



THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF GREATER ATLANTA NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER • DECEMBER • 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings, dear friends!

It's hard to believe that this will be my last newsletter message as your president. The past two years have just flown by! We have had so many wonderful inbound and outbound exchanges and opportunities to host in other capacities, and each one has given us new friends and new insights into other cultures. Other travel groups may show us the interesting sights/sites on our little planet, but the Friendship Force allows us to understand the people with whom we share the Earth and perhaps to make life a little better for all of us. Each time we serve as hosts or ambassadors, we make an investment of our money, time and hearts in the future of mankind.

The Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta has also introduced me to many new friends right here in my "neighborhood". Our monthly activities bring us fellowship and fun, and those of us who have traveled or hosted together have formed strong bonds of friendship that we can all treasure.

If you love the Friendship Force as much as I do, please spread the word and invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers and others to join us. Each new member makes our club and the success of our mission stronger. There is such an interesting world out there for us to explore, so let's invite as many people as possible to join us on the adventure!

It has been a great pleasure and honor to be your president. I am truly grateful to the Board members who have served with me these past two years, as I could not have done the job without them. They have shown their devotion to the club in the many hours they have spent in carrying out official business and providing activities for us all to enjoy. Our Exchange Directors have put their organizational skills and time into the inbound and outbound exchanges that are the heart of the Friendship Force. What an amazing group of people, whose only goal is to make us great!

My presidential ride is coming to an end, and it will soon be time to turn over the reins to Harvey Brickley, our new president. We have done well to choose Harvey to lead us, as we will be in very capable hands. I pledge to support him in any way I can, and I ask you to do the same.

I hope to see all of you at the Holiday Party on December 7. This will be a great event, so invite a prospective member as your guest to share in the festivities with us! Check Kent's newsflash and this newsletter for details.

With much love and friendship,

Cynthia Williams

ITS PARTY TIME



DON'T BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD

It is once again time to make your reservation for the Annual FFGA Holiday Party to take place on Saturday, the 7th of December from 1:00 to 4:30 P.M., at the beautiful Vinings Club in Northwest Atlanta.

The price is only \$25.00 per person which includes a great three entrée buffet luncheon, a talented musician, some surprise gifts and favors. A cash bar will be available and parking is free in the club garage. Taxes, gratuities and a service charge for the room and setting it up are also included. The price is being subsidized from our club treasury and is based on an attendance of 60 persons. Please help us attain that number by bringing a friend, who we hope will become so enthused by the wonderful spirit of the party and the cheerful members they will meet that they will want to become a member themselves.



Checks should be made payable to FFGA and should be mailed to arrive not later than December 4th at the home of Ms. Ernestine Brazeal / 193 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd., SW / Atlanta, GA 30314 - You may phone (404) 753-0229 if you need more information. Please see the last page of this Newsletter for a map and directions to the Vinings Club. We request that you dress for the occasion, no jeans or T-shirts please.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



This month we are pleased to introduce you to a pair of relatively new members, Zipangani and Roseby Vokhiwa, who joined FFGA just last April at the urging of their longtime friend President Cynthia Williams. Since that time Zipangani and Cynthia have already begun discussions with Friendship Force International to set up a Discovery Exchange to Malawi in the summer of 2014, if possible, to assist in the establishment of a Friendship Force club there.

Zipangani (Zipa) and Roseby (Rose) Vokhiwa were born in Malawi and moved to the USA in 1984 and 1985, respectively.

Zipangani came to study at California State Polytechnic in Pomona from March 1984 to June 1985, when he moved to Colorado State University, where he completed his bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees in animal sciences and range ecology. He is a retired Malawi government civil servant. Before joining Mercer University in 2007, he taught at Kennesaw State University from 2003 to 2007. As an associate professor at Mercer University, Zipangani has led three "Mercer on Missions" projects to Malawi, where Mercer students worked in orphanages, community gardens and clinics assisting Malawians. On a Fulbright Grant-sponsored project this past June, Zipa led a group of ten teachers and two administrators from K-12 schools in the metro Atlanta area on a four-week field research expedition to Malawi.

