



Mountain Friends

Volume 24, Issue 1

January 2024

FFWNC Club Website: www.ffwesternnc.org

FFI Website: <https://friendshipforce.org/>

President's Message from Harriett Hilton

A new year is always touted as a time of resets, redo's, and reflections. All valid points, perhaps. However, this January, I am taking a different tactic. Dolly Parton has a song in which part of the lyrics are: "For 25 years, I have been pushing up that hill of hope."

Most of us, being in the Dolly age range (she's 77), have been pushing up hills for a lot longer than 25 years. Yet I find encouragement in this wording. Sometimes we don't get the freshness of a complete redo. Rather, we need to continue to work with the pushing.

As we start 2024 for FFWNC, I am hoping that together we can push our club to reflect the FFI motto of "A WORLD OF FRIENDS IS A WORLD OF PEACE." Push to open your ears and hearts to new friends and new views. Bring that openness to finding common ground or shared interests to those on your street or across the world. Even if we roll back down Hope's Hill a bit, we can keep pushing. As we mirror the FF motto through actions, each of us will find that the uphill pushing is made easier by our widening support of friendships.

Please renew your FFWNC 2024 membership *now*, if you have not yet done so. Our goal is to have the 2024 FFWNC Membership Directory printed by early February for distribution. The renewal form is available on page 7 of this newsletter.

In friendship,

Harriett

November 19th General Meeting News

At our November 19th General Meeting, we elected officers and placed some Committee Chairs for 2024. They are as follows:

President: Harriett Hilton
Past President: Susan Harvey
Secretary: Diane Tokarski
Treasurer: Chuck Tokarski

Directors:

2024	2024 – 2025	2024 - 2026
Susan Gaston	Susan Neil	Nancy Wood
Gerri Gurbuz	Ginger Zemp	Warren Resen
Nancy McGaughy		

Standing Committee Leaders are still needed for several slots. Please consider volunteering to lead or join a committee. Active committees are mandatory for our club to fully function. Committees and Chairs are listed below:

Membership Chair: Ellen Brazauskas and Susan Gaston, Co-Chairs

Journey Committee: Jan Partin and Susan Harvey, Co-Chairs

Communications:

Newsletter:	Diane Tokarski
Publicity:	Vacant
Directory:	Diane Tokarski
Website:	Diane Tokarski
Sunshine:	Vacant

Hospitality: Becky Reid & Joe Robustelli

Bylaws and Policies & Procedures Review: Chuck Tokarski, Chair & Ellen Brazauskas & Diane Tokarski

Archives: Vacant (*Chuck Elston maintains custody of the Archives.*)

In addition to voting for the 2024 Club Officers and Directors, Paula Willits provided an informative program. She shared the arduous process of hosting a

young Ukrainian family, who were strangers when Richard and Paula first met them and are now dear friends. Paula's husband, Richard, and Paula have dedicated resources and unending hours to assisting Oleksandr and Halyna Khrapchevskyi and their young son, Dymtro.

Everyone was touched by the Willits' generosity in spreading friendship and learned of the Willits' concerns regarding challenges USA bureaucracy poses, as this family of three endeavors to manage work, child care and learn to adjust to a new culture, language, and country.

January 21, 2024 General Meeting Program Announcement

Please join us at the Middleton Place Clubhouse, 2001 Middleton Place, Hendersonville, on January 21, 2024 from 3 to 5 pm to hear Historic Restoration Specialist Derrick Tickle share images and explanations of his work at the Biltmore House and other places. We will also share a pot luck meal at the end of the meeting.

January 2024 Events

- Jan. 17th (Wednesday) - Board Meeting – 10:00 am at IAM, 310 Freeman Street, Hendersonville, NC
- January 18th - Happy Hour – 4:30 pm at Booda's Brewery & Kitchen, 120 East Barnwell St., Hendersonville (corner of Barnwell & King). *This is a new brewery, with parking on the premises.*
- January 21st - General Meeting - 3 to 5 pm at Middleton Place Clubhouse, 2001 Middleton Place, Hendersonville 28791. Please bring a dish to share and your own cutlery, plate and glass.
- January 26th – Book Club – 1:30 pm at Larry Harvey's home, 3001 Middleton Way, Hendersonville. We will discuss *A Land of Permanent Goodbyes* by Atia Abawi. Phone Larry at 818-674-6453 for more information. New readers are welcome!

