



THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF GREATER ATLANTA NEWSLETTER



MAY • JUNE • 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖



Greetings to all!

Time is flying by this year, and the Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta has recently returned from our club's first outbound exchange of the year to Lima and Machu Picchu, Peru on what was a fantastic exchange. Glenda Wilhelm, assisted by husband John led us on this adventure to the Land of the Incas on May 12th for a most interesting program. Additionally it was great fun for those Ambassadors who hosted to again see their friends from Lima who had visited them here in 2011. Please see the article about this exchange elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Sue Mills is making great progress on our second outbound exchange of the year to Australia (August 26 to September 10), which will take us to Sydney and the Gold Coast. There is still space for additional ambassadors, so check your calendar to see if you can join us for this great adventure. This would also be a good first exchange for any of your friends or neighbors who are considering becoming members of the Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta.

The Friendship Force club from Kiev in the Ukraine will be visiting us from October 22 to October 29. We have often hosted Open World programs for delegates from the Ukraine, so we know that this will be a great group of "ordinary" folks. Ken McKinney has already outlined the schedule of activities for the ambassadors and would love to hear from those of you who would like to host them.

We still need host families for two sets of ladies who will be attending the FFI World Conference in New Orleans from November 22 through the 25th and who are interested in spending Thanksgiving with an American family. Please consider adding two plates to your table and share our national holiday with a Friendship Force friend. They would arrive on November 25 or 26 and leave the Friday or Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Your FFGA Board has been busy working on changes to our tax status. I have outlined these changes in an article which can be found on page 3. While remaining true to our mission and bylaws, we have tried to reflect the current pattern of activities of the club and our likely future activities.

Please let us know how we can help you become more involved with the club. We would love to see you as often as possible, even if you are unable to travel or host. Your friendship is important to us, too! As always, if you have any ideas for club activities or questions about the club, please feel free to contact me at madamew@hotmail.com or (404) 351-5352.

In Friendship,

Cynthia Williams
President

CHANGE IN FFI FEES



Effective January 1, 2014 FFI Ambassador fees will increase from \$150 to \$165 per hosted week.

New in 2014: Club Exchanges: Each ambassador pays an FFI ambassador fee for a Friendship Force experience. FFI ambassador fees are due to FFI 60 days before the exchange departs. For club exchanges in 2014 the FFI ambassador fee is \$165 per week (5-7 nights) for exchanges outbound from the USA and \$140 per week from all other clubs.

New in 2015: There will be an increase in the club affiliation fee that is remitted annually to FFI by each of its member clubs. This fee is based on the number and type of memberships that each club has at the end of the previous year. The funds to pay the affiliation fee are normally taken from the dues paid by the members into their club treasury. Currently FFGA members pay \$25 for an individual membership and \$33 for a family membership to the club. Of that sum our club remits to \$10 per individual and \$17 per family to FFI. In 2015 this fee will increase to \$15 per individual and US \$25 per family. This will be based on membership numbers at the end of 2014 and will be due by January 15, 2015.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



In keeping with this Newsletter's tradition of spotlighting members of our club, this issue will introduce you to Dr. Wilma Ardine Kirchhofer, MPH, PhD



Wilma was born, raised and educated in Iowa and has made Atlanta home since 1974. She achieved a Masters of Public Health (MPH) from Emory University before teaching in the Nutrition and Dietetics program at Georgia State University. Wilma left Atlanta for several years to complete a doctoral program in Human Nutrition and International Development at the University of Missouri in Columbia. During graduate study years, she taught at nearby Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri where she was acting Chair of the Home Economics Department. Doctor Kirchhofer secured grants and conducted national and international research programs in Missouri; Belize, Central America and Burkina Faso, West Africa.

Dr. Kirchhofer returned to Atlanta to manage employee health initiatives for The Coca-Cola Company, providing the creative/innovative strategies that fueled the Health Management function in the global delivery of programs for health and productivity management. She retired from the company in 2000.

