



friendship force

RALEIGH

October 2021

A WORLD OF FRIENDS IS A WORLD OF PEACE

President's Message



Hello members and friends of Friendship Force. I hope this note finds you well.

Sadly, COVID returned with a vengeance, and we had to cancel the incoming trip from Memphis, TN. Our fingers are crossed in hopes of visiting with and welcoming Colorado friends next year.

We continue to have a great turnout at our Sunday meet ups. It has been especially fun to get to know our new members.

We are happy to present a great slate of officers and board members for 2022. This slate was approved by the members present at the Annual Meeting, held during a well-attended First Sunday on October 3rd in Clayton, hosted by Donna Steele. The August First Sunday hosted by Carol Reilly and September hosted by Carole Dubber were also enjoyed by many.

We would appreciate you sharing your ideas for members' gathering. Since travel is on hold for a while, we are interested in new local places to explore.

Sadly, our treasurer Diana Moore and board member Scott Cappelluti have had an out-of-state family emergency and will be gone for an unknown time. They have resigned from the board. We are sorry. We are sending hope for the family recovery and a return to Raleigh and the Friendship Force. Patricia Jones also had a family out of state emergency which necessitated her resigning from the board as well. We look forward to life resettling and hope you will rejoin us soon.

We want to thank Jorge Montoya who set up our website (along with help from Mike Rakouskas). Jorge has been our webmaster for several years. Due to Adrien's health, they are leaving FF and the webmaster duties. Thanks to DeAnne Dotson who has agreed to become our webmaster.

Please look at the great work Jorge has done at <https://friendshipforceraleighnc.org>.

“With Tomorrow comes new Strengths and new Thoughts”

In Friendship,
Molly Kiefer, President

Save the Date

Annual Holiday Party is December 2, 2021
Get ready to party!
Cantina 18 in the Village (formerly known as
Cameron Village)
Details and prices for the meal will be coming in a
separate mailing.



Visit us online: <https://www.facebook.com/friendshipforceraleigh/>

First Sunday at Five

We have been treated to lovely weather and great turnouts at our last two First Sunday gatherings. We enjoyed overlooking the Raleigh skyline at Wye Hill Kitchen and Brewing in September and beautiful breezes in Clayton at La Cocina Mexican Restaurant in October. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.



October 2021 Inbound Journey from Memphis Cancelled

After planning and postponing this trip over two years, it has now been officially cancelled. Doyle Long and Liz Smith, the Raleigh Host Coordinators, and Rick Thomas, the Memphis Ambassador Coordinator, worked diligently to bring this journey into fruition. However, with these unprecedented times and the Delta variant coming into play, the number of participants on both sides began to decline. It ultimately got to the point that it was not feasible to move forward. There is always the possibility of rescheduling later, but at this point we are not working on anything specific for the future.

Doyle and Liz appreciate our club members who were real troopers and stepped forward to open their homes as home hosts, those who agreed to serve as day hosts or dinner hosts, and the people who assisted in planning the daily itinerary. To each of you, we are deeply grateful!

One benefit from this journey planning was that Liz had the opportunity as a coordinator trainee to learn from one of our most experienced coordinators. In Liz's words, "To all of you club members, if you have never served in this capacity, I encourage you to consider doing so. It is very rewarding and gives you a deeper perspective of what our club is all about."

New Board and Officers Elected for the 2022 Club Year

During our First Sunday Gathering October 3 we held a brief Annual Meeting. At that time, we elected the new Officers and Board of Directors for the coming year. If you would be willing to meet every other month with the board and share your ideas, we would welcome a few additional board members. If so, contact Brenda Gay, Nominations Chair, at bmgay@embarqmail.com or [919 359 9502](tel:9193599502). Thanks to the following members who will serve our club in the coming year.



2022 Friendship Force of Raleigh Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Brenda Gay
Vice President: Molly Kiefer
Treasurer: Judy Wright
Secretary: DeAnne Dotson

Directors:

Carol Dubber
Bob Gay
Mary Louise Gray
Doyle Long
Jan Johnson
Wanda Mukherjee
Liz Smith
Donna Steele

Member Update – Lois and Bill Brown

Many of our longtime members know Lois and Bill Brown. For many years, they spent part of the year in Florida and part in Cary. Whenever they have been in town during a journey, they were willing to help with a regional dinner or in other ways. Last year they moved to a retirement community in Cary, but they have now permanently moved to Florida. They said: “One son and family have lived there for over twenty-five years and the youngest son has a new job in Tampa. So, it was a “no brainer” as to what we should do as we get older! We have enjoyed many, many years of FF but now we have to say “goodbye”. If you are ever in our area of Naples/Bonita Springs, please come by for a visit. All Raleigh FF members are welcome!! Please tell everyone we will miss them. Stay healthy and keep on travelling!!” In friendship forever, Lois and Bill



FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

As a member of Friendship Force, you are encouraged to sign up for your free member account now at my.friendshipforce.org so that you will receive FF news and updates. After January all internal FFI communications will go through this website. The traditional channels of communication that you are accustomed to will be used for external marketing, etc. We do urge you to sign up. It's easy and a minimal amount of information is needed. Currently, only 13 of our Raleigh club members have signed on. Once you have logged in, you will see several informative articles, including financial updates, the next book club title, and information about FFI Pen Pals.