FFWNC 2024 General Meetings & Board Meetings Schedule

MEETING DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Sunday, Jan. 21	General Meeting	3:00 pm	Middleton Place Clubhouse
Sunday, Mar. 17	General Meeting	5:00 pm	First Congregational Church, 1735 Fifth Ave. West, H'ville
Sunday, May 19	General Meeting	5:00 pm	Park Avenue Clubhouse, 15 Clubhouse Ct., Asheville
Saturday, July 13	Annual Picnic	12:00 Noon	Mills River Park Pavilion
Sunday, Sept. 15	General Meeting	5:00 pm	To be determined
Sunday, Nov. 17	General Meeting & Election of 2025 Officers	3:00 pm	To be determined
Sunday, Dec. 15	Holiday Party Mtg.	3:00 pm	To be determined
Wed., January 17	Board Meeting	10:00 am	Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM)
Tuesday, Feb. 20	Board Meeting	10:00 am	Henderson Cty. Extension Office
Tuesday, Mar 12	Board Meeting	10:00 am	IAM
Tuesday, Apr. 9	Board Meeting	10:00 am	Henderson Cty. Extension Office
Monday, May 20	Board Meeting	10:00 am	IAM
Tuesday, June 11	Board Meeting	10:00 am	Henderson Cty. Extension Office
Tuesday, July 9	Board Meeting	10:00 am	IAM
Tuesday, Aug. 13	Board Meeting	10:00 am	Henderson Cty. Extension Office
Tuesday, Sept. 10	Board Meeting	10:00 am	IAM
Tuesday, Oct. 8	Board Meeting	10:00 am	Henderson Cty. Extension Office
Tuesday, Nov. 12	Board Meeting	10:00 am	IAM
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Board Holiday Party	TBD	TBD

General Meetings are usually held on the third Sunday of alternate months. Meeting locations vary and will be announced on website posts and in the monthly newsletters.

Board Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month, with some exceptions, as noted above.

FULL 2024 Calendar Year for FFWNC
(Subject to change, as year progresses)

Proposed FFWNC 2024 Events Calendar Updated: 12/15/2023	
<p style="text-align: center;">January</p> <p>1/17 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 1/18 (Thur) - Happy Hour – 4:30pm – Booda’s Brewing, Hendersonville 1/21 (Sun) - General Meeting – 3-5pm – Middleton Place Clubhouse 1/26 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm – Larry Harvey’s home</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February</p> <p>2/15 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm – TBD 2/20 (3rd Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext. Office</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <p>3/12 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 3/15 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD 3/17 (Sun) - General Meeting – 5-7pm – Congregational Church Hendersonville</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">April</p> <p>4/2-4/8 (Tues – Mon) INBOUND JOURNEY – W. MICHIGAN 4/9 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office 4/18 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm – TBD 4/26 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm - TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">May</p> <p>5/8-5/14 (Wed – Tues) - INBOUND JOURNEY – MANITOBA 5/16 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm TBD 5/19 (Sun) – General Meeting – 5-7pm – Park Ave Club House Asheville, NC 5/20 (3rd Mon) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June</p> <p>6/11 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office 6/20 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July</p> <p>7/09 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 7/13 (Sat) – Annual Picnic – Noon – Mills River Park 7/18 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD 7/26 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm - TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">August</p> <p>8/13 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office 8/15 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">September</p> <p>9/7-9/13 (Sat – Fri) - OUTBOUND JOURNEY - ROMANIA 9/10 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 9/15 (Sun) - General Meeting – 5-7pm - TBD 9/19 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">October</p> <p>10/7-9 (Mon-Wed) – FFI Regional Conference – Milwaukee 10/8 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – TBD 10/17 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD 10/25 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm – TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">November</p> <p>11/12 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 11/17 (Sun) – General Meeting Election of 2025 Officers - TBD 11/21 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 1:30pm - TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December</p> <p>12/15 (Sun) – Club Holiday Party – 3-5pm - TBD 12/17 (Tues) – Board Holiday Party - TBD</p>

