



friendship force
WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA

Mountain Friends

Vol. 16, Issue 5

Friendship Force of Western North Carolina

December 2016

FFWNC
P.O. Box 1425
Skyland, NC 28776
Website: ffwnc.org

CHANGING THE
WAY YOU SEE
THE WORLD

Upcoming Meeting

January 15th – 5:30 p.m.
at the Skyland Firehouse

Ron & Jan Partin will share stories
and photos from their recent visit
to Cuba.

Dues Reminder

2017 dues are now due. FFI eliminated “family” memberships effective January 1, 2017 and FFWNC has changed their dues structure to be consistent with FFI. Therefore 2017 dues are \$27.00 per person. Please complete the membership application / renewal form at the end of this newsletter and mail your check to FFWNC PO Box 1425 Skyland, NC 28776.

From the Desk of the President

Greetings,

Much has been happening in the Friendship Force of Western North Carolina!!!! We have reports from the ambassadors that travel to Japan in October was fabulous, and that they made many friends. Another memorable exchange took place when ambassadors from Friendship Force of Sarasota traveled here also in October. Thank you to all who participated in this exchange and for sharing delicious food, and hospitality.

This is the last time you will hear from me as your President. The past year has been a growing experience for me and an opportunity to get to know more about all of you. I want to thank the officers and committee members for their dedication and hard work in planning exchanges, activities, and programs that have been interesting and at times challenging. Also a big thank you to Ron Partin for doing our newsletter, Facebook, and maintaining our website!

The new officers were installed at the general meeting in November. I hope you will offer your support to Joan Manfre as she assumes the role as President. I also want to thank all of you for attending the general meetings for without you all the work would be in vain. It has been my pleasure to be involved and I look forward to a continuing relationship with the Western North Carolina Friendship Force Club!

In the words of Friendship Force International, you are encouraged to ... “Get involved with the Friendship Force and change the way you see the world” ... as well as Western North Carolina!

Wishing you and your families joyous Holidays, and Happy New Year!

Jan

Welcome to Bob & Sue Palmer

Bob spent his early boyhood in Washington, DC., then moved with his family to High Springs, Florida. After college at the University of Florida, he spent three years in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps in Korea and Washington, followed by graduate school in accounting (while working as a part-time reservations agent for United Airlines). He then joined the Denver office of Arthur Young & Company, a large CPA firm.

While in Denver Bob met and married Susan, then a stewardess with United. Susan grew up in Grand Rapids, Mich., although as a child lived in a number of cities due to her father's employment with United. Fortunately, Susan learned to like grits while on layovers in southern cities. – clearly a key element in the success of their 50-year marriage.

Bob was eventually transferred to Atlanta where they raised two children. He left Arthur Young as a principal and started a publishing company that he sold upon his retirement. They moved to Flat Rock in 2005.

They have a daughter who lives on Nantucket and a son in Minneapolis (who continues the family aviation interest as a pilot with ...surprise ...United Airlines).



Getting to Know Diane Thilly Cabell



Diane Thilly Cabell is a West Virginia native who attended UNC's Women's College before heading north to Boston where she remained for 50 years. She was a housemaster at MIT as well as counsel in the Institute's Intellectual Property Licensing office. She raised two children in Winchester, MA and afterwards taught at Harvard Law School where she was Assistant Director of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society and founder of the HLS Cyberlaw Clinic. Diane served as corporate counsel for Creative Commons for 13 years and was Executive Director of CC's UK subsidiary, iCommons Ltd. After a 2-year appointment as a visiting academic at the University of Oxford in England, she retired to Asheville in 2015. She has high hopes for her garden and aspires to sample every musical venue in the area.

2017 Exchanges

OUTGOING

May Trujillo, Peru - Jan Partin, E.D.

INCOMING

April Wichita, Kansas – Susan Harvey, E.D.
Sept. New Mexico – Need an E.D. (Contact Carol Mullen)

Exchange Director Committee: Joy Williams, Joe Robustelli, & Carol Mullen, Chair

Exchange to Peru

Our next exciting Outbound adventure will take place May 2-16. We still have room for travelers interested in going to Trujillo, Peru for a week of home hosting and then to Machu Picchu, Cusco, and the Sacred Valley. It promises to be a most memorable trip! Contact Jan Partin, the Exchange Director, if interested at janpartin@hotmail.com.



Exchange Director Needed

The FF New Mexico club is coming to the Mountains of Western North Carolina for a seven night home stay with our club in mid-September, 2017. We NEED an ED for the exchange. All are welcome to sign up. You might be an experienced ED who wants to step up to the plate or maybe you never have been an ED or maybe you have never been on an exchange, but are interested in getting involved. If the latter, there is plenty of on the job training and help by many members as well as by the ED selection committee.

Please contact Carol Mullen 828-277-5571 (home), 828-712-5571 (cell) or cem42@aol.com.

Kansas Incoming in April

Things are coming together for the Kansas exchange. Mark your calendars for April 18 - 25, 2017. They have a full roster with a waiting list already and are very excited to come.

Thank you to all who signed up to home host, dinner or day host. There will be more opportunities to sign up and we still need more help! More information will follow as details are confirmed.

- Susan Harvey, ED

Dues Reminder

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Invite a Friend

As a Friendship Force member, you know, first-hand, the benefits of this organization. On the incoming side, acting as a home host, a day-trip host or a dinner host provides unique experiences for the both the host and the ambassador. If you have been an outgoing ambassador, you have experienced the pleasure and wonder of learning about and living in a foreign country for a few weeks; or perhaps you traveled domestically and enjoyed visiting a place here in the U.S. that was totally new to you.

