



Experience Different Views
Discover Common Ground

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Judy Wright

I have just returned from the Friendship Force International's World Conference held in Boulder, CO. There were 434 delegates from 24 countries present, representing the 360-member clubs in 60 countries. It was a time for learning, for meeting others who care about this organization, and for being inspired by stories of connections that members have made through journeys.

The slogan for the conference in Boulder was "Make a Bolder Impression." This slogan ties into the need of clubs

worldwide to be more visible, more committed to the mission of Friendship Force, and to help the organization grow through more clubs and more members.

It's important to reiterate who we are:
*Friendship Force is a non-profit cultural organization focused on promoting understanding, cultural education and citizen diplomacy through homestay Journeys and personal friendships**

The Friendship Force mission: *Our mission is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people. Each individual can make a contribution to global goodwill. The Friendship Force worldwide network of clubs and individuals seeks to overcome differences among people and nations. **



Univ. of Colorado-Boulder – Conference Site

It was noted that as an organization we are about "Faces, Not Places." In other words, we differ from other travel organizations in that our emphasis is on people, how they

live, what they think and believe, and understanding our differences to find common ground for friendship. We should also look to build bridges and find common ground within our own communities. Diversity is lacking in many of our clubs, and we were challenged to work toward inclusion.



Conference Delegation from Japan

At the plenary session President Jeremi Snook emphasized that FFI needs better technology, both for improved communications with all of our members (not just English speaking) and for the growth and development of clubs and programs worldwide. The strategic plan calls for continuing to support existing programs, journeys, and clubs, while at the same time

devoting resources to creating innovative programs and structures that appeal to generations younger than the current average membership. All of this was reiterated by Board members during the Q&A session.

There is so much more. I will do my best to share more information from breakout sessions with members at First Sunday gatherings and with our Board. The conference overall was excellent, and you can be proud of the work being done by the staff of Friendship Force International, the FFI Board, and clubs worldwide.

*from FFI's website

ALERT! Annual Meeting – Elections – September First Sunday moved to Second Sunday at Vivo Ristorante

The 2019 Annual Meeting will be held on September 8 at the September First Sunday (Second Sunday this month due to Labor Day Weekend) at 5 p.m. at Vivo Ristorante, 7400 Six Forks Road #2, Raleigh, NC 27615.

First Sunday's are the times when we have a chance to get to know one another and build friendships. This First (Second) Sunday is no different, other than we will take a few minutes to elect the 2020 Board of Directors and Officers (See the slate up for election below in the newsletter) and provide a brief update of happenings.

We hope that all Friendship Force of Raleigh members will attend. Guests are also welcome.

Friendship Force of Raleigh and the Osher Lifelong Learning Program (OLLI) at NC State

President Judy Wright, Sara Brower and Mike Rakouskas met with Tricia Inlow-Hatcher, the director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program at NC State a few weeks ago to discuss how we might each support one another's programs and how we might expose OLLI Members to the benefits of the Friendship Force.

As a result, OLLI has agreed to allow us to post information about our Friendship Force Club on the community bulletin board in the OLLI Classroom and to have brochure information about us on an information table in the classroom.

What is also very exciting is that Tricia has agreed to post any information we provide to her on the OLLI Facebook page, such as announcements about our social events like First Sunday @ 5:00 and upcoming Journey trips. You can see here the first such posting: <https://www.facebook.com/OLLINCState/>

We discussed having a presentation lecture about Friendship Force, but the OLLI Program Committee did not approve that suggestion. Still...a very promising relationship has emerged from our meeting for which we are very grateful! Thanks to Mike for initiating this meeting and for keeping Tricia updated on club happenings.

July First Sunday @ 5 at Buffalo Brothers



We enjoyed First Sunday @ 5 in July, hosted by Judy Allen and held at Buffalo Brothers. Dr. Alvin Marcus (Mark) Fountain II spoke to the group about his lifelong interest in Poland where he serves as an honorary Ambassador. He has visited there more than 20 times, beginning in 1965, and has been a visiting lecturer at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland. Members and guests enjoyed catching up with each other, as well as receiving more information about the upcoming New Zealand/Australia journey, coordinated by Donna Steele.

August First Sunday @ 5 at Relish

Join members of the
Friendship Force of Raleigh
On August 4th at 5:00 p.m.
for beverages, food and friendship
at Relish Craft Kitchen and Bourbon Bar
located at 5625 Creedmoor Road,
Raleigh, NC 27612

Dutch treat - "Come as you are"
We hope to see you then!



Board of Directors Retreat at Waltonwood Lake Boone

Members of the 2019 and 2020 Friendship Force of Raleigh Board will “retreat” to Waltonwood from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 1. Officers and Board members are encouraged to participate. At that time, we will continue discussions of the opportunities and challenges facing our club. Of particular significance will be defining the jobs and tasks needed to make and keep our club prosperous and determining the willingness and commitment level of those involved.

While this particular meeting involves only the Board, all FFR members are needed to carry our club forward. It really does take a village, and each member is important in sharing a portion of the responsibility. This is especially true whenever we host an inbound journey where a host coordinator, itinerary planners, home hosts, day hosts, and regional dinner hosts are needed. Think about how you can volunteer and help our club.

