



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Fast Facts ~ April 2009

### Look Who's Coming to Visit: Harrisburg Inbound Exchange May 11—15

Eleven ambassadors from Pennsylvania will arrive in the Triad on Monday, May 11, late in the afternoon:

**Joan & Barry Decker** – are retired teachers. He's a photojournalist and sportswriter who enjoys biking and sci-fi classics such as Star Trek. She's a member of the Red Hat Society and likes museums, flea markets, hiking and camping, and cooking. Their 23 foot RV needs to find a parking place while they're here! (Joan will surely need to meet OUR Joan Decker!)

**Jean & Hank Johnson** – he's a retired attorney who enjoys golf and history. She likes gardening and bridge. They hosted Michiko Hibino and Sawako Usami during the 2007 Aichi inbound exchange.

**Connie & John Kuntz** – are retired, and he likes motorcycling, bowling and reading. She enjoys golf, reading and walking. John is the current Harrisburg club president.

**Denis Meany** – is a retired Long Island Railroad conductor whose hobbies are cars, history and model trains. He hosted Tadao Omura from Aichi in 2007.

**Dorie Owens & Doris Polites** – are retired elementary school teachers who will be hosted together. Dorie enjoys gardening, bridge and theater; Doris likes to swim, read and explore civil war history.

**Karen & Chris Smith** – are still employed, he as a government accountant and she as a government planner. He enjoys Steven King novels, cooking, marathon prep, and Turks & Caicos. Her hobbies are aerobics, genealogy, and videography. Karen is also our FFI Mid-Atlantic Regional Rep...and the Harrisburg ED for this exchange.

Ralph Cauthen is completing hosting matches now...so, if you would like to host any of our guests, please speak to him **by Monday or Tuesday (April 13 or 14)** (336-299-2089 or [rbcauthen@aol.com](mailto:rbcauthen@aol.com)).

We will both meet and say farewell to our Harrisburg friends at the Triad Farmers Market. Activities will be centered in Winston-Salem on Tuesday and in Greensboro on Thursday. Wednesday will feature several "choice" activities. All FFCNC members are encouraged to

attend the potluck dinner on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> (see following)...and the Grasshoppers baseball game in Greensboro on Thursday at 5:30 (tickets are \$7.50.) You are also invited to the farewell breakfast party (\$7.50) on Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 at Moose Café at the Triad Farmers Market. If you are available to day host or would like to join the group at any of these times, please contact Carol Andresen, ED (336-294-0842 or [candresen@triad.rr.com](mailto:candresen@triad.rr.com)).

PS – we are seeking more NC items for “goodie bags” to give our guests...such as sample products, bookmarks, pins/buttons, local coupons, etc. Your help is needed!

### **FFCNC All-Club Meeting May 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Friendship Force of Central North Carolina will meet in the fellowship hall of Main Street UMC in Kernersville at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. Visiting ambassadors from Harrisburg, PA. will join us for a potluck dinner and to hear Kent Greer speak about contemporary Japan.

Kent is Assistant Director for International Students and Scholars at Wake Forest University. He maintains specific responsibility for Japan, having lived there for a number of years. Kent and his wife travel annually to Japan to visit her family. His address will cover changing social dynamics, issues with the economy, and Japan’s new approaches to national security.

Bring your best dish to share...and enjoy the fellowship! Let Fred Andresen (336-294-0842 or [fandresen@triad.rr.com](mailto:fandresen@triad.rr.com)) know that you will be there!!

### **Applications Due for Japanese Outbound Exchange: November 8—21, 2009**

Fly from Greensboro to Washington, DC...and continue to Tokyo, Japan. Fly to Nagoya, where we will meet our hosts for the six-night homestay. On November 15<sup>th</sup>, depart Nagoya for a six-night extension—including Kyoto, Hakone and Tokyo. Fly to Greensboro from Tokyo via Washington, DC.

Cost is hovering around \$4,000—the more who fly, the less each pays! There is a single supplement and optional breakfasts on the extension. The Harrisburg club is also sending members to this reciprocal exchange with our 2007 guests from Aichi.

12 people have applied to date. For more information, contact our ED:

Peter Peiffer (Nancy)  
3502 Spicebush Trail  
Greensboro, NC 27410

[peiffer@aol.com](mailto:peiffer@aol.com)  
336-288-0014

### **Meet the Kahls**

Pam and Fred Kahl have called Winston-Salem home for thirty-four years and raised three daughters here while Fred practiced cardiology and taught at the Wake Forest University Medical Center.

