



President's Message



I am sad to say goodbye summer, my favorite season. Of course, without the winter season, Friendship Force of Raleigh would not be having our holiday party coming up Thursday, December 1st. Learn more about it later.

On Sunday, October 2nd we had our Annual Meeting which included a covered dish dinner. We thank Fay Krapf and Bob Wells for sharing their home and good food with us for this event.

After the dinner and fellowship, we held our business meeting with the following highlights: We thanked the nominating committee members, Elizabeth "Liz" Smith and Donna Steele, who introduced the slate of the 2023 Officers and Board Members. They were elected by acclamation. See the attached Officers and Board Members for 2023.

We thanked three members going off the 2022 board, Bob Gay, Carol Dubber, and Deanne Dotson for their service during the past several years.

Judy Wright, President-elect for 2023, provided a few remarks related to the future of the Raleigh Friendship Force and also the scheduled future journeys for the upcoming year.

Olga Dovorac, one of our members who is from Ukraine and still has family living there, provided us with an update of her family situation. She also expressed gratitude for Friendship Force of Raleigh's support.



Trivia:

1. Friendship Force International was founded in 1977 by its first president, Wayne Smith and was announced on March 1, 1977, by President Jimmy Carter at a White House gathering of state governors.
2. In 1992, Friendship Force International was a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Brenda Gay



FRIENDSHIP FORCE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Please join us for November's First Sunday at Five event

On Sunday, November 6th, at 5 PM at

The Mexican Restaurant, La Rancherita,

7420 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh, NC, between Vivo and Vinnie's.

Thank you to Paula Berryann for hosting.

STATUS OF FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF RALEIGH

At our recent annual meeting, I was elected as president of our club. If you were present, you have heard most of this, but I think it is important for you to read it and reflect on the status of our club and what, if anything, you are willing to do.

Let me share with you how I came to be in this position of being president again. No one else was willing to take it on. I said "no" also, just like others did. But while we were in Estes Park, Colorado, the four of us who were traveling together (Jan Johnson, Mary Louise Gray, Karen Brown, and I) discussed the future and the leadership of the club and decided to give it another shot. Up until that point, I was still treasurer and Mary Louise Gray had agreed to be vice president for 2023. In conjunction with the Nominating Committee, we rearranged the slate: Jan agreed to be vice president (which she has done previously) and Mary Louise agreed to be treasurer (which she has done previously) and I agreed to be president (which I have done previously). What we have done is recycle some of the old guard – one more time!

What's the issue? We are an aging club and we haven't replaced the very active core members who have served us well over the years. We need newer, younger members - and by younger, I mean 60's and early 70's. Of course, we'd love even younger members and families.

For at least five years, the board has struggled with the question of whether we keep the club going or if it is time to fold. Each year we have just carried on as before. Of course, Covid also affected everything about Friendship Force. But the issue existed long before Covid and it is still with us today. The board agreed it was time to bring the issue to the general membership and that's what we are doing.

Let's talk about Friendship Force and what it really is. Do you know the mission of FF? It is **"To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people."** We do this by participating in homestay journeys, both inbound and outbound, domestic and international.

With a journey we need a coordinator. If it's inbound, that person coordinates getting home hosts and day hosts and coordinates the planning of activities. If it's outbound, that

person recruits ambassadors (travelers) and coordinates the schedule, fees, etc. with the host coordinator on the other end. We have a journey coming from Vancouver in the spring and we are assigned a journey to Omaha in late summer. Who will coordinate and who will participate?

This brings us back to our issue regarding membership. We do not have enough members who are able and/or willing to take on the roles and responsibilities to continually support journeys – either as hosts OR who are able and willing to travel as ambassadors – OR take on the leadership of the club.

I know that we all enjoy our social gatherings – our First Sunday at Five events. We started these socials to get to know one another in our local club and to strengthen our membership. Certainly, we are enjoying our friendships among ourselves. The question is – are we willing to do what it takes to be a Friendship Force club?

We need additional members. We also need to know what our existing members are willing to do. Will you serve on a committee to build membership? Will you recruit members who can be active and support journeys, both inbound and out? What will you do to support journeys and the club's organization? Or do you think it is time to give it up? Between now and the end of the year, we will continue this discussion. You can expect to receive a questionnaire from me asking what you can or will do and what you believe is the best route for our club.

In 2023 I will either preside over the dissolution of our club or our membership will step up and do what is necessary to expand our membership and take on leadership within the club. I would love to hear your comments and thoughts, as would any member of the board.

Judy Wright, 2023 President-elect

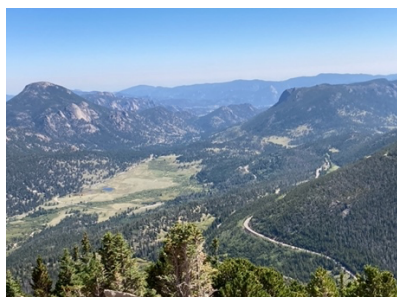
DENVER JOURNEY

Five members of Friendship Force of Raleigh got a taste of “Rocky Mountain High” while on their journey to Denver. Karen Brown, Mary Louise Gray, Jan Johnson, Don Lee and Judy Wright enjoyed all aspects of this September journey, from our pre- and post- journey experiences to our warm and friendly hosts, the wonderful sights, friendly people and mountain air.



The four gals began with a weekend excursion to Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. While in Estes Park, we had a chance to reunite with three of our ambassadors from the Northern Colorado inbound journey. They brought fixings for happy hour and joined us

for dinner afterwards. Don extended to visit family in Boulder for a few days following the journey. He also had a chance to visit Rocky Mountain National Park.

