

**FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF RALEIGH**  
**NEWS AND NOTES**  
**February 2025**



**March 2, 2025, 5 p.m. First Sunday** <<<

Hosted by Judy Wright and Doyle Long  
Trunk Room at Waltonwood Lake Boone  
3550 Horton St, Raleigh, NC 27607  
Enjoy food, friends, and **get updates on activities** - \$15pp  
Water provided; bring any other beverages desired  
Ample parking

>>> **April 6, 2025, 5 p.m. First Sunday**

Hosted by Pat DeBoer  
and Curt Youngblood  
At their home – 411 Oakwood Avenue  
Food by Neomonde - \$15pp  
“Springtime in Oakwood”  
Pat will lead a neighborhood walk



**Future First Sunday Dates and Hosts** <<<

- May 4** - Ruth & Austin Drum
- June 1** - Hosted by Leanne Richbourg and Doyle Long @ Waltonwood Lake Boone  
This is likely to change and be combined with the Sacramento Farewell Party.
- July 4** - No First Sunday because of the holiday
- August 3** – Hosted by Judy Allen
- September 7** – Hosted by Jan Johnson and Doyle Long @ Waltonwood Lake Boone
- October 5**- Hosted by Faye Krapf and Bob Wells
- November 2** – Hosted by Pete & Judy Benda @ Springmoor Retirement Community
- December** - Holiday Party/Dinner/Lunch - Date & Committee TBD

## »» Upcoming Journeys

Background information: We are partnering with Friendship Force of Central NC (Greensboro/Winston-Salem) on two inbound journeys. Friendship Force of Sacramento was assigned to Central NC and wanted to add another host club while they were here. We agreed to host the first week of the journey.

Also, Central NC signed up to host a group from Moldova through *Open World* and asked us to participate. You'll read more about these below. The club from Greater Detroit, our inbound assignment from FFI, has dissolved, so these other opportunities worked out well for us.



## Inbound Friendship Force of Sacramento ««

May 28 – June 3, 2025

Giavanna Richards - [giavannajane@gmail.com](mailto:giavannajane@gmail.com)

Host Coordinator

FF Sacramento has expressed a lot of interest in this journey. There will be five full days of activities.

An initial (very rough) itinerary:

- ❖ Raleigh day: Trolley tour, Executive Mansion and Gardens, Capitol, Legislative Building, Natural Science Museum. Since Sacramento is also a state capital, they said they would find it interesting to compare our capitol with theirs.
- ❖ Duke day: Duke Lemur Center, Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Duke Chapel. Nasher Museum of Art (time dependent)
- ❖ Durham day: Bennett Place, Stagville, Durham Bulls game(?)
- ❖ NC State day: State Farmer's Market, Hunt Library, WRAL Gardens or Pullen Park
- ❖ Chapel Hill day: UNC campus, lunch on Franklin Street, Morehead Planetarium

Since their visit is over a weekend, there will likely be adjustments to the venue schedules. Ambassadors arrive around 5:30 p.m. on May 28th. Given the late arrival, the welcome meal will be on the 29th. Jan Johnson will host a farewell dinner on June 2nd.

If you are willing to help with the Sacramento journey, Giavanna still needs help: home hosts, day hosts, daytrip coordinators, small dinner hosts, a host for the welcome dinner. A sign-up sheet will be available at First Sunday on March 2nd.

### »» **Inbound Moldova through FFI and Open World**

May 14 – 17 in Raleigh

May 9 – 14 in Central NC

Judy Wilkes, Host Coordinator -

[judy126@bellsouth.net](mailto:judy126@bellsouth.net)

Inbound delegation of local government leaders from Moldova through the Open World Program/Congressional Office of International Leadership



Background Information: The Open World Program was founded by Dr James Billington after the fall of the Soviet Union. The purpose of the program was to bring leaders of former Soviet Union countries to the U.S. to learn about civil society. Additionally, he wanted them to be home hosted to learn about everyday life in the U.S. The program has been expanded today beyond former Soviet Union countries. FFI has a close relationship with OW and currently receives 17-19 programs a year which they assign to local clubs who request them.

Bill and Judy Wilkes previously attended three training programs with FFI and have organized ten OW programs in the past. Judy would like volunteers from the club to help with program planning, day hosting and hosting the farewell party. This is a great opportunity for FFR members to learn about Open World and how these journeys differ from the usual ones. There will be some grant money to help with the program. If interested, call Judy at 828-808-5077 or email [judy126@bellsouth.net](mailto:judy126@bellsouth.net).

## **Inbound/Outbound Combination - Mid-Atlantic Outdoor Journey** <<<

Oct 6-17 with the Raleigh section being Oct 10-14

Host Coordinators:

Leanne Richbourg - [lrichbourg@gmail.com](mailto:lrichbourg@gmail.com)

Jane Fellows - [jane.fellows2014@gmail.com](mailto:jane.fellows2014@gmail.com)

Background Information: Friendship Force of Raleigh has partnered with the Richmond and Western NC clubs for an active outdoor themed journey. Richmond is the lead club. As it is a pilot program, it will not be open to other clubs.