Dr. Kirchhofer directs the Youth Leadership for Global Health (YLGH), an incorporated nonprofit she and her late husband co-founded in 2001. This health education program guides youth leaders to become health advocates for disease prevention both locally and internationally. YLGH has conducted Health Study Tours for youth to South Africa, Brazil, Ghana, the Navajo Nation, British West Indies, and Nicaragua and was recently approved for a Study/Research Tour to Cuba in October 2013. YLGH is the recipient of several community service awards. For more information please visit www.ylgh.org.

Wilma has served as Secretary of the FFGA Board, In-bound exchange director for an Australian Cultural Exchange (2010) and Out-bound exchange director for a Brazilian Exchange to Sao Paulo and Brasilia (2012). She and her late husband have home hosted many international visitors and participated in the Fort Benning military officer exchange programs. The cultural exchange as requested by the Sydney, Australia Club, focused on African American heritage and achievement in the U.S.A. and has been cited as innovative/creative and requested by other clubs for special interest exchanges. Dr. Kirchhofer will be an exchange director for a similar FFI Global Exchange tentatively scheduled to take place in September of 2014.

Dr. Kirchhofer enjoys painting, the theater, traveling and reading. She is active with New Life Presbyterian Church, the Center for Spiritual Awareness and the Atlanta Suburban Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. She is the proud mother of two sons and four grandchildren.

Introducing a pair of our newest FFGA members Wanda and Stanley Bokoski:

We offer many thanks to president Cynthia Williams and Mary and Harvey Brickley for bringing in new members Wanda (pronounced Von-da) and Stanley Bokoski, who joined FFGA last winter just before the club's Annual Christmas party. Wanda and Cynthia taught French together at North Springs High School.



Wanda enjoyed her childhood in Ontario, Canada. She attended McGill University in Montreal, Canada where she majored in French and at the Universite de Montpellier in France. She also attended Georgia State University receiving her degree in Reading Education, and was a teacher for 34 years before retiring. Stan was raised in Buffalo, NY. He attended Boston University, Georgia State University and Clark Atlanta University and has his degrees in Public Relations and Social Work. Stan has served in the US Air force and was employed as a school social worker before he retired In 2004.



Wanda and Stan have been married for 42 years and Atlanta residents for 41 years. They first lived in Virginia Highlands and now reside in the Emory Village area. Their married daughter, Casimira, lives near Agnes Scott College and she has a four-year-old daughter, Juliana. Cats Aztec and Inca round out their immediate family.

Extremely active, they enjoy gardening, traveling, meeting new people, learning about new cultures and both volunteer at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Stanley also volunteers at the International Community School for Refugees and Wanda volunteers at Global Village Project, an all girls' refugee school in Decatur. Water color painting along with her weekly art classes are a hobby Wanda thoroughly enjoys. Together they have traveled to Costa Rica, France, Italy, Portugal, England, Thailand, Poland, Czech Republic, Turkey and French Polynesia and thoroughly enjoyed their recent FFGA exchange to Peru.

CHANGE IN TAX STATUS ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

FFGA Tax-Exempt Status and the Scholarship Fund:

After months of discussion and research, the FFGA Board has decided to change our tax-exempt status from 501(c)3 to 501(c)7. The IRS did not notify us (along with hundreds of other tax-exempt entities) of the need to renew our status, but simply declared that we were no longer an exempt organization. We attempted to update our status, but have never been able to receive confirmation that this was done.

In the meantime, the Board voted to disperse the monies in the Scholarship Fund (\$3,324.87), which was the basis for our designation as a charitable organization, and to apply for 501(c)7 status, which is that of a social club. We all felt that the club could not devote sufficient time and resources to the constant fundraising and regular distribution of funds necessary to maintain the 501(c)3 status. The new designation more accurately describes the actual activities of the club, but does not allow any potential donors to deduct their donations from their income taxes. We rarely receive donations, so there will be little, if any, effect on our finances. The application for change in status was sent to the IRS in December, but to date we have not received a reply.

