

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF RALEIGH
NEWS AND NOTES
OCTOBER 2025



OCTOBER FIRST SUNDAY, October 5, at 5 p.m.

Milton's Pizza and Pasta
8853 Six Forks Road
<https://www.miltonspizza.com/>

Hosted by Pete and Judy Benda

Pete has booked their private room for our party. We will have the choice of using their buffets (salad and/or pizza, plus other Italian goodies, including nice desserts) or ordering from the menu. Individual checks will be provided and a 20% gratuity added. FIRST SUNDAY gatherings coordinated by Doyle Long.



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NOVEMBER FIRST SUNDAY, November 2, 2025, at 5 p.m.

Home of Fay Krapf and Bob Wells
5430 Parkwood Drive, 27612

Hosted by Fay and Bob. Details to follow.

This will be our **Annual Meeting** and **election** of board members. We have one new nominee for the board – Krystyna Dixon. Krys has been a member and active participant for a couple of years. We would welcome one or two additional members to join the board. Please reach out to Leanne Richbourg if you would like to know more or have an interest in serving. Currently, the board meets every other month at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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**a world of friends is
a world of peace.**

LUNCH AT MRS. LACEY'S MAGNOLIA HOUSE IN SANFORD AND EXCURSION TO SOUTHERN SUPREME FRUITCAKE COMPANY NOVEMBER 5, 2025

The folks who went last year had such a good time that we're making this the second annual outing. Carpool, leaving mid-morning, have an early lunch at 11:00am at Mrs. Lacey's (<https://mrslacys.com/>), followed by a tour of Southern Supreme Fruitcake Company at 1pm, with shopping after the tour. If you haven't been before, the Fruitcake Company is so much more than fruitcakes. Check out their website:

(<https://www.southernsupreme.com>)



2024

Led by Jan Johnson. Jan has made reservations at both places, so she needs to know ASAP if you plan to go. Friends and neighbors are welcome. Contact Jan for more information and to reserve your spot: john115@bellsouth.net or (919) 648-3231.

HOLIDAY PARTY RESERVATIONS



Our club's holiday celebration will be a luncheon this year. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 2, 11:30am, at the NC State University Club. Enjoy an Italian Tuscany Buffet and lots of good fellowship for \$35pp. Pay Jane Fellows at one of our First Sunday events or mail your check to Jane at 1108 Alabama Avenue, Durham, 27705. See the attached flyer.

In the spirit of the holidays, we are supporting the Feed the Pack Food Pantry, a student-led mission to provide supplemental food to anyone on campus who needs it. Please bring non-perishable items or gift cards to the luncheon and we'll deliver them to the campus. Go here to see the best items to donate: <https://packessentials.dasa.ncsu.edu/support-feed-the-pack/>

2026 INBOUND JOURNEY FROM OMAHA – tentative June 2026

Host Coordinator needed. Please contact Leanne Richbourg to volunteer, lrichbourg@gmail.com or (919) 389-4359.

Omaha continued . . .

We encourage anyone to be a first-time volunteer. There are many experienced coordinators who will be willing to help as much as you want. This is a reciprocal journey. Omaha hosted FFR in August of 2023. The four of us who traveled there had a fabulous time with a wonderful group of people. We look forward to sharing our southern hospitality with them.

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SEPTEMBER 7 FIRST SUNDAY PICNIC

Some time ago, when our days and evenings were so warm and wonderful, we decided to have a picnic. Plans were made, the White Oak Shelter was rented at Lake Crabtree County Park and we began to talk about all the delicious food we'd be bringing. As the time got closer, it looked like the weather was changing on us - lots of rain - cooler weather, especially in the evenings, but our plans continued to be carried out.



At first, it looked like we'd have about our usual number for a First Sunday, at least 20. As happens so often, various people had things come up on Saturday and cancellations came in. However, the twelve of us who did attend enjoyed delicious food and lots of visiting among us. Ruth and Austin Drum did most of the organizing, bringing the club-provided fried chicken, ice, paper goods, etc., plus we had wonderful salads of all kinds, fruit, baked apples, a big pot of hot black peas, tea and lemonade and brownies!! The rain cleared earlier in the day, we donned our light jackets to keep away the chill, ate plenty of food and

had room to move around to talk with different people, drank more tea and lemonade, and by the time we packed up, it was almost dark. It really was a fun picnic, and we hope we'll put another one into our schedule next year.

- Doyle Long, First Sunday Coordinator

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OPEN WORLD MOLDOVA EXCESS FUNDS TO BE USED FOR UKRAINE

In May our club hosted local government officials from Moldova as part of the Open World Program and the Congressional Office for International Leadership on behalf of Friendship Force International. As hosts, we received funds to support the program and had more than \$1,000 in excess of our expenses. Judy Wilkes, Host Coordinator and Board Member, suggested that our club donate \$1,000 to the Moldova World Children's Fund, an organization that she knows well. When Judy contacted Ray West, President of MWCF, she learned that Ray was currently in Moldova and he felt that the greatest need was assistance to Ukraine.

In Ray's words: "The greatest immediate need is dealing with Russia's heightened aerial attacks on civilian targets inside neighboring Ukraine. Evidently military-appearing vehicles and unmistakable ambulances attempting to evacuate wounded victims to medical facilities are subsequently being targeted. More civilian-type, every day-use looking vehicles which can be reconfigured and repainted for transporting severely injured people is critical. The Ukrainian Ambassador to Moldova shared this need with me three days ago at his embassy office. I am within \$5,000 of being able to purchase such an all-terrain vehicle. The remaining \$1,000 of the Moldova Open World program would go a long way in speeding up the attainment of this goal."

The FFR Board voted to send \$1,000 to the Moldova World Children's Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, to help to purchase this vehicle to be used to transport injured people in Ukraine.

..... **T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ONLINE**

Leanne has set up an account at Bonfire Custom Apparel Store. They have our Friendship Force of Raleigh logo and will print T-shirts and other items on demand when you order them. Follow this link to see what is available and to order what you want. Multiple colors available.

<https://www.bonfire.com/friendship-force-raleigh/>



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For membership information, please contact
Leanne Richbourg, lrchbourg@gmail.com or (919) 389-4359.

Visit our website at <https://friendshipforceraleighnc.org/> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/friendshipforceraleigh>