



President's Message



Happy Spring to each of you. I hope you enjoyed something Irish on St. Paddy's Day and can begin to enjoy friends and family during other celebrations. Our creative member Carol Reilly shared this collage, and I thought you would enjoy it as well. See her description elsewhere in the newsletter.



We held our Board meeting on March 9, 2021. It seemed all of us were more optimistic—perhaps due to spring and that 80% of us have had our two vaccines. We're all ready to move forward a bit...

If the vaccinations continue to go well, we are planning to return to our FIRST SUNDAY's at 5:00 pm on May 2nd. We will send invitations as we get closer to the date. We plan to use an outside venue so all can come.

Thanks to Mike Rakouskas and his committee for getting March 2nd declared *Friendship Force Day* by Raleigh Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin.

Judy Wright will be our Friendship Force International administrator. As we move to membership on an international level, there are new steps for each member to complete. Please read her article.

We encourage all members to participate. Feel free to add information, ask questions, letting us hear from you, etc. While we are waiting to travel, hearing some about your previous experiences with FF gives us a glimmer of what's to come.

Friendship Force of Raleigh newsletters are published every other month, with the first one in February of each year. Articles for the newsletter should be sent to Olga ([olganc9@gmail.com](mailto:olganc9@gmail.com)) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the prior month – e.g. Jan 20 for February newsletter. March 20 for April, etc. Thank you to Olga Dovic and Judy Wright for publishing the newsletter and keeping us up-to-date.

Stay Safe. In Friendship,

*Molly Kiefer*

## Celebrating Friendship Force of Raleigh Day



### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Friendship Force of Raleigh was chartered in 1985; and,

WHEREAS, members of the Friendship Force Club of Raleigh have hosted guests from, and represented our community on tours of numerous countries such as New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany and the Ukraine; and,

WHEREAS, the Friendship Force serves as ambassadors of goodwill with other countries while engaging in the cultivation of knowledge of cultures and histories of nations around the world; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, do I, Mary-Ann Baldwin, Mayor of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 1, 2021 in the City of Raleigh as

### FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF RALEIGH DAY



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, to be affixed this 1st day of March 2021.

*Mary-Ann Baldwin*  
Mary-Ann Baldwin  
Mayor

Municipal Building, 222 West Hargett Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601  
City of Raleigh (mailing address): Post Office Box 500, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-0500

Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin has declared March 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 as “Friendship Force of Raleigh Day” in honor of World Friendship Day celebrated by Friendship Force International. Shown here is the Proclamation declaring this day of celebration.

## Petitioning for a Peace Garden and Peace Pole in Dix Garden

As many of you know, the Friendship Force of Raleigh led an effort to petition the City of Raleigh to designate one of the gardens in Dix Park as a “Peace Garden” with a Peace Pole as a centerpiece. Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin has asked the principal planner for the Dix Park Leadership Committee to recommend a way to work with us to make that happen. We are waiting to learn what the “next steps” might be to move this forward.

*-Mike Rakouskas*

## Celebrating St. Patrick’s Day Friendship Force Style

Carol Reilly put together this collage (the one mentioned by Molly earlier) to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day as well as her and her husband’s Irish heritage and the beautiful country of Ireland. They visited Ireland with Friendship Force of Raleigh in 1990 shortly after joining FF. Carol said “This experience was a great introduction to the Friendship Force ‘way’ of seeing the world through the people we meet, representing our country and culture as ambassadors, and learning to appreciate that of our hosts.” The Reilly coat of arms, photos and postcards were all from the first week in Dublin and the second week in Galway & the Aran Islands. The CD covers are from several of Carol’s favorite Irish singers and groups.



## Memphis Journey to Raleigh October 18-23, 2021

This is one more reminder and the last before Liz and I are going to start calling or emailing you the first of April to get volunteers to be Hosts, Day Hosts, and Dinner Hosts. Our Planners, Molly Keifer for Raleigh, Bill Cole for Durham, Mary Louise Gray for Smithfield and Wilson and Jeannie and Bob McCamy for Cedar Creek and Wake Forest Birthplace will be making reservations

probably a little later than that, but then that's up to them. It seems this Journey has been a long time in the making and it's finally coming to fruition!!

I feel confident all of our members have had their vaccines by then and the Memphis members will have also. We're excited about this opportunity to get together again with our Memphis friends and to show them our beautiful area.

Many thanks for your willingness to help with this Journey. If you have questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact Liz at [mary.elizabethsmith@icloud.com](mailto:mary.elizabethsmith@icloud.com) or Doyle at [doylejlong0831@gmail.com](mailto:doylejlong0831@gmail.com) - 919 618-0208

You may have noticed a new tagline at the top of this newsletter - a world of friends is a world of peace. This new tagline is part of an overall brand refresh that Friendship Force International is implementing this year. Interestingly, this tagline is actually the adoption of a very early tagline used by FFI. The organization decided that it tells our story better than anything anyone could dream up new.

