



Friendship Force of Central North Carolina

Newsletter #5
January 2008

DESTINATION: LIMA, PERU

Our home stay in Lima promises to be the highlight and perfect introduction to Peru. The historic city center of Lima is a must-see UNESCO World Heritage Site. And we hear, via the FF grapevine, that the hospitality of the Lima club is unparalleled.

According to Betsy Chichester, past president of the FF of Southern Connecticut, their exchange to Lima in March 2007 was “absolutely wonderful! Our host families were lots of fun and couldn’t do enough for us. They are a great club.” Betsy was hosted by Lita Sanchez who will be Lima’s ED for our FFCNC group! Lita and Lundee have been in touch regularly, and we know it’s going to be a great exchange.



Paracus national Reserve

Betsy reports that their “home stay was not particularly strenuous, though they love to dance, dance, dance. Lots of Fiestas with dancing and watching their native dancers.” Other highlights she mentioned included a city bus tour, shopping at an Inca market place (“very reasonable prices,”) and a three-hour bus trip to the Paracus National Reserve. (“Well worth the extra money and time.”)

Founded in 1535 by the Spanish “Conquistador” Pizarro, Lima replaced Cuzco as the capital of Peru and soon became the richest settlement of Spain in the New World. Today Lima is a metropolis of over eight million people.

Our hosts will most certainly take us to visit the excellent Museum of Anthropology, the Gold Museum, and the catacombs of the San Francisco Church. We are sure to marvel at the Government Palace and Cathedral on the Plaza de Armas, a handsome square centered around a 17th century bronze fountain.

In addition to the historic center, we will see Lima’s most modern districts, San Isidro and Miraflores, now the main areas for business, shopping, restaurants, etc. The nearby Bohemian quarter, Barranco, is much visited, as is the Park of Lovers in Miraflores. Under the blanket of the *garua*, a mist that hovers over the city, Lima’s inhabitants meet at the *penas* (bars offering folk and Creole music) and shop in the open marketplaces. It will be our good fortune to join them!



Plaza de Armas

July 8 – 25, 2008 are the dates for this exciting exchange. If you haven’t sent in your application, don’t delay! Deposits are due by March 1 and selections for Peru ambassadors will be completed in March. How about asking some old friends to join you on this one? You may email Lundee Amos at

sarahamos@earthlink.net or call her at 336-288-2654 for more details. More information, including the application, can also be found on our website: <http://www.ffcnc.org/Exchanges.html>)



Ready to get in the mood for Peru? Try this!

EMF and City Arts Present:

Jazz Peru Internacional
Greensboro Cultural Center
January 26 at 8:00 pm

Smoldering jazz is kicked up with the intoxicating polyrhythms of coastal Perú as trumpeter and composer Gabriel Alegría continues to chart a fresh new idiom. Combining his own distinctive approach to the jazz trumpet with the rich heritage of Afro-Peruvian music, Alegría is joined by saxophonist Laurandrea Leguía, guitarist Yuri Juárez, bassist Joscha Oetz, drummer Hugo Alcázar and master percussionist Freddy "Huevito" Lobatón—who plays traditional Afro-Peruvian instruments such as cajón (box drum) and quijada (jaw bone) and adds spectacular passages of zapateo dancing.

Tickets at the Carolina Theatre Box Office 336.333.2605 or www.carolinatheatre.com

THE FIRST OPEN WORLD PROGRAM - A GREAT SUCCESS!

On Friday, November 2, 2007 our eight Russian delegates arrived in the Triad accompanied by their two Russian facilitators and two interpreters (one from New York City and one from Sanford, NC.) They were met at the airport by their home hosts: the Cauthens, Browns, Andresens, Peiffers, Kit Ravenal, Sue Schoch, and two new FFCNC families – the Richards and Summerlins. There were no planned activities until the Welcome Party Sunday evening so everyone went their own way for the weekend. Some families headed to the mountains, one to the beach; one family traveled to the Triangle, and other families remained in the Triad. By the time the group reconvened Sunday evening, hosts and guests had had ample time to get to know each other and to relax.



