



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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March 2019

General Membership Meeting and Program

The General Meeting of the members of Friendship Force, Knoxville will be held on Tuesday, March 19th, 2019 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.

Because a number of members will be out of town, the March Chinese Auction has been postponed.

Saralee Peccolo-Taylor will be speaking at the March 19th meeting and her topic will be France, particularly the culture. Saralee currently teaches French at Pellissippi State so loves languages and can hold her own in several. Come and listen to an interesting and fun “take” on France.

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

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

Come join us and bring a friend

Board meeting

The Board will be meeting on Wednesday March 13th at The Egg and I on Kingston Pike at 11:00a.m. It’s an open meeting, so all are welcome.

Note from our Vice President

Friendship Force Knoxville has had a wonderful two months with excellent meetings and great membership participation. Thanks to everyone who has led, assisted, spoken, and attended.

We give special thanks to Jayne Raparelli and all who have worked on the Planning Committee and volunteered to assist with the Cape of Good Hope. Sadly, this journey has been cancelled because of the inability of the travelers to obtain their visas for the US. The excellent work that was done will provide a very useful template for the incoming journeys from Sonoma and the Republic of Georgia later this year.

We are excited about the outgoing journey to Iowa in August of this year. Additionally,

we have received notification that we will have an outgoing journey to Moreton and Central Australia in October of 2020.

I hope all of you will be able to attend the monthly meeting on March 19th.

Kaye Bultemeier-Vice President

Upcoming Friendship Force Meetings

March: Saralee Peccolo-Taylor will give a presentation about French culture.

April: Urban Walk in the Old City with Mike McDonough and Jayne Raparelli
April 16--Meet 10 a.m. in the free parking lot under the overpass off Jackson. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the history of the Old City and to visit some of the unique shops, restaurants, and living opportunities now available. We'll finish with a special lunch. Should be finished by 2 p.m. Look for more details in the April newsletter, but mark your calendars now. Tuesday,

May: Dr. Sarel van Amstel; Even though our South Africa in-coming visit was cancelled, we will still enjoy Sarel's presentation and learn about South Africa

MEMBER HELP NEEDED:

The FFK historians are looking for copies of old FFK newsletters to complete our archive files. Do you happen to have any newsletters from the following dates that are missing from our collection? If so, we would appreciate a copy. Just bring it to any FFK meeting or contact me.

Thanks, Jeana Johnson 240-434-1409

2014—all but January, October and December

2013—all but March and May

2012—all but August, October and November

Any newsletters prior to 2012

JOURNEYS

INCOMING JOURNEYS

Open World Program Overview by Joanne Schuetz

Since its founding by Congress in 1999, the Open World Program has enabled more than 27,000 current and future Eurasian leaders and leaders from the former Soviet-bloc countries to experience American democracy, civil society and community life; work with their American counterparts; stay in American homes; and gain new ideas and inspiration for implementing change back home. Over 250 Congressional districts have partnered with the U.S. Congress and Open World to make this ambitious public diplomacy effort possible.

The program's short but high-intensity exchanges emphasize hands on practical activities – such as workshops, job shadowing, and site visits – related to the delegates' professional or community work.

Open World will, this year, operate exchanges for participants from the Caucasus, Central Asia, Estonia, Kosovo, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine.

Open World's goals are to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and participating countries, to create a network of emerging leaders dedicated to effecting positive change in their home countries and to connect these leaders with their American professional colleagues and hosts.

Open World delegates come from all levels of government, HGOs, media, and the private sector. OW delegates are relatively young (average age is 30s) and politically, ethnically, and geographically diverse. Typical OW exchange begins with 2 group orientations – the first in the participants' departure city (usually the national capital), the second usually in Washington, D.C. The orientation provides information on cultural differences, the U.S. model of federalism, and topics related to the delegates' themes. At the conclusion of their Washington session, participants travel in small delegations to different U.S. communities for their weeklong programs.

The theme for the OW program to be planned for Friendship Force Knoxville in November 2019 is:

Higher Education Policy Making

Development of its education system to be fair and provide equal opportunity has long been a priority of an independent Georgia and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (MES). Georgia acceded to the Bologna Process and is a signatory to the Lisbon Convention making its educational system compatible with European standards. While reform of the education sphere in Georgia has taken place, new policy/legislation is being debated and developed having to do with being inclusive of minorities and language issues, making education affordable to those who deserve it, and assuring fairness in access and admittance. An Open World program in this area would demonstrate how those issues,

and education policy in general, are handled in the policy and public arenas.

Dates are tentatively scheduled as: Nov. 15-23, 2019. We expect 6 delegates, one facilitator from their country, and a translator, for a total of 8 persons.

Mark your calendars and save the dates to participate in this exciting program!

Cape of Good Hope FF Club visit

The June 24-July 1, 2019 incoming journey from the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, Friendship Force Club has been **cancelled**.

Nineteen Cape of Good Hope club members were expected to visit Knoxville after spending a week in Asheville, North Carolina, with the Western North Carolina Friendship Force Club. However, only six obtained Visas to enter the U.S. As a result, they cancelled the journey. We hope the Cape of Good Hope Friendship Force Club will be able to enter the U.S. at another time and visit Knoxville.

Our thanks to the outstanding planning committee: Helen Bachrach, Leslie Badaines, Kaye Bultemeier, Bill Cherry, Carolyn Moser, Karen Setzfand and Ray Simko. Thanks also to the many members who offered to home, dinner and/or day host.

Jayne Raparelli & Mike McDonough

International Exchange Preview

OUTBOUND JOURNEYS

Friendship Force International

The Journey Catalogues for Friendship Force International (friendshipforce.org) and the US eFlyer from FFI(support@friendshipforce.org) are good sources of journeys being offered in the future which our members can join. These include

[Discover Vietnam](#)

April 11 to 28, 2018

[Festival at Sea Cruise](#)

April 22 to May 10, 2018

[Arts and Architecture in Dallas](#)

May 15 to May 22, 2018

[Global Youth Journey to Japan](#)

June 8 to June 18, 2018

[Discover China](#)

May 1 to May 11, 2019

[Explore the North Sea Coast with FF Varel, Germany](#)

July 7 to July 14, 2019

[Discover Mongolia and Siberia](#)

August 1 to August 15, 2019

Birthday Wishes

We want to recognize that Joanne and Al Schuetz celebrated their anniversary on February 28 and to also recognize the following birthdays and anniversaries for March:

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

Kaye Bultemeier on March 13th

Nancy Cooper on March 18th

Peg Hart on March 22nd

Joanne Schuetz on March 23rd

Raúl Rivero on March 25th

And for their **Anniversary** to

Fuad & Layla Mishu on March 29th