



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Fast Facts ~ August 2011

### Peru Inbound Update

We are receiving twelve ambassadors from Lima on Thursday, Sept 8 when hosts and guests will celebrate their arrival with lunch and a wine tasting at Stonefield Cellars in Stokesdale.

Exchange directors, Paul Meis and Ray Kiszely, have planned a full itinerary for this in-bound exchange. The first full day of the exchange, Friday, Sept. 9, will be spent in Winston-Salem visiting Old Salem, SEECA, and Reynolda Gardens and the day will conclude at Wake Forest University with attendance at an evening soccer match.

As mentioned last month, the highlight of this exchange is likely to be the exhibit of Titanic artifacts at the Natural Science Center of Greensboro on Monday, Sept. 12 at 10 AM. All FFCNC members are encouraged to take advantage of discounted group admission tickets for \$14 per person, but you must contact Ray Kiszely at 656-0945 or [RayKiszely@yahoo.com](mailto:RayKiszely@yahoo.com). (Information about the exhibit can be found at <http://www.natsci.org/Titanic.html>.) The exhibit visit will be followed by a picnic lunch at Country Park and a guided tour of the Guilford Battlefield. A second day will be spent in Greensboro visiting the Civil Rights Museum and the Greensboro Historical Museum on Tuesday, Sept. 13. The weekend and Wednesday, Sept. 14 will be available for hosts to plan individual activities for their guests.

All FFCNC members are welcome to join in on any of these activities; contact Ray for more detailed information. Also, we hope many FFCNC members will plan to attend the farewell party which will be held at the home of Valerie and Leroy Stokes on Tuesday evening, Sept 13. (Please note that this is a change in date from that reported last month.) It will be a pot luck dinner with drinks provided by the club. Please RSVP to Valerie at [levals@northstate.net](mailto:levals@northstate.net) or 336-887-2947.

Anyone interested in serving as a day host or hosting a dinner party should contact either Paul Meis (after Aug 20) at [pmeis@triad.rr.com](mailto:pmeis@triad.rr.com) or Ray Kiszely at [raykiszely@hotmail.com](mailto:raykiszely@hotmail.com). There will be a meeting at the Meis home on Thursday, August 25 at 7 PM for all those who have offered to help with this exchange in any capacity (home host, day host, transportation, etc.)

## Space Opens Up in Ottawa Outbound

Here's your chance, if you were wishing you'd signed up for the Ottawa exchange in September! Due to Fred's Achilles tendon surgery, the Andresens will not be able to make the trip...and ED Ralph Cauthen would very much like to have another two FFCNC members step up to fill their spaces. A marvelous itinerary is planned September 22—29, and there is an orientation meeting for the group August 21<sup>st</sup> at the home of Patti Gilmour and Don Sylvester.

Please call Ralph (336-299-2089) ASAP to discuss your interest in this Canadian exchange!

## And A Great Time Was Had By All!

Our annual lakeside meeting—courtesy of Marilyn Baird—was another resounding success! More than 30 members and friends enjoyed the day at Lake Norman despite the torrid weather. However the only ones who cooled off in the lake were bikini-clad girls from Estonia, Romania and Nepal—guests of Linda and Marvin Scherl. The Estonian and Romanian girls were participants in the Ben Franklin Transatlantic Institute and the Nepalese girls are Salem College students. “Watching them made the men on the porch forget about the heat,” observed Marilyn!

“Our Friendship Force group is so fortunate to have a friend like Marilyn Baird who graciously opens her lake house so that we can all get together in such a pleasant, relaxing setting. Thank you, Marilyn! The food that people bring to share is always good but, to my way of thinking, the most important part of this function is plain old socializing . . . seeing old friends and making new friends. This year I especially enjoyed getting to know Bert and Dot Kalet and hearing about their lengthy trip to South Africa ten years ago. I'd traveled in South Africa with my son in 2010, and I hope to talk again with Bert and Dot and hear even more about their experiences in that very interesting country.” (comment by Pat Blankenship)

## Meet Barbara and Jim North

The Norths were active members of Citizens for International Understanding (CIU) and traveled with the Guilford County group to Switzerland, Denmark and Japan before joining FFCNC. Jim was co-ED (with Ruth Jackson) for our Turkish inbound exchange. Barbara and Jim obligingly hosted a family of four from Cankaya, Turkey...and ended up driving two cars to most of the exchange activities! They have also hosted ambassadors from Japan, Harrisburg PA and Australia. The Norths were EDs for last year's three week outbound exchange to New Zealand, a very intensive but satisfying experience.

