



# friendship force

## KNOXVILLE

## “Gateway to Worldwide Friends” Newsletter

Volume 17, No .8

November, 2015

### November Meeting

Our next General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

This meeting will be held at:-

**Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church**, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville

The Church is on the right side of Kingston Pike if you are going west – away from downtown. It is next to Second Presbyterian Church. There will be plenty of parking.

#### **Social from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

Members with last names m through Z are asked to bring snacks and finger foods. The club will provide beverages.

The general meeting and program will begin at 7:00 p.m.

### **HOLD THE DATE**

**Christmas/Holiday Dinner  
Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – 12:30 p.m.  
Full Details at November Meeting**

### Messages from Panos

On behalf of our Board and especially from me, I am proud to report that the recent Open World/Rule of Law exchange was a success.

My thanks for your support, extended to our guests from Serbia, but also to all of East Tennessee Federal judges that attended our welcome reception on 19<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed great food and fellowship. I hope all of you enjoyed the young dancers from St. George Greek Orthodox Church that entertained us that evening.

Special thanks to all Home and Dinner hosts for opening their homes to our Serbian visitors.

There are no words to thank our Chief Federal judge, the Honorable Tom Varlan and his staff for the excellent program offered during the week of October

In friendship,

*Panos*

## Welcoming our new FFI CEO

It gives me great pleasure as Chairperson of the Friendship Force International board to announce the appointment of Jeremi Snook as FFI's sixth President and CEO, effective November 9, 2015.

Jeremi has a Master's degree in Business Administration and brings with him both the experience of working as a senior executive in the non-profit sector as well as the experience of starting a small business that quickly earned him and his partner the Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies' award. He worked successively with United Way, with the Uptown Emergency Shelter and most recently as Chief Operating Officer with Spaulding Youth Center in Northfield, New Hampshire, a leading community-based provider of educational services for children with neurological or behavioral challenges. Jeremi's desire to relocate to Georgia played in FFI's favour and those on the Search Committee who have met him believe that he has the vision and management skills to lead FFI to the stability and sustainability we want for the organization. Most importantly, he has the values to embrace the mission that matters enormously to all of us.

Executives who have worked with Jeremi Snook have all described him as a caring, can-do person who connects well with people from all walks of life, someone who values diversity and works collaboratively to achieve consensus. "Friendship Force is much in alignment with who Jeremi is as a person", commented a former boss and CEO. Jeremi concurs: "I have loved all my previous jobs but the mission of this one resonates with my soul. I tell my friends and family that I will work for peace by bringing people from around the world together." I know that you will join me in welcoming Jeremi Snook to Friendship Force and give him the support he will need to grow our

mission and our membership. You will have the pleasure of meeting Jeremi soon after his start up date of November 9, 2015 as he plans to introduce himself to club members around the world in a short message and video that you can watch on your screen. Before I close, allow me to acknowledge the considerable work carried out by the CEO Search Committee led by the Board Vice-Chair, Bob Duncan, who reviewed 180 applications and worked tirelessly over the last three months to bring us to this day where I am able to make this happy announcement.

Again, I welcome Jeremi to the FFI family and I know you welcome him too!

*Cécile Latour,*

Chairperson of the FFI Board of Directors

## FFK Membership Dues

It is that time of year again to renew your membership and pay your dues for 2016.

Please copy the last page of this newsletter updating any personal information that you would like to be included in the 2016 Membership Directory that will issued in early 2016.

Dues have not changed. Single Membership is \$30.00 and Family membership is \$45.00. Please make effort possible to have these dues paid on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Many thanks,

*Ray Simko*

# EXCHANGES

## Incoming Exchange

An incoming exchange with approximately 8 people from Whidbey Island, Washington is proposed for spring – April 17, 2016. It is in the early planning stages. What is needed now is to identify the **Exchange Director**. If you have any interest in being the Exchange Director of this program please let our President Panos Ioannides know.

## Outgoing Exchanges

### **Calgary Stampede and Southern Alberta Heritage**

June 26 to July 13, 2016

Calgary, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge  
Our home hosts during our exchange to Calgary last year have asked us to make our members aware of their *Calgary Stampede and Southern Alberta Heritage* themed global exchange to take place from June 26, 2016 through July 13, 2016

Go to our website at

[www.friendshipforceknoxville.org](http://www.friendshipforceknoxville.org) and to the Exchange page. On the right side of the page, click onto Friendship Force Calgary for a full two pages of information about the exchange.

If you decide to go you will find this to be one of the most memorable and scenic exchanges you have ever undertaken.

# Friendship Force International Exchanges Available

Friendship Force International has notified us that the following exchanges are available. If you want further information about any of these Exchanges, please contact FFI at [www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org)

### **NASCAR Auto Racing in North Carolina**

February 4 to February 11, 2016 (New Dates) Charlotte, NC

### **Explore Myanmar**

February 13 to 25, 2016

Yangon, Inle Lake, Bagan and Mandalay  
Myanmar

### **Marlborough and Tauranga**

#### **Western Bay of Plenty, NZ**

February 18 – March 3, 2016

Marlborough, Tauranga, Western Bay of Plenty, New Zealand

### **Discover Central Montana**

#### **Western Capital Art capital of the USA**

March 15 to March 22, 2016

Great Falls and Choteau, Montana, USA

### **NextGen Discover the Outback**

March 28 – April 11, 2016

Adelaide and Cairns  
Australia.

### **Pick Your Passion: Discover Louisiana!**

April 6 to April 18, 2016

Baton Rouge and New Orleans,

For more information on these and other exchange opportunities go to [www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org)

**(Due to the traveling schedule of our Newsletter Editor, Birthday and Anniversary Wishes for November will be posted with December Newsletter)**

## 2016 Dues and Membership Application

Membership dues for 2016 have not been increased and remain at \$30 for an Individual and \$45 for a Family and are payable on or before December 31, 2015.

Dues are due and made payable to Friendship Force of Knoxville mail them to Ray Simko, Treasurer – 1194 Treymour Way, Knoxville, TN 37922.

Individual \$30 \_\_\_\_ Family \$45 \_\_\_\_

Member #1 First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member # 2 First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address, \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Area Code & Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday's \_\_\_\_\_

Couple's Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

