



Friendship Force of Central North Carolina

Newsletter #2
February, 2007

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

OUTBOUND EXCHANGE TO BRAUNSCHWEIG, GERMANY



Be a part of FFCNC's first outbound exchange to
Braunschweig, Germany
May 9-24, 2007 - \$2,700
(including time in Frankfurt – Berlin – Prague)

As you all know, the FFCNC is making a trip to Germany on May 9 for two weeks to enjoy the home hospitality of the Friendship Force Club in Braunschweig. You will be intrigued by this city, which mingles the medieval and modern in a charming way! The bronze lion overseeing castle square was originally cast in 1166 by Henry the Lion, then Duke of Saxony and Bavaria. There is a distinct old town, or inner city, which is nearly surrounded by the River Oker. Bridges cross the Oker at several sites to unite the Old Town's traditional marketplace, churches and half-timbered buildings with the New Town section of the city. 90% destroyed in 1944, Braunschweig has been rebuilt into a "City of Research"—but the lion statue still guards the Burgplatz.

We will also spend a couple of days in Frankfurt before traveling to Braunschweig and three nights each in Berlin and Prague afterward. We have 18-20 excellent Ambassadors currently signed up and would welcome three or four more. Our Orientation Session is planned for March 31 at GTCC Jamestown Campus. If you are interested in making this trip you must hurry and contact Peter Peiffer, the Exchange Director, at (336) 288-0014 or peiffer@aol.com for further details.



**All Members are invited to our
Pot Luck Dinner/Exchange Send-off
Saturday, March 31, 5:30 PM
GTCC Jamestown Campus
Medlin Campus Center**

(German dishes especially welcomed)



INBOUND EXCHANGE FROM AICHI, JAPAN

In late September 2007 a group of veteran ambassadors from Aichi, Japan will arrive in the Triad to be home-hosted by our Friendship Force of Central North Carolina club. This is indeed a well-traveled group, as they will be participating in three outbound exchanges this year. The group visiting the Triad will arrive here after a visit to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



According to the Aichi Prefecture Government website (<http://www.pref.aichi.jp/index-e.html>), “Aichi is one of the most industrially advanced prefectures in Japan, and...is easily accessible from abroad. In order to further open Aichi to the world, the prefecture has embarked on a series of large scale projects, including the...2005 World Exposition, the first world’s fair of the 21st century.... Aichi Prefecture maintains sister-state relations with the State of Victoria in Australia and Jiangsu Province in China. There are also many active sister-city relationships at the municipal level within the prefecture, and many private organizations and local residents enthusiastically participate in international exchange activities. In response to the active and increasing participation by residents in international exchange, in 1984 the Aichi International Association (AIA) was established and has since been a major force in promoting Aichi’s international exchange efforts at the grassroots level.”

Aichi Prefecture is located near the center of the Japanese main island of Honshu and is dominated by Nagoya, Japan’s fourth largest city with a population of over seven million. Similar to North Carolina, the geography of Aichi includes the mountains and the ocean. This prefecture is known as the center of Japan’s automotive and aerospace industries and is home to many international companies including Toyota, Nippon, and Noritake. Soccer, volleyball, baseball, and rugby are some of the most popular sports found in Aichi. Traditional crafts include stone masonry, chinaware, tie dyeing, and paper making. As you might imagine, seafood and rice are main items on the menu in Aichi. No doubt, our guests will enjoy a Saturday afternoon college football game, a Southern meal of fried chicken and pork barbeque, and a visit to the potters of Sea Grove. So mark your calendars now and watch for more details in the next newsletter. Paul Meis is our inbound exchange director. We anticipate interest to host these guests will be great so contact Paul at pmeis@triad.rr.com or 724-9540 if you think you may be interesting in hosting or if you would like more information.

