



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Fast Facts ~ September 2010

The Azerbaijanis are Coming!

Each of us has a great opportunity to short-term host during the third week of October. We will be receiving 7 Azerbaijanis after the International FF Conference in Washington, DC – 6 women and 1 man. They will arrive Monday, October 18th in the evening and depart Friday, October 22nd in the morning. Their stay in the Triad will be 4 nights and 3 days.



This is a chance to become knowledgeable about the far southeastern corner of Europe. Azerbaijan is bordered by Russia, Iran, Armenia, Turkey and Georgia; a petro-economy, it is an interesting part of the world.

We need your help! Please contact Fred Andresen at 294-0842 or fandresen@triad.rr.com for more information...and to volunteer either to supply lodging or help as a day host.

Annual Meeting October 21st Features Artist and Broadcaster

The theme of the 2010 annual meeting is “Promoting International Understanding Through the Arts” and our program will feature remarks by David Ford, host/producer of “Triad Art Up Close” on WFDD radio, and Todd Drake, artist in residence at the UNC-CH Center for Global Initiatives. Drake is also creator of the Esse Quam Videri Project, a collaboration with Muslim Americans to create a series of self-portraits. They will discuss the Project and display a few works from the exhibition. There will be time for questions and discussion.

The meeting will be in the fellowship hall of Main Street United Methodist Church, 306 South Main Street in Kernersville. Beginning with a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m., there will follow a brief business meeting—including election of FFCNC officers for 2011 and information about next year’s outbound exchange to Ottawa, Canada. The program will conclude about 8:30.

Annual Meeting invitations—plus directions and a dues notice for 2011—will be mailed to FFCNC members the first week of October. Guests are welcome.

Special guests at the meeting will be delegates from the Washington DC International Conference (October 16—18) enjoying post-conference home hosting with FFCNC members.

Nominating Committee

In preparation for the Annual Meeting, a nominating committee of Patti Gilmour, Marcia and Paul Meis, and Pam Kahl has been meeting to prepare a slate of officers. If you would be interested in serving as an officer—or just knowing more about the leadership positions of FFCNC—please get in touch with Patti at 336-852-6037 or gilmsyl@triad.rr.com.



Bouquets to Arnold Sporleder

After serving our chapter since its inception, Arnold has stepped down as treasurer. His years of dedicated work will be recognized at the Annual Meeting—but please thank him in the meantime. He has been the backbone of our board for years!

Arnold's successor is Judy Greene—we welcome her and applaud her for taking on this role.

New Zealand 2010 Outbound Exchange Update

Not even a serious earthquake will impede our well-planned out-bound exchange, scheduled to depart next month. Our contact on the South Island was quick to e-mail exchange director, Barbara North, with the following message, "Greetings from the shaky Islands to my friends in USAI guess you are all wondering if I am still alive and in business. Yes, on both counts! We are right in the centre of the quake zone, but seem to have escaped the worst of the damage. Our houseis undamaged. All contents of cupboards & drawers were emptied onto the floor. Virtually all china and vases, etc. are broken. Food and glass, etc. everywhere! Very frightening!...I will contact each of you ASAP when things settle down and normal service is resumed. In the meantime be assured everything is still on track."

Likewise, everything is "on track" on this end. The cultural workshop is scheduled for tomorrow, Sept. 11. Margaret Griffin, who has traveled to New Zealand many times, will be the guest presenter. We are very grateful for Margaret's contribution to this workshop. Additionally, thanks go to Kit Ravenel, Ophelia Jones, and Barbara and Jim North for their assistance planning and preparing for other aspects of the workshop.

Our ambassadors from FFCNC will be the Norths, Cauthens, Finches, Kiszelys, Parks, Joneses, and Anne Bigelow. They will be joined by four ladies and two couples from five other FF clubs around the US. Everyone has received the names of their hosts on both islands and have been corresponding with each other. The Auckland North Shore club is planning such group activities as a day trip to Rotorua , a harbor cruise out of Devenport, and a trip to Matakoho Kauri Museum . On the South Island, the ambassadors will be split into two groups - one staying in Alexandra and the other in Dunedin with separate and different programs. However, the two clubs will be brought together for an overnight stay at the Rail Stay, a rustic outpost at Wedderburn on the old Otago Central Rail Trail, a 150 km hiking and biking route which follows a former rail line.

