



# friendship force

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

# The Ambassador

## September 2024

### President's Message

There seems to be no end of good food at a Friendship Force potluck, and this past weekend Annual Picnic at our poolside in Gordonsville was no exception. Many of us met our University of Virginia international JAG students for the first time, and Major Matan Mass Mehaber from Israel wrote to me:

“Thank you so much for having us last Saturday. We felt very welcomed at your home, and had a great time talking to you and enjoying your hospitality! We had a great time meeting everyone who came from the Friendship Force. Please give our thanks to everyone who contributed with their presence and their food, which was delicious and we may ask for some recipes to try at home too :-)”

Maybe we should update our original cookbook!

Thanks so all of you who came and brought such delightful food. Deb Winslow, in her usual fashion made it all look so easy to coordinate food and drinks, and the pictures speak a thousand words.

I also received a lovely note from our Nigerian JAG student, Major Aisha Jennifah Suleiman saying that she felt she was home with all of us. That is what the Friendship Force is all about. I loved teaching her two daughters, Amanda, 8 and Adaeze, 12 how to play pool baseball. They caught right on, and we all got to ride the floating whale, Shamu.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have met with all the students again at the home of our JAG coordinator, Bing Spitler and his wife, Joyce at Lake Monticello. I love how they let us pilot their boat! And they have a lovely home they share with us.

Notice, it will soon be time to have a Nominating Committee for next year's positions. I am definitely stepping down as President, but would be interested in coordinating the JAG program as Bing says this is his last year. Think about how you would like to serve.

Our next meeting will be all about the Peru Exchange last Spring, on Saturday, October 19th, so save the date. We will be at the Independence midday.

Our club is growing, and I so appreciate how everyone steps up to help. Peggy Colville will tell you about the successful Membership Drive we had at Glenmore in May, and the contest!

Be sure to answer Deb Winslow's emails about the exchanges next year. There are some date changes to solidify, but I know I am looking forward to Eastern Ohio and Quebec City/Montreal in summer. Keep cool, and see you all in October! And welcome new members!

Willow Drinkwater  
434-249-6892

# Pictures from Summer Picnic



PS. Someone left a blue casserole cover at Willow's and she would like to return it.

## **JAG School**

“This summer, Friendship force is hosting the following students at the University of Virginia JAG School. Sponsors have been assigned and initial relations have been established. There will be meetings at the August Picnic at Willow’s and a Labor day Picnic at the Spitlers.

Major Aisha Suleiman - Nigeria + (2) daughters ages 8 & 12. There is also a possibility that her husband will arrive by the end of August. – Willow and Allen Drinkwater  
Major Takumi Yamada – Japan – Al and Peggy Colvile  
Major Matan Mass-Mehaber – Israel – Bing and Joyce Spitler  
LTC Gustavo Arellano Echanove – Mexico – Judy Lesiak  
LTC Deng-Feng Cheng – Taiwan” – Linda and Tom Gehle

## **JAG Student Reunion**

Several years ago, I had the pleasure of sponsoring JAG student, Emil Horcicka, Chief of the Legal Service of the Czech Army. He and his family participated in a number of activities with Steve Cooley and me during his ten-month stay in Charlottesville. When he completed the JAG School Graduate Program, I told him that I planned to revisit Prague in the future and would see them again.

That opportunity presented itself recently when I took a tour of Central European countries. I had a lovely afternoon in Prague with Emil, his wife, Martina, son Tadeas and daughter, Natalie.

*Patty Sclater*



## **Fund Raising**

A big "thank you" to Al and Peggy, Deb, new member, Estelle, and myself for volunteering to pour beer at the draft truck at Fridays After Five on June 28th. We had a great time listening to a local R and B band -- and -- we made \$180 plus \$20 in tips for our Friendship Force club! The weather was great, the distance from the stage and music was perfect (not too loud), and we were able to tell people about FF when they asked!

The money will be added to our fund for a donation to a charity at the end of the year.