Rose joined her husband in January 1985 together with their five-year-old daughter and three-year-old son. She completed her associate nursing degree at Larimer County Community College in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Currently, Rose is a registered nurse at Northside Hospital in Cherokee County.

Zipangani and Rose have resided in Acworth since June of 1999. Their daughter Mphatso Abigail and her husband live in Marietta, their son, Kondwani Jolly, lives in Smyrna, and their last-born daughter, Adziwa Chyembekezo, lives and works in Washington, D.C.. Zipa and Rose both still have family members in Malawi. Rose has one brother and two sisters there. Zipa has one brother and two sisters in Malawi and one sister in Zimbabwe.

EXCHANGE INFORMATION



2:30 PM on the 22nd of October, found 12 Atlanta hosts and Exchange Director Ken McKinney assembled in the arrivals atrium of the international terminal at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport. There they eagerly awaited the opportunity to greet their 11 Ambassadors arriving from Kyiv, Ukraine by way of Amsterdam. It would be two hours plus before the weary, but happy, travelers finally passed through customs to be greeted by their flagging newfound friends representing FFGA. After all of the introductions were made, the suit cases were loaded, and the entourage headed to their various homes for a quick bite to eat and then a good night's sleep. The morning would bring a wide variety of things to do during a free day of shopping and sightseeing, before all assembled at ED Ken McKinney's condo near Piedmont Park for the official Welcome Party. A

delicious Low Country Broil was served by FFGA volunteer hostess Sue Mills. Gift bags containing various useful items and a few humorous Halloween adornments were distributed by each Host to their Ambassador. The evening progressed with song, wine and laughter. Particularly moving was a Ukrainian lullaby sung by Mike Sakmar in the native tongue of his Ukrainian Mother, recently deceased. The party ended after a brief tour of the ED's apartment, as the next morning would bring an early start to a full and busy day in downtown Atlanta.



Hosts show off a new welcome sign that was provided by ED Ken McKinney at the airport.



Darmody's present gift bags to Ambassadors Viktor & Olga Bugaienko at Welcome Party.



FFGA President Cynthia Williams receives a club gift from Olga Bugaienko of Kyiv.



Igor & Iryna Mirochynyk, Olga Bugaienko, Maryna Vasiukovych, & Natalia Klymenko sport their Halloween gag gifts of vampire fangs and bug eyes at the Welcome Party.



Erika Vickers, John & Glenda Wilhelm, Igor & Iryna Mirochynyk and Nelia Shelukhina enjoy lunch at the Swann Coach House restaurant.



Maryna Vasiukovych and Igor & Iryna Mirochynyk claim Stone Mountain for the nation of Ukraine.

The day following the Welcome Party was filled with the usual items that interest all foreign visitors to our fair city: A CNN Studio Tour, followed by lunch in the atrium; a guided stroll through Centennial Olympic Park to our next stop, the famous Georgia Aquarium and its Dolphin Tales Show. Finally a brisk walk across Pemberton Plaza to the World of Coca-Cola completed the big four of Atlanta. By then everyone was willing to make the trek to the Westin Peachtree Hotel's 72nd floor and the revolving observation bar. There they relaxed with some liquid refreshment before taking a short stroll across Andy Young's International Boulevard to PittyPat's Porch for some down-home Southern cooking. The day ended by driving straight home and crashing into bed for a well-deserved rest.

A leisurely breakfast was a delight the following day, as no activities were scheduled until everyone met in Stone Mountain Park at noon. The Ambassadors enjoyed beautiful weather as they rode the Sky Lift to the top of the granite outcropping, rode around it on the train, attended the 4-D theater and toured the plantation. In the evening all were assembled at Paschal's on Northside drive for a taste of soul food and Jazz. Unfortunately, we were informed later that the Jazz combo was on vacation until sometime in the month of November.

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The following day was a unique experience for our Eastern European visitors. Everyone traveled north to the city of Cartersville where they were treated to a guided tour of the Booth Western Museum of Art. By a pure stroke of luck it was also the day the museum sponsored the 11th Annual Cowboy Festival. Besides getting a thorough understanding of America's Western history, the guests also got to enjoy real Southern Barbecue, a craft fair of western goods, authentic American Indian dancers and a reenactment of the gunfight at the OK Corral. Not to mention any number of locals dressed in costumes of the "Old West".

