



Mountain Friends

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October 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

"Cel mai mare dar al vieții este prietenia, și eu l-am primit."

Translation: *The greatest gift of life is friendship, and I have received it.*

--Romanian quote with English translation found on Google with no named source.—

In late August, thirteen members of Friendship Force journeyed to Romania for a few weeks of learning, exploring and friendship. In addition to ten members of our own club, we were joined by a member from Spokane, who had already crossed paths with some of us on out and inbound journeys with her home club, a Knoxville, Tennessee member, who recently moved to Delaware, and a Raleigh, NC Friendship Force member who is also my cousin. Most of the thirteen had never been to this country, and all of us came with question marks about what we might find.

In the week before our official home stay in Sibiu, Romania, we saw Bucharest and three other cities. We cemented our USA friendships and bonded wonderfully with our Romanian guide, Alex. The central part of this country is a diverse mixture of beautiful historic castles, cement block Communist-era buildings, stucco village homes and a mountainous rolling valley natural landscape that never failed to delight us.

Once in Sibiu, we had amazing and very different home hosts in terms of personalities and housing accommodations. The unifying factor was the Romanian Club's dedication to giving us their very best in terms of an overview of the area and a generosity of spirit that permeated the entire week. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity and know that seeing a foreign club in action has inspired me to give more of myself and my club's hospitality as we

bring in future inbound clubs. I encourage each of you to join with me as we welcome our 2025 inbound journey from Dallas Fort Worth next May. Also, I assure you that taking an outbound journey with our club or another club will increase the great gift of friendship to you. I now have an entire circle of friends in Romania that are now part of my forever memories. See below for another impression of this journey and pictures from Romania by our amazing Journey Coordinator, Susan Harvey. Susan's attention to detail, graciousness and patience with twelve others, asking lots of questions, was a perfect example of journey coordination. THANK YOU SUSAN!

Harriett Hilton, 2024 FFWNC President

It's Good to be Traveling Again!

Thirteen ambassadors traveled to Romania August 31 – September 17 on a long-awaited journey.

We started in Bucharest with sidewalk cafes, Revolution Square and the People's Palace. A seven-day tour of the country included mountains and plains, castles and wineries, cities and villages. We learned so much about the history and culture of the country, invasions by various empires over the centuries and the importance of the Orthodox Church. Romania refers to Communism and the Revolution of 1989 as its "before and after" turning point. We saw fairytale castles from the Romantic age and "real" castles dating back to the 14th Century, fortified churches and beautiful countrysides. And yes, we saw horse-drawn wagons trotting through villages and cows freely



walking the streets, going home for milking!

Our homestay began in Sibiu where we were welcomed by our hosts, treated to a feast of traditional Romanian food, and enjoyed the day in the mountains. The center of Sibiu with its fortified walls and centuries-old buildings dates back to medieval times, and is noted for rooftop windows shaped like eyes. We visited an old salt mine now converted to an indoor amusement park with a Ferris wheel and row boating on

an underground salt lake. Sibiu's outdoor museum of old wood homes, barns and shops gathered from around the country gave glimpses of life in early Romania. We also enjoyed a Lipizzaner horse breeding facility, but mostly we enjoyed the warm hospitality of our hosts and nurtured friendships we hope to continue.

Five of our group returned home after Sibiu and eight continued to Budapest, Hungary where we enjoyed a two-day guided tour of the city. It has a very different 'feel' from Romania, but is very beautiful. Hungary also endured invasions and occupations through the centuries, suffered a significant loss of land and resources after WWI and the tragedy of the Holocaust in WWII. But we ended on a happy note, buying paprika in the Market!

We are all glad to be home but thankful for yet another great Friendship Force experience.



--Susan Harvey, Journey Coordinator

October and November 2024 FFWNC Activities

Happy Hour - October 17th Guidon Brewery - 4:30 to 6:00 PM

Enjoying a non-alcoholic or alcoholic drink and food from various local establishments is a casual way to socialize with Club members. Happy Hour Manager, Chuck Tokarski, has picked Guidon Brewery at 415 8th Avenue East in Hendersonville for the October 17th Happy Hour. Hope you can come.

FFWNC Book Club – Friday October 25th – 1:30 pm

Our October book selection is *The Last Castle* by Denise Kiernan, a nonfiction account about the Vanderbilt family before and during their time at the Biltmore. Nancy Wood will host the discussion at The Buzz, 225 S. Grove Street,

Hendersonville. (We will discuss the book at the large round table.) Please contact Gerri Gurbuz, if you would like to participate.

The FF Book Club is held quarterly on the last Friday in January, April, July and October. The Book Club welcomes new members.

FFWNC Journey Coordinator Training - Thursday, Oct. 30, 2024
3:00 – 5:00 pm - Henderson County Extension Office
100 Jackson Park Road - Hendersonville

Our club is recruiting members to become journey coordinators (JCs) for 2025. JC(s) are needed for the inbound Dallas Fort Worth journey. (An application for the JC position for the Western Michigan outbound journey has been received, and an additional member has expressed interest in becoming a Co-JC for this journey.)

On October 30th Jan Partin and Susan Harvey will conduct a training session for new JCs at the Henderson County Extension Office from 3 - 5 pm.

For past journeys, occasionally two inbound or outbound JCs have been selected for journey coordination, which lightens the load for both JCs and provides the opportunity to share input and duties. The major duties for in and outbound journey JCs will be reviewed in detail and will be fully explained at the October training session.

Please contact Susan Harvey or Jan Partin if you plan on attending.

2025 Membership/Renewal Dues and Name Tag Fee Increase

As the cost for food, paper goods, room rental, etc., and the price of name tag production has increased, membership/renewal dues for 2025 are increasing to \$50.00 per person (increase of \$5.00) and the cost of name tags will be \$15.00 (increase of \$3.00) per name tag. The membership/renewal application at the end of this newsletter as well as on our website reflects this update.

November 17th General Meeting
3:00 pm – First United Methodist Church

Our next General Meeting is Sunday, November 17th at 3:00 pm at First United Methodist Church in Hendersonville. *Note that the time has switched to 3:00 pm, due to darker winter days and time changes.* Our speaker will be Ginger Zemp, who will give an overview of our club's September Romanian Journey. Ginger's

professional presentation skills plus her enthusiasm about this recent journey will help club members appreciate the value and rewards of Friendship Force's international connections. The Nominating Committee will present the proposed slate of 2025 FFWNC officers and Board members, and the election will take place at this meeting. *Bring a dish to share for the pot luck meal as well as your own plate and eating utensils.*

--Upcoming Journeys for 2025--

Dallas Fort Worth – Inbound Journey May 13 - 19, 2025

Our club has received confirmation that the Dallas Fort Worth Club will be visiting us in May 2025. *We are in need of inbound journey coordinators as well as home, day, and dinner hosts.* Please check your calendars and plan to participate in the journey. Sign-up sheets will be available at the November 17th General Meeting.

Western Michigan Club – Outbound Journey – Fall 2025 Dates to be determined

Please consider participating in this outbound journey. The Western Michigan Club visited us in April, 2024.

An application for the JC position for the Western Michigan outbound journey has been received, and an additional member has expressed interest in becoming a Co-Journey Coordinator for this journey.

Possible 2025 International Journeys

Consider joining another club for an international Friendship Force journey. If you are interested in visiting Sri Lanka, there are options with the Austin Club to Galle, Sri Lanka, starting February 1, 2025 (Journey 25036), a FFI Special Journey related to Sri Lanka Wildlife (Journey 25048) starting March 1, 2025, or with the Hamburg, Germany Club to Ambalangoda, Sri Lanka (Journey 25202) according to FFI. For more information, please contact Kimberly Fraser at Friendship Force International.

By visiting the FFI website, you will find these and many other options open to Friendship Force members. If you have not yet used the FFI website, once you get into the site you will need to go to "Members" and create a user name (your

email address) and a password for yourself. Once you are into the Member section, go to Journeys on the left side of the page and click. This will open up all possible FFI journeys.

Explore. Understand. Serve.

by Nancy Wood

There is a saying that starts with: “It takes a village.” And here’s another: “Many hands make for light work.” You may have heard it said that FFI is a participation-based organization. It is in the sharing of our lives in the things that we do that builds community and friendships here and all over the world. By volunteering, you truly make the entire organization better.

You may not be able to do everything that is required to host a journey. You can be a home host this time but not next time. Yep, life happens! There are many facets to our individual lives, are there not? One thing I know, being a FFWNC Club Member means you are passionate about embarking on a journey of cultural discovery and personal growth. You look forward to making lifelong friendships through being part of a global network of like-minded individuals.

Won’t you consider making space in your busy calendar to take your passion to the next level? Co-Chair a committee. Become a Board member. Say yes, to learning how to coordinate journeys. It’s not perfection that is sought. It’s the perspective and energy you bring when you show up regardless of how long you’ve been a member. For those who have “been there, done that, worn the t-shirt,” there is nothing like your mentorship. For those new to our club, welcome! Come join in as many activities as you can so we can get to know you and you can get to know us! Together we can make a difference. Together we serve one another as we explore the world.

October

- Tuesday, October 15th – 10:00 am - Board Meeting – Henderson County Extension Office
- Thursday, October 17th – 4:30 pm – Happy Hour - Guidon Brewery, 418 8th Street East, Hendersonville

- Friday, October 25th – 1:30 pm – Book Club – *The Last Castle* by Denise Kiernan. Host: Nancy Wood hosts at The Buzz, 225 S. Grove Street, Hendersonville.
- Thursday, October 30th – 3:00 – 5:00 pm – JC Training at Henderson County Extension Office

November

- Tuesday, November 12th – 10:00 am – Board Meeting – IAM
- Sunday, November 17th – 3:00 pm – General Meeting - Election of 2025 Officers & Romania Overview – First United Methodist Church, Hendersonville

October Birthdays

14 – Karen McDonald
31 – Mike Brazauskas

Newsletter Deadline

If you have club news for the newsletter, please submit your information to Harriett Hilton no later than the 15th of the month.

FFWNC 2024 General Meetings & Board Meetings Schedule

MEETING DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Sunday, Nov. 17	General Meeting & Election of 2025 Officers	3:00 pm	First United Methodist Church Hendersonville, NC
Sunday, Dec. 15	Holiday Party Mtg.	3:00 pm	To be determined
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.

2024 FFWNC Calendar

FFWNC 2024 Events Calendar	
<p style="text-align: center;">October</p> <p>10/3 (Thurs) Pass the Spoon Dinner – 5:30pm – Thai Spice, Hendersonville</p> <p>10/7-9 (Mon-Wed) – FFI Regional Conference – Milwaukee</p> <p>10/15 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – Cty. Ext. Office</p> <p>10/17 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm – Guidon Brewery, Hendersonville</p> <p>10/25 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm – <i>The Last Castle</i> - The Buzz, 225 S. Grove, St., Hendersonville</p> <p>10/30 (Fri) – JC Training – 3 – 5 pm – Henderson County Extn. Office</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">November</p> <p>11/12 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM</p> <p>11/17 (Sun) – General Meeting -- Election of 2025 Officers – 3pm – First United Methodist Church, Hendersonville</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">December</p> <p>Pass the Spoon Lunch –11:30 am - Date and location TBD</p> <p>12/15 (Sun) – Club Holiday Party – 3-5pm - TBD</p> <p>12/17 (Tues) – Board Holiday Party - TBD</p>	



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 \$65 **per person** \$ _____
- Renewal Membership \$50 **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 - Month _____ Day _____

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 9-22-24)