



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Our mission is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

Fast Facts ~ February 2013

Open World III – Coming this Spring!

During the holiday party in January President, Barbara North, announced that FFCNC has been invited to host its third Open World delegation! Open World wrote to FFI with the following news: “We are pleased to inform you that Friendship Force International has been approved to receive a grant from the Open World Leadership Center to host delegates/facilitators for an Open World Program during calendar year 2013. We would love to work with you and your club again!” FFI in Atlanta quickly sent details to FFCNC with the specifics of three proposed spring delegations and, as a testament to our previous successful Open World programs, gave us our choice of delegations!

FFCNC has accepted the offer to host a delegation from Georgia (the former Soviet republic, not the US state to our south!) A group consisting of five delegates, one facilitator, and one translator will arrive on April 26 and visit the Triad until May 6. We will be creating a program for them aimed at exposing these scholars to higher education policy, management and processes in the US as well as providing a broad overview of the role of academia in building a society and academia’s impact on policymaking in the international arena. The background information we received regarding the need for this program is that the government of Georgia recently made significant efforts to build the long-term institutional capacity needed to better manage its education system. Progress has been made to Georgia’s system of higher education as a result of policies that have led to decentralization and enhanced accreditation policies. This Open World program will offer the participating delegates the opportunity to gain broader exposure to the US higher education system and improve their skills.



Peter Peiffer and Barbara North will act as co-exchange directors and have already recruited several FFCNC members to serve on their committee. As with our recent Moldovan Open World program, there are many opportunities for FFCNC members to help as it requires a significant effort to plan a program such as this as well as to host, feed and entertain our guests. Anyone interested in participating in any capacity – large or small - is welcome to attend an **organizational meeting** which will be held on **Friday, February 15, 10 AM at Panera Bread in**

Kernersville. Also, feel free to call or email Barbara (woodnotes2004@yahoo.com and 643-0985) or Peter (peiffer@aol.com and 288-0014) with questions and offers of assistance.

Open World Fast Facts

- The Open World program is an exchange and partnership program designed to enhance understanding and cooperation between Eurasian and American leaders.
- The Open World program builds the groundwork for enduring cooperation by bringing emerging Eurasian government and civic leaders to the United States to work with their American counterparts during 10-day professional visits and facilitates continued relations through an alumni network.
- Through hosts and grantees, the Open World program provides delegates first-hand experience with American community life, accountable governance, and democratic values.
- The average age of Open World delegates is 38; over half are women.
- More than half of Open World delegates have been federal, regional, or local government officials.
- For more information, please visit www.openworld.gov or find the Open World Leadership Center on Facebook and follow OWLC on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/OWprogram>.

Planes, Trains, and LARC's

Exchange directors, Judy Greene and Ray Kiszely, are putting the finishing touches on plans for our out-bound exchange to Australia. All the details will be covered **Saturday, February 23 at 1 PM; Main Street United Methodist Church; Kernersville during an organizational and informational meeting.** All FFCNC members and others (colleagues, friends, family – anyone who shares our FF mission) interested in traveling with us are invited to attend. Here are a few highlights of the trip which will be discussed in more detail at the meeting:

- July 10 – arrive in Brisbane. Among other activities in the port city, we are fortunate to be there during the bi-annual Queensland Music Festival.
- July 14 – travel to Bundaberg by Tilt Train. These high speed trains were introduced in 1998. They can tilt five degrees to either side making them the fastest trains in Australia.



- While in Bundaberg go on a LARC! These repurposed military amphibious vehicles will take our group on a day trip to the Town of 1776, site of James Cook's second landing in Australia. Along the way to Bustard Head Lighthouse, the first lighthouse built in Queensland, there will be plenty of nature to view while traveling the coastlines of Eurimbula National Park and Bustard Bay.



- July 20 – travel to the Sunshine Coast along with your appetite. During our stay we will be treated to a beach BBQ breakfast, high tea, and a seafood cruise. Other adventures will include holding a koala at the Australian Zoo and learning about Aboriginal culture.
- July 26 – return to Brisbane from where you may travel to other points of personal interest.

To secure your spot on this exchange a **deposit of \$550 is due March 15th**. Total cost of the exchange is \$2,050. This does not include airfare to Australia, travel insurance, visa, meals in Brisbane, and an optional Great Barrier Reef outing.

For more information contact Judy at 768-1732 or green111184@bellsouth.net or Ray at 301-580-3253 or RayKiszely@hotmail.com

World Friendship Day Celebration

The first observance of World Friendship Day by Friendship Force clubs around the world was on March 1, 2005. In 2008 the US Senate issued a proclamation officially designating March 1 as World Friendship Day. The choice of this date recognizes the original founding day of Friendship Force when President Jimmy Carter made this announcement in a White House ceremony. FFI encourages its clubs to celebrate this day with activities and public events that will increase public awareness, provide a platform for gaining new members, and create opportunities for real-life examples of executing the FFI mission to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.



FFCNC will recognize World Friendship Day on April 6 at Chef Dion in Lexington. Watch for more details coming soon and learn more about Chef Dion at www.chefdion.com.

