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2024 Journey Preview

Inbound St. Louis, MO Oct. 24-29

2025 Journey Preview

Tentative Inbound FF Harrisburg, PA Apr. 5-8

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>

Welcome Dinner for St. Louis Inbound Ambassadors

Hello, all Friendship Force of Knoxville members! The October program is the Welcome Dinner for our inbound ambassadors from Friendship Force Missouri-St. Louis. There are 11 ambassadors traveling to Knoxville and they will be arriving on Thursday, October 24, 2024.

Details about the Welcome Dinner

Date: Thursday, October 24th

Time: Social time starting at 5:30 p.m. and
Dinner to be served at 6:00 p.m. Note the earlier start time.

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

The menu for dinner is soup and salad. Beverages, cornbread, bread and dessert are to be furnished by the club. All are welcome!



If you would like to attend, please contact Leslie Badaines (badainesl@aol.com) or Karen Scott (kas491423@gmail.com) to indicate what soup or salad you would like to bring to share.

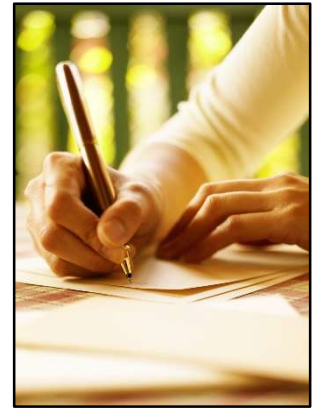
After dinner, the ambassadors will be introduced by their hosts followed by a fun program regarding Moonshine: its history, cultural impact, and economic significance to East Tennessee. This will include a tasting of various Moonshine flavors.

Please come and help us welcome our inbound ambassadors and start their journey to Friendship Force of Knoxville with southern hospitality. A fun time should be had by all as we make new friends and rekindle existing friendships.

Note from the President

Let me begin with good news and celebrating FFK successes.

The Open World Program for Polish Mayors was a big success! Kudos to Coordinator Courtney Shea who organized the week-long event with significant help from Mayor Kincannon, her staff and other local officials, the home hosts for each Mayor, and the small group dinner hosts. Highlights included: a reception Ambassador Victor Ashe and his wife Joan held at their home for the mayors, their home hosts, and other notable guests; Mayor Kincannon honoring the mayors with a formal proclamation at the City Council meeting designating October 1, 2024, as Polish Mayor Delegates Day; tour of new Knoxville developments via an electric KAT bus; firefighter training facility visit complete with the Mayors wearing firefighter gear and trying their hands on the jaws of life and handling a fire hose; and presentations about each of their cities at a function open to the public at Ijams Nature Center.



The many Open World program activities provided opportunities for the mayors to learn about local governments here, to get acquainted with local officials and share their experiences as well as for FFK members and others in Knoxville to get acquainted with them and for us to become friends. See photos on page 6 and on the Friendship Force Knoxville Facebook page.

More good news -- the FF St. Louis, Missouri, inbound journey ambassadors arrive Thursday, October 24. Eight FFK members (6 homes) are hosting 11 ambassadors for a busy, fun-filled 5-days. Please plan to help greet the ambassadors and get acquainted with them at the Welcome Dinner at TVUUC that evening and to participate in some of the many activities (including new ones!) planned for their stay. See info on page 1.

Also see on page 3, information about the upcoming Holiday events the Program Committee has planned to celebrate the season and give members an opportunity to socialize. Please be sure to make reservations SOON to participate!

Now the not-so-good news.

For the most part, these successes, the outbound and inbound journeys earlier this year and the upcoming events have been planned, coordinated and carried out by a relatively small number of our members. The opportunities for FFK to travel, host, and gather with FFK friends are only possible with members volunteering to serve as officers, members of the board, committee chairs, coordinators, and active committee members. Our annual meeting, when we elect officers for 2025, is scheduled for November 26. At this point, the Nominating Committee has been unable to identify sufficient members to serve as officers and other Board members. If you want FFK to continue to be a viable club, please consider volunteering to take on one of those roles. Please be on the lookout for an urgent email from me on this issue.

Betsy Tonkin, President



THE SPECIAL EVENTS DEADLINE IS November 1 FOR BOTH!

Don't miss out! Mail or give your check to Bill Cherry now!

