



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Fast Facts ~ January 2009

Message From Ralph Cauthen, Outgoing President

This is the time of year to ring out the old and ring in the new. I extend good wishes and an offer of support to PETER PEIFFER as he takes up the tasks of leadership for 2009. The only other thing left for me to do as your '08 president is to let all the members know what great commitment and leadership we have on the Board and through so many helpful members. A very sincere THANKS to each of you for all that you have done in '08.

PATTI GILMOUR, PAM KAHL, and ANN FULTON have set up our Let's Eat Out (LEO) dinners. LUNDEE AMOS spent countless hours coordinating the July exchange to Peru, and JIM NORTH and RUTH JACKSON arranged the incoming exchange from Turkey. LAURA LENNON has recruited and supported our ED's. CAROL ANDRESEN has accomplished some effective publicity, resulting in increased membership interests. JUDY GREENE coordinated the annual meeting dinner.

BARBARA NORTH has maintained clear and thorough minutes of club activities. (Check them out at the web site, www.ffcnc.org) MARTHA BROWN has maintained and upgraded a beautiful web site. MARVIN SCHERL and ARNOLD SPORLEDER have kept our membership and financial records straight.

And, magna cum gratias, FRED ANDRESEN, has led the efforts that have raised our membership from 53 families in January '07 to a current roster of 75 families!

You are a great group, and it has been a pleasure to serve as your president in '08. Let us continue to work for a world of friendships so that it can be a world of peace.

Sincerely, Ralph Cauthen

Message From Peter Peiffer, Incoming President

The year starts in good shape because of the fine work of Ralph Cauthen and other very strong board members. We have a number of programs planned for the year, and there may be some opportunities that come along during the year for us to take advantage of. We have the successful LEO's (Lets Eat Out), a theater trip planned in late February, an

inbound from Harrisburg, PA in May and our big outbound trip to Aichi, Japan in November in the planning stages. We enjoy these programs very much, but I remind myself that Friendship Force is more than a travel/social club. "A World of Friends is a World at Peace" is the motto and, through the small acts and contacts we make, I truly believe in this focus. That does not mean we don't have fun at the same time...so let us all have a good year, make friends around the world and enjoy the time, and "Make Peace."

REMINDER: Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre Trip: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28th

There are still seats on the bus! At last count 13 members will be traveling together to enjoy lunch and a matinee performance of "Smoke on the Mountain". Please mail your check right away (for \$95 made out to Holiday Tours) to Polly Caudle, 2797 Harper Road, Clemmons, NC 27012 if you are interested in this outing!

The Greensboro pick up will be at 9:30 a.m. and Winston-Salem at 10:00. The bus will drop folks off at 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. respectively. For additional information contact Polly at pcaudle@bellsouth.net.

REMINDER: Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference: APRIL 3-5, 2009

Engleside Inn on Long Beach Island, New Jersey, is the oceanfront venue for our region's biennial conference. Hosted by FFSNJ (SNJ=Southern New Jersey) the 3-day/2-night conference, "EBB AND FLOW", will be the perfect setting for workshops, dining, entertainment, beach walks, fishing industry tours, lighthouse climbing and forging new friendships!

An optional pre-conference stay in Atlantic City (boardwalk strolls, shopping, casinos) can be arranged as well as post-conference three-day homestays in the Delaware Valley (tours of Philadelphia, museums, gardens—and typical FFSNJ hospitality!)

Join our club's delegation (at least six people are planning to attend)! Contact Peter Peiffer (336-288-0014 or peiffer@aol.com) if you are interested. Registration and reservation information are detailed in your December "Fast Facts".

Travel with Friendship Force to Croatia in May 2009

Join the Friendship Force Discovery Trip to Croatia. The trip dates are May 8—16. We are meeting in Zagreb, Croatia. The local club there is inviting us into their homes for dinners and is hosting a reception and cultural event. Although the trip does not include home hosting, it will be a lot of fun and is an excellent opportunity to visit an interesting and beautiful part of the world. I have been to almost all the sites that are included on the trip and am excited about going back. I have set up a blog with details about the trip at www.friendshipforcecroatia2009.wordpress.com. I invite anyone who is interested in the trip to email me at friendshipforce.croatia2009@yahoo.com.

Thanks, *Claire Gesalman* (Washington, DC)

Harrisburg Inbound Domestic Exchange: May 11 to 15, 2009

Harrisburg ED Karen Smith (also our FFI regional rep) reports that 17 ambassadors from Pennsylvania will visit FFCNC during May to get acquainted before our joint outbound international exchange to Aichi in November! Our ED Carol Andresen is forming a committee to plan the details for this exchange: don't wait to be called, volunteer now to help with hosting, events, souvenirs, etc. Contact Carol (336-294-0842 or candresen@triad.rr.com) to let her know of your interest!

We expect the group will consist of 5 couples, 6 single women and 1 single man. Those members planning to travel to Aichi are especially asked to host...since a premise of the exchange is that friendships made will enhance our experience in Japan next fall.

The Harrisburg ambassadors will arrive in cars Monday evening, May 11th. We plan a membership-wide welcome party on Tuesday, May 12th, at Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville, which will feature a potluck supper and program on contemporary Japanese culture. A Grasshoppers baseball game has been tentatively selected as the farewell party venue on Thursday, May 14th and, again, all FFCNC members are invited to join in. The ambassadors will depart Friday morning, May 15th.

If you have neighbors or friends who have lived in the "Pennsylvania Dutch" country, ask them now to help host this group. We will have fun discovering commonalities as well as unique aspects of our respective communities.

2009 FFCNC Board Members

Many thanks to the following FFCNC board members for agreeing to serve in these roles. Without their contributions it would not be possible to organize our exchanges, LEO's, and other activities.

President	Peter Peiffer
Vice-President & Member Development	Fred Andresen
Secretary	Barbara North
Treasurer	Arnold Sporleder
Membership Records	Marvin & Linda Scherl
President Elect	Marcia Meis
Activities Chair & Past President	Ralph Cauthen
Communications Chair	Martha Brown
Publicity Chair	Carol Andresen
Exchanges	
Inbound Harrisburg	Carol Andresen
Outbound Aichi	TBD
Past Exchanges	
Outbound Peru	Lundee Amos
Inbound Turkey	Jim North & Ruth Jackson