



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

Volume 20, No. 2

March 2018

General Membership Meeting and Program

The General Meeting of the members of Friendship Force, Knoxville will be held on Tuesday, March 20th, 2018 at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 6.30pm. The Church is located at 2931 Kingston Pike. The Church is on the right side of Kingston Pike next to Second Presbyterian Church.

The meeting will be a Pot-Luck Dinner and a Chinese Auction

The **Pot-Luck Dinner** is an opportunity to socialize and to share with other members of our club some of the new and delicious appetizers, salads, vegetables, entrées and desserts you have had with your family and friends over the past year.

The club will provide ham and beverages. Members with last names A through D are asked to bring desserts, E through M side dishes, casseroles, soups etc. N through S are asked to bring appetizers.

The **Chinese Auction** is our one fund raiser for the year. What is a Chinese Auction? Members are asked to bring several items each for the auction. Each item will be displayed with a paper bag in front of it to receive your bids for the item. The bids are individual tickets which are purchased at the Auction

Tickets are the same as last year, 50 cents each, 12 for \$5.00 and 25 for \$10. Place as many tickets in the bag corresponding to the item you desire. At the end of the Pot-Luck a ticket will be drawn from each bag to determine the winner of that item.

Things like the vase you got from someone that just doesn't fit in your house or a bowl you got that you just don't like, are ideal for the auction. Please use your imagination when selecting items for the auction. Club members have travelled across the country and across the world sampling many varieties of food and drink. At the Valentine's Day lunch, it was hoped that in addition to the items above, each member

would bring a wine for the auction. It could be a bottle from North Carolina, New York, California, or other places you visited in the United States. How about that wonderful wine you had in a foreign country?

Our goal this year is to raise more than we have in past years. The monies raised will be used for FFK functions benefiting all members

Come join us and bring a friend

Board meeting

The Board will be meeting on Wednesday March 14th at The Egg and I on Kingston Pike at 11:30a.m. It's an open meeting, so all are welcome.

Informal Lunches

On Wednesday February 14, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. twenty Friendship Force Knoxville members met for lunch at Sullivan's Restaurant. Everyone had such a good time that we decided to do it again in April. Sandy Kehne has organized another informal lunch. This time for April 11 at 11.30am at Sullivan's at Rocky Hill. Many thanks to Sandy and we look forward to being with you there.

Note from the President

We'll hold our annual pot-luck dinner and Chinese auction on March 20 beginning at 6:30. Mark your calendar and be looking for those items you no longer want but others might. Some suggestions were for every person to bring a bottle of wine (or liquor) to auction off. This is our only fund-raiser during the year, so we're looking forward to lots of items to auction.

We were sorry to cancel the January meeting, but the weather was not

cooperating. In hindsight, we made the right decision. Please read the minutes of the Board meeting in this issue of the newsletter for further information.

Ron Mayer and his task force are working diligently on a program for our May meeting. We'd like to invite as many prospects as members can name. It is imperative that we increase our membership if we are to sustain inbound and outbound journeys. Our journey to La Serena, Chile, with the Raleigh club is scheduled for Nov 6-13. Several of us want to do more before and/or after the exchange. We'll have some costs shortly and ideas for other things to do. See Ron's articles on membership and the trip elsewhere in the newsletter.

As always, if you have any suggestions or ideas for the club, please feel free to share those with me. My email is dlopez@utk.edu, tel. # 865 223 4036.

Diana Lopez

IN MEMORIUM

We were saddened to learn that
JOHN ELLIS

passed away at U.T. Medical Center on February 5th.

Graveside services were held on February 8th at Fairview Cemetery in Dyersburg, TN. Both he and Patsy have been long time members of Friendship Force of Knoxville. Our sympathy and prayers are now with Patsy and her family.

Membership Task Force Report

The membership task force discussed in the last interim newsletter, that building a list of prospects and recruiting them was only the first vital step in the process of gaining new

members. Since that time, the process has been refined to include 10 check off action steps that features a formal invitation to the information meeting on May 15. A final step would be the recruiting of some new members to participate in the November outbound journey to La Serena, Chile, if there are spaces left after current members have had a final opportunity to commit. In that regard, current members have until April 15 to commit to the La Serena trip using the ambassador application form available from Ron Mayer (ronmayer7600@gmail.com) After that date, the remaining reservations, if any, will be made available to new members.

The information meeting on May 15 is in the late stages of being outlined and will likely include: a DVD on a Calgary journey playing in the background during the social period prior to the meeting, a short FFI informational video of members talking about their experiences on inbound and outbound journeys and a concluding period of interactive “get to know you” ice-breaker games.

At the well-attended Valentine brunch on February 14, members were further encouraged to get on the band wagon in earnest and compile a list of friends and acquaintances who might (and the emphasis is on the word “might”) be interested in Friendship Force. If you were not at the Valentine brunch, this paragraph applies to you also. When you make your list, be sure to include their addresses and phone numbers which will be needed to send the formal invitation to the information meeting and to call them if they do not respond to the RSVP in the invitation. If you are reluctant to make the initial contact with a person on

your list (that is necessary before sending them an invitation), our committee will call them for you (and use you as a reference). Send your list to Ron Mayer (ronmayer7600@gmail.com) by April 7 if possible to give time to prepare the invitations and mail them.

In case you are wondering, the procedure we are following is largely based on one given on the FFI web site that was used by a Friendship Force club with outstanding success.

