



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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October 2017

General Membership Meeting and Program

The General Meeting of the members of Friendship Force, Knoxville will be held on Tuesday, October 17th, 2017 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. If you are going west – away from downtown. it is between Second Presbyterian Church and The Teen Center. There will be plenty of parking. This meeting will be a pot-luck meal.

At this meeting, we will welcome the Ambassadors from Calgary, Canada who will be visiting Knoxville until October 23rd.

Please plan to attend this meeting and get to know our fellow Friendship Force colleagues from Canada.

Sandy Kehne will circulate a sign-up sheet for dishes for the potluck.

Come join us and bring a friend

Board meeting

The Board met on October 3rd at The Egg and I on Kingston Pike at 11:30a.m. It's an open meeting, so anyone was welcome. **Note** the date of this meeting.

Note from Our President

October is here! And Calgary is coming! See elsewhere in the newsletter for the detailed itinerary and other articles. I hope everyone will be able to participate in one of more of the activities. We'd like all members to attend the Pot Luck Welcome Dinner on October 17. There will be a short welcome, then introduction of the 14 Ambassadors by their hosts. Sandy Kehne is putting together the menu, so let her know what you would like to bring. It will be a full week of activities, and I look forward to showing off our East Tennessee.

The board decided not to request any outbound exchange for 2019 but perhaps partner with other clubs who form as such, and let's keep a lookout for other trips that we might like. We are still planning a journey to La Serena, Chile, in 2018. A number of people have indicated interest.

The dates of November 6-13 have been approved by the Board and the La Serena club. We're waiting for the Raleigh club to also approve.

The next Board meeting has been changed to October 3, still at the Egg and I. You are welcome to join us. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is Oct 17. Please come and meet our Ambassadors from Calgary. Then at the November meeting, there will be a program by Sonja Dubois as well as election of officers.

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

Calgary Exchange with Knoxville

Yes, indeed! Calgary is coming to Knoxville. Fourteen Ambassadors will arrive the afternoon of October 17th. Their home hosts will be at the airport to welcome them and take them to their homes. There will be a Pot-luck dinner at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church on Kingston Pike. Every member is invited to the dinner. Please let Sandy Kehne know what you are bringing. Leader for this evening is Diana Lopez.

Their first full day will be spent in downtown Knoxville. A greeting by Mayor Madeline Rogero will begin the festivities. The group will stroll down Gay Street to the Visitor's Center (maybe time for a stop at Mast General) in time for the WDVX Blue Plate Special at noon. Lunch on Market Square and then a walking tour of downtown by Jack Neeley will round out the afternoon. Hosts and Ambassadors are invited to dinners at the homes of the

Dennis' and Dougalls' The Leader for this day is Phyllis Driver.

Thursday is Dollywood! It's Harvest Festival and Southern Gospel Jubilee at Dollywood. Artisans will be at work. Watch the blacksmiths, glass blowers, wood carvers, leather toolers, candle makers do their thing. Tons of different food venues and lots of places to sit, relax and let the world walk by. It will be a full day for as long or as little as our Ambassadors want to stay. The Leaders for this day are Diana Lopez, Jean and Ron Mayer and Joanne Hayden.

October 20th is dedicated to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. A scenic drive thru the Foothills Parkway, a picnic at Metcalf Bottoms, followed by an optional 3.5-mile hike in the mountains or visit to the Sugarland's and shopping at Pigeon Forge. The Leader for this day is Ron Mayer.

Saturday, October 21st begins with a guided tour of the Green McAdoo Museum in Clinton, TN to learn about the first students to desegregate a state supported high school in the South. After lunch at the Golden Girls Restaurant in Clinton will be a guided tour of the Lenoir Museum in Norris, TN.

Dinner on Saturday will be on the Star of Knoxville riverboat.

Sunday, October 22nd Ambassadors will have a guided tour of the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge, TN.

The farewell dinner will be at Calhoun's on the River in Oak Ridge. Please contact Jim Dennis if you are interested in joining the hosts and ambassadors for the dinners. The Leader for Saturday is Ray Simko and for Sunday is Karen Setzfand.

Special thanks go to Jim and Judy Dennis, Journey Coordinators, and their team of Ron Mayer and Phyllis Driver for planning such a wonderful program to show off Knoxville and East Tennessee. It's sure to please our visitors from Canada.

Honored Member

Congratulations to **Ruthie McIntyre!** She has been selected by the Board of the National Association of Black Storytellers to receive the Brother Blue Circle of Elders Award at the 35th Annual Black Storytelling Festival and Conference in Wichita, KS, November 8-12, 2017. This esteemed award recognizes the contributions and honored presence of Elders in the storytelling community. The "Brother Blue Award" is named honoring a college professor who was an excellent storyteller. He got his name because he always wore a blue African garb whenever he told stories. A well-deserved honor, Ruthie! Congratulations!

JOURNEYS

INCOMING JOURNEYS

Calgary, Canada Journey:

An outline of the program for the Calgary Ambassadors is given in a separate article in this Newsletter.

International Exchange Preview

FFK will be going to La Serena, Chile in November 2018 in a joint exchange with the Friendship Club Raleigh. More information will be available as the program develops."

