



Friendship Force of Central North Carolina

April 2017 Newsletter

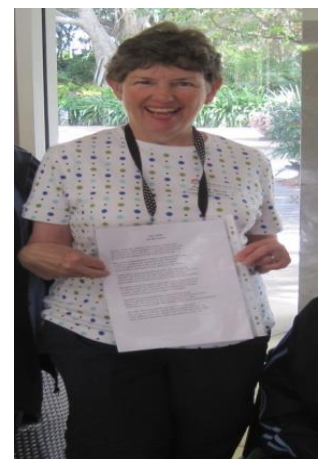
Message from the Council Coordinator

It is hard to believe that the end of the first quarter of 2017 is here. Your newly elected Leadership Council/Board has been meeting monthly and working hard behind the scenes to make things happen. I am excited that we have four members on the Council who have not participated on the Board before—Charlotte Hamlin, Secretary, who has eagerly tackled the job of taking minutes and cleaning out old files; Marylin Moniquette-John, Membership Coordinator, who is currently updating our membership list and club brochure; Lois “Criket” Mendezoff, Events Coordinator, who planned our first club event on March 6 at the Hanes Brand Theatre in Winston Salem; and Zella Harris, Communications Coordinator, who sends all our club communications and publishes our newsletters. In addition, if the financial health of our club is of interest, Ray Kiszely, in a new role as our Treasurer, can tell you all about the Winston Salem Foundation and Wells Fargo after his recent visits. Martha Brown, as Journey Coordinator, has spent timeless hours seeking leaders for our new journeys offered in 2017. Our Host Coordinator, Judy Greene (Global Arts Inbound in July/August), Ambassador Coordinator, Charles John, (Brazil Outbound in June) and Leroy Stokes, Past President, also contribute as Board members. As Council Coordinator, I am just trying to keep up with what everybody else is doing!! Your new Leadership Council/Board is excited about the future of FFCNC and we ask for your support of time, talent, and ideas to sustain our club activities and to help us grow in 2017 and beyond.

**In Friendship, Leadership Council Coordinator,
Barbara North**



Sara, a New Zealand FF hostess, teaches Ray, an FFCNC member, how to play cribbage while traveling by train through New Zealand.



The following letter was received congratulating Friendship Force of Central North Carolina



ANNUAL GRANTEE OF MERIT AWARD FOR 2017

February 8, 2017

Dear Friendship Force of Central North Carolina,

Friendship Force International recently received the Annual Grantee of Merit Award for 2017 by the Open World Leadership Center. This is a distinguished award that we are very proud to receive! The Annual Grantee of Merit Award is presented to organizations who have demonstrated outstanding service to Open World.

FFI hosted its first Open World delegation in 1999. From 1999 to now, Friendship Force clubs just like yours have hosted 2,085 Open World delegates. In 2017, Friendship Force clubs will host 16 delegations from the countries of Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Russia, Kosovo, Serbia, and Turkmenistan.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the contribution your club made to FFI winning this award and to thank you for the work your club has done to host an Open World delegation. Ambassador John O'Keefe, Executive Director of Open World Leadership Center was quoted as saying "Since Open World's inception, Friendship Force International has been a dynamic player in building strong peer-to-peer professional programming for Open World's delegates. They understand the issues facing our rising Eurasian leaders in their countries and how to craft a program that links them with their American colleagues to create strategies and solve problems."

Along with Elena McCarty, Regional Support Manager and Open World Coordinator, I'd like to offer my thanks and congratulations for the significant work that you do to further our mission and bring peace and understanding to people around the world.

In friendship,
Jeremi Snook, CEO /President

Friendship Force International

IT'S A GO!!

“Summer in the City of Arts & Innovation”

Incoming Journey

July 31 – August 7, 2017

We have a full Journey (Exchange) of 20 Inbound ambassadors. We will host people from 2 other countries and 8 States (AL, CA, CT, FL, OH, PA, TX, & WI). Two of the ambassadors will be on their first FFI Journey.

We need help from ALL our members in BOTH cities for Home Hosts, Day Hosts, and Dinner Hosts, etc. Currently, we are in need of 6 additional night hosts, and 10 additional Day Hosts, and 6-12 people willing and able to host small group dinners or brunch for 6-8 people.