January Birthdays

January 29 - Molly Sandridge

January 31 - Karen Brown

2024 Journey Calendar

April 2 - 8 - Western Michigan inbound

Journey Coordinators: Susan Harvey and Betty Doll

May 8 - 14 - Manitoba Canada inbound

Journey Coordinators: Harriett Hilton and Nancy Wood

September 7-13 - Sibiu, Romania outbound

Journey Coordinators: Susan Harvey and Chuck Stevens

Assisting with Inbound Club Visits

Please consider being a home host, a day host, or a dinner host for one or both of our club's 2024 inbound journeys. The "pushing up the hill" is so much easier if responsibilities are spread out among more club members. Our visiting ambassadors will need home placements, day host drivers to share a day's activities and friendships, and hosts for small group dinner meals. Please sign up to help with these needs at our January 21st meeting or call Harriett Hilton at: 843 812-7201 to indicate your willingness to participate in some measure in one or both of our 2024 inbound journeys.

Important - 2024 Membership Renewals

IF you have not already renewed your membership for the 2024 calendar year and wish to be included in the 2024 FFWNC Membership Directory, please do so now. *Please print and complete the attached form, which can be found on the following page and mail it along with your check to: Treasurer, FFWNC, P.O. Box 1104, Mountain Home, NC 28758-0658, or access a renewal form at our website: [FFWNC Renewal Form](#).* Our goal is to distribute the Directory in early February.



friendship force
WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA

Membership Application / Renewal

Send to: Treasurer, FFWNC, P.O. Box 1104, Mountain Home, NC
28758-0658

(Separate Application per person)

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- New Membership w/badge \$57 **per person** \$ _____
- Renewal Membership \$45 **per person** \$ _____
- Associate (if you are a member of another FFI club and pay that club's full dues) \$15 **per person** \$ _____

Name: _____ Date of Application _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Year joined FFWNC _____ Birthday _____ Anniversary _____

TALENTS OR INTERESTS YOU COULD SHARE WITH FRIENDSHIP FORCE:

Foreign languages spoken _____

Countries visited or knowledge of _____

Talents and skills _____

Profession (or former) _____

(Rev.
5/2023)

Holiday Party – December 10th at Souther Williams

The rain didn't dampen our spirits! Thirty attended the Holiday Party at Souther Williams on December 10th. There was good food, good wine, and great fellowship!



JOURNEYS ARE HAPPENING!

Susan Harvey and Betty Doll share their New Zealand experiences

It was a great journey! New Zealand is a beautiful country with beautiful people. There were ten in our group from the Charlotte, Raleigh and Western NC clubs

We started on the north island with a private tour. We hit the highlights: Rotorua with its geothermal pools and volcanic craters, rain forests and geysers. We visited a Maori village for an introduction to their culture and history, enjoyed a wonderful meal and a riveting Haka performance.

We spent five days in Wellington with home stays. It was delightful and included introductions to "indoor bowling" and "Petanque," wine tasting and sheep

shearing demonstrations, views of beautiful beaches and harbors and new friends!

We ferried to the South Island where we met our tour guide for five more days. We saw a seal colony, penguins, high country sheep farms, mountains, fiords, and more rain forests. Queenstown and Christchurch



Ellen's and Mike Brazauskas' - Individual Journey to Baton Rouge

Mike and I went on our first FFI Individual Journey to Baton Rouge Louisiana for four nights. The application process is the same as for any Journey and the FFI fee is \$25.00 per night. We corresponded with our home host to work out the details of dates and itinerary.

We spent time in Baton Rouge with our hosts and in New Orleans with members of that club. We learned the difference between Cajun and Creole Gumbo and enjoyed both. We toured two Plantations and went to a Christmas Jazz Concert in downtown Baton Rouge. We went to La Fayette for a Swamp Boat Tour, learned about life on the swamp, saw several birds but no alligators.

We spent our last day in New Orleans touring the French Quarter, the Garden District, Lake Pontchartrain, St Louis Cemetery #3, the 9th Ward and learned about the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the city. We had a taste of fresh beignets from the renowned Café Du Monde.

Our individual journey was a wonderful experience for us as ambassadors and for our hosts, now friends. Would we change anything to this journey? Never, it was perfect! Am I interested in being listed as an Individual Journey Host? Yes! As a member of Friendship Force, it is a nice option in which to participate.

Needless to say, we were busy and made new friends. The activities in which we participated are what the Baton Rouge Club normally offers to their inbound Friendship Force ambassadors.

