



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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September 2019

Meetings

The General meeting and Program will be held on September 17th at TVUUC on Kingston Pike from 6:30 to 8:30pm. People whose family name starts with M to Y are asked to bring finger food or snacks to share. The Board will meet on September 11th from 10:00 to 11:30 am at TVUUC room C The meetings are open to all members and you are welcome.

Note from the President

What an amazing summer we've had! Small dinner parties, the international conference, a journey to Des Moines, and a program on the Republic of Georgia by Ron Leadbetter. Plans are being finalized for the inbound journey from Napa/Sonoma and for the Open World visit with delegates from the Republic of Georgia. We gained one new member and a former member joined us for Ron's talk. See other articles on the international conference and on our journey to Des Moines.

Now we are into our regular meetings with much work to be done. Next year we have a great outbound journey to Australia in October, another outbound journey to Napa/Sonoma and we will be hosting the club from Des Moines in April. Hopefully, another Open World will also be in our future.

We have already been asked about inbound and outbound journeys for 2021. We submitted the form to let FFI know that we are willing to host one inbound domestic and one inbound international journey. We will be requesting outbound journeys for 2021 in November. It has been suggested that we request again the countries that we requested for 2020, which are Romania/Georgia and Colombia. We should now be in a better position for a club in Europe. If you have other suggestions, let us know.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is Sept 17. The ambassadors who went to Des

Moines will be speaking about the journey. Please come mix and mingle with all our members. The October meeting will be the welcome dinner for the folks from Napa/Sonoma on Saturday the 12th. The annual meeting will be November 19 when we will be electing officers for 2020 and hearing from the delegates from Georgia

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.

Friendship Force International Conference Report

Kaye Bultemeier and Diana Lopez attended the Friendship Force International conference in Boulder, CO, July 23-26. There were over 400 people from around the world attending the conference, so they made many contacts for future journeys, fun and friendship. Diana and Kaye divided up the sessions to attend as many as possible and came away with some great ideas to try for the Knoxville club. The sessions ranged from a Q&A with the FFI Board to ways to strengthen the club and build membership, to websites, best club practices, even how to pack! They also met with the Des Moines and Big Canoe group to plan our inbound for next spring. Conferences are a great way to re-energize, gather ideas, and improve motivation. This was no exception.

Comment from Vice President

This fall brings wonderful opportunities for members to become involved as we host two groups. The first from Napa-Sonoma and the second from the Republic of Georgia. What wonderful opportunities to share our community and to learn about their worlds. Please participate in chapter activities with our guests and experience the wonder of being part of Friendship Force.

I encourage each of you to bring a guest to one of the events and introduce them to Friendship Force Knoxville. Showing the experience of hosting is the best look at the essence of Friendship Force.

Kaye Bultemeier

Dates for the remainder of the year are: -

September 11 Board meeting
September 17 General meeting and program on Republic of Georgia
October 9 Board meeting
October 12 Welcome dinner for Napa-Sonoma in place of the general meeting
November 13 Board meeting
November 19 General meeting, election of officers, and program by delegates from Open World
December 7 Holiday Party

Open World Visit from Georgia

Our club is hosting the Republic of Georgia for 8 days - Nov. 15-23, 2019. The delegates are representatives of universities and higher education learning centers in Georgia and are guests of the U.S. government through the Open World program. During their stay, they will visit our universities and community colleges in the area.

Would you be able to help with driving the delegates during their stay? or host a small group for dinner? or serve as a day host? Or even home host?

Our club will feature their visit at our normal FFK meeting date on Tuesday, November 19th for dinner. Be sure to attend the evening program to hear more about their country and their lives. If you can help, please contact Joanne Schuetz at 865-521-9937.

Napa-Sonoma Friendship Force Visit

We are looking forward to hosting the Napa-Sonoma (California) Friendship Force Club October 12-17. We hope to see many of you at the week's events, starting with the Saturday, October 12th at, 6:00 p.m. Welcome Potluck at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, (TVUUC) 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. We'll have great food and wine (thanks in advance for everyone contributing to the potluck!) as well as entertainment by the Red-Haired Mary band. We will also have new Friendship Force Knoxville t-shirts for sale. Cost for FFK members --\$10 per shirt. The Farewell Dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 6 p.m. at Calhoun's on the River, downtown Knoxville. We will have entertainment by a dulcimer band. A cash bar will be in our private dining room overlooking the river. Cost per person--\$30. **Reservations and payment are due by October 1.** Please make your checks payable to Friendship Force Knoxville and mail to FFK treasurer Bruce Robinson, P.O. Box 53104 Knoxville, TN 37950.