On April 14, the Board considered requests for funds that had been submitted over the past two years by four different groups. It was decided that awards would be made to organizations that further the mission of FFI and for educational purposes with an international focus. Recipients must adhere to the established criteria and guidelines as follows: use of funds must be consistent with FFI/FFGA mission; funds will be paid directly to the program/organization and not to individuals; a written statement of the purpose of the request for funds must indicate how it correlates with the mission of FFI/FFGA; and recipients must submit a written report of the use of the funds and, if possible, to make a presentation to the Board during our annual meeting.

The Board voted to distribute the Scholarship Fund monies as follows: \$1,000.00 to the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection Project for international travel expenses for one student; \$1,000.00 to the Georgia State University Andrew Young Policy Studies Program for international travel

expenses for one student; \$1,000.00 to the Decatur High School Band for international travel expenses for students who participate in an FFI-coordinated exchange; and \$324.87 to purchase and ship to the Ukraine materials related to Martin Luther King Jr. to be awarded to students who participate in a regional contest related to his works. Space does not permit a more detailed description of these one-time donations, but if you would like more information, please feel free to contact Cynthia Williams at madamew@hotmail.com or (404) 351-5352.

EXCHANGE INFORMATION ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖



Two years ago FFGA played host to the Friendship Force of Lima, Peru and found them to be delightful ambassadors. Having just returned from our recent outbound exchange to their club during the period 13 – 20 May, I can truthfully say that they are equally wonderful hosts. Their members were welcoming, generous and lively. They provided a very interesting and well-planned program of activities that kept everyone entertained. Lima is the capital of Peru and is a beautiful city overlooking

the Pacific Ocean with many parks and a modern diverse culture that takes pride in showing respect for its long history and ancient traditions.



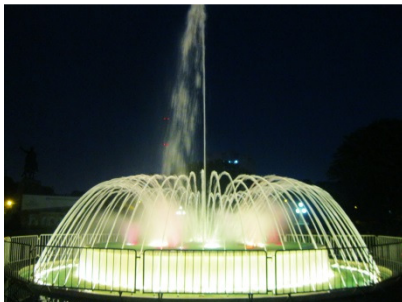
The "Green-Go's of FFGA Arrive.



Lima's members in historical dress



Ambassadors pose in Plaza de Armas



One of many beautiful fountains



Professional dancers at nightclub



The Vickers "Gettin it down" at club

After our week in Lima we bid our hosts farewell and flew on as tourists to Cuzco, the ancient center of the Incan culture located in the interior of Peru. Here some of us experienced the effects of touring a city lying over 11,200 feet above sea level. Even though most of us had obtained a prescription for pills to help overcome the effects of such a high altitude, it still took a day to become acclimated. After touring the city and its historic surroundings by bus, we had supper and did a bit of shopping before retiring for the night. The next day we went by bus and train to the town of Aguas Calientes, our starting point for our tour of the Machu Picchu world heritage site. We stopped only long enough to transfer our bags to the Casa Del Sol, a very nice boutique hotel in town, before boarding another bus for the 20 minute ride to Machu Picchu. The site was truly magnificent and should be viewed by everyone once in their lives. The only caveat would be that the tour is strenuous and one should be in reasonably good shape to negotiate the many steps and sometimes uneven ground. We arrived back at our hotel during the early afternoon with time for rest before a wonderful supper provided by the hotel. The next day was spent exploring Aguas Calientes until the afternoon train and bus returned us to Cuzco. The following day we again boarded a bus for a day-long tour of the Sacred Urubamba River Valley. We passed once again through the Sacsayhuaman (sounds like Sexy Woman) archeological site en route to the town of Pisac which lies along the Inca Trail. In this town there was a huge native Indian market at which we spent at

least an hour. Here we were entertained by classes of young children who paraded with their teachers through the market in costume and blowing whistles to celebrate a day of fiesta. A short distance outside of Pisac we stopped for a huge buffet luncheon at a gorgeous hacienda alongside the rushing waters of the Urubamba River. The area featured brilliant Macaws and colorful lovebirds, llamas, alpacas and vicuñas amid carefully landscaped gardens. Back on the bus, most of us were fully sated with delicious food and ready for a nap as we proceeded on to the next stop at Ollantaytambo to view an ancient fortress made up of temples and terraces towering majestically over the sacred valley. Upon arrival about two thirds of our intrepid adventurers accompanied our guide up the 81 steps to the main temple, while the remainder explored the lower-level ruins and the market until the hikers returned and we proceeded toward Cuzco and our hotel.