There may be more opportunities to volunteer before the end of the year; watch your email for my requests!

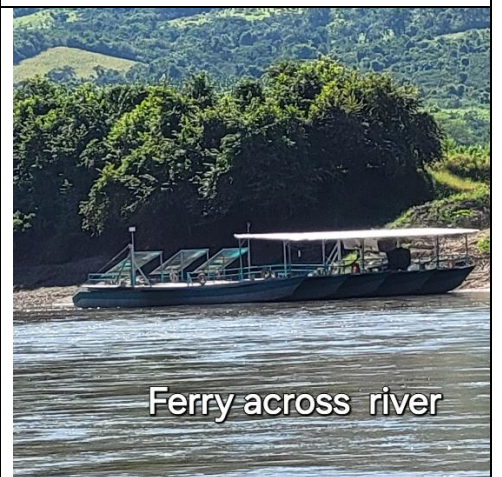
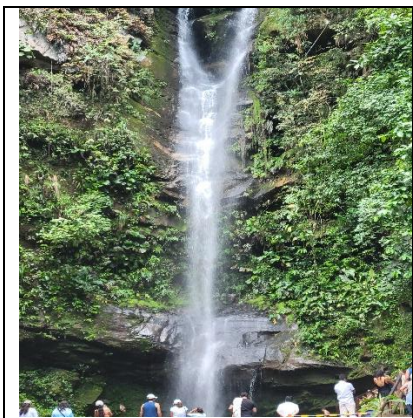
Linda Gehle  
Fundraising

**Outbound 2024:**

**International:** Six members of our club visited Lima, Peru



and Tarapoto, Peru this past June.



Ferry across river

**Outbound 2025:**

**International:** We will be going to Montreal and Quebec, Canada in early to mid June. A poll has been sent out for interest in this journey. If you haven't replied please do soon so we can start our final preparations.

**National:** Northeast Ohio sometime this summer. Dates have not been confirmed.

**Inbound 2025:**

**Domestic:** Oklahoma will be arriving September 9-16. A poll has been sent out to see if you are able to host in your home or be a day host. If you have not replied, Please do.

**Race to the Finish**

Many of you may remember at the first of the year a contest to see who could bring the most members for the year 2024. That person would be awarded **FREE** Membership for 2025. Well this became a very good and complicated situation.

**Here is the standing as of date.**

Peggy Colville	2
<b>David &amp; Linda Burns</b>	
Nina Flynn	2
<b>Rose Chisholm</b>	
<b>Rita Jones</b>	
Susan Roberts	2 (one shared with Helen-Ida Moyer **)
<b>Chrissy Day</b>	
<b>Estelle Phillips **</b>	
Linda Gehle	2
<b>Nina Flynn</b>	
<b>Janice Silk</b>	
Helen-Ida Moyer	2 (one shared with Susan Roberts **)
<b>Estelle Phillips **</b>	
<b>Louis Mitler</b>	
Deb Winslow	2
<b>Deana Winslow</b>	
<b>John Grubb</b>	
David Leal	1
<b>Maureen McCusty</b>	

Situation is - six members with a total of 2, but the good news is we picked up 12 new members. **It Worked!** Now who will break the tie? That is the other side of the coin. Sorry, it will have to be a clear top total from someone, we have 4 months to go. Best of luck to everyone, including members who have not yet started, as of yet – all things are possible.

Membership Chairperson – Peggy Colville

## Membership Report

Hello FFCV Members, I hope each of you had a wonderful summer. Because of our Inbound and Outbound activities this summer and our club taking the month of July off, I do not believe I have had the opportunity to touch base with you since the Membership Drive this past May.