Here is our itinerary. All events, except for the Monday night dinner parties for the ambassadors and their hosts, are open to all FFK members. Reservations and payment information are indicated when required.

Saturday, Oct. 12. 6 p.m. Welcome Potluck at TVUUC.

Sunday, Oct. 13. 11 a.m.—Museum of Appalachia Café, Clinton. Lunch on your own. Following lunch, visit the Norris Dam Overlook and the Norris Dam Visitors' Center. 1:30 p.m.—Tour the Lenoir Museum and visit the 18th century Rice Grist Mill. 6:30 p.m.—Cotton Eyed Joe's for music, food, drink, and line dancing. Admission--\$5 per person. Food and drink—pay your own.

Monday, October 14. 9 a.m. Meet at First Presbyterian Church parking lot, downtown Knoxville.

9:15-11:45 a.m.—Walking tour of downtown. 11:45 a.m.—Arrive at Visitor's Center for the free one-hour live radio show, The Blue Plate Special, noon-1 p.m. 1-2:30 p.m.—Lunch on your own downtown.

A tree planting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for 3 p.m. Location—to be announced.

Evening—dinner parties for ambassadors and their hosts at members' homes. Tuesday, **October 15.** 10 a.m. Meet in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Middle Prong trailhead parking area. 10:15-11:45 a.m.—Walk the Middle Prong trail.

Noon—Picnic lunch in the Park at the Metcalf Bottoms Pavilion. If you'd like to order a picnic lunch from Elvira's Restaurant, please tell Jayne Raparelli by October 8. 423-871-1739 jaynerap@aol.com Cost--\$10 per person.

2 p.m.—Tour the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center in Townsend. Special admission price--\$4 per person.

Evening—Ambassadors treat their hosts to dinner.

Wednesday, October 16. 10 a.m.—Tour the Oak Ridge History Museum. Cost—\$5 per person. 11:45 a.m.—Lunch on your own at the Soup Kitchen in Oak Ridge.

Free afternoon.

6 p.m.—Farewell Dinner at Calhoun's on the River, downtown Knoxville. **Payment of \$30 per person and reservations due by October 1.**

Thursday, October 17. Hosts drive their ambassadors to the airport.

Friendship Force International makes changes in charter regarding data protection

Our charter with our parent organization, Friendship Force International (FFI), has been renewed. Because of the current concerns with data protection, the European Union (EU) has passed very detailed rules. As an international organization with many clubs in Europe, FFI has decided to adhere to EU data protection rules in order to be in compliance with EU law. The changes in the renewed charter reflect those rules. The new data protection sections in the charter are quite

extensive. Consequently, the Board of FFK has decided it is prudent for us to only collect the data that we absolutely need to operate and to distribute data only as needed. "As needed" does include providing the directory to all club members and an electronic contact/e-mail list to Board members and committee chairs and committee members. However, the new data protection rules seem to question whether FFK should publish birthdays and anniversaries. Consequently, the Board has decided not to collect and publish such information.

Outbound Journey to Des Moines, Iowa

Under the leadership of Annalisa and Gus Roehrig, ten club members made their way to Des Moines Aug 7-12 Ron and Sonja DuBois, Barbara Elder, Diana Lopez, Ron and Jean Mayer, Mike McDonough and Jayne Raparelli, and Annalisa and Gus Roehrig enjoyed a day at the Iowa State Fair, a tour of the State Capitol, John Deere, Better Homes and Garden Test Garden, and Sculpture Garden, to name a few activities. Most drive, stopping along the way to enjoy some other sites. It was an exciting tour of the heartland.

Outbound to Australia in Fall 2020

The Knoxville Friendship Force has been invited to visit North Moreton and one other club on the east coast of Australia, either in New South Wales or Queensland. FFI is searching for a second club for us to visit. Our fall is of course their spring, so it should be beautiful, not too hot or too cold. A number of people have expressed interest. It is a great way to visit Australia. Leslie Badaines and Karen Swander will be Ambassador co-coordinators for Australia.

OUTBOUND JOURNEYS

Friendship Force International

The Journey Catalogues for Friendship Force International (friendshipforce.org) and the US eFlyer from FFI (support@friendshipforce.org) are good sources of journeys being offered in the future, which our members can join. These include

Jewels of Kenya

Oct 24 to Nov.3, 2019

FFI Journey Number 15452