



Experience Different Views

Discover Common Ground

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Friends, I hope that you have survived the extreme heat that we have had this “spring.” I can hardly believe that summer is still a few weeks away. I must say the ambassadors who traveled to Memphis were very fortunate to have enjoyed more moderate temperatures.

I especially want to thank Molly Kiefer and Carole Dubber for doing an excellent job coordinating this journey for our club. I wish that more of you could have traveled with us and experienced the diverse itinerary the Memphis club arranged.

In addition, our kudos and thanks go to Carole and Molly and their committee for an outstanding job coordinating our inbound from Lake Hartwell.

We do hope that many of you will continue to attend the upcoming First Sundays. Each month we have had a great turnout, and those attending are enjoying the fellowship. Members who have sponsored events have been wonderful hosts and selected a nice variety of venues for us to enjoy.

Mike Rakouskas has begun his work for the inbound journey from Tallahassee in September, and Donna Steele is signing up those who think they might be interested in the March 2020 journey to New Zealand and Australia. Carol Reilly and her committee will soon be checking to determine the number of families that will be willing to host the club from Christchurch, NZ, in June of 2020.

In July I will be traveling to the Friendship Force International World Conference in Boulder, CO. I hope to learn more about the future of FFI and how it will affect local clubs. In addition, there will be workshops and opportunities to learn from members of other clubs around the world. May you have safe travels and exciting summer vacations.

In friendship, Judy

## LAKE HARTWELL JOURNEY

We have completed a wonderful inbound journey with our Lake Hartwell Ambassadors April 9-13. We hosted and had a very full schedule with most fun getting to know each of them a bit better. We want to thank all the hosts, day hosts, regional dinner hosts, Adrien Montoya (her art gallery – Local Color Gallery, 311 West Martin St. - was super place to hold opening reception), day planners and really our whole club for making this such a fun event.

- Carole Dubber and Molly Kiefer (journey coordinators)





## MAY FRIENDSHIP FORCE FIRST SUNDAY @ 5

We had a great turnout for our club's First Sunday at Five event, held at Wakefield Tavern. In addition to our regular get together, this was a send-off celebration for our travelers headed to Memphis. Great fun was had by all in attendance.

First Sunday's are open to anyone who wishes to participate. Let us know if you want information about upcoming events or Friendship Force in general.



## MEMPHIS JOURNEY



On arrival day Raleigh ambassadors were welcomed at a party overlooking the Mississippi River, provided an orientation, and treated to some night life on Beale Street.

Our first full day in Memphis started at the Rock 'N Soul Museum with lots of history and plenty of toe tapping music, followed by the Belz Museum, Dixon Museum and Gardens.

Wednesday in Memphis began at the Civil Rights Museum where we were each moved in our own way as we "experienced" the march for civil rights in this comprehensive historical perspective. Lunch was enjoyed at Central Barbecue,

followed by a refreshing riverboat cruise, a brief stop at the Visitor's Center and some browsing at Bass Pro Shops.



On Thursday we were inspired by the research and treatments going on at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and entertained by the Duck Master at the Peabody Hotel before being treated to a farewell dinner at a Memphis member's home.



## HOSTING FRIENDSHIP FORCE FIRST SUNDAY @ 5

Hello all,

I hope you are enjoying the beautiful (hot) spring. I am sending this as a reminder to you that signed up to host a first Sunday at 5:00. Thank you. As you know, they have been fun and well attended.

FYI, we have made a change in asking for rsvp's. We have not done so this year and it has worked well by just inviting all to drop in, have a drink, eat, or just talk. We are also asking that we have some time and space just to stand and talk a bit. Sitting down at long tables, prevents us from casual talking and checking in with each other. So far this has worked by reserving a space for about 20 people wherever you choose. Please send an invite to Mike Rakouskas and myself about two weeks prior to your date. He will send out to all.

June-Montoya's

October- Roberson's

July-Judy Allen

November- Olga Dovoric

August-Sara Brower

September-Carol Reilly

Thanks so much. I am overseeing this and will be glad to help in any way.

- Molly (919-828-5343)

## NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA JOURNEY 2020

Dear Friendship Force Members:

We are planning this exciting Outbound International Journey for 14 members to travel for three weeks to New Zealand and Australia.

The proposed dates as of now are:

- Arrive Kapiti Coast on March 17 and depart on March 24
- Arrive North Shore on March 24 and depart on March 31
- Arrive North Moreton on March 31 and depart on April 7

These dates are a little earlier than originally proposed. According to our hosts, in Australia, Easter (10 -13 April 2020) is traditionally a time for religious and family celebrations, and they believe that they would have difficulty finding hosts for our US ambassadors during that time. Our ambassadors will be following their own individual travel plans after leaving our last home stay in North Moreton, Australia.

I hope many of you are interested in taking this adventure with Herman and me. We have had a trip "Down Under" on our bucket list for quite some time.

I am attaching several links for you to look at about our destinations and the host clubs. Here's a link to a map where you can see the two locations of the clubs in New Zealand.

