



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Fast Facts ~ March 2012

Meet Linda & Marvin Scherl



We know your curiosity is peaked after reading about the Scherls recent lengthy sojourn to Nepal, the culmination of befriending several dozen Nepalese students at Salem College over a number of years. You won't be surprised to learn that their adventuring spirits brought them together—and here's their story:

Marvin was born and raised in New York City, graduating with an engineering degree from Georgia Tech in 1959. Linda was born and raised in Brazil, where her parents were missionaries.

She has a Nursing degree from Duke University (1965), and a Master's in Public Health Nursing Supervision from Teacher's College at Columbia University (1970).

The Scherls met at a ski lodge in Vermont in 1968 and were married in 1970. In September 1971 they set out from NYC on a sailboat with another couple to sail around the world...and got as far as Miami, Florida, before the social dynamic of two couples on a small boat failed. Marvin and Linda sold their share of the boat to the other couple and bought a Winnebago motor home. For the next 42 months they toured the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Alaska, putting 95,000 miles on the motor home in one long trip.

In 1975 they ran out of money and places to go. Having been all over the USA, they decided that the Triad area would be the most comfortable place to settle. After a little bit of experimentation in vocation, Marvin took up a career in data processing and Linda re-entered nursing. In 1979 Linda became the first executive director (and only employee) of Hospice of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County, the first Hospice in North Carolina."

The Scherls first learned of the Friendship Force in 1991 when Marvin joined an exchange to Thailand. Since then one or the other of them has been on exchanges to Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Mexico, and England. Linda has also traveled privately to Australia and Japan for five weeks each, staying primarily (no hotels) with friends made through the Friendship Force.

Linda and Marvin have participated in many incoming exchanges over the 20 years they have been involved with the Friendship Force. In 1999 Marvin began maintaining the membership records of our chapter—before it became FFCNC. He currently serves as Vice President/ Membership Chair.

**Join the FF of Orlando's Exchange to Comitan, Mexico
May 13-20, 2012**

Comitan is one of Mexico's most stunning scenic areas. It is mostly wild and rugged...and rich in indigenous life and culture. Life is still lived according to custom and ritual. Visit historic sites and breath-taking natural locations while you immerse yourself in the cultural splendor of Mexico's warm hospitality. There are currently 10 spaces left.

Contact Sue Easton – sueeaston@juno.com – to learn more.

LEO at German Restaurant Draws Crowd

36 members and guests enjoyed our first LEO (Let's Eat Out) of the year at Old Europe Restaurant in Winston-Salem. Karla Shanahan shared cultural tips from her native country to prepare us to host Berliners in May. Dishes such as potato pancakes, bratwurst, sauerbraten and goulash were savored along with the many types of German beer available. We came at 11:30...and stayed past 2:30! A good time was had by all.

Details of German Inbound Take Shape



Plans are in progress for our inbound exchange May 20—26, and Co-EDs Judy Greene and Marcia Meis thank all those FFCNC members who have responded to their call for night hosts, day hosts and chairs of various activities and meals. There is still time to volunteer! We expect 11 ambassadors and have received the list for host matching.

We would like to have 2 more night hosts, 2 activity coordinators, and 2 meal planners for welcome lunch and farewell dinners that would include all club members. Call Judy Greene at 302-983-7531 or send her email at green111184@bellsouth.net.

The April newsletter will have all the details!!

World Friendship Day Celebration: March 31st

FFCNC members and guests will gather at GTCC on Saturday, March 31st from 11:30 to 2:30 for festivities and a shared meal. Please invite friends and neighbors from other countries to join us, bring a dish and wear an attire or costume that represents their birth country. Some special attractions are planned as well as sharing among those present.

What: World Friendship Day Celebration

When: Saturday, March 31st, 11:30 to 2:30

Where: Greensboro Technical Community College, Jamestown, NC
Medlin Campus Center, rooms 043, 045, 047 (combined to one big room!)

RSVP to Val Stokes by Wednesday, March 28

Cell: 336-402-0663; Home: 336-887-2947; E-mail: levals@northstate.net

>>> If you can help with decorating, greeting guests, bringing ice, etc. please let Val know.

Brazil Outbound: Travel Plans Proposed

Our co-EDs, Peter Peiffer and Judy Greene, have proposed an exciting 12 night itinerary for the exchange which will begin September 18th. First stop will be two nights in Rio de Janeiro followed by the six night homestay in Cascavel, a mid-size city in the agricultural state of Parana. On to the nearby and spectacular Iguassu Falls for two nights...and finally another two nights in Buenos Aires, Argentina, before returning home on the 30th.



Rio's Famous Statue



Iguassu Falls on the border of Brazil and Argentina

Flights to and from South America—into Rio and out of B.A., a round trip with “open jaw”—must be arranged by each ambassador. There is also a Brazilian visa (\$140) which each ambassador must obtain. The six nights lodging plus flights from Rio de Janeiro to Cascavel and from Iguassu to Buenos Aires will be included in the exchange cost—which is estimated under \$3,000.

Please let Peter or Judy know ASAP if you'd like to take this trip! Questions, comments and suggestions are welcome while the details are being worked out. Peter Peiffer: 336-288-0014 or peiffer@aol.com ; Judy Greene: 336-768-1732 or green111184@bellsouth.net



*The Woman Bridge in B.A...
and guess which dance?!*

2013 Outbound Exchange: Gold Coast of Australia!

It's official: FFCNC has been "matched" by FFI with two clubs in Australia for our 2013 outbound exchange. This exchange will probably be patterned after our very successful New Zealand outbound led by Barbara and Jim North in 2010 where two homestays were linked with group travel in between.

If you've been thinking about going "down under"...this is a great opportunity! Consider applying to be an ED (Exchange Director). Spring 2013 is probable date.



2012 Calendar Highlights

March 31	World Friendship Day, 11:30 – 2:30; GTCC: Jamestown
May 3	Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville
May 20 – 26	Inbound Exchange from Berlin, Germany
July 12	Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville
September 6	Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville
September 18	Outbound Exchange to Cascavel, Brazil
October 25	FFCNC Annual Meeting
November 1	Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville