



Special points of interest:

- The **Next Meeting** is at 6:30PM (5:30PM for dinner) on Tuesday, May 12th, 2009 at the Elks Club. **If you are coming for dinner you need to make a reservation no later than Wednesday, May 6th with Walt O'Connell.** See details on page 2.
- **Annual Picnic** will be a joint event with the Richmond Club. Current plans are to have the picnic at Babs and Don Fickes' home at Lake Monticello on July 19th.
- **2009 Inbound** from New Zealand in September. Babs Fickes - ED
- **Interclub Visit** to the Hamilton, Ontario Canada club, in early September. Babs Fickes is coordinating.
- **2009 Outbound** to Japan will be in late October, 2009. Marilyn Posten, ED.
- **2009 International Conference** is in Okinawa, November 20-22.
- **2010 International Conference** is coming to Washington DC. We will have the opportunity for post-conference home hosting.

The Ambassador

The Friendship Force of Charlottesville, Virginia

Volume XVIII, No. 3

President's Message

Dear Friends;

As usual, there has been a lot of activity since the last meeting. The most interesting was the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference where Bob and Dee Schwagerl represented the club. It's theme was "Helping Our Clubs Rise with the Tides." An appropriate theme since the conference was held in Beach Haven, Long Beach Island, NJ. A lot of good ideas came out of this meeting and we are working on implementing some of them. Bob and Dee will have a chance to tell us about some of these ideas and about discussions that took place at the next

meeting. Come to the meeting to hear some of the interesting things that happened at the conference. Our regional representative, Karen Smith, is big on modern technology and so has put up an 8 minute video of the conference at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQDVbTn90mY>. The regional conference next year is for club leadership and will be hosted by the FF club of Central North Carolina during April.

While I am on the subject of conferences, as you may know, an upcoming International conference will be held

LeRoy Moyer

in the Washington, DC area on October 15-18, 2010. We will never have an international conference that is closer so if you possibly can, plan to attend. The club will also be called upon to assist the National Capital Region club, the host club, by providing home hosting opportunities for the delegates. The International conference this year is being held in Okinawa, Japan on November 20-22.

As you might have guessed from the theme of the Mid-Atlantic conference, this is a particularly bad year to organize an exchange. The economy

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Koriyama Exchange	1
Announcements	2
May Meeting	2
Interclub Visit to Canada	2
New Zealand Inbound	2
Annual Picnic	2
Exchange Opportunities	3
Regional Meeting	3
March Meeting Minutes	4
Koriyama Exchange Itinerary	5
Web Links	6

Koriyama Exchange

As noted in LeRoy's letter, there are many factors contributing to the low level of interest in the exchanges this year. Currently I do not have 10 ambassadors, the usual minimum required for an exchange. (Koriyama will accept 25. I would like to have at least 15 to make a respectable showing.) We have placed ads in the Daily Progress and the Fluvanna Review without any success so far. We need to rely on personal contacts and other means to recruit ambassadors and new members for our club. Karen Smith, our regional representative is working the 20 clubs in our region for the Koriyama ex-

change.

The Koriyama Club is rated a 10+ and it would be a shame to miss out on this opportunity. We are trying hard to make this exchange a go but we need to respect all of the work the hosts do for the ambassadors. We have dropped the deadline for deposits at this time until I can get 10 ambassadors.

All members now need to pitch in to help this exchange be successful. Talk to your friends and neighbors about the benefits of being an ambassador and the opportunity for international travel and encourage them to consider joining our club and the exchange.

Marilyn Posten

Exchange Details

October 20-27 - Exchange with the Koriyama Club

The Chrysanthemum gardens will welcome you for this festival time in Koriyama. Participating in formal tea ceremonies, kimono fashions, origami and craft demonstrations, Japanese cuisine & sake preparations, shogun history, and much more will offer an authentic cultural experience as friendships are exchanged! There will be visits to many National historic treasures, including a day visit to the Nikko World Heritage Site.