DOMESTIC EXCHANGES

Friendship Force International sponsors a variety of exchange programs. These exchange programs include international, regional, domestic and special exchanges. Domestic exchanges are interclub visits within the same country or within the Economic Union. Outbound domestic exchanges offer a great opportunity for travel for those members for whom international travel may be less feasible due to distance, expense, or health concerns.

In 2005 our club homestay hosted Friendship Force club members from Florida and Tennessee. In August 2007 members of our club will attend the Big Sky Friendship Force Festival in Great

Falls, Montana. Following the festival we will be homestay hosted by the Helena, Montana FF club.

Read on to learn more about these interesting experiences!

INBOUND DOMESTIC EXCHANGE FROM FLORIDA AND TENNESSEE

This past summer we were hosts to a combined group from Florida and Tennessee. This was our first experience with a domestic exchange, so I was a little apprehensive when I agreed to be the chairman. However, I soon discovered that a domestic exchange could be as rewarding and as much fun as an international exchange.

Thanks go to the nine host families and to all the other members who were involved in making this a most memorable experience. We began by hosting a welcome party at Childress Winery in Lexington. Fred and Carol Andresen hosted a covered dish supper the following evening. This was a lovely evening and gave our guests a chance to meet other members of our group. Other group activities included lunch at Salem Tavern and a tour of Old Salem. FFCNC member, Pam Kahl, did an outstanding job as our guide. We went to the mountains, toured Mabry Mills, toured Mt. Airy and ate at Snappy's Lunch. After a busy and delightful five days, we said our farewells with dinner at the Red Oak in Greensboro.

As with any exchange, the best part is making new friends and learning about each other. It is also a great opportunity to show others how beautiful NC really is.

There will be other opportunities for us to participate in domestic exchanges. Watch for announcements in newsletters and regular meetings. I hope each of you will want to become involved.

Sue Schoch, Exchange Leader

OUTBOUND DOMESTIC EXCHANGE TO MONTANA PLANNED

The Big Sky Montana Festival will be held August 1-9, 2007. Friendship Force of Central North Carolina was fortunate to obtain ten spaces to attend this festival as well as to participate in a homestay visit to Helena, Montana. Our members who will be traveling to Montana are June & Howard Hicks, Jane & Ralph Cauthen, Laura & Denver Lennon, Nancy & Peter Peiffer and Carol & Fred Andresen. This will be a different kind of FFI trip. Unlike a typical domestic exchange in which the itinerary is planned specifically with the visiting club in mind, this festival is an open house for all FFI chapters to see the Big Sky Country. It will provide a unique opportunity to mingle with Friendship Force club members from all over the US while seeing the sights around Great Falls. The itinerary will include visits to two state parks, a cruise down the Missouri River, visits to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and the Charles M. Russell Museum, home to the original log cabin art studio of the West's most famous artist. Saturday morning will include a visit to the Farmers' Market and their visit in Great Falls will culminate with an evening at the Montana State Fair and Rodeo. Upon their return, it will be interesting to learn how these events compare to our own Farmers' Market and the Dixie Classic Fair.

While the Festival is fully subscribed at this point, they are keeping a waiting list--and things can change between now and August 1st. If you would like to place your name on the waiting list, contact Fred Andresen at 294-0842 or fhacsa@triad.rr.com. The cost of both the festival/homestay and airfare will vary as each couple makes their individual plans. Each is, roughly, \$500-600. There is also an optional post-festival tour from August 10 – 16 that will visit Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

FRIENDSHIP FAMILY PROGRAM

International Campus Ministries of the Triad, Inc. invites you to consider our Friendship Family Program! This program typically runs from August through May, but you can begin anytime during the academic school year. International Campus Ministries of the Triad, Inc. connects local international college students with families in the Triad area where we have over 2,400 students on thirteen campuses! Several Friendship Force families in the Triad are already participating as Friendship Families for these students. Tim & Nan Prout and Marvin & Linda Scherl have been Friendship & Host families for the past four years! You are simply asked to do/plan something at least once a month with your student(s) such as a regular family activity, special or creative activity or event. Cultural and traditional family events help these international students enjoy getting to know American families. Please contact FFCNC member, Scott Freese, at 336-972-6237 or scott@icmtriad.org for more information or to apply! Or, in the Greensboro area, contact Audrey Womack, Director of the Greensboro program, at awomack2@triad.rr.com or 336-707-3299 (cell.) YOU can be an International student's American Friendship Family, and we hope that your experience will be cultural, exciting, and fun!



Going to the Little Theatre for a show; and making Nepalese Momo (dumplings) at Marvin & Linda Scherl's home over a weekend visit! Some students really enjoy cooking a meal for you!

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONF.

Needed: Host family homes for European/Eurasian students coming to Wake Forest University in July 2007 for a week and two weekends! WFU will be hosting the U.S. State Department's

annual International Youth Leadership Conference this July, right here in Winston-Salem! 80+ high school/college students, 16-19 years old, along with American students will be attending this conference from 30 European/Asian nations. International Campus Ministries has been contracted to find host family homes for these students for host family homestays. Host families may have one or two students in their home. Call Scott Freese to apply, 972-6237.

ODDS & ENDS

President's Perspective...

Getting to Know You

When the Friendship Force of Winston-Salem and Guilford County's Citizens for International Understanding joined forces to become the Central North Carolina Friendship Force club, there was some concern that one group might soon dominate the membership. In fact, now in our second year, the members of FFCNC are just about half and half! Wonderful!!

The dilemma that results, however, is how to become acquainted with each other. It is probable that some of us will get to know folks we host on either domestic or international exchanges better than we get to know half of our own club members.

It's both a dilemma and an opportunity, of course. We will need to intentionally reach out to those we don't know while we are at potlucks, dinners and picnics around our various outbound and inbound exchanges. Make an effort to sit with someone new. Introduce yourself first if you are talking to a stranger. Talk about the traditions of your former club so we can share our past.

Besides our scheduled FFCNC activities, there may be other ways to get better acquainted. Let your club leadership know if you can suggest more strategies!

Carol Andresen, President FFCNC

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2007 (Mark these on your calendar)

March 1-3	FFI 30th Anniversary and International Conference in Atlanta
March 31	Germany exchange workshop, followed by potluck dinner for all
April 27-29	Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in Asheville
May 9-24	Outbound International Exchange to Braunschweig, Germany
June 4	Membership Meeting: no-host dinner at Farmer's Market Restaurant
August 1 – 9	Big Sky Montana Festival; Great Falls, Montana
August 10 – 16	Post-Festival tour of Glacier and Yellowstone Parks
August 25	Picnic for all at Triad Park
September	Inbound International Exchange from Aichi (Nagoya) Japan
October 25	Annual Meeting: potluck dinner at Main Street UMC in Kernersville

ELECTRONIC FFI CONNECTIONS

Register for FFI's "E-Flyer" by e-mailing your name, postal address and e-mail address to ffi@friendshipforce.org. The E-Flyers contain exchange updates and are sent every couple of months.

Remember FFI's website, www.friendshipforce.org, where you will find featured exchanges, lists of all confirmed exchanges worldwide for 2007, slideshows of past exchanges and international conferences, and press releases.

Receive FFCNC communications by e-mail. If you are not already on our e-mail list, send your e-mail address to Martha Brown at brownfamily@triad.rr.com to receive newsletters, meeting minutes, invitations and other important information by e-mail.

PASS IT ON

This newsletter is e-mailed to all current members who have e-mail addresses and by U.S. mail to members who do not have e-mail addresses. Members should feel free to copy and share this information with their friends who may have an interest in FFCNC.

HELP WANTED!

Do you like to write? Are you good with clip art? Full of creative ideas? Assistance is needed with FFCNC's newsletter. If you would be interested in working on this publication, please contact Martha Brown at brownfamily@triad.rr.com or 946-0105 for more information.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA BOARD MEMBERS

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