



In This Issue

| Pg | Article |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | ...Polish Majors Coming to FFK in October |
| 2 | ...Note from the President |
| 2 | ...Programs Planned for 2024 |
| 3 | ...Special Programs for Nov. & Dec |
| 4 | ...FFK to Stratford-St. Marys, Canada Journey |
| 4 | ...FFK to FF E. Washington/N. Idaho |
| 5 | ...Your Journeys for 2024 and 2025 |
| 5 | ...Get a FFK Logo for your Shirt! |
| 6 | ...Photos from FFK Journey to Germany |
| 7 | ...Travel/Friendship Quotes |
| 7 | ...Upcoming Dates--Mark Your Calendar |
| 7 | ...2024 Club Officers & Chairpersons |

2024 Journey Preview

Open World: Mayors of Poland.....Sept. 27- Oct. 5
Inbound St. Louis, MO Oct. 24-29

2025 Journey Preview

Inbound FF Los Angeles, CA.....Apr. 24-29
Inbound FF Lower Columbia Oct. 16-21
Outbound FF E. Washington/N. Idaho June 1-7
Outbound Stratford/St. Marys, Ontario, Canada
.....Sept. 15-21

Club Website: www.friendshipforceknoxville.org
FFK on Facebook: Friendship Force of Knoxville
Club E-mail: FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com
My Friendship Force: <https://my.friendshipforce.org>

Polish Mayors Coming to Friendship Force Knoxville in October

FFK is excited about our upcoming Open World program with Mayors from Poland. They will arrive at the Knoxville Airport September 27 and depart on October 5.

We have a stimulating 8 days of programming starting with the Greek Fest on Friday, September 27. On Sunday, September 29, we will take our delegates on the Volunteer Princess for a river cruise. It is the 1 PM sightseeing cruise, and you are welcome to make your own reservation to join us!



Ijams Nature Center

The Poland Mayors will give a public presentation at **Ijams Nature Center on Thursday, October 3 at 10 AM**. Please join us and help us spread the word by sharing our Facebook post and telling your friends!

Please let Karen Scott know if you are coming to the **October 4 Farewell Dinner, 6:30 PM** at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike. Karen Scott is coordinating the dinner and please reach out to her to **help with the potluck!** We encourage you to bring guests as it is a great

way to introduce people to our wonderful club. We need a head count for food so RSVPs to Karen are appreciated.

Thank you to all of you who are hosting, helping with small group dinners, picking up lunches, gifts and the many other tasks. This program is an exciting way to contribute to international understanding! Questions? Call, email or text, Courtney Shea, Poland Open World program coordinator, 865-387-7466 or courtshea@aol.com

Courtney Shea, Poland Open World program coordinator

Note from the President



Busy times! FFK ambassadors returned in late August from successful back-to-back journeys to FF clubs in Germany. Thank you journey coordinator Barbara Elder! FFK is preparing to host an Open World program for mayors from Poland September 27 - October 5. Coordinator Courtney Shea, with significant help from Mayor Kincannon's staff, has planned a full schedule for both the guest mayors as well as FFK members. See details on page 1 and plan to participate! And much more to come before the end of 2024 -- see the article below for information.

These opportunities to travel, host, and gather with FFK friends are only possible with members volunteering to serve -- on the Board, as committee chairs, as coordinators, and active committee members. If you want FFK to continue to be a viable club, please step up!!

Betsy Tonkin, President

Programs Planned for 2024

September is already here and FFK still has special events, and inbound journey and guests with Open World and St. Louis, MO. Check the dates below and put them on your calendar. Check other articles in the rest of this newsletter for important RSVP dates!

- **September 27- October 5-** Open World- Mayors from Poland. **Farewell Dinner is Friday, October 4.**
- **October 24-29-** Inbound ambassadors from St. Louis, MO. **Welcome Dinner is Thursday, October 24.**
- **November 26:** Annual business meeting and election of officers for 2025.
- See page 3 for description of the special events for **November 24** and **December 10.**



Do you have an idea for Programs for 2025? Please send your suggestions for speakers, events, restaurants, special outings, etc. to Marsha Mitchell, Program Chairperson, to globalmarsha@gmail.com. All input will be greatly appreciated.

