



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Fast Facts ~ March 2010

### World Friendship Day – March 1: Friends on Six Continents



This wonderful composite was sent from our Cankaya friends in Turkey, a gesture of friendship in honor of FFI's annual World Friendship Day!

More than 35 FFCNC members celebrated World Friendship Day at a breakfast LEO (Let's Eat Out) at Billy Bob's Silver Diner in Winston-Salem on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Other greetings received include this endearing one sent to Marcia and Paul Meis by their Japanese guest, the ED of our 2007 inbound Aichi exchange:

*It was my pleasant surprise to find your e-mail. It's been three months since FF Aichi welcomed you. Congratulations to your Friendship Force Day !*

*Please let me be direct. What has the Friendship Force meant for me? It has made my life after retirement very happy. I've had many friends, not only in my country, but also from other countries. It's been about 4 years since I became a member of FF Aichi. I visited Germany, Belgium, America (Pennsylvania, North Carolina ). I (as a host) welcomed the ambassadors from Costa Rica, Belgium, Canada, America (North Carolina, Oregon, West Virginia).*

*Even now, I can think of those friends and those days I spent with them. Now my circle of friends is becoming larger and larger. How happy I am! I'm not alone. And I've had a new will, pleasure to live.*

*I remodeled my little house. I think that was a rewarding use of my money. Now I can welcome many guests to my house, and I enjoy preparing a comfortable stay for guests. It's my pleasure. And also, I have pleasure to talk with people from other countries. I can learn other country's culture and at the same time I am encouraged to learn my own country's culture. Since I came into contact with people from other countries, I've been working on improving my English ability eagerly.*

*Now, to me, FF life is becoming one of the big reasons to live. So many thanks to Friendship Force!*

*P.S. I'm sorry I can't express well. I found your e-mail on the morning of March 5, so I wrote this mail hastily. Please give me good information about nice movies.*

*Best regards, **Akemi Osaki***

Sue Schoch received this message from her Turkish guest in 2008—who is now president of the Cankaya club:

*Because of the World Friendship Day I am sending my greetings to you and as FFCankaya we are sending our greetings to FFCentral North Carolina. We can not forget our friends in your club and your super hosting. You all are in our heart.*

*Dear Sue, I feel myself very rich with your friendship too.*

*Stay in Friendship, **Elif Aksu***

And Barbara and Jim North shared the following message from their Aichi guests:

*We're so glad to receive your mail that celebrates us on "World Friendship Day". We often talk about our wonderful staying with you in North Carolina. We're very happy to have nice friends in North Carolina.*

*Have you enjoyed Winter Olympics in Canada? It was very wonderful. U.S.A.'s athletes performed very nice, didn't they? Japan couldn't get any gold medals, but we enjoyed Olympic games.*

*Please take care of yourselves. **Yasuhiko and Masayo***

Finally, from friends of Paul and Marcia Meis in France, Pierre and Dani Marchesseau:

*I find that it's wonderful to have met you. It has now been perhaps twenty years!*

*Thanks to Blanche, my mama, who participated in these linguistic exchanges all over the world. I maintain an excellent memory of Marcia and Paul.*

*In fact, not only have we shared meals, laughs, and the history of our lives, but we participated in a sixty mile old motorcycle rally. Paul was my passenger in a 1968 BMW. We had a marvelous day. Paul was the only American present but he was willing to speak with a few English people who were at the meet.*

*We have continued to exchange letters and I am sure that neither of us has forgotten our time together.*

*How good life is and what a pity that certain people have never known peace!*

*My letter is short but I think it proves that the word "friendship" is easily realized.*

### **String Around Your Finger: April 9<sup>th</sup> Embassy Suites Hotel Dinner**

28 delegates from both the MidAtlantic and NorthEast Regions of FFI will meet in Greensboro April 9-10 for the biennial Presidents' Roundtable. All but two of the regions' chapters will send representation! All FFCNC members are invited to join the Roundtable delegates and their accompanying persons for Friday evening's gala dinner at the Embassy Suites Airport.

No-host refreshments begin at 6:30 with dinner served at 7:00. At 8:00 Jim Kirkpatrick, former chair of the Guilford Battleground Company, will deliver his entertaining talk about the southern campaign of the Revolutionary War.

Don't miss it! Send your check for \$35 to Fred Andresen, 1502 Pebble Drive, Greensboro 27410 by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Seize this unique opportunity to meet/mix with the leadership of 18 Friendship Force clubs!

