



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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April, 2017

General Membership Meeting and Program

The General Meeting of the members of Friendship Force Knoxville will be held on Tuesday, April 18th at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church 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.

Social time and Snacks at 6:30 p.m. Members with surnames between L and Z are asked to bring snacks or finger foods

General Meeting and Program will follow. Come join us and bring a friend.

Board meeting

The Board will be meeting on April 12th at The Egg and I on Kingston Pike at 11:30a.m. It's an open meeting, so anyone is welcome.

Note from the President

The Friendship Force of Knoxville celebrated FFI's 40th anniversary with a pot-luck supper and Chinese auction on March 21. Everyone brought items to get rid of, and I think all but one maybe took different items back home! We

also had three visitors who took part, and all enjoyed a fantastic dinner and great conversation. Thanks to Sandy and Ray who coordinated the dinner and auction and to all for the delicious dishes and great items to auction.

Congratulations to Janis Robinson who has been appointed our official webmaster. She has been assisting Ray for several months and has made several changes in our website to make it more user-friendly and helpful. Janis and Ray also wrote the new club profile which should appear on the FFI website shortly, if not already. While you are there, check out the new format for Friendship Force International and watch the video.

Please plan to attend the May meeting when Ruthie will conduct a workshop for everyone on journey coordination. Whether or not you are interested in being a coordinator, it's beneficial for all of us to understand the process. We'll need everyone's assistance for the two incoming exchanges: a group from Kosovo on an Open World journey from Sept 8-join with the Raleigh club for a journey to La Serena Chile in 2018. More details will follow on all of these journeys. (See new definitions of terminology in the newsletter.)

I will miss you at the April meeting but am confident that LeRoy will lead the club and Phyllis will plan a fantastic program. Can't wait

to meet and talk with our fellow members from around the world. I understand there will be 60 of us on board for the 40th Anniversary cruise.

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

The following letter from the **President and Board of Directors of Friendship Force International** was sent to all members.

Dear Members of Friendship Force International,

As Friendship Force International confronts the political realities of our time and the forces that seek to divide us, we have no doubt that each member of the Friendship Force family will respond to those realities with strengthened devotion and focus on our mission, beliefs, and values. This imperative has been thrust upon us, and in honoring our organization's legacy, we must not waver.

The very first exchanges that Friendship Force orchestrated highlighted our main responsibility as citizen diplomats, building on the philosophy that "where people traveled was not important, but that why they were going would make the important difference" (Charlene Terrell quoting Wayne Smith, *The Other Side of the Mountain*, p.17). Forty years later, our global network of citizen ambassadors has participated in thousands of international cultural exchanges, empowered with the knowledge that we CAN each make a difference in the world.

Seasoned Friendship Force ambassadors know that our shared commitment to the values of being a good citizen diplomat is sometimes easier said than put into action. The extent to which we can build friendships, exercise flexibility, adapt to unforeseen difficulties, and

promote understanding can become complicated when our own beliefs and understandings of the world are being challenged. Paraphrasing a very famous line from U.S. President John F. Kennedy's 1962 Moon Speech, we go not because it is easy, but because it is hard. Because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win. While we are not going to the moon, both the outward journey of traveling and the inward journey of trying to understand are no less difficult, and there is no better time than right now to be that bright example of citizen diplomacy in action.

Because we believe in a future for humanity that is far more peaceful than the world in front of us, we travel and host, extending hands of friendship to others in hopes of developing greater understanding across the barriers that separate people. Over the past forty years, many of us have witnessed the positive change that occurs when new seeds of friendship take root and former barriers come down. But today, there are new barriers to overcome, requiring that we sow new seeds of friendship around the world – perhaps even in our own countries.

We urge you to stay true to our organization's purpose and to remain steadfast in our commitment to be good citizen diplomats. The FFI pledge reminds us that the world is watching us and how we react as an organization to world events, so let's show them what we have been about these last four decades and what we will continue to be in the decades to come. Let us offer the world a voice of reason that cuts through the chaos, and invite our fellow citizens of the world to take action beyond words, as we promote our mission of international friendship and understanding.

