



# friendship force

## KNOXVILLE

## “Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

Volume 19, No. 5

May, 2017

### **General Membership Meeting and Program**

The General Meeting of the members of Friendship Force Knoxville will be held on Tuesday, May 16th, 2017 at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 6.30 p.m. 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.

### **Social time and Snacks at 6:30 p.m.**

Members with surnames between A and K are asked to bring snacks or finger foods.

### **Program at the General Meeting**

The Friendship Force Workshop Committee under the direction of Ruthie McIntyre will be presenting a program on the planning and functioning of a Journey (Exchange) that will highlight both incoming and outbound Journeys.

We plan to have a detailed 2017 FFI-FFK Journey Guideline that you can follow as

well take home for future referrals to questions you may have.

Your indication in the interest workshop survey completed earlier is greatly appreciated. There were many members who noted their interest in this subject area. Please mark your calendars for the May 16 meeting. We plan to have the program period presented in approximately one hour.

In Friendship,  
Ruthie McIntyre

**Come join us and bring a friend**

### **Board meeting**

The Board will be meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> at The Egg and I on Kingston Pike at 11:30a.m. It's an open meeting, so anyone is welcome.

## **Note from Our President**

The 40th anniversary cruise was quite a success. I learned so much from all the friends I made on board. Please see the full article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks to LeRoy and all the board for continuing in my absence. I understand you had an excellent program on Nepal by Jim Holleman. I'm sorry to have missed it.

Please plan to attend the May meeting when Ruthie will conduct a workshop for everyone on journey coordination. Whether you are interested in being a coordinator or not, 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 exchange from Sept 8-16 and the group from Calgary for Oct 17-23. And now we have been invited to join with the Raleigh club for a journey to La Serena Chile in 2018. We need to be establishing committees for each of these journeys and will need everyone.

Please also note the change in meeting date for November. It will be November 14 since the following week is Thanksgiving. The Board will meet on the 8th.

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](mailto:dlopez@utk.edu), tel. # 865 223 4036.

***Diana Lopez***

## **Report on 40th Anniversary Cruise Friendship Force International**

March 30 – April 13 2017

By Diana Lopez

The 40th Anniversary cruise of the Friendship Force International was an exceptional way to celebrate. Over 60 members from around the world came together to share experiences on our way to Rome. We left from Ft Lauderdale under blue skies and warm weather. It remained the same until after we left Rome to come home or to explore further. Members came from Australia, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand and the US, and most had traveled extensively with Friendship Force. For a handful of us, this was our first trip. The CEO Jeremi Snook and Laura Romero from FFI led the discussions, assisted by Bob Duncan, Chairman of the Board. If there were questions to be asked, there were many people around to answer them.

We met for an hour each morning we were at sea and discussed various topics, including the future of FFI, what it means to be a global citizen, the importance of our mission in today's world, what future FFI cruises might look like, what countries we should seek to build friendship opportunities, and the role of FFI in promoting cultural understanding around the world. To get to know each other better, we played some icebreaker games, had two cocktail parties and met informally for happy hour most days. As we would soon be stopping in 3 Spanish ports, Laura taught us some polite phrases and words in Spanish. At the end of the crossing, about half of us also joined a Rome extension tour to see the highlights on Easter weekend.

Overall, the cruise was quite a success. Everyone agreed that FFI should do more

cruises because it is such a great opportunity to get to know other members. As one of the newer members of FFI, I learned a tremendous amount about FFI, journeys, and what it means to be an ambassador.

That's the basics of the cruise. If you want to know more about the actual discussions, read on:

### **What is Friendship Force?**

I had been struggling with a pat answer when people ask me who we are and what we do. One morning, we divided into small groups and came up with some good answers:

People to people exchanges domestically and internationally

Stay in homes

Endorsed by Jimmy Carter

360 clubs in 60 countries

Celebrating 40th Anniversary

Making friends

“We are an intercultural, non-profit, people-to-people organization that promotes understanding of other cultures and builds global friendships. We are glad to answer questions and please refer to our website at [friendshipforce.org](http://friendshipforce.org).”

We had plenty of opportunity to try out our new statements. We wore lanyards and nametags so you couldn't miss us. Every meal we had the opportunity to tell others about FFI. Most were quite interested and would check it out when they got home.

### **Journeys**

There were two discussions about journeys (formerly exchanges). Although the terminology has changed because journey translates better in some languages, the word exchanges can still be used, especially domestically. Some highlighted suggestions were:

Journey Coordinator should do an inbound journey before planning an outbound Committee should divide up the duties: transportation, matching hosts and ambassadors, day trips, preparing schedule book with members & pictures

There are different types of exchanges: homestay, language learning, active & outdoors, professional, humanitarian & environmental, food & drink, teachers & students.

Any member can join another club's exchange if space is available. You don't have to wait for your club to have an exchange.

Don't schedule every minute, leave time to enjoy families, but be sure that entire journey is considered

Meet with home hosts and days hosts to go over expectations

If 2 clubs are partnering, one should designate a JC and the other is the contact

Complete evaluation at end of journey from both sides

Study language of journey partner

[There is a manual, read it!](#)

### **Future of FFI**

There is much work to be done in the world. Friendship Force can play a large role in peace and understanding. To move forward, there will be three new logos and programs this year: 1. The 40th Anniversary; 2. The 40th Anniversary World Conference; and 3. The 40th Anniversary Campaign. Yes, there will be a campaign asking for donations. But it is an ambitious campaign, so FFI is going for corporate sponsors, not just asking for donations from members. Of course, it's nice to say to a corporation that 100% of our members have already donated or pledged.