On the same evening, Hosts and Ambassadors were welcomed into the homes of other members of FFGA who had volunteered to host a dinner party for them, which was greatly appreciated by all. A special thanks goes out to the members who have undertaken this pleasurable event, providing a spate of needed relief for the full-time hosts. They are: Mary & Harvey Brickley, Anne & Joseph Earle, Janet Martin, Ken McKinney, Vivian & Neil Nickelsen and Janet and Marin Prado.

Sunday morning was free time to attend church services, if so desired, or to do a bit of shopping before visiting the Atlanta Botanical Gardens at 2:00 PM. This was during the final weekend of the gardens' "Imaginary Worlds" exhibit and they were overflowing with people. All of this was handled with great aplomb by our volunteer guide, FFGA member and Botanical Garden docent, Wanda Bokoski. Many thanks are due for her excellent knowledge of both the exhibit and of the various plants throughout the garden. Both the hosts and the Ambassadors were amazed at the fifteen foot tall cobras, the huge Ogre and the Earth Goddess displays, all created with multi-colored plant life. They also appreciated the beauty of the orchids in the Fuqua Conservatory.

The final day of the exchange was spent at the Martin Luther King Historical Site, where the ambassadors learned of the struggle for civil rights endured by the African-American segment of our population. After a tour of the Kings' home, and the Memorial reflecting pool surrounding Rev. King's eternal resting place, the Ambassadors paused for a late lunch before returning to their hosts' homes to prepare for the evening Farewell (Halloween) Party.

Although Halloween is not celebrated in the Ukraine as it is in America, the Ukrainians did a quick study and decided to immerse themselves in the spirit of the season to the max. They immediately started to acquire the appropriate costumes and accessories needed to become everything from princesses to ghouls. The party was at the Wilhelm residence, which was decorated in a suitable manner for the occasion to include numerous small pumpkins and a robotic door ghost to greet the menagerie of creatures who would soon pass through their front portal. Even the hosts were in the right frame of mind for the celebration and wore slightly more sedate, age appropriate finery for the party. All enjoyed an excellent farewell dinner served up buffet style by the Supreme Hostess Glenda Wilhelm. The Ambassadors seem to have a great time posing and taking any number of photographs for the folks back home. Rest assured that if anyone had suggested that the Ukrainians go trick-or-treating they would have been out on the streets in an NYC minute, regardless if the correct date for that was still three days away.

Sadly all good things must come to an end, and so it was with this exchange. The Ambassadors were scheduled to fly on to Orlando on Tuesday morning, although some rented automobiles to drive instead of fly. They would next visit the Mouse and his friends as tourists before heading to Miami and the trip home.



The Lone Ranger of the Ukraine, 8 year old Vladyslav Klymenko and his mount patrol the range at the Childrens' Ranch in the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville.



A happy group of Ukrainian flowers laugh at a comment by someone out of the frame at the Orchid Wall of the Atlanta Botanical Garden.



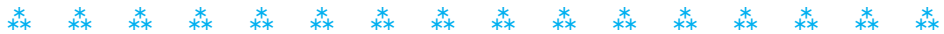
From Princesses to Ghouls and all that is between, pose for the Rogues' Gallery of Halloween lovers.

A Special Thank You!

Once again, special thanks are due Sue Mills, Wanda Bokoski and all of the dinner party hosts. This tribute would not be complete without an extra special thanks to Exchange Director Ken McKinney who did an excellent job and dealt with more than a few adversities along the way – all handled with good humor.

For those club members who do not usually participate during incoming exchanges, for whatever reason, please be encouraged to volunteer in some capacity to help in any way you might feel would be useful. Perhaps you could host a dinner, help make and stock gift bags, or prepare a few decorations. If you have a special talent or skill, contact the ED and see if he or she could make use of it or just volunteer to relieve a host for a few hours. It will be appreciated.