### Save the Date



If all continues to move in a positive direction with shots and Covid 19, we have great place to restart our First Sunday on May 2nd at 5:00 pm. It will be a bit of a drive for some but it is a perfect outside venue. THE FARM HOUSE: <https://www.farm-housecafewendell.com> in Wendell.

They generally close at 3:00 on Sunday but have agreed to serve drinks and food to our group only. There is plenty of outside seating and space. We ask that you please wear your masks. Invite will be sent closer to time but I am hoping you will put on your calendar and plan to attend.

*-Molly Kiefer*

### FRIENDSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS, Part 2

In the last issue of our Friendship Force newsletter, you read an article written by Doyle Long that highlighted the friendships that members make while on FF journeys – something that we all look forward to doing in the not-too-distant future. By coincidence, we now have a follow up story to long-lasting friendships that are formed. I have removed names from the emails and edited slightly for clarity.

Recently, Mike Rakouskas received the following inquiry from a man named Tony in the UK:

My name is Tony from the UK and I was involved with the 2<sup>nd</sup> exchange ...a few years ago! The first one was Atlanta to Newcastle in 77. In 1977 I lived in Durham Co Durham in the UK. The reason for my email is as follows...

I was watching a documentary on Jimmy Carter a few weeks ago and it reminded me of his visit to the UK in 1977 and the Friendship Force exchange that followed. I took part in the trip to Raleigh and Durham and stayed with a couple and their daughters. They had a fabulous house in a very leafy affluent area of Raleigh I think ...but can't remember too much detail. Over the days we met some lovely people and experienced some great days. We met your Governer Jim Hunt at a garden party. Some of the group visited Atlanta, GA, to reconnect with friends from the 1st exchange. It was all wonderful.

Anyway after a few years you lose touch and grow old, but from time-to-time I look back fondly on those days.

So my questions are: Are you a long-standing member of the Friendship Force? Do you know anyone from the early formations of the group? I'd love to hear from anyone who may remember this family. I'm not part of Facebook or Instagram so rely on good old email. If you know anyone who may be able to connect, I'd be grateful if you'd be so kind to pass on my email. Thank you.

**In turn, Mike passed this inquiry on to several members, including Pete and Judy Benda. Here's the response Pete wrote to Tony.**

Tony, I have read the email forwarded to me by Mike and will be glad to provide what update I can along with a copy to the family to put you both back in touch. I was not part of the Newcastle exchange in 1978, but my wife Judy and I did enjoy spending time in Newcastle way back in 1968 when we were chaperones for a summer school program at Durham University. We moved to Raleigh in 1978 and got to know the couple you mention first through our church and then later when we became active in a new program called Citizens for International Understanding (CIU).

**And with that, Pete provided a little additional information, including that the “very leafy affluent area of Raleigh” was North Ridge and a phone number as well as email. Tony in turn was very appreciative that he could now make direct contact with the people he remembered in Raleigh.**

**Just another reminder of the friendships that can continue across the miles.**



*Dayton in NC*



*Dayton, Ohio*



*Hameln, Germany*



*Kapiti Coast, NZ in NC*



Lake Hartwell, SC



Leuven, Belgium



Louisville in NC



Memphis, TN



Moldova in NC



Quebec, CN



Ukraine in NC



NC in Tallahassee

## IT'S TIME TO REGISTER WITH FFI

Friendship Force International is reimagining the way we do business and how we connect with one another. At the same time, a new website is under construction. The purpose of signing up with FFI is to allow a means for members to connect, to facilitate journey business, to participate in online activities and to sign up for Journeys and other events in a secure online environment.

Go to this link to view the Q&A document that answers many questions that you might have: <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/WebinarQs.pdf>

Go to this link to sign up: [https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign\\_in](https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in)

*There you will see NEW TO THIS SITE? Click here to create your free basic account!*

Notice that this is not the original FFI website and the URL is different.

Once you have registered, our club administrator (in this case it's me - Judy Wright) will receive a notice that you have registered. I will approve that you are a member in good standing in order for the registration to be complete. This is part of the security for the registration process in order to confirm that people registering are actually club members. If you have any questions, let me know and I will try to help. [judytwright@gmail.com](mailto:judytwright@gmail.com) 919.848.3737

New members are always welcome. The application form is at the end of this newsletter. Out of the dues, we pay \$20 per member to Friendship Force International to help support the operations of the organization.

# THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF RALEIGH 2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<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, 2021

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 Individual membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Student membership

Please make check payable to Friendship Force of Raleigh and mail to:  
Friendship Force of Raleigh, P. O. Box 21022, Raleigh, NC 27609

Information about ordering name badges can be found here:

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp->

[Content/uploads/2019/05/NameBadgeOrders-3.pdf](https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/NameBadgeOrders-3.pdf)