



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Fast Facts ~ September/October 2009

### **Reviving a Wonderful Tradition**

On Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, nearly forty FFCNC members gathered at the Lake Norman home of Marilyn Baird—a revival of a tradition fondly remembered by our Winston-Salem contingent. Pam Kahl, Marilyn, and her friend, Ruth, had everything seamlessly organized. On Marilyn's broad screened porch over a sumptuous barbecue lunch, folks reminisced and enjoyed the gentle lake scene. A kind neighbor ferried two boatloads of adventurers around the nearby coves of the lake in Marilyn's deck boat while others took a dip in the warm lake. Scrapbooks of FFI trips were shared—it was like old times. The afternoon slipped by too quickly and everyone present agreed, "We should plan to do this EVERY year!"

### **Annual Meeting, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM, UMC, Kernersville George Brown, President of Friendship Force International, Speaker**

Since becoming president of Friendship Force International in 2004, Dr. George Brown's vision for Friendship Force has been "to significantly strengthen our membership and financial support both in the United States and globally. With greater numbers, we can better show the world how average people can have an impact on the peace process just by getting to know their neighbors in other countries through our citizen homestay programs. A world of friends is a world of peace." When he visits Friendship Force of Central North Carolina and speaks at our annual meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>, you can anticipate learning more about FFI's recent initiatives such as 'themed' travel and reaching out to a younger demographic.

In addition to his many years of work at FFI, Dr. Brown served as the Executive Director of the Georgia Council for International Visitors, Director of the Global Awareness Program for Agnes Scott College, project manager for the AT&T Family-to-Family program that provided homestay programs for family members of Olympic athletes, taught international relations at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, and served as a foreign liaison officer in the U. S. Army. He received his Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Virginia and was raised in Korea as the son of Presbyterian missionaries.

Watch your mailbox for important information about this annual meeting, election of next year's officers, and future exchange plans.

## **Aichi-bound Travelers Meet for Sushi**

The nine FFCNC members among the thirteen ambassadors to the Aichi (Nagoya) Japan outbound exchange November 8--21 will meet at the home of Nancy and Peter Peiffer on Sunday, October 11th. Various aspects of the trip will be discussed with Etsuko Fujimoto, an associate professor in the Communications department at UNC-G who also worked with the 2005 GCCIU exchange group to Shizuoka. Both sushi and "bowls" from Kyoto Fantasy Express will set the stage gastronomically.

In addition to the Peiffers, FFCNC ambassadors are Marcia and Paul Meis, Ophelia and Robert Jones, Carol and Fred Andresen, and Lorrie Guess (daughter of Barbara and Hal). Peter is ED for this exchange...which also includes two men from Harrisburg, PA and a couple from Sonoma, CA.

This is a "reciprocal" exchange in that the Nagoya chapter visited both Harrisburg and Greensboro in the fall of 2007. The Andresens will be staying with Tadayuki Hashimoto--whom they hosted in 2007. The Jones will be staying with Akemi Osaki--whom the Meis' hosted in 2007. The Meis' will be staying with the Ando family--hosted by Barbara and Jim North in 2007. And the Peiffers will be staying with Haruko Takano--the 2007 ED also hosted by the Meis'.

What fun it will be to see old friends in their environs! Our ambassadors will be happy to carry greetings from other FFCNC members who remember the 2007 inbound exchange fondly!! You will have a chance to wish them "bon voyage" at our annual meeting October 29th.

## **Host Families Needed April 8 & 9, 2010**

It's not too early to let Fred Andresen ([fandresen@triad.rr.com](mailto:fandresen@triad.rr.com) or 336-294-0842) know that you can host one or more participants in the Presidents' Roundtable for the Mid-Atlantic and North-East Regions of FFI. This biennial meeting (a Regional Conference is held on the alternate years) will include presidents and presidents-elect from the thirteen chapters in our region plus the six chapters in the North-East region.

Not every delegate will request a homestay--the Hilton Garden Inn in Greensboro is offering reasonable rooms as well as the meeting space--but there are potentially forty participants who will attend the roundtable, most of whom will be looking forward to staying in FFCNC members' homes!

Dinner the night of April 9th--with speaker Jim Kirkpatrick of the Guilford Battlefield Commission--will be open to all FFCNC members. Stay tuned for further details--and please consider hosting some of our Roundtable guests.

## **The World of Friends Catalog**

Friendship Force International has announced a new publication, "The World of Friends Catalog: Cultural Travel on Six Continents." This electronic catalog of exchanges replaces the E-Flyer. The new format is designed to improve the promotion of exchange opportunities. When you receive your catalog via e-mail you will have three viewing options (three choices to click on in the body of your email message.) You will be able to view the catalog directly from the FFI website or you will be able to view it either as a PDF document or Word document.

These last two options list the exchanges by continent and do not provide photos. The website viewing option offers additional features. You may choose to view a list of all exchanges or you may select a continent and view only those exchanges. Either way, you are presented a complete list of exchanges in chronological order (based on the travel dates) and a brief description. Clicking on a specific exchange will provide you with all the detailed information about that exchange. If you misplace your email, you can always access the catalog directly on the Internet by going to [www.thefriendshipforce.org/catalog](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org/catalog).

All exchanges in the new Catalog are available to participants from anywhere in the world and, therefore, "land only" pricing options will be provided. It is hoped that Friendship Force members will forward the e-mail to friends and family in order to invite more and more people to experience this unique way of traveling. All exchanges included in the catalog have been approved by the ambassador Exchange Director for inclusion. (Currently there are about thirty listed.) Current Friendship Force members will continue to be able to access all 300 annual exchanges via the FFI website (<http://www.thefriendshipforce.org/exchanges/search.aspx>.)

### **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

October 29	Annual Meeting; Kernersville, Main Street UMC
November 8-21	Out-bound exchange to Aichi, Japan
December 3	Board meeting, 11:45, Kernersville
April 8 – 10	Mid-Atlantic President's Roundtable hosted by FFCNC
May 2010	In-bound Exchange from Brisbane, Australia
November 2010	Out-bound Exchange to Dunedin and Auckland, New Zealand

### **Focus on Friendship**

Look for your next and final newsletter of 2009, "Focus on Friendship" in late November/early December when we will report on the out-bound exchange to Aichi, Japan.