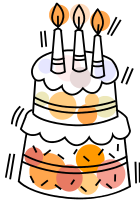
October 28-November 7 - Post-tour to Kyoto and Tokyo.

(Continued on page 3)

The Ambassador

Birthday Wishes to

Bill Smith



Did you know?

...that we have club members that are willing to speak to groups about The Friendship Force? Do you belong to a group that would like to have a speaker present a 15 minute talk about who we are and what we do? If so,



Celebrating Anniversaries during May and June

- Mark and Margaret Dryer
- Darrell and Rita Stoll
- Mel and Cheryl Kasper
- Gary and Betsy Edgecomb

Do you have an announcement or special event in your life that you would like included in the newsletter?

Send it to Walt O'Connell (waltoc@embarqmail.com or 434.591.0532). We promise not to mention your age on your birthday!



"A joy shared is a joy doubled. A sorrow shared is a sorrow halved."

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

To those who worked the Fridays After Five event on May 1st.

THANK YOU

May Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on May 12, 2009. We will be holding this meeting at the Elks Club in Charlottesville. The Elks Club is located at 389 Elk Drive, Charlottesville. (From Rt. 250 at the foot of Pantops, just East of Free Bridge, take Rt. 20 approx 1/2 mi to the club on the left. If you pass Darden Towe Park you have gone too far.)

We are looking for a permanent location when we can meet for a social, dinner, and our business meeting and we are hoping that this is the place. The Elks club has a nice meeting room and will put on a reasonably priced buffet. They also have a cash bar where we can get beer, wine, or whatever. This time we are having roast beef, veg, salad, desert, coffee/tea for \$15.25/person which includes tax and tip. The downside is that we need to give them a headcount no later

than May 7th and we must pay one bill. So if you plan to join us for dinner, please let Walt O'Connell know (waltoc@embarqmail.com; 434-591-0532) no later than May 6th. Also, please bring \$15.25/person (cash or check made out to The Friendship Force of Charlottesville).

The agenda this month will include the Koriyama outbound and the New Zealand inbound exchanges as well as an interclub visit to Ontario, Canada. Also on the agenda will be planning for our summer picnic which this year will be a joint event with the Richmond club.

We will have some special entertainment this month. With the help of Carmel Tigh, we will have a presentation of Irish dancing by members of her class.

This meeting is a great time to **bring a guest**, introduce them to our club and get them involved with our program.

Interclub Visit to Canada

Babs Fickes

Details are still being worked out on the Interclub Visit to Hamilton and Niagara. At last check, the Hamilton segment was a go but there was some confusion about the Niagara segment. It seems that Niagara is a very sought after exchange and that there may be some conflicts.

Current plans now are to visit Hamilton September 8-10. If we get

a confirmation from Niagara then it will likely be before or after these dates. In any event, plan on an Interclub Visit in early September.

If you are interested in participating, please let me know as soon as possible. ((434) 589-2186; fickesdb@earthlink.net

New Zealand Inbound Exchange

Babs Fickes

This exchange, like many this year, is having problems getting a full compliment of ambassadors. It is likely that it will take place but probably with very few ambassadors. In some respects this isn't all bad... it

offers many club members the opportunity to day host and relieve the home hosts from what could be a very busy week. More information to follow as soon as it is available.

Annual Picnic

While details are yet to be finalized, the annual picnic will be on July 19th. This year we are trying to organize a joint event with the Richmond Club. The format will probably be the

same as in the past: a pot luck with the club chipping in for some of the cost of drinks and meat. More details may be available at the meeting. If not, we will send a notice well in advance.

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

has made many people pause to go on an exchange. If the "swine" flu continues to get the media attention it has so far, this will dissuade even more people from going on an exchange. At this point, the inbound from New Zealand does not have enough people to make it an official exchange, but they are continuing to recruit. One of the messages from Atlanta is suggesting that Atlanta would like the exchange to happen even if there is not 10 ambassadors which has been the minimum. Bab Fickes has an article on this later in the newsletter. Babs has

had more success in arranging an exchange going to Canada in September. This is what is called a club to club exchange and Atlanta does not get involved if it is 3 nights or less. At the present time our exchange going to Japan is also short of ambassadors. If you can talk this exchange up with your friends and neighbors it would be nice if we could get some more ambassadors.