2020 INTERNATIONAL OUTBOUND JOURNEY

March 17-April 7, 2020

Destinations:

Kapiti Coast, NZ (leave on 3/15?) Tuesday, March 17- March 24

Auckland North Shore, NZ Tuesday, March 24- March 31

North Moreton, Australia Tuesday, March 31- April 7

14 Guests; FFI Fees: \$170.00 per week journey =\$510

\$150 est./week/host club (\$450.00) to be determined by each club.

Airline costs from Raleigh to Auckland to Brisbane and back to Raleigh is approximately \$2000. It is cheaper from Charlotte. I am working with a travel agent.

The clubs will estimate the travel costs between clubs. NZ is \$168 from Auckland to Kapiti and return \$168 X 2 = \$236. (I am waiting for more information about flight to Brisbane.)

The Friendship Force of Raleigh is planning this journey for 2020 with the Friendship Force Clubs of Kapiti Coast NZ, the Auckland North Shore, NZ, and North Moreton, Australia. The Friendship Force of Kapiti Coast, NZ visited our club 3 years ago. The Lake Hartwell Club may partner with us. Here are links for more information about the clubs in New Zealand.

<http://friendshipforce.org.nz/friendship-force-in-new-zealand>
<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/clubs/auckland-north-shore/>
https://www_thefriendshipforce.org/clubs/Kapiti-coast/
<https://www.friendshipforcenorthmoreton.org.au>

Our club and board members are very excited about this journey and hope you will sign up if you are interested. I am your ambassador coordinator and hope you will plan on taking this trip with Herman and me. Traveling “Down Under” will be an adventure!

Donna Steele
919-333-6361
Dhsteele249@yahoo.com

2019 INBOUND JOURNEY FROM TALLAHASSEE, FL

September 24-29, 2019

Ten Ambassadors from Tallahassee will visit Raleigh September 24-29, 2019. Members from the Raleigh club visited Tallahassee last year, and we are looking forward to hosting members from their club and to repaying some of the hospitality shown to us at that time. If you are available to accompany one or more ambassadors for a day (day host) and have not previously signed up, please let Host Coordinator Mike Rakouskas (mrakouskas@aol.com) know. All members of our club will be invited to the Farewell dinner to be held at a lovely home in Oakwood on Saturday, September 28th.

2020 INTERNATIONAL INBOUND FROM CHRISTCHURCH, NZ

Christchurch will be traveling to the U. S. next year and visiting three Friendship Force Clubs. While Judy was in Boulder, she met with representatives of the other two clubs to begin preliminary planning. The suggestion from this group was that each U. S. club will host 6 nights and 7 days: Raleigh, May 31 - June 6; Cincinnati, June 6 - June 12; Lincoln, June 12 - 18. We mention this now because we will be asking for potential home hosts to make a tentative commitment to Christchurch as to how many ambassadors we can handle. It appears that Raleigh will have a lower capacity than either of the other two clubs, but we hope that will not be the case.

MEMBER CARES AND CONCERNS



Barbara Umstead

Former longtime member and FFR president Barbara Umstead passed away in April. She had an outstanding life and you can read more here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsobserver/obituary.aspx?n=barbara-anne-umstead&pid=192755864&fhid=16855> From her obituary: *Barbara had a passion for travel and became an active member and two-time President of the Friendship Force of Raleigh. She was a curious adventurer and traveled to many countries including Russia, Cuba, China, New Zealand, Japan, and throughout Europe.*

Our club made a donation to Transitions LifeCare in her memory. Here is an excerpt from the thank you note that we received

from her daughter on behalf of the family: *“Over the years we heard so many wonderful stories of Mom’s adventures with Friendship Force and of all the dear friends she had made. I admired her so for her adventurous nature and am so happy she found the right group – and people – to nurture that in her.”*

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 Dovoric, Doyle Long, Brenda Gay, Mary Louise Gray, Jan Johnson, Rachel Masimore, Jorge Montoya, Mike Rakouskas, Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Smith, Carol Winner

Our appreciation is extended to these long-serving members who have decided to leave the Board after the 2019 term:

Sara Brower, Karen Hatcher, Carol Reilly

We would love to share our Friendship Force experiences and travels with you. A Membership Form is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Check out upcoming journeys from the U.S. eFlyer from Friendship Force International

https://www.friendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/AUG-19-US-eFlyer.pdf?utm_source=Friendship+Force+Members+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=9d64010fdf-2019_US_MEMBER_EFLYER_AUGUST&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5feca96946-9d64010fdf-86873361

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

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 and Molly Kiefer

mvkiefer@bellsouth.net, Co-Chairs;

Members - Jan Johnson, Brenda Gay, Mike Rakouskas, Judy Allen

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

john115@bellsouth.net, Chair; Mike Rakouskas

Membership Records – Bob McCamy, Mike and Carol Winner

Journey Planning

Advisors to Host/Ambassador Coordinators – Doyle Long, Sara Brower

Communications and Marketing

Newsletter – Olga Dovic olganc9@gmail.com

Facebook – Judy Wright judytwright@gmail.com

Website – Bob McCamy bobmccamy@gmail.com

Publications – brochures, itinerary booklets, flyers – Bob McCamy

Peace Pole Project – Mike Rakouskas mrakouskas@aol.com

Brenda Gay bmgay82@gmail.com

Find us on 

<https://www.facebook.com/friendshipforceraleigh>

<https://thefriendshipforce.org/>

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF RALEIGH 2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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/>