



Mountain Friends

Volume 24, Issue 4

April 2024

FFWNC Club Website: www.ffwesternnc.org

FFWNC Mailing Address: FFWNC, P.O. Box 384, Hendersonville, NC 28793

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

President's Message

"Heroes are made by the path they choose, not the powers they are graced with."
– Iron Man

Knowing how involved I am with FFWNC, my son's family has lovingly started to call them my **superheroes group**. While I can only guess at the full reasoning for this naming, I am assuming it is because they think it has been good for me to have this network of active friends and because they realize how many things we all do together. My opinion is that the nickname is very appropriate for my FF club. Our membership as a whole and each of you individually works to further the FFI mission of peace through friendship as well as lend a hand to each other and local needs.

Even with his considerable shortcomings, Iron Man joined with other superheroes working toward peace and democracy. He becomes better at staying on his path because of his friends. Thank you, my own Superheroes, for choosing a path of friendship and outreach and always being there for me.

*In friendship,
Harriett*

Next General Meeting – Sunday, May 19th – 5:00 – 7:00 pm

We will meet at the Park Avenue Clubhouse, 15 Clubhouse Court, Asheville, NC at 5:00 pm. As usual, this is a pot luck meeting, so please bring a dish to share, along with your own cutlery, plates and drinking glass.

This meeting will feature highlights from our two upcoming inbound journeys-- Western Michigan in April and the Manitoba Club in May.

March 17th General Meeting News

Our March General Meeting was held at the First Congregational Church in Hendersonville. Thirty members and guests attended. They enjoyed a Saint Patrick's Day potluck dinner featuring the traditional corned beef and cabbage and shepherd's pie, among other dishes. (Thank you, Susan Harvey and Karen McDonald.) Reminders of upcoming FF activities and especially the hosting of our two inbound journeys were announced. There is still time to participate in journey activities or to be a day host during one of these inbound weeks. To be a day host for April, contact Susan Harvey. For the May inbound journey from Manitoba, contact Harriett Hilton.



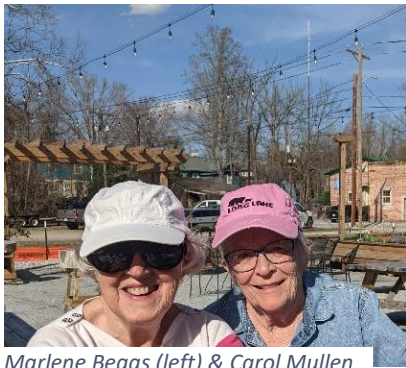
Lane Martin, in center of photo

In conjunction with our upcoming September FF Romanian journey, guest Lane Martin shared his experiences in Romania and showed slides of different parts of Romania where he had visited. Especially in the rural areas, Lane said we will see unique architectural styles, traditional horse and cart modes of transportation, and ornate interiors of historic churches, following the style of each region. After his presentation, FFWNC members Marlene and Ivan Beggs discussed their years of living in Romania and the person-to-person side of being part of different cultural experiences, as well as their enduring friendships with Romanian citizens.

Coming Soon – Partial Scholarships for Outbound Journeys

A generous and anonymous FFWNC member has provided partial scholarship funding for future outbound journeys. The Board is in the process of developing guidelines for the club member application process for scholarship assistance. Exact criteria and maximum amounts per journey have been established. Currently the Board is researching tax consequences for both Club and member recipients, so that the Club and the scholarship recipients will be in total compliance with the law. Hopefully, the final scholarship guidelines and the application will be finalized by the summer.

March 21st - Happy Hour at Trailside Brewing Company



Marlene Beggs (left) & Carol Mullen (right)

The weather was perfect, conversation was flowing, and the brews were tasty! We were able to visit outside and enjoy the weather and fun conversation.



April 18th – Happy Hour at Burntshirt in Hendersonville

We will meet at Burntshirt Vineyards, 2695 Sugarloaf Road, Hendersonville at 4:30 pm. As our Happy Hour group is growing, *a reservation has been made in the name of Friendship Force* for us. **Please meet in the lobby restaurant and check in with the restaurant receptionist as a Friendship Force member.** If the day proves to be sunny and warm, we will have the option of sitting outdoors. Cheers!

Membership News

On March 8th our FFI Membership Co-Chairs Susan Gaston and Ellen Brazauskas hosted a wine and cheese event for potential new members as well as for our own FFWNC newest members. Susan Harvey gave a quick overview of the club

and everyone there enjoyed the fellowship and refreshments. Approximately 25 attended this function. Great idea and marvelous job, Susan and Ellen.

That reception followed the presentation at the OAKS Fireside Chat event on February 18th by Susan Harvey and Ivan Beggs. They discussed FFI and particularly how the US State Department's COIL Program (formerly Open World) joins with FFI and local clubs to host and educate young professionals from emerging democracies.

Upcoming Events April

- April 2nd to 8th Inbound Journey from Western Michigan
- Tuesday, April 9th Board Meeting - 10 am at Henderson County Extension Office
- Thursday, April 18th – Burntshirt Vineyards – Hendersonville – 4:30 – 6:00 pm – 2695 Sugarloaf Road, Hendersonville
- Friday, April 26th --Book Club hosted by Ellen Brazauskas – 1:30 pm. We will meet in the *couch section* at The Buzz Coffee Shop, 225 S. Grove Street, in Hendersonville. (The Buzz is located next to Thai Spice.) We will discuss *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America* by Heather Cox Richardson.