A cathedral on the Cuzco main plaza World heritage site of Machu Picchu Children's fiesta parade in Pisac market

The final morning in Peru we had to check out of our rooms by 10:00 AM but could not leave for the airport and the trip back to Lima and home until 2:00 PM. Many of the group did last minute shopping for souvenirs or final walks in downtown Cuzco while others prepared to continue on their trip by visiting the Nazca lines and/or Lake Titicaca. We departed Lima at 1:05 AM and arrived back in Atlanta at 1:30 PM on May 25th. E.D.'s Glenda and John Wilhelm are to be commended for running a very successful exchange, despite a few transportation glitches over which they had no control.



The Australian Outbound Exchange is progressing well under the guidance of exchange director Susan Mills. She reports that now that the final dates have been established as the 26th of August through the 10th of September 2013, both the Sydney and the Gold Coast FF clubs are finishing up their programs for our club's visit to Australia. The Sydney club plans on a tour of their famous harbor with its many attractions, including a walk upon the popular bridge and a possible visit to their iconic opera house. A day journey to the Blue Mountains is also in the offing. The Gold Coast club is planning a day of whale watching, a visit to a native animal refuge and to a "Toss another shrimp on the Barbie, mate!" barbecue party upon their beautiful beach.

Our "Down Under" friends always conduct great inbound exchanges, and the fact that they speak a form of English similar to our own makes this an ideal trip for both first-time Friendship Force Ambassadors as well as veteran members. There are seven spaces still available for participants, if you are considering whether to join this exchange or not, but you must hurry and send in your application and fees as the time grows near when all planning must be finalized. Contact Susan Mills at 1-386-848-6220 for more information. Her e-mail address is delray316@gmail.com .



Привітання (Greetings! in Ukrainian),
I hope all my fellow FFGA friends are having good health and enjoying this beautiful weather. I have been contacted by the Kiev club with a list of ambassadors and currently the number is fourteen, with an expectation of needing at least 10 hosts. Currently I have four hosts committed. So please let me know as soon as possible if you can host, and how many. I need this information for their visa application process. The exchange will be October 22-29. - Спасибі (Thanks!) - Ken McKinney, E.D. for Kiev to Atlanta - Phone: 360-914-2242 and email kenmckinney11@gmail.com.



The "Ticos" of Turrialba, Costa Rica are coming to visit the Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta in April of 2014. We had a great visit with them during January 2011 and it is now time to showcase our renowned Southern Hospitality in response to the kindness they displayed to us during our visit to their country. Although it is still ten months away, it is not too early to begin planning for this inbound exchange. The first order of business is to select an Exchange Director. If you would like to volunteer to act as the E.D. for this exchange please contact Vice President Eunice Luke at 404-633-2149 or by e-mail at ealuke@bellsouth.net Most of the "Ticos", as Costa Ricans like to refer to themselves, speak excellent English, so communication should not be a problem. Mentoring help is available to any member who would like to accept the position of E.D. for this exchange.

Exchange planning in progress:

- President Cynthia Williams reports that a Civil Rights and African American Heritage Global Exchange to Birmingham and Atlanta in September of 2014 has been approved by FFI and accepted by both clubs. Ms. Wilma Kirchofer, who conducted a similar exchange in 2010, will be the Exchange Director, assisted by Ms. Ernestine Brazeal. It is not too early to volunteer as hosts or as providers of a dinner party for this exchange. Please contact Ms. Wilma Kirchofer at: 404-559-9634 or e-mail: ardine@bellsouth.net More information will be forthcoming in the next few months.
- Our club is currently negotiating with the Friendship Force club of Eastern Washington and North Idaho and the Friendship Force club of Missoula - Western Montana about the possibility of conducting a domestic exchange during 2014. More information will be forthcoming in the next few months.