FUTURE EXCHANGES



Turrialba, Costa Rica to Atlanta: The “Ticos” of Turrialba are paying us a reciprocal visit from the 5th through the 11th of April, 2014. FFGA had a great exchange with them during January 2011. 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. The exchange will be taking place in Fort Myers, Florida for the first week with the second week in Atlanta. Harvey Brickley was the outbound ED in 2011 and has volunteered to be the E.D. for this inbound exchange. He is eager to begin the necessary planning and is already coordinating with both of his counterpart E.D.s to

confirm how many hosts he will need for our exchange. Most of the “Ticos”, as Costa Ricans like to refer to themselves, speak excellent English, so communication should not be a problem for our hosts. Mr. Brickley is already taking names of those willing to host or to provide a dinner get-together for a host family and their Costa Rican Ambassadors. Please contact Harvey by e-mail at: mbrickley@bellsouth.net or by phone at: 404-351-2033 to volunteer. Information and a sign-up sheet will also be available at the Holiday Party.

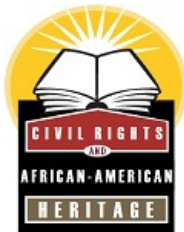


Domestic Exchange: We are in the final stages of planning for a Domestic Exchange to the Friendship Force of Eastern Washington and North Idaho. It is now tentatively set for June 5th through 10th, 2014. Joyce Mell has volunteered to be the Exchange Director for this adventure and states that we already have a full exchange of 20 names signed up. However, as the time

draws near to departure a few of those may change their mind about going. Therefore, if you are interested in traveling on this exchange you should to contact Mrs. Mell as soon as possible to place your name on the waiting list. You may contact her by telephone at: 770-232-2987 or by e-mail at: jnjmell@bellsouth.net.



Discovery exchange: Currently Cynthia Williams and Zipangani Vokhiwa are working together to coordinate an exchange to the African nation of Malawi sometime during the month of July 2014. The purpose is to help that nation to establish a Friendship Force club. The maximum number of Ambassadors will be limited to ten persons. More details will be forthcoming as they develop.



Global Exchange: Civil Rights and African American Heritage Inbound Exchange to Birmingham, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia. This exchange is tentatively scheduled to take place in September 2014. Wilma Kirchhofer, Ph.D. and Ernestine Brazeal are the Co-Exchange Directors. Planning at this time anticipates that once the event is publicized by FFI it will appeal to a large number of Ambassadors and several Hosts and volunteer assistance by club members will be required. More details will be forthcoming as they develop.



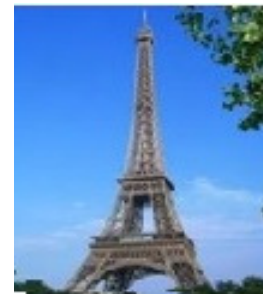
Global Appeals from other Clubs: Two Clubs have requested that members from our club who might be interested in filling out their exchanges contact their EDs. Brief details about these exchanges are listed below. Please click on the links to see further information.

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Northern Colorado to Myanmar: 19 February to 5 March, The ED is Dot Cada and the cost is estimated to be \$3,050. Although it does not include air travel, or homestays, it does include a

large number of other arrangements. The link is: <http://sdrv.ms/1aZ2Yfs>. This is a very large file; please give it time to download. Ms. Cada's e-mail is: dotcada@yahoo.com. Her phone number is (970) 667-7548.

Berlin, Germany & Poland: The ED is Stephanie Sorensen with the FF club of Madison, WI. The exchange involves homestays in Berlin from 16 to 22 May and commercial travel in Poland from 22 May through 1 June. The approximate price is \$2,425 and does not include airfare, but does include train travel from Berlin to Warsaw and bus travel throughout Poland, plus hotel and some meals and a guide. Ms. Sorensen may be contacted by e-mail at: stevils@charter.net or by telephone at (608) 819-6646. A link to more information is may be found by clicking on either of the following: <http://sdrv.ms/18EISS5> or <http://sdrv.ms/HWWgKY>.



Parler français en France: (Speak French in France) – The EDs for this exchange are Andrew Sterling and Eileen Howell of Ottawa, Canada. Andrew is a member of the FFI Advisory Board and a former Treasurer on the FFI Board of Directors. The exchange will be conducted in French and there will be no specific program designed for the non-French speaker. Most hosts speak no English. This exchange will begin in Paris France on the 30th of May and will end on 16 June. The estimated land cost is \$1,175 and does not include airfare and several other expenses in Paris. Please click on the following link for full details <http://sdrv.ms/1b0Dvmh>. You may contact the EDs by e-mail at: iax@magma.ca or by telephone at: 1(613) 592-8754.

ODDS & ENDS



Minutes of the FFGA Board of Directors meetings: To review the FFGA Board of Directors minutes from the board meetings held in October and November and the FFGA Annual Meeting for 2013 please depress and hold down the "Ctrl" key on your keyboard while clicking on the following links: For October <http://sdrv.ms/1aWtoLj> and <http://sdrv.ms/1bLsKAV> for November. If the links do not open the minutes for you, copy the links individually into the address bar of your internet browser. Please allow time for the link to open.

Highlights from the minutes of the 2013 FFGA Annual Meeting: The major two accomplishments of this year's Annual Meeting were the election of new officers to the FFGA Board of Directors for 2014 and a decision by the members on which countries our club would like to conduct an outbound exchange with during the year 2015. The results were then tabulated and submitted to FFI for coordination.

- 2014 Board of Directors are: President - Mr. Harvey Brickley / Vice President – Ms. Eunice Luke
Treasurer - Mrs. Bonnie Evans / Secretary – Mrs. Beverly McCray
- Countries selected in order of preference are: #1 Reciprocal Exchange to Braunschweig-Peine, Germany
#2 Reciprocal Exchange to Ukraine, #3 Netherlands, #4 South Africa and #5 Switzerland.

This year's Annual Meeting took place at Mimi's Café in Dunwoody on the 6th of October and a quorum of members was present, therefore enabling the taking of votes in accordance with the bylaws of our club. To view the entire minutes of this meeting, please depress and hold down the "Ctrl" key on your keyboard while clicking on this link: <http://sdrv.ms/1acGFRU> Please allow time for the link to open.



New Memberships: The Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta is pleased to welcome the following new members to our club and is looking forward to meeting them during future social activities and on exchanges yet to come.

Dave & Rhoda Ewert, who reside in Atlanta, GA, and Patricia M. Holt, who lives in Lawrenceville, GA.



Just a reminder: Dues for the 2014 membership year are accepted from the 1st of October through the 31st of December and are still a bargain at \$25 for an individual and \$33 for a family membership (two or more people at the same address). Members joining after 1 July in any year are considered as members for the remainder of that year and the following year. You may remit your dues by check or cash at the Annual Holiday Party at The Vinings Club on December 7th, or you may mail a check payable to FFGA to the club's Membership Chair: Mrs. Anne Earle / 715 Clairemont Avenue / Decatur, GA 30030

IN MEMORY OF



Portia A. Scott
6/6/1943 – 10/2/2013

For those who did not receive the earlier e-mail report, I have the sad duty to inform you of yet another club member who has passed on. Ms Portia A. Scott suffered cardiac arrest at her home following a brief bout with ovarian cancer. Her funeral service at the Warren Memorial Methodist Church on the 9th of October was well attended by many of Atlanta's celebrities and friends.

Ms Scott had a long and distinguished career at her family's newspaper, *The Atlanta Daily World*, and retired as managing editor of this leading African-American newspaper. With a university degree in journalism from Howard University and a master's degree from American University, in Washington D.C., she was well suited to work in the newspaper trade, doing so for over 40 years.

She was an active member in local and national Republican Party politics, including serving on a Presidential Task Force and on Committees under both President Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush. Ms Scott also was active in a variety of civic and community organizations. She was a member of

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Atlanta Chapter of The Links Inc., as well as several other civic organizations dedicated to improving the city and the community.

One of those organizations is the Southwest Atlanta Branch of the Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta, of which she was the founder, President Emeritus and a representative to the FFGA Board of Directors. Ms Scott worked tirelessly to recruit new members for the Southwest Branch to insure that it was able to continue as a part of the larger organization. Her input regarding club exchanges and operating procedures will be sorely missed, as will her charming smile at the clubs social functions.

She is survived by her daughter, Maryam Jordan, and son-in-law, Demetrius Jordan, as well as three grandchildren, two nephews, a niece and a brother-in-law. Maryam is a Program Services Coordinator for Asia at Friendship Force International.

