



**OPEN WORLD**  
LEADERSHIP CENTER



## **OPEN WORLD PROGRAM**

**Sponsored by the  
Open World Leadership Center**

**THEME: HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY MAKING  
Dates: November 15-23, 2019**

**Delegates from the Republic of Georgia**

**Ana Kvanchilashvili  
Ekaterine Pipia  
Nana Mikeladze  
Nino Svanadze  
Zurab Zurabashvili**

**Facilitator: Dimitry Gegenava**

**Official host city: Knoxville, Tennessee**

**Host organization: Friendship Force of Knoxville  
[www.friendshipforceknoxville.org](http://www.friendshipforceknoxville.org)**

**Joanne Schuetz, Host Volunteer Coordinator  
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**Administered by  
Friendship Force International  
[www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org)**

**Description of host organization:** The Friendship Force of Knoxville (FFK) was founded in 1981 under the umbrella organization, Friendship Force International. We have hosted hundreds of citizens from around the world in our homes and have visited and been hosted by Friendship Force clubs worldwide and throughout the United States. We hosted Open World delegations in previous years and are welcoming delegates from the Republic of Georgia to our homes and our city for the 2019 Open World program.

The mission of Friendship Force is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people. FFI is a non-profit organization dedicated to the principle that each person can make a contribution to global goodwill. We are volunteers and are throughout the world – in over 60 countries. The motto, as first established when the organization was formed in 1977, through the help of President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalyn, was “A world of friends is a world of peace.” Our mission is to build goodwill through personal friendship. We are ambassadors for peace.

About the region: Knoxville is located in the Tennessee River Valley of East Tennessee between the Cumberland Mountains to the northwest and the Great Smoky Mountains to the southeast. These two mountain ranges help provide a moderate climate with four distinct seasons. Temperatures range from 20 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 95 degrees Fahrenheit in July. Knoxville is a community of festivals with each season having its own unique events, including craft shows, concerts, sports events, and more than sixty miles of dogwood-lined trails. Knoxville is the home of the University of Tennessee, which is well-known for its many academic and scientific departments as well as its national championship football and women’s basketball teams. The 107,000 seat Neyland Stadium and the 25,000 seat Thompson-Boling Arena on campus host intercollegiate games, concerts, and other activities. Our city has a variety of local historical sites and museums, including The Museum of Art where works of nationally and locally prominent artists are shown. Knoxville’s historical downtown district, the Old City, and its popular Market Square district offer dining, dancing, shopping and entertainment. The nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited national park in the nation. Included in this park is Cades Cove with its renowned replicas of pioneer homes, churches, and businesses, plus many miles of hiking trails bordered by magnificent displays of wild flowers, waterfalls, and rushing streams. Hiking and biking trails abound in and around Knoxville. The Legacy Parks Foundation, an East Tennessee non-profit organization, works to ensure the community enjoys exceptional recreational opportunities, natural beauty, and open spaces. Founded in 2007, the foundation helped conserve 1,000 acres of forest and farmland, and added over 600 acres of park land in Knox County. Other highlights of the area are the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which is world-famous for its electrical power-making expertise. TVA’s many dams provide the area with numerous lakes for recreational boating, fishing, and swimming. Oak Ridge is home to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, an American multi-program science and technology national laboratory sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and administered, managed, and operated by UT-Battelle as a federally funded research and development center.

***Wednesday, November 13***

3:40 PM *Delegates and facilitator arrive at Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C.*

***Thursday, November 14***

1:00 PM *Delegates meet with Military Legislative Assistant Emily Manning, a representative from the office of Senator Marsha Blackburn. Sen. Blackburn is an American politician and businesswoman who is serving as the junior United States Senator from Tennessee. A member of the Republican Party, Blackburn previously served the U.S. House for Tennessee's 7<sup>th</sup> congressional district from 2003-2019. She was also a State Senator from 1999 to 2003.  
Contact: [Emily\\_Manning@blackburn.senate.gov](mailto:Emily_Manning@blackburn.senate.gov)*

***Friday, November 15***

3:34 PM *Delegates arrive (AA5063) at McGhee Tyson airport in Knoxville and will be met by members of FFK who will be holding the Friendship Force banner. Hosts will take delegates to their homes to settle in. Delegates will be given a program of scheduled meetings and activities for the week.*

6:00 – 8:30 PM *Optional evening at the Knoxville Museum of Art for “Alive After Five” with Mighty Blue, a blues band playing swing and soul. Food and drink will be available from Bayou Bay Restaurant, offering seafood with a Cajun flare. Time will be available to tour the museum’s exhibits.  
[www.knoxart.org](http://www.knoxart.org)*

***Saturday, November 16***

Morning *Open time with hosts - optional visit to the downtown Farmer’s Market and shopping at Market Square.*

12:30 – 2:30 PM *Meet at Riverside Condos for a boat trip on the Tennessee River, as guests of Warren Perry and Mark Miller of 534 Riverfront Way. We will have light refreshments for lunch. Bring a jacket or sweater, depending on weather conditions. In case of rain, we will meet in the atrium of The Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame. Contact person: Kaye Bultemeier ([kayebultemeier@gmail.com](mailto:kayebultemeier@gmail.com))*

3:00 PM *Meet drivers at Basketball Hall of Fame for a visit to the Smoky Mountain region.*

4:00 PM *Wine tasting at Apple Barn Winery, Apple Valley Road in Pigeon Forge.*



*The winery is located on the banks of the Little Pigeon River in the Apple Barn Village. Wines are handcrafted on site from the apples you see growing on the property. You can also visit the General Store, Cider Mill, a bakery, an ice cream shop, and a Christmas shop, either before or after dinner. [www.applebarnwines.com](http://www.applebarnwines.com)*

5:00 PM *Dinner of a delicious Southern meal, made with locally grown ingredients, at the Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant. This restaurant has been operating for 20 years and is Sevierville's oldest restaurant. [www.applewoodfarmhouserestaurant.com](http://www.applewoodfarmhouserestaurant.com)*

7:30 PM *Meet at Country Tonite in Pigeon Forge for an 8:00 performance of a live full-scale production of a musical performance. The magic of Christmas will abound as the talented cast performs renditions of Christmas favorites combined with beautiful choreography, brightly decorated holiday sets, and colorful costumes. We will also be treated to visits from a few special guests, including Frosty the Snowman, Santa Claus, and the ballerina from the dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Country Tonite is located at 129 Showplace Blvd in Pigeon Forge. Turn left just after WonderWorks and the Titanic. [www.countrytonitepf.com](http://www.countrytonitepf.com)*

After the show *Delegates and drivers return to Knoxville, meeting hosts at the Basketball Hall of Fame. Hosts will be telephoned with arrival time, following the show.*

### ***Sunday, November 17***

9:30 – 10:30 AM *Visit First Presbyterian Church (optional), 620 State Street, in downtown Knoxville to hear Friendship Force member and Open World host, Sonja DuBois, give a presentation on her book, "Finding Schifrah, the journey of a Dutch Holocaust child survivor." The title of her talk will be "Preserving the Legacy." Meet in the James Park Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. [ronson1@att.net](mailto:ronson1@att.net)*

11:00 AM *Attend services at First Presbyterian Church. [www.fpcknox.org](http://www.fpcknox.org) (optional)*

12:45 PM *Enjoy a "taste of Mexico" as guests of Natalie Hristov and Dr. Miroslav Hristov, Artistic Director and University of Tennessee Associate Professor of Violin. A light lunch of Mexican favorites will be provided at the Natalie Haslam Music Center, 1741 Volunteer Boulevard, on the university campus. Look through the exhibits by artists, displays of cultural artifacts, and information representative of Mexico.*

2:00 – 3:30 PM *Enjoy the music of Mexico, as the University of Tennessee's Ready for the World Music Series begins its 2019-2020 series. Faculty artists,*

*renowned guest artists from Mexico, and music historians will discuss and perform the classical music traditions from Mexico to demonstrate the rich musical influences from this region that have had an influence on the traditions of western classical music. [www.music.utk.edu](http://www.music.utk.edu)*

3:30 – 4:30 PM *Delegates and hosts may tour the Natalie Haslam Music Center or take a driving tour of the University of Tennessee campus.*

5:00 PM *Evening and dinner to be planned with hosts.*

***Monday, November 18***

9:00 AM *Meet at the Basketball Hall of Fame parking lot for departure to Pellissippi State Community College, a public community college. We will visit the Hardin Valley Campus in western Knox County. [www.pstcc.edu](http://www.pstcc.edu)*

9:45 AM *Coffee and introductions in Bagwell BA209.*

10:00 – 10:30 AM *Meet with Richard Smelser, Director of Financial Aid,, to discuss financial aid processes and aid available to students in the United States.*

10:45 – 11:40 AM *Visit Dr. Cardwell's class in Portable B102 for open discussion of country and culture and academic programs available to students. Dr. Cardell is Professor of Liberal Arts.*

12:00 to 1:15 PM *Lunch hosted by Tracey Bradley, Executive Director of the Tennessee Consortium for International Studies (TnCIS) at Pellissippi State Community College. Also in attendance will be Senior Administrators at the college. Lunch in GN 151.*

