



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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May 2019

General Membership Meeting and Program

The General Meeting of the members of Friendship Force, Knoxville will be held on Tuesday, May 21st, 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.

The program for the May 21st meeting will be presented by Carolyn Dougall and will be a description of a hiking trip the Dougalls made to the Orkney and the Shetland Islands in the most northern part of Great Britain. Join us for a great presentation!

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

Come join us and bring a friend

Board meeting

Diana Lopez, our President when she returns shortly from her travelling, will decide the date and location of the next Board meeting

Note from our Vice President

April was another wonderful month for Friendship Force Knoxville. The club is busy preparing for the outgoing trip to Iowa in August, the incoming group from Sonoma in October and the Open World from the country of Georgia in November.

I want to thank everyone for their support during the four months while Diana Lopez was on travel. She will return shortly and FFK will be back under her trusted guidance.

Enjoy your summer.

Kaye Bultemeier,

Upcoming Friendship Force Meetings

FFK will hold its Holiday Luncheon at noon on Saturday, December 7, 2019. Further details as they become available.

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

April 16 Urban Walk

Tuesday, April 16--Seventeen of us gathered for a morning tour of the Old City in downtown Knoxville. The group included 13 Friendship Force members and 4 friends. We shared historical and new development information during the tour. Highlights included watching glass blowing at Pretentious Glass, visiting the Rala gift shop, touring a loft at the Daniel, and meeting a local artist at the Emporium Art Gallery. We finished with lunch at the Anaba Japanese Restaurant.

Mike McDonough & Jayne Raparelli

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 two 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 six delegates, one facilitator from their country, and a translator, for 8 persons.

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

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

Global Youth Journey to Japan

June 8 to June 18, 2018

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

Jewels of Kenya

Oct 24 to Nov.3, 2019

FFI Journey Number 15452

Birthday Wishes

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

Rick Cooper on May 6
Jean Mayer on May 13
Janis Robinson on May 19
Noel Kuck on May 24

And for their **Anniversary** to

Sonja and Ron Dubois on May 12
Carolyn and Don Dougall on May 17
Nancy and Rick Cooper on May 19
Jasmine and Tom Mishu on May 23