



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Focus on Friendship ~ January 2011

Ottawa in September

The Friendship Force of Central North Carolina will have the privilege of being hosted by the Friendship Force of Ottawa (FFO) September 22 – 29, 2011. FFO, winner of a best club award at the 2010 International FFI Convention last fall, has 185 members and typically hosts four in-bound exchanges and sends four out-bound exchanges each year. This is clearly a well experienced club and ambassadors of FFCNC are sure to enjoy a successful exchange.

Approximately 1.2 million people live and work in Ottawa, the capital of Canada. Located on the border of Ontario and Quebec, Ottawa is a city full of European culture. Next week the FFO planning group will begin the planning for our visit, so a specific itinerary will be forthcoming. However, we know that a typical in-bound exchange to Ottawa includes a visit to the Houses of Parliament (pictured here); the National Gallery of Canada, one of Canada's premier art galleries with a focus on Canadian art; Byward Market, Canada's oldest continuously operating farmer's market; the Thousand Islands, an archipelago of islands that straddle the US-Canadian border in the St. Lawrence River; and the Mackenzie King Estate, home of William Lyon Mackenzie King, Canada's longest serving prime minister. All of this and more surrounded by the beautiful fall colors of Canada!



This out-bound exchange will be a joint venture with the Friendship Force of Florence, SC (FFF.) Our Florence partners, led by Exchange Director, Duane Rupert, have planned a pre-exchange trip to NYC (two nights), Saratoga, NY (one night), and Montreal (two nights.) The Florence group will fly from Charlotte to NYC on September 17th and from there will make the remainder of the journey by train on Amtrak and VIA (the Canadian rail line.) Hotel costs for this pre-exchange excursion are estimated to be \$375 per person (double occupancy.) Meals and other activities such as plays will be additional expenses. If you are interested in participating on all or a portion of this pre-exchange trip, please contact Ralph Cauthen and he will serve as liaison with Duane Rupert to facilitate your travel plans.



Due to the relative close proximity of Ottawa (approximately 800 miles from the Triad – a lot closer than New Zealand!), the cost of this exchange for land only is estimated at \$375. Initial indications are that some FFCNC members will want to drive and have the flexibility to visit other friends and family along the way, while other members may choose to fly. Currently four FFCNC couples (the Cauthens, Meises, Peiffers, and Andresens) are signed up for this exchange. FFO has a total capacity to host 25

ambassadors. The FFF has twelve ambassadors ready to go. This leaves just five spaces for additional FFCNC ambassadors. If you are interested in participating or desire more information, contact Exchange Director, Ralph Cauthen, at 299-2089 or rbcauthen@aol.com. Those wishing to participate should send the “Ambassador Application and Agreement” (which can be found at http://thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/site/clubresources_forms) and a \$25 deposit to Ralph by February 1.

Check Out Judy Greene

As the newest officer on our board, we would like to introduce you to our Treasurer, Judy Greene.

Judy grew up and attended school in Guilford County. After earning her Ed. D. at Temple University, Judy began a long career with the University of Delaware as a professor, administrator, and consultant working in the areas of education, family studies, conflict management, diversity and much more.



When Judy retired in 2006, with all her immediate family living in the Triad and Western North Carolina, a new home in Winston-Salem was a logical move for her the following year. Since then she has enjoyed tracing family history and hosting family gatherings. She is the proud mother of a daughter who is an avid bicyclist and hiker and who teaches languages at UNC-Asheville.

We are fortunate to have Judy’s active involvement with FFCNC because many other Triad organizations vie for her time and interest. Judy is active with the Shalom Project housed at Green Street United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, serves on the Board of the Institute for Dismantling Racism, and sings with two choirs including the Voices of God’s Children, a community choir committed to the preservation of historic Negro Spirituals. In addition, she continues to do a little consulting.

Prior to joining FFCNC Judy traveled in the USA, Mexico, Western Europe, Scandinavia, North Africa and Australia. She heard about Friendship Force from a Danish friend who is a member of a FF club in Florida and joined FFCNC in the spring of 2008. Since then Judy has served as

a home host for exchanges from Turkey, Azerbaijan, and the President's Roundtable. Judy has traveled with FF on two international exchanges (organized by other clubs), spending three weeks each in Costa Rica (Feb. 2009) and Turkey (Sept/Oct. 2010), and looks forward to participating in a future exchange with FFCNC.



All FFCNC members are always welcome to attend board meetings. The schedule for these meetings is posted on our website, www.ffcnc.org, on the Calendar page. Also, minutes of board meetings and the annual meeting are available on the Archives page. A full list of 2011 board members can be found on the Contact Us page.

Biennial SouthEast Regional Conference: April 1-3, 2011

It's time to register for this informative and fun-filled weekend at the Blue Ridge Conference Center, 30 miles east of Asheville. George Brown, FFI President, will be keynote speaker—reason enough to attend—and the weekend will be full of interesting collegial discussions. Come listen to your peers from other chapters consider our common problems—and share their solutions – “what works”. You'll come away with new ideas to strengthen FFCNC...while making friends and enjoying good fellowship.