OUTBOUND JOURNEYS

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:

Lincoln, Nebraska, USA; the Sandhill Capital of the World

March 17 to 24, 2018

Discover Vietnam

April 11 to 28, 2018

2018 Festival at Sea Cruise

April 22 to May 10, 2018

Minutes of the September Meetings:

Board Meeting, September 14, 2017

Present:

Kaye Bultemeier, Diana Lopez, Jim Dennis, Jean Mayer, Judy Dennis, Ron Mayer, Phyllis Driver, LeRoy Rogers, Joanne Hayden, Wanda Roger, Panos Ioannides, Karen Setzfand, Renee Ioannides, Ray Simko, and Noel Kuck

Diana Lopez called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting location was The and I in Bearden.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the June 14, 2017 Board Meeting were approved

Treasurer's Report

Ray Simko provided copies of the Treasurer's Report from January 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017.

Membership

Friendship Force International has announced a change in the dues structure for 2018. The family rate of \$45.00 per year has been eliminated. Dues will now be \$30.00 per individual. This will be effective January 1, 2018. This change which was approved by the board must be published one month in advance. The notice will appear in our October Newsletter.

Journey Updates

Jim Dennis distributed the latest information concerning the Calgary Incoming Journey (copies attached). The dates for the Journey are October 17 – 23, 2017. Time of arrival is approximately between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17th. Hosts will meet their guests at McGhee Tyson Airport. Joanne Hayden is preparing goodie bags for each guest which will include an exchange brochure, local information, and additional small gifts. There will be a potluck welcome dinner on Tuesday evening at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Activities for the remainder of the exchange were discussed in detail.

Friendship Force International has approved an outbound journey in conjunction with the Raleigh, North Carolina FF Club to La Serena, Chile. Tentative dates include November 6th - 13th, 2018. A motion to accept this journey was approved by the board.

Diana Lopez said that the request for Inbound Journeys had been submitted by the August 1st deadline. We requested hosting one incoming journey for 2019. The Outbound request form is due in November. It was suggested that we combine with another club for outbound journeys in 2019 and not request one of our own.

Concerns

Panos Ioannides shared with the board that due to health concerns he may be limited in

his participation of club activities in the near future. This would include his ability to home host a guest from Calgary. The board will find a replacement.

General Programs

Phyllis Driver continues to work on the program schedule. Our next general meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 6:30 p.m. Diana Lopez and Sandy Kehne will be presenting a program about their recent individual visits to Galapagos Islands.

Communications

Ed Bigelow, a former member of the Knoxville FF Club recently inquired about our club. He was interested in knowing if we were still active.

Bruce and Janis Robinson are returning to Knoxville. We will welcome them back. Ray Simko was thanked for doing the newsletter for this month.

New Business

Phyllis Driver, Renee Ioannides, and Wanda Rogers agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee for next year's officers.

The board agreed to contribute \$100.00 to the FFI 40th Anniversary Campaign.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Mayer, Secretary.

General Meeting, September 19, 2017

Diana Lopez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. following a short gathering time which included refreshments. Meeting location was the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN.

Membership

There were seventeen members plus two visitors in attendance. Diana Lopez introduced her two guests. Bruce and Janis Robinson have returned from the southwest and plan to relocate in Knoxville again. It was a pleasure to welcome them back.

Treasurer's Report

Ray Simko informed the members that Friendship Force International has announced a change in the dues structure for 2018. The family rate of \$45.00 per year has been eliminated. Dues will now be \$30.00 per individual. This will be effective January 1, 2018. This change was approved by our board at its meeting on September 14, 2017 and will appear in our newsletter next month. Collection of dues for 2018 will begin at our next regular meeting. Ray also announced that our board approved a gift of \$100.00 to the FFI 40th Anniversary Campaign. You are still welcome to make your own contribution.

Journey Updates

Ron Mayer discussed the Calgary Incoming Journey. He explained that we have worked on the details of the Journey. Due to health concerns Panos Ioannides will be unable to host a visitor from Calgary. Ron said that we will need to find someone to host the person who was planning to stay with Panos and Renee. There is a need for dinner hosts on October 18th and 20th. We also need to have a sign-up sheet for our members to

indicate what food item they plan to bring to the welcome dinner.

Diana Lopez said that the dates November 6-13, 2018 have been approved for an Outbound Journey to La Serena, Chile. We will be looking for a coordinator for that trip. She also said that the request for Inbound Journeys had been submitted by the August 1st deadline. There are no requests for Outbound Journeys for 2019 at this time.

General Programs

October 17th: Welcome Dinner with Calgary Friendship Force

November 14th: Election of Officers and Sonja Dubois Presentation

December 9th: Holiday Brunch at Lakeside Tavern 11:30-2:30

New Business

Phyllis Driver, Renee Ioannides, and Wanda Rogers agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee for next year's officers.

Program

Sandy Kehne and Diana Lopez gave a very interesting slide presentation of their recent individual visits to the Galapagos Islands. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jean Mayer, Secretary

Birthday & Anniversary Wishes

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

Sonja Dubois
&
LeRoy Rogers