Clubs still play an important part, and ideas for recruitment will be forthcoming. There are two videos now that we can use, and they are translated into several languages. Also, a new flyer/summary of FFI. Word of mouth has been the norm for recruitment, and clubs are talking to service organizations, senior centers, and universities. In Knoxville, we have a wonderful International House where we could meet with students from other countries or with Americans who have studied abroad and want to share that experience. Many of you belong to other organizations where you could encourage members to join FFK.

Suggested locations for exchanges were the Arabian Peninsula, China, Vietnam, the Muslim world, former Soviet bloc, combining two countries going to a third. Reach out to our own community of indigenous people, people of color, people of different faiths, remembering that FFI is non-political, non-denominational, and non-racial. Our membership should reflect our beliefs.

#### **Dr Lonnie McIntyre**

On May 1, Ruthie McIntyre sent a message saying that Lonnie had had a massive stroke on April 18th and that he is now recovering well but still needs physical therapy and other treatment. We, of Friendship Force Knoxville are so very pleased to hear that he is recovering well and send our love and support to Ruthie.

## **JOURNEYS**

### **INCOMING JOURNEYS**

#### **Open World Journey:** 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 Host Coordinator will need FFK hosts for the number of participants listed.

#### **Calgary, Canada Journey:**

The dates for the Calgary Journey to Knoxville are October 17-23, 2017. Details will be provided to our members as soon as they are available.

#### **International Exchange 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](http://www.friendshipforce.org)

## **A Walk with Swiss Friends**

September 3 to 9, 2017

Deadline for applications is May 15, 2017

This itinerary is organized and led by the FF club of Solothurn, Switzerland. Since we are still a small club founded a few years ago, we can host only one Journey every year. To meet the many requests that we have, we organized this additional global Journey. There will be no homestay - instead you will spend the night in a sports hotel near Solothurn. But you will have plenty of contact with members of FF Solothurn, the only club in Switzerland, with day-hosting by FF Solothurn members, one dinner hosting to local members during a dinner,

The cost of this Journey is \$1200 USD per person in a double room (single supplement is \$159). The deadline for applications is May 15, 2017.

[Read more about this Journey and its itinerary the FFI catalog](#) or contact us today to apply!

### **In friendship,**

Kurt Haefeli & Regina Walter,  
Journey Coordinators, FF Solothurn  
[haefeli.kurt@bluewin.ch](mailto:haefeli.kurt@bluewin.ch)

and a farewell party with FF Solothurn.

## **Kampala, Uganda and Nairobi, Kenya**

October 14 to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

This journey has home stays in each city and an optional extension. Further information is available in the FFI catalogue or by contacting the Journey Directors.

### **Jack and Ilene Green**

Journey Directors

*Friendship Force Denver*

[jack.green@comcast.net](mailto:jack.green@comcast.net)

## **Global Youth Journey to Japan**

June 10 - 18, 2017

We are looking for globally-minded students to embark upon a once-in-a-lifetime Journey to Japan this June.

During this structured week of programming, students will be home-hosted while in the city of Fukuyama, visit the historic Atomic Bomb Memorial in Hiroshima, meet and learn from local government officials, attend a local high school for an afternoon, and have a Japanese cooking experience, all while being guided by local Friendship Force hosts from three Japanese clubs.

Please take a look at [our flyer for the itinerary, dates, costs, and further details.](#)

If you have additional questions or are interested in applying, please contact FFI Regional Support Manager Laura Romero at [laura@friendshipforce.org](mailto:laura@friendshipforce.org) or Matthew Nidek, Director of Operations at [matthew@friendshipforce.org](mailto:matthew@friendshipforce.org).

## **Columbia Cascades Club**

June 9 to 16, 2017.

The Shelby, N.C. club has an exchange 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 (Exchange # 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 exchange:  
Marilyn Peterson  
541.916.7431 (home/cell)  
Peterson.marilyn@comcast.net

## **Friendship Force International**

The Journey Catalogues for FFI (friendshipforce.org) are also a source of journeys planned for the future.

### **Friendship Force Knoxville**

Below are summaries of the minutes of the April meetings:

#### **Update on membership:**

Karen Setzfand had cancer surgery on her upper lobe of the right lung April 12th at the UT Medical Center. The surgery went well. It was Stage 1 cancer. She will be in the hospital for 3 to 5 days for initial recovery. She will have a more extended period of home recovery. Our best wishes are with her and Ray during this period of surgery and the recovery.

#### **Program Report**

Phyllis Driver has a speaker for our Tuesday April 18 membership meeting. Our speaker will be Jim Holleman who has recently returned from Nepal. He will show pictures and describe what he saw in post-earthquake Nepal.

The May 16 meeting will be a workshop on planning and conducting exchanges/Journeys at the Unitarian Church on Kingston Pike

We have two fall programs planned but not scheduled 1. Program by Sonja Dubois, 2. Journey to Galapagos by Sandy and Diana.

We have no updates on activities or Journeys.

We had no new business.

#### **Old Business**

Ray and Karen cannot be our representative at Regional meeting at Huntsville, Alabama. Joanne has a conflict and cannot go. We need someone to volunteer to represent us.

#### **April General Meeting**

LeRoy Rogers, as acting President at the Tuesday April 18th general meeting, reviewed the minutes of the Board with the group. The speaker was Jim Holleman, a commercial real estate broker in Knoxville and an active member of Knoxville Rotary Club. He recently returned from Nepal and spoke about his experiences and showed slides of that trip including beautiful vistas of the mountain and the people he met.

Board Minutes provided by LeRoy Rogers and edited by Don Dougall; General Meeting Minutes and Summary provided by Janis Robinson