Sergey Ayukov & host, Rene Summerlin

The Welcome Party was a joyous event with lots of laughter. Brad Reeves and his daughter presented some North Carolina music. Our dinner was a typical American Thanksgiving dinner. The heart of the program was the introduction of the guests. A large map of Russia was provided and each delegate, placing a pin on the map to show us where he or she was from, told us something about his home city. It was very informative and many of us were surprised to learn that it is not uncommon for Russian cities to be 1000 years old!

Monday morning in Winston-Salem saw the start of the formal program on Accountable Governance that was organized by Ralph Cauthen and Martha Brown. Topics on Monday focused on county government. On Tuesday, Election Day, the group began the day in Greensboro by visiting two polling precincts and ended the day at the Guilford County Courthouse to watch the election results. Wednesday meetings continued in Greensboro and focused on city government. Thursday was spent in Chapel Hill at the University of North Carolina. After a presentation at the School of Government, the delegation toured the campus and observed students campaigning for Ron Paul for President and other students protesting in support of textile workers. The day ended with a Southern meal at Mama Dip's complete with fried green tomatoes, chicken and dumplings, butterbeans, corn bread, and banana pudding.

Friday morning was allocated to counterpart meetings. This was an opportunity to allow each delegate to meet one-on-one with American professionals with similar work or volunteer interests. Our delegates visited Replacements, Home Depot, Piedmont Triad Partnership, NC Commerce Department, Atlantic Aero, Causey Aviation, WXII, and WFMY.



Peter Peiffer & guest, Sergey Novikov

The main focus of Friday afternoon was a debriefing session conducted by Michael Hoppe, senior trainer and cross-cultural specialist at the Center for Creative Leadership. Adapting a CCL exercise model, “Visual Explorer,” delegates were invited to share what they learned about the US as a host country and, by comparison, what insights they gleaned about Russian people and their political and business systems.

The program was universally valued and enjoyed by all. Some of their learnings which pinpointed what they liked, disliked and were surprised by in the US included the following:

They were surprised to find that their host families were more open and generous than they expected. Their American hosts were kindhearted and did not host for profit, but rather contributed their own effort and money. In fact, our Russian delegates were impressed with the friendliness of all the Americans they met and commented that, “There was no caution in their eyes.”

They were also impressed with our family values and religious values. They noted that they had observed American churches to be, not only places of worship, but also a force that unites people and plays an important social and service role in American society.



Igor Komlev talks about US highways during the wrap-up session

They admired the infrastructure of the Triad communities, particularly our roads and highways. Taking a lengthy car ride was comfortable with such good roads. By comparison, one delegate who owns a car and lives 200 miles from Moscow commented that he would never drive to Moscow. It takes too long and is a difficult trip.

They also commented that one of the highlights of the trip was observing our election, and learning that anyone can run for office in America.

By comparison, they reflected that their life in Russia is much tougher, not only lacking creature comforts, but also characterized by competition instead of cooperation. They feel they must look out for their families and that no one is going to help them. There is no sense of security and there is a feeling of danger in the country that may rise at anytime. Russia is, they noted, a place of miracles, both good and bad.

The closing event at the Center for Creative Leadership cafeteria was a wonderful night. Food was good and bountiful. Certificates of Honorary Citizenship had been prepared by the mayor of Greensboro and were presented. (One delegate asked if this might help him get a visa to return in the future.) The highlight of the evening was a long series of toasts recognizing many aspects of the host families, the delegates, and the experience.

After Ralph Cauthen shared that, as a child, he had not expected to live to the year 2000, but had expected nuclear war between our two countries, Fedor Karashennikov responded that, as a child, whenever he

heard a noise in the air, he had looked up, expecting to see American missiles. Together we saluted world peace and brotherhood.

(Go to our website's photo gallery, http://www.ffcnc.org/Photo_Gallery.php, to see many more photos of the week's activities.)

REMEMBRANCES FROM AICHI EXCHANGE

The following article is reprinted from the Aichi Friendship Force Newsletter. On Saturday, September 29, 2007 while participating in our in-bound exchange, Mr. Yamada attended the International Civil Rights Museum's Black & White Ball with his host family, Leroy and Valerie Stokes.