1:30 to 2:00 PM *Walking tour of campus with Student Ambassador Will Alexander.*

2:15 PM *Depart for drive to University of Tennessee in downtown Knoxville.*

3:00 to 4:30 PM *Attend a meeting of the Faculty Senate of the University of Tennessee. The meeting begins at 3:30 p.m. in Strong Hall (1621 Cumberland Ave.) Lecture Room 101. Dr. Gary J. Skolits serves as current Faculty Senate President. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling. Members of the Faculty Senate represent the constituency and the broader interests of the faculty of the university. The Undergraduate Council and the Graduate Council report to them. They consider, advise, and recommend policies and procedures in other matters which concern the general welfare of the faculty. Some of the significant issues they are addressing this year include: increasing awareness that strong universities depend on tenure and educating the public about how rigorous and rare university tenure can be; addressing the media to raise*



*the profile of faculty at UTK; supporting diversity, inclusion, and free speech; pressing for budget and documentation transparency.*  
[www.utk.edu](http://www.utk.edu) [www.senate.utk.edu](http://www.senate.utk.edu)

5:15 -6:30 PM *Visit Chipotle Mexican Grill at 1701 Cumberland Ave., a fast-food restaurant offering Mexican fare, including design-your-own burritos, tacos, and bowls. Informal discussion with presenters and members of the Faculty Senate. [www.chipotle.com](http://www.chipotle.com)*

7:00 PM *Hosts pick up delegates at Basketball Hall of Fame.*

***Tuesday, November 19***

8:00 AM *Meet at Basketball Hall of Fame. Trolley ride to Old City.*

8:30 – 10:00 AM *Breakfast meeting for delegates at Olibea, 119 South Central in Old City, with Dr. Jamie McGowan, Director of Global Research and Development in the Center for Global Engagement, and Noah Rost, Associate Director of the Center for Global Engagement and Director of the Programs Abroad Office, at the University of Tennessee. Discussion will center on academic and research collaborations across the Georgian universities and the University of Tennessee. [www.utk.edu](http://www.utk.edu)*

10:15 – 10:45 AM *Trolley or rides to the University of Tennessee campus.*

11:00 -12:00 PM *Meet with UT Representatives in the Community Room of the International House, 1623 Melrose Ave., on the UT campus. We will participate in the university's program sponsored by the Center for Global Engagement. The week (Nov. 18-22) has been designated International Education Week through the joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education. It is part of the efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences. It is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. UT aims to educate the campus community on the importance of engaging in international and intercultural experiences; increase awareness of international communities and their impact; highlight international education opportunities; and support the diversity and inclusion outline in Vol Vision 2020. Goals of the meeting include discussion of visions, missions, and goals of those in education and also discussion of possible interactions and future collaborations. [www.utk.edu/global/](http://www.utk.edu/global/)*

12:00 – 1:00 PM *Campus tour with Dr. Thomas Broadhead, Director of Undergraduate Academic Advancement. Tour will include visits to the library, the*

*Haslam Business building, and the Student Union. Tour will end at the transportation plaza by Neyland Stadium.*

1:00 – 2:00 PM *Delegates will be picked up by FF drivers. Lunch will be provided by Firehouse Subs on Cumberland Avenue. Possible picnic at gardens, prior to tree planting. [www.firehousesubs.com](http://www.firehousesubs.com)*

2:00 PM *Meet at Knoxville Botanical Gardens for the planting of a tree, in honor of our guests, the delegates from the Republic of Georgia. A plaque, placed next to the tree, reads, "Friendship Force Knoxville welcomes Open World The Republic of Georgia November 2019" and includes the logos from Friendship Force International and from Trees Knoxville. Trees Knoxville is dedicated to preserving and increasing the urban tree canopy of Knox County. All club members are invited to join the delegates and hosts at this event. [www.knoxgarden.org](http://www.knoxgarden.org) [www.treesknoxville.org](http://www.treesknoxville.org)*

3:00 PM *Delegates return to homes with host families – shopping time available.*

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM *Delegates, hosts, and Friendship Force club members will meet for a dinner and program at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 2931 Kingston Pike. The dinner will be pot luck, with dishes provided by club members. A presentation on Georgia will be given by delegates. Dress code: casual – wear something orange.*

### ***Wednesday, November 20***

9:00 AM *Meet drivers at the Basketball Hall of Fame for the day's program.*

9:30 AM *Coffee with Mayor Madeline Rogero at the City Country building (5<sup>th</sup> floor) on Hill Ave. Mayor Rogero is the first woman to be elected mayor of a major city in the state of Tennessee. Elected in 2011, she completes a successful 8-year term at the end of 2019. All FF club members are invited. Reminder: we must go through screening to enter the office building – be mindful of what you carry with you. [www.knoxvilletn.gov](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov)*

10:30 AM *Walk along Gay Street, with stops for shopping at Mast General Store and the Knoxville Visitors' Center, among others.*