If you would like to make a donation in her name, you are requested to do so to one of these fine organizations:

The Atlanta Humane Society
Howell Mill Campus
981 Howell Mill Road NW
Atlanta, GA 30318

and/or

Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
901 E Street NW, Suite 405
Washington, DC 20004

THE END

[Please see next page for a map and directions to the Vinings Club]

In Friendship,
Kent G. Vickers
Newsletter Editor



The Vinings Club

FROM I-285

Take I-285 to Exit 18, Paces Ferry Road. Turn East (toward the inside of the perimeter). Cross over Cumberland Parkway and turn left at the second traffic light onto Overlook Parkway. If you cross over railroad tracks you have gone too far. The third drive on the right will be Overlook III and The Vinings Club at 2859 Paces Ferry road. Complimentary parking is available in the parking deck. (Red Route)

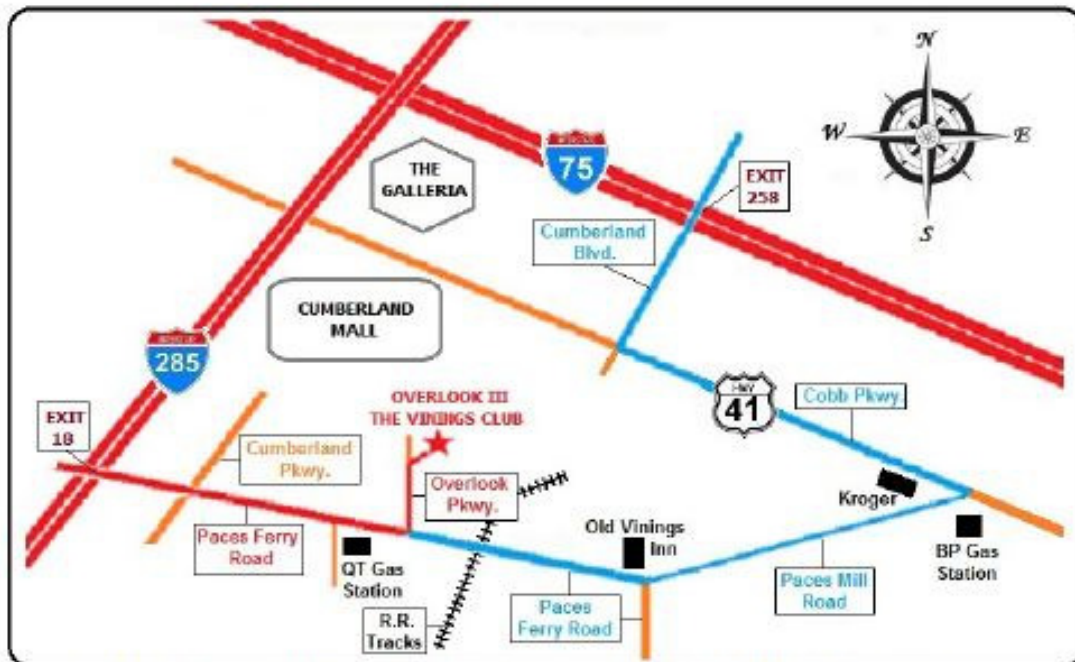
FROM I-75 DOWNTOWN

Take I-75 North to Exit 258, Cumberland Boulevard. Turn left off the exit and proceed to the fourth traffic light. Turn left at this corner onto Cobb Parkway (U.S. Highway 41). At the next light turn right onto Paces Mill Road (Look for the BP Gas Station on the corner and a Kroger store on the right). Continue straight on and turn right, after you cross over the railroad tracks, onto Overlook Parkway. The third drive on the right will be Overlook III and The Vinings Club at 2859 Paces Ferry road.

Complimentary parking is available in the parking deck. (Blue Route) **OR** Take I-75 North to I-285 West. Follow the directions From I-285, above. (Red Route)

ONCE INSIDE THE OVERLOOK III BUILDING

From the double revolving doors in the main lobby, walk straight back toward the Atrium glass windows. Pass by the main elevators and take the private elevators on the left, labeled Vinings Club and Level 3. Take the elevator down to Level 2 - "The Vinings Club".



(Please use only this map - The maps on Google and Map Quest are in error)