



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Fast Facts ~ June 2012

### Berlin In-bound Exchange – 2012

Many thanks go to all the FFCNC members who helped to make this exchange a successful, memorable experience for all. The list of day hosts, night hosts, dinner hosts, etc., etc, is too long to include, but none of this would have been possible without the leadership of Marcia Meis and Judy Greene, both of whom (believe it or not) were first-time exchange directors.

Here are a few photo highlights of their visit. Look for more photos on our website later this summer.



Everyone paused for a group photo at the Welcome picnic lunch at Greensboro Country Park.



Segrid and Hans seem to enjoy ducking their heads at Mendenhall Plantation in Jamestown, a new Triad point of interest included in the week's itinerary.

FFCNC member, Donna Lambeth, and friend, Frances Kohut, were one of two performing acts at the Farewell dinner held at a new venue, the Delta Arts Center in Winston-Salem.



### **New Members Get Involved with the Berlin Exchange**

Several of FFCNC's newest members helped host our Berlin guests: Susan DeVaney and Steve Kaczmarek were night hosts, and Marta Rhodes hosted a small group dinner. We talked with Susan and Marta about their experiences.

Susan found their guest to be "an easy person to have around: interested in everything, laid back, willing to share his experiences, widely traveled, open to new things, etc." She was surprised to learn that he "is used to walking or riding his bike rather than driving longer distances" and that he did not want to drive anywhere by Friday!" Susan particularly enjoyed visiting sites that were new to her: the Civil Rights Museum, Reynolda Gardens, Mendenhall Plantation and the High Point Museum. "Funny how you can live in an area for years and neglect to visit local attractions."

"I thoroughly enjoyed the picnic and cookout (small group dinner). They were lots of fun and well-planned for mixing and mingling."

Marta found that, as hostess of a small group dinner, she was not able to converse as much as she would have liked with her German guests. But of course meal details always distract from

guests in general (her dinner included 8 FFCNC members as well as 4 Berliners.) She grew up enjoying diversity...and appreciated this opportunity to entertain international guests. (*Read more about Marta's Colombian heritage below.*)

Marta served chicken—a “common local entrée and acceptable to all.” FFCNC'ers brought a side dish plus a bottle of wine, and Marta made her mother's favorite dessert. Everyone sat in a circle of chairs around her great room where conversation was lively and inclusive. And one gentleman from Berlin proved very helpful loading the dishwasher!

At the farewell dinner later in the week, Marta learned that the Berlin club hosted a Brazilian inbound exchange two weeks prior to traveling outbound to FFCNC. The close timing enabled them to compare the two exchanges...and Marta reports “they realize they have a lot to learn about hosting.” And so it goes: just as we picked up good ideas in Ottawa, we are sending some back to Germany with our Berlin guests.

Both Susan and Marta would “do it again”—and encourage others to take the hosting plunge.

### **Meet One of Our Newest Members – Marta Rhodes**

Marta's interest in learning about different cultures and enthusiasm for traveling and meeting new people motivated her to join FFCNC. She has visited several countries in South America, North America and Europe, as well as several states in the US and looks forward to more traveling in the upcoming years.

The Rhodes family enjoyed hosting exchange students from Bosnia, Japan, France and Colombia when the children were growing up; in addition to the great cultural experience, wonderful memories and long lasting friendships were created.

Marta was born in Colombia, South America and after completing studies in Social Work and Bank Administration, she traveled to the US where she had the opportunity to work with Wachovia Bank. Around that time, Bucaramanga (her hometown) and Winston-Salem were “Sister Cities”. Later on, she obtained the NC teaching certification and taught Spanish at Forsyth County Schools until AT&T offered her a position in their Winston-Salem location. During a company split she was transferred to Lucent Technologies and recently retired from Alcatel-Lucent. Currently she works as a consultant in the eLearning localization field.

Through her Christian church, Marta is involved with various community projects in the Southside area of Winston-Salem. She believes that it is a blessing to have the opportunity to share her time and talents with people who are underserved.

She loves spending time with her children and grandbaby, Noah, and visiting with extended family members and friends. Traveling, cultural events, dancing, boating, hiking and flower arranging are some of her favorite hobbies.

### **Brazil Out-bound Exchange Cancelled**

We are sorry to report that we were unable to recruit enough ambassadors for the Brazil outbound and, consequently, it has been canceled. By late spring less than ten ambassadors, including some interest from outside FFCNC, had signed up and we felt that time was running out to recruit more. The Asheville Club is having an exchange to Brazil in early October and

they will visit Cascavel as well as two other home-stays. Jack Mullin from this club is their exchange director and he welcomes anyone from our club that is interested to join their group.

We will get an early start on plans for our Australian trip in 2013 so that we will have a great exchange there.

### **Highlights of Brazil**

**October 4 to 22, 2012**

**Rio de Janeiro • Belo Horizonte • Blumenau • Cascavel • Iguassu Falls**

This exchange begins with a two-night hotel stay in Rio near Copacabana Beach. We will visit Sugar Loaf Mountain and the Christ the Redeemer statue crowning Mount Corcovado. Then we will enjoy two homestays, first with FF Belo Horizonte, where we will visit historical towns like Ouro Preto, and second with FF Blumenau in the mountains south of Sao Paulo. There is a heavy German influence here, and we will celebrate OktoberFest with them. We'll enjoy a brief homestay in Cascavel on our way to the beautiful Iguassu Falls, which consist of 275 cataracts along a 1.5 mile stretch. **Only 10 spaces left!**

**Contact: Jack Mullen, FF Western North Carolina, 828-545-8097**

### **Friendship Force Nametags**

If anyone is interested in ordering a Friendship Force nametag, please contact Marcia Meis. (724-9540)

### **Summer Picnic**



Marilyn Baird has graciously offered to host our summer picnic again at her Lake Norman home on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars now and watch for your invitation to arrive by email/snail mail in early July.

### **2012 Calendar Highlights**

July 12	Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville
July 28	Picnic at Marilyn Baird's Lake Norman home
September 6	Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville
October 25	FFCNC Annual Meeting
November 1	Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville