



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Fast Facts ~ October 2012

Giving, Learning, Sharing

These are just a few of the words used at the Moldovan farewell dinner by Mariana Turcan, facilitator, to describe the experience of the Open World delegation during their visit to the Triad.

Giving: There certainly was a lot of giving on the part of FFCNC members. Approximately one quarter of our membership was directly involved with this exchange hosting guests, planning activities, or serving as a point person for a day's activities. Even more members joined in for the welcome and farewell dinners. Approximately thirty Triad representatives gave of their time to meet with our delegation and discuss issues such as how a newspaper decides which candidates to support, how US elections are conducted, how a city manages its budget and sets priorities. Our Moldovan guests had the opportunity to meet with retired Senator James Broyhill and current US Representative Howard Coble as well as many other officials, volunteers and professionals who are involved every day in political campaigns and our election process. Possibly the highlight of their week was a chance meeting with a local resident who participated in one chapter of US history.

When Thursday afternoon's meeting finished early Peter Peiffer and Hal Guess made a quick decision how to use the extra time and drove the delegation to the campus of NC A&T to visit the statue of the A&T Four. The delegation had visited the Civil Rights Museum on the previous day and enjoyed snapping a few photos of the statue. While there the A&T football team arrived dressed in sweats and, one at a time, each player touched the feet of the A&T Four. With his curiosity peaked, Peter spoke to the coach and learned that Franklin McCain, one of the A&T Four, was there to speak to the players. After his



Winston-Salem mayor, Allen Joines (r), shows the city budget to Oleg Sirbu and Oleg Tulea (from l) while Carmen Kosik translates.

commitment with the team, Mr. McCain met the Moldovan delegation and took the time to pose for a photograph with the group in front of the statute and sign autographs.



(l to r) Victor Rosca, Mariana Turcan, Franklin McCain, Carmen Kosik, Natalia Lipca, and Oleg Sirbu pose in front of the A&T Four statue. Not pictured is Oleg Tulea who returned to Europe early in order to fulfill Parliamentarian duties.

Learning: There is no doubt that our Moldovan guests received a lot of information on the theme of their visit: elections and campaigns. Discussions were brisk and questions flowed freely. At the same time those FFCNC members present learned a lot about the current political structure. For example, Moldova has a unicameral parliament and citizens vote for a party, not a candidate. The members of Parliament are chosen by their political parties based on the proportion of votes each party received in the election. Parliament then elects the President. Until recently Moldova did not have a president for three years due to the lack of a majority vote in Parliament.

Politics was not the only subject learned during the week. Our guests also had the opportunity to learn a little US history while at Old Salem, American art history while at Reynolda House, and lots of American culture at the Dixie Classic Fair! FFCNC members who attended the welcome dinner learned about Moldova during a presentation and slide show organized by Mariana. Those in attendance were surprised by the beauty of the country side and the modern look of the capital city, Chisinau.

Sharing: The following thank you note to all of us from Mariana, the group's facilitator, speaks for itself in regards to "sharing."

Dearest friends and families,

As we departed a place that was our home for a week, our hearts heavy, as good-byes are never a pleasant moment, yet full of great fantastic memories accumulated from interesting meetings and tremendous times spent in your homes and home cities - we all shared a common dream to come true - to come back one day!

Due to mechanical issues, we were redirected and flew from Greensboro to Newark - saw New York City from above and the delegates and I loved it! Sometimes, just sometimes, mechanical problems can be fun! We arrived home all safe and sound, luggage, too :) Funny enough, and as usual, and with no desire to sleep so much, the trip back home seemed shorter as we talked most of the flight about what we saw, talked, and experienced during this visit.

I am writing this e-mail on behalf of the entire delegation to THANK YOU once again for making our visit the greatest time to learn and exchange on the topic of elections and political parties, but also to learn about the American hospitality, culture, history and people. Winston Salem and Greensboro are pinned on our maps and hearts forever.

We truly hope that the visit is paid back some day as you are always welcome to our small beautiful country of Moldova.

Hope we keep in touch,

All the best and warm,,hot greetings (it is really hot in Moldova!)

Mariana

2012 Annual Meeting – Mark Your Calendars!



It's that time of year again...when fall is in the air, it's time for our club to gather, celebrate a good year, and look forward to 2013. Every member is cordially invited to the meeting on **Thursday, October 25th at 6:00 p.m. at Main Street United Methodist Church, 306 South Main Street in Kernersville,** for a covered dish supper (to be served at 6:30 p. m.), program, and election of new officers.

Bring a friend—and your favorite dish to share. Please RSVP to Val Stokes (336-877-2947 or levels@northstate.net) by Oct. 20th to facilitate planning.

Also, Val is looking for **two or three volunteers** to help set up. If you are available, please give her a call. Many hands make light work!

