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2025 Journey Preview

Inbound FF Harrisburg, PA	Apr. 5-8
Inbound FF Los Angeles, CA	Apr. 24-29
Outbound FF E. Washington/N. Idaho	June 1-7
Outbound Stratford/St. Marys, Ontario, Canada	Sept. 22-29

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>



Note from the President

Dear Members,

2024 has been a busy and successful year for Friendship Force Knoxville thanks to the commitment and hard work of so many who gave so much of their time and talent to helping our club promote the FFI mission “To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.” We have pursued that mission through inbound and outbound domestic journeys with other FF clubs, an outbound journey to two German FF clubs, hosting an Open World Program for Mayors from Poland, providing programs to widen our understanding of others, communicating with our members through our newsletters and our web page, and activities to enable



us to become better friends with one another. Thank you to each and every one of you who contributed to and participated in these efforts -- taking our individual steps toward the better world FFI’s founders envisioned.

It has been an honor for me to serve as FFK’s president this year working with all of you. I look forward to the incoming leadership of Karen Scott, our next president, and the new board. Please support them and step up whenever you can to ensure FFK continues to make our world one of friends and peace.

In friendship, *Betsy Tonkin*, 2024 President

January 28, 2025, Program

At our January 28th meeting, Bruce and Janis Robinson will show photos and discuss their recent off-highway jeep adventures in Utah and Colorado. The 8,000+ miles of “jeep trails” in the two states support a strong culture of jeeping. Most of these rustic roads were built to access the long-since abandoned 23,000 mines in Colorado alone. Venturing on these roads offers incredible mountain and valley vistas – bare red rock mountains above the tree line, massive, weathered mine buildings, abandoned towns, and pine and birch forests. Bruce and Janis will also talk about the best practices and ethics of off-roading. Plus, they enjoyed a wonderful performance of “Young Frankenstein” the musical at the Crede Repertory theater built in the mining boom days.



Details about the Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 28th

Time: 11:30 a.m. This will be a Bring Your Own Brown Bag lunch with the program following.

Note the earlier start time.

Place: Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC)
2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919

Check Out FFI Journeys

The Friendship Force International (FFI) website at <https://my.friendshipforce.org> has lists of available journeys from other clubs as well as special journeys planned by FFI. If you haven't already done so, you will need to create an account to access the information but access is part of your membership.

One list is about **All Group Journeys for Members**. This is a list of all future group journeys organized by start date/month. Only journeys with open seats will display a clickable 'Journey Name' link. To view details and book a seat for these journeys, click the 'Journey Name' link. If you are interested in learning more about a specific journey, click the 'Journey Contact' link to reach the coordinator directly.

The second list is for **All Independent Journeys**. The dates for these journeys are coordinated between the host and the ambassador, offering flexibility to combine multiple Independent Journeys together. Please note that journeys with set dates are no longer available but check back regularly to see what might get added.



2025 FFK Board of Directors Announcement

Hello and happy holidays fellow Friendship Force members. The election for the 2025 Board of Directors offices was held on November 26 resulting in the following slate of officers elected for 2025:

- President: Karen Scott
- Vice President: Barbara Elder
- Treasurer: Marsha Mitchell
- Secretary: Carol Ann Johnson



The appointed board positions for 2025 are currently:

- Communications Chair: Janis Robinson
- Program Chair: Sonja Dubois
- Membership Chair: Barbara Elder
- Club Concerns: Paulette Anderson
- Historian: Karen Swander

2025 Officers L to R:

Marsha Mitchell, Treasurer;
Barbara Elder, Vice President;
Karen Scott, President;
Carol Ann Johnson, Secretary

I want to thank each of these individuals for their willingness to step forward and support the club for another successful year of programs and journeys. I look forward to working with all of you going forward in 2025. The club is still in need of a Journey Committee Chair and Hospitality Chair. Please let me know if you might be interested in either of these positions.

Karen Scott, 2025 President

Journeys for 2025!