Who should attend? Certainly board members will gain valuable perspective. But ANY member of FFCNC who's curious about FFI and would like to scratch the organizational surface will come away inspired. Just having informal access to George Brown (he's the dynamic son of missionaries and pretty impressive) is a unique opportunity. A group of 8-10 FFCNC members would be optimal—in terms of both esprit de corps and making a contribution to the conference! There will be concurrent sessions on Saturday...so we need a delegation to cover them all.

Conference registration is \$145 per person (double occupancy) which includes room for two nights, four meals and entertainment. There is a single room supplement of \$80. Following check-in beginning at 3 p. m., the conference begins Friday evening after dinner; breakfast, lunch and dinner Saturday and breakfast Sunday will be buffet meals. Learn more about the Blue Ridge Conference Center at www.blueridgeassembly.org.

Payment by check must be received no later than March 1st. Checks should be made payable to FFI and sent c/o John Wilhelm, 6051 Millstone Run, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. Please first request a registration form by emailing John at jwainc7@bellsouth.net and fill it out to include with your check.

Who's in the SouthEast Region? As you've heard, North Carolina is now part of FFI's SouthEast Region, which is comprised of 19 chapters in 6 states:

North Carolina: Western NC, Morganton, Shelby, Charlotte, Central NC,
Raleigh, Coastal Carolina

South Carolina: Florence

Georgia: Atlanta, Big Canoe, Lake Hartwell

Alabama: Birmingham, Montgomery, Huntsville

Kentucky: Louisville, Western Kentucky

Tennessee: Memphis, Knoxville, South Central Tennessee

While we've been mixing with folks from the other 6 NC chapters...we have many new friends to make throughout the other 5 states in our region. More reason to attend the biennial regional conference April 1st through 3rd !!

Peru Inbound Gearing Up

Paul Meis has selected Ray Kizsely as his Co-ED for our 2011 inbound from Lima, Peru. While the dates have not been confirmed, we expect ambassadors to arrive the first part of October for a week's stay in the Triad. We are hoping that some of the folks who hosted FFCNC members in 2008 will be among those visiting us! Paul and Ray will be forming a committee to assist with planning this exchange and would welcome your help. Those who traveled to Lima in 2008 may particularly enjoy being involved and undoubtedly will be able to provide special insight as we put together a warm Southern welcome for our Peruvian guests.

Paul and Ray will also be seeking hosts, day hosts and dinner hosts for the group—and would especially like to involve people with Spanish language skills. This is a great opportunity to involve non-members who might enjoy a chance to speak Spanish with our visitors! Please be mindful of friends and neighbors you could invite to share a meal in your home, go dancing with the ambassadors one evening, or even host one of our ambassadors!

For more information or to offer your assistance, please contact Paul Meis at 724-9540 or pmeis@triad.rr.com.

Here's a quiz to test your knowledge of Peruvian culture:

- Which is NOT an export product of Peru:
a – guinea pigs b – coffee c – wine d – asparagus
- Quechua is a:
a – potato b – language c – head covering d – stool
- Which is NOT a neighborhood in Lima:
a – Miraflores b – San Isidro c – Barranco d – Encalada
- Which one is a food—not a drink:
a – Lomo Saltado b – Chicha Morada c – Mate de Coca d – Pisco Sour
- True or False:
a – At the time of the Spanish conquest, the Inca Empire was the largest in the world.
b – The Andes is the longest—and youngest and highest—mountain chain in the world.
c – Llamas can only carry 40 pounds on their backs and cannot pull heavy loads.
d – The potato originated in Peru (not Ireland!) and there are more than 400 varieties.

Answers: c, b, d, a, t, t, t, t

Wanted: Publicity Chair



FFCNC needs to let its light shine! We are going places and doing things that are "good news"...and we need a board member who will keep the local media informed. Could you draft press releases and then email to our list of print, radio and tv contacts?

Fostering a relationship with media folks is satisfying and interesting. Board meetings every other month will be the only meetings you'll need to attend. This is a good position for someone new to FFCNC as serving on the board provides an opportunity to learn more about Friendship Force at all levels: club, regional, national, and international. Do you have a friend or acquaintance with media experience who might be interested in helping with this specific task? Consider sharing this opportunity with them and encourage them to join FFCNC. Please let Marcia Meis (724-9540 or pmeis@triad.rr.com) know of your interest or suggestion!

Membership Renewal

We have just a few members remaining who have not turned in 2011 membership dues. Annual dues are \$25 for a single membership and \$30 for a family membership. Please write your check payable to FFCNC and mail it to Marvin Scherl, Membership Chair; 6740 Germantown Rd.; Germantown, NC 27019.



2011 Calendar Highlights

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| Jan. 15 | Let's Eat Out; Taste of Thai; Greensboro; 11:30 |
| April 1 – 3 | SouthEast Regional Conference, Black Mtn., NC. |
| Sept. 17 – 22 | Pre-exchange extension to NYC, Saratoga, and Montreal |
| Sept. 22 - 29 | Outbound Exchange to Ottawa, Canada |
| Oct. | Inbound Exchange from Lima, Peru |