



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

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

## Focus on Friendship ~ October 2014

### Kiss Me Now!

Since the spring of this year we have all anticipated our out-bound exchange to Moldova and the challenge of assisting a group that wants to establish a new Friendship Force club. Prior to our departure all the ambassadors also struggled with the name of our destination – Chisinau. Well, our fourteen ambassadors have returned and are now ready to tell you about their adventure, success and the proper pronunciation of “Chisinau.” It rhymes with “Kiss me now!” Just change the “me” to a “she” and you have got it.

Jane Cauthen and Nancy Peiffer have kindly submitted the following report about our successful out-bound exchange to Moldova:

*Mariana Turcan, Creative Development Association Executive Director with offices in Chisinau, Moldova, was on an exchange to Greensboro and Winston-Salem through Open World in 2012. Due to the powerful tool of home hospitality that Friendship Force provides, Mariana was introduced on a personal level to this concept by living in homes, sharing meals, exchanging ideas, and establishing friendships. The result was her request that FFCNC travel to Moldova and assist with the creation of one or more clubs.*

*Fourteen ambassadors, under the leadership of Dr. Barton Parks, Exchange Director, were in Chisinau and Ungheni, August 27-September 3, 2014. There were meetings with groups in both cities to share information and experience related to effective Friendship Force clubs. In addition to Barton and Evelyn Parks, who provided a lot of assistance, those welcomed at the Chisinau airport included Martha and Derek Brown, Ralph and Jane Cauthen, Barbara and Jim North, Doris and Ray Kiszely, Nancy and Peter Peiffer, and Stephen and Susan Tindell from the Colorado Springs club.*



*This young Moldovan couple had just been wed minutes before we arrived to tour the “Winter Church” at Capriana monastery.*

*Our group, hosts and ambassadors together, are assembled at the Chisinau airport.  
Mariana Turcan is on the far right.*



*The welcome was in traditional Moldovan style, being formally greeted with the gift of bread, gracefully presented by Alina Gilca in full traditional Moldovan dress. Mariana and Natalia Lipca, who had also visited in 2012, were joined by colleagues and the host families who escorted everyone to their accommodations.*

*Although our first impressions of Moldova were the ever-present, aging, post-WWII Soviet era high-rise buildings, the country seems to be youth oriented. Our hosts were young, some with young families. So were the politicians, people on the streets, and attendees at the city festivals. While we were there, Moldova celebrated its independence day from Russia, and also Language Day when they could officially stop using the Russian Cyrillic alphabet.*

*Mariana, the force behind this whole exchange, coerced her co-workers at Creative Development Association and her friends to make the week beneficial and fun for us Americans and the Moldovans interested in forming a Friendship Force club in Chisinau. We found everyone to be friendly, energetic, generous, curious, and gracious. Some hosts vacated their bedrooms for the ambassadors. Another accepted the responsibility after a last-minute cancellation. The Peiffer's host family had to deal with a sick toddler the entire time they were there. Yet they provided meals, rides, and attended group functions when expected in spite of sleep deprivation and hospitalizations. Sometimes Christi, their 10 year-old son, attended activities with us and the Peiffers acted as his family on September 1, the first day of school, which entailed a big celebration and ceremony. Nancy Peiffer relates, "It was a pleasure to be a part of this wonderful family for a week."*



*Nancy Peiffer walks Christi to school on September 1.*

*Having Barton Parks, a retired college professor, as our ED was a real advantage when working with this young group. We all learned from the experience with this being our first mentoring assignment. The presentation in Chisinau was a dress rehearsal for the program in Ungheni, another city we visited on the border of Romania and a sister city of Winston-Salem. Those young people seemed very interested in starting a second club in Moldova, as did their young mayor who immediately put all sorts of Friendship Force information on the Ungheni city website.*

*These dynamic young groups in Chisinau and Ungheni have already executed a first-class exchange in Friendship Force style and are willing to take on the world in the name of friendship and peace.*

*It can be a small and exciting world when we reach out to other parts of it and previous relationships. We have recently met again Dana Cotici from Ungheni, Moldova who just arrived in Greensboro for a month-long visit. We asked her to share her impressions for our newsletter:*

*“When FFCNC visited Ungheni and participated at its celebration of annual city days, meeting with town officials, and giving presentations of the international work they do, my parents were not in town. Meanwhile, via a good friend of mine, Mariana Turcan, I met a group of incredibly active and interesting people from Greensboro, North Carolina, plus one couple from Colorado. We shared a lunch together and so many more experiences and knowledge.*