Since the timing is during vacation season, we need an idea of how many members are interested in being involved beyond hosting. So that we may select venues with sufficient space, and secure group rates on tickets, **a survey will be mailed to all members.** That will give us an idea of how many members want to be involved in particular events for the week.

As you think about what you might like to attend, here are some ROUGH estimates of costs. Theatre Festival tickets (group rates are approx. \$25/person per performance). Welcome and Farewell meals (approx., \$15-\$25/person depending on the meal), charter bus to winery & Blue Ridge Music Center on August 5, approx., \$30/person includes concert ticket; optional BBQ meal on site \$10, or bring your own picnic). Actual costs will be available before we ask you to make final reservations. Even though you may not be able to make a definite commitment at this time, we need an estimated headcount for planning purposes.

Watch your mail and return the survey before May 10th please.



Judy Greene, Global Arts Inbound Host Coordinator

Contact Judy Greene at judygreene155@gmail.com or 336-768-1732

Doris Kiszely's Quilting Experience

CRAZY FOR QUILTING



Doris Kiszely attended a themed exchange to Iowa. Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City and Friendship Force of Central Iowa shared the Crazy for Quilting exchange. The exchange started in Cedar Rapids and was jamb packed with Art, Culture and Fun. Our Ambassadors were from as far away as Australia, England, Canada and Hawaii.

Grant Wood is revered in the area. His works of art are in many public areas. They had a charity event in progress that portrayed American Gothic in many modern looks.

The Ambassadors were hosted for small dinners around the community. Surprisingly, none of our hosts were quilters.

Museums, Historical Village tours, a wonderful home cooked farm lunch at a Mennonite home and shopping filled the days. On the way to Ames Iowa and the next hosts, we stopped in Winterset, Iowa, the quintessential “little house on the prairie”. Winterset is famous for being the birthplace of John Wayne. It also was the set for the movie “The Bridges of Madison County”. Lunch was in the café featured in the movie.

We visited two bridges in the area, which have been restored with great care.



In Ames, we were able to have a hands-on experience for a “make and take” project at a shop called The Quilting Connection. We made a fall table topper as a special souvenir of our trip.



Grant Wood's art work is very evident on the campus of Iowa State University. We had a walking tour of the campus as well as visiting a textile museum. The downtown area of Ames is like a step back in time. Small shops to browse, coffeehouses and a great Chocolateria boosted our energy. The American Quilters Society was hosting a large Quilt show in Des Moines so we were off for the day to experience a fantastic display of beautiful quilts and the opportunity to SHOP for more fabric.



Most Quilters are slight fabric hoarders. We returned to Ames that evening to share more small dinners with our hosts and members of the community.

Our farewell luncheon was at the beautiful Rieman Gardens which is adjacent to Iowa State University. The gardens enchant visitors with butterflies and many exotic plants.

My hosts in Ames were very generous and allowed both Eunice Eldridge and me to stay an extra night with them, which allowed us to have better flights from Des Moines.

This was my first domestic exchange but I am sure it won't be my last. Having a common interest among the Ambassadors enhanced the experience greatly. I encourage you to check out the Friendship Force catalogue to see if there are any themed exchanges that will appeal to you.



Vinhetas do Brasil

Journey Coordinator, Charles John

Journey # 13156

This journey started last summer with a kick-off vatapa luncheon at the Norths. An eclectic group of ambassadors, thirteen from Central North Carolina (our club), two from Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta, Georgia, and one from Friendship Force Willamette Valley, Oregon, will be traveling to Brazil.

In preparation for the journey, three 90-minute learning sessions in conversational Brazilian Portuguese will be held at the Benjamin Branch of the Greensboro Public Library on April 20th, April 25th, and May 2nd. A thank you to Ambassador Mary Davis for introducing us to the instructor, Frances Jochum.

