



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

Website: www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org

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in the world. One of the gifts the pandemic gave me was a deeper appreciation for the gifts of friendship and being with those we love. I deeply miss sharing music, worshipping together, and travel. 2021 offers great hope for hosting and travel with Friendship Force. Each of these events will be sweeter and more precious than they were before. I ask each member to identify the gifts that came from this year of the pandemic. Whatever the gifts, may they bring us closer together and remind us of the fragility, the wonder, and the resiliency of life.

Note from the President

November is the month of gratitude and thanksgiving. It is by far my favorite month of the year and an appropriate month to express my gratitude to Friendship Force Knoxville as I complete my year as president. It was an honor to serve as president and work with the board as we attempted to navigate 2020 in the middle of the pandemic. I continue to be impressed with their dedication and hard work to keep this club vibrant. Their work is evident in the newsletter reports of board members. **I ask all of you to attend the general meeting on November 24th as we elect the officers for next year and review some bylaw changes.**

The pandemic only served to strengthen my belief in the purpose of Friendship Force and what it adds to understanding and compassion

I leave you with the words written by Dolly Parton this year “When Life is Good Again”

We'll all be forever changed
I'll sail my boat and fly my kite
Walk in the park, go out at night
And hold my loved ones extra tight
When everything is on the mend
I'll even drink with my old friends
Sing and play mandolin
We'll make it through this long dark night
Darkness fades when faced with the light
And everything's gonna be alright
When life is good again. *Dolly Parton*

Blessings, *Kaye Bultemeier*, President

Fernweh (German): (n) an ache for distant places; missing places you've never been; craving for travel

Special November 24th Meeting!

Before the program, we will hold the annual business meeting for the members to vote on the slate of Club Officers for 2021 and the updated FFK Club Bylaws. See the articles below for more information.

The program for the evening will be a trip to Lisbon, Portugal, with Janis and Bruce Robinson. The history and culture of that wonderful city was fascinating and one of their best trips!



Zoom sign-in information:

Date/Time: Nov 24, 2020 06:30 PM EST
Click on the following link or copy and paste it:
<https://tinyurl.com/yxjclkgw>

Meeting ID: 880 2771 3558
Passcode: 929771
Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Slate of 2021 Club Officers

Jean Mayer, Jonathan Hash and Helen Bachrach, the nominating committee, are presenting the following slate of candidates for 2021 Club Officers:

- President: Jayne Raparelli
- Vice-President: Betsy Tonkin
- Secretary: Barbara Elder
- Treasurer: Bruce Robinson

The November 24th meeting will provide the members a chance to vote on this selection.

FFK Bylaw Revisions

At the annual meeting on November 24th, the membership will also vote on changes to the Bylaws, FFK's governing document. An up-to-date draft copy is available on the website at <https://friendshipforceknoxville.org/about-us>. Scroll down and find FFK Bylaws Draft Oct 2020.

The specific changes are as follows:

1. Change Art. III, Members, Section 1. to read "Only members in good standing shall be entitled to vote and participate in club business meetings. Only members may serve as ambassadors, and members and prospective members may serve as hosts." Clarifies a discrepancy between Journey Policies and Bylaws.
2. Correct title of Journey Coordinator in multiple locations. Change Activity Committee to Hospitality Committee.
3. Change Art. V, Sec 2 (B) to read: "Serve as official spokesperson and representative for the club and to FFI;" and delete (G).
4. Delete Art. V, Sec 4 (D) and (E) and renumber (F) to (D).
5. Change Art. VI, Sec 3 to read "This committee shall consist of two (2) members." This is a reduction from three (3) members previously required.

If you have any questions about the changes, please contact Diana Lopez, dlopez@utk.edu or 865 223 4036.

Diana Lopez

New FFK Website Feature

Please take a few moments and visit www.friendshipforceknoxville.org. to see a new feature for club members. Go to the "About Knoxville" page and scroll down to "November Events." Here you will find an updated listing of events especially selected for our club members.

This information was taken from the current edition of the magazine Everything Knoxville. We hope you find one or more events of interest.

