



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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Meetings

The General Monthly Event of Friendship Force, Knoxville will be held on **Tuesday, January 28th** at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. The Church is located at 2931 Kingston Pike on the right (north) side of Kingston Pike next to Second Presbyterian Church.

The program will be a presentation by Janis and Bruce Robinson talking about their many trips to Spain.

Social time and snacks begin at 6:30 p.m. with the program at 7:00 p.m. Members with surnames between **A and J** are asked to bring snacks or finger foods.

The **board** will meet on February 4th at 12 noon at TVUUC. The meetings are open and members are encouraged to attend.

From the President

New Year’s greetings to all! I begin my role as president with heartfelt thanks to Diana Lopez for the excellent job she did as president and to the entire board for their great work.

It will be an exciting year for FFK and one with many opportunities to host/travel/and experience other cultures. I hope to see all of you at the January 28th event when we will be welcoming several new members and reconnecting with everyone.

Important information for the year:

The board meetings will be the first Tuesday of each month at noon at TVUUC, everyone welcome

Monthly newsletters will be sent out the 15th of each month

Monthly FFK events will be the fourth Tuesday of each month but dates may vary based on activities.

In Friendship,

Kaye Bultemeier

A new project was started during 2019. This is a partnership with “Trees Knoxville”, a local non-profit to reforest Knoxville. Honoring each hosting experience, we planted a tree at the Botanical Gardens and an international section has been created. The plantings honor the friendships and help our environment at the same time. A tulip poplar tree to honor the friendship with Napa-Sonoma and one for the hosting of The Republic of Georgia was placed.

Open World Visit from The Republic of Georgia

Knoxville hosted 6 delegates from the Republic of Georgia Nov. 15-23, 2019 for the Open World program. They were here to study Higher Education Policy Making and represented universities in Tblisi, its surrounding area, and Gori. Because all the delegates spoke good English, a translator was not needed. It was a successful visit, with the delegates making contacts at local universities and colleges, with hopes of future collaboration for educational programs between Georgia and Knoxville.

Thanks to Knoxville FF club hosts and those who participated in the program, offering hospitality and good will to our guests: Diana Lopez, Kaye Bultemeier and Noel Kuck, Kathy Wright, Betsy Tonkin, Jean and Ron Mayer, Sonja and Ron DuBois, Joanne and Al Schuetz, Fuad and Layla Mishu, Susan Dakak, Tom Mishu, and Janis Robinson.

Friendship Force club members treated guests to a pot-luck dinner on the Tuesday night of their stay, and FFK members enjoyed a program on Georgia, as given by the delegates.

Thanks to all our community members who hosted a visit with our guests, offering friendship and often a meal. Among the week-long programs, we visited Mayor Rogero, just prior to her retirement, and met with District 1 Knox County Commissioner Everlyn Gill. We visited Pellissippi State, Walters State, LMU in Harrogate, and UT Knoxville. On the lighter side, as part of their cultural program, we spent a day in Pigeon Forge and were treated to a live show of country music. A tree and plaque were planted at the Botanical Gardens, in honor of our visitors.

And, thank you to Diana Lopez and Kaye Bultemeier for their tireless efforts in helping to plan university visits and events during the week.

A friendly interchange of ideas and career information led most hosts and presenters to desire a visit to the Republic of Georgia. Let's hope we can do that!

Joanne Schuetz,

Coordinator for Open World 2019

Des Moines to Knoxville

April 22-27, the Friendship Force Club of Greater Des Moines is visiting Knoxville. We want to show them a great time, as they did for us last summer up there. The committee is working already to establish an itinerary that will show off the many facets of Knoxville. Our theme is still Mountains and Music since that worked well for the Napa club. However, some changes will be made to accommodate the Dogwood Arts Festival and the city-wide project honoring Knoxville artist Beauford Delaney.

What we need from the rest of the club at this point are hosts, for overnight, dinners,

and days. There may be 16 people from Des Moines and maybe Quad Cities. We don't currently have an accurate count as to how many couples and how many singles, but I hope that many of you are willing to open your homes and your hospitality to the Iowans. If you can host, please contact me at dlopez@utk.edu.

More details will be forthcoming, and hopefully many of you will participate in our planned activities, such as the welcome and farewell dinners.

Friendship Force Knoxville to Australia

Friendship force of Knoxville has been invited to visit two Clubs in Australia from October 19, 2020 to November 2, 2020. The Host clubs are North Moreton (about 1-hour north of Brisbane), and The Gold Coast Club (about one-hour south of Brisbane).

North Moreton has Beautiful beaches, scenic mountains, lakes, rainforest walks, boutique wineries, and kangaroos. North Moreton is just north of Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, Australia. The North Moreton district encompasses the regions of Caboolture, Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Bribie Island. It is an area rich in culture and history. Enjoy a barbecue on the shores of Pumicestone Passage as the sun sinks down behind the Glasshouse Mountains. Watch the kangaroos as they hop along the beach. Marvel at the calls of the whip birds as you walk through the rainforest. Get close to a koala at the fabulous Australia Zoo, the creation of legendary Crocodile Man, Steve Irwin. A warm sub-tropical climate offers comfortable living throughout the year.

The **Gold Coast** shoreline stretches along the Pacific Ocean, featuring some of the best surfing beaches in Australia. With names like Surfers Paradise, Broadbeach, Palm Beach and Mermaid Beach, visions of

glistening white sands, rolling surf and gently swaying palms. The Gold Coast is recognized as the Holiday Capital of Australia. The Gold Coast has a sub-tropical climate, with an average of 7.5 hours of sunshine every day of the year, and September to February temperatures of 15° to 29°C, (59 to 84 degrees Fahrenheit). The Host clubs have a limited number of Ambassadors that can be accepted, so enrollment will of necessity be limited, with priority given to FFK club members who submit applications and the \$25 application fee prior to February 21, 2020.

The cost of the trip, though not yet finalized, is expected to be \$3400 to \$3600, per person, for the two weeks. This amount includes transportation, visa and travel insurance. Participation is limited, so if interested, send in your Friendship Force Ambassador Application, along with an application fee of \$25 made out to Friendship Force Knoxville. Application and check should be sent to Bruce Robinson, treasurer, PO Box 53104, Knoxville, TN 37950. The Friendship Force Ambassador application form is a fillable PDF form. Please follow instructions to save it to your computer.

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

Application deadline is February 21, 2020.

For questions about the Journey, contact Leslie Badaines (BadainesL@icloud.com)

Friendship Force International

The Journey Catalogues for Friendship Force International (friendshipforce.org) and the US Flyer from

FFI(support@friendshipforce.org) are good sources of journeys being offered in the future which our members can join.

FFK Website

The website for our club is available 24 hours a day and has the club calendar, photos and other news you can use. The web address is <https://friendshipforceknoxville.org/>