



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Focus on Friendship ~ April 2011

### World Friendship Day Celebration

On March 26<sup>th</sup> Friendship Force of Central North Carolina hosted a wonderful World Friendship celebration at GTCC on the Jamestown campus which was well attended.

FFCNC members were asked to invite friends and family from different cultures to join us in celebration and this they did with gusto as approximately half of the attendance consisted of our international guests. Everyone brought food to share representing their different nationalities and many of our guests were dressed in native costumes. The highlight of the event was the entertainment provided by so many of our guests.



Milagros Harness, originally from Peru, wore a beautiful white outfit representing her native region and performed a dance that explained how a woman would refuse a man when asked for her hand in marriage. She also described the meaning of other attires worn for dancing in other regions of Peru.

Tomoko Thornburg, originally from Japan, played the Koto instrument and showed the different types of kimonos and how some are worn for special occasions such as weddings or for royalty. Tomoko and her husband Tom, who served as her able assistant, are friends and

neighbors of Barbara and Jim North.

In attendance from Nigeria were Dr. Francis Walson and his wife, Caroline, both of whom were dressed in native dress. They explained how their clothing was made and Caroline, wearing a stunning head wrap that she made herself, explained how and when you would wear special dresses. Marvin and Linda Scherl invited three beautiful students from Nepal: Suruchi Shrestha, Shami Archaya and Pushpa Pangen. Seniors at Salem College, these young ladies demonstrated and explained how their sari are worn and made.



Also in attendance were Glady Davilla from Mexico and Kasey Thomas from Tortola and the United States. Both ladies work with Faith Action Council, an organization that assists refugees and immigrants with immigration issues and language. Glady teaches Spanish and Kasey is the organization's coordinator.

Others guests included Carl & Ayako Piltzer, friends of Tomoko and Tom. Ayako is a Japanese translator. Sonia & Enzo Pellicciar, also friends of the Norths. Sonia is from Cuba and Enzo is Italian.

We also enjoyed the company of Valerie Stokes' sister who was visiting from Jamaica as well as her mother, aunt, and sister-in-law, all of whom reside in the US.

The event began with a prayer and a moment of silence for the people of Japan and ended with our traditional singing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Truly this was a wonderful gathering of friends which will be remembered for a long time.

## **Southeast Regional Conference at Black Mountain**

More than 80 representatives of 16 FFI clubs in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee met April 2<sup>nd</sup> for the biennial conference of our new region. While your delegates—Carol Andresen, Judy Greene, Marcia and Paul Meis, Barbara North, and Nancy and Peter Peiffer—knew many of the almost 30 people from clubs in North Carolina, there were about 50 "brand new to us" FFI friends present. We probably did not meet them all...but we enjoyed exposure to different views and club procedures. We look forward to mixing with these folks again!



*FFCNC members, Martha Brown (pictured above) and Carol Andresen gave a presentation on Communication*

FFI President, George Brown, opened the conference Saturday morning saying, "The Internet was invented for Friendship Force!" We, too, are a "widely dispersed network"...and FFI's move to cloud computing has enabled our re-branding efforts to take off and restore participation to pre-2008 levels.

All members should be connected to FFI and receive directly the monthly email communiqué about worldwide exchanges. While the current smaller FFI staff is 85% occupied with traditional exchanges, 15% of their time is spent considering new program ideas—like the experimental Panama Canal cultural cruise and Costa Rica homestay. (Note: email was sent to everyone on 4/1—and the cruise was filled by 4/2!) "Global Exchanges"—rather than "Festivals"—will gather a diverse group at the point of destination and involve members from all over the world.

Because all members are invited to join exchanges throughout the world—thanks to website and email technology—is it easier now to feel part of our larger FFI organization. There is an emphasis on developing "Discover the USA" inbound exchanges which feature new and interesting itineraries—e.g. "The Other Las Vegas." Themed

exchanges offer more than a homestay and represent FFI's goal to offer both members and prospects a wide array to suit many interests.

George also discussed ways to attract newer and younger members to FFI clubs and vowed to work with all clubs to discover "best practices" for sharing. There is a new "Trailblazer Project" to develop model programs for FFI.

In closing, George again cited the tremendous effect technology has had on FFI operations—and urged all members to become email and Internet capable. He cited the importance of Skype telephone connections to FFI.

