



a world of friends is a world of peace

President's Message



Friends,

We are looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, November 5, at 5 p.m. at our Annual Meeting and First Sunday gathering. We will meet at La Cocina Restaurant in Clayton. This is an important meeting as we will elect our 2024 Officers and Board of Directors. In addition, we will have a brief discussion about the future of our club.

I would like to thank all the members of the 2023 board with a special thanks to Brenda Gay and Molly Kiefer. After serving many years on the board, they have decided to not serve again. Both have provided great leadership in many capacities.

Joining the board for the first time are Judy Wilkes and Giavanna Richards. Judy brings a lot of experience from her years with Friendship Force of Western Carolina and Giavanna brings a fresh perspective to us as she moves from full-time employment to part-time.

2024 Slate Friendship Force of Raleigh BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: vacant
Vice President: Jan Johnson
Treasurer: Mary Louise Gray
Secretary: Karen Brown

Directors: Jane Fellows
Doyle Long
Giavanna Richards
Liz Smith
Donna Steele
Bob Wells
Judy Wilkes

Of the officers, I am the only one stepping down from my position. I am appreciative that Jan, Mary Louise, and Karen are willing to continue to serve. While the responsibilities of the president can be divided between members of the board, it would be great if someone would step up and volunteer.

If you are willing to serve on the board for the coming year, please contact me. It is not too late to add your name to the slate.

In friendship, *Judy Wright*

2023 Friendship Force of Raleigh BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Judy Wright
Vice President: Jan Johnson
Treasurer: Mary Louise Gray
Secretary: Karen Brown

Directors: Jane Fellows
Brenda Gay
Molly Kiefer
Doyle Long
Liz Smith
Donna Steele
Bob Wells

Upcoming Events – Mark your Calendar

There are several activities coming up. We want you to be informed and participate when possible:

***November 5, 2023** - First Sunday Meet Up hosted by Doyle Long, Mary Louise Gray, and Chery Coates at La Cocina in Clayton.*

***December 7, 2023** -- Holiday Party at 5:00 p.m. at the NCSU University Club, 4200 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC 27606, organized by Molly Kiefer and Doyle Long.*

2024:

***June 2024** - Outbound Journey to Saskatoon and Manitoba, CN - Ambassador Coordinators needed.*

***Dates Changing**- Inbound Journey from The Villages, Florida - Host Coordinators needed.*

***Tentative September 2024** - Outbound to Lansing, Michigan - Ambassador Coordinators needed.*

Coordinators Needed for Journeys

I know that I sound like a broken record, but the only way for our club to be active as a Friendship Force club is for us to participate in inbound and outbound journeys. This starts with the need for leadership. We need Ambassador Coordinators for outbound journeys and Host Coordinators for inbound journeys. This may be people who have done it before or someone who is brand new. Don't know what is involved? Just ask. Those of us who are experienced are willing to provide help. The best way to learn is by accepting the responsibility and by just doing it.

Time to Renew Your Membership

It's time to renew your membership in Friendship Force of Raleigh. The dues are \$40 for individuals and \$65 for a family membership. Remember that \$30 per person goes to FFI for your international dues.

Please make your check payable to Friendship Force of Raleigh and mail to Mary Louise Gray at 2210 Nash Place North, Wilson, NC 27896, or hand deliver it to Mary Louise at a Friendship Force First Sunday or at the Holiday party. Attach a note if any of your contact information has changed.

Recent Friendship Force of Raleigh Journeys

Our club participated in two journeys since the last newsletter. The four members who enjoyed a great trip to Omaha were provided with a full measure of hospitality as if there had been a full journey. In addition, we hosted nine ambassadors from Vancouver and Winnipeg, Canada. Both were wonderful examples of what it means to be a Friendship Force member – to make new friends and visit places unique to the destination.

OUTBOUND OMAHA – Mary Louise Gray, Jan Johnson, Doyle Long and Judy Wright made this journey to Nebraska. I loved Mary Louise's comment when people asked her "Why are you going to Omaha? What is there?" Her answer, "I don't know. That's why I'm going." As it turned out, there was a lot to do and see in Omaha. Of course, it's most helpful when you have hosts who make the arrangements for you to visit many of the highlights.

When asked what was most memorable, each of us remarked about the heat. We were there in August and it was HOT, especially the first couple of days. We visited the zoo on the day it was 104 degrees, and we were grateful for the times we were indoors, especially while exploring the wonderful aquarium that is part of the zoo. The aquarium rated as one of Jan's favorite activities. It is a world-renown zoo that is located within the city limits of Omaha. We didn't begin to see all of it, but we were impressed with the parts that we saw.

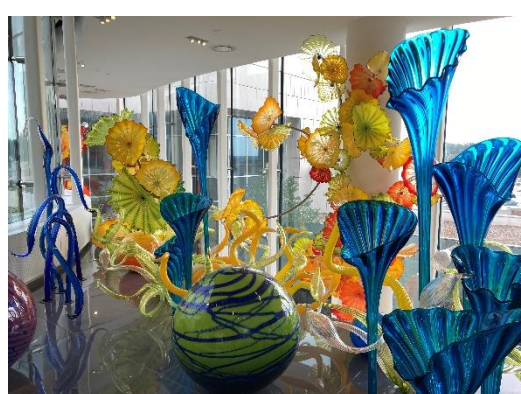
One of Doyle's favorites was our visit to Boys Town. We have probably all received their fundraising mailings, but many of us have no clue what it is. In Doyle's words: "I was shocked at what Father Flanagan had accomplished and passed on to subsequent Catholic Priests. I was amazed at how the running of Boys Town has changed over the years, adapting to the changing times. Today they serve about 500 boys and girls in residence and have counseling centers in several cities."

