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**2026 Journey Assignments**

Inbound: FF Connecticut..... April TBD  
Outbound: FF Tallassee, FL..... March 1-6  
Outbound: FF Southland & Taupo, New Zealand  
..... November TBD (2 weeks)

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

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**REMINDER: Important Club Meeting**

**Date:** ..... October 28. Mark it on your calendars and plan to attend.

**Time:** ..... 6:30 p.m.

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



**RSVP to Karen Scott via email by October 21 regarding your intent to attend the FFK Business Meeting. Karen's e-mail address is [kas491423@gmail.com](mailto:kas491423@gmail.com)**

Please review the documents sent recently and which are now available from the FFK Website on the "About Us" page (Web address is in the upper right of this page).

These documents are:

- Membership for All from FFI
- Proposed by-law amendments (both the draft copy and one that might be easier to read)

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## Note from the President



FFK has now completed its last journey for 2025 as a club. Ten ambassadors joined in on the journey to Stratford-St. Marys, Canada. The journey was enjoyable and educational. We learned about and saw various kinds of crops farmed in the area including a spontaneous trip to a new poultry farm barn ready to receive its first shipment of chicks. We went to a local cheese factory and learned about the making and aging of hard cheeses; we all also enjoyed the sampling of cheeses! We visited their local Senior/Community center which housed 2 ice rinks and a swimming pool and hosted many classes and events for the community. We had the unique opportunity to work in a facility that prepared vegetables for ingredients to be used in dried soup mixes. These packaged mixes were then sent to locations globally that were suffering from food deprivation. This was followed by a family style lunch at a Mennonite restaurant. We were awestruck at the amount of automation seen when we toured a Toyota Vehicle Assembly plant. On the lower tech side, we learned about honeybee keeping and the production and harvesting of honey and wax. Naturally as we journeyed during the Stratford Theater Festival, we took in a performance of the play "Annie" which was outstanding! On our last day we visited Arva Flour Mills, the oldest working flour mill in Ontario. Then sadly the journey ended with an excellent farewell dinner. We all made new friends which will last a lifetime and learned about the culture in the Stratford-St. Marys area.

It is October and our business meeting will be held on October 28. If you have not already done so, please respond to the letter that I sent to each of you on October 16 regarding your attendance at the meeting. This meeting is of vital importance to the FFK club. There is also new information, which will be reviewed, regarding the FFI membership fee structure which starts in January 2026. Please plan to attend.

Now to end with a more enjoyable topic. The Holiday Dinner is planned, and I look forward to wonderful evening of food and fellowship with as many members as possible. Guests are also welcome. Please read the newsletter article regarding the dinner and RSVP soon!

*Karen Scott, President*

### Member Profile: Marlys Staudt

I moved to Knoxville in January of 1998 when I accepted a teaching job in the College of Social Work at the University of TN. I retired from that position in 2020. I had intended to spend spring break planning some post-retirement travel, but the onset of COVID prevented that! Two of my more recent trips have been with Road Scholar. In September of 2024 I traveled with RS to Costa Rica and in late August of this year I saw the Grand Canyon for the first time. I could not stop gazing at the splendor surrounding me. I have made several trips to England where I hiked in the Cotswolds.



I learned about FF through Leslie Badaines (who I also play mahjong with!). I am currently taking bridge lessons and help plan hikes for my church hiking group. I volunteer with the pet food pantry and enjoy reading and getting out for walks at Lakeshore and the Jean Teague Greenway.

## Mark Your Calendar -- Holiday Dinner Party



**Date:** Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 5:30 pm

**Place:** Holly's Gourmet's Market, 5107, Kingston Pike.

**Cost:** \$25 per person

The low price of \$25 covers all food and service fees -- you will partake in a full dinner Buffet:

- Delicious appetizers,
- Garden Salad with Cruze Farm Ranch & Red Wine Vinaigrette,
- Sister Shubert Rolls,
- Garlic Roasted Beef Tenderloin with Red Wine Demi and Herbs,
- scalloped potatoes,
- glazed carrots, and
- a rich Chocolate Torte.

A cash bar will also be available, offering red and white wine, beer, and coffee.

Please contact Liz Gregor if you or your guest needs a vegetarian option; [elizabethgregor@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethgregor@hotmail.com)

**Your check is your RSVP. Deadline is November 15.**

Please mail your checks as soon as possible to Treasurer, Marsha Mitchell, 407 Doublehead Lane, Knoxville, TN 37909.

Come join us for an evening of fun and friendship. All of us on the Program Committee look forward to participating in these festivities with you!