My Delightful Stay In America

by Haruhisa Yamada

I had the most unexpectedly wonderful experience ever in America. In North Carolina, my host family, Leroy and Val, took me into their home as if I was one of their families. Their hospitality was so friendly, kind and warm. Especially when we would go out shopping or to dinner. Val took my hand and she walked cheerfully, like it was so much fun to have me. They asked me what I liked to eat and fixed delicious seafood dishes for me. I did not know that American food was so good.

The second night of my stay at their home, all of a sudden Leroy asked me, "Did you bring a tuxedo?" I replied, "Of course, not! Because, I don't own one and have never worn one." He continued, "Well, you have worn one for your wedding, haven't you?" I gradually understood that in two days there would be a big gala for black people. I thought that it would be impossible for me to fit in at such a ballroom dance party so I declined Leroy's offer to attend. I also thought how cumbersome I might be at their special occasion.



The next day at one of the group activities I met Tomoko who lives next door to the North family where the Andous stayed. I was supposed to stay with the Norths because of my host family's night out: the gala. When I tried to explain to Tomoko why I was staying with the North family on the following night, she told me, in Japanese, of course, the meaning of the gala originating from the incident with the four A & T students sixty years ago. While I was getting the idea that the party may not be just an enlivened dance party, she pressed me, saying, "Be a delegate from Japan." She thought my presence would not bother them, or better yet, that I might be able to contribute by attending. She also said it would be a lifetime experience.

I was still not sure about it because I do not dance and I have never been to a gala so I did not know how to behave at a place like that. Anyway, at last Tomoko assured me of its importance, so I told Leroy that Tomoko convinced me to attend the party with them.

Leroy gave a big smile and right away took me to a rental place. (Later, I found out they were disappointed that I initially did not want to go with them.) The rental fee for the outfit was \$150. I asked Leroy the cost of the party. He said that it was \$150, but since I had to spend money on the rental, they would treat me to the party. I already knew, however, since Tomoko had told me that the party also had a mission of fund raising. So I insisted to Leroy that I really wanted to contribute to the cause. Finally, Leroy gave in and accepted my payment. It made me feel good to be part of it.

Tomoko was right! On that night I had the most exciting and memorable party that I have ever attended. The eye-popping party was over and after we came home, Leroy, Val and I toasted for our friendship. On that night, Leroy and I took an oath of eternal brotherhood! By that time I forgot how apprehensive I was before I met Leroy and Val. I had the notion that people in the East are aloof. On top of that, poor me, I was not familiar with black folks at all. As long as I live, I will never forget the precious memories with Leroy and Val.

CANKAYA (ANKARA), TURKEY IN-BOUND UPDATE



Plans to bring 20+/- Turkish ambassadors to the Triad in October 2008 are progressing nicely. The group will spend a week with the Central Iowa club prior to their arrival in Central North Carolina on October 14, 2008. After a week's stay with us, the Turkish ambassadors want to visit Washington, DC and New York City briefly before returning home. They are planning their post-exchange trip with Weezie Glascock of Adventures & Cultures Travel, Inc. in Greensboro. Cankaya ED, Aysen Ozkaynak, has been in frequent contact with us by e-mail.

Laura Lennon, Exchanges Chair, is seeking a volunteer to serve as our Exchange Director for this visit. We asked Sue Schoch and Paul Meis, who have both served as ED's for in-bound exchanges, to tell us what this experience is like. This is what they had to say:

Take one part of enthusiasm and energy, one part of communication skills, one part of organizational skills, and add in a little bit of time. This is what you need to be a successful exchange director.

An exchange director needs to have a deep commitment to the goals of Friendship Force. Excitement about the opportunity to provide and share intercultural experiences helps to generate enthusiasm among club members and provides the extra energy an exchange director will need.

It does take a lot of time to plan and address a myriad of details, but if you are a good organizer, have strong communication skills and a knack for working with people, you will make an excellent exchange director. The key to the job is recruiting a good committee, and our club has many qualified, experienced members from whom to choose. Also, there are resource materials available to guide you in your planning and committee building. Being an exchange director can be a challenge, but we have found past FF leaders and members more than willing to give their help and support.

