

Brazilian Incoming Journey, May 14-20, 2019



Day one--May 14, 2019



Tuesday night, May 14th, around 11PM, we gathered at the airport to meet our Brazilian guests. We displayed the Friendship Force banner and held up individual signs and welcomed them with open arms and big honest-to-goodness Friendship Force of Central North Carolina grins. Then we went home, called it a day and went to bed. The best thing to do that time of night. B. Guess

Day two--May 15, 2019

Wednesday, May 15, at 11:30 AM we gathered at Salem College Club Dining Room for lunch (salad, chicken, beef, potatoes, vegetables, rolls, water, tea, and pie), where we listened to Michelle



McCullough's presentation on the history Old Salem and then we introduced our guests to the audience and told a little about them. We walked down to St. Phillips Moravian Church, the oldest surviving African American church building in North Carolina.



Mayor Allen Joines gave a presentation on the social and economic development of Winston-Salem (education to create innovation to create jobs), followed by Michael Lischke, EdD, Associate Professor, Family Medicine, who gave a presentation on advancements in regenerative medicine (example: the successful regeneration of human ears and bladders using one's own skin cells, which the body is less prone to reject).



Day 3--May 16 2019



We met at Mount Airy, home of the Andy Griffin Museum.



The museum also housed the Siamese Twin Exhibit.



Day 4--Thursday, May 17

We woke up to another beautiful day. It has promise to be a good day for furthering our adventure of sharing cultures.

The visitors and hosts arrived at the International Civil Rights Museum in downtown Greensboro. The museum is housed in F.W. Woolworth building where the Civil Rights Movement began with peaceful sit-ins at the lunch counter. Our docent was very knowledgeable and with help of Suzanne Kolb to translate the tour in Portuguese, she was able to share with the group the many aspects of the Civil Rights struggle for anyone of color. Questions were asked and the docent with Suzanne's translation



answered the queries.

After the museum, the afternoon was free. Many of the visitors treated their hosts to lunch. About 12 of



us went to Crafted, a Taco Restaurant. There was some confusion when the food arrived because rather than saying the name the tacos were called on the menu, they said what the tacos contained so instead of a Wayfarer they announced two fish tacos. Anyway, it all got sorted out and we had a nice lunch. Others went the Chez Genese, "the place of



Genesis, the place of new beginnings"

Day 5--Saturday, May 18

Hal and I took Help to Raleigh, walking the wrong direction to the festival- - away from rather than toward it. Being too hot to correct our steps, we decided the Museum of Natural Sciences was a better choice (cool inside, clean, toilets, water fountains, places to sit down and rest, inside restaurant). We ran into the Johns and their guests there, so it was like an impromptu reunion. We visited the NC Museum of Art, Help's favorite place. There was a wedding and lots of prom photo shoots going on. We left Raleigh around 8PM after dining with my daughter Lorrie, who owns and carries a cell phone so she and Help had a good time communicating and translating and taking lots of pictures. Lorrie was for us on Saturday what Lucien had been for us on Wednesday evening. I don't own nor want a cell phone, but it was interesting watching Lorrie and Help using theirs to facilitate things. B. Guess



Others went to Duke Gardens and then onto a tour of the Capitol. Some went to the art festival in Raleigh. The Kiszely/Davis group enjoyed the 35th annual Blues Festival



at LaBauer Park in Greensboro



Day 6--Sunday, May 19

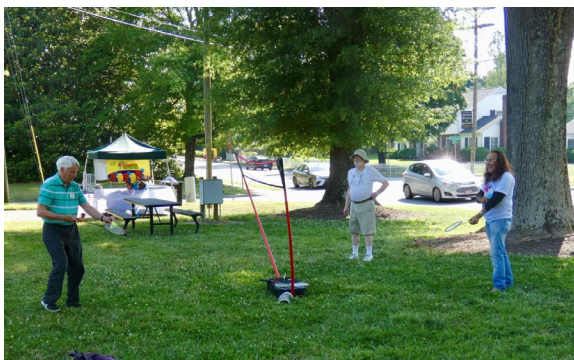
Juan Carlos & Socorro began their day with us at our Sunday breakfast of a bacon-cheese omelet and side of mixed fruit and toast... and of course coffee.

We then discussed the day. Socorro wanted to explore purchasing a new iPhone 8, so we went to Best Buy to inquire if they discounted the iPhones. They do not, so we decided to go to the Apple Store. That store was not open until 11am so we went for a walk in the Greensboro Bicentennial Garden and the Bog Garden. It was a beautiful day and the flowers were in peak form because they were preparing for a community event in a couple of weeks. The Bog garden was of particular interest because we saw several geese, ducks and many birds which our guests were interested in.