A comprehensive overview of the people and culture of Sao Luis, Maranhao and Northeast Brazil was presented at the annual meeting on October 27, 2016. The presenter was Dr. Peter Villela, a historian with a special interest in colonial Portuguese America, and an Associate Professor, University of North Carolina at Greensboro. However, it was not until we met Dr. Tadeo Coelho at a potluck dinner at the home of the Peiffers, when he shared with us his insightful and sensitive observations of Brazilians in their homes and in public, did we begin to get a feel for the little things that can make for deep and lasting friendships with our hosts.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

You are invited to attend the Southeast Regional Conference of Friendship Force on April 20-22 in Huntsville, AL. The Southeast Region includes FFCNC as well as other clubs from NC, SC, TN, AL, and GA. The conference is open to **all FF members and guests** in the Southeast Region. It is a great time for discussion of topics and a time to socialize with friends and fellow members in the region. Contact friendshipforce.org for additional information or 404-522-9490.

New Member Joins Friendship of Central North Carolina (FFCNC)

FFCNC extends a warm welcome to Lucy Kaplan, our newest member. Lucy grew up in New York State and worked in main frame computer technology in Manhattan until retiring to Winston Salem, NC. She immersed herself in the arts in Manhattan. She has traveled to many countries, including Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Ecuador, Brazil, France, Italy, Denmark and Spain. She enjoys the arts and volunteering in Winston Salem and exploring Winston Salem and North Carolina. She loves meeting and talking with new people. She is interested in hosting visitors to our communities and learning to be a Journey Coordinator. We are looking forward to getting to know her, traveling with her and sowing the seeds of friendship.

Friendship Force of Central North Carolina Exchange Updates, 2017 & 2018

- **Brazil Outbound:** June 10 - 25, Charles John, Journey Coordinator
- **Global Themed Arts Exchange:** July 31-August 7, Judy Greene, Journey Coordinator
- **Northeast Ohio Domestic Outbound:** August 22-29, Karla Shanahan & Ralph Cauthen, Co-Journey Coordinators
- **Moscow Inbound:** November 20-27, Crista Douthit, Journey Coordinator and Barbara North, Mentor
- **Mid-Willamette Valley, Oregon Domestic Outbound:** First week of June 2018. Leroy Stokes, Journey Coordinator. Rose Festival Parade will be June 9th.

Our Journey Assignments

Surprise 2017 Outbound Domestic Journey

Where can you visit....

- The largest performing arts center in the United States outside of New York?
- The largest Amish population in the world?
- An art museum that has over 40,000 exhibits that span 6,000 years?
- Restaurants that serve stuffed cabbage, corned beef, perch, and a sandwich called the Polish Boy?
- A museum designed by I. M. Pei?
- A World War II submarine?
- A casino?
- The first botanical garden founded in the US?

.....all of this and much more within a day's drive of the Triad?

Do we have your curiosity peaked? The answer to this puzzle is Cleveland, Ohio and the surrounding area.

FFCNC has been invited to visit the Friendship Force of Northeast Ohio which includes the cities of Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Youngstown, and Kent. FFNEO was founded in 1985. They have 56 members who live in eleven of the 18 counties in Northeast Ohio and they enjoy showing off this less visited region of the United States.

Ralph Cauthen is serving as our Journey Coordinator and Karla Shanahan is assisting him with this journey. The dates for this journey will be Tuesday, August 22 – Tuesday, August 29, 2017. You will be hearing more details from them in the near future. In the meantime, if you have questions, want to let them know of your interest to be an ambassador, or are willing to help with the planning, please contact Ralph Cauthen at rbcauthen@aol.com or 336-299-2089. You may also learn more about this Friendship Force Club at www.friendshipforceneohio.org

So, join your fellow FFCNC members and visit the state that is home to eight US presidents and has predicted the winner of our presidential election in all but one election since 1944.

The Russians Are Coming!

With daffodils blooming in the front yard it is difficult to think about Thanksgiving, but many of our FFCNC members are making plans for another place or two around the dining room table on November 23. It is not often that we have the opportunity to reciprocate the hospitality we receive on our outbound journeys, but when FF Moscow asked if they could celebrate Thanksgiving with FFCNC, our membership proved that they can always make room for one more guest.



