



friendship force  
WESTERN  
NORTH CAROLINA

# Mountain Friends

“A world of friends is a world of peace”

February 2012

Volume 12 Issue 2

## From the Desk of the President



### Survey Results

[as compiled by Joe Robustelli]

I want to thank all the members who completed a survey. Your feedback will guide the Board in putting together programs for the present and future years.

1-The majority of members are in favor of having an occasional catered dinner and/or restaurant general meeting. **On the basis of this response I will arrange to have a catered dinner for the September 23 general meeting. Most members are comfortable paying \$10 to \$15 for this meal.**

2-The following were recommended as speakers or programs: **“Living without War” Charley Rogers, “Strategies and Practices to get the most from Getting Older” Univ. of NC Retirement and Aging Center, “College Students Speaking About Pursuing a Music Career” Brevard Music Center, Sister City Program.**

3-The members were divided on participating in an overnight conference. Those who were in favor felt comfortable paying \$50 to \$75 for accommodations and meals. **I will ask interested members to investigate the feasibility of this.**

4-There were a number of suggestions for FF activities including the following; **hikes to the Florence Preserve, Graveyard Fields, Bear Wallow Trail, Roan Mountain. Other**

**suggestions: see Bailey Mountain Cloggers, group night at the theatre, listen to music at a brewery in Asheville or Hendersonville, trip to the Asheville Art Museum, go out to lunch, take the “River Art Walk”, visit a craft fair, meet for lunch, see Folkmoot performance. I will arrange a trip (continued on p. 2)**

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### FFWNC Officers 2012

President, Joe Robustelli

President-elect, Ron Partin

Secretary, Jim Ward

Treasurer, Al Williams

Club Website: [www.ffwnc.org](http://www.ffwnc.org)

### Exchanges in 2012

**Tucson/San Diego** Outgoing, Feb. 23-28 Tucson, Feb. 28-March 6 San Diego, ED Becky Elston

**Leuven Belgium** Incoming, April 20-25, ED's Carol Mullen & Ro Metcalf

**Indonesia** Outgoing, June 25-July 10, ED's Doug & Peggy Judkins

**Moldova** Incoming, possibly Sept. 2012, ED's Bill & Judy Wilkes- This exchange is an Open World assignment sponsored by the International Affairs Council

**Brazil** Outgoing, tentatively early October 2012, ED Judy Wilkes

**San Diego** Incoming, tentatively Oct. 20-27, ED Becky Elston

**Russian Students** Incoming, tentatively Oct. or Nov. 2012, ED's Bill & Judy Wilkes

### Conference in 2012

**Southeast Region President's Conference,** Incoming, May 18-20, ED Becky Elston

(Continued from p. 1)

to see the **Bailey Mountain Cloggers**, **Marlene Grasberger** will make arrangements to see a **Folkmoot performance**, **Bill Wilkes** will organize a visit to the **Southern Appalachian Brewery**. Anyone interested in taking responsibility for other activities is welcome. Please contact me.

5- There were many suggestions for a domestic exchange; the southwest, the northeast, Hawaii, the Ozarks, Chicago, Utah, California, Alaska, Wisconsin, Colorado, Austin, Denver, Michigan, Minnesota, San Antonio, Santa Fe, Louisiana, Portland, Seattle, Washington DC, etc. **Our club has an invitation to Madison, WI. Other domestic exchanges will be made with the wishes of our club members in mind.**

6- We learned of a number of members who are willing to hold an office in our club. **We need and are appreciative of members who are willing to provide leadership for the club.**

7- A number of people were recommended for membership in our club. **They will be contacted.**

8 & 9- We learned of a number of people who are willing to be home and dinner hosts.

10- The following were recommended as fund raising activities; **silent auction, round robin dinners for which attendees pay \$5 in addition to bringing a dish, garage sale, sell tickets to a story telling event, live auction, etc.**

11- We learned of a number of members who hold membership to the Biltmore Estate. This information is helpful when we have an incoming exchange.