Going to the very crowded Apple Store, we looked at the \$700+ iPhone8's. In a flash Socorro decided to purchase one and we were out of there without too much wait.

We went home to freshen up for the farewell picnic. On our way to the picnic we stopped for a short visit to show them our new home at Well-Spring. They seemed to really enjoy that, and then we were on our way to Harmon Park in Kernersville for the Farewell picnic.

It was a hot day, which did not matter because there was plenty of shade and cool drinks for everyone to enjoy. We all sat down to enjoy a very good food truck Mexican meal together. Then Charles convened the group for a farewell presentation and some Friendship Force singing. That was completed and the group picture was taken by Doris Kiszely. A group formed to play a little badminton and several had snow-cones from a local vendor.



Day 7--May 20, 2019 Departure Day

Our alarm clocks were set for early rises on Monday, May 20. After breakfast we were headed to PTI to tell all our wonderful visitors "Good-bye", do our last-minute hugs, and watch them go through the security line as they headed for New York. A busy week was coming to a routine end as we helped to gather the luggage, checked for the cell phone charger, passport, and Delta ticket, and led the way to the car.

But wait! There is an email coming from Gloria. The flight to New York has been cancelled. Go to the airport as soon as possible.

At my house, Paulina and I had just finished our breakfast, so we grabbed everything and rushed out the door. Paulina was afraid we were going to be too late. It took us 15 minutes to get to the airport. We parked in front of the Delta entrance. There were no other cars near that terminal. Paulina thought everyone had gone. We went inside and looked for someone we recognized, but the terminal was empty. There were two people at the Delta counter. When I spoke to them, they said Paulina could check in then, but Paulina said she had to wait for Gloria.

After a short time, familiar faces began to come into the terminal. They all said the same thing. They were a group and they were not going to check in until everyone arrived. The Delta clerks told everyone that they would get them to New York, but nobody wanted to make a move until the whole group was there.

As more people came in, we began to hear scary stories about having to go to New York by way of Atlanta or even Detroit, or that the group would be split up and go on different planes.

Everyone, hosts and guests alike, were envisioning a day of unplanned waiting for the airport folks to find us a plane going to New York. We loved our guests, and we know they loved us, but they were looking forward to seeing New York, and we were looking forward to a day of catching-up with our lives in Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

Finally, Gloria, who had been in touch with the agent in Brazil, arrived at our airport. There was concern about keeping in contact with Brazil, when it was in Greensboro where the action was. After many anxious minutes, the Delta agents brought the news that all of our wonderful Brazilian guests, whom we had come to love, and with whom we wanted to have a happy send-off, would be able to check-in, go through security, and wave good-bye to all of us tired, but happy American hosts.

Finally, the anticipated happy ending to a wonderful week of lovely people, enjoyable activities, unexpected situations, much good spirit and flexibility, and best of all, no unsolvable problems! To this novice Friendship Force host, it was hopefully the first of many unforgettable experiences with the best folks in the world. Thanks, Jimmy Carter!
Laura Graham



Woody and Marta's group heading for airport



airport confusion

A farewell present from Doris that was received with many hugs







After heading home we rested for a few minutes and then grilled some chicken and fresh vegetables for a quick dinner. We then spent our last night at Presbyterian Church of the Covenant at a Rhiannon Giddens concert. Cauthen's and Kiszely were there with their guests also. Excellent concert but I wonder if our guests got as much out of it because it involved issues involving our society and was sung in English.

We went home from there and sat for several drinks and discussed the event of the week and some of the issues raised by Rhiannon that evening. Thank goodness for the translator working well that night. We were actually able to solve some of the issues that face our society these days. This was a very good day indeed spent mostly with our guests. Peter Peiffer

Hal and Barbara were surprised but delighted when Woody, after our taco eating, group meeting, and badminton playing, invited us to an impromptu pot-luck at his house. I said, "But, Woody, such short notice!" He said, "So?" I said, "What can I do at this late date?" He said, "Go to the store like everybody else." "And get what?" I said. He said, "Whatever you want, if we have five meats, or five desserts, what difference does it make? It's pot-luck. I'm bringing some chicken I cooked months ago." His guests included Marta and her guest Gloria, Bob and Brenda and their guest Nira, Hal and me and our guest Help, Woody and his two house guests (one from Iran and George) and Ann. The conversations were energized, with the Brazilians congregating in the dining room and the rest of us on the closed-in back porch. Once our bellies were full of salad, chicken, rice, pita bread, vegetables, fruit, cookies, nuts, wine and water, we all sat on the porch and gabbed away (George and Gloria translated). Another fine, fun evening!

Help must have been the group photographer for she took pictures of everything: nearly every room in our house, every inch of our garden; our neighborhood, our neighbors' mailboxes, their houses, Hal, me and Lorrie. I believe she captured her whole trip in pictures, unlike me who's close to writing a thousand words. Her pictures can say more than I ever can or you want to read in a journal. I have no pictures.

Barbara Guess

Others went home to rest, pack and wash clothes!



Nancy and Peter and guests went to the NC Museum of Art in Raleigh. Before entering the main permanent gallery Peter walked over to the only hostess at the front desk and asked her if they “had any of the brochures in other languages”? She asked what language I was interested in. I said I was interested in Portuguese. She looked a little surprised and replied “I speak Portuguese” I said I was with a Brazilian couple and she piped up “I am from Brazil! This is your lucky day!” Our guests proceeded to get a full description of what to see in the museum in language they understood!

Jane Modesto stopped by a neighbor of Mary’s who had lived in the Brazilian Amazon for 27 years.



After lunch several folks walked to the Greensboro Historical Museum, not to see the exhibits but to visit the gift shop for souvenirs. Ray, Graça and I went to Stonefield Cellars, a local Winery where Ray and I have done volunteer work. Ray purchased wine for the dinner at Jim and Barbara North's house.

We only had about an hour to relax before it was time to get ready and leave for Oakridge to the North's house.

Everyone seemed to be a festive mood. The North's home is nestled into the surrounding forest. I always have a feeling of tranquility when I am there despite the gaiety that surrounds me. Our visitors are some of the most gracious and warm people I have had the pleasure of spending time with. They greet with a smile and sometimes a kiss of friendship.

We were entertained with two stories told by Charlotte Hamlin with Frances Jochum as interpreter. The amount of animation that Charlotte uses enhances the story being told.



We were invited to explore the area. Several of the guests went down to the lower level to see the pond and have some Kodak moments with the beautiful landscape as a backdrop.

Jim and Barbara have a generous neighbor who expertly cooked scrumptious pork ribs for the group to enjoy. Barbara rounded out the menu with delicious Macaroni and Cheese, Hushpuppies, two kinds of Slaw and luscious desserts of Banana pudding and Peach cobbler.

The evening was a terrific success. I am sure everyone was well sated as they made their journey back home for a well-deserved night's sleep. Doris Kiszely







After lunch at the Loaded Goat Restaurant we went to Wally's Service Station for a squad car tour of Mt. Airy and the Granite Quarry.



We enjoyed the picturesque views at JOLO Winery before we were asked to leave, seemingly because we were not ordering fast enough.



Many of us next went to Pilot Mountain to enjoy the views.



Introductions during the welcome brunch:



From 6-9PM, Hal and I, along with our guest, Maria do Socorro, Laura Graham, and her guest Paulina, and my former co-worker Lucien Houenou, PhD, MBA, Professor, Biotechnology Dept. at Forsyth Tech enjoyed a meal with Laura and Chris Tew (turkey and beef, salad, vegetables, and white wine). Our arrival was announced by RobRoy, their cute, little, well-behaved rescue dog who never barked inside the house or outside when we sat on the deck devouring our scrumptious dessert of blueberries, strawberries and pears (our choice) over sweet cornbread and ice cream for dessert.

The Tew's lovely A-frame house was flooded with beautiful classical music when we walked in, and as a parting gift, Laura gave us two of Chris' CDs. Chris is a composer. Lucien translated for us, and we kept him busy, almost too busy to eat, as we were hungry to know more about each other since Maria speaks no English and Hal and I speak no Portuguese; and Laura Graham and her guest were in much the same boat, except Paulina could understand and speak a bit of English, our Southern accent being somewhat of a hindrance. We laughed and talked more with our guests and each other than during any other part of the exchange. I learned that the welcome sign I had made and held up at the airport was correct but the name was wrong, so my guest had ignored it. Not only had I misspelled her name, it was not the name she goes by. There are three Marias on the trip and two Socorros. In Portuguese, Socorro means Help, and my guest wants to be called "Help." Thanks to Lucien, we got that straightened out. What a wonderful, fun, educational and exciting evening. So much talk and so much laughter! B. Guess



Dinner party at Laura Tew's: Barbara, Laura Graham, Paulina, Chris, Hal, Lucien and Socorro (Help).
Laura Tew took the photo

Other Small Group Dinners:



Hosted by Paula and Rod Swonguer



Looking at a World Atlas at Swonguer's home



This was after dinner chatting at the small group dinner provided at the Stokes' house. Guests included were Joao Carlos & Mario do Perpetuo, Peter & Nancy Peiffer, Clifford & Vivienne Mays, and Frances Jochum. All guests were not captured in this picture.

And more small group dinners:



Hosted by Wood Clinard



Hosted by Marilyn Baird