JOURNEYS

INCOMING JOURNEYS

International Exchange Preview

We have been asked by Friendship Force International to participate in an incoming journey from Cape of Good Hope, South Africa to Western North Carolina and Knoxville, U.S.A. We will keep you informed as this develops.

OUTBOUND JOURNEYS

La Serena, Chile

FFK will be going to La Serena, Chile in November 6 – 13, 2018 in a joint exchange with the Friendship Club Raleigh.

The **cost** of the La Serena trip, November 6-13 is estimated to be in the range of \$2,500 to \$3,000 per person, which includes airfare, activities and expenses in La Serena, insurance and Friendship Force fees.

The committee is also giving strong consideration to a pre-extension stop at nearby Santiago but consideration will be given to other alternate pre- or post-journey trips to Easter Island, the Andes, the Atacama Desert, or Patagonia in the final planning stage. These trips could add \$,1000 to \$4,000.

Current members who are interested in joining this journey, should let either **Diana Lopez** or **Ron Mayer** by April 15.

Friendship Force International

The Journey Catalogues for FFI (friendshipforce.org) are good sources of journeys being offered in the future which our members can join. These include

[Discover Vietnam](#)

April 11 to 28, 2018

[Festival at Sea Cruise](#)

April 22 to May 10, 2018

[Arts and Architecture in Dallas](#)

May 15 to May 22, 2018

[Global Youth Journey to Japan](#)

June 8 to June 18, 2018

[Discover the Biodiversity of Southwestern](#)

[Australia](#)

October 8 to 19, 2018

[The Roots of Brazilian Culture, Food, and Art.](#)

May 29 - June 9, 2018, \$1600

Contact Vicki **Coulson Vance**
(brlacolibri@gmail.com)

[Portland Rose Festival Parade](#)

June 6 – 12, 2018

Cost in Portland \$488/person. For information and to apply, contact Leroy Stokes (lstokes@northstate.net)

[Republic of Georgia with an optional extension to Armenia](#)

Oct. 14 – 25, extension Oct. 25-31

For details contact Sherry Wileman at (slwileman@mindspring.com) or at 404-386-9224

Minutes of the January Meetings

Friendship Force Knoxville Board Meeting, January 10, 2018

Present Panos Ioannides, Rene Ioannides, Diana Lopez, Jean Mayer, Ron Mayer, Janis Robinson, LeRoy Rogers, Wanda Rogers

Diana called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. Meeting location was the Egg and I in Bearden.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the November 8, 2017 meeting were approved.

A thank you note from Jeanette Newton, President of the Calgary Friendship Force Group, was added to the file. She thanked us for our hospitality and indicated that was her hope that the Calgary Club would be able to return the hospitality to our club at some time in the future.

Treasurer's Report

LeRoy passed out the Treasurer's Report which included the Proposed Budget for 2018. Ray Simko was unable to attend the meeting today. LeRoy also submitted a copy of an audit of the Knoxville Friendship Force Financial Records for the year 2017. The audit was done on **January 3,**

Journey Updates

Ron reported that the journey to La Serena, Chile is still scheduled for November 6-13, 2018. He has been in contact with the Jan Johnson who is the Journey Coordinator for the Raleigh club. Both Jan and Ron are studying the Journey Guidelines due to their limited experience in the leadership role. Jan has been in contact with the Journey Coordinator of the club in La Serena, Chile and the Regional Manager, Laura Romero, at Friendship Force International.

The trip will include six nights of home hosting plus any extensions either prior to or

after the stay in La Serena. This has yet to be determined.

Panos suggested that we consider hosting on Open World exchange in the future. The participants show their interest and we then prepare the agenda for them. By doing this we could possibly net about \$2,000 for our club. Diana agreed to notify the coordinator of the program that our club would consider doing this sometime in 2019.

General Programs

Janis Robinson has agreed to serve as Program Chairperson for 2018.

The General Meeting of the members of Friendship Force, Knoxville will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 6:30 p.m. The program for the evening will be presented by our members Carolyn and Don Dougall. They will describe a hiking trip they made in July 2016 to the Orkneys and the Shetland Islands in northern Scotland.

The Annual Chinese Auction and Pot-Luck Dinner will be held on Tuesday March 20, 2018 at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church.

Plans for additional activities including luncheons, a summer picnic, and a holiday party were discussed. Details and dates will be determined in the near future.

Communications

The Newsletter was sent out today. Diana has requested that each board member take the time to read the copies of the documents that she emailed to us including the BY-LAWS, the Policies and Procedures, and the updated Working Calendar for 2018.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Jean Mayer, Secretary

Friendship Force Knoxville General Meeting, January 16, 2018

The general meeting was cancelled because of inclement weather.

Birthday & Anniversary Wishes

The Members of the Club send their best wishes for their **Birthdays** to

Kaye Bultemeier on March 13th

Karen Setzfand on April 15th

Patsy Ellis on April 29th

and for their **Anniversaries** to

Lonnie & Ruthie McIntyre April 9th

J. Raparelli & M. McDonough April 28th

Corrections to the Membership Directory

Since the Membership Directory was published in January there are the following changes;

Ron and Sonja DuBois

email address s/b ronson1@att.net

Sandy Kehne Delete Land Line (865) 693-6071 She now has only a Cell Phone

Noel Kuck & Kaye Bultemeier

558 Riverfront Drive

Knoxville, TN 37915

Noel Cell (865) 617-1435

Kaye Cell (504) 940-8952

Noel email noelkuck@gmail.com

Kaye email kayebultemeier@gmail.com