Barbara has served as secretary for FFCNC's Board since 2008 and attended the 2011 SouthEast Regional Conference in Black Mountain.



**Barbara and Jim North**  
9/30/10 at Pia Beach,  
North Island, New Zealand

Barbara retired after 34.5 years with Syngenta (formerly Ciba Geigy and then Novartis) and has continued to work part-time as an Ag Quality Assurance Consultant for the past three years. Jim was trained in church ministry to children and worked for both West Market Street UMC and the Learning Institute of NC. He then established a Greensboro interior and floral design business – Designs North – which he sold after 24 years.

The Norths have been married 49 years (9/8 anniversary) and their two married children live in NC (Kernersville and Asheville.) They have twin granddaughters (5) and a grandson (1) who occupy much of their time. Jim enjoys yardwork—getting his hands in the dirt—and volunteers for a charitable organization in Winston-Salem. They both are currently taking piano lessons!

### **Ben Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Hosting**

Martha and Dale Brown and Linda and Marvin Scherl once again hosted Ben Franklin Transatlantic Fellows – the Browns for the second time; the Scherls for the *seventh* time! For nine nights in July Magi Nazer of Bulgaria and Ruby Rodriguez of California lived with the Browns, while Ozana Ionica of Romania and Linda Eek of Estonia lived with the Scherls. As stated by Dr. Allan Loudon, Director of this program, these teens and their compatriots “...returned from many adventures with their host families over the last eight days. The families have gone ‘above and beyond’ in their hospitality, and fellows now have new insight into the many lifestyles that characterize ‘American Life.’ Students shared parties, eating, traveling from the mountains to the coast, adventuring from theme parks to white water. And they spent quiet time getting to know their hosts, establishing relationships that for many will last for years to come.”



*An Estonian and a Romanian eat Japanese; a Bulgarian and a Californian try Southern Barbeque!  
Left to right: Linda Eek, Ozana Ionica, Magi Nazer, and Ruby Rodriguez*

Many kudos go to FFCNC member, Scott Freese, who serves as the Home Stay Coordinator for this program, a title which in no way encompasses all that he does. Scott arranged homes in the Winston-Salem area for 61 teens as well as transportation to and from the airport, worship services, and a wide variety of community outreach projects the fellows participated in. But those are just his “normal” duties. He also dealt with the unexpected such as lost luggage, missed flights, and medical emergencies. Without Scott’s tireless dedication to this program, these teens from approximately 40 European countries would not experience American life first hand.

It is with sadness that we  
note the passing of our  
friend and member

**Nan Prout**

and extend our sympathy  
to Tim and their family

*Farewell, Good-by, Etc.*

*Kit Ravenel*

*is moving to be nearer her  
daughter in  
Memphis, Tennessee*

### **2011 Calendar Highlights**

August 26 – 30	FFI Annual World Conference: Hamburg, Germany
September 1	Board Meeting, 11:45 AM, MSUMC Kernersville
September 8 – 15	Inbound Exchange from Lima, Peru
September 22 – 29	Outbound Exchange to Ottawa, Canada
October 27	FFCNC Annual Meeting, 6:00 PM gathering, MSUMC Kernersville
November 3	Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville
December	FFCNC Holiday Party – home of Donna Lambeth

### **2012 Calendar Highlights**

May 28 – June 1	Inbound Exchange from Berlin, Germany
September	Inbound Exchange from Causeway Coast, UK
September	Outbound Exchange to Cascavel, Brazil