George Brown to Retire as Friendship Force President June 30, 2013

The following announcement was published Nov. 16, 2012 in "The Communique", the leadership newsletter of Friendship Force International.

George Brown, who has served as president of Friendship Force International since April 2004, will retire effective June 30, 2013. The announcement comes two weeks after the very successful conclusion of FFI's 35th World Conference in Hiroshima, Japan, attended by over 400 members from 24 countries.

"It has been a great honor for me to work for this incredible global organization for a total of 23 years, the last nine years as president," stated Brown who will turn 68 next June. "The Friendship Force, with its new global expansion plan, is in great shape. I can look back with pride and satisfaction at the record of the past few years, but now is the time for new leadership to carry forward the mission of global friendship that was started in 1977 by Wayne Smith, with the support of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter."

Brown expects to remain active in the international field but has no plans to take on another fulltime position. "I'm looking forward to slowing down a bit and to taking advantage of the opportunity for personal visits with many of the friends I've made around the world."

In accepting Brown's resignation, Board Chairman Alan Milne of Kapiti Coast, New Zealand, stated: "We will miss George with his enthusiastic and effective leadership. He has made a tremendous contribution to the growth of our organization. We wish him all the best in his retirement years and know he will remain an active friend of the Friendship Force."

Brown first joined the Friendship Force staff in 1983 and worked closely for many years with founder Wayne Smith. The Board of Directors has begun the leadership transition process and expects to have a new president appointed by June 2013. "We are confident that we will find just right person to lead us, building on the strong foundation George Brown has established," stated Milne. "The Friendship Force is strong and growing and will continue to flourish for years to come."

In December, the FFI Board of Directors approved the appointment of a search committee to guide the selection process for a new President. The purpose of the committee will be to work with a consulting firm to identify and screen candidates for the position and to recommend finalists for final selection by the Board of Directors. The committee consists of current board members, as well as other experienced Friendship Force leaders, some of whom FFCNC members will remember from our exchanges. The members of the committee and their home Friendship Force clubs are: Sandra Larson, chair, Kern County, California; Cecile Latour, Canadian Capital Region, Ottawa, Canada; Mac Mackenzie, Florida Suncoast; Boya Marshall, Bavaria, Germany; Alan Milne, Kapiti Coast, New Zealand; Jack Mullen, Western North Carolina; Karen Overly Smith, Greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Bruce Wazorko, Connecticut. According to Sandra Larson, the committee will be looking for a person "who can work well with all the countries and cultures represented in our remarkable organization."

Donna Lambeth Appointed to FFI International Advisory Council

Alan Milne, Chairman of the FFI 2012 Board, and George Brown have established the International Advisory Council. Since FFI Board by-laws do not allow board members to serve successive terms, this advisory council will allow FFI leadership to remain involved on a global basis. Eighteen former board members, including FFCNC member, Donna Lambeth, have been invited to serve on this council. This will create a strong two way communication process between FFI members and the FFI Board of Directors. Meetings will be informal and held at world conferences and through the Internet.

Donna, who founded Friendship Force of Winston-Salem in 1980, served on the FFI Board from 2004 to 2009 and served as its chair in 2008. The board consists of members from a variety of countries around the globe. During her chairmanship the new logo which we use today was developed and the Legacy Campaign was begun. The purpose of the Legacy Campaign, to which FFCNC often makes contributions, is to raise funds for worldwide development of new clubs. Commenting on her experience on the FFI Board Donna said, "It's stimulating making decisions for an international organization with people whose decision-making processes are very different from our uniquely American non-profit agency thinking." FFCNC is proud to have such a long-term, dedicated member as part of our club.

Raising Awareness about FFCNC



Do you like to share the word about Friendship Force? Do you get excited about Friendship Force's mission and cultural exchanges? Do you like to write? Do you like photography? If so, we need you to help publicize the activities and events of FFCNC to our local communities by serving on a Publicity Committee. This is an important role that can contribute to the growth of our club. For more information on how you can assist, please respond with an email to Barbara North at woodnotes2004@yahoo.com or 643-0985.

Reminders

Orders for FFCNC nametags can be placed with Judy Greene (336-768-1732). Mail checks payable to **FFCNC** in the amount of \$9.50 per badge to: Judy Greene, 155 Old Plantation Court, Winston-Salem, NC 27104. Include a slip of paper with your name **PRINTED** as you wish it to appear on the badge. Badges will be ordered when Judy has 10 or more names.



2013 Calendar Highlights

March 7	Board Meeting; 11:45 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
April 6	World Friendship Day Celebration; noon; Chef Dion; Lexington
April 26 – May 6	Open World in-bound exchange from Georgia
May 2	Board Meeting; 11:45 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
June 27	Board Meeting; 11:45 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
July 10 – 26	Out-bound exchange to Sunshine Coast of Australia
September 5	Board Meeting; 11:45 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
November 7	Board Meeting; 11:45 AM MSUMC; Kernersville