Nov. 24 at 2 pm: Clarence Brown Theatre, Dickens' "*A Christmas Carol*," tickets are \$45 per person.

After: Dutch Treat Dinner at Fieldhouse Social

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. If you are feeling "*Bah Humbug*" about the whole idea, then this production is for YOU! We have obtained the group ticket price of \$45 for the matinee on **Sunday, November 24 at 2pm**. 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.



Clarence Brown Theatre

Dec. 10 at 5:30 pm: *HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY*, \$40 per person-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, Sautéed 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.

All of us on the Program Committee and the Board of Directors look forward to participating in these festivities with you! The more the merrier! **Your presence is not only requested, but desired.** See you there!

Marsha Mitchell, Program Chairperson

Final Programs for 2024

FFK is still not done for this year!

- **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 via Zoom
- See article above 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 at globalmarsha@gmail.com. All input will be greatly appreciated. :)

Marsha Mitchell, Program Chairperson

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 through 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

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.

As we will be there during the Stratford Festival, attending a live theater performance is a must. The 2025 playbill is: As you Like It, Annie, Sense and Sensibility, Dangerous Liasons, Macbeth, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Winter's Tale, Forgiveness, Ransacking Troy and The Art of War.

Other activities that have been offered to ambassadors during previous journeys have included a 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 our 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

Your Journeys for 2024-2025

Greetings to all! Many of us are still on a “high” from the recent Open World visit from four Mayors and one (deputy Mayor) facilitator from Poland. I hope you had an opportunity to meet our guests, either at their October 3 presentation at the Ijams Nature Center about life in Poland, or at the farewell dinner on October 4 at TVUUC. The mayors were greeted at the airport by Knoxville City Mayor Indya Kincannon and attended many city government meetings during the week. One of the highlights for them was a lovely reception at the home of former Knoxville Mayor and Ambassador to Poland, Victor Ashe and Mrs. Ashe. Many thanks to those FFK members who hosted, were day hosts, or hosted small group dinners. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the culture and history of the Polish people!



But there is more to come in 2024 and 2025. Here are the upcoming events.

2024 Journeys Inbound

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, 2025: a 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

See the articles on page 4 about both of the following journeys:

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

Journey #25096, FF Stratford/St. Marys, Ontario, Canada, September 15-21, 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.com). Let Karen know if you think you would like to go. An approximate head count is needed before we open up this journey to other clubs.

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

Polish Mayors in Knoxville September 27 to October 5

A map of Poland with our visitors' locations (Thanks Jean Mayer)



Meeting our visitors from Poland at the airport with Mayor Kincannon



Left: Enjoying the Greek Fest



Left: FFK Open World Coordinator, Courtney Shea setting up for dinner at TVUUC



Katarzyna Laziuk & Sonja DuBois

Right: Tupolo Honey



Right: FFK President Betsy Tonkin at sign-in table



Zbigniew Ostrega & Bill Cherry



Cabinet meeting with Mayor Kincannon

Reception at the home of former Ambassador to Poland, Victor Ashe, and his wife Joan



L to R: Wojciech Bakun, Emilian Bera, Katarzyna Laziuk, Victor Ashe, Joan Ashe, Natalia Robakowska, Courtney Shea & Pawel Dec

From L to R:

- Wojciech Antoni Bakun, Mayor of Przemysl;
- Emilian Stanislaw Bera, Mayor of Jawor,
- Pawel Dec, Mayor of Tarnograd,
- Natalia Maria Robakowska, Mayor of Krotoszyn



To see all the photos from the visit of the Polish Mayors, check out the FFK Facebook page.

Travel/Friendship Quotes



“The world is round so that friendship may encircle it.” Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, French Philosopher

“Friendship ... is born at the moment when one man says to another ‘What! You too? I thought that no one but myself . . .’ ” C.S. Lewis, British author

“You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.” A.A. Milne, author of Winnie-the-Pooh

“There is nothing better than a friend, unless it is a friend with chocolate.” Linda Grayson, author

2024 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar

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

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.

FFK members can request a copy of Board meeting minutes from Janis Robinson via email at janisrobinson27@gmail.com.

Upcoming FFK General Events

- **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

Friends with chocolate
– might be a theme forming!

