



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Fast Facts ~ May 2009

Membership Potluck Dinner: Tuesday, May 12th

It's not too late! Come join FFCNC members and our Harrisburg inbound exchange guests at Main Street UMC in Kernersville for dinner and a talk on contemporary Japanese culture by Kent Greer of Wake Forest University. Punch and nibbles will be ready at 5:30; dinner is planned for 6:15. Don't forget to wear your nametag—and call Fred Andresen (294-0842) so we can set a place for you!

Note: *PLEASE BRING A DISH FOR 8 PEOPLE! Our host families will each be bringing Harrisburg guests—almost doubling the number of diners. Ordinarily a dish serving 4 is sufficient...but do bring extra this time!!*

CHANGE: Harrisburg Farewell Breakfast at Painted Plate

Because our host families this time are concentrated in northern Guilford County, the farewell breakfast on Friday, May 15th at 8:00 a.m. has been moved for convenience to the Painted Plate, 2001 North Church Street in Greensboro—just south of the intersection with Cornwallis Drive. Our reservation has been made for 30 people...and there are 6 places still open. If you would like to attend, please call Carol Andresen (294-0842) asap (first come, first served.) \$15.00 is the charge for non-hosting FFCNC members.

FYI, the incoming caravan of PA cars will meet FFCNC hosts at the home of Barbara and Jim North on Monday, May 11th—instead of at the Triad Farmers Market.

Who's Hosting?

Here are the matched ambassadors and hosts for the Harrisburg inbound exchange:

Laura & Denver Lennon	will host	Joan & Barry Decker
Carol & Fred Andresen		Jean & Hank Johnson
Nancy & Peter Peiffer		Connie & John Kuntz
Barbara & Jim North		Denis Meany
Jane & Ralph Cauthen		Doris Owens & Doris Polites
Doris & Ray Kiszely		Karen & Chris Smith

If you would like to day host or just tag along with the group...activities are planned in Winston-Salem on Tuesday afternoon (prior to the Kernersville potluck) and in Greensboro Thursday morning and afternoon, prior to the Hoppers baseball game Thursday evening. Wednesday has been reserved for pursuit of our guests' individual interests.

Please contact Carol Andresen (294-0842 or candresen@triad.rr.com) for further information.

Presidents' Roundtable to Meet in Triad

In alternate years between each MidAtlantic Regional Conference, the 14 FFI clubs from Pennsylvania to South Carolina send their presidents to a "roundtable" to network and explore common issues. FFCNC will host the next meeting April 9-10, 2010. Fred Andresen has offered to make preliminary arrangements. Marcia Meis will be presiding. Stay tuned!

Meet Val & Leroy Stokes

Leroy Stokes is VP of Corporate and Continuing Education at GTCC with overall responsibility for all non-credit programs, which involve 30,000 students each year. He joined the staff of GTCC in 2001—having served as a trustee of the school for ten years and after retiring from Lucent Technologies with 35 years of service.

Val recently took classes to become a wedding consultant—and is in the process of planning her first (paid) wedding. She formerly owned LeVal's Boutique & Gift Shoppe for ten years (first in Sedgefield and then in Greensboro) to bring to women clothing and gifts that "make you feel comfortable, unique and, most importantly, happy."

Val is a native of Jamaica, West Indies and has lived in the US since 1968. While visiting New York, she applied for a temporary job...and ended up working for Cab Calloway's family for six years. She and Leroy married and moved to Greensboro in 1983, and Val worked at Ciba-Geigy until 1998.

Leroy was born in North Carolina and raised in Ohio. He has a bachelor's degree in Production from Ohio State University and an MBA from UNCG. The Stokes have three children and eight grandchildren. Val's "passion" involves these grandkids, protecting the rights of the aged, and mentoring young girls. She enjoys animals, travel and gardening.

The Stokes were ambassadors on the CIU exchange to Shizuoka, Japan in 2005 and hosted Haruhisa Yamada during the Aichi inbound exchange in October 2007. Leroy emceed our recent LEO at Zaytoon...and Val has arranged a tour of the Civil Rights Museum—before it is officially open—for the Harrisburg inbound exchange.

Cost of Japan Exchange Reduced

Peter Peiffer, ED of this year's joint outbound exchange with Harrisburg to Aichi (Nagoya) Japan, advises that the trip—including a week's homestay and a second week of travel in Japan—is now estimated to cost \$3,700 instead of \$4,400 per person. Airfare reductions are responsible for the decline. If the group increases to 15 people, the price will drop further!

November 8—21, 2009 are dates for the trip. It is a reciprocal exchange: ambassadors from Aichi visited both the FFCNC and Harrisburg chapters in fall 2007. Our Aichi friends are very anxious to show us as good a time as they had in the Triad.

Nine FFCNC ambassadors have been selected thus far: Carol & Fred Andresen, Laurie Guess, Ophelia & Bob Jones, Marcia & Paul Meis, and Nancy & Peter Peiffer. Contact Peter (288-0014 or peiffer@aol.com) for information and an application.

Although none of the FFCNC ambassadors to Aichi are staying in Japan for the 2009 international conference, it will be an outstanding opportunity for global networking. Other FFCNC members are encouraged to attend (see below).

2009 FFI International Conference: November 20—22 in Okinawa

Experience a unique blend of Japanese, Chinese and Pacific Island culture at this year's conference set in the city of Naha - central to all of Okinawa's attractions. In addition to the conference sessions and workshops there will be opportunities for excursions to various cultural centers on the island. Following the conference you may extend your stay in the region by returning to the Japanese main islands for a post-conference homestay. For more details about the conference visit www.regonline.com/conf2009.

Mr Keiichi Saito of **Go Visit Japan** is Friendship Force's preferred travel provider for the international conference. Mr Saito offers very competitive fares to Okinawa (roundtrip from Atlanta is \$1048) with or without stopovers and will be glad to assist you with travel within Japan before or after the conference. You may contact him as follows: ksaito@govisitjapan.com or 1-800-828-0850