



December 2021

A WORLD OF FRIENDS IS A WORLD OF PEACE

President's Message



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy Hanukkah to us all,

As 2021 draws to an end, we want to thank everyone for your participation and staying in touch in the last two difficult years. We will all be waving GOODBYE with a smile and hopefulness.

At this point we have several trips planned for 2021. Please join us with your participation and support.

The FF from Northern Colorado will be incoming in late April. Thanks to Brenda Gay for serving as the coordinator for this incoming journey.

10-12 of our members are invited to participate in our outgoing trip to Denver in September. Thank you, Carole Dubber, for coordinating this.

Both coordinators will be reaching out to us with further details.

Our First Sundays will continue (please see my info in another article below). We will begin with the First Sunday of the New Year, January 2nd, with Bob Wells and Fay Krapf hosting a dinner featuring roasted pork at their home.

Many other events are planned throughout the year. Please keep in mind that Pete and Judy Benda will be hosting us for several days in West Jefferson, North Carolina June 4-5th for our first Sunday/Saturday in June. Read below for more information.

We had full capacity at our Holiday Dinner on December 2nd at Side Street. Thank you to Liz Smith and her committee for a fun night, along with fun entertainment.

Carol Winner is stepping down after years as an active board member, including years of being Secretary. She and Mike have coordinated membership as well as headed lots of activities. Thank you both for all you have given.

I will now hand "the gavel" over to Brenda Gay who will lead our 2022 board as our new President.

Keeping in mind. FRIENDSHIP IS THE ONLY CEMENT THAT WILL HOLD OUR WORLD TOGETHER.

In Friendship,
Molly Kiefer, President

Visit us online <https://friendshipforceraleighnc.org/>

2022 FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF RALEIGH JOURNEYS

We are all holding our breaths that we will be able to participate in journeys in 2022. Currently, we are planning to host and travel within the U. S. in 2022.

Inbound Domestic from Northern Colorado April 25 – 30, 2022 – Brenda Gay is the Host Coordinator

Outbound Domestic to Denver, Colorado – September 2022 – Carole Dubber is the Ambassador Coordinator.

Inbound International – We were assigned to host Santiago, Chile, in 2022, but they have decided to not travel next year.

Outbound International – We were not assigned a destination for 2022. However, you may browse the FFI website to see if there are journeys which interest you and you can see if there is space available. One benefit of traveling with another club is the opportunity to expand your friendships even more.

2023 Hopeful – We were assigned to travel to Toulouse, France, in the fall of 2021. Obviously, that did not happen. Because Toulouse already had postponements from 2020, we could not be postponed to 2022. We have requested that we be assigned to Toulouse in 2023 and we believe that Toulouse is making that same request. We are hopeful that FFI will determine that this is a match for 2023.

Judy Wright, Club Journey Coordinator



Remembering Fun in Quebec



FIRST SUNDAY GATHERINGS FOR 2022

Thanks to each of you that volunteered (maybe with a little arm twisting) to host a First Sunday in 2022. We ask that you plan your event at least one month in advance. Please note that you are welcome to plan something a little different. It could be a card party, a wine tasting, or any other activity that you think would be fun for the group.

It is helpful to be able to announce the plans for the next First Sunday at the previous month's gathering. Also, please send your invitation with all the details to me molly.kiefer@icloud.com by the 5th of the month so that we can email the information to all members and prospective members in advance. I am more than happy to give you any help that you need. - Molly Kiefer

2022 Schedule:

Jan. Fay Krapf and Bob Wells
Feb. Steve Mayberry
Mar. Donna and Herman Steele
April Judy Allen
May Jan Johnson
June Benda's in West Jefferson
July Break – no event
Aug. Doyle Long and Mary Louise Gray
Sept. Paula Berryann
Oct. Judy Wright
Nov. CaroleDubber
Dec. Holiday party



November First Sunday hosted by Subir and Wanda Mukherjee at Heritage Golf Club's 1250 Heritage Restaurant

Mark Your Calendars for January 2nd First Sunday

Please come join us to celebrate the New Year with Friendship Force!

What: Potluck dinner--bring a favorite dish and a bottle of wine to share. Fay and Bob are providing all the tableware and two entrees, sliced pork roast and cold shrimp. Water and decaf tea are available.

When: Sunday January 2, 2022, at 5:00 pm

*Where: the home of Fay Krapf and Bob Wells, 5430 Parkwood Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612
(In the Brookhaven neighborhood off Glenwood Avenue near Crabtree Valley Mall.
Park on the street or use the driveway by the carport for flat, one-step entry into the house.)*

Fay's phone: 919-345-0622

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL MEMBER PORTAL

As a member of Friendship Force of Raleigh, you are strongly encouraged to sign up for your member account now at my.friendshipforce.org in order that you will receive Friendship Force International news and updates. Beginning in 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 hope that you will sign up. It's easy and a minimal amount of information is needed. Currently, only 22 (that's nine more than in October!) of our Raleigh club members have signed on. Once you have logged in, you will see several informative articles, including financial updates, virtual journeys, the next book club title, and FFI Pen Pals. When something new is posted, you will receive an email to alert you and you can choose to go check it out or not.

