



# friendship force

CENTRAL  
NORTH CAROLINA

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

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

### 2015-16 Upcoming Events

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| April 29-May 7        | Tentative Open World -Ukraine |
| July 13-20, 2016      | Domestic Outbound to Colorado |
| September 16-19, 2016 | FFI World Conference, Africa  |
| 2017                  | Domestic Outbound to NE Ohio  |
| 2018                  | Domestic Outbound to Oregon   |

### **Newsbreak: China Outbound Exchange Cancelled**

On Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, the FFCNC Board decided to cancel the outbound exchange to Liuzhou, China (tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2016) due to lack of interest and the inability of the club to identify an exchange director to lead the exchange.

### **An Autumn Visit by the Brits**

Well, the weather was not the most cooperative for our inbound exchange of Ambassadors from Cleveland County, United Kingdom. Mark Twain was right when he said, “We can talk about the weather, but we can’t do anything about it”. So the spirit of Friendship Force took charge and we decided that we were going to have a good time anyway!

Our eleven English Ambassadors arrived at PTI on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, in the late afternoon.



They were warmly greeted by a contingent of our members who whisked them away for their first evening in Winston-Salem, with their home hosts. We had a brief tour of Old Salem on Friday morning followed by a delicious lunch at the Tavern in Old Salem. Friday evening there were potluck dinners hosted by Woody Clinard and Tamara Michael; a nice relaxing way to get better acquainted with our visitors from the U.K.

Saturday, the weather was gloomy, but spirits were lifted by a tour of Reynolda House Museum of American Art. Some Ambassadors were treated to a Blue Grass music festival in Mt. Airy.

On Monday, the Winston-Salem hosts brought their Ambassadors to Triad Park in Kernersville for a pot luck picnic and a change of Host families to Greensboro. We finally saw the sunshine and combined with some great food provided by our members we had a great time. Thanks to Dotty Blanchard for coordinating this event.

Monday evening we all dined southern style at Lucky 32 in Greensboro, a farm to fork restaurant well known for its southern foods.



Tuesday was Seagrove Pottery day and although it was a long day, it was a wonderful experience for our Ambassadors. Demonstrations by master potters, Ben Owen and John Mellage, were the highlight of the day's touring. We had lunch country style at the Westmoor Family Restaurant and several opportunities to shop for gifts and souvenirs were made available. Dinner parties for our Ambassadors were hosted by Patti Gilmour and Don Sylvester and by Georgina Kyle. A great time was had by all.

Wednesday morning, we had a guided tour of the Greensboro Historical Museum followed by lunch at Zaytoon's Mediterranean Cafe. After lunch we drove to Mendenhall Plantation for a tour of a Colonial era farmhouse. Wednesday evening we had a chance to participate in a wine tasting and blending at Stonefield Cellars Winery in Stokesdale, NC. Master winemaker, Robert Wurz, gave us all an opportunity to learn more about North Carolina wines and how they are made.

Thursday was our last day with the UK Ambassadors. Their next stop in the US was the Florence, South Carolina Friendship Force Club. To make the trip to SC both educational and fun, the Ambassadors were driven to Town Creek Indian Mount in Mt. Gilead to meet up with

fellow FF members from SC for a picnic lunch and a tour of this ancient Indian site. At the conclusion of the tour and lunch, we said goodbye and bon voyage to our UK Ambassadors as they headed south on the next leg of their journey.



Thanks to all the FFCNC members for their help in making our exchange a success. Special thanks to Judy Greene for her tireless efforts in making arrangements for our home hosting and day hosting.

### *OPEN WORLD FROM UKRAINE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED*

Our club has tentatively accepted an Open World program on *Investigative Journalism* in April 2016 for delegates from Ukraine. If you are interested in assisting with the planning of the program, hosting, day hosting, etc., please contact Ray Kiszely at [Raykiszely@hotmail.com](mailto:Raykiszely@hotmail.com) or Ralph Cauthen at [rbcauthen@aol.com](mailto:rbcauthen@aol.com).

### *Explore the Beauty of Colorado Springs, CO*

A membership meeting was held on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, at J. Peppers in Kernersville for those interested in our domestic outbound exchange to Colorado in 2016. You are invited to join us for the week of **July 13-20, 2016** and enjoy the natural beauty of the Pike's Peak region as well as many other attractions. The itinerary may include natural attractions such as: the Garden of the Gods with its red rock formations, Manitou Springs offering history of the spa era, Cripple

Creek for a taste of the mountains and the Fossil Beds National Monument. A typical visit may include Old Colorado City (a restoration area with boutique shopping), the Broadmoor Hotel complex (a five diamond property), and the Air Force Academy and its famous chapel. Pikes Peak at 14,110 feet; Seven Falls; the Cave of the Winds; the Olympic Training Center, Fine Arts Center, Ice Skater's Museum, Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame, Museum of the American Cowboy, the Pioneer's Museum, or the spectacular views in nearby Royal Gorge may also appeal to you for optional activities on one of 2 free days or individual extended travel. If interested, please contact Exchange Director, **Judy Greene** at [judygreene155@gmail.com](mailto:judygreene155@gmail.com).

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our club owns a portable MIPRO speaker system and an Epson LCD projector which are available for club members to rent. The cost per day is \$20 for the MIPRO and \$50 per day for the projector. Members accept responsibility for all users of the equipment, are responsible for any loss or damage, and sign a rental agreement. If interested in using any of this equipment, please contact our Audiovisual Coordinators, Peter and Nancy Peiffer at [peiffer@aol.com](mailto:peiffer@aol.com).



FFI's "I'm In" Campaign is a Success Thanks to All

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At the World Conference in Vancouver, FFI presented a challenge to its worldwide membership to help raise \$40,000 for a new database and website development by December 31, 2015. These funds were needed to provide a more efficient and productive technology system for the FFI office in Atlanta in order to better serve members; to provide a more secure and modern database and website in line with current technology guidelines; and to modernize and streamline the exchange and programmatic workflow between FFI, clubs, leaders and members around the world. And thanks to the contributions from members and clubs, **including Friendship Force of Central North Carolina**, this goal was surpassed. Please see the letter below from FFI to our club.

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December 14, 2015  
Friendship Force of Central North Carolina23w  
lstokes1@northstate.net  
timprout@att.net  
Dear Leroy,

I want to thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000 USD to Friendship Force's "I'm In" Campaign on behalf of the Friendship Force of Central North Carolina. Because of your support, and other thoughtful people like you, we are able to continue working to break down the barriers that separate people. Your donation will be specifically used for the development of a new data management system and a new website, both of which are vital to the operation of Friendship Force, terribly out of date, and running on technology platforms that are no longer sufficiently supported. With these funds, you and I will achieve a more efficient and productive technology system that will better support exchange coordination as well as improve the overall member experience online. Along with the new database, will be an intuitive re-design of the website that will ensure that every mobile and desktop platform used around the world has access to all of Friendship Force's online materials. The re-design will also present a more contemporary "face" of our organization to the public to better promote our mission and entice members and non-members alike to get involved and take part in an exchange that might just change the way they see the world. Your gift is truly appreciated and your support team here in Atlanta is excited to work with you to make our vision of a more peaceful world possible. Thank you again for your commitment.

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## **Friendship Force International News**

**12/22/15 Press Release: FFI Announces Jeremi Snook as its new President/CEO!**

**FFI World Conference 2016 Announced:**

FFI World Conference September 16-19, 2016: Marrakesh, Morocco



*Join us for our very first FFI World Conference in Africa! Check out additional information at the FFI website.*