There are rewards also. You will meet many nice people. Sometimes an in-bound exchange results in a later out-bound exchange and the opportunity to continue the friendships begun hosting our guests. But our foreign visitors are not the only new acquaintances you will make; you will also meet new and interesting people from our own community. In addition to the friendships you will make, you will also be amazed by what you will learn about the Triad and North Carolina. In our recent experiences as exchange directors, we learned of new event venues in the Triad and great places to visit in both counties.

If you have not yet served on an in-bound exchange committee, we encourage you to consider doing this in 2008. We know that you will be glad you did.

Sue Schoch and Paul Meis

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Laura Lennon at 282-5855 or e-mail her at pharmastat@mindspring.com.

ODDS & ENDS

President's Perspective...

I would like to talk briefly about Friendship Force. Often the question comes back, "What's that?" When I describe it as an international organization for world peace, people get very interested.

Our purpose goes beyond good travel, but good travel is the way of getting to our purpose. Interesting trips and hosting are the means of building friendships and peace. For example, though I have not been there, I have a special appreciation for the people and customs of Fiji from hearing Kit Ravenel describe her experiences of being hosted there.

As I lead our club in 2008 my main question for you is how adventurous or safe do you want or need to be in this process of creating world peace, one friendship at a time. Please give me your feedback on this.

Also, we cannot start 2008 without recognizing the significant contributions of Howard Hicks and Carol Bryan. They are rotating off the Board, and their input will be missed. Other members have accepted new responsibilities, and Barbara North is joining our Board as Secretary. (See below for a complete list of our Board members.)

It will be a good year.

Ralph Cauthen, President FFCNC

Letter from George Brown, President of FFI, to FFCNC...

Thank you for the generous contribution of \$550 from the FF of Central NC to the Legacy fund in honor of Donna Lambeth. We are delighted to add your gift to the others that we are receiving and especially to record it as honoring one of our strongest and most dedicated leaders.

Donna is one of the few leaders we have today whose commitment and service to FFI span almost the entire history of our organization. I have been particularly grateful to her for the leadership she is providing on our international Board of Directors. I am looking forward to her year as Board Chair in 2008.

Please express my gratitude to all your members for this donation. Because of the Legacy fund we have been able to move forward with development of new clubs and adding new programs enabling us to extend the global reach of friendship. During 2008 we will have a particular emphasis on teacher exchanges, and your gift will help make that a reality.

In Friendship,
George T. Brown, Jr.
President FFI



Sharing meals in ethnic restaurants is an activity many FF clubs enjoy. Building on our fun last spring at the Kabuto dinner coordinated by Patti Gilmour, we'd like to plan meals in Winston-Salem and Greensboro/High Point on a rotating basis. We need two volunteers – one from each side of the Triad – to chair this activity. It's pretty straightforward: pick a restaurant and a night, ask Martha to e-mail the membership, take reservations—and enjoy! Please let Ralph Cauthen know if you could do this!!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2008 - 2009 (Mark these on your calendar)

Feb. 19, 2008	LEO (Let's Eat Out) – location and time to be decided
March 1, 2008	World Friendship Day
May 17, 2008	Cultural Workshop for Peru out-bound
July 8 – 25, 2008	Out-bound exchange to Lima, Peru
Oct. 14 – 21, 2008	In-bound exchange from Cankaya, Turkey (tentative dates)
April 2009	In-bound from combined Montana FF clubs
October 2009	Out-bound exchange to Aichi (tentative)

ELECTRONIC FFI CONNECTIONS

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

The official website of Friendship Force International is www.thefriendshipforce.org. Here you will find featured exchanges, lists of all confirmed exchanges worldwide for 2008, slideshows of past exchanges and international conferences, and press releases.

Also, check out our own website. Yes, Friendship Force of Central North Carolina has a website now: www.ffcnc.org. On our website you will find photos from recent exchanges, a calendar of our upcoming events, past newsletters and meeting minutes, and more. Please have a look and be sure to bookmark it for future reference.

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.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA BOARD MEMBERS

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