How about sharing what Friendship Force has to offer with your friends who enjoy travel and meeting people? As you know, this is travel in a unique way, staying in your host’s home, learning about a culture or an area in the U.S. through their eyes, visiting places that the ordinary tourist would not know about. We, in turn, offer such possibilities to visiting club ambassadors.

All we ask is that you provide your friend(s) name, street address, email address and telephone number by email. We will take it from there and will contact them and invite them to either one of our 2017 General Meetings or perhaps a Meet-and-Greet (dates to be determined). Thank you in advance.

In Friendship,

Diane Tokarski

Membership Chairman
dtokarski3@gmail.com
828-674-2521

Japan Exchange

On October 11, sixteen bright-eyed and bushy tailed Ambassadors gathered before sunrise to leave Asheville for Ota Gunma, Japan. 27 hours later they arrived in Ota to be met by their hosts for a six night homestay. A visit with the Ota Gunma mayor and tour of a coffee processing factory. The highlight of the Ota club visit was a day trip to the shrines and temples of Nikko a UNESCO World Heritage site. 260 steps to the top later, we were humbled.

During the weekend “free” days, some of the Ambassadors got to see Mt. Fuji up close and personal. After the Ota home stay, we took a bus to Tokyo where we visited the Imperial Palace grounds had a traditional Japanese “box” lunch “Paint by the numbers? We “ate by the numbers” and pictures!!

We were met by some West Tokyo club members who showed us around. Later that afternoon, the bus dropped us off at a Machida City train / subway station where we were met by our hosts. After three nights with the West Tokyo club, we took the Shinkansen (bullet) train to Hakata where we got a local train to Nagasaki to be met in the evening by our home hosts. Nagasaki was no more than a tiny fishing village until being opened to foreign trade in 1571.

Until the mid-1800s Nagasaki flourished as Japan’s only open window to the outside world. Our seven night homestay in Nagasaki was filled with many exciting things. We visited Shimabara (where we ran into Hunter and Suzanne Hale’s son, Hunter, and his family, while we were soaking our feet in an outside hot bath, eating dinner, drinking beer and watching the sunset).

We visited the Peace Park and Atomic Bomb Museum. We visited an elementary school where we split up into groups of one or two and spent an hour or so with students in their classrooms, even having lunch with them. Many high fives and tears as we left.

We had dinner at a hot spring spa where, after dinner, six of the Ambassadors spent an hour in one of the baths. Men separate from women. No more need be said. “What happened in Nagasaki stayed in Nagasaki.” Several of the ladies were dressed up in kimonos by their hosts. Nagasaki is one of the three top cities in the world with beautiful night views. We were all treated to see the view from the top of Inasamachi. Magnificent!!

Then, we went to Kyoto on the Shinkansen (WOW!! that is one fast train and clean. Actually, ALL of Japan is very clean) where we had a two night hotel stay. Some members of the Nara FF club met us the next day and showed us the sights in Kyoto, including the Golden Pavilion and Kiyomizu Temple.

For several thousand years before the 1850s, Kyoto was the capital of Japan. On Sunday, we were met again by members of the Nara club and began a hop on / hop off train trek to Nara (the original capital of Japan), visiting Gekkeikan Sake Brewery, one of the oldest Sake factories in Japan, and Fushimi Inari Grand Shrine, with its thousand “gates” (arches). Monday we visited Nara Park complete with its hundreds of friendly sika deer, temples and shrines.

After many nights of sleeping on the floors on futons, using the Japanese toilets, eating fantastic Japanese food, enjoying hot spas / baths, riding trains, cabs, buses and subways, seeing beautiful Japanese sights and countryside, the weary Ambassadors began their long, long trek home on November 1. 32+ hours later they arrived at the Asheville Airport. Thank you, each and every one of you Ambassadors for being on time, being friendly and flexible AND being the best Ambassadors EVER, not only in my opinion, but that of the Nara ED, who openly said so, TWICE!!



- Jack Mullen, ED

Japan Exchange 2016



To view more photos, go to our
FFWNC Facebook page

Friendship Force Western North Carolina

2016 Board Members

President
President-Elect
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President

Joan Manfre
Diane Tokarski
Kay Manley
Jack Mullen
Jan Partin

Club Directors

2017

Larry McGaughy
Judi Wondolowski

2017-2018

Mary Evers
Bonnie Dees

2017-2019

Carol Mullen
Larry Harvey

Standing Committee Leaders

Membership Chairperson
Directory
Exchange Committee

Diane Tokarski
Jack Mullen/Chuck Elston
Joe Robustelli, Joy Williams, & Carol Mullen (chair)

Communications
Newsletter
Publicity
Website & Facebook

Ron Partin
Renee Kumor
Ron Partin

Hospitality
Archives

Chuck Elston





friendship force

WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA

Membership Application / Renewal

Send to: FFWNC Treasurer, P.O. Box 1425, Skyland, NC 28776
(Separate Application per person)

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- New Membership w/badge \$37 **per person** \$ _____
- Renewal Membership \$27 **per person** \$ _____
- Associate (if you are a member of another FFI club and pay that club's full dues) \$12 **per person** \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Date of Application _____

Cell Phone: _____ Year joined FFWNC _____

TALENTS OR INTERESTS YOU COULD SHARE WITH FRIENDSHIP FORCE:

Foreign languages spoken _____

Countries visited or knowledge of _____

Talents and skills _____

Profession (or former) _____