



“A world of friends is a world of peace”

FFK Website: www.friendshipforceknoxville.org

FFI Website: <https://friendshipforce.org/>

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Journey Overviews

2022

Open World Uzbekistan.....	October 7-15
Outbound Australia:	Gold Coast: Oct 19-26
.....	North Moreton: Oct 26-Nov 2

2023

Inbound Western Colorado	April 23-29
Outbound Western Colorado.....	June 11-17
Inbound Spokane, Washington.....	September 13-19

Note from the President

Many FFK members perform tasks that keep our club operating, including Club Officers & Chairs, the host and ambassador coordinators, the people who host and participate in inbound journeys, and the members who assist in various ways with activities and journeys. But for this September issue, I'd like to thank and give special recognition to the following members for their recent efforts:



- **Betsy Tonkin, Marsha Mitchell and Courtney Shea**, Open World coordinators, for planning the upcoming Uzbekistan judges' visit. All members are invited to attend the Oct. 13 reception at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. *See article on page 2.*
- **Leslie Badaines**, ambassador coordinator for leading the October-November outbound journey to Australia.
- **Diana Lopez**, nominating committee chair. Diana has put together a full slate of officers for calendar year 2023. Members will vote on the slate at the November 22 annual meeting.
- **Marsha Mitchell**, for organizing the Nov. 29 Barter Theatre event in Abingdon, Virginia, assisted by **Gail Tyson**. It's not too late to sign up for this event. *See article on page 3.*

Jayne Raparelli, President

Learn about Uzbekistan at September 27th Meeting!



Please join us on **September 27**, at **6:30 p.m.** when we will meet via Zoom to help prepare for our VIP Visitors arriving soon - **Judicial Officers from Uzbekistan!** They will be here October 7-15 via the Open World Program and we are so honored to be able to host. Betsy Tonkin will provide updated information on the Open World program and introduce a special guest who will join us from Canada - Retired Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Weddle. Greg just visited Uzbekistan this month for the third time and spent over a year teaching prosecuting attorneys there from 2017-2018 and again early in 2020. Greg is very knowledgeable about its judicial system as well as its culture. This will be an excellent introduction to our upcoming program and our guests!

The photo shows Greg being presented with this beautiful traditional Uzbek robe and named an honorary professor by his colleagues at the Uzbek Prosecutor General's Academy in October 2018.

Betsy Tonkin,
Open World Coordinator

To attend the Zoom meeting:

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2mufsta3>

Meeting ID: 899 2419 7455

Passcode: 909172

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



Great August Lunch Meeting!



Nineteen FFK members attended the August 23rd meeting at the Union Place Bar & Grill. After enjoying lunch outside under the trees, Diana Lopez discussed traveling with other clubs, and Jayne Raparelli, Mike McDonough, and Jean and Ron Mayer told us about their adventures on the Lower Columbia Journey.

Pictured above from left to right: Jean Mayer, Jayne Raparelli, Ron Mayer, Mike McDonough, Marsha Mitchell, Art Mitchell, Diana Lopez, Gail Tyson, Phyllis Driver, Sonja DuBois, Betsy Tonkin, Marlys Staudt, Renee Ioannides, Don Dougall, Karen Setzfeld, Panos Ioannides, Ray Simko, Joanne Hayden. Leslie Badaines not shown – she took the picture!

Unique Uzbek Opportunities in October

Friendship Force Knoxville is poised and excited to host the delegation of five judicial officials and a facilitator from Uzbekistan. Please join us for some or all of the following:



- **Sunday October 9**, cruise with us on the Volunteer Princess. Boarding is at 12:30 PM at the Marina just below Ruth Chris Steakhouse. Park under the bridge. Tickets are \$26 and can be purchased at <https://volunteerprincess.com/cruises/afternoon-sightseeing/>.
- On **Monday night October 10** we would like to have club members invite one, two or three delegates and hosts to their homes for dinner. Please let Jayne or Marsha know if you are interested. jaynerap@aol.com, globalmarsha@gmail.com.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 12**, Wednesday, Oct. 12, our club is hosting an evening welcome reception at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. Please come and meet the delegates. Jayne will contact FFK members to bring food. Let Jayne know if you can help with set up and/or clean up. jaynerap@aol.com 423-871-1739
- On **Thursday night October 13** we would like to have club members invite one, two or three delegates and hosts to their homes for dinner. Please let Jayne or Marsha know if you are interested.

Via zoom, we have met our vivacious facilitator, Noza, who has studied extensively in the United States. The five delegates are all legally trained young men with a variety of high-level positions in the Uzbekistan judicial system. Betsy Tonkin, Marsha Mitchell and Courtney Shea have planned a week packed with meetings with dignitaries, judges, lawyers, law school officials and law enforcement as well as some cultural activities. We want all of Friendship Force to join in the experience (and help out a bit). We meet our delegation at the airport on Friday October 7 and will bid them farewell on Saturday October 15.