Jan was excited to see a beautiful permanent display of Chihuly glass at the Buffett Cancer Center. After Jan's host took her to see the glass installation and Jan shared her enthusiasm, Judy's hosts took her as well. Spectacular! In addition, those of us who have visited Jan's home know that she loves plants. Next to seeing the fabulous glass, her favorite thing was the gift of three new varieties of hostas from her host that she managed to get home on the plane.

Judy especially enjoyed the many outdoor parks, greenways, and pedestrian spaces. The Missouri River splits the cities of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Omaha, and there are parks on both sides. We stood with one foot in Iowa and one in Nebraska on the pedestrian bridge over the river. Another favorite was the Pioneer Courage Park comprised of larger-than-life bronze sculptures of pioneers, oxen and geese weaving through downtown streets as a tribute to the pioneers who settled the west.

Mary Louise liked everything, but she particularly mentioned the fun we had playing Mexican train dominoes following dinner at the German club. She also liked the museums. Omaha was a major railroad hub with the opening of the west by rail and the Union Pacific Museum in Council Bluffs paid tribute to the building of the Transcontinental Railroad and America's love of travel by rail.

There were many highlights and we were treated with traditional Friendship Force hospitality. We thoroughly enjoyed this journey and encourage others to "take a leap of faith" and just go.



Mexican Train Dominoes



INBOUND VANCOUVER – In September our club hosted the Vancouver, Canada, club that also included some members from Manitoba. Jan Johnson and Jane Fellows coordinated this journey with assistance from Judy Wright. Nine ambassadors (the tenth got stuck in Boston with a case of Covid) were hosted by Jane, Doyle, Barbara Hocutt, Liz Smith, Judy and Bill Wilkes, and Judy and Mark Wright.

Mary Louise Gray planned a fun day with a tour of the Whirligig Park in Wilson and a visit to the Ava Gardner Museum in Smithfield, wrapping up with the Welcome Party at Jan's farm. Jane organized a day in Durham with a tour of the American Tobacco campus, a tour of Duke Chapel, complete with an organ demonstration, and then hosted a delicious dinner at her home. In Raleigh the ambassadors enjoyed the Historic Raleigh Trolley tour, a Mideastern picnic buffet at Oak View Park, and a docent led tour at the NC Museum of Art. Of course, a highlight of the week was the IBMA Bluegrass Festival in downtown Raleigh.

Molly and Stephan Kiefer hosted a small group dinner and Karen Brown, Paulette Notari and Carole Dubber day hosted. We celebrated the successful week with a joyful farewell party (that also served as the October First Sunday gathering) at Fay Krapf and Bob Wells' home. The ambassadors topped the evening off by entertaining us with a rhythmic (think rap) poem.





As a post-script to this journey, the ambassadors from Vancouver were so inspired by the Ava Gardner Museum that they recently held an Ava

Gardner movie night. You can see why this was such a fun group to host.

September First Sunday

We enjoyed a delightful gathering at Chow, hosted by Judy Allen. There were two tables of us chatting away in a separate room away from the crowd and noise. For some reason, we have no pictures from the event.



Friendship Force International's Pledge

As a member of the Friendship Force, I recognize that I can make a difference. I have a mission to be a friend to the people of the world. As I embark upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching. I know that through my example to my fellow citizens and the people of other nations, the cause of friendship, love and peace can be advanced. *I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.*

You Might Enjoy This Raleigh Sister Cities Event

November 14, 6 – 8 p.m. Toast to friendship at RSC's beloved annual wine challenge! Enjoy a blind wine tasting of curated French and American wines, good company, and charcuterie while browsing the exhibits at the City of Raleigh Museum. When all the votes are in, we unveil the wines and announce the winners! Will the favorites be French or American? Join us for this annual tradition of good natured, friendly competition and find out!

Go here to register: <https://www.raleighsistercities.org/event-details/2023-franco-american-wine-challenge>

FFI's Journey Catalog

Sign in to the FFI Member Portal (my.friendshipforce.org) to view the current journey catalog. There you can see a list of the journeys seeking additional ambassadors, a complete list of all the journeys scheduled to take place, and a listing of individual journeys.

If you have questions about how to use the portal, please contact Judy Wright, 919.345.0031, for help.

New Members Always Welcome

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.

From Friendship Force International: **For us, travel is about more than taking a vacation. With nearly 300 clubs and thousands of members worldwide, Friendship Force International connects people with its mission to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people. Through home-hosting and meaningful travel experiences, participants learn about other cultures, develop a better understanding of our world, and discover our shared humanity.**

More Journey Photos



THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF RALEIGH 2024 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, 2024

_____ \$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: Mary Louise Gray, 2210 Nash Place
North, Wilson, NC 27896