12:00 – 1:00 PM *Attend live musical performance at the Knoxville Visitors Center, 3015 S. Gay St., for WDVX's Blue Plate Special, featuring "Besides Daniel," a singer/songwriter from the state of Georgia. [www.wdvx.com](http://www.wdvx.com)*

1:15 PM *Lunch at Chivo Taqueria, 314 S. Gay St. [www.chivotaqueria.com](http://www.chivotaqueria.com)*

2:30 PM *Hosts pick up delegates at Basketball Hall of Fame. Arrangements will be made for pick up of delegates to attend dinner and for return to host's homes.*

5:00 PM *Delegates and the day's drivers will enjoy a dinner at the home of Friendship Force members Layla and Fuad Mishu, 10217 South River Trail, Knoxville. You can tour their home which will be fully decorated with exquisite Christmas decorations and enjoy Middle Eastern cuisine.*

***Thursday, November 21***

8:00 – 9:00 AM *Delegates and hosts are invited to attend a Morning Coffee, hosted by SH Data Technologies, with members of the Knoxville Chamber. SH Data is a company that provides state-of-the-art managed cloud services, specializing in connectivity, security, compliance and disaster recovery services. Following the coffee, representatives will provide a tour of the facility with Chris Baker, Chief Operating Officer. [www.shdatatech.com](http://www.shdatatech.com)*

9:45 AM *Delegates and drivers leave for day trip to the Sevierville campus of Walters State Community College, 1720 Old Newport Highway Sevierville. This state-supported community college is operated by the Tennessee Board of Regents and was established in 1970. It is headquartered in Morristown, TN. [www.ws.edu](http://www.ws.edu)*

11:00 AM *Arrive on campus for 11:15 a.m. tour of campus with Eileen Bowers, International Education Specialist at Walters State.*

12:00 – 1:00 PM *Lunch in the Mountain Rose Bistro of the college's Rel Maples Institute for Culinary Arts, located on the Sevier County campus. The Institute includes a kitchen, bake shop, demonstration kitchen, and dining rooms. Students in the Hotel and Restaurant Management program will serve a special meal, prepared from their research into recipes from the Republic of Georgia, with the assistance and guidance of Chef Joe Cairns, Chief Instructor and Assistant Professor. Chef Cairns is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and has been with Walters State since 2008.*

1:30 – 3:30 PM *Roundtable discussion with representatives of the college faculty and members of administration, including public safety, health programs, and English instruction. There will be a classroom tour.*

4:00 PM *Leave the campus. Drivers will take delegates on a tour of Sevierville and Pigeon Forge to view the holiday lighting and decorations. There will be time to stop at specific locations, if desired.*

6:00 PM *Meet at CiCi's Pizza, 1811 Parkway, Sevierville for a buffet of different styles of pizza, salads, and desserts. The location is at the corner of 441, a*



*convenient location for drivers to head back to Knoxville either on I40 or by 441, Chapman Highway. [www.cicis.com](http://www.cicis.com)*

8:00 PM *Hosts pick up delegates at the Basketball Hall of Fame.*

***Friday, November 22***

9:00 AM *Delegates meet drivers at the Basketball Hall of Fame for a visit to the Harrogate campus of Lincoln Memorial University at 6965 Cumberland Gap Parkway. [www.lmunet.edu](http://www.lmunet.edu)*

10:30 AM *Arrive at Lincoln Memorial University; meet with Dr. Mary Anne Modrcin, Vice President and Dean of the Caylor School of Nursing.*

11:00 AM *Tour the Caylor School of Nursing and the MANS building. Meet with Nursing Faculty, escorted by Sherry Pearman, Dr. Robin Wilson, and Dr. Jennifer Savage.*

12:00 PM *Lunch meeting with LMU Representatives, including Dr. Modrcin, in the MANS 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.*

1:30 PM *Tour of LMU campus, escorted by Sherry Pearman.*

2:30 PM *Depart for return to Knoxville.*

4:00 PM *Arrive back in Knoxville. Hosts pick up delegates at Basketball Hall of Fame.*

6:00 PM to ? *Farewell party for delegates and hosts at the home of Friendship Force members and Open World hosts Jean and Ron Mayer, 7600 Breckenridge Lane, Knoxville. [jeanmayer1939@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmayer1939@gmail.com)*

***Saturday, November 23***

Morning *Free time with hosts- shopping, touring.*

4:00 PM *Delegates and hosts meet at O'Charley's Restaurant at Fountain View Circle in Alcoa for dinner. Dine in a relaxed restaurant that serves classic American food with a Southern accent. [www.ocharleys.com](http://www.ocharleys.com)*

5:45 PM *Arrive to check-in at Knoxville's Tyson McGhee Airport.*

7:45 PM *Delegates depart UA6278 to IAD (Dulles International), then Munich, and onto Tbilisi.*