Invitation to Friendship Force of Raleigh First Sunday Dinner in June 2022



We are extending you an invitation to come to the **Benda's Ashe County mountain home** the first weekend in June 2022 for dinner . . . and to provide you an opportunity for a full weekend away from Raleigh if you choose. Because it is a 3 hour drive from Raleigh, we felt it best to schedule the **dinner for 5:00 PM on SATURDAY, June 4**, rather than on Sunday. The planned schedule, arrangements, lodging and sightseeing options, are listed below.

After you review and make your decision, please contact Pete and Judy (petebenda@nc.rr.com or 919-622-9134) to give us your plan to either attend or decline. We will reconfirm with everyone the month before the event and provide detailed directions to our home at 311 Forest Way Dr, Fleetwood, NC 28626.

The plan is for a mountain barbeque dinner at the Benda's cabin. The hosts will provide the main course, coleslaw, hush puppies, and beverages. Guest are invited to bring a side dish, salad or dessert. Please plan to arrive by midafternoon for games, walking nearby trails, and visiting. If you plan to come up on Friday and/or spend Saturday in the mountains three lodging options are listed below. It is recommended that you make your lodging reservations soon.

- The first takers may request use the two guest rooms at the Benda cabin for Friday and/or Saturday – a room with a queen bed and private bath, or a loft with twin beds and private bath.
- Nations Inn Hotel, West Jefferson, NC. Mention "Friendship Force of Raleigh" and receive a 10% discount providing a rate of \$86 plus tax for Friday or Saturday evenings (a little less for weekday nights). Call 336-246-2080 to book a reservation. This hotel is about 10 miles from the cabin.
- Holiday Inn Express Hotel, West Jefferson, NC. Mention "Friendship Force of Raleigh" to receive a special rate of \$199 plus tax for Friday or Saturday (\$109 plus tax for Sunday). Call 336-846-4000 to book a reservation. This hotel is also about 10 miles from the cabin.

If you come to enjoy a full weekend in the beautiful NC mountains, here are a few things you may wish to consider:

- Ashe County Farmers Market meets on Saturday from 8 AM to 1 PM in downtown West Jefferson.
- The Ashe County Cheese Factory and Store are popular to visit as is the Honey Hole, a unique shop featuring bees, honey, gifts, etc.
- There are 14 art and photography galleries in West Jefferson including the Ashe County Arts Center and the Florence Thomas Art School.
- The two "Churches of the Frescos" are wonderful and inspiring to visit. One is in West Jefferson and the other in nearby Glendale Springs.
- Nearby Shatley Springs would be a great choice for a Saturday breakfast; the River House provides elegant (and expensive) dinners in an old country home (with live music on Sunday afternoons), and the Tavern Restaurant in West Jefferson is popular for casual dining indoor or on their patio.
- The Blue Ridge Parkway provides stunning long range views and short scenic hikes at places like the Cascades.

Holiday Party

Thirty-one people had a great time gathering at Side Street Café on December 2nd. There was good food, lots of fellowship, and fun accordion music by Alita Bluford, a neighbor of Liz Smith. Many thanks to Liz and her committee for making the arrangements. If you were not there, you were missed.



Happy holidays! Sending you all our love this holiday season and wishing you much joy in the new year. Happiness and health to you and yours in the year ahead.



TIME TO RENEW YOUR Friendship Force Membership for 2022

Twenty-four member/families have renewed their membership. That means that 12 member/families have not renewed. Our club operates on a calendar year basis. We would love to have your renewal now so that we do not need to email you later. Our dues have remained the same for many years now: \$30 for an individual membership and \$50 for a family. Please note: When we pay our dues to FFI this January, we will be paying \$25 per person. That is a recent increase from \$20.

When you renew, if 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 form that reflects those changes. Either way, send your renewal to Judy Wright, 4801 Westhall Ct., Raleigh, NC 27612.

NEW MEMBERS – JOIN NOW for 2022

To join Friendship Force of Raleigh, please complete the Membership Application and mail the form along with your check payable to Friendship Force of Raleigh to Judy Wright, 4801 Westhall Ct., Raleigh, NC 27612. Note that your dues will cover your membership until this time in 2022 when we will be asking for renewals again.

Friendship Force of Raleigh
2022 Board of Directors

Officers:

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

Directors:

Carole Dubber
Bob Gay
Mary Louise Gray
Doyle Long
Jan Johnson
Liz Smith
Donna Steele

Newsletter Editor – Olga Dovoric
Asst. Editor – Judy Wright

FFR Newsletters are published every other month, with the first one in February of each year. Articles should be sent to Olga (ol-ganc9@gmail.com) and Judy (judytwright@gmail.com).

**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. _____ Ad-
dress _____

City _____ Zip _____

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

E-mail _____ Employer _____ Profes-
sion (or former prof.) _____

B. SECOND ADULT - Family Membership

Last name _____ First name _____ M.I. _____ Pri-
mary phone (____) _____ Secondary phone (____) _____

E-mail _____ Employer _____ Profes-
sion (or former prof.) _____

C. TALENTS OR INTERESTS YOU COULD SHARE WITH FRIENDSHIP FORCE

Foreign languages spoken _____ Coun-
tries 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 mi-
nor children)

_____ \$30.00 *Individual membership _____ \$10.00 Student membership

* Note that \$25pp 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 Friend-
ship Force function.

Information about ordering name badges can be found here:

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