



**Friendship Force of Central North Carolina**  
**March 2018 Newsletter**



### **Did You Miss It?**

Did you notice that FFCNC's outbound journey to Sao Luis, Brazil in June 2017 was the **featured journey of the quarter** in the recent *Quarterly e-Newsletter* from FFI? "FF São Luís, Brazil, welcomed their very first group of ambassadors, and this inbound Journey was a rousing success, as outlined in this colorful narrative written collectively by ambassadors of FF Central North Carolina, USA. [Click here](#) to read this creative collection of stories, *Vinhetas do Brasil*, in its entirety, composed of individual entries written by each of the FF Central North Carolina ambassadors." Check it out if you haven't already. See Charles John's personal account of being a first time journey coordinator on page 2 of this newsletter.



### **Friendship Force celebrated 13<sup>th</sup> annual World Friendship Day**

This year on March 1, on the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of World Friendship Day by FFI, the theme was "Make a friend and make a difference". "Our world today sometimes seems more divided than ever," said Jeremi Snook, President and CEO of FFI. "So, now more than ever, we need people everywhere to reject the political rhetoric all around us, look beyond it and into the eyes of another person and extend a hand of friendship. That seemingly small act, multiplied millions of times around the world, will indeed make a difference!" World Friendship Day is officially recognized by the U.S. Senate and other governing bodies around the world that encourage average people to get to know one another better.



## A Personal Account from Charles John -

### **In school for my ED. Graduate with a JC.**

I was wandering the halls of FFU, or maybe that was FFI, trying to decide on what to be when I grew up. I got lucky and ran into Martha. We chatted amiably for a while, but I began to regard her with suspicion when she steered the conversation towards a suggestion that I sign up for her short course, ED 101, Moscow after Communism. Something just seemed odd about the course title. Despite my misgivings, I signed up. And, I positively enjoyed the course. Turns out that ED means Exchange Director, and the coursework is really a mini leadership program in how to go out into the world making friends and spreading harmony, understanding, and all that good stuff. And, it was FFI, Friendship Force International.

I did well enough in the course to be allowed to participate in what I then thought of as a domestic practicum, a sort of FFA, Friendship Force America. Judy was our ED, and she made our visit to Colorado Springs with The Friendship Force of The Pikes Peak Region something very special. Marilyn and I were hosted by Barbara and Dick Battersby, and I found myself juggling between enjoying the warmth of their hospitality and taking mental notes of Judy's deft handling of her responsibilities as Exchange Director. I had, by then, tentatively agreed to do Sao Luis, but it was Judy who convinced me to commit to the project. She made the job of ED in Colorado Springs seem like a piece of cake.

So, I continued working on my ED, but it seemed I was not the only one with a queasiness about the abbreviation. One fine day, it came down from Atlanta that, henceforth, it shall be known as JC. Was it an improvement? Ralph allowed that it had a hint of blasphemy. Journey Coordinator? I'll take it, all seven syllables. Made sense, because we were now doing Journeys, not Exchanges. More specifically though, I was now officially an AC, Ambassador Coordinator. I stepped into my new job with pride and purpose.

There are two main aspects to the job. The mechanics of being an Ambassador Coordinator are available in exhaustive detail in the handbook "Ambassador and Host Exchange Director Manual". I encourage all aspirants to these high offices to study its content diligently. I was lucky; there were no real emergencies in Sao Luis. One case of lost luggage and one case involving currency exchange difficulties were no sweat. There is, however, a more subtle responsibility that the Journey Coordinator carries. And, to a certain degree, the handbook is correct that friendship simply occurs, "A Friendship Force home stay has a built-in energy that draws people together and progresses on its own." But, my training in Agriculture has taught me that agency has a place in planting seeds and nurturing growth. And, I saw our mission in Sao Luis in terms of planting seeds of friendship, deepening those roots, and forming meaningful and lasting relationships, and hoping that the more goodwill we create in the world, the less there will be ill will. In handing out journal assignments, I encouraged my ambassadors to focus on the time spent with their hosts, their commonplace interactions, and to write about these experiences of different views and their discovery of common ground.