Marsha Mitchell, Program Chairperson

Below are some images from the locations FFK will be visiting with the inbound ambassadors from FF St. Louis. See the article on page 5 for more details about this visit – the itinerary has some new locations!



Friendship Bell in Oak Ridge



Music at Rocky Branch Community



Historic Sweetwater



Metcalf Bottoms

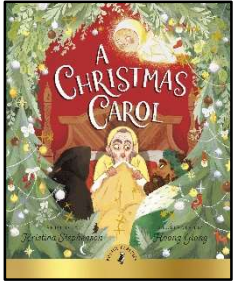


Towns Toffee, Sweetwater

A Special Event AND A Holiday Celebration!

Friendship Force Knoxville has had a busy year! Many of you will have transported, entertained, fed and put to bed our wonderful guests during their time with us, not to mention all the advanced planning and putting things back in order afterwards. The Club thanks you for what we know has been and will be tremendous efforts by yourself and many others throughout the entire year.

Plan now to attend a performance at the **Clarence Brown Theatre of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."** If you haven't heard, CBT has been recognized as one of the top 25 college and university theatres in the world!



That's right, not just in the USA, but in the world. Every year CBT puts on the holiday show but with different actors and different sets, and somehow the quality of the performances gets better and better.

We have obtained the group ticket price of \$45 for the matinee on **Sunday, November 24 at 2pm**. The payment deadline date is Friday, November 1, and no refunds will be allowed after that date. After the performance, let's extend the merry making and break bread together! The Fieldhouse Social at 2525 Commons Way is near the theatre, has lots of free parking in a covered area, and their menu has plenty of options. It'll be a great time to enjoy world class performers, delicious food and drink, and the best part- each other's company.

Next, the date of our HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY is **Tuesday, December 10, at 5:30 pm at Holly's Gourmet's Market, 5107 Kingston Pike.**

For the low price of \$40, which covers all food and basic service fees, you will partake in a full dinner buffet: Garden Salad with Cruze Farm Ranch & Red Wine Vinaigrette, Sister Shubert Rolls, Mini Maryland Style Crab Cake with Caper Remoulade, Garlic Roasted Beef Tenderloin with Red Wine Demi and Herbs, Oven Roasted Rosemary Potatoes, Sauteed Haricots Vert, and Assorted Dessert Bites, Mini with Fresh Berries. *Is your mouth watering?* (Contact me if you need a vegetarian option; globalmarsha@gmail.com or 865-335-3875.) A cash bar will also be available, offering alcoholic beverages as well as coffee with creamers and sweeteners.



Your check is your RSVP. The deadline is **Friday, November 1.**

\$45 for each ticket for "A Christmas Carol"

\$40 for each Holiday Dinner

\$85 for both

Mail your checks as soon as possible to our Trusty Treasurer, **Bill Cherry**, at **7511 Little River Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920**. Or you can hand your checks to Bill anytime you spot him, on or before November 1.

The more the merrier! **Your presence is not only requested, but desired.** See you there!

Marsha Mitchell, Program Chairperson

FFK to Stratford-St. Marys, Canada Journey

The FFK journey (#25096) to FF Stratford-St. Marys Canada will be from September 15 through September 21, 2025. The cost generally runs around \$450 per person Canadian plus the FFI Fee of \$25 per day in US dollars. The club has indicated that it can host up to 16 ambassadors.



Activities that have been offered to ambassadors from previous journeys have included a theatre performance (as we will be there during the Stratford Festival), brewery tour, Shakespearean Gardens, Perth County Museum, St. Jacobs market and Mennonite tour, a car plant tour, a farm tour, a car rally, St. Marys walking tour including the Pyramid Centre (an activity center for all ages) and of course great shopping and eating while growing new friendships. All of these activities would not necessarily be offered during the weeklong journey, but some combination of these or other similar exciting options are possible.