THE SOCIAL CALENDAR



The Decorators' Show House:



As a part of our commitment to community service, each year FFGA helps to support the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra by acting as docents for a few hours at their "Annual Decorators' Show House and Gardens". The purpose of this project is to help raise funds for the orchestra's support organization. We do this on one day only, and also use this occasion to socialize with our fellow club members at a near-by restaurant after completing our shifts.

This year our members took up their stations on the morning of April 24th, in the Parisian-Chateau style of home shown above. The residence is located at 3495 Old Plantation Rd, NW in the trendy Buckhead area of Atlanta. FFGA volunteers enjoyed an opportunity to take a quick tour of the home before allowing the public to enter, and were also afforded a more leisurely tour on their own during the afternoon. Upon completing their tour of duty, all adjourned to the O.K. Café on Northside Parkway, where they enjoyed the Café's famous southern fare and chatted with their fellow volunteers. The following are thanked greatly for their participation and it is hoped that other members of FFGA will join us at next year's event. Mary and Harvey Brickley, Marilyn and William Darmody, Vicky Hagen, Susan Mills, Judy Naylor, Erika and Kent Vickers, Glenda and John Wilhelm and Cynthia Williams. We were also privileged to meet the club's newest member at the O.K. Café, Mr. Vokhiwa Zipangani, whom Cynthia Williams encouraged to join. We will interview Zipi (as he is known to his friends) in a future edition of the newsletter.

AN EVENING OF “ENLIGHTENMENT”



Please join us on Tuesday, 11 June at 5:00 PM, for a social supper at the “Green Ginger Asian Fusion Restaurant” located at 265 Ponce de Leon Place, Decatur, GA 30030. Casual nice dress and pay-as-you-go supper.

After supper we will travel to the Shambhala Meditation Center located at 1447 Church Street in Decatur, which is about 1¼ miles from the restaurant. We must arrive before 7:00 pm for the open house and orientation class. Afterward, from 8:00 – 8:30 there will be light refreshments and a chance to meet and interact with Shambhala members. Please see the attached flyer for more information and a map to the events.

Please notify Ms. Ernestine Brazeal by telephone at 404-753-0229 before 10 June if you plan to attend so that the restaurant can prepare a reserved area for us • No E-Mails please.

ODDS and ENDS ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

THE NEW ORLEANS 2013 FRIENDSHIP FORCE WORLD CONFERENCE



If you were waiting until it was nearer to the date of the conference before making your reservation to attend, we regret to inform you that you are out of luck. Most events and Seminars are completely sold out, and there are no longer any rooms available at the conference hotel. Approximately 600 people have made reservations and you may now only apply to be added to the waiting list in hopes for a cancellation. If you wish to do so, please contact Ms. Debbie Powell by e-mail at dpowell@thefriendshipforce.org. You will be contacted as soon as space becomes available.

We are still in urgent need of a member to replace our current Web Master, Steve Douds. His duties at Delta Airlines preclude his continuing to keep the FFGA website up to date. Steve says he is willing to train someone to take over this position on the Board of Directors and that now that it is set up it is not too difficult to operate if one has the time to do so. Please contact Cynthia Williams by e-mail at madamew@hotmail.com or phone 404-351-5352.

The minutes of the last board of director’s meeting are for the month of April and were published after the Newsletter for that month was distributed. If you would like to see the secretary’s report for this month, please click on the following link while depressing the Ctrl Key: <http://sdrv.ms/19xNKvw> Allow sufficient time for the document to display. Note: There was no board meeting scheduled in May.

In Friendship,

Kent G. Vickers
Newsletter Editor