



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Fast Facts ~ December 2008

LEO on January 9th

Celebrate the New Year with FFCNC friends at our next LEO (Let's Eat Out) on **Friday, January 9th, at 6:30 p.m. at the High Point Country Club!** The buffet menu is:

- Chicken with boursin cream sauce
- Sliced herb roast pork
- Sour cream and chive mashed potatoes
- Honey glazed carrots
- Green beans almondine
- House salad bowl with assorted dressings
- Assorted desserts
- Coffee and Tea
- Cheese Biscuits/Sister rolls

Cost is \$18.25 per person and includes tax and gratuity. Please send your check—made out to High Point Country Club—to Ann Fulton, 1403 Heathcliff Road, High Point, NC, 27262, **by Monday, January 5th**. Your check confirms your reservation. A cash bar will be available with liquors, wine and beer.

In addition to fellowship with FFCNC members, a Nepalese dance presentation is planned.

The High Point Country Club is at 800 Country Club Drive (336-889-0818.)

Directions: From Winston-Salem, take I-40 east to exit 196 - NC311 to High Point. Go 9.8 miles to exit 25 – North Main Street (Business 311.) Go south 1.9 miles to Westchester Drive (NC68) and turn right. Go 1.6 miles and turn left onto Country Club Drive. From Greensboro, go south on Eastchester Drive (NC68) from its intersection with Wendover Avenue. Go 6.4 miles (Eastchester will change to Westchester after Main Street) and turn left on Country Club Drive.

Mid Atlantic Region News

Karen Smith, our FFI regional field representative, reports that FFI staff plan to work closely with club exchange directors in 2009 to identify and give early assistance to any exchanges that are experiencing difficulty. If 2009 is a slow exchange year, FFI may focus more on domestic exchanges and club programming technical assistance in 2010. In planning for 2010, exchange assistance will be provided to smaller clubs to boost their success.

The 2010 International FFI Conference will be held in Washington, DC, in October. The Mid Atlantic region clubs (including FFCNC) will have an opportunity to home host international guests after the conference.

FFI President George Brown will speak at the Mid Atlantic Conference April 3-5, 2009, in New Jersey. His presentation will be focused on "Building Bridges to the Next Generation."

US visa requirements have been dropped for citizens of South Korea, Hungary, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovak Republic, United Kingdom, France and Japan who wish to visit the US.

Among club "tidbits", Karen reports that the Friendship Force of Greater Harrisburg—our partner for the Aichi outbound exchange in November 2009—has scheduled a January saki and sushi planning meeting for World Friendship Day committee members. The committee is developing a March 1st afternoon "All Things Japanese" drop in party. This membership development activity will feature an itinerary rollout for the Aichi exchange.

FFI Mid Atlantic Regional Conference: "EBB and FLOW"

The 2009 conference for clubs in our region is **April 3-5 in Long Beach Island, NJ**. The 3-day/2-night conference will be held at Engleside Inn in Beach Haven (www.engleside.com). There will be a pre-conference visit to Atlantic City available as well as post-conference 3-night homestays in the Delaware Valley.

Conference **registration fee is \$108** per person, which includes workshops, conference sessions, snacks, tours, entertainment and meals (2 dinners and 2 lunches.) Rooms must be reserved by calling Engleside Inn at 609-492-1251. They range from \$110 per room (1-4 persons, includes taxes and continental breakfast) per night to \$133 (beach front rooms plus 15% tax.) The homestay fee is \$25.

There are currently 6 FFCNC members planning to attend. These regional conferences are very accessible and, with FFI President George Brown and other national staff in attendance, a great opportunity to plug in and learn more about our organization. The Jersey Shore is a beautiful area...and the prices are certainly reasonable. The chance to mix and mingle with folks from other clubs—and trade good ideas—is priceless.

Please consider making this trip—think of it as a domestic exchange on steroids! Let Peter Peiffer know of your interest asap!!

Trip to Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre: Saturday, February 28th

Visit with FFCNC friends on a bus trip to see "Smoke on the Mountain" at this state-of-the-art German-themed dinner theatre nestled in the mountains of southwest Virginia. We join Polly Caudle, member and Holiday Tours guide, for a day of fellowship, good food and entertainment!