2013 FFCNC Officers

President: Barbara North
Vice President: Marvin Scherl
Secretary: Ophelia Jones
Treasurer: Judy Greene

New Members & Directory Updates

2012 has brought us many new members. Please add their names and addresses to your directory. You may spot someone living close to you with whom you can share a ride to the annual meeting and be sure to introduce yourself while there.

Trudi Lauer	1918 Halifax Ct.; High Point, NC 27265	336-454-1495
Patti Marraro	3000 Franks Dr.; Morehead City, NC 28567	252-726-9081
Peg Parham	708 S. Elam Ave.; Greensboro, NC 27403	336-272-5259
Gary and Jennie Ray	106 Boulder Rd.; Greenville, SC 29607	864-297-1242
Marta Rhodes	920 Crafton Creek Dr.; Lewisville, NC 27023	336-971-5747
Percy and Nancy Russell	1021 Arbor Run Dr.; Lewisville, NC 27023	336-945-2518
Karlyn Shankland	5001 Bass Chapel Rd #2C; GSO, 27455	336-294-8436

Meet the Meises

Marcia and Paul Meiss were born and raised in Iowa and met at the University of Iowa where Marcia obtained her MS in speech pathology and audiology and Paul obtained his MD. After graduation, Paul joined the US Army Medical Corps and was ordered to Germany, where Marcia and Paul lived on the German economy for two years and started their family. It was during this time that Paul and Marcia developed a love for foreign travel. They fired up their VW beetle and traveled to Italy, France, Switzerland, Holland, Austria, and England. In their travels, they budgeted a generous \$15 per day! One of the most historical moments occurred when they traveled to Berlin in 1961 and witnessed the start of construction on the Berlin Wall.

After returning from Germany with two young boys, they lived in Syracuse NY for three years, and Wisconsin for 10 years. Following this, Paul trained as a fellow in Maternal Fetal Medicine, (high risk obstetrics) in Los Angeles. Marcia also pursued graduate training in her field of Audiology. The next stop for the Meises was Winston-Salem where Paul joined Wake Forest University School of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1977.

Upon arriving in Winston-Salem they learned about the Friendship Force and began to enjoy many exchanges with both the Friendship Force of Winston-Salem and the CIU of Guilford County. They traveled as ambassadors to Wales, Northern Germany, Eastern Germany, Belgium, Thailand, Denmark, Hungary, France, Japan, Piacenza and Florence Italy. Having seen the Berlin Wall built, it was wonderful to visit Berlin in 2009 and see the city with no wall. They have also hosted ambassadors from many countries.

Paul and Marcia have worked on numerous committees, led many exchanges, and both served as presidents of Friendship Force of Central North Carolina. We are truly indebted to them for their many years of service.



Senbazuru

FFCNC may not have any members attending the 35th Friendship Force International World Conference Oct. 31 – Nov. 2 in Hiroshima, Japan, but we will be well represented there. In late August FFI sent an email to all members requesting 1000 origami paper cranes. This may have seemed like an odd request to those not familiar with the practice of Senbazuru, an ancient Japanese legend which has come to represent hope and peace.



Learning to fold paper cranes are (l to r) Barbara North, a Sunday school student, and Tomoko Thornburg.

Unlike many of us, before Jim and Barbara North hit the “delete” button on their email, they read further. They immediately thought of the older children’s class at their church in Greensboro, Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, and recognized the opportunity for an educational and fun project. Sunday mornings in September these elementary school age children learned to make paper cranes and heard the story of Sadako Sasaki. The Norths were able to make the experience even more meaningful by including their next door neighbor, Tomoko Thornburg, a native of Japan. Tomoko (who many of us have met at various FFCNC events) visited the children’s class and assisted in the instruction of folding paper cranes. Tomoko also shared books and posters about Japan.

The Story of the Thousand Paper Cranes

Hiroshima’s Children’s Peace Monument is dedicated to all the children who died as a result of the A-bomb. At the top, there is a statue of a girl holding a folded paper crane. This girl was Sadako Sasaki.

Two-year-old Sadako was blown out of the window at her home, about two miles from ground zero, when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Miraculously, she survived, but ten years later she developed acute leukemia.

She had great faith in the popular Japanese belief that folding a thousand paper cranes would make her wishes come true; however, she died eight months later. Sadako’s classmates completed the 1000 cranes and buried them with her. They also began a fundraising campaign which was supported by the entire nation and erected a memorial to her and all the children who died from the effects of the atomic bomb.

At the foot of the statue is a plaque that reads: “This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world.”

When it was all said and done, over 250 paper cranes were mailed to the Friendship Force World Conference in Hiroshima! These cranes will be included in the string of 1000 cranes to be presented in November at the Children's Peace Monument.

2012 - 2013 Calendar Highlights

October 25
November 1
July 2013

FFCNC Annual Meeting, 6 PM, Kernersville
Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville
Out-bound exchange to Gold Coast of Australia