There were four workshops offered dealing with Exchange Directors, Open World, Organizational Issues, and Communications—the latter offered by Carol Andresen and Martha Brown. Square dancing called by Glenn Bannerman was a perfect ending to a very full day!

### **Peru 2011 Inbound Exchange Dates Set**

*Hola!* Ambassadors from the Lima club will arrive in the Triad Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and depart Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup>. There are 14 ambassadors at present, according to the Lima ED, who are interested in spending these 5 days with us. They will be with the Greater Atlanta club prior to visiting FFCNC and will conclude with a tour of Washington DC.

Paul Meis and Ray Kiszely, our EDs for this exchange, would be pleased to hear from members who can host—now that we know the exact dates. *Muchas gracias!*

### **FFI World Conference 2011: Hamburg, Germany – August 26-30**

All conference events will take place at the modern 4-star Ramada Hotel in the borough of Bergedorf, a historic 13<sup>th</sup> century town on the River Bille boasting a picturesque castle and cobbled streets with cafes.

Hosts for the 34<sup>th</sup> World Conference are members of The Friendship Force of Hamburg, known for their excellent hospitality. The club is arranging a variety of optional tours in and around Hamburg during the conference...and will facilitate either exploring the best of Germany or a post-conference homestay with a German club.

- Conference fee is 290 Euros; double occupancy at the Ramada is 40 Euros per night (single is 60 Euros.)
- August 26<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is for arrivals and registration plus welcome dinner.
- Saturday there will be morning plenary sessions and lunch—with the afternoon and evening free to explore the region. Four tours are offered: a boat trip down the Elbe River, a bus trip through the countryside, time at the Emigration Museum to trace your ancestors, or a guided city walk.
- Sunday will be a full day of workshops and gala banquet with dancing.

- Monday features city sightseeing by bus with an organ concert, short service and reception in St. Michael's Church, Hamburg's famous landmark. Options for lunch, staying in the city, or departure in the afternoon.
- Tuesday the concluding plenary session will adjourn before noon.

The optional 4-night homestay is offered by clubs in Halle, Hamburg, Merseburg, Varel and Vogtland.

Tours offered include 10 days across Germany by bus, 6 days to visit the Hanse towns on the Baltic Seas, or a day cruise through the Rhein Valley to Koblenz with the option of a 4-night homestay in Rheinhessen or Freiburg.

## Summer Hosting Opportunity for Winston-Salem Families

It's that time of year again – time to plan to host a Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellow. FFFCNC member, Scott Freese, is currently accepting applications for host families for the Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Initiative (funded by the US State Department.) In July approximately fifty teenagers, ages 16 – 18, will be arriving in Winston-Salem from many European countries and several US states. Each one has been selected by the State Department to represent their country in this program and the result is a group of incredibly impressive budding adults.

The homestay portion of their three-week program will run from Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon to Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> in the morning (nine nights.) Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM the students will be attending classes on the campus of Wake Forest and you will need to provide transportation to and from campus for them. The remainder of the time is yours to enjoy with your guest(s) in activities of your own choosing. If you are available during this timeframe and (especially) if you live in the Winston-Salem area, you will find getting to know these youth on a more personal level a once in a lifetime experience.

Scott would appreciate receiving your application by May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Contact him for an application and more detailed information about the program, its schedule, and a list of participants. The best way to contact Scott is by phone (972-6237), though he is also available by email ([freeses@wfu.edu](mailto:freeses@wfu.edu).) For a personal recommendation feel free to contact Martha Brown (946-0105 and [brownfamily@triad.rr.com](mailto:brownfamily@triad.rr.com)) and Marvin and Linda Scherl (969-5923 & [marvin-linda-scherl@triad.rr.com](mailto:marvin-linda-scherl@triad.rr.com)) who have hosted Ben Franklin Fellows in the past. It is a challenge for Scott to arrange a homestay experience for fifty teenagers in the Winston-Salem area, so please consider doing this if your schedule will allow it.

## 2011 Calendar Highlights

May 5	Board Meeting; 11:30; Kernersville
July 23	LEO, Home of Marilyn Baird on Lake Norman
Aug. 26 – 30	FFI World Conference; Hamburg, Germany
Sept. 8 – 14	Inbound Exchange from Lima, Peru
Sept. 17 – 22	Pre-exchange extension to NYC, Saratoga, and Montreal
Sept. 22 - 29	Outbound Exchange to Ottawa, Canada