12- The following are recommendations for how we can improve FFWNC; **provide the means by which members sit with different members at general meetings, begin meetings with a simple networking exercise, make sure guests feel welcome, form a small but dynamic outreach committee to make short/punchy presentations, have an interesting speaker at each meeting, have an orientation program for new members, etc.**

*Joe*





## **Leuven, Belgian Exchange**

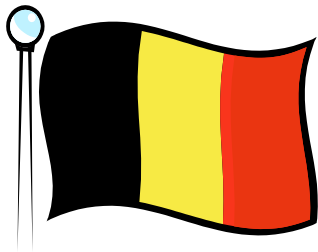
Plans are coming together for the Belgian exchange. We have seventeen ambassadors coming. They arrive on Friday, April 20 at the Asheville Airport at 3:20 PM. There will be a welcome dinner at Crowfields that evening. This is our general meeting and will be a pot luck. The club is providing wine and beer.

The farewell dinner is being held at Lutheridge on Tuesday, April 24. This is open to all club members. It will be catered and there is a charge for the dinner. Wine and beer will be provided. The Partins and the Robustellis will be performing with their square dance group. Should be lotsa' fun and there will be a chance for everyone to participate.

Many people have come forward to help with different jobs. Anyone who would like to help, please let us know. Let's make this a great exchange.

Co-exchange directors: Carol Mullen

and Ro Metcalf



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The membership directory is being revised and should be printed in the next couple of weeks. Please notify Ron Partin <[rpartin@bgsu.edu](mailto:rpartin@bgsu.edu)> or 698-27673 if any changes need to be made in your information from last year's directory. We will use the information from the membership applications for anyone who joined in the past year.

# Reminder Reminder

Our next general meeting is Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 5:30 at Crowfield's Club House. Please arrive on time for an ice-breaking activity that will help us to know each other better. Cecile Bouchet, a board member of Friendship Force International will provide an introduction to the Belgian culture and people in preparation for the incoming exchange from Leuven Belgium.

And—in light of the fact that our club has an incoming exchange from Belgium, I thought the following information may be helpful to you in making our guests feel more comfortable. *Joe*

## Belgian Gestures

- Shaking hands is the common greeting, perhaps with little pressure and briefly, not prolonged. If a woman wishes to shake hands, she will extend hers first.
- Handshakes are exchanged on both meeting and departing.
- Pointing with the index finger is considered impolite.
- Snapping your fingers when others are present is also frowned upon.
- Standing with your hands in your pockets while conversing is considered bad manners.
- Men allow women to enter rooms, board buses, and so on, in advance.
- Backslapping or being noisy is considered a rude action.
- When dining, keep your wrists on the table; don't place them in your lap.
- Belgians customarily eat Continental style—with the fork constantly in the left hand.
- Casualness may be regarded as rudeness. So, use good posture, never put your feet on chairs or tables, and yawning or scratching or using a toothpick in public are all considered poor manners. Same with blowing one's nose or sneezing—try to do them away from others.
- When close friends meet, they may kiss cheeks. Remember, this is a gesture—not the real thing! No wet kisses. A light brushing of cheeks, a pursing of the lips—that's all. In Belgium, this is often done three times: 1 one cheek, 2 over to the other, and 3 back to the first.



This information was taken from "Gestures; The do's and Taboos of Body Language Around the World" by Roger E. Axtell

# The Bailey Mountain Cloggers

Keep **Sunday, April 1, 2012** open for a Friendship Force trip to see the **Bailey Mountain Cloggers** for a 2:30 pm matinee performance.

The Bailey Mountain Cloggers were organized in 1974 by students at Mars Hill College. During their 38- year history, the Bailey Mountain Cloggers have performed throughout the United States and internationally. The dancers have established a national and international reputation for American clog dance excellence. They are 19 time National Clogg Dancing Champions.



## **President's Roundtable**

The Southeast Region of FFI holds a President's Roundtable every other year. The Region consists of clubs in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Our club, as a member of this region, has volunteered to host the President's gathering in 2012. The event will be held on the weekend of May 18-20, Friday-Sunday morning. Our club will be responsible for home hosting the par- come and farewell recep- on Friday and Saturday Southeast Region; we will Please volunteer to host and our region why we were cho- The participants will all be driving, so transportation will not be a factor. All events will be held at the Park Avenue Clubhouse in Asheville. Please notify Becky Elston if you are willing to host.



Participants and organizing the wel- tions. Hosts will provide lodging nights. There are 19 clubs in the need almost that many hosts. help us demonstrate to leaders of sen "Club of the Year for 2011."

