



friendship force

RALEIGH

February 2022

A WORLD OF FRIENDS IS A WORLD OF PEACE

President's Message



Happy New Year as we welcome the new year full of opportunities to come.

Yes, in relation to my picture, I like to play the steel drum, and I look forward to serving as president of the Friendship Force of Raleigh club, which includes members from Raleigh and surrounding areas.

Even though we are still adjusting to our lifestyle, our club here and Friendship Force International are still setting our goals for the coming year.

Dear members, please read your Friendship Force newsletter to stay “tuned in” to what is going on in our club. Your board is at work, and we look forward to everyone’s participation.

I wish to recognize Molly Kiefer’s leadership as our past president and her continuing service as she hands the gavel over to me. We are just reversing roles as I was vice president in 2021, and Molly is now vice president this year. Also, I wish to recognize all the board members for their dedication and leadership last year.

I close with “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow” – Albert Einstein

In Friendship,

Brenda Gay

President of the Friendship Force of Raleigh (and surrounding areas)

FIRST SUNDAY UPDATE

Unfortunately, due to Covid concerns, we felt the need to cancel both the January and February First Sunday Meet Ups. Our sincere thanks to January hosts Fay Krapf and Bob Wells who will now host next fall. Thanks also to Steve Mayberry who planned our February meet up which is now rescheduled for March 6th. We are hoping that life will be more back to “normal” by then. I will send an update in February. Stay safe all.

-Molly Kiefer, First Sunday Coordinator

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



"First Sunday in June of 2021 when we thought the virus was on the wane."

MEMBER NEWS FROM RAY NELL PEARSALL

Many of our longtime members know Ray Nell from the years that she was active in our club. Even after moving from the Triangle to Wilmington, she maintained her membership in our club and participated in activities when she could. Ray Nell moved to a life care community in June of 2020 and says that her health will not allow her to participate with us any longer. However, she sends her greetings and well wishes to all. If you would like to contact her, she lives at Plantation Village and her address is Apt. P-1, 7919 Blue Heron Dr. W, Wilmington, NC 28411. Her phone number is 919.523.3696.

OUR JOURNEYS

Before we called them journeys, we called them exchanges – and many members still do. Originally, there was a direct and concurrent exchange between two locations. That evolved into clubs often still having reciprocal exchanges, but not concurrently, so people who were ambassadors could later be hosts or vice versa. Eventually, exchanges were not necessarily reciprocal between clubs and the name was changed to journeys. However, the basis of Friendship Force is that clubs both host and travel. It is still a two-way street.

Inbound Northern Colorado to Raleigh

Our first journey in the planning stage is an inbound to Raleigh from Friendship Force Northern Colorado, April 25 – 30, 2022. It is worth noting that our club was hosted by their club in 2007. It was my (Judy's) very first journey with Friendship Force, and Northern Colorado had a wonderful





itinerary for us. We visited Rocky Mountain National Park, enjoyed a fabulous bronze sculpture festival, partook of a tour and tasting at the Fat Tire Brewery, and more. While it has been 15 years since our club was hosted by theirs, we are still reciprocating the hospitality.



Brenda Gay has asked to be replaced as Host Coordinator due to lots on her plate, and Doyle Long and Judy Wright have agreed to be Host Coordinators. You will be hearing from us. Please think carefully about your willingness to be a home host for this journey. We understand everyone's Covid concerns and continue to be hopeful that we are on the waning side of this virus. We know things can change, but let's assume our numbers will continue to go down.

Their club and ours require that all home hosts and ambassadors be fully vaccinated (included boosted) for everyone's safety and peace of mind. We will be contacting you soon to see how you might volunteer to help. As always, we need home hosts, day hosts, and dinner hosts, but the most critical is our ability to provide enough beds to make this journey work.

Outbound Raleigh to Denver

This journey is tentatively scheduled for some time in September 2022. Carole Dubber is the Ambassador Coordinator. More information to come as the year progresses.

PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE AND RESERVE SOON

Invitation to Friendship Force of Raleigh First Sunday dinner in June 2022 – on Saturday, June 4, instead

Pete and Judy Benda are extending to you an invitation to come to their Ashe County Mountain home the first weekend in June 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 feel 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.

- 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.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL Member Portal

If you are a member of Friendship Force of Raleigh, you are strongly encouraged to sign up for your free member account now at my.friendshipforce.org in order that you receive FF news and updates. As of now, it is our understanding that **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 of our Raleigh club members have signed on. You are missing out on informative articles, including financial updates, virtual journeys, the next book club title, and FFI Pen Pals if you have not registered. When something new is posted, you will receive an email to alert you and you can choose to go check it out or not.



Friendship Force of Raleigh
Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Brenda Gay

Vice Pres.: Molly Kiefer

Treasurer: Judy Wright

Secretary: DeAnne Dotson

Directors:

Carol Dubber

Bob Gay

Mary Louise Gray

Doyle Long

Jan Johnson

Liz Smith

Donna Steele

IT'S PAST THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR Friendship Force of Raleigh Membership for 2022

Thirty-seven individuals have renewed their memberships. If you have not yet renewed, please consider sending in your renewal now and we will quit running this article.

Our club operates on a calendar year basis. Our dues have remained the same for many years, including the 2022 dues for the current renewal: \$30 for an individual membership and \$50 for a family. Please note: When we paid our FFI dues this January, we paid \$25 per person, meaning that we did not keep any money in the Raleigh club from a family renewal and only \$5 from an individual renewal.

The \$25 FFI amount is a recent increase from \$20 and the FFI dues for 2023 will be \$30. For this reason, your board has recently voted to increase the **2023** dues that you will pay to Friendship Force of Raleigh to \$40 for an individual membership and \$65 for a family membership. You may read more about the new FFI fee structure and the need to increase the dues here:

<https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/blog/3c34621c42595095>

When you renew, if 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 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 the end of 2022 when we will be asking for renewals again.

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) and Judy Wright (judywright@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. _____

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 \$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 Friendship Force function.

Information about ordering name badges can be found here:

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