



# friendship force

KNOXVILLE

## “Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

Website: [www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org](http://www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org)

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### Journey Overviews

#### 2021

Outbound Napa/Sonoma.....	Sept. 2021
Outbound San Antonio, TX.....	Oct 1-6, 2021
Inbound San Antonio, TX.....	Oct 22-27, 2021

#### 2022

Inbound Des Moines, IA.....	Apr. 2022
Inbound St. Louis, MO.....	Sept 2022
Outbound Romania.....	June 2022
Outbound Australia.....	TBD



### Note from the President

“A world of friends is a world of peace.”



Beginning in 1981, members of Friendship Force of Knoxville have travelled to many international cities and towns, as well as here in the U.S. Our most recent outbound journey was to Des Moines, Iowa. We have hosted ambassadors from many different countries, and domestically, including Napa-Sonoma, where we hope to visit later this year. Along the way, we have gained an understanding of different cultures and regions, and we have made friends. *A world of friends is a world of peace.* That is the Friendship Force tag line which describes what we are all about.

month with a journey to Romania taken by the Friendship Force Dallas club. Romania was selected because we are tentatively scheduled to visit there in June 2022.

You will get an opportunity to learn about the various Friendship Force journeys at our March event. FFK members will describe the highlights of their experiences, both as an ambassador and a host. This will whet our appetite even more for that long-awaited time when we can travel and host again.

Thank you for being a part of Friendship Force. Spread the word and invite a person you know to one of our upcoming virtual events.

*Jayne Raparelli, President*

The program committee has developed an array of virtual cultural travel experiences. We begin this

## In Memoriam

### Paul Haas

Long-time FFK member, Paul Haas (91 years old) passed away on February 5, 2021. His obituary was printed in the Knoxville News Sentinel between February 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and is available online at [www.knoxnews.com](http://www.knoxnews.com) under the obituaries section. He was an active member of the Friendship Force of Knoxville since 1982 with numerous home exchange visits to foreign homes and by foreign visitors to Knoxville. Friendship Force Knoxville will send a donation to Friends of the Smokies under Paul's name.

### Romania! Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> FFK Virtual Event

Mary Williams will be our February 23<sup>rd</sup> speaker. She will be speaking on Romania, based on her trip there in 2009 when the Dallas Friendship Force club were guests of the Sibiu club for a week. Mary described Romania as "a delightful country."



Mary has been an active member with the Friendship Force of Dallas since her retirement in 1999 and has been a Journey Coordinator for several Journeys. Traveling to 54 countries and all 50 states she also enjoys photography and presenting programs on her travels as well as other subjects.

- Recipe of the region: Polenta is a favorite food of Romania.
- Books about Romania: "Dracula", which is less than accurate.
- Or Google "Romania" for a list.

Diana Lopez will open the Zoom session at 6:30 p.m. – 30 minutes prior to the Event – to allow time for everyone to sign in.

Zoom Meeting Information:

- Time: Feb 23, 2021 06:30 PM EST
- Link: <https://tinyurl.com/1kzpjplk>
- Meeting ID: 884 1550 2376
- Passcode: 854469

- Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099  
US (New York)

### Anxiously Waiting to Travel

We should be receiving our assignments for 2022 sometime this month. We would like to complete the journeys that have backed up during the pandemic this fall and next year. Let's hope the vaccine distribution goes well, and we can all travel at least domestically in September and October.

The inbound and outbound journeys are:

- **2021 Napa-Sonoma Outbound** – Would like us to visit the first week of September 2021. Contact Jayne Raparelli, [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com), and Mike McDonough.
- **2021 San Antonio Outbound** – Dates are for Oct 1-6. Contact Leslie Badaines, [badainesl@aol.com](mailto:badainesl@aol.com).
- **2021 San Antonio Inbound** – Dates are Oct 22-27. Contact Jayne Raparelli, [jaynerap@aol.com](mailto:jaynerap@aol.com), and Mike McDonough.
- **2022 Des Moines Inbound** – Des Moines will visit Knoxville in April 2022. Need a new host coordinator. Contact Diana Lopez, [dlopez@utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@utk.edu).
- **2022 Romania Outbound** – Postponed until June 2022. Contact Diana Lopez, [dlopez@utk.edu](mailto:dlopez@utk.edu).
- **2022 St Louis, MO Inbound** – Postponed until Sep 2022. Still need a host coordinator.
- **2022 Australia Outbound** – TBD. Contact Leslie Badaines, [badainesl@aol.com](mailto:badainesl@aol.com).

*Leslie Badaines & Diana Lopez,*  
Journey Co-coordinators

### Jeremi Snook In Person with FFK

Thirty FFK members attended the January Event where our special guest was Jeremi Snook, CEO and President of Friendship Force International. Jeremi outlined FFI's working plans to focus on the organization's mission and improve the technology supporting the members and clubs. Among these plans are a new member-only



webpage and a clearer path for visitors to become members.

### What's new: FFI Virtual Events

See the choices of live and recorded virtual events from around the world at the FFI webpage. Go to <https://www.friendshipforce.org/> and at the top of the page is a banner with "Virtual Experiences" in a green box. Click on this box to see the list of available programs by scrolling down the displayed page.

#### Live programs coming soon:

##### Sacred Sites of Northern India Part 2

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 11:00 a.m. MST;  
**1:00 p.m. EST**

Host: Helen Arnott, FF Edmonton & Area

##### How to Travel and Stay Healthy

Saturday, February 20, 2021, **2:00 p.m. EST**

Host: Dr. Luke Williams & Marilyn Whelan,  
FF Florida Suncoast

##### Trivia Quiz

Monday, February 22, 2021, 8:30 p.m. CET,

**2:30 p.m. EST**

Host: Kerstin Hogan, FF Staff

### A Costa Rican Pen Pal

Friendship Force International started a program last fall to match up pen pals around the world. This sounded like fun, and so I put my name in to be matched up with a native Spanish speaker. My pen pal, Vivian Avila, lives in the San Jose area of Costa Rica. We are both excited to correspond and to learn more about each other's lives. He is a retired lawyer who worked for the Costa Rican government and is an ardent motorcyclist who has ridden through the Great Smokies and has done the Dragon's Tail. He and his wife, Nuria, are great supporters of Friendship Force. Indeed, the San Juan area has two clubs and Vivian was president of one club and Nuria the other.

I have of course learned new things about Costa Rica. Did you know that many people in Costa Rica celebrate Thanksgiving too? Vivian described their family Thanksgiving last

November. They went around the dinner table and each person said what they were thankful for. Unfortunately, much of Costa Rican economy is tourist based, and so they have been hit hard by COVID.

Having Vivian as a pen pal has also been good practice for my Spanish. For sure, it is an effort to write idiomatically correct Spanish, whereas Vivian can respond rapidly. Thus, the ball is usually in my court to write.

*Bruce Robinson*



#### February Twilight

I stood beside a hill  
Smooth with new-laid snow,  
A single star looked out  
From the cold evening glow.

There was no other creature  
That saw what I could see--  
I stood and watched the evening star  
As long as it watched me.

*Sara Teasdale*

#### Upcoming Dates—Mark your calendars

**Virtual Board Meeting:** March 9, 2:00 p.m.

**Upcoming FFK Virtual General Events (6:30 p.m. Social; 7:00 p.m. Program):**

- March 23: FFK Journeys - Down Memory Lane
- April 27: Adventures in South Africa & Zambia
- May 25: FFI Global Journey to Myanmar

These dates and more are on the  
FFK Calendar web page.