To find out more about Uzbekistan, read the information at <https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Uzbekistan>

Courtney Shea, Open World Committee

Travel/Friendship Quotations

“We were on a peace mission, not just a travel trip. Sometimes we, Friendship Force Members, are so busy having a good time that we forget how important our travels are.” Sandy Kaiser, President FF Dallas

“The more I traveled, the more I realized fear makes strangers of people who should be friends.” Shirley MacLaine

“Loving life is easy when you are abroad. Where no one knows you and you hold your life in your hands all alone, you are more master of yourself than at any other time.” Hannah Arendt, political philosopher, author & Holocaust survivor

2023 Officer Elections and Trip to Abingdon, VA

November 22: We'll have a very short meeting via Zoom, for the sole purpose of electing officers for 2023.



November 29: Fourteen (14) members are going to Abingdon, VA for lunch and then to enjoy a play, "Over the River and Through the Woods" at the Smith Theatre **but we'd love more!** Most of us are spending the night in the all-new Hampton Inn at the group rate of \$119. The next morning we'll find plenty to do in and around Abingdon, including Christmas shopping in their unique stores.

If you are on the fence, there is still time to reserve a ticket and a room at the Hampton Inn. Contact Marsha Mitchell, Program Chair, at globalmarsha@gmail.com or 865-335-3875 if you want to go. **DON'T MISS OUT!**

Here is more information:

<https://bartertheatre.com/big-shows/over-the-river-and-through-the-woods/>

<https://visitingdonvirginia.com/directory/the-virginia-creeper-trail-welcome-center.>

Marsha Mitchell, Program Coordinator

FFK Journey Notes for 2022 & 2023

There is a lot happening in the Friendship Force Knoxville world in the month of October! Six Uzbekistan Judges will be visiting Knoxville as part of the Open World Program. Betsy Tonkin and her committee members, Marsha Mitchell and Courtney Shea have put together an amazing program for our guests. (See page 2).

Also, in October, Joanne Hayden, Dave and Ellen Greenwood and I will begin a two-week journey to two clubs in Australia. All of us are extending our trip, so we should have lots of photos and tales to tell of our adventures.

Betsy Tonkin and I will be the Host Coordinators for our first incoming Journey of the year, an April 23-29, 2023, visit from Western Colorado. Please let us know if you will be able to host our visitors. (badainesL@aol.com)

We will visit Western Colorado on a mutual exchange in June of 2023. If you are interested in this June 11-17, 2023, journey, please contact Janis and Bruce Robinson, the Ambassador Coordinators for the trip. (jgr@utk.edu)

Diana Lopez, who spoke at our August general meeting of her travels to Spokane with the Western North Carolina Club, will be the Host Coordinator for FF Spokane's visit to Knoxville from September 13-19, 2023. If you are interested in assisting or hosting, please contact Diana (dlopez@utk.edu).

Viva Mexico!! Our club has received a match to visit Friendship Force Tuxla-Gutierrez. We are awaiting available dates from this club. If you are interested in being one of two Ambassador Coordinators for this Journey, please contact me. (badainesL@aol.com)

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

Upcoming Dates–Mark your calendar

Virtual Board Meetings

October 5, November 7, December: No meeting

NOTE: If you are interested in attending the virtual Board Meetings, please e-mail Betsy Tonkin (betst@mac.com) for the Zoom link.

Upcoming FFK General Events:

- September 27 Learn about Uzbekistan via Zoom
- October 7-15 Open World: Judges from Uzbekistan
- October 12..... In-person reception for Uzbekistan Visitors
- November 22..... Short Club Business Meeting & Elections via Zoom
- November 29..... Trip to Abingdon, VA, & The Smith Theatre
- December TBD Holiday Party

These dates and more are on the FFK *Calendar* web page.

Club Officers & Chairs

- President:Jayne Raparelli
- Vice President:Betsy Tonkin
- Secretary:Mike McDonough
- Treasurer:Bruce Robinson
- Membership Chair:Betsy Tonkin
- Program Chair:Marsha Mitchell
- Communications Chair:Janis Robinson
- Webmaster:Ray Simko
- Newsletter Editor:Janis Robinson
- Journey Coordinator:Leslie Badaines
- Immediate Past Journey Coordinator:
.....Diana Lopez
- Hospitality Chair:.....Sandy Kehne
- Club Concerns:Renee Ioannides
- Historian:Jonathan Hash

Host & Ambassador Coordinators are listed on the FFK *About Us* web page