*“In a week after, I get a call from my Dad with a question, ‘What happened there last week?’ And he tells me that he keeps getting from different sources about ‘this group of Americans that were in Moldova, they travel to different countries and host international groups in their homes, and are participating in interesting experiences every time they meet.’ I told him everything I knew. I am convinced now that the enthusiasm that filled this conversation was something that sparkled and I heard my Dad saying: ‘We’ve discussed it with our friends and we’d like to experience this too. How can we do it?’ I think that I can help my father work on something that may and will change his environment and the people close to him in the years that come.”*

*Thanks to our ambassadors for the good work that produced an EXTRAORDINARY EXCHANGE. We have gained friendships that will last a lifetime and made contributions toward building a better and more peaceful world.*

*Jane Cauthen and Nancy Peiffer*

See more photos and read more about the trip on our website.

Go to: <http://www.ffcnc.org/Exchanges.html>

and click on “photo album” beside “Outbound Exchange to Chisinau, Moldova.”

## **Turkey**

At the airport in Chisinau we said our goodbyes through smiles and tears to our new Molodovan hosts and friends and promised to stay in touch. Our group was parting ways at this point. Some were headed for Greece and others to Amsterdam. Ten of us were flying to Istanbul, Turkey for a two-week guided tour: the Norths, Kiszelys, Cauthens, Pfiuffers and Parks.



*Turkish family in Demirci on their way to the circumcision celebration.*

The list of places we saw and things we learned over the next fourteen days is too long to detail. From Istanbul to Ephesus to Ankara and many cities and towns in between we gained a wealth of knowledge about ancient history. We had no idea that we would see more Roman

ruins in Turkey than we saw in Rome! Our guide, Mustafa, an archeologist by training, was very knowledgeable about the history of the area. Let me skip past Gallipoli, Kusadasi, Perge, and Keleici (to name just a few more of our stops) and share with you the highlights of our adventure.

Mustafa surprised us with a stop in the village of Demirci, a very traditional Turkish village. We were invited to join in the celebration of a young boy's circumcision. He appeared to be 10-11 years old. He was dressed like a little prince all in white brocade with a turban and a scepter. There was music and dancing. The guests were invited to dance with the boy and pin money to his cape. He sure seemed happy. Perhaps it was before the actual procedure. We then broke up into groups of six where we were taken to individual homes to share lunch with the locals. It was wonderful to be invited into their homes where we broke bread and enjoyed homemade wine.



*White lime cascades at Pamukkale.*

We visited Pamukkale to see the white lime cascades. They look like icing on a cake. The formations are calcium carbonate accumulations. We walked along a boardwalk at the edge of the formations to see the many small pools. At one point we turned around a slight curve and saw a breathtaking sight of several pools with beautiful reflections.

Our hotel in Antalya was a special treat - very Middle Eastern in style with pointed shaped openings and lots of grillwork. The hotel is located right on the Mediterranean Sea so our views were beautiful. We took a cruise on the Med and the view from the boat was breathtaking. The sea front is mostly cliffs and to get to the dock we had to walk down 130 steps! There were mountains in the background and the sea was rimmed with high jagged cliffs. The boat anchored close to a waterfall where we were invited to dive in. Most everyone enjoyed the warm water of the sea – clean and refreshing.



*Cappadocia*

My personal favorite experience on the trip was at Cappadocia. We had the opportunity to take a sunrise hot air balloon ride over the volcanic valleys, fairy chimneys and caves in Cappadocia. The landscape was formed by eruption of a volcano that spewed lava for hundreds of kilometers. The lava cooled and solidified. Over the centuries wind, rain, and floods have created deep valleys while the slopes were carved into eerie cones and columns. It was awesome to experience these sights with a panoramic view from the balloon.

Mustafa had arranged a visit to the only remaining cave dwelling family in Cappadocia. Many of the caves have been turned into commercial enterprises like small hotels and restaurants. The cave house we visited is 1700 years old! The ceilings are low and you could see where the rock had been chiseled out to

make it larger. There were rugs that had been made by the family members lying on the floor and hanging from the walls. They even had electricity and running water. We were met and welcomed with tea by the women of the family. I felt privileged to have the opportunity to visit in their home.

For those of us with FFCNC, our tour of Turkey ended in Ankara. We bid farewell to our fellow travelers from Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada and set off for a final day in Turkey on our own. In October 2008 Jim and Barbara North hosted the Algunaer family from Ankara when they visited FFCNC so the Norths were looking forward to reconnecting with their former guests and sharing that experience with the rest of us. Our last day in Turkey began in the morning when Ercan Algunaer arrived with his son, Eray, and a full agenda planned for us for the day!