## Friendship Force Trips with Other Clubs

### Discover America's Heartland in 2012

How about a summer trip to the **Midwest** from **July 31 to August 14th**? You are invited by the FFC of Greater Milwaukee to dine well and share friendship, recipes, and more in northern **Illinois, Milwaukee and Wisconsin**.

\*Visit an eco-friendly cheese factory and sample Wisconsin specialty cheeses.

\*Dine with us at fine restaurants and around kitchen tables to get a taste of the ethnic diversity of this region: German, Polish, French, Thai, Mexican, Korean.



\*Eat fresh from the garden and enjoy custom food tours of urban gardens, farmers markets, and an organic farm.

\*In each city, learn about local history, culture, and architecture.

There are still spaces available. Contact Dave Kalan, FF Milwaukee, Tel. 1-414-766-6056. Estimated price: \$790 USD, includes FFI and host fees, group activities and transportation between clubs.



If savoring the Midwest doesn't tickle your pallet,

how about **A Taste of New England** from **October 9 to 17th**?

Home hospitality is provided by the FFC of Southern Connecticut.

On this tour you will get more than a taste of New England cuisine. The colorful fall scenery of New England will add a delightful flavor to your visit. You will tour the homes of **Connecticut** authors Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe, then travel to nearby **Massachusetts** and visit Sturbridge Village to experience the living history of rural New England life from 1790 to 1830. Then, travel south to **Rhode Island** and visit the coast and tour the **Newport Mansions** which depict the Gilded Age's elegance: its architecture, interior design, and landscape. Tour the campus of **Yale University**. Learn how to make clam chowder in our New England cooking class and unveil the secrets of dining New England style!



Contact Sophie Tworkowski, FF Southern Connecticut, Tel. 1-702-363-1014. Estimated price: \$420 USD, includes FFI and host fees, bus and entrance fees, cooking class and most meals. 20 spaces are available.



Dear members,

I want to bring your attention to a forum to be presented on **Thursday February 16 from 6:30 to 8:30PM** at the Blue Ridge Community Health Services Building. It is titled, **“A Dialogue on Race In Henderson County...Then and Now!”** This is a candid, honest dialogue by a multi-racial panel, older and younger, women and men, who will speak to the ‘then and now’ of race issues from their experiences / perspectives living here in Henderson County. “When we truly listen, **we** understand. When we understand, we respect...and with respect, we can build community together! This is a first step...there will be more to come! Rev. Michael Carter, Diversity Officer at Mission Hospital, will moderate.

This event is hosted by the League of Women Voters of HC and a multi-racial coalition committee, of which I am a member, who are Happy Valentine’s Day also members of the Human Relations Council, Friendship Force, LWVHC, United Religions Initiative, Dept. of Peace and Non-violence, ERA-NC, Pisgah Legal Services, and Law Enforcement.

I would like to see a good FF turn-out.

*Joe Robustelli*



Karen Babcock, Executive Director of the Folkmoot Festival, fascinated us all at the January potluck supper with tales about performers who come from all over the world each summer to share their musical culture with us. They are shy and hesitant at first, but by the end of their visit they have made life-long friends. Can’t we do the same with our neighbors?

### **Need copies?**

*Copies of **minutes** of Board meetings and copies of **financial statements** are available upon request from the Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Also, any member wanting to have a copy of the **Policies and Procedures for FFWNC Board of Directors** (revised 10/13/10), please contact Joe Robustelli.*

## 2012 Dues Notice

Our directory is printed in early March. If you want your name in the directory, please renew your Friendship Force membership before the deadline. **Mail your dues with the renewal form to FFWNC PO Box 2262 Asheville, NC 28802**

## 2012 Membership Application / Renewal

### Friendship Force of Western North Carolina

For more information, contact: Al Williams

#### PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Single Membership w/badge \$32 | <input type="checkbox"/> New Family Membership w/badge \$58 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Single Membership \$22     | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Family Membership \$38     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Single Membership \$12   | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Family Membership \$21   |

**Make checks payable to: FFWNC and mail to P.O. Box 2262, Asheville, NC 28802**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name for Badge

Name for Badge

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1

Email 2

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone 1

Cell Phone 2

#### TALENTS OR INTERESTS YOU COULD SHARE WITH FRIENDSHIP FORCE:

Foreign languages spoken  
\_\_\_\_\_

Countries visited or knowledge of  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Talents and skills  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Profession (or former)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_