New Book Club members are welcome. For details, contact Gerri Gurbuz. Our book club meets quarterly, on the last Friday of the month in January, April, July and October.

FFWNC Itinerary - Inbound Journey

Planning and hosting inbound journeys takes lots of hours, hands, and coordination. New members especially may want to have a look at what happens during an inbound journey. Club members are welcome to participate in these daily events on a DUTCH TREAT level. Please contact the local journey coordinators if you wish to attend some/all events in a journey week. Inbound ambassadors pay a fee to cover all events, most meals, and the FFI fee paid to FFI. As a participating local member, you only pay for the venues or meals you attend, here in our area.

Please see the Western Michigan daily activity schedule below:

Western Michigan Journey - April 2nd – April 8th

Tuesday 4/2

Arrival Day – Settle at home hosts

5:30 Welcome Dinner

Middleton Place Clubhouse, Hendersonville

Wednesday 4/3

9:45 Biltmore

12:00 Lunch on own

1:30 Antler Village/Wine tasting

3:30 River Arts District

5:30 Group Dinner – White Duck Taco,
River Arts District

Thursday 4/4

10:00 Looking Glass Falls

10:30 Moore Falls - Hike

12:30 Lunch at Pisgah Inn

2:30 Blue Ridge Parkway – Visitor Center

3:30 Blue Ridge Parkway – Folk Art Center

6:00 Dinner Hosts

Friday 4/5

10:00 DuPont State Forest Hike

12:00 Box lunch – Holmes State Forest Shelter

2:00 Carl Sandburg home

5:00 Ambassadors take hosts to dinner

Saturday 4/6

10:00 NC Arboretum

11:30 Lunch at Bistro

1:00 Walking tour Asheville

3:00 French Broad Chocolate Tour - Asheville

6:00 Dinner hosts

Sunday 4/7
10:00 Chimney Rock
Free PM
Farewell Dinner, Middleton Place, Hendersonville

Monday 4/8
Departure Day

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
(Pre and post extensions to be scheduled)
Journey Coordinators: Susan Harvey and Chuck Stevens

April Birthdays

2 - Susan Gaston
7 - Gerri Gurbuz
9 - Bryan Byrd
20 - Kay Manley, Jack Mullen

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

No May birthdays or anniversaries are in our information base. Did you fail to tell us about your birthday or anniversary date(s)? FFWNC likes to acknowledge your special days. Please let us know, if you wish those dates to be shared with your FFWNC friends.

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	5:30 pm	Park Avenue Clubhouse 15 Clubhouse Court, 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. 24	Board Meeting	10:00 am	IAM
Tuesday, Oct. 15	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)

FFWNC 2024 Events Calendar	
<p style="text-align: center;">January</p> <p>1/17 (Weds) - 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–Happy Hour Appalachian Ridge Artisan Cidery, 731 Chestnut Gap Road, Hendersonville, NC 28792 2/20 (3rd Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext. Office</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <p>3/8 (Fri) – Membership Recruitment- 3:30 – 5 pm Middleton Place Clubhouse (Welcome Club, Hendo Meet-up, new 2023-24 FFWNC members) 3/12 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – IAM 3/17 (Sun) - General Meeting – 5-7pm – First Congregational Church Hendersonville 3/21 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - Trailside Brewing Company, 873 Lennox Park Drive, Hendersonville, NC</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 – Burntshirt Vineyard, 2695 Sugarloaf Road, H’ville 4/26 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm - <i>Host –Ellen Brazauskas</i> at The Buzz Coffee House, 225 S. Grove St., Hendersonville</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">May</p> <p>5/8-5/14 (Wed – Tues) - INBOUND JOURNEY – MANITOBA 5/13 (Mon) Farewell Dinner – Manitoba Club – Middleton Place Clubhouse, H’ville 5/16 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm TBD 5/19 (Sun) – General Meeting— 5pm-Park Ave. Clubhouse, 15 Clubhouse Ct., Asheville 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 9/15 (Sun) - General Meeting – 5-7pm - TBD 9/19 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm – TBD 9/24 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10 am - IAM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">October</p> <p>10/7-9 (Mon-Wed) – FFI Regional Conference – Milwaukee 10/15 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – Cty. Ext. Office 10/17 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD 10/25 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm – TBD</p>

November	December
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	12/15 (Sun) – Club Holiday Party – 3-5pm - TBD 12/17 (Tues) – Board Holiday Party - TBD



friendship force
WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA

Membership Application / Renewal

Send to: Treasurer, FFWNC, P.O. Box 384, Hendersonville, NC 28793
(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 _____

How did you hear about Friendship Force of Western North Carolina? _____

Friendship Force is a volunteer organization. Our success depends upon member participation.

AREAS YOU ARE WILLING TO SERVE:

- ____ Board of Directors or Officer
- ____ Committee Chair (i.e., Hospitality, Membership, Publicity, Newsletter)
- ____ Journey Coordinator
- ____ Hosting – home, dinner, day *

*Please visit the FFWNC website at: <https://ffwesternnc.org/being-a-friendship-force-host/>
to learn about home, dinner and day hosting opportunities.

(Rev. 01/17/24)