



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

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

Fast Facts ~ January 2014

Friendship Force International Honors Peter Peiffer

Our own Peter Peiffer was awarded Outstanding Volunteer of 2013 during FFI's International Conference in New Orleans last November! The following is an excerpt from FFI's website regarding club and volunteer awards, followed by his award citation:

At each World Conference, FFI recognizes two clubs and two volunteers for achieving excellence in such areas as exchange programs, public relations, service and specific achievements. The 2013 Outstanding Volunteers are Bobbie Mulholland of FF Adelaide, Australia, and Peter Peiffer of FF Central North Carolina, USA. The 2013 Outstanding Clubs are FF Sunshine Coast, Australia, and (jointly) the Friendship Force clubs of Omaha, Lincoln, Kansas and Oklahoma, who collaborated on a four-part global exchange.

Peter Peiffer of FF Central North Carolina, USA, has become an expert in planning exchanges for the Friendship Force partnership program with the Open World Leadership Center. These exchanges feature a professional development component, bringing working adults from overseas to their club, and resulting in strong ties between the club and its community. Exciting for ambassadors and hosts alike, Peter's exchanges spread the Friendship Force name and mission across the world and throughout his local community.

Friendship Force International has thousands of members in more than 350 communities in 60 countries around the world. It is truly an honor for Peter and, through his outstanding leadership, FFCNC as well, to be recognized with this award.

Peter, we thank you for your many years of leadership, enthusiasm, dedication, and ever present smile.



Peter poses in Sept. 2012 with Mariana Turcan, facilitator of the Moldovan Open World delegation.

Open World – Chapter Four

We are just a couple of days away from the start of FFCNC's fourth Open World program. No doubt as we write these lines, our six Kosovar guests are packing their bags in preparation for their Wednesday arrival in Washington, D.C. where they will have a brief orientation and meet with Congressman Coble and a legislative aide to Senator Burr. They will arrive at Piedmont Triad Airport at 10:47 AM on Friday, January 10. We hope any and all FFCNC members who can, will join exchange directors Ralph Cauthen and Ray Kiszely to greet them.



Adopted in 2008, the flag of Kosovo has a blue background, charged with a map of Kosovo and six stars. The stars symbolize Kosovo's six major ethnic groups: Albanians, Serbs, Turks, Gorani, Romani, and Bosniaks. It is one of only two flags that incorporate a map of the country.

The theme of the program for this group is “Empowering Women’s Leadership” and Ralph and Ray have done a tremendous job preparing the program in a short amount of time. Some of the topics of the week will include “Women’s Leadership in Law and Politics”, “Educating Women for Leadership”, “Personality Types and Leadership Styles”, “Promoting Respect for Differences and Social Justice”, “Developing Women Entrepreneurs and Leaders”, and “Securing Women’s Safety: Women in Security Leadership” to name just a few. The delegates will meet with local female leaders in higher education, politics, business, and law enforcement as well as other professions. Also during the course of the week there will be presentations given by the delegates on the topics of Kosovo elections, GLBT issues in Kosovo, Kosovo Women’s Chamber of Commerce, and Kosovar women in the security sector.

Invitations to the Welcome Party at Salem College on Saturday, January 11 and the Farewell Party at Taste of Thai restaurant in Greensboro on Friday, January 17 have been sent to all FFCNC members. Everyone is welcome, including guests, and it is not too late to rsvp. Contact Tim Prout (724-6206 or timprout@att.net) for the Welcome Party and Jim North (643-0985 or jnorth5700@yahoo.com) for the Farewell Party.

All members are also welcome to join in on any of the week’s activities and presentations. An overview of the week is attached to the email with this newsletter. If you are interested in joining the group during the course of the week, contact Ralph Cauthen (299-2089 or rbcauthen@aol.com) or Ray Kiszely (301-580-3253 or raykiszely@hotmail.com) to get the specifics (directions and so forth) so that you can catch up with everyone.

Many thanks go to the twelve FFCNC families who are hosting our guests in Winston-Salem and Greensboro, the five FFCNC members who are hosting small dinner parties, and several other members who will be day hosting.

Many of us had never heard of Kosovo prior to the fighting that erupted in the 1990’s. These upcoming days will truly be a unique opportunity for FFCNC members to see a different side of Kosovo. One of the stated goals of the Open World program is to “enhance understanding and cooperation between Eurasian and American leaders.” No doubt, this exchange will increase our understanding of Kosovo as much as our guests’ understanding of America.

Membership Interest Survey

Work continues to collect and compile information from our Membership Interest Survey. If you attended the FFCNC annual meeting you will recall being given this survey which was also sent to all members with the November newsletter. It is being sent again with this newsletter for those of you who have not yet completed and returned it to Donna Lambeth. This information

will help us get to know our members better and become a stronger club as we are able to involve more of our members in our various activities.

If you are among those who forgot this in the Christmas rush you may either 1.) print the attached copy, complete it, and mail it to Donna Lambeth (her address will be found on the last page) or 2.) save it on your computer, complete it, and email it to Donna Lambeth at Dilambeth@triad.rr.com. If you choose to email it, please make the subject heading "FF Survey."