**Directions:** Take Exit 210 off I-40. Go north on NC 68 to first light. Turn left; take first left—about 50 yards—to hotel.

### **Indonesian Student Exchange**

Plans are moving quickly as we prepare to greet fourteen Indonesian students, ages 15 – 17, and two of their teacher/chaperones. They will arrive in the Triad on Wednesday, April 21 and leave on Wednesday, April 28 while others in their larger group visit the Friendship Force clubs in Knoxville, Tenn. and Atlanta, Ga.

Peter Peiffer is serving as exchange director and will greatly appreciate any assistance from FFCNC members. If you are interested in helping to plan welcome and farewell activities or have suggestions for day trips, contact Peter at 336-288-0014 or [peiffer@aol.com](mailto:peiffer@aol.com).

Be sure to look for more details in the April newsletter as there will be one or more opportunities planned for all FFCNC members to meet our guests.

## **Brisbane Inbound Exchange Update**

Eight Australian ambassadors will arrive Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> for a week's home stay in the Triad. There has been great interest among our FFCNC members to host our guests and your willingness to do so is much appreciated. The Australian exchange committee will be working on hosting arrangements and will have more information about this soon.

Planning for the week is underway and will include a welcome event—possibly breakfast on Saturday. One day will be centered in Winston-Salem and one in Greensboro. Another may feature a jaunt to Seagrove. The farewell party will be Wednesday evening, May 26: would you like to get involved here? Or perhaps host a “small group dinner” one evening?

Please let Val or Paul know of your interest and how you would like to help!

## **Meet the Kiszelys**

Ray and Doris Kiszely live in Brown Summit, NC. Both grew up in Philadelphia, Pa., but moved to Fairfax, Virginia to start their life together in 1968. Ray was in the retail clothing business and Doris worked in banking for a few years. Ray joined New York Life in 1970 and continued in the insurance and financial services business until retirement in 2006. Doris went on to nursing school, became an RN and developed a specialty as a Neo-natal nurse. Doris continues to work part time at Moses Cone Women's hospital.

They have two daughters. Jennifer lives in Greensboro with her husband, Jordan, and their three children Sarah 10, Benjamin 7, and Rachel 4. Stefanie lives in Jamestown and is a full time student at GTCC.

Ray's main hobby is foreign sports cars, especially vintage Alfa Romeo roadsters. Ray is also a fisherman and a runner, having completed seven marathons, including the New York City Marathon in 1984. These days the competitive running is limited to 5-K's

Doris is an accomplished quilt maker, a superb scrapbooker, and a terrific cook and hostess.

Both are in the Piedmont Triad Council for International Visitors and this year Ray is serving on the board of FFCNC as Vice-President and Membership Chair.

The Kiszelys enjoyed serving as hosts for the domestic exchange from Harrisburg, Pa. in 2009. They have not yet traveled with Friendship Force, but don't let that mislead you. They are well-heeled international travelers having visited all seven continents! A few of the highlights: Canada, Mexico and several South American countries, Europe including England, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland. Recent adventures in cruising have taken them to Antarctica, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Mumbai, Cairo, Jordan, Oman, Indonesia, Bangkok and lots more!

## **FLASH: Barbara & Jim North to Lead New Zealand Outbound Exchange!**

We are indeed fortunate to have this skilled couple heading up our outbound exchange in 2010. Please let Barbara ([woodnotes2006@yahoo.com](mailto:woodnotes2006@yahoo.com) or 336-643-0985) know if you are interested in making this trip. It will involve homestays in Dunedin and Auckland—and some additional travel. November 2010 is the target month.

## **2010 Calendar Highlights**

- April 9-10            Regional Presidents' Roundtable - Hilton Garden Inn, Greensboro  
Convener: Fred Andresen, 336-294-0842
- April 21-28           Indonesian Student Exchange  
ED: Peter Peiffer, 336-288-0014
- May 21-28            Inbound Exchange from Brisbane, Australia  
ED: Val Stokes, 336-273-7205
- October 16-18        FFI International Conference in Washington, DC
- October 21            FFCNC Annual Meeting - Main Street UMC, Kernersville  
Activities Chair: Ralph Cauthen, 336-299-2089
- November            Outbound Exchange to Auckland & Dunedin, New Zealand  
EDs: Barbara & Jim North, 336-643-0985