FFK will start taking applications early in 2025 and will send out an e-mail with details. **If you believe this is a journey that would interest you, please let Karen Scott know by email at: kas491423@gmail.com or by phone at: 810-515-0780.** You will not be committed at this time, however; due to the ability of the host club to accept many ambassadors, we need to understand the interest within FFK and determine if there is a need to open the journey to other clubs.

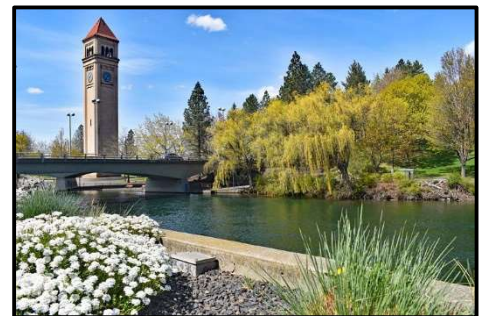
It will be an exciting and fun filled journey making new friends in Stratford and St. Marys, Canada.

Karen Scott, Ambassador Coordinator

FFK on Reciprocal Journey to FF Spokane

The FFK journey (#25097) to FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho (AKA Spokane) will be from June 1 through June 7, 2025. The costs generally run \$300-\$350 (plus FFI fees of \$25/day) and they can accept about 12-13 ambassadors.

Possible activities include visits to scenic and historical sites, an urban walk in downtown Spokane, museums, a winery (!), and a mine tour. There will also be welcome and farewell dinners and a small group dinner.



We plan to start taking applications in **October with a February 15th deadline** and will send out an e-mail with details. But if you believe you might have an interest, please let Bruce & Janis Robinson know at janisrobinson27@gmail.com or 865-690-7841. **At the time you send your application to the Robinsons, your \$25 non-refundable application fee should be sent to Bill Cherry, 7511 Little River Drive, Knoxville, TN, 37920. The balance of your application fee will be due on April 1, 2025.**

Your expression of interest right now will by no means commit you to the trip. We would just like to start getting an idea of how many might be interested and use you as a sounding-board for what activities we might like to do. Come on along!

Janis & Bruce Robinson, Ambassador Co-coordinators

Your Journeys for 2024-2025

Our Ambassadors have recently returned from their journey to Hamburg and Metropole Ruhr. Barbara Elder lead the group of eight intrepid ambassadors from Knoxville. We hope to hear all about this journey soon!



Open World- Poland Mayors- There are 4 Mayors coming September 27-October 5, 2024. A Deputy Mayor from Poland will be serving as the group facilitator. Courtney Shea is coordinating this event. The mayors will be attending many city government meetings during the week, including an event hosted by former Mayor and Ambassador Victor Ashe and Mrs. Ashe. Our FFK Farewell dinner at TVUUC on October 4 is open to all FFK members. Please come and meet our guests and learn about the culture of their country.

Journey #24159, FF St. Louis, Missouri to Knoxville, October 24-29, 2024. 11 ambassadors will be arriving October 24 and departing October 29,2024. The planning committee (Barbara Elder, Liz Gregor, Karen Scott and Leslie Badaines) has included several new activities including a bus tour of Oak Ridge sites, a visit to Green McAdoo history center, candy making and a day in historic Sweetwater, an evening of music at Rocky Branch Community Center, and a farewell dinner at Dead End Barbecue (vegetarian options available). Members are invited to participate but must register in advance by returning a form previously sent to all club members.

2025 Journeys Inbound

April 5-8 , 2024- (Tentative) 3-night inbound mini-journey from FF Harrisburg, PA who are on their way to Birmingham. This event is dependent upon host availability.

FF Los Angeles (#25133) will be coming to Knoxville April 24-29. A Host Coordinator, hosts, and other volunteers are needed. (badainesL@aol.com).

FF Lower Columbia (#25273) will be visiting us October 16-21. Manfred Grote will be the Host Coordinator. Volunteers are needed for this program as well. (badainesL@aol.com).

