



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Fast Facts ~ September 2012

Moldovan Open World Delegation Arrives Soon

Peter Peiffer, Ralph Cauthen, and Donna Lambeth, exchange directors for our in-bound Open World exchange from Moldova, have been working fast and furiously in anticipation of the arrival of our Moldovan guests in less than two weeks. Not only are the usual activities being planned such as welcome and farewell events, visits to Old Salem and the Civil Rights Museum, but also a 32-hour program on elections and campaigns is being prepared. Our guests will be very busy!



We were disappointed to learn recently that the size of the group has diminished. Upcoming elections in Moldova have taken a higher priority for one of our anticipated delegates. Nonetheless, we are pleased and excited to receive Oleg Sirbu, Natalia Lipca, Victor Rosca, and Oleg Tulea along with their facilitator, Mariana Turcan, and interpreter, Carmen Kosik.

Oleg Sirbu is married with two sons and is a Deputy & member of the Parliament. He is a member of the Democratic Party of Moldova and was educated as an agronomist.

Natalia is a young project manager working in the mayor's office in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. She volunteers many hours each month for the Association for European Integration and also for her political party, the Liberal Party of Moldova.

Victor, married with two older children, is the General Secretary of the Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova. He studied Physics and is now a Ph. D. Candidate.

Oleg Tulea, also married but with two toddlers, is a member of Parliament and the Vice-President of his political party, the Democratic Party of Moldova.

Mariana is fluent in Romanian, Spanish, Russian, and English (of course!) This will be her third time participating in an Open World program. One of her many hobbies is collecting fridge magnets of the places she has visited. Based on the list of countries she has traveled to in the past ten years, there's not much space left on her fridge for a magnet from North Carolina! Nonetheless, we'll be sure she goes home with one.

Carmen was raised and educated in Romania and has lived in the United States since the early 1990's. She is now a U.S. citizen living in Arlington, Va. Before her career as an interpreter she bought and sold precious gems professionally.

Our six guests will arrive at the Greensboro airport Friday morning, September 21 where they will be met by their host families. The Open World program activities will begin that afternoon with a meeting in the Winston-Salem City Hall with Mayor Joines.

All FFCNC members are invited to attend our Welcome event on Saturday, September 22, 6 PM, at the Delta Arts Center, Winston-Salem. In addition to dinner, we will enjoy a presentation about Moldova which has been prepared by our guests and a presentation by FFCNC members, Donna Lambeth, Judy Greene, and Karla Shanahan, for our Moldovan guests about Friendship Force.

Program activities will continue in Winston-Salem on Monday in meetings with elected officials on the local, state, and federal level. Tuesday will offer an opportunity for our guests to visit Old Salem before transferring to their host families in Greensboro.

Wednesday in Greensboro will begin with a visit to the Civil Rights Museum and the afternoon will be spent with each delegate shadowing an American individual with a similar job/professional interest. Thursday will also be a busy day in Greensboro consisting of meetings with local elections officials and a UNCG professor (who has lived in Romania and) whose area of expertise is US elections and campaign systems.

Friday will bring the Moldovans back to Winston-Salem for a few hours on opening day of the Dixie Classic Fair. What better place to get a taste of Americana and observe political candidates in action?

The week's activities will close on Friday with a Farewell dinner at Taste of Thai in Greensboro. **All FFCNC members are invited to this event also.** Details will be forthcoming in a separate invitation.

A few of the goals of Open World programs are to enhance understanding, cooperation, and two-way learning between Americans and Open World participants. The program that Peter, Donna, and Ralph have put together provides many opportunities for the delegates to learn about our campaigning and election process, observe American culture in action, and develop new friendships which will further understanding and cooperation in the future. When our guests depart on September 29 from the Greensboro airport they will carry home with them much more than just the contents of their suitcases!

Wish List for Australia Out-bound Exchange Summer of 2013

Plans are underway for our FFCNC Outbound Exchange to eastern Australia in the summer of 2013! We will most likely visit two Friendship Force clubs. One in Queensland along the Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane and one in New South Wales in the general vicinity of Sydney. Co-exchange directors, Judy Greene and Ray Kiszely, want to hear from you. Here is your chance to dream a bit. If you were to participate on this exchange, what kind of experiences would interest you? Would you like to



hug a koala bear? See how high a kangaroo can jump? Throw a boomerang? See an opera in Sydney? No commitments are necessary at this time, just your imagination. Interested FFCNC members should send a note of interest to Judy (green111184@bellsouth.net) or Ray (RayKiszely@hotmail.com) within the next two weeks. This information will help them as they plan dates, locations, and itineraries. And don't forget to pass the word onto friends and family who may also enjoy visiting Australia.

The Many Hats of Ophelia Jones

We asked Ophelia, current Secretary of FFCNC, if she could tell us a little about herself that we could share with our members. The following is her story.

My name is Ophelia Jones and I am the wearer of many hats in my short lifetime. I am the present secretary of the Friendship Force of Central North Carolina. I have been a member of the FFCNC since 2008. I have traveled with the club to Peru, Japan and to New Zealand.

I am the daughter of (Willie) Mae Fuller - a former librarian and media specialist for several elementary schools on Long Island, New York. She was an educator who inspired me in all my educational ventures. My mom was a world traveler who traveled to places I could only dream about. I never got the opportunity to travel with her, but I felt her presence at Rotorua in New Zealand's North Island when FFCNC toured there in 2010. I cherish those artifacts of New Zealand that she brought back from her travels there in the 1970's. Although my father, Grady Fuller, died before I was 4 years old, he was an advocate of education also. He was a graduate of Palmer Memorial Institute (now the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum and state historical site), a world renowned African-American preparatory boarding school in Sedalia, NC. He was a celebrated bass singer in the quartet established by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, and "The Brown Singers" male quartet traveled up and down the east coast during the early 1920s, singing and raising funds, recognition, and acclaim for the Palmer Memorial Institute.

I am the mother of two adult children who have been the joy of my existence. I have three fabulous grandchildren who have definite goals and ambitions that they hold very dear, and the family celebrates every chance we can find.

I am the wife of Reverend Robert Jones who is also my traveling companion. We celebrated our 41st anniversary on August 28, 2012. I am the announcer and a choir participant for Bethany Community Church, my childhood church in Sedalia, where I have been a member for over 34 years.

I am a sister and a great aunt with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

I am the present Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Sedalia in Guilford County, NC. Since my move back to North Carolina in 1979, I have been a community worker. I was part of the incorporation of the Town of Sedalia and I am proud of the town's accomplishments. We have worked hard in the community to establish our place in North Carolina history.

In my spare time I love to talk about my travels and cultural encounters, growing flowers and my vegetable garden, my book club readings, my community involvements, my water aerobics and Thai Chi interests. Thanks for taking the time to read about some of my many hats; I hope that we can develop a great friendship.

Ophelia



Clearly, Ophelia enjoys adventures!

2012 - 2013 Calendar Highlights

September 13	Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville
September 21 – 29	Open World delegation from Moldova
September 22	Welcome Dinner for Moldovans, 6 PM, Delta Arts Center, WS
September 28	Farewell Dinner for Moldovans, Taste of Thai, GSO
October 25	FFCNC Annual Meeting
November 1	Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville
July 2013	Out-bound exchange to Gold Coast of Australia