We had a wonderful turnout with 40 in attendance, which included our members who live out of state, Dave and Linda Burns. That was truly the max for the room at Glenmore. Next year we will certainly have to obtain a larger room. Not only did we have a great turnout of members but many of you invited your friends and that brought about seven new members. That brings our membership total up to 38 members as of now. President Willow had a goal of 50 members by the end of the year. Let's help her out. We have two more events coming up – Thanksgiving in November and our annual Christmas Celebration in December. You will hear more about our last event which was our annual picnic at Willow and Alan home this past Saturday 8/24th in this newsletter. There again we had a wonderful turnout, I did not get a count, but we had several members who brought guests. I do hope you will follow up with these guests and hopefully they will decide to join us. Willow and I talked about the fact since the year is more than half over, anyone joining after the first of September their dues should reflect not only this year but their dues for 2025. We think that is only fair.

You will be getting dates, location and times of our two remaining membership events in the months ahead, so be on the lookout so you won't miss out. Thanksgiving will be, of course turkeys, provided by Willow and myself and side dishes from all of you. That will be a great time for you to meet the JAG students as they will be invited to attend. Our Christmas Celebration will be a catered event. Always a festive affair.

That is all for now – hope to see you at our next two events. Take care and stay safe.

Peggy Colville

Membership Chairperson

## JAG Picnic at Bing's

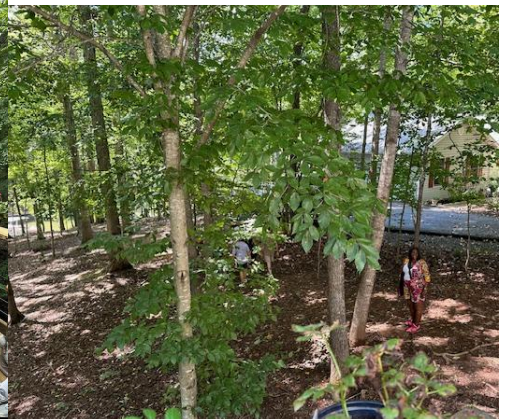
Bing and Joyce Spitler held a spectacular picnic at his home for the JAG students and their sponsors on Saturday, September 1, 2024. It was another great event for our international partners. What a great opportunity to see the world through the eyes of international JAG students. Many thanks to Bing and Joyce for hosting. It's always a very pleasant experience working with all of our friendship force partners, thank you for your sincere involvement with the students, there is no doubt that you enjoy what you do as you put forth every effort into making the students feel very special. Here are a few pictures showing the event:



JAG students from Israel, Nigeria, Mexico, Taiwan, and Japan



Patio Party



Headed to the boat ride



A bountiful table



JAG Family from Nigeria



Joyce, Peggy and Patty



Willow with Matan and Jordan from Israel

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER/PROGRAM (if applicable)	LOCATION	OPEN TO	COORDINATOR
January	20	Noon – 3:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Africa Journey Presentation – Patty Sclater	The Independence	Club Members, Guests	Peggy Colville
February	17	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Membership Meeting	JAG Students' Presentations	The Independence	Club Members, Guests, JAG Students	Bing Spitler, Helen Ida Moyer
March	TBD	Noon	Mystery Lunch		Member Hosts' Homes	Club Members	Peggy Colville
April	24 – 5/1 (Tentative)		Incoming Journey – Flathead, Montana Friendship Club			Club Members	Deb Winslow
May	18	TBD	Membership Drive			Club Members, Guests	Peggy Colville, Membership Committee
June			Outgoing Journey - Peru			Club Members	Deb Winslow
July			Summer Break – No Program				
August	24	11:30 AM	Summer Picnic		Gordonsville	Club Members, JAG Students	Willow Drinkwater
September	2	Noon	JAG Picnic		Lake Monticello	9-month JAG Students, Sponsors	Bing Spitler
October	19	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Peru Journey Presentation – Helen Ida Moyer	The Independence	Club Members, Guests	Helen Ida Moyer
November	16	Noon – 3:00 PM	"Friendsgiving" Meal		The Independence	Club Members, 9-month JAG students	Helen Ida Moyer
December	14	Noon – 3:00 PM	Holiday/Christmas Party		The Independence	Club Members, 9-month JAG students	Helen Ida Moyer