



## a world of friends is a world of peace

### President's Message



Friends,

We were so fortunate to enjoy a long, comfortable spring before heading into the heat of the summer. However, hopefully you have found great ways to enjoy these warm months and have found some time to spend with family and friends.

We have enjoyed connections with each other through our First Sunday events. Our latest, an evening of Bunco and refreshments, was a lot of fun and we look forward to a variety of events

coming soon.

Soon six members will take off for their Omaha journey. We wish there were more of you going to enjoy the interesting itinerary that their club has planned. Also, our club is building a varied itinerary for the September inbound journey from Metro Vancouver, led by Host Coordinators Jan Johnson and Jane Fellows.

We are looking forward to our 2024 journeys: outbounds to Saskatoon and Manitoba, Canada, and an inbound from The Villages in Florida. There is also a possible outbound to Lansing, Michigan. Please let me know if you would consider coordinating one of these journeys. If you haven't coordinated before, our club's experienced coordinators will be glad to provide plenty of guidance and assistance to you.

And speaking of volunteering, for our club to continue and to thrive, we need active leaders. This starts with our Board of Directors and Officers. We need a president for 2024 and an influx of new board members. Please contact me if you would be willing to serve or to learn more about what serving means.

In friendship, *Judy Wright*

#### 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:*

*August 22 – 28, 2023 - Outbound to Omaha, NE – six ambassadors: Mary Louise Gray, Jan Johnson, Doyle Long, Judy and Bill Wilkes, Judy Wright.*

*September 3, 2023 – First Sunday Meet Up hosted by Judy Allen at Chow Pizza Bar, 8311 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh.*

*September 25 – October 1, 2023 – Inbound from Metro Vancouver, CN – coordinated by Jan Johnson and Jane Fellows*

*September 26, 2023 – Vancouver Welcome Party at Jan Johnson's farm, 502 Temple Johnson Road, Zebulon, NC 27597; 919-648-3231. Invitation to follow.*

*September 30, 2023 – Vancouver Farewell Party at Fay Krapf and Bob Wells' home, 5430 Parkwood Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612; 919-345-0622. Invitation to follow. (This is in lieu of October's First Sunday.)*

*November 5, 2023 – First Sunday Meet Up hosted by Doyle Long and Mary Louise Gray.*

*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 tentative – Outbound Journeys to Saskatoon and Manitoba, CN – Ambassador Coordinators needed.*

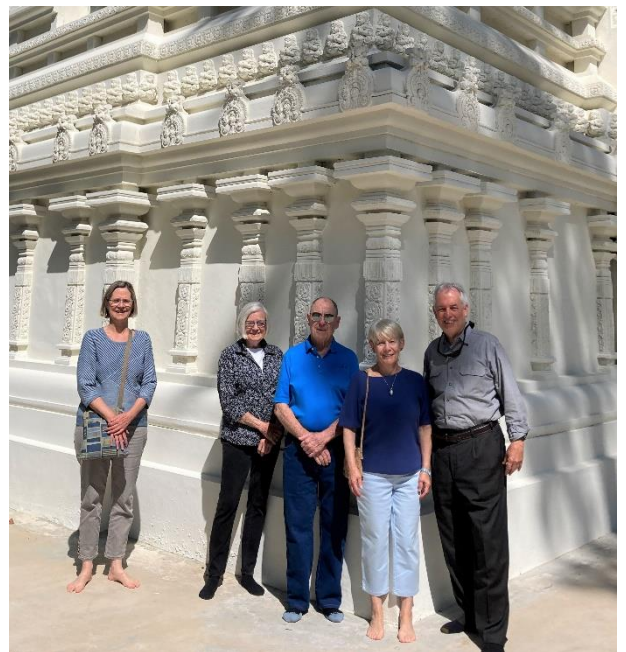
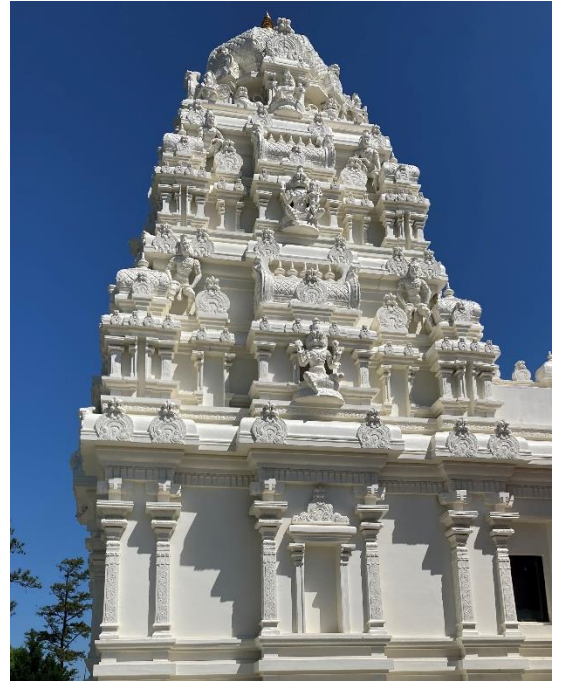
*October 15 – 21, 2024– Inbound Journey from The Villages, Florida – Host Coordinators needed.*