Their involvement with Friendship Force dates to the club’s earliest days. A neighbor of the Kahls’ was participating in the first “mystery exchange.” At that time, while a group of FFI members traveled to a mystery destination for a home stay experience, a group of visitors from the same city traveled here to be home hosted at the exact same time. Pam’s neighbor was searching for a Winston-Salem family willing to host and knew that, if anyone would be willing, it

would be the Kahls. Pam agreed, expecting to host a middle-aged woman...and then learned she was hosting two teenage brothers from Peine, Germany. It was great fun for the family, and they soon found themselves traveling with FFI to most of the seven continents.

The surprise of this FFI exchange experience was just the first of many. In 1985 they planned to take the entire family (their daughters were then 7, 11, & 17 years old) to Colombia—thinking it would be a good experience and way for the girls to improve their Spanish. Just days before their departure, the State Department issued a warning that US citizens should not travel to Colombia – and the destination was quickly changed to Brazil. Nonetheless, they set off for South America not knowing with whom they would be hosted and wondering who would be willing to open their home to a family with three young daughters. To their surprise they learned that Brazilians love children and the Brazilian FFI members fought over who would have the good fortune to host the Kahl family. Pam attributes this trip, as well as their other journeys, with instilling in their children a love of travel.

And the FFI surprises continued. Fred was asked to join an exchange of eighty FFI members to China in 1983. They were warned that medical assistance would be limited in China and, indeed, Fred's services were put to use by virtually every member of the group as the food they ate sometimes resulted in intestinal maladies and air pollution resulted in respiratory illnesses. Another surprise came in 1997 when the Kahls planned to travel to Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Two days prior to their departure, the Exchange Director was hospitalized and the Kahls quickly stepped in and filled her shoes as EDs.

Pam often leads FFCNC tours of Old Salem when we host in-bound exchanges...and you may wonder how this came to be. Pam worked at Old Salem for fifteen years leading an "experience tour" for schoolchildren on field trips. Her specialty on these tours was teaching fireplace cooking! Retired now while Fred continues to work, Pam has many volunteer activities that keep her busy, among them tutoring an adult reader through the Literacy Initiative, guiding tours at Reynolda House, and volunteering at the Crisis Control Pharmacy. She and Fred still enjoy traveling (recently they have participated on some walking tours,) reading, and enjoying the wealth of cultural offerings available in Winston-Salem.

### **New Video from FFI**

In response to requests from Clubs around the world, the new FFI marketing video is ready for us to use in public relations efforts and to help tell the Friendship Force story.

Please check out the FFI website ([www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)) for a link to watch it on-line—and then save (download) it for later viewing and to attach to e-mail messages. This short video (4 ½ minutes) is also the ideal length for us to use when introducing the Friendship Force to a new audience, such as a church group or Kiwanis or Rotary Club.

### **“Ebb & Flow” Conference at the Jersey Shore 4/3—5/09**

The biennial Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, hosted this year by the FF of Southern NJ, provided inspiration and ideas for “rising with the tides of change.” More than 40 delegates from the 13 chapters in our region gathered at Engleside Inn in Beach Haven on Long Beach Island last weekend, six FFCNC members among them. George Brown, FFI President, addressed the group at several sessions—most memorably presenting a report on “The Baby Boomer Challenge”.

Leisure activities interspersed with conference sessions included local music, a tour of Victorian homes, a talk by scallop fishermen, and visiting Barnegat Lighthouse. The Peiffers stayed on for three days of home hosting in the Philadelphia area while the Meises and Andresens returned home. All agreed these regional conferences are very productive in terms of networking and sharing solutions to common problems: more FFCNC members should attend.

Every other year a regional "Presidents' Roundtable" is held—and in 2010 FFCNC will host! Stay tuned for a more substantive 2009 conference report and plans for next year.

### **World Friendship Day: LEO at Zaytoon**

Friendship Force of Central North Carolina celebrated World Friendship Day on **Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** at Zaytoon Mediterranean Café in Greensboro. Over 30 people enjoyed the delicious food prepared by owners Massoud and Anna. Leroy Stokes was emcee, and the tales and hilarity went on and on. Several guests had a great time and want to join FFCNC. Thanks to Patti Gilmour for arranging such good fellowship!!

Pam Kahl will plan the next LEO in Winston-Salem—watch for details in May.

### ***Friendship Magazine Ends Publication***

FFI decided to discontinue publication of *Friendship* magazine at the end of 2008 due to a declining number of subscribers and increased production costs. More than 90% of current subscribers are in the USA, which means the magazine is not reaching most of our international members. In place of the printed magazine, FFI will expand e-mail and website electronic publications—which will be available to all members at no cost. If you are not already signed up to receive this by e-mail, you may [click here to sign up](#). You may [click here to view the April edition](#).