



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

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

May 2022



Quite a contrast from May of 2020 Newsletter!!

Susan Mathre, LaDonna Palm, and Ken Weaver; Ambassadors from Northern Colorado and FFCNC's renowned clown Lundee Amos at Harmon Park in Kernersville, NC on April 24, 2022. Our Farewell Potluck for our first Inbound Journey since 2019.

The smiles on the happy faces of our Ambassadors from Northern Colorado last month tell an important story about Friendship Force. We were finally able to resume our important and rewarding work of Journeys. Our club hosted seven members of the Northern Colorado Friendship Force Club for nearly a week of fun filled activities in Central North Carolina.

FFCNC's club members Pat Morgan, a Master Gardener and her husband Don Ethington hosted a welcome picnic at their lovely rustic home "Walnut Hill" in Ringgold, Virginia. Perfect weather and pleasant company made for a wonderful time at the garden rich location of "Walnut Hill".

Thursday evening, our guest Ambassadors enjoyed a lively performance of the Broadway smash hit "Hamilton" at the Steven Tanger Center in Greensboro. The evening lived up to our expectations, it was Terrific!!

Friday we had a guided tour of Guilford College's wooded campus that was part of the Underground Railroad. After lunch downtown at Cille and Scoe hosted by Lea and Natalyn Williams, we had a guided tour of the Civil Rights Museum in the former Woolworth store on Elm Street.

Saturday morning we met with Kevin Mundy, Council Member for the City of Winston-Salem. Mr. Mundy gave our Ambassadors an overview of the "Past becoming the Future", the repurposing of former tobacco factories. Our guests toured the Reynolda House Museum of American Art guided by docents Pam Kahl and Lucy Kaplan.

Sunday, another beautiful day weather wise we had our Farewell Potluck at Harmon Park in Kernersville.

Monday, we took our Ambassadors to Saxapahaw General Store for a lunch and introduced them to the Raleigh Friendship Force club members for their next stop on their Journey to North Carolina.

Thanks also to the many Club Members that hosted small group dinners to help with our traditional hospitality to Ambassadors. Jane and Ralph Cauthen, Mary Davis, Marta Rhodes, Ray and Doris Kiszely, Marilyn Baird, and Donna Torreyson and Lucy Kaplan.

Kudos to FFCNC's Judy Greene for exceptional work with outstanding results for our first inbound Journey since pre Pandemic 2019. Thank you Judy!!

As this Newsletter is being written we are in the final phases of preparation for our Club's first outbound Journey in several years. Eight of our club members will be headed to Cincinnati, Ohio on Sunday May 15, 2022 to be hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Friendship Force club. This will present an opportunity for Roger and Nan Poplin, new club members that joined in 2019 just before we had to shut down our scheduled Journeys due to the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic. One of our newest club members Don Woodward will also be joining us for his first Journey.

Best wishes to all our club Ambassadors on this our first Outbound Journey since 2019. Bon Voyage!



Cincinnati Skyline on the banks of the Ohio River.

Future Journeys still in the planning stages.

Barbara North has accepted responsibility for being the Inbound Journey Coordinator for the Lincoln, Nebraska Friendship Force club's visit scheduled for June 19th to 30th.

If you have an interest in assisting Barbara with the work load of an Inbound Journey now is the time to act.

Contact Barbara at Woodnotes2004@Yahoo.com or call (336) 601-8627.

We are still working on solidifying plans for a possible inbound Journey from St. Mary's, Ontario, Canada in mid-September.

New Information about the ALEX student program

A few days ago we received an E-mail from Britton Holmes of FFI in Atlanta asking if we were still interested in hosting a student group from the Republic of Moldova in the November of 2022.

Our Board of Directors on May 9th voted in favor of hosting the students as long as Covid conditions permit and the students are all fully vaccinated. Moldova is a small country that borders on the Western part of Ukraine and is likely under threat from Russian attacks.

The Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) and Youth Exchange and Study (YES) programs are Department of State-funded scholarship opportunities for high school students from 62 countries in Europe, Eurasia, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Since the programs had been cancelled due to Covid-19 the ALEX Program, (American Leadership Experience) was developed for a two week program in the United States. One week in Washington, DC, and one week in a local community.

We will keep you informed of developments with this opportunity for our club.

[News from Lucy Kaplan, Activities chairperson](#)

Don't be left out of the newest exciting events occurring within our club. We have started Dinner Circles and so far they have been an incredible success! You are missing out on a great chance to get to know your fellow members on a deeper level over wonderful food.

The evenings are filled with interesting conversations and amazing amounts of laughter. We offer local groups for people who don't want to travel and mixed groups for those brave enough to cross city lines, with a choice of dinner or lunch groups. Meals are pot luck so hosts don't have burdensome responsibilities.

You can choose to host or just be a participant. Be brave and give the dinners a try. Remember there is no obligation to continue if you don't love your first dinner nor is there a problem being mixed into a new group after that.

Contact Lucy at Onecake@aol.com or 336-768-7186 for more info.

Look for upcoming LEO's! The Social Committee is working diligently on your behalf to develop a slate of LEO's of interest to everyone.

We will have a series of lectures, group activities and surprises. We also are open to suggestions from the club as a whole. The committee knows that there are brilliant interesting people within the club that can contribute their knowledge and interests to all.

The committee is looking forward to presenting a wonderful look at bee keeping with a date to be announced for June. So be on the look-out for that. There will be honey based refreshments served, of course.

