



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Fast Facts ~ February 2009

### Language Learners In-Bound Exchange from Germany

Friendship Force International recently approached FFCNC with a request to host a Language Learners Exchange from Germany in September 2009 and the Board approved. Ten to fifteen ambassadors are expected to sign up for the exchange, which is being promoted at an all Germany Friendship Force conference. These ambassadors will spend their first week in NC, then travel on to Florida for a second week of the exchange. Dates are yet to be determined, but their visit to NC will probably be around September 21-25. A typical Language Learners Exchange entails an English as a Second Language (ESL) class, usually for half a day, and the remainder of the day is available for normal hosting and programming activities. Ralph Cauthen has agreed to serve as our Exchange Director. He is currently forming an Exchange Committee and wants to involve as many members as possible as we plan to welcome our German Language Learners. Please contact him if you would like to help with this exchange. ([rbcauthen@aol.com](mailto:rbcauthen@aol.com) 299-2089)

### Get On the Bus! Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre Trip February 28<sup>th</sup>

Fifteen FFCNC members have signed up for lunch and the matinee performance of "Smoke on the Mountain" in Wytheville, VA. There may still be room on the bus...so if you have an interest in this trip, call Holiday Tours (1-800-733-9011) right away to join Polly Caudle's tour on February 28th!

The FFCNC contingent includes Lundee Amos, Fred and Carol Andresen, Danny Crump, Howard and June Hicks, Jim and Barbara North, Peter and Nancy Peiffer, Miles Robinson, Sue Schoch, Arnold and Jane Sporleder, and Kit Ravenel.

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. Fred Andresen will be emailing exact directions—Polly is in Mexico most of this month.

### FFCNC's Financial Health

In this time of fiscal uncertainty, please be assured that our club is in excellent financial condition! We maintain three accounts. Our operating funds are in two accounts—checking (\$3,500) and short term CD (\$4,800)—at Sun Trust in Kernersville. Treasurer Arnold Sporleder uses the checking account for day-to-day expenses and receipts. The combined total of \$8,300 represents the remainder of funds brought to the merger in January 2006 by GCCIU (Guilford

County Citizens for International Understanding) and the Friendship Force of Winston-Salem. \$8,300 is 75% of what the combined funds totaled at merger. We have used about 25% of these funds over three years.

Our third account is an endowment with the Winston-Salem Community Foundation, a legacy from the Friendship Force of Winston-Salem. Its value at the end of January, 2009 was \$11,992. Because the value is tied in part to financial markets, it declined in 2008. The board has not utilized any funds from this account since the merger, keeping it entirely in reserve.

### **Harrisburg Inbound Exchange: May 11—15**

Plans are moving forward to host as many as 17 ambassadors from Harrisburg, PA. Serving on the committee with ED Carol Andresen are Fred Andresen, Carol Bryan, Ralph Cauthen, Judy Greene, Margaret Griffin, Helen Lowry, Joyce Moser, Jim North, Nancy Sherrill, and Valerie Stokes.

In addition to needing up to nine host families, we would like to encourage members to "day host" Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of that week. As our guests are American this time, there will be no language issues...and it will be interesting to compare and contrast the Triad with Harrisburg environs. We are also hoping that several members will host a "small group shared dinner" on Wednesday evening—to spread the camaraderie around. Please let Carol (336-294-0842 or [candresen@triad.rr.com](mailto:candresen@triad.rr.com)) know if you would like to participate in either of these ways.

The Harrisburg ambassadors will arrive via car Monday evening, May 11<sup>th</sup>. We plan a membership-wide welcome party on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 selected as the farewell party venue on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and, again, all FFCNC members are invited to join in. Cost of the game ticket and picnic buffet will be \$20.50. The ambassadors will depart Friday morning, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Understanding the Pakistan/Afghanistan Region: Winning the War on Terror**

As a result of our partnership with the Piedmont Triad Council for International Visitors we have received the following invitation:

On February 17, Former Chief Minister of Pakistan, Dr. Nasim Ashraf, will give a lecture titled "Understanding the Pakistan/Afghanistan Region: Winning the War on Terror." The evening will begin with a reception at 6, followed by the presentation at 6:30 p.m., and concluding with a brief question and answer session.

Dr. Ashraf's lecture will focus on the history of Afghanistan and its importance, understanding the culture and traditions of the Pashtun people. and the role of Pakistan in the war on terror.

Dr. Ashraf is a community activist and has been involved in human development issues for over 30 years. He is an internationally recognized social worker, who has promoted the cause of the poor worldwide and actively initiated and implemented projects to improve their quality of life.

The lecture will be held at the O. Henry Hotel, 624 Green Valley Road, Greensboro. Reservations for the presentation are \$15 for members of the Triad World Affairs Council and \$25 for nonmembers. For more information or to reserve seating, contact Claudia Davis at 336-

272-7102, ext. 221. This lecture is hosted by Greensboro College and the Triad World Affairs Council.

### **LEO at Zaytoon Also Celebration of World Friendship Day**

Next in our popular “let’s eat out” (LEO) series will be dinner on **Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** at the Mediterranean café, Zaytoon, located inside the US Trust Center at the corner of Elm and Bellemeade Streets in Greensboro.

Appetizers and drinks will be served at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:00. Cost is \$16.00 per person. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> with Patti Gilmour (336-852-6037 or [gilmsyl@triad.rr.com](mailto:gilmsyl@triad.rr.com)) Please indicate if you are vegetarian.

Menu: Appetizers: hummus and pita, stuffed peppers, stuffed grape leaves  
Entrée: mousaka (eggplant, tomatoes, onions, cheese), chicken kebab—both served with mojadara (rice and lentil pilaf)  
Drinks: sodas, lemonade, iced tea, hot sage tea, coffee (no alcoholic beverages)  
Dessert: two kinds of homemade baklava

Bring an international friend with you to enjoy dinner and sharing!

### **From the President’s Very Messy Desk**

FFCNC has just had a fast start for the New Year. We had a very successful Let’s Eat out (LEO) at the High Point Country Club with a group of Nepalese ladies from Salem College who entertained us with a presentation on their culture. Well done and thank you to Marvin & Linda Scherl for arranging their visit.

Our next event is the daytrip to Wytheville, VA and the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre. I am told that over 20 people have signed up for the trip on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. Fred Andresen is putting that one together.

Next, Patty Gilmore has arranged a LEO on Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup> at Zaytoon’s in downtown Greensboro.

We have an inbound from Harrisburg, PA May 11-15 and we have just added a Language Learners inbound exchange from Germany for September. Ralph Cauthen is the Exchange Director for that one and I am sure that we will be hearing much more about that one as the year goes on.

We will have several more events later in the year, but the big one is the outbound exchange to Aichi, Japan in November. We are doing that in conjunction with the Harrisburg, Pa. Club.

This all looks like another great year planned for FFCNC. If you are not participating, then we encourage you to get involved. You will have fun and make friends all over the world. Remember, “A World of Friends is a World at Peace”.

Peter Peiffer  
*In Friendship*