



FFCNC Fast Facts

April 2008

Monthly Update Between Newsletters

While we'll continue compiling several lengthy newsletters each year – tied to our big events, with lots of pictures and graphics – we will supplement these with brief monthly updates in between. This is the first one!

As much as possible, we will consolidate FFCNC messages into this one monthly mailing. Deadline for submissions will be the 5th of each month...for transmission on the 10th. Please keep this in mind when you have something to share with our membership.

Something New: FFCNC Day Trip Planned for May 20th

All aboard for Virginia...and three interesting bus stops: the Booker T. Washington National Monument, a lunch cruise on Smith Mountain Lake's "Virginia Dare" side wheeler, and the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford. It'll be a great day to socialize with FFCNC friends and explore these nearby historical sites together!

Open exclusively to FFCNC members and their friends – maximum 40 people.

You should have received a detailed description of the day by e-mail...the cost is \$90/person. **Your reservation and check payable to "Holiday Tours" are due APRIL 20th.** Please mail to Polly Caudle, 2797 Harper Road, Clemmons, NC 27012. Call Polly at 336-766-6836 with questions or e-mail her at pcaudle@bellsouth.net.

Minutes of the FFCNC 3/20/08 Board Meeting – Attached

2008 Membership Directory – Attached

July 2008 Outbound Exchange to Lima, Peru

13 ambassadors have been accepted by ED Lundee Amos. Other FFI clubs who have been hosted in Lima assure us that our group will have a wonderful home stay experience there. Everyone is looking forward to the second week's guided tour to Cusco and Macchu Pichu—and many will continue on the extension at Lake Titicaca. Cultural workshop for the group will be May 17th. Stay tuned for details of a membership "welcome home" party when they return the end of July.

NB: Guilford County teachers should check with Ruth Jackson (336-674-2745 or jimruthj@triad.rr.com) about continuing ed credit and tax deductions for this kind of summer travel.

JUNE 5th – Next LEO at Taste of Thai in Greensboro

Mark your calendar now and plan to join our upcoming "Let's Eat Out" ethnic restaurant dinner at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 5th at Taste of Thai, 1500 Mill Street, Greensboro 27408**

(tel # 336-273-1318) There will be a cash bar and time for everyone to mingle before dinner at 7:15. We will be seated in a private room at tables for 6, and the meal will be served family style. The board has selected three dishes, all of which will be served at each table. Cost of the meal will be \$12.50.

Reservations must be made with Patti Gilmour (336-852-6037 or donald.sylvester@att.net) **by May 2nd**. More details and directions will be in next month's Fast Facts update.

October 2008 Inbound Exchange from Cankaya, Turkey

FFCNC will be hosting 12 ambassadors October 8—13 from this suburb of Ankara. Four of them are a couple plus their two sons (13 and 14)...and four are single (married and unmarried) women in their 40s. They are younger than our typical group!

We still need an ED for this exchange though Laura Lennon, Exchanges VP, reports that volunteers have filled several committee roles. Please let Laura (336-282-5855 or pharmastat@mindspring.com) know how you could help. Pressing need right now is for hosts—so that the ambassadors' visa applications can be completed. Please call Laura ASAP if you even think you'd be able to host!!

World Friendship Day

FFCNC recognized World Friendship Day by hosting an afternoon reception March 2nd for a diplomatic delegation of ten government officials from the Central Highlands of Vietnam. They were visiting our community to study ethnic and religious minority issues, particularly in relation to the Asian immigrants living here.

The reception, held at the home of FFCNC President Ralph Cauthen, was well attended by club members. Some local Montagnards protested the delegation's visit, staging two peaceful nonviolent protests outside the delegation's hotel.

Since the visit, Ralph reports that some interesting things have happened:

- Montagnard leaders have met with political leaders of the city.
- The city Human Relations Council is moving toward establishing an International Advisory group.
- Discussions with Friendship Force International are focused on the possibility of putting the Vietnam Central Highlands on the itinerary of exchange groups, in response to the delegation's invitation.
- A state department official has written to Ralph: *Without question, problems remain, but the more the Highlands are open to outsiders, the more we can identify any concerns and raise them with the authorities.*
- The reception was the first example of cooperation between the Friendship Force and the Piedmont Triad Council for International Visitors which arranges for US State Department International Visitors Program guests. Other chapters around the country are also exploring such cooperation.

FFCNC Speakers' Bureau Announced

Local media were sent press releases offering a 30-minute Friendship Force program to area civic clubs, churches and other groups. The program will utilize our 7-minute DVD from FFI plus vignettes of exchange experiences and a Q&A segment. Carol Andresen will respond to requests initially. Please consider recommending this program to groups you participate in...and give Carol (336-294-0842 or speakers@ffcnc.org) contact information for follow up.

Profile on Immigrants

The Bicentennial Series, "It's All About Greensboro," is presenting the program "Profile on Immigrants" at 7 PM on April 17 at the Greensboro Central Library. Raleigh Bailey, Director Emeritus of the Center for New North Carolinians at UNCG, is the main presenter. Focusing on the present, he will speak about the influx of immigrants and refugees into this area and why there is such great diversity. He will also discuss the status of immigration policy and the assistance immigrants receive.