Ray Simko, Webmaster

Virtual Reunion w/Georgia Delegation

Last November FFK successfully hosted an Open World delegation of educational administrators from the country of Georgia. At



least two of the FFK hosts have remained in contact with members of the delegation via Facebook and suggested attempting an informal virtual reunion with them. After working with FFI and representatives from Open World since this summer, a formal Open World Virtual Reunion has finally now been set for **November 12**. This Zoom event is to be attended by an Open World senior program manager, an international education specialist representing American Councils, a guest speaker who will provide a professional education component, the Georgian delegates, and the FFK hosts and coordinator. While this program is much more formal than we had anticipated, we hosts all look forward to seeing our guests and learning how they have been faring during the pandemic.

Watch for an update next month!

Betsy Tonkin, Open World Coordinator

October Zoom Meeting

Twenty FFK members enjoyed an interesting and informative "Trip to Iran" presented by Kaye Bultemeier and Noel Kuck with Joanne and Al Schuetz who made the 8-day journey to Iran in October 2019.

After long flights from Knoxville to New York and Moscow they arrived in Tehran, Iran, where they met their driver and guide. They all took one more flight. The six of them flew to Shiraz and continued their adventure via van visiting both the ancient and modern sites in Persepolis, Yazd, & Esfahan.



They shared their pictures and maps with club members talking about the people they met, the places they stayed and the foods they ate. Members learned more about this ancient and important part of the world.

Friendship Force Virtual Experiences

Friendship Force International provides access to virtual programs hosted by FFI as well as other FF clubs. Be sure to check out the offerings at the following website.

<https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/>

There are live virtual meetings you can attend as well as view recordings of past meetings.

The world is round so that friendship may encircle it.” Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

2021 Dues Information

It is that time of year to renew membership in Friendship Force of Knoxville (FFK) for 2021. The Board has looked at our financial resources and after much discussion has decided **to waive dues for our current members for 2021.**

Attached to this newsletter are 1) a membership application and renewal form and 2) a member interest survey. Although current members owe no dues for 2021, we do need you to complete the form and survey in order to update our records and also to have positive feedback that you wish to continue your membership. You can check whether you are a current member and whether any changes are needed in your contact information by consulting the membership directory that was sent to you by e-mail earlier.

Please return the form and survey to Bruce Robinson at the address on the form or scan it and send it by e-mail by Dec. 31, 2020.

Bruce Robinson, Treasurer

We need you! Please complete Member Interest Survey

Friendship Force of Knoxville (FFK) will celebrate its 40th year in 2021. We continue to exist and thrive because of you — our members.

How will you participate in Friendship Force of Knoxville? The wide range of opportunities are listed on the Member Interest Survey. The possibilities include hosting ambassadors, participating in planned ambassador activities, serving on the hospitality committee, helping with the FFK website, and identifying speakers for our events. If you prefer to work behind the scenes, consider serving on the finance or publicity committee. Enjoy meeting people? The membership committee needs greeters to welcome guests at our events.

Please fill out the Member Interest Survey that is attached to this newsletter. Don't forget to complete the 2021 FFK Membership Application/Renewal form.

We need your involvement. In friendship,
Jayne Raparelli, VP & Membership

2021 Friendship Force of Knoxville Membership Application/Renewal

The COVID pandemic has clearly disrupted Friendship Force of Knoxville's journey events planned for this year and at least the first part of 2021. Fortunately, FFK entered this COVID era in good financial shape thanks to the many years of hard work of its members. Recognizing this, the Board has discussed at length the dues structure for next year and believes that we can forego dues for our current members for 2021. FFK will fund expenses from our current resources. This includes the \$20/member affiliation fee that we owe Friendship Force International (FFI).