*Back row – Marilyn Baird, Jim North, Karlyn Shankland, Don Sylvester, Patti Gilmour, Donna Torreyson, Lundee Amos, Crista Douthit, and Lucy Kaplan (both hiding)*

*Front row – Marcia Rhodes, Ophelia Jones, Barbara North, Cheryl Katz, and Karla Shanahan*

## Leaping into the New Year with Creativity

On Saturday, February 24, 2018 at Merlot & VanGogh in Winston Salem, fourteen members of our club had great fun creating their own masterpieces during a two hour painting session. Afterwards they moved across the street to the Social Club Pub where they were joined by other members to socialize and eat pizza ordered from the Burke Street Pizza. Thanks to Karla Shanahan and her helpers for organizing this event and providing snacks during the painting session. **If you missed this event, be sure to come to our next social event scheduled for Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. at the Taste of Thai in Greensboro.** We will be enjoying lunch together and listening to a presentation on the recently completed Oklahoma City outbound journey. Another event in late June is being planned in Kernersville or Winston-Salem to include a presentation by our members on the Mid-Willamette Valley, Oregon outbound journey. A third social event is being targeted for late August. More details of all of these events will be announced soon. Plan now to bring a guest (s).



## Friendship Force's Presence in Our Community

The FFCNC Leadership Council and Board is focused this year on increasing the visibility of Friendship Force in our local community and the recruitment of new members. To that end, some of our FFCNC members will be participating in several community events in the coming months and the Board is exploring new ideas for the growth of our club. We now have a new supply of FFCNC brochures available for members to give to those who you believe may be interested our club. Please contact Marylin Moniquette-John if you would like a number of brochures.

## **Adventures in Learning, the Shepherd's Center, Greensboro**

**On Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, several members of FFCNC will be the featured speakers at the Greensboro Adventures in Learning (AIL) lunch program. The spring session which begins April 5<sup>th</sup> and runs for six weeks will be held at the First Baptist Church in Greensboro. You are welcome to join us for the lunch (AIL cost is \$8) to support our club presenters as they talk about the mission of Friendship Force and share their experiences.**

**Adventures In Learning (AIL)** is a program designed to enrich the lives and learning of older adults. Based on the national Shepherd's Center learning model, the local AIL is a key program for seniors seeking new ideas, perspectives, subjects they want to learn, and or skills they'd like to develop. The programs are designed for seniors by a committee comprised of senior participants. There are three semesters/sessions each year during the Winter, Spring, and Fall which meet for 6 consecutive Thursdays. The day has 3 class periods with 15-20 classes to choose from including a lunchtime special presentation. The Winter session is held at Christ United Methodist Church and the Spring and Fall sessions are held at First Baptist Church in Greensboro. Click [here](#) for more information on their Spring program.

## **Come visit the FFCNC table at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual International Festival**

**36th Annual International Festival  
Saturday April 14, 2018 from 12:00-  
5:00pm at UNC-G  
FREE Entry and Parking!**

**Several members of FFCNC will be manning a table at the 36<sup>th</sup> annual international festival. They will be sharing information about Friendship Force with interested attendees. Come out to support FFCNC and the community.**



UNC Greensboro's International Programs Center (IPC) and Stateside

student organization invite you to the 36th annual International Festival (I-Fest) on April 14, 2018 on the lawn in front of the Elliott University Center. I-Fest is one of UNC Greensboro's largest and longest running events that brings together the campus and surrounding communities for a celebration of culture and global learning.

This vibrant community event features dance and musical performances, cultural booths and activities, and food trucks. Take your "passport" around the world to collect stamps from each booth and get entered for a raffle prize! The event is guaranteed fun for families and people of all ages, and is FREE and open to the public.

## FFCNC 2018 Journey Updates

Journey	FF Club	Dates	Coordinator
Domestic Outbound	Oklahoma City, OK	April 5-11	Martha Brown/Judy Greene
Domestic Outbound	Mid-Willamette Valley OR	June 6-12	Leroy Stokes
International Inbound	Bundaberg, AU	October 9-16	Barbara and Jim North

Thirteen of our club will be leaving for Oklahoma City soon – the Norths, Cauthens, Rays, Johns, Karlyn Shankland, Barbara Guess, and Woody Clinard led by Judy Greene and Martha Brown (co-Ambassador Coordinators). We look forward to hearing about their experiences at an April social event.

The outbound journey to the Mid-Willamette Valley in June is now full with twenty confirmed ambassadors. Twelve FFCNC members have signed up: Stokes, Cauthens, Norths, Karla Shanahan, Karlyn Shankland, Judy Greene, Charlotte Hamlin, Barbara Guess, and Ophelia Jones. Three Global Arts ambassadors have also submitted their applications (Connie DuBois, Fawzy Mansour, and Carol Parsonage).

Barbara and Jim North, co-Host Coordinators for the Bundaberg inbound exchange in October, are in the early stages of planning with the help of Charlotte Hamlin, Sandy Bundgaard, and Lucy Kaplan. If you are interested in hosting any ambassadors from Australia or serving as a day host, please contact Barbara North at [woodnotes2004@yahoo.com](mailto:woodnotes2004@yahoo.com) or by phone at **336-643-0985**.

### **Your Friendship Force of Central North Carolina Leadership Council for 2018**

*Don Sylvester - Leadership Council Coordinator*

*Patti Gilmour – Secretary*

*Ray Kiszely – Treasurer*

*Marylin Moniquette-John – Membership Coordinator*

*Martha Brown – Journey Coordinator*

*Karla Shanahan – Event Coordinator*

*Barbara North – Communication Coordinator*

# IT'S A MATCH FOR 2019!

## OUR OUTBOUND JOURNEY FOR 2019 IS TO VIETNAM.

FFI does not have a club in Vietnam, but instead partners with an organization in Hanoi, Vietnam called the Vietnam-USA Society so this journey will be different from a regular club to club journey.

The Vietnam-USA Society (VUS) works with Friendship Force delegations from any country, not just the United States. VUS is able to provide four to five-night homestays in Hanoi. Due to the agreement between FFI and VUS, all subsequent touring in Vietnam following the homestay will be arranged by the Vietnam-USA Society, which has extensive experience in this area and offers favorable pricing and programs. A typical itinerary begins with the homestay in Hanoi followed by touring to Hue, DaNang, ending in Ho Chi Minh City, and lasts a total of 11 to 12 nights. However, the itinerary is flexible and can be adapted according to our preferences.

The Vietnam-USA Society (VUS) was founded on October 17, 1945 as the first bilateral friendship organization of the

Vietnamese people with people from other countries. Since then, VUS has been constantly pursuing its goal and mission, i.e., the promotion of mutual understanding, friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the people of Vietnam and the people of the United States of America.

**Martha Brown, Council Journey Coordinator, will be recruiting a coordinator for this outbound journey. If you would be willing to serve in this capacity, please let Martha know at [brownfamily@triad.rr.com](mailto:brownfamily@triad.rr.com) or 336-946-0105. If this interests you, but you feel you are inexperienced in this role, Martha will recruit a mentor to assist you.**

## OUR INBOUND JOURNEY FOR 2019 IS FROM SAO LUIS, BRAZIL.

We will have an opportunity to return the hospitality shown our club in 2017 when we visited Friendship Force of Sao Luis in June of 2017. This inbound journey will likely occur in the spring of 2019. Charles John has volunteered to serve as Host Coordinator.

## **ShepNet Computer Classes for Seniors**

There is still availability in several of the computer classes in April in Greensboro - File Management, Saving, Storing and Managing your Files; Understanding and Using Windows 10, Part 1; Apple iPad Basics; and Managing your Computer Security. These classes are designed for persons age 50+ and are taught by knowledgeable peer volunteers. If interested, please contact the [ShepNet](#) website for dates and time.