<http://friendshipforce.org.nz/friendship-force-in-new-zealand>

On Auckland North Shore's description, it says that it's about a 45-minute ride across Auckland to get to the meeting point.

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/clubs/auckland-north-shore/>;

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/clubs/kapiti-coast/>

Please contact me if you are interested in learning more about this exciting journey in 2020.

I plan on being at our next "5@5" gathering on June 2.  
You can e-mail me, text or call me.

Your Ambassador Coordinator, Donna Steele  
919-333-6361; [dhsteele249@yahoo.com](mailto:dhsteele249@yahoo.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

Who has planned a date for our upcoming Holiday Party? We have as we want to be sure you all come to celebrate. Please hold the date, Thursday, December 5th for our celebration. We will hold the details until a bit later. We just wanted to get on your calendar.

- Carole Dubber and Molly Kiefer

## 2020 SLATE OF CANDIDATES

President: None

Vice-President: Molly Kiefer

Treasurer: Donna Steele

Secretary: Heena Patel

Past President: Judy Wright

Directors:

DeAnne Dotson

Carole Dubber

Olga Dovic: Will continue publishing newsletter. Judy Wright will help.

Doyle Long

Brenda Gay

Mary Louise Gray

Jan Johnson

Rachel Masimore

Jorge Montoya

Mike Rakouskas

Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Smith

Carol Winner

Leaving the Board after 2019:

Sara Brower

Karen Hatcher

Carol Reilly

Special Note: If anyone would like to be or willing to be President for the 2020 Club year, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Carol Reilly, Doyle Long, Brenda Gay.

## GET CONNECTED THROUGH PARTICIPATION

There are many ways that members can participate in Friendship Force activities. You can attend our local activities and participate in inbound and outbound journeys. You can also serve on the board and/or work on one of our committees. The more involved you are, the more connected you'll feel to our club and the other members. Please volunteer to help. Contact any of the folks below to let them know you'd like to help.

### Friendship Force of Raleigh Committees:

Activities – Carole Dubber [cedubber@aol.com](mailto:cedubber@aol.com) and Molly Kiefer

[mvkiefer@bellsouth.net](mailto:mvkiefer@bellsouth.net), Co-Chairs; Members - Jan Johnson, Brenda Gay and Mike Rakouskas, Judy Allen

Membership – (Recruitment, Retention, Renewals) - Jan Johnson

[john115@bellsouth.net](mailto:john115@bellsouth.net), Chair; Mike Rakouskas

Membership Records – Bob McCamy, Mike and Carol Winner

Journey Planning: Advisors to Host/Ambassador Coordinators – Doyle Long

### 2019 Journey Coordinators:

Inbound Lake Hartwell – Host Coordinators - Carole Dubber, Molly Kiefer

Outbound Memphis – Ambassador Coordinators - Molly Kiefer, Carole Dubber

Inbound Tallahassee – Host Coordinator - Mike Rakouskas

### 2020 Journey Coordinators:

Outbound NZ & Australia – Ambassador Coordinator – Donna Steele

Inbound Christchurch, NZ – Host Coordinator Carol Reilly, co-coordinator needed

### Communications and Marketing

Newsletter – Olga Dovicic [olganc9@gmail.com](mailto:olganc9@gmail.com)

Facebook – Judy Wright [judytwright@gmail.com](mailto:judytwright@gmail.com)

Website – Bob McCamy [bobmccamy@gmail.com](mailto:bobmccamy@gmail.com)

Publications – brochures, itinerary booklets, flyers – Bob McCamy

2019 Nominating Committee – Brenda Gay, Doyle Long, Carol Reilly

Peace Pole Project – Mike Rakouskas [mrakouskas@aol.com](mailto:mrakouskas@aol.com)

Brenda Gay [bmgay82@gmail.com](mailto:bmgay82@gmail.com)

Find us on  <https://www.facebook.com/friendshipforceraleigh>  
<https://thefriendshipforce.org/>

# JOIN US

## THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF RALEIGH 2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

[www.friendshipforceraleighnc.com](http://www.friendshipforceraleighnc.com)

Please circle one:

New

Renew

Today's  
date: \_\_\_\_\_

### A. INDIVIDUAL DATA

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Profession (or former profession) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### B. SECOND ADULT - Family Membership

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Profession (or former profession) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### C. TALENTS OR INTERESTS YOU COULD SHARE WITH FRIENDSHIP FORCE

Foreign languages spoken \_\_\_\_\_

Countries visited or have knowledge \_\_\_\_\_

Talents and skills \_\_\_\_\_

Countries you would like to visit \_\_\_\_\_

### D. MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR JAN. 1 TO DEC. 31

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 Family membership renew /new (Two adults living in same household with or without minor children)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 Individual membership renew / new

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Student membership renew / new

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total** Please make check payable to The Friendship Force of Raleigh and mail to: The Friendship Force of Raleigh, P.O. Box 21022, Raleigh, NC 27619

An Order Form Link for Name Badges can be found here:

<https://thefriendshipforce.org/resources/>