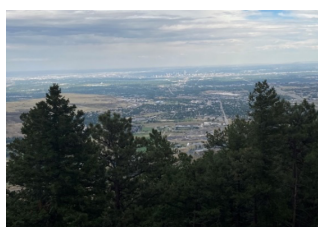


Our official journey began Monday afternoon with a visit to the Hammond Candy Factory, perhaps most famous for their striped lollipops and ribbon candy, but they've been handmaking all kinds of candy in Denver since 1920. We followed this visit with a sunny stroll through Denver's Botanic Garden that offered a spectacular array of flowers and a stunning Chihuly glass sculpture.



Tuesday, we spent downtown where we had an interesting lecture and tour of the Colorado Judicial Center. After lunch we were privileged to have a docent led tour of a special Georgia O'Keeffe photography exhibit at the Denver Art Museum. That evening we met many Friendship Force members at their monthly meeting that included a catered dinner and City Trivia games. Mary Louise was the winner of the Raleigh trivia, ironic since she lives in Wilson. Of course, she doesn't let us forget that.

On Wednesday, we traveled ten miles outside of Denver to visit the Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre and surrounding area. An interesting fact is that although the park is outside of Denver and near the town of Morrison, it is owned by the City of Denver. Red Rocks is a geologically formed, open-air, acoustically perfect Amphitheatre that is unique to anywhere in the world. Their Hall of Fame, that features musical artists who have performed there, boasts nearly every musician you might name. Nearby is Dinosaur Ridge where we viewed dinosaur tracks and bone fossils.



After lunch in Golden, we traveled up Lookout Mountain to the Buffalo Bill Museum and the site where he is buried. From this high point we had stunning long-range views back toward Denver. In the evening we enjoyed small group dinners in members' homes.



We had been warned to bring warm clothing, and we needed it Thursday morning. With a light drizzle and chilly air, we boarded the Georgetown Loop Railroad for a train ride through old mining country. The skies cleared and it was sunny by the time we toured the Hotel de Paris in Georgetown. This museum inn has undergone millions of dollars of renovation and provides an authentic look at how it would have been in 1890. A knowledgeable docent took us

back in time to hear its history and get insights into the time and place. With a little time left, our hosts drove us to Loveland Pass. Located on the Continental Divide, this high mountain pass at an elevation of 11,990



feet offered more wonderful views. All along, we were fortunate that one of our hosts was an expert in geology and could share all kinds of interesting information about the Rocky Mountains and all the formations and geologic periods. Of course, it would be great if we could remember all that we heard.

Lest I forget, watching for four-legged wildlife was a favorite pastime. Those of us in Estes Park were thrilled to have a herd of elk gather right across the road from where we stayed. Others spotted during the journey were Rocky Mountain sheep, mountain goats, bison, moose, mule deer, ground squirrel, chipmunk, and pika.



OPERATION GREENLIGHT

Join Wake County in shining a light on the service of veterans, November 7 – 13. Operation Greenlight is a national initiative to support military veterans and to raise awareness about the challenges they may face. Wake County buildings are lighting up green during the week, and businesses and residents are encouraged to do the same. Change one visible lightbulb to green, either inside or out. Learn more at wakegov.com/greenlight.

P. S. There are lots of green light bulbs on Amazon, so we know they exist.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY.

PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1st.

We will be gathering at the Heritage Restaurant in Wake Forest at 5:00 pm.

Invites coming soon.

INFORMAL MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS

Please know that we love our older members and want their continued participation. My household falls in that older category – I am 78 and Mark is 84. While we can home host, before we downsized, we had two guest rooms and we now have one. Mark is hard of hearing and doesn't participate in group activities for that reason. He also has a mobility issue that prevents him from walking distances. For both of those reasons, he doesn't go on journeys anymore. This is just one example. What we need are more members who can home

host, day host, assume leadership roles and work for the organization. As an example, we need a Membership Development Committee – people who are willing to develop and implement a plan to build membership. Is that you?

Here's an informal look at our current membership:

44 individuals in 33 households

6 households in retirement communities

18 households have previously home hosted; of those, 6 are unlikely to host again for various reasons.

A few members who will home host either don't drive or can't drive at night

I share this with you to underscore our membership needs and to encourage each of you to help build membership so that our club will not only survive but thrive.

-Judy Wright

Board of Directors and Officers

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

Liz Smith

Donna Steele

2023 Friendship Force of Raleigh Board of Directors elected at the Annual Meeting on October 2, 2022

Officers:

President: Judy Wright

Vice President: Jan Johnson

Treasurer: Mary Louise Gray

Secretary: open

Directors:

Karen Brown

Jane Fellows

Brenda Gay

Molly Kiefer

Doyle Long

Liz Smith

Donna Steele

Bob Wells

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)

New members are always welcome. The application form is at the end of this newsletter. Out of these dues, we will pay \$30 per member to Friendship Force International to help support the operations of the organization

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF RALEIGH 2023 MEMBERSHIP

Today's date:

APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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

Choose one:

New application _____

Renewal _____

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

_____ \$65.00 *Family membership (Two adults living in same household with or without minor children)

_____ \$40.00 *Individual membership

* Note that \$30pp of your dues will be paid to Friendship Force International as dues for the umbrella organization. Please make check payable to Friendship Force of Raleigh and mail to: Judy Wright, 4801 Westhall Court, Raleigh, NC 27612.