Details:

- Fifteen participants – five from each club.
- While one club hosts, members from the other two travel.
- Primary activities - hiking, biking and kayaking.
- Other activities will be included.

If successful, this might be offered again open to all Friendship Force clubs.



Let Leanne or Jane know of your interest in participating in any capacity – as an active participant, a home host, dinner host, or to help plan.

## >>> **Outbound The Villages, Florida**

November 1 – 8, 2025

Ambassador Coordinator – Volunteer Needed (Contact Leanne Richbourg for more information or to volunteer)

Originally scheduled for February, the journey was postponed in the hopes of attracting more ambassadors. Information from The Villages: “We would love to share highlights of central Florida’s past, present and future. The Villages has the world’s largest recreation department, more golf courses than any other community in the world, a distinctive layout with themed neighborhoods (each having its own unique architectural style and amenities), and a wonderful friendly atmosphere with over 3000 clubs and free nightly music.”

Possible activities:

- A tour of The Villages to experience its unique lifestyle
- Live music in the evenings at one of the three town squares
- Visit Ocala, the horse capital of the world
- Take a scenic boat ride on one of the many lakes
- Visit nearby older towns in Central Florida to learn about their history

**Many Members' Dues Are Past Due** <<<

**PLEASE**, check and see if you have paid your dues. If you have not, please mail your checks today to Jane Fellows at 1108 Alabama Avenue, Durham, NC 27705. \$65 per family, \$40 for an individual. Our FFI dues (\$30pp) are now due (actually past due) and we need your renewal before we pay those.

Please attach a note to your payment if your contact information has changed.

### >>> **Executive Mansion Chandelier**

There's a wonderful story published by *Our State* magazine about the family who once owned the crystal chandelier that illuminates the dining room of the Executive Mansion. This spectacular chandelier is one of a few recovered heirlooms that were lost during the Holocaust. Since FFR often offers tours of the Executive Mansion, we thought you might enjoy reading this back story. Thanks to Giavanna Richards for recommending it. You can read the story here: <https://www.ourstate.com/the-gift-of-light-2/>





## **Sustainability Practices Recommended by FFI** <<<

Last fall, Giavanna Richards attended the FFI North American Conference on behalf of our club. At the conference FFI encouraged clubs to be mindful of sustainability practices this year. Some of their recommendations:

- Club members bring their own plates and utensils to potluck events to reduce the use of disposable plastics.
- Consider focusing on vegetarian meals rather than meat for club dinners or potlucks.
- When planning day trips (for inbound journeys or club events), consider staying close to home, carpool or use the most efficient means of travel.
- Hold board meetings over zoom to reduce the travel requirement.
- This video [The Last Tourist](#) was recommended to help understand the impact of travel on the earth.
- You can also explore this website <https://sustainabletravel.org/individuals/travel-better/> to learn more about how you can travel sustainably.

## >>> **Club Bylaws Revision**

The FFR Board of Directors has been updating the club Policies & Procedures manual for over a year. That task is complete and we now need to make corresponding updates to the club bylaws. A draft of the revision is available on the club Google drive for your review.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MSQ38aJRBkjbeRWvekvGV\\_f-o0Zhx6hy?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MSQ38aJRBkjbeRWvekvGV_f-o0Zhx6hy?usp=sharing)

There is one document which contains the highlighted changes (*FFR bylaws revised Feb 5 2025 \_with changes highlighted*) and a clean document without the highlights (*FFR bylaws revised Feb 5 2025*). We will vote on accepting the revised bylaws at our March 2nd meeting.

## Membership Directory <<<

In preparation for creating a directory with photos of members, we are collecting and/or taking photos of members. See Jane Fellows, Leanne Richbourg or Judy Wright at any upcoming event to have your picture taken or submit your own photos to Judy Wright at [judytwright@gmail.com](mailto:judytwright@gmail.com).

### >>> 2025 Board of Directors

President – Leanne Richbourg



Treasurer – Jane Fellows

Directors – Ruth Drum, Mary Louise Gray, Jan Johnson, Doyle Long, Giavanna Richards, Liz Smith, Judy Wilkes, Judy Wright.

#### THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE PLEDGE

As a member of the Friendship Force  
I recognize that I can make a  
difference.  
I recognize that I have a mission.  
That mission is to be a friend to the  
people of the world.  
As I embark on this adventure,  
I know that others will be watching me.  
I know that through my example to  
my fellow citizens and  
people of other countries,  
the cause of peace and friendship  
can be furthered.  
I can make a difference.



#### 2024 Holiday Party <<<

Fine food, great fun, happy music, carols.



**THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF  
RALEIGH 2025 MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION/RENEWAL**  
<https://friendshipforceraleighnc.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/friendshipforceraleigh/>

**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, 2025**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$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.

Please make check payable to Friendship Force of Raleigh and mail to:  
Jane Fellows, 1108 Alabama Ave., Durham, NC 27705