In friendship,
Jeremi Snook and the Board of Directors

**Experience Different Views,
Discover Common Ground**

Friendship Force of Knoxville Celebrates the 40th Anniversary of FFI

What an evening it was on Tuesday, March 21st when 22 members and 3 guests help FFI celebrate their 40th Anniversary. Just like clubs around the world we took the time to remember March 1, 1977 when Friendship Force International began. Here in Knoxville we had a wide variety of foods for our pot-luck dinner that evening.

Take a few minutes and visit our website at www.friendshipforceknoxville.org. to see the many pictures that were taken that evening. Below are a few of them.



Then

President Diana Lopez updated the club on the upcoming activities and the incoming Open world program from Kosovo in September and incoming journey from Calgary this coming October. 21st through October 27th.

The fun then began as tickets were drawn for the various items included in the Chinese Auction. The winner of the first item then selected a ticket for the next item and so on. We had a marvelous time filled with many laughs with all enjoying the auction.



The Board would like to thank everyone who contributed food for the pot-luck and the help before and after the auction in set-up and teardown. Lastly thanks to all the members for



all the interesting items donated by you for the auction.



Joanne Hayden sent the following

I receive the memos from the Western Carolina Friendship Force group that first welcomed me to their meetings years ago.

It was with sadness that I just learned that their upcoming two-week exchange to clubs in Peru had to be cancelled due to flooding, landslides, and severe weather and emergencies in that area of the country. My girlfriend Jan Partin was the WNC coordinator and spent countless hours in preparation and anticipation for this adventure. Let us keep all those affected in Peru in our prayers.

I just read a newspaper article today regarding rampant government disregard for mining exploitation of natural resources in Peru and resulting deforestation and erosion from heavy rains.

Joanne Hayden

Members of this Club are saddened by Joanne's news of the damage in Peru, hope for speedy help for the people in the damaged area, and feel the disappointment of the members of the Western Carolina Friendship Force Club because their planned journey had to be cancelled.

Changes to FFI Dictionary

These changes were announced in an e-mail from FFI on 13 Feb. 2017.

The word "exchanges" is now replaced by "journeys" to more closely reflect on our interactions with different club.

In addition, Exchange Directors are now to be called Ambassador Coordinators and

Host Coordinators. The term "coordinator" was chosen because it translates well into many languages and reflects the many parts of organizing a journey.

Southeast Regional Conference

to be held on April 21st 2017 at Magnolia Trace Retirement Community, Huntsville, AL. Accommodation will be available at Hampton Inn, Huntsville, AL. For further information, contact Joyce Bagwell (joyce.bagwell@comcast.net), Tom Laggy (tltide@bellsouth.net) or members of our board.

Journeys

INCOMING JOURNEYS

Open World

September 8-16, 2017

The inbound journey from Kosovo is scheduled for September 8-16. There will be seven(7) participants. Five (5) will be ambassadors and two (2) will be Open World supervisors to both the ambassadors and our Friendship Force (FFK) Club members. The FFK Ambassador Coordinators will need FFK hosts for the number of participants listed.

Calgary, Canada Journey

October 21-27, 2017

The Calgary Friendship Force Club has contacted us several times to inform and keep us up to date as to their exchange scheduled with us in October. Their request to change the original scheduled date from October 17-23 to October 21-27 was approved by the FFK Board at their meeting on February 14. The original date (October 17-23) has been reserved just in case Calgary decides not to go to Washington D.C...

International Journey Preview

We have received a preliminary inquiry from FFI about the possibility that we would be interested in a journey to La Serena, Chile in 2018. This possibility is being actively pursued and information will be passed on to members as it develops.

OUTBOUND JOURNEYS

2017 FFI World Conference Manchester, United Kingdom.

August 25 to 27, 2017

For additional information, please contact www.friendshipforce.org

Discover Morocco

April 21 to May 8, 2017

Cost US \$ 2060

Contact Diana McIntyre, AC

FF Edmonton and Area,

dianamci@shaw.ca

+1 780 469 4140

Nuremberg and Varel, Germany

April 25 to May10, 2017

Flights from Huntsville (to obtain a group rate). Their club can help with people who must travel to Huntsville

For further information, contact David Lambert, davidlambert3@wowway.com

1309 Teenajo Dr SE

Huntsville, AL 35803

256-882-1706

678-983-0318 (cell)