Cost is **\$95.00 per person** and includes round trip motorcoach, lunch and show. Please mail reservations to Polly Caudle, 2797 Harper Road, Clemmons, NC 27012 as soon as possible. The bus fills up quickly. Make check out to Holiday Tours.

There will be a pick up in Greensboro at 9:30 a.m. and in Winston-Salem at 10:00. We will return at approximately 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. respectively. For additional information contact Polly at pcaudle@bellsouth.net.

Domestic Inbound Exchange with Harrisburg, PA

We're expecting company! Members of the Harrisburg club will journey to the Triad in May—to get acquainted with FFCNC members prior to our joint international outbound exchange to Aichi (Nagoya) Japan in November! The dates have not been finalized...stay tuned.

Plan now to host, especially if you're on the list to travel to Aichi, and let ED Carol Andresen (candresen@triad.rr.com or 294-0842) know of your interest.

We expect to hold a membership meeting—featuring a program on “Japan Today”—while our Harrisburg visitors are here.

Travel Tips

Are you planning to travel independently to an unfamiliar location? In addition to reading up on your destination and Googling the area...wouldn't you like to connect with others who've been there?

It occurs that FFCNC might be able to help! If you are going, say, to Timbuktu...let your newsletter editors know—and we will query the membership to see if someone has first-hand experience that would be helpful.

It makes sense to share what we know. Our members travel frequently and widely—and over a number of years. It's probable that several people can fill you in on info and tips before you take off to faraway places!

Meet Jane & Arnold Sporleder

Jane and Arnold's affiliation with our group dates back to 1990 when Jane twisted Arnold's arm and convinced him to travel to Norway. Prior to the trip, Arnold was wary of the homestay concept. He couldn't understand why someone would want to stay in a stranger's home and his host was young enough to be his son. What would they have in common? But after a week with a wonderful Norwegian family, he was sold on the idea. Outbound exchanges to Switzerland and Denmark followed later in the '90's and the Sporleders have since hosted guests from Germany and Mexico. As the years passed on and new international friendships were made, the Sporleders maintained their ties with their first exchange hosts. Their Norwegian friends have twice visited the Sporleders at their home in Kernersville and the Sporleders have returned to visit them in their small community of northern Norway where the Sporleders spent ten days one summer never seeing the sun set!

In addition to their international travel with Friendship Force, Jane and Arnold traveled throughout the Western US numerous times with a small group of friends and Arnold's work took him to various US destinations and Puerto Rico.

Fifteen years ago Jane retired from her work as a librarian at Oak Ridge Academy and eleven years ago Arnold retired from his work at Blue Bell/Wrangler/VF as a diesel mechanic. They have two daughters, one living in Bowie, Maryland and the other living in Blacksburg, Virginia, and two grandchildren. Jane and Arnold are not able to travel as much these days, but enjoy various pastimes such as gardening, reading, and bowling. Arnold's watchful eye and attention to detail have served FFCNC well as he, our Treasurer, has managed the club's finances with great care.

Meet Linda & Marvin Scherl

Friendship Force members since 1992, the Scherls have been the keepers of our club's membership records since 1999. Marvin has been on exchanges to Thailand, Australia and Japan and Linda to New Zealand, Mexico and England. Linda also visited Japan and Australia, staying with Friendship Force members. Together they have hosted visitors (Friendship Force, students and others) from 27 countries.

Marvin was raised in New York and Linda in Brazil. In the early 1970's they spent 3 ½ years living in a motor home and traveling throughout the US, Canada, Mexico and Alaska. They settled in Germanton in 1975. Marvin was a computer programmer and Linda was a nurse (she helped start Hospice in Winston-Salem – the first in North Carolina) and computer programmer.

The Scherls are very involved with international students, mainly the sixty Nepalese students at Salem College. Now that they no longer have dogs they are excited about their first trip together in 25 years – Friendship Force's Discover Mongolia exchange next summer, which will be combined with a private side trip to Kathmandu, Nepal.

And a final reminder from Marvin.....

If you have not already turned in your 2009 membership dues, please do so now. Annual dues are \$25 for a single membership and \$30 for a family membership. Please write your check payable to FFCNC and mail it to Marvin Scherl, Membership Chair; 6740 S. Germanton Rd.; Germanton, NC 27019.