You will recall that FF Moscow hosted thirteen of our members in June of 2015. With plans to visit Greater Atlanta in late fall of this year, the Moscow club asked if it would be possible to visit the Triad as well. After a few emails and phone calls, Martha Brown, the exchange director (now called ambassador coordinator) for the 2015 journey, had a list of potential host families and it was evident that the timing of a Thanksgiving visit is seen as a wonderful opportunity to share a special American tradition with our Russian friends.

Our guests will arrive on Monday, November 20 and depart on Monday, November 27. Preliminary plans for the week anticipate unscheduled time Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday so that our guests can participate in the holiday traditions of their host family. Upon their departure from North Carolina they will travel to Greater Atlanta where they will be hosted for a second week.

Crista Douthit has agreed to serve as the host coordinator for this inbound journey. Already Barbara North and Charlotte Hamlin have agreed to assist her. If you are also interested in assisting, please contact Crista at c.collette_26@roadrunner.com or 336-816-2619. If you are interested in hosting and have not already indicated such, please let Crista know. We'll hear more from her about this special inbound journey as the year progresses.

2018 Journeys Announced

The latter half of 2018 is shaping up to be a busy time for FFCNC.

2018 International Outbound Journey

Our outbound international journey, tentatively planned for August 2018, will be to Hsinchu, Taiwan. Hsinchu, a city of one million people, is located on the northwestern coast of Taiwan about fifty miles from the capital of Taipei. It has a humid, subtropical climate and is nicknamed "The Windy City."

Hundreds of high tech companies are located in Hsinchu. That computer chip in your I-phone may have been manufactured in Hsinchu! The Science-Based Industrial Park created in Hsinchu 36 years ago is now credited with \$330 billion of revenue annually. (That's US dollars.) As a result, the city has the highest income level in Taiwan.

Matthew Nideck, Director of Operations for FFI in Atlanta, visited the FF Hsinchu club on a global exchange in 2015. He writes enthusiastically about his stay there. One of his highlights was visiting the native Atayal Tribe. There are sixteen recognized indigenous tribes in Taiwan and another dozen that are unrecognized. The Atayal is the third-largest tribal group in the country



The global exchange to Hsinchu in 2015 visited a local organic farm.

numbering over 85,000 who live on the northern part of Taiwan not far from Hsinchu.

Martha Brown, FFCNC's Journey Coordinator, will be recruiting an ambassador coordinator for this journey. If you have an interest in traveling to Taiwan, please let Martha know at 336-946-0105 or brownfamily@triad.rr.com.

2018 Domestic Outbound

Over the course of the last two years, our Board has communicated with FF Mid-Willamette Valley, Oregon in order to establish a month to visit this area of the US Northwest. Our patience has paid off and plans are getting underway for a June 2018 visit. This club dates back to 1992 and has grown to over one hundred members. Their members reside in eight counties that stretch from Portland to Eugene.

This journey has been scheduled to coincide with the Portland Rose Festival on June 9, 2018. The centerpiece of this festival, which dates back to 1907, is the Grand Floral Parade – the second largest all floral parade in the United States!

But flowers are not the only attraction in this area. Within a day's drive you can visit the Oregon coast, the Cascade Mountains, the Columbia River and Gorge, and the Klamath Basin, a dry arid region of the state.

Leroy Stokes has volunteered to serve as the ambassador coordinator for this journey. You will hear more from him next year as exact dates are established and plans developed.



2018 International Inbound Journey

The fall of 2018 (most likely October) will find us greeting old friends as we welcome the Friendship Force club of Bundaberg, Australia. FFCNC visited this club in 2013 and co-exchange director, Ray Kiszely, shared some thoughts of what to expect with our Aussie guests:

“Australians are hearty people and enjoy good food, good drinks and a good laugh. We should expect to have a wonderful experience with our friends from Bundy. Driving around with them will be fun for the first few days as well. I fully expect them to get into the driver side of our cars when they are intending to get into the passenger side.”

Martha Brown, FFCNC’s Journey Coordinator, will be recruiting a host coordinator for this journey. If you would be willing to serve in this capacity, please let Martha know at 336-946-0105 or brownfamily@triad.rr.com. If this interest you, but you feel you are inexperienced in this role, Martha will recruit a mentor to assist you.