**In Depth Kauai, Hawaii
May 16-26, 2017**

For a description of the planned activities contact Lyn Hargreave at lynhargreave@gmail.com. Fees \$1200, with a \$200 deposit in advance

**Columbia Cascades Club
June 9 to 16, 2017.**

The Shelby, N.C. club has an journey to Columbia- Cascades Club in Oregon June 9-16. The highlight will be the Rose Festival Parade. We have room for 6 ambassadors. We'd like to fill this exchange. Anyone interested can call me, Ellen Gragg, at 704-434-6883 or the exchange director, Dianne Garner at 704-434-4928.

**Moon Shadow Over Oregon: 2017
Total Solar Eclipse**

August 16 to August 25 (Journey # 13430)
Homestays will be provided by The Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley and the Friendship Force Columbia Cascade We will accept applications until January 15, 2017.
Contact information for the journey:
Marilyn Peterson
541.916.7431 (home/cell)
Peterson.marilyn@comcast.net

Friendship Force International

The March Journeys Catalogues is available. Go to the FFI Webb site www.friendshipforce.org to see what journeys are available. December,

**Friendship Force Knoxville
Meeting Minutes**

The Friendship Force Knoxville Board will publish a combined Board and General Meeting summary of each month's minutes. Below is the summary for March, 2017:

Membership:

Gordon Ford, a Lifetime Member, passed away this week and a celebration of life was on Friday, March 17, 2017 at the First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville. The Board approved a \$50 donation to the First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville's building fund in memory of

Gordon. Another former member of FFK, Lucy Shoemaker, is in hospice, and the grandson of Paul and Betty Haas is in serious condition. Renee Ioannides sent cards from FFK to these families to let them know they are in our thoughts.

Club Secretary:

Janis Robinson and Ray Simko re-worked FFK information for the FFI Club Directory. The Board reviewed the document and provided feedback. After corrections, the new text was submitted to FFI for publication on their website. On our club's website, changes were made to use the new vocabulary provided by FFI, for example, "Exchanges" became "Journeys".

General Programs:

* April 18: Program to be announced.

* May 16: Ruthie McIntyre will provide a workshop on being Journey Director Lopez and

* June 20 Program by Ghada Ayesh from Annoor Academy on the Muslim Community

There are 15 members scheduled to take the Journey Director workshop but it was thought that all members might benefit. Could/should the regular meeting date be used for the workshop or should an afternoon separate from the regular meeting be scheduled?

Journeys:

A planning meeting for the Journey would meet some time after the Workshop. Jim asked about making copies of the JD Guide available from FFI but it is a very long document and a shorter, checklist type document would be better. It was thought that Ron Mayer has such a document. FFK will pay for reasonable reproduction costs.

Panos Ioannides reported that the 2017 Greek Fest will take place on September 15-17 during the time of the Open World Journey. It seems like a very good activity to take the visitors to and he would be sure tickets were available. Diana received a note from Kristen from FFI indicating that the 2018 Chile journey had become possible and that Raleigh, NC, was also

interested. The Serena, Chile, club would like 15 visitors and both clubs together would probably produce enough interest to make the total.

The Open World journey was discussed. Phyllis Driver is waiting for the biographies of the people planning to visit to determine what activities they might be interested in. Jim reported that so far, no one had volunteered to be a Home Host. Phyllis indicated that if we would not be able to take in the guests, we may need to cancel the journey.

Jim Dennis reported that the current plan from the Calgary club is that they will be in Knoxville from October 21-27, 2017 and that six Home Hosts had volunteered as well as four Home Dinner hosts. Jim requested that the Home Hosts let him know if they would like to host Ambassadors from Calgary. Jim will prepare a packet of suggested activities for the Calgary Club to review.

Summer Activities:

Phyllis Driver reported that the Oak Ridge Theater and Clayton Theater have no activities in the summer. She will check and bring along information about events at the Cumberland County Playhouse as well as the Barter Theatre in Abington, VA.

Birthday & Anniversary Wishes

The Members of the Club send best wishes on their **Birthdays** to
Karen Setzfand
Patsy Ellis

and on their **Anniversaries**, to
Lonnie & Ruthie McIntyre