used a variety of modes of transportation, as well as met people of different ethnic groups. She also took a brief look into Laos.



**New FFI Website Feature: MyFF**



friendship force  
INTERNATIONAL

Recently Friendship Force International developed a new FFI website which is a simple way to hopefully include the entire membership. It is designed to help track journeys, resources and

payments. This site keeps members up to date on FFI news worldwide and is a members-only site. You must use the site below to access the sign in process.

To sign up, connect to

[https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign\\_in](https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in)

then click SIGN UP.

You will not be able to use the same email address twice so a couple will need to have separate email addresses. The only information required to register is your name, club and email. Additional information is available for you to complete. When you sign up you must agree to the FFI Code of Conduct which is available for you to read from

FFI. Several FFK members have already signed up and it is a quick and easy process. Please join us!

Experience different views.

Discover common ground.

**New Member Profile: Courtney Shea**

Courtney Shea joined Friendship Force Knoxville in March 2021. She grew up in Connecticut and received undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Connecticut. While in college, she completed a study abroad year in France living with a French family and learning to speak French fluently and with whom she has stayed in touch. After her third year of practicing law, she and a friend took a trip to Indonesia where her father was working: this 80-day trip included stops around the world.

Courtney moved to Knoxville in 1979 to join the newly-created Office of the Field Solicitor of the U.S. Department of Interior, which at that time was primarily responsible for enforcing the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. She retired from her last position as the Field Solicitor in 2013. She married the love of her life Durant Thompson in 1983, with whom she had two grown daughters, a stepson and stepdaughter and two granddaughters. Sadly, she lost Durant last year.

Courtney serves on the boards of Narrow Ridge Environmental Literacy Center, Justice Knox and Central High School Foundation and is an officer in Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light. During retirement she enjoys gardening, birding, hiking, reading and travel.

*Betsy Tonkin*

**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](mailto:jgr@utk.edu)).

**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

Typical Food & Libations

- Mealie pap (a corn meal porridge), ostrich steak, hake and other local fish, various antelope “venison”, Stellenbosch wines and Amarula liqueur.

**June 22:** UN Mission in Kosovo & Touring Nearby Countries by Marsha Mitchell

Suggested book & links:

- Balkan Ghosts by Robert Kaplan.
- United Nations Mission In Kosovo: <https://unmik.unmissions.org/mandate>
- U. S. Dept. of State Travel Advisories – Kosovo: <https://tinyurl.com/TravelAdvisoryKosovo>

On the Travel Advisory Page, click on the "country information page" and from there, the "Fact Sheet." Other links are interesting, too.



# Quotes

“A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles.” – Tim Cahill

“Friends that travel together, stay together.”

“There is an unspoken bond you create with the friends you travel with.” – Kristen Sarah

“Good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter.” – Izaak Walton

“Everyone needs this friend that calls and says, ‘Get dressed, we’re going on an adventure.’ ”

“There’s not a word yet for old friends who’ve just met.” – Jim Henson

“We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.”



## Upcoming Dates–Mark your calendars

**Virtual Board Meetings:**

- June 8, 2:00 p.m.
- July 13, 2:00 p.m.

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

- May 25: Adventures in South Africa & Zambia
- June 22: UN Mission in Kosovo & Touring Nearby Countries
- July 27: Travel Photography with Sharon Smallwood, FF Florida Suncoast

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

## Club Officers & Chairs

President:	Jayne Raparelli
Vice-President:	Betsy Tonkin
Secretary:	Barbara Elder
Treasurer:	Bruce Robinson
Past President:	Kaye Bultemeier
Newsletter Editor:	Janis Robinson
Webmasters:	Ray Simko & Jonathan Hash
Hospitality Chair:	Sandy Kehne
Program & Membership Co-chairs:	Betsy Tonkin & Helen Bachrach
Club Concerns:	Renee Ioannides
Journey Co-coordinators:	Diana Lopez & Leslie Badaines
Historian:	Jonathan Hash

Host & Ambassador Coordinators listed on the *FFK About Us* web page.