



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

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

## Fast Facts ~ March 2013

### Save the Dates!

Planning for our Open World delegation from Georgia (the former Soviet republic) is off to a good start. The planning committee has already met twice and many thanks go to the following FFCNC members for quickly stepping up to the plate to help: In addition to exchange directors, Peter Peiffer and Barbara North, the committee includes Donna Lambeth, Ralph Cauthen, Hal Guess, Nancy Russell, Barton Parks, Tim Prout, and Doris Kiszely. But there's still room at the table, so if you would like to help in any capacity, please contact Peter at [peiffer@aol.com](mailto:peiffer@aol.com) and 288-0014.

Details of the schedule for their visit are being finalized, but we can tell you that our guests will arrive from a short orientation in Washington, DC on Friday, April 26. They will be hosted in Winston-Salem for four nights then on Tuesday, April 30 they will move to their Greensboro host families where they will stay for the final four nights. They will depart on Saturday, May 4.

Our mission for this program is to welcome the delegates from the Republic of Georgia, to introduce them to the educational policies, management and processes of our colleges, university and community college systems, and to provide a broad overview of the role of academia in our society. That said, you can anticipate that many of their program meetings will be held on our local campuses with university and college administrators.

Our April newsletter will fill you in on all the details, including the welcome and farewell events that will be open to all FFCNC members. In the meantime, save these dates on your calendars!

*Hello!*

სალმებო

A Welcome lunch will be held on **Saturday, April 27** at the Delta Arts Center, Winston-Salem.

A Farewell dinner will be held on **Thursday, May 2** at Taste of Thai in Greensboro.

*Goodbye!*

დამშვიდობება

**A brief history of Georgia:** The region of present day Georgia contained the ancient kingdom of Colchis and Kartli-Iberia. The area came under Roman influence in the first centuries A.D. and Christianity became the state religion in the 330s. Domination by Persians, Arabs, and Turks was followed by a Georgian golden age (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries) that was cut short by the Mongol invasion of 1236. Subsequently, the Ottoman and Persian empires competed for influence in the region. Georgia was absorbed into the Russian Empire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Independent for three years (1918-1921) following the Russian revolution, it was forcibly incorporated into the USSR in 1921 and regained its independence when the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991.

**Where in the World is Georgia?** Georgia's neighbors are Russia, Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. And if you want to go swimming, it is bounded to the west by the Black Sea.

Georgia contains two *de facto* independent regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which gained limited international recognition after the 2008 Russo-Georgian War. Georgia considers the regions to be part of its sovereign territory under Russian military occupation.

**What's in a Name?** Most Georgian surnames end in *-dze* which means "son." *-shvili* meaning "child," *-ia*, *-ani*, or *-uri*. The ending *-eli* is a practice of nobility, equivalent to French *de*, German *von* or Polish *-ski*.

Many of you will remember Eduard Shevardnadze, who was the Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs under Gorbachev. After the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 he returned to his homeland of Georgia and served as its president from 1995 to 2003.

Another famous Georgian was Joseph Stalin whose real name was Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili.

Though not well known to us in America, there is a long list of famous Georgians in the arts, sports, academia, and politics.

## **Australian Out-Bound Exchange Deadline Draws Near**

The organizational and information meeting for our out-bound exchange to Bundaberg and the Sunshine Coast of Australia was well attended on February 23. At this time there are nine FFCNC members planning to participate as ambassadors on this exchange. FFCNC members may continue to register after the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline; however, in mid-March this exchange will be advertised on FF International's web site and spots on the exchange will be opened up to all Friendship Force clubs as well as non-Friendship Force members. A few FF members from other clubs who are interested in this exchange have already contacted us for more information and we hope that they will register for the exchange after the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for our club. Total capacity of this exchange is around 20 ambassadors depending on the number of couples and singles traveling.

In the next month or two exchange directors, Judy Greene and Ray Kiszely, will be meeting with local organizations such as Rotary clubs, the Shepherd Center, etc. in an effort to recruit more ambassadors from the Triad. If you are a member of a local organization and think that the membership of that group would have an interest in learning more about Friendship Force and this exchange, please contact Judy or Ray. They would welcome an invitation to speak about the exchange and Friendship Force.

The dates of the exchange are July 10 – 26, 2013. 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](mailto:green111184@bellsouth.net) or Ray at 301-580-3253 or [RayKiszely@hotmail.com](mailto:RayKiszely@hotmail.com).

## World Friendship Day Celebration



Don't forget to rsvp to Val Stokes (402-0663 or [levals@northstate.net](mailto:levals@northstate.net)) by April 2 if you can attend our World Friendship Day celebration on **April 6 at noon**. Barton and Evelyn Parks will speak about their experience in China while Barton taught English for six weeks. You can learn more about Chef Dion restaurant, our venue for lunch, at [www.chefdion.com](http://www.chefdion.com) or 731-6496. Most importantly, please bring your international friends and family. The cost is \$12 per person.

## A Gift From Your Board!

Our FFCNC Board has voted to provide all members with their own Friendship Force name badge with the expense being covered by our club dues. If you do not have a name badge or have an old green badge and would like to have it replaced with the new badge (pictured here), please contact Judy Greene (336-768-1732 or [green111184@bellsouth.net](mailto:green111184@bellsouth.net).) You will need to let Judy know exactly how you would like your name to appear and which kind of name badge you would like (magnetic, bull dog clip, or pin.) Judy will submit our order in time to receive the badges before the Australian out-bound exchange departs in early July.



## 2013 Calendar Highlights

April 6	World Friendship Day Celebration; noon; Chef Dion; Lexington
April 26 – May 6	Open World in-bound exchange from Georgia
May 9	Board Meeting; 11:45 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
June 8	Picnic at Marilyn Baird's Lake Norman home
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