Our group departs for New Zealand on October 26th, so be sure to look for them at the annual meeting on October 21st and wish them "bon voyage!"

Friendship Families Redux

It's that time of year again. The days of Indian Summer when the school buses take to the roads again and our local college campuses come alive with returning and new students. The Friendship Family Program, run by the Wake Forest University Center for International Studies, assists international graduate students with their transition to living and studying in America. It partners with International Campus Ministries of the Triad, headed by FFCNC member, Scott Freese, who supports 2,400 international undergraduate and graduate students at eight universities and colleges in Winston-Salem, High Point, and Jamestown. Scott's counterpart, Audrey Womack, Coordinator of the Piedmont International Fellowship, supports international students attending the six colleges in Greensboro.

As in past years, Scott encourages FFCNC members to contact him if they are interested in befriending a local international student. Since students are at times extremely busy with their academic responsibilities, there are no firm time commitments required of Friendship Families. It is hoped that Friendship Families can meet with their students about once a month; however, flexibility is key. The list of things a family can do with their international student is endless: dinner in the home, shopping, concerts, hiking, sporting events, etc. More than anything, the best thing to do with these students is to include them in cultural and traditional family events that will help the students enjoy getting to know American families.

Most matching of families occurs in the fall as the school year kicks off; however, the need can arise at any time. Also, special needs often arise during the holidays when some students may need a place to stay during breaks or a student may simply need a ride to the airport. So you can see that, depending on one's interest and availability, involvement can range from large to small. If you are interested in learning more, the Scherls, Prouts, and Browns of FFCNC have served as Friendship Families for many years and would be glad to share their experiences with you.

If you have home hosted a Friendship Force guest and enjoyed it, you will enjoy serving as a Friendship Family. If you have wondered what it is like to home host, serving as a Friendship Family will whet your appetite. If you would like to be notified of Friendship Family opportunities and events, be sure to contact one of the individuals listed below. What better way to "change the way you see the world" than from your own hometown?

Contact Information

Forsyth County

Scott Freese, Campus Minister & Director of
International Campus Ministries of the Triad, Inc.
972-6237 and scott@icmtriad.org

Sam Edwards, International Studies Advisor,
Center for International Studies, Wake Forest University
758-4978 and edwardsr@wfu.edu

Guilford County

Audrey Womack, Piedmont International Fellowship Coordinator
707-3299 and awomack2@triad.rr.com

Exchange Director Announced for 2011 Ottawa Outbound

Ralph Cauthen is excited to serve as the exchange director for our 2011 out-bound exchange to Ottawa, Canada. Previously Ralph has served as the exchange director to Shizuoka, Japan and more recently as the Assistant Exchange Director to Braunschweig, Germany. With his past ED experience as well as many ambassador experiences, we can be assured of a well-organized, fun exchange. Oh, and did we mention that the exchange director from Florence is exploring options for a pre-exchange extension to New York City or other popular destination?

We will be traveling to Ottawa with Friendship Force Ambassadors from Florence, S. C. As FFCNC Exchange Director Ralph will serve as a liaison with both the Florence and Ottawa clubs, playing an invaluable role ensuring good communications between all parties. But he will need our help as well. Please consider serving with Ralph on this exchange committee. Several specific needs include the following:

- A committee member to head up publicity for the exchange. Remember, this is always a great opportunity to reach out to our community and recruit others to join us on the exchange and become FFCNC members.
- A committee member to handle the application process. This entails receiving the applications, organizing the interview process and, together with the committee, making final ambassador selections.
- Last of all, if you have any ties or connections with Ottawa, you may be able to contribute as the committee member who organizes the cultural workshop.

This exchange is tentatively planned for Sept. 2011, so we have lots of time to plan and avoid a last minute crunch. If you have ever considered serving as an exchange director, but are not certain what responsibilities it entails, serving on this exchange committee will be an opportunity to learn more about the role of exchange director. Please contact Ralph Cauthen (299-2089 and rbcauthen@aol.com) if you would like to assist with this exchange in any capacity.

What Fun We Had at the Lake Norman Picnic!

August 14th proved to be the perfect day for an outing to Lake Norman. Sunny, warm, and breezy – the best place to be was sitting on a rocker on the deck of Marilyn Baird's home overlooking the lake. More than forty FFCNC members and friends enjoyed a lunch buffet that began with traditional Carolina pork barbeque and ended with a suite of sweets.

We were joined by seven guests from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and their three translators/facilitators. These gentlemen and ladies were participants in the US. State Department's International Visitors Leadership Program. In their native countries they work as judges, lawyers, and administrators and were in the US studying international adoptions. This topic inspired much conversation as many of our members have internationally adopted family members.



Marilyn Baird enjoys music played on the dombra by one of our guests.

Entertainment followed lunch with a very funny performance of “Rindercella and the Prandsome Hince” performed by Marcia Meis in the role of the Gairy Fodmother, Donna Lambeth as the Sugly Tepsister and Ralph Cauthen as the Prandsome Hince. An irrepressible and nimble-tongued Marilyn Baird was the narrator (how did she do that?!) and her friend Ruth was Rindercella. Though it was challenging to listen/translate, the skit was hilarious and enjoyed by all. Next, Donna showed us her dombra, a beautiful wooden, stringed instrument which was a gift to her in 1988 when she was visited by a Kazakh delegation attending a Friendship Force Festival. To everyone’s surprise and delight, one of our Kazakh guests was able to play the instrument and sing a few Kazakh folk songs for us. Thanks to Doris Kiszely, both acts were caught on film. Be sure to see these photos and more on our website:

http://www.ffcnc.org/Photo_Gallery.html.

Finishing touches to the day included boat rides on the lake piloted by Marilyn’s son and swimming. Many thanks go to Marilyn for hosting this event and we hope that this will continue to be an FFCNC annual tradition.

Join the Exchanges Committee!

President Marcia Meis has appointed Paul Meis to the FFCNC board as chair of the Exchanges Committee. All past inbound and outbound exchange directors (EDs) customarily serve on this committee which is charged with selecting EDs for board approval and overseeing the work of exchange teams. Paul would like other chapter members to also be part of this important work—please consider serving on this committee in 2011! You will learn what’s involved and enjoy the company of a group of FFCNC’s most dedicated members. Contact Paul at 336-724-9540 or pmeis@triad.rr.com.

2011 Peru Inbound Exchange

As already announced, our club will be hosting an incoming exchange from Lima, Peru in November of next year (2011). Many of you may recall from previous exchanges (to and from Peru) what friendly and outgoing people these Peruvians are! We would like to encourage your participation in planning for our Peruvian ambassadors. If you are interested in being a member of the Peruvian inbound exchange team, please contact Paul Meis (see info above.)

Citizen Diplomacy....the Role of Business

Sherry Mueller, Friendship Force International board member and President of the National Council for International Visitors, will be the guest speaker for a luncheon on September 15 at the High Point Country Club. This event is open to the public and FFCNC members will surely find her topic, “Citizen Diplomacy....the Role of Business,” of interest. The cost is \$30 per person and pre-registration is required; go to www.highpointchamber.org. For more information, contact Ray Kiszely at 656-0945 or RayKiszely@hotmail.com.

World Conference Features New Photo Contest

Have you ever wondered what to do with all those photos taken during your exchanges? Friendship Force International is sponsoring an international photo contest. All Friendship Force members are invited to submit photos from their exchange experiences (both outbound and

inbound.) The finalists will be featured at the international conference in D. C. this fall along with the announcement of the winners. You do not have to attend the conference to participate. [Download the attachment for instructions on how to enter.](#)

2010 Calendar Highlights

October 16-18	FFI International Conference in Washington, DC
October 18 – 22	Post International Conference home hosting.
October 21	FFCNC Annual Meeting - Main Street UMC, Kernersville Activities Chair: Ralph Cauthen, 336-299-2089
Oct. 26 – Nov. 16	Outbound Exchange to Auckland & Dunedin, New Zealand EDs: Barbara & Jim North, 336-643-0985

2011 Calendar Highlights

Sept.	Outbound Exchange to Ottawa, Canada
Oct.	Inbound Exchange from Lima, Peru