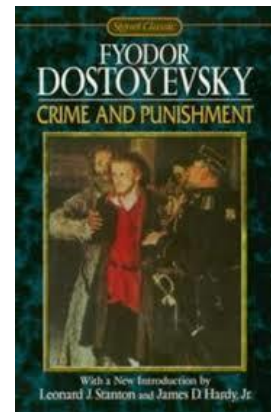
We experienced using the underground (i.e.: metro) to reach the Youth Park where we were honored by a performance of the Ottoman Army Band. They were in full dress and played several military marches for us. It was very impressive. Our next stop followed a pleasant walk to reach the Olgunlasma Institute of Dress and Jewelry Museum. They had an extensive display of costumes and antique jewelry on display. Our docent took us through the ages with her explanation of the articles on display. We were given a demonstration of Turkish paper marbling done on silk fabric rather than paper. They call it Ebru Marbling. We were given the opportunity to try it ourselves so Barbara and I took up the challenge. We were pleased with our results and when our project was complete we were able to purchase our scarves. Our next visit was to a carpet museum. The carpet making art is very important in the history of Turkey. The day ended with a hair-raising ride in a taxi to an unknown destination for dinner. To our pleasant surprise, dinner was served at the Algunaer home! Ayla, Ercan's wife, and Gunay, their other son, had prepared a wonderful meal for all of us. The food was delicious and more than anyone could eat. The warmth of our welcome in their home made our visit to Ankara and Turkey unforgettable.

*Doris Kiszely*

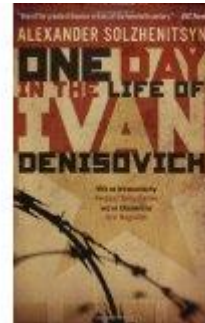
## **So Many Books, So Little Time**

Has this thought ever crossed your mind? Well, Martha Brown, exchange director for our 2015 out-bound exchange to Russia, wants to be sure you have plenty of time to do a little reading in preparation for this exchange or, perhaps, as motivation to join the exchange. Here are some of her personal favorites. She hopes you will have the chance to pick up one of them and promises more suggestions in the future.

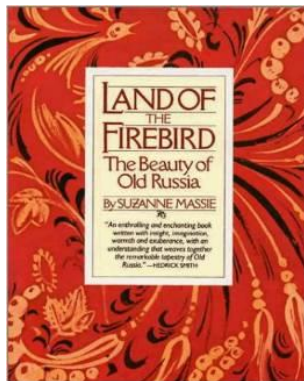
***Crime and Punishment*** – Did you know that in 1849 Fyodor Dostoevsky was condemned to death for his involvement in a secret society of liberal utopians? He and his “co-conspirators” were literally standing in front of the firing squad when a note was received that the tsar had commuted their sentences. Without a doubt, *Crime and Punishment*, published in 1866, is one of the most famous Russian novels ever written. While in St. Petersburg we will attend a lecture on Russian literature followed by a walking tour that will focus on Dostoevsky's St. Petersburg. We'll see where he lived, attended school, and we will walk past places mentioned in this novel as well as his other literary works.



***One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*** – If *Crime and Punishment* is too long for you, try this short novel (about 200 pages) by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. The book's publication in 1962 was an extraordinary event in Soviet literary history since never before had an account of Stalinist repression been openly distributed. The story is set in a Soviet labor camp in the 1950's and describes a single day of an ordinary prisoner, Ivan Denisovich Shukhov. Though a work of fiction, this novel is based on Solzhenitsyn's experiences during his eight years as a political prisoner from 1945 – 1953. Krushchev's removal as premier in 1964 ended a brief period of open discussion about Stalin's purges and there were no more works of Solzhenitsyn published in the USSR.

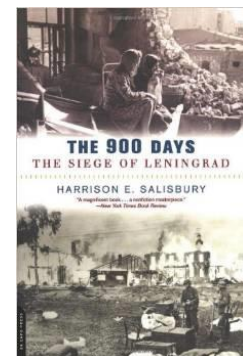


***Land of the Firebird: The Beauty of Old Russia*** – This is not your typical history book!



Author Suzanne Massie chronicles Russian history from its origin in 987 to 1917 with a focus on its cultural aspects: religion, art, music, architecture – you name it. When I traveled to Russia in 2008 I carried this book with me and referred to it almost solely, leaving my traditional guide book in my bag. Ms. Massie has an interesting background of her own. When President Reagan read this book his interest in it led to an invitation for Massie to visit the White House. From there she became an informal messenger between Reagan and Gorbachev. And you know the rest of the story.

***The 900 Days: The Siege of Leningrad*** – It is generally difficult for Westerners to fully appreciate the impact of World War II on Russians. In fact, they do not call it “World War II.” They refer to this war as the “Second Great Patriotic War.” (The first one was Napoleon’s invasion of Moscow in 1812.) This piece of WW II history is just one reason why this war remains a great patriotic war. Most of us realize that Stalin and the USSR were taken by surprise when the Nazis invaded Russia in June 1941, but did you realize that the city of Leningrad was soon completely surrounded by the German army and remained so for 872 days? It was one of the longest and most destructive sieges in history and overwhelmingly the most costly in terms of casualties. Nearly three million people endured it; just under half of them died. When we visit Peter the Great’s summer palace we will be standing on ground that the Germans occupied. I was told that by the end of the war there was not a tree left standing; they had been burned for heat. When we tour Catherine’s summer palace many of the furnishings we will see will be reproductions. The Russians did not have enough time to hide everything and what was left in the palace ended up in German hands. We will visit the reconstructed Amber Room in her palace. It is a complete chamber decorated with amber panels backed with gold leaf and mirrors. Created in the 18th century, it disappeared during World War II, and was recreated in 2003. To this day, the original amber panels have never been found. If you are not interested in military history, just skip the first few chapters that describe the opening days of the war, but do read the bulk of the book to begin to understand what this city endured.



## Moscow Exchange Informational Meeting

**Saturday, October 11** an informational meeting will be held beginning at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall of Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville. (This is the location of our annual meetings.) This will be your opportunity to hear the full itinerary for our 2015 outbound exchange to Russia as well as many other details. The deadline for submitting ambassador applications and initial deposits will come after the New Year. In the meantime, you will have the information you will need in order to make your personal plans. If you can attend, it would be helpful to **rsvp to exchange director, Martha Brown (946-0105 or brownfamily@triad.rr.com)**, in order to insure that we have a sufficient number of handouts prepared.



## Welcome Wagon

We'd like to introduce you to our newest member.

*Carol Weaver* grew up in Clemmons, NC. She is a career law enforcement officer of 34 years. Her job has afforded her the opportunity to travel to many states within the US. In her time off, she travels as much as she can. She enjoys playing golf and tennis.



## 2015 Membership Dues

As in past years, our annual membership renewal and dues will be due by Dec. 31. Unlike in past years, this year you will receive your dues notice by email unless you have previously requested to receive FFCNC communications through the US postal service. Look for this to arrive the first week in November.

Also, your FFCNC board recently approved an increase in dues, the first increase since FFCNC was formed in 2007. This increase will cover the 2015 increase in charter fees paid to FFI as well as help support FFCNC activities. Membership dues for 2015 will remain at \$25 for a single membership and will increase to \$35 for a family membership (which includes all non-adult children.)

## Parler français en Guadeloupe

Friendship Force of Ottawa, Canada has organized an exchange to Guadeloupe. This exchange is offered to all those who would like to enjoy a stay in France (Guadeloupe being a Department of France in the Caribbean) to speak only in French, including those whose first language is French or those for whom French is the second language at an intermediate or advanced level. This is an excellent opportunity to be immersed in the culture and the French language. The welcome is provided by the members of the new Friendship Force club in Guadeloupe. This island is well known for beaches and warm climate. There will be no language courses, but simply the opportunity to converse with your guests in the rhythm of daily life.

You may choose either a one week homestay or two weeks: February 7 – 14, 2015 or February 7 – 21, 2015. The exchange directors are Eileen Howell and Andrew Stirling. You may contact them at: [jax@magma.ca](mailto:jax@magma.ca) or by telephone (in Canada) at 1-613-592-8754.

### **2014 - 2015 Calendar Highlights**

October 11	Moscow Exchange Informational Meeting; 1 PM; MSUMC; Kernersville
October 30	Annual Membership Meeting; MSUMC; Kernersville; 6 PM
November 6	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
June 9 – 26, 2015	Out-bound to Moscow, Russia
Aug/Sep 2015	Domestic Out-bound to FF Pike's Peak (Colorado Springs, Co.)
October 2015	In-Bound from Cleveland County, United Kingdom

***Don't Forget!***

***FFCNC Annual Meeting***

***Thursday, October 30, 2014, 6 PM***

***Covered dish dinner. Bring your favorite dish!***

***Main Street Methodist Church***

***306 S. Main St.; Kernersville, 27284***

***RSVP by Monday, October 27 to Ann Finch, 336-288-9268 or  
ann.mcintosh.finch@gmail.com***