2025 Journeys Outbound

FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho (#25097-Spokane) June 1-7, 2025. Bruce and Janis Robinson are coordinating our outbound journey.

FF Stratford/St. Marys, Ontario, Canada, (#25096), September 15-21, 2025. Karen Scott is Ambassador Coordinator. The host club can house as many as 16 ambassadors from Knoxville, and are offering us many opportunities, including a performance at the Stratford Festival, (www.stratfordfestival.ca). Read more about this journey on page ??.

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

Get a FFK Logo for your Shirt!

Would you like to have a t-shirt, polo shirt, sweatshirt or something else with the Friendship Force Knoxville logo? It's great to wear for official club events and on outbound journeys. Tammy Enix, FFK VP Membership, has found a local merchant who will screen-print or embroider the logo on your own shirt for a reasonable price. She can be found at:

M&D creations (Nancy, owner)
6828 Maynardville Pike
Knoxville, TN 37918
865.925.3006
612.801.9686



Embroidered logo



Screen-printed logo

FFK Journey to Germany

Enjoy the photos from the FFK Journey to Germany in August – see more on our Facebook page.



Relaxing at dinner the evening before meeting their hosts.

L to R: Jean Mayer, Karen Scott, Karen Swander, Barbara Elder, Ellen Greenwood, Dave Greenwood, Ron Mayer. Diana Lopez was sightseeing with a friend.



Visiting Burg Vischering Castle in Lüdingshausen. L to R: Jean & Ron Mayer, Ellen & Dave Greenwood, Karen Scott, Diana Lopez, Barbara Elder, host.



Diana Lopez (above) and Karen Scott (right) with host



Harbor tour of the Elbe River port in Hamburg. The former Hanseatic port contains shipping containers & is the largest working seaport in Germany by volume.



An evening dinner with the hosts. Guten Appetit!

Our intrepid ambassadors to Germany visited two FF clubs: FF Hamburg (blue arrow) & FF Metropole Ruhr (green arrow)



It's windy on top of the Ruhr Museum!

Travel/Friendship Quotes



“Travel changes you. As you move through this life and this world you change things slightly, you leave marks behind, however small. And in return, life — and travel — leaves marks on you. It seems that the more places I see and experience, the bigger I realize the world to be.” Anthony Bourdain, an American celebrity chef, author, and travel documentarian.

"The true fruit of travel is perhaps the feeling of being nearly everywhere at home." Freya Stark, a British-Italian explorer & travel writer.

“Once the travel bug bites there is no known antidote, and I know that I shall be happily infected until the end of my life.” Michael Palin, an English actor, comedian, writer, and television presenter.

“I like the map feature on the iPhone that tells me where I am, because I travel a lot.” Gary Shteyngart, a Soviet-born American writer.

“Barbecue may not be the road to world peace, but it’s a start.” Anthony Bourdain

2024 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar

Virtual Board Meetings (2nd Tuesday, 2 p.m.)

Oct 8 Nov 12 Dec: 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

- **No September Event** – Open World is here!
- **October 4** – Farewell Dinner for Open World
- **October 24** – Welcome Dinner for FF St. Louis
- **November 24 (Sunday)** – Special event to see “A Christmas Carol” at Clarence Brown Theater
- **November 26 (Tuesday)** – Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. for 2025 officer election
- **December 10** – FFK Holiday Party

Check newsletter articles about each event for date, time and place details.

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

2024 Club Officers & Chairpersons

Officers:

President:Betsy Tonkin
 Vice President:.....Tammy Enix
 Secretary:Karen Scott
 Treasurer:.....Bill Cherry

Committee Chairpersons:

Program Chairperson:Marsha Mitchell
 Membership Chairperson:Tammy Enix
 Journey Coordinator:Leslie Badaines
 Communications Chairperson: ..Janis Robinson
 Club Concerns:Paulette Anderson
 Historian:Karen Swander
 Hospitality Chairperson:OPEN POSITION

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