## 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.***

## Visit to the Sri Venkateswara Hindu Temple, Cary, NC

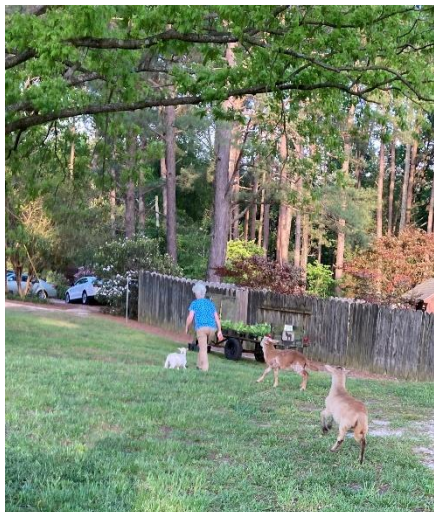
In April, two groups of Friendship Force members and guests visited the temple on two separate days. Each group benefitted from a guided tour by a man named Balaji. He did an excellent job of relating Hindu beliefs, myths, culture to other religions and philosophies. He was not an "official" guide but is a young professional who comes to the temple every day to pray and who also practices the beliefs at home. People freely come and go to pray, many in their native Indian saris.





## A Delightful First Sunday at the Johnson Farm in May

Let the pictures speak for themselves! What fun!





## First Sundays at Five in June and August



In June members gathered at Mark and Judy Wright's home for a relaxing evening with lots of conversation and stories shared. (There was no First Sunday in July)



If you haven't played **Bunco** with this group, you are missing a fun time.

In August members were treated to a light supper with yummy desserts, hosted by Karen Brown and Doyle Long, at Waltonwood Lake Boone. As Bunco Mistress of Ceremonies, Brenda Gay got the crew organized and provided instructions for mix, mingle and play.





## Journey with Carol and Steve

*There are many ways that you can travel and explore new areas, make friends and learn about the culture and way of life of others. You can travel with your home club, join another club, sign on to a themed journey, or travel as an individual. Go to [my.friendshipforce.org](http://my.friendshipforce.org) to explore the journeys that are available.*

*Carol and Steve Persche traveled in May to Cornwall, England, with a Connecticut Friendship Force club. Carol has provided us with the wonderful account of their journey and they encourage other members to consider traveling with other clubs.*

This was our third outbound journey since joining Friendship Force in 2014. Of the ten people on this journey, three were from Connecticut, two from Vancouver, two from Arizona, one from Australia and Steve and I.

We flew from RDU arriving in London early morning, followed by a six-hour bus ride to get to Cornwall. We were met by our delightful hosts, Robin and Josie, and enjoyed a nice dinner and met their three pets (a dog, a cat, and a tortoise). They have a beautiful hundred-year-old stone house surrounded by Cornwall hedges and includes an outstanding vegetable garden and lovely flowering shrubs. We enjoyed Josie's fruit jams with our morning toast and, if time permitted after breakfast, we were able to take the dog Rookie for a walk on one of the many nearby paths.

Our first outing was to the Eden project, a group of biomes (a biome is a community of flora and fauna) built in a huge, reclaimed clay pit. It houses plants from all around the world.



Day two we visited Lanhydrock estate where we could stroll through gardens and tour the house which originated in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



On our free day, our hosts drove us down the southwest coast of Cornwall and stopped at fishing villages and beaches along the way.

The following day was a visit to Saint Michaels Mount in West Cornwall. This was a highlight of the trip because it is on an island and the only way to get

there is to cross a causeway which is underwater most of the time.

On our last day, we visited the Lost Gardens of Heligan, an estate lost in brambles since the outbreak of World War I. The gardens were rediscovered in 1990 and became Europe's largest garden restoration project.





Our daily outings took us down winding, single-lane, country roads, surrounded by Cornwall hedges and beautiful wildflowers. Each day as we met up for our outing, we were paired with a different host or day driver. Our evenings were well planned. Several evenings, small groups joined together with another host family for dinner. A special treat was getting together one evening to make pasties, a traditional English meat pie. We even became accustomed to having cream-tea in the afternoon, which is tea and scones

with clotted cream.

The Cornwall club did an outstanding job of planning and hosting our group from the states. We made a lasting friendship with our hosts, Josie and Robin, and have been invited to come back again. We've invited them to come to North Carolina.

After our week in Cornwall, we added another five days of vacation in Bath, England.

Our next Friendship Force journey will be in November to the north island of New Zealand where we'll be staying with the family that stayed with us in 2017.

## FFI Book Club

### FFI Book Club September: Next Year in Havana (Read in English)

In our September meeting, we will discuss "Next Year in Havana" - a very fitting title considering the [Special Journey "All USA to Cuba"](#) currently on offer in our Journey Catalog for February next year!

Please [register here](#) for **FFI Book Club: "Next Year in Havana" by Chanel Cleeton** on September 14.

## FFI's Journey Catalog

Sign in to the FFI Member Portal ([my.friendshipforce.org](http://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. The latter is something new this year. Here is some general information, but you can learn more through the Resources on the Member Portal.

Friendship Force Individual Journeys offer opportunities for members to host and travel in addition to our Club-to-Club and Special Journeys. The same guidelines apply: Hosts and ambassadors adhere to the Friendship Force Code of Conduct and keep in mind the Friendship Force Ambassador pledge.

If you would like to offer an Individual Hosting Opportunity, please fill out the Individual Hosting Application on the website. FFI will announce individual hosting

opportunities in the Journey Catalog and members can apply and will be selected by the host. Matches can be made all year round.

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

### In Memoriam – Tom Brower



Sadly, we lost member Tom Brower in July. He and Sara have been long-time, active members of our club. We will miss him, his stories and his humor. We send our warmest wishes to Sara. You can read his complete obituary here: <https://rfhr.com/obituaries/thomas-stanley-brower/>.

Sara's address is 8811 Cypress Lakes Dr. Building B, Apt. 304, Raleigh, NC 27615

### Welcome Recent Members

Katye McLean and Kitsy Guzzo, sisters who live in Wilson and are neighbors of Mary Louise Gray; Cathy Zachary, a retired special needs teacher who lives in Raleigh; Paulette Notari from Raleigh, a friend of Karen Brown, Fay Krapf, and others; Russ and Betsy Lambert, who spend months out of the year in Colorado and have visited our club when they are in town. We look forward to getting to know these new friends and to their participation in club activities.

### 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.**



**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: Mary Louise Gray, 2210 Nash Place  
North, Wilson, NC 27896