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"If I'm an advocate for anything, it's to move. As far as you can, as much as you can. Across the ocean, or simply across the river. Walk in someone else's shoes or at least eat their food. It's a plus for everybody." Bourdain, Anthony

"Travel is a quiet rebellion. It says, 'I won't be spoon-fed fear and fed lies about people I've never met.' I'll see for myself. And when I do – I find mothers, fathers, dreamers, and survivors. Not enemies. Just humans. Loving their kids. Trying to live in peace. It's the kind of truth that dismantles hate."

michellebaumgard\_1fw on Instagram



## FFK Journeys

### FFK Journey to Canada

Those of us who participated in the journey to Stratford-St. Marys have returned with fond memories of welcoming hosts plus lots of fabulous Canadian products.

### 2026 Journeys

Here is information regarding next year's journeys:

#### Outbound:

**March 1-6, 2026**, Knoxville, USA to Tallahassee, Florida; 5 nights, arriving Sunday, March 1 and departing Friday, March 6. **Approximate cost is \$250, plus the FFI nightly fees of \$25. Total \$375 for 5 nights.** This is an opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of the Tallahassee Club (and hopefully warmer weather than in Knoxville). The host club can accommodate 10-12 ambassadors. The Tallahassee Club was originally part of a Florida State University group but joined FFI in 2021. Although journeys may vary, their FFI profile indicates that they usually spend one day south of Tallahassee visiting Wakulla Springs at either the St Marks Refuge or the Gulf Specimen Lab. Another day may be spent slightly north in South Georgia visiting a Plantation home and the beautiful city of Thomasville, Ga. In Tallahassee, ambassadors usually tour the Goodwood Plantation, Mission San Luis, The Grove, and Maclay Gardens. If you are interested in this trip, please let Leslie or Joan know as soon as possible.



**If you are willing to be an ambassador coordinator for this Journey, please contact Leslie Badaines, or Joan Turbeyville**

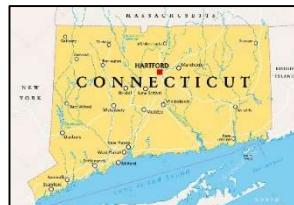
**November 2026**- Knoxville, USA to Southland and Taupo, New Zealand (2 weeks)

The best time to visit New Zealand is generally between September and November (spring) or between March and May (autumn) for a combination of pleasant weather and fewer crowds. You'll find wildflowers, baby animals (like lambs), and migrating birds. The weather is warming up, with average highs in the 60's. It's a great time for wildlife viewing. The two clubs we will be visiting are:

**FF Taupo**, a town near the center of New Zealand's **North Island**, which is distinguished by its lakefront setting and outdoor sports ranging from fishing to jet-boating. The vast waters of Lake Taupo, a volcanic caldera, drain into the Huka Falls, dramatic, crystal-blue cascades reachable by hiking and biking trails. Surrounding Taupo are hot springs.



**The FF Southland club** is located in the southernmost part of the **South Island**. The Southland region has some unique scenery including beaches on the south coast, typical native bush with waterfalls and a petrified forest on the Catlins Southern Scenic route, wonderful views along the coast in several directions including Stewart Island. There is the possibility of traveling to Stewart Island.



#### Inbound

**April 2026 (Tentative month)-Connecticut, USA to Knoxville, USA.** If you are willing to help with this Journey, please contact Leslie Badaines or Joan Turbeyville.

*Leslie Badaines, Acting Journey Chair*

## Photos from the FFK Journey to Canada



Welcome dinner



Beautiful cake from the Welcome Dinner



In hairnets for the tour of a local artisan cheese factory. The head cheese maker is holding up a cheese in the back.



Liz Gregor & her hosts



Diana Lopez & her hosts



Karen Scott (right) and her hosts



Hands-on at the Reapers of Hope facility that prepares vegetables to be used in dried soup mixes.



Ellen and Dave Greenwood



Together with new friends



## 2025 Upcoming Dates Mark your Calendar

### Virtual Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 2 p.m.)

Nov. 11      Dec. no mtg

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

### Upcoming FFK General Events

- **October 21: RSVP for Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting (see article in this newsletter)**
- October 28: Special Member Meeting, TVUUC
- November 15: RSVP due for Holiday Dinner
- November 25: FFK Annual Business Meeting & Officer Elections
- December 2: Holiday Dinner Party

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

These dates and more are on the  
FFK *Event/News* web page.

## 2025 Club Officers & Chairpersons

### Officers:

President .....	Karen Scott
Vice President.....	OPEN POSITION
Secretary .....	Carol Ann Johnson
Treasurer .....	Marsha Mitchell

### Committee Chairpersons:

Program Chairperson.....	OPEN POSITION
Membership Chairperson .....	OPEN POSITION
Journey Chairperson.....	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

FFK members can request a copy of Board meeting minutes from Janis Robinson by sending an email to [FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com](mailto:FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com)