If you have further questions about the Interest Survey, please feel free to contact Barbara North at 643-0985 or woodnotes2004@yahoo.com.

Teacher, Trainer, Storyteller – Meet Charlotte Hamlin



Charlotte tells the story of Nathaniel Greene at FFCNC's annual meeting in October.

One of our newer members with whom we would like to introduce you is Charlotte Hamlin. She has moved many times in her life having lived in nine states and three foreign countries, but for the past twenty years Charlotte has called Greensboro home. Charlotte has two children and two grandchildren whom she recently visited in Rhode Island. Though divorced, Charlotte has the distinction of being good friends with her ex-husband.

After growing up in Southern California, at the age of 15 Charlotte moved to her father's hometown of Durham where she attended high school and graduated from Duke University. In her professional life Charlotte worked diligently for the

empowerment of women as a teacher and trainer. She served as a senior administrator at several colleges and universities including seventeen years at Guilford College where she was the head of Continuing Education and Professional Development as well as an adjunct instructor in Communication. Retirement called to her in 2001. Since then Charlotte has remained busy conducting Intercultural Communication and Women's Leadership workshops to help women realize their potential. Charlotte has used her love of drama throughout her life which helped build her confidence in her early career searches. Since retiring she has also become a professional storyteller. Those of you who attended the Annual Meeting in October heard a sampling of her expertise with her story about Nathaniel Greene.

Having visited more than forty countries, it is no surprise that Charlotte loves international travel and getting to know people from diverse cultures. At this time her bucket list still includes Japan, Chile and India. She came to Friendship Force through a friend who raved about the program. Since joining the club she has been active with hosting small dinners for our Georgian guests and the Pike's Peak Club. Currently Charlotte has participated with planning the program for the incoming group of women from Kosovo and will be conducting one of their professional sessions.

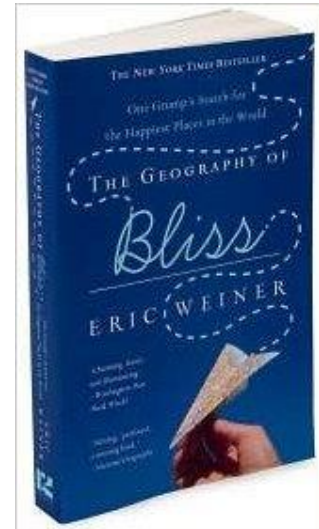
If you would like to learn more about Charlotte, she has her own website which you may visit at www.Charlottefhamlin.com. Welcome Charlotte!

Armchair Travel

Many of us in Friendship Force have had the opportunity to travel to foreign lands and learn up close and personal about a country and its culture. When you can't travel a good way to gain insight into another country's culture is through books and videos. Here are a few books that some of our members have read recently which do just that and we think many other FFCNC members will enjoy as well.

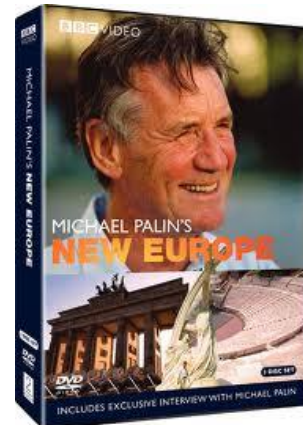
The Geography of Bliss by Eric Weiner

Mr. Weiner, an NPR correspondent who has reported from many countries, traveled to nine countries to explore to what degree an individual's happiness is influenced by geography and culture. Most of the countries, Holland, Qatar, and Iceland for example, were chosen because their citizens are generally considered "happy" according to the World Database of Happiness; a few of the countries, Moldova for example, were chosen for the contrast they provide. As it relates to Moldova, Mr. Weiner's belief is that one reason for their unhappiness is due to the fact that they lack a strong cultural identity – they can't decide if they are Russian or Romanian. In conclusion Mr. Weiner states that Moldovans are "unhappy" because they feel powerless to change anything. FFCNC members will have the opportunity next fall to make their own assessment on this point when our out-bound exchange travels there.



New Europe by Michael Palin (of Monty Python fame)

Mr. Palin has authored several travelogues about his visits around the world. This book is about his travels to the former Soviet Bloc countries, twenty in all. The book is a publication of his diary notes as he travels behind the former Iron Curtain meeting Bulgarian Gypsies and wrestling Turks, digging truffles and driving trains, visiting Auschwitz and the mine fields of Bosnia. Mr. Palin describes Moldova as "the most fragile of all the post-Soviet newcomers" and discusses her "split personality" as the western part of the country is pulled toward her Romanian heritage and the eastern part, toward her Russian heritage.



2014 Calendar Highlights

January 9	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
January 10 – 18	Open World delegation from Kosovo
January 11	Welcome Dinner for Kosovo delegates; Salem College, WS; 5:30
January 17	Farewell Dinner for Kosovo delegates: Taste of Thai, GSO; 5:30
March 6	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
May 1	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
July 10	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
September 4	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
September	Out-bound exchange to Moldova & Ankara, Turkey (date tbd)
November 6	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville