



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

Volume 20, No. 3

May 2018

General Membership Meeting and Program

The General Meeting of the members of Friendship Force, Knoxville will be held on Tuesday, May 15th, 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.

We will have 40 guests come and join us for this meeting. Ron Mayer and the membership task force have been very successful in attracting potential new members who will be joining us on May 15th at the meeting. We are expecting a total of 65 people at the meeting.

We will be serving heavy hors d'oeuvres, and will need for each member who is attending to bring some type of finger food. It would fit nicely with the mission of our club if we have some ethnic foods representing places we have traveled or family heritage, or bring any family favorite. Please let Sandy know what you plan to make by Thursday, May 10th, or text, call, or email her if you want suggestions. Cell 438-4410, or sbkehne@gmail.com.

Come join us and make our visitors welcome

Board meeting

The Board will be meeting on Wednesday May 9th 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 April 11th, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. eleven Friendship Force Knoxville members met for lunch at Sullivan's Restaurant. Everyone had a good time. Sandy Kehne will organize another informal lunch and we will let you know where and when as the information becomes available.

Note from the President

As you read this note, I will be on my way back from Japan. I'd like to thank LeRoy Rogers and Jean Mayer and Ray Simko for carrying on in my absence. They are treasured officers of the board.

I'm sure there was another successful luncheon at Sullivan's and sorry to have missed that.

I know that Janis Robinson and Ron Mayer's membership task force have planned a fabulous meeting for us in May. We've invited over 40 prospective members, and I hope all our members will join the board and task force in welcoming our visitors and telling them about all the good aspects of the Friendship Force.

If you want to go to Chile with the club, complete the application now or it may be too late. We'd like to offer this opportunity to new members, so the spots may fill quickly.

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

Membership Task Force Report

The membership committee reports that 80 invitations have been extended to persons who have been contacted about Friendship Force and expressed interest to come to the May 15 Friendship Force meeting. The committee has designed a program to inform these guests about Friendship Force with the hope that they will be inspired to join our club. The program involves special food, speakers, and some visual aids. Please make a special effort to attend on May 15, and come early at 6:30, to welcome the guests. Be sure to wear your name badges.

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 2018 in a joint exchange with the Friendship Force Club, Raleigh.

The total cost of the La Serena journey, tentatively November 1-13, is estimated to be in the range of \$3000 to \$3500 per person, which includes airfare, pre trip cost of 5 nights and daily activities in Santiago, activities and expenses in La Serena, insurance, Friendship Force fees, and incidentals. 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 \$4000.

Current members who are interested in joining this journey, should advise either **Diana Lopez** or **Ron Mayer** as soon as possible.

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

Global Youth Journey to Japan

June 8 to June 18, 2018

Bogotá, Colombia

June 5 to June 12, 2018

Bicycle Tour Through the Ruhr Valley

September 7 to September 14, 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

Discover Morocco

November 1 to November 15, 2018

Moscow and Cities of the Golden Ring, Russia

May 18 to June 1, 2019

Discover Mongolia and Siberia

August 1 to August 15, 2019

For additional information about these journeys contact FFI.

Minutes of the March Meetings

Friendship Force Knoxville Board Meeting, March 14, 2018

Present: Jim Dennis, Sandy Kehne, Jean Mayer, Ron Mayer, Karen Setzfand, Ray Simko

Jean 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 January 10, 2018 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report. Ray passed out the Treasurer's Report which included the operating account from January 1, 2018 through February 28, 2018 and the cash balances for 2018.

Membership Task Force. Ron reported on the Membership Task Force. He is working on the invitations for recruitment with Friendship Force International. Prospective member lists need to be submitted to Ron by March 31, 2018. He will need names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. The goal of the committee is to get at least twelve new members. Depending on the success of this endeavor we should have a process moving forward to be used in the future.

General Programs. Janis Robinson was unable to attend the meeting but she reported to me that the programs for the year are set except for finding someone from Chile for the October meeting before the Out-bound Journey to La Serena and some feelers are out for that.

Activities. Sandy reported that there will be a luncheon at Sullivan's at Rocky Hill on Wednesday April 11, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. for all of our members. She is working on a place and date for a picnic in early June and for the holiday party in December.

Journey Updates. Ron is working with Jan, the Raleigh Friendship Force Club Journey Coordinator, on the trip to La Serena from November 6-13, 2018. A date needs to be determined for the Raleigh club to let us know how many people are going so that we know how many spots we would have for our club.

There were no suggestions made for a journey coordinator for the 2019 Inbound South Africa club.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Jean Mayer, *Secretary*

Notes from FFK General Meeting 3/20/2018

Everyone gathered early to set up items for the Chinese auction, purchase tickets, and decide where to put their tickets. Dinner was served and conversation continued.

Diana Lopez opened the session asking others to discuss items at the Board Meeting since she wasn't present:

Ray Simko reported on the Treasurer's report.

Sandy Kehne reported that we had a date for the April luncheon at Sullivan's. It will be held on Wednesday the 11th at 11:30 a.m. Jayne Raparelli gave the report for Ron Mayer that everyone needed to come up with names of on the Task Force for Membership, emphasizing people to invite to the May 15th meeting.

Diana mentioned the outbound journey to La Serena and that members who wanted to go needed to decide soon, so we would know how many slots were available for possible new members. She announced that we had an incoming journey from Cape Town, South Africa for April 2019. We would be looking for a coordinator soon and are sharing with the Western Carolina club. Then she had received a call from the Sonoma-Napa County club president suggesting a reciprocal exchange perhaps next year. They want to visit Memphis and Knoxville and would host us at another time.

Ray asked if anyone wanted any more tickets for the auction. Jayne and Sandy drew the names and distributed the prizes. Everyone received something! Great ideas for the wine and services offered for dinners and taxes.

Diana Lopez, *President*

Birthday & Anniversary Wishes

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

Jean Mayer on May 13th
Janis G. Robinson on May 19th
Noel Kuck on May 24th
Mike McDonough on June 13th
Nancy Schowalter on June 20th
Jasmine Mishu in June

and for their **Anniversaries** to

Ron & Sonja DuBois on May 12th

Don & Carolyn Dougall on May 17th

Janet & Jon Murray on June 12th

Janis & R. Bruce Robinson on June 15th