2022 JOURNEY PLANNING

We know the last many months have been tough. We keep thinking the pandemic will be over and we can begin our Friendship Force journeys again. As you are aware, the numbers for the inbound group from Memphis became so low that it was not feasible for us to continue to host their club. Previously, we had cancelled our assigned journey to Toulouse, France, scheduled for the fall of 2021. We are now tentatively planning for 2022.

We were assigned an inbound international journey from Santiago, Chile. However, their club is not currently meeting, and they cannot commit yet to coming here in 2022. Normally an international journey takes priority but based on that information, we have tentatively set both inbound and outbound domestic journeys. We plan to host the Northern Colorado (NoCo) Club in April of 2022 and Brenda Gay is the Host Coordinator. Denver has tentatively agreed to host us in September of 2022. Carole Dubber is the Ambassador Coordinator for that journey. We have told Santiago that if they decide to travel in 2022, we could host them in October. You will be hearing more, and we will be offering you the opportunity to participate in the future.

For an outbound international experience, you might want to consider FFI's sponsored Festival at Sea. Friendship Force International is pleased to announce an exciting opportunity to explore northern Europe in August 2022. From FFI:

"Next year's Festival at Sea, on-board the Holland America's brand-new ship, Rotterdam, starts and ends in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. For two weeks we will sail through multiple ports in Norway, Iceland, and Scotland, and, as always, we will offer our very own Friendship Force workshops and social events, on a route that is sure to be enchanting. The cruising itinerary and pricing can be found on the [Festival at Sea page](https://totaltravelevents.com/groups/friendship-force-festival-at-sea/) with workshops to be announced early in 2022. <https://totaltravelevents.com/groups/friendship-force-festival-at-sea/>



REMEMBERING PAST TRAVELS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURE JOURNEYS



TIME TO RENEW YOUR Friendship Force of Raleigh Membership for 2022

Our club operates on a calendar year basis. We would love to have your renewal now so that we are not trying to track you down later. Our dues have remained the same for many years: \$30 for an individual membership and \$50 for a family. Please note that \$20 per person of your dues is paid to Friendship Force International.

If this is a renewal and there are no changes to your contact information, then your check payable to Friendship Force of Raleigh will suffice. Just attach a note to your check stating that your information is the same and this is for your membership renewal. If there are changes, please complete the part of the renewal/application form that reflects those changes. Either way, send your renewal to Judy Wright, 4801 Westhall Ct., Raleigh, NC 27612.

NEW MEMBERS – JOIN NOW AND IT COVERS THROUGH 2022

Please complete the Membership Form and send the form along with your check payable to Friendship Force of Raleigh to Judy Wright, 4801 Westhall Ct., Raleigh, NC 27612. Note that if you join between now and the end of the calendar year, your dues will cover your membership until this time in 2022 when we will be asking for renewals again.

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF RALEIGH 2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

<https://www.facebook.com/friendshipforceraleigh/>
<http://www.friendshipforceraleighnc.org/>

Choose one:

New application _____

Renewal _____

Today's date:

A. INDIVIDUAL DATA

Last name _____ First name _____ M.I. _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Primary phone (____) _____ Secondary phone (____) _____

E-mail _____ Employer _____

Profession (or former prof.) _____

B. SECOND ADULT - Family Membership

Last name _____ First name _____ M.I. _____

Primary phone (____) _____ Secondary phone (____) _____

E-mail _____ Employer _____

Profession (or former prof.) _____

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, 2022

_____ \$50.00 *Family membership (Two adults living in
same household with or without minor children)

_____ \$30.00 *Individual membership

_____ \$10.00 Student membership

* Note that \$20pp of your dues is paid to Friendship Force International.

Please make check payable to Friendship Force of Raleigh and mail to:

Judy Wright, 4801 Westhall Court, Raleigh, NC 27612 or hand deliver to Judy at a Friendship Force function.

Information about ordering name badges can be found here:

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/NameBadgeOrders-3.pdf>