Holiday Wishes to All! This article is my last official act as Journey Chair. We have these exciting journeys in the planning stages for 2025:

2025 Journeys Inbound

FF Greater Harrisburg, PA (#25292) April 5-8, 2025; this is a three-night journey. Five members of this club will be visiting us on their way to FF Birmingham. Day hosts are needed for this incoming group. Due to the short duration of this incoming journey, activities will be limited to the Knoxville/Knox County area. If you are willing to serve as a day host, please contact Leslie Badaines (badainesL@aol.com)

FF Los Angeles (#25133) April 24-29, 2025. Hosts, small group dinner hosts and day hosts are needed for this incoming club. Please contact me if you are willing to assist. (badainesL@aol.com).

2025 Journeys Outbound

FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho (#25097-Spokane) June 1-7, 2025. Bruce and Janis Robinson are coordinating this outbound journey. We have begun to contact other clubs to obtain ambassadors, so if you would like to go on this Journey, please respond quickly and send a \$25 application fee to incoming treasurer, Marsha Mitchell, and an application to Janis Robinson (janisrobinson27@gmail.com).

FF Stratford/St. Mary's, Ontario, Canada, (#25096), September 22-29, 2025. Karen Scott is the 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). If you would like more information, please contact Karen Scott (kas491423@gmail.com).

See more detailed articles about these outbound journeys in the **November** newsletter on pages 3 and 4.

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

FFK Holiday Dinner

Thirty-four FFK members and guests enjoyed a festive dinner at Holly's Gourmet Market on December 10th. Enjoy the photos below and check out the club's Facebook page!



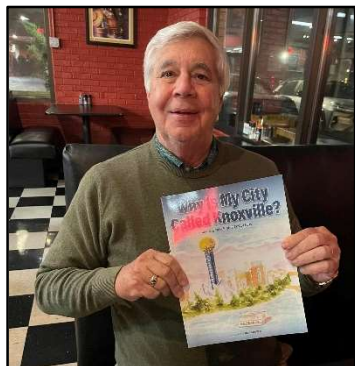
FFK Holiday Dinner at Holly's Gourmet Market



L to R: Diane Anderson (new member), Karen Scott, Sonja DuBois, Karen Swander



L to R around table: Carol & Don Dougall, Kathryn Atkins-Roberson, Gary Anderson, Ellen & Dave Greenwood, Phyllis Driver, Paulette Anderson, Jean & Ron Mayer



Mike McDonough with his book Why is My City Called Knoxville?



Marsha & Art Mitchell



L to R: Liz Gregor & Leslie Badaines



L to R: Layla Mishu & visitor

L to R: Manfred Grote, Rusha & Bert Sams



L to R: Mike McDonough & Joanne Hayden



L to R: Jayne Raparelli, Susan Dakak, Courtney Shea

Travel/Friendship Quotes



“If anyone is Christmas shopping for me, I’m a size ‘window seat’ in plane tickets.” Anonymous

“I travel light but not at the same speed.” Jarod Kintz, author

“Road trips require a couple of things: a well-balanced diet of caffeine, salt and sugar and an excellent selection of tunes – oh, and directions.” Jenn McKinlay, author

“I want everybody to travel, to travel and not be afraid.” Dhani Jones

2025 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar

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

Jan. 14	Feb. 11	Mar. 11
Apr. 8	May 13	June 10
July 8	Aug. 12	Sept. 9
Oct. 14	Nov. 11	Dec. no mtg

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

FFK members can request a copy of Board meeting minutes from Janis Robinson via email at FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com

Upcoming FFK General Events

- **January 28:** Bruce & Janis Robinson on jeeping in Utah and Colorado; see info on pg. 1

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

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

2025 Club Officers & Chairpersons

Officers:

President: Karen Scott
Vice President: Barbara Elder
Secretary: Carol Ann Anderson
Treasurer: Marsha Mitchell

Committee Chairpersons:

Program Chairperson: Sonja DuBois
Membership Chairperson: Barbara Elder
Journey Coordinator: OPEN POSITION
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

happy new year 2025