Consequently, the dues for 2021 are:

Current members: no dues are owed for 2021 (if you are in the member directory sent to you by e-mail, then you are a current member)

New members (not currently a member): \$20 (this will pay for the \$20/member FFI affiliation fee)

We do want to receive positive feedback that you wish to continue your membership for 2021, and to learn how you might like to contribute to the mission of FFK and FFI. **Please complete the attached Membership Application/Renewal form and the Member Interest Survey and return to Bruce Robinson by Dec. 31, 2020 at the address below. *Be sure to include a check for \$20 payable to Friendship Force of Knoxville if you are a brand-new member for 2021.*** We also appreciate any donations.

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

You may also scan the form and email it to rbr@utk.edu

Please check: Application Renewal

Please print. (Write no change after your name if the directory is correct).

First name _____ Middle initial/name _____ Last name _____

New member--Name you would like on your name tag _____

Street address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____

Cell phone: Area Code _____ Number _____

Home phone: Area Code _____ Number _____

E-mail: _____

In accordance with sections of our charter with Friendship Force International relating to data protection, please note the information above will be included in a member directory provided to all Friendship Force of Knoxville members. An electronic contact/e-mail list will also be provided to committee chairs, members and the Board of Directors.

Revised November 2, 2020

Member Interest Survey

We understand the COVID situation will continue to evolve into 2021. While we are hopeful that 2021 will bring a renewal of outgoing and incoming journeys for our club, we understand every member will make his/her own decision whether to host and/or travel. Please indicate in comment sections of questions 1, 2, and 3 if COVID will impact your decision to host.

Name: _____

Friendship Force has meetings/events roughly monthly.

Please check the days and times that you could attend—

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

Times of day you could attend: Midday Early afternoon Early evening

Does your availability differ according to day? If yes, indicate here. _____

FFK needs your help in various ways in order to meet its mission. We encourage every member to be a part of making FFK active and vibrant. Please identify an activity or activities you would be willing to assist with. Check as many as you like, but please check at least one.

1) Home hosting

a) Are you able to host? Yes No

b) How many can you host? _____

c) Comment: _____

2) Day hosting

a) Would you like to Day Host? Yes No

b) How many people can you fit comfortably into your car besides the driver? _____

c) Comment: _____

3) Small dinner parties

a) Can you host or co-host a small dinner party? Yes No

b) Maximum number you can serve including yourself? _____

c) Comment: _____

Continued on next page

4) Which of the following committees/activities would you be interested in working on? You may indicate a priority if you wish.

- a) Communications (website) Yes No
- b) Communications (newsletter) Yes No
- c) Telephone committee Yes No
(remind members of events, etc. by phone, text or email.)
- d) Publicity: Yes No
- e) Finance committee: Yes No
- f) Hospitality committee (prepare for and organize events): Yes No
- g) Program committee (identify speakers who meet FFK's mission): Yes No
- h) Membership committee (member recruitment/retention resources): Yes No
- i) Club historian (maintain history of club's activities): Yes No
- j) Photography of club events: Yes No
- k) Present a trip or journey you have taken: Yes No

5) Board of Directors

Every year we elect a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Would you be interested/willing to serve as an officer? Yes No

If yes, which position? _____

6) Program/event suggestions

- a) FFK has several events during the year such as presentations, tours, etc. Please list below any travel or culture related programs that you would be willing to present or suggestions for speakers, or other events that fall within the mission of FFK:

- b) Are you interested in participating in *virtual programming*, such as zoom presentations, meetings or reunions with Friendship Force and Open World clubs that FFK has hosted or visited?

Yes No Comment _____

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7) Host coordinator/committee

A host coordinator and a host committee are needed when an incoming Friendship Force club, domestic or international, visits Knoxville.

Would you be interested in serving as a host coordinator? Yes No

Would you be interested in serving on a host committee? Yes No

8) Ambassador coordinator

An ambassador coordinator is needed when FFK has an outgoing journey to another FF club, domestic or international.

Would you be interested in serving as an ambassador coordinator? Yes No

9) Itinerary suggestions for ambassadors' stay with FFK

FFK creates an itinerary for our ambassadors' (visitors) stay in Knoxville and the surrounding area. Can you suggest a specific place or an activity for our ambassadors' stay? Yes No

If yes, please list here:

_____.

Revised October 26, 2020