It is summer and so it is time to do our fund raiser at the Fridays After Five. By the time you have read this we will have done our first event. Walt has the rest of the summer arranged, but he could always use some people who can substitute when people scheduled have a change of plans and cannot make their commitment.

Our next meeting is going to be held at the Elks club (May 12). This should have plenty of room and also be fairly quiet. A roast beef buffet will be served before the meeting so be sure to get your reservation into Walt. Several restaurants have been checked out as possible club meeting places, but most of them are way to noisy and we saw what a problem that was at the Topeka.

The following meeting is our annual picnic. One of the side bar discussions that occurred at the regional conference was that we have a joint picnic with the Richmond club. Bill Smith is working on this and hopefully by the meeting will have more information. Another thing that Bill is working on is trying to have a social gathering during the off month where club members would meet some place for dinner or lunch and just socialize – no business.

As almost all clubs in the world, we are shrinking in size. The most effective way of getting new members is friends asking friends to join the club. So please bring a friend to the club meeting.

In Friendship
LeRoy Moyer

Koriyama Exchange

(Continued from page 1)

Kyoto(6 nights) and Tokyo (3 nights) will offer you a view of Osaka (the Castle and Shrine, etc), as you travel to Kyoto for 6 nights. Enjoy the special culinary & food tour, garden ours, tea ceremonies, Geisha District of Gion, tours of the Golden Pavilion, Kiyomizu Temple, and Nishijin for fabrics/crafts and more. There will also be day tours of the historic towns of Nara, and (by a quaint rail line) to Arashiyama.

In Tokyo you will explore the Emperor's Palace gardens and grounds, the Tokyo Metropolitan Edo Museum, the Ginza shopping district, Kabuki theater options, and more. You will have experienced English speaking guides throughout your post-tour with attention to ease of travel and memorable experiences.

Land & Air - \$ 3199.00 per person (based on 25)
See page 5 for the complete itinerary.

Exchange Opportunities Abound

If you are still looking for an exchange this year, be sure to check out those listed on the FFI web site. (<http://www.thefriendshipforce.org/ExchangePages/CurrentEflyer.pdf>). Not only are there a number of exchanges that follow the format that we are used to but there are several that involve activities appealing to the contemporary ambassador: hiking,

biking, and other outdoor activities, discovery exchanges to India and China, humanitarian and service projects, and even a cruise.

Not only do these exchanges offer opportunities to current members but they are also a way to attract new members to the club that are interested in more adventurous travel options.

Regional Meeting

Our club was represented at the 2009 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference by Bob and Dee Schwagerl. George Brown, President of FFI addressed the group on matters related to recruiting new and younger members through programs more attractive to them, such as the New Zealand bicycle excursion.,

There were several workshops that addressed many of the issues faced not only by our club but by all clubs: tax status, bylaws, being a successful ED, and using new technol-

ogy for communication and club management. Bob will be making a report at the May meeting and advising us on how we can benefit from the workshop conclusions.

The 2010 Presidents Round Table will be hosted by the Central Carolina club. Charlotte is considering hosting the 2011 Regional Meeting. The Richmond and Charlottesville clubs have been asked to assist with hosting the International meeting in 2010 to be held October 14-16 in Washington, DC and to provide home hosting after the conference.

The Ambassador

Bi-Monthly Minutes
March 10th, 2009 (6:30)
March 10, 2009 (6:30) Topeka Steakhouse/Pantops

Welcome by President LeRoy Moyer; attendance 42. A highlight was to meet Jean and Ernest Busboso, members from Locust Dale, VA.

A PowerPoint cultural presentation by 1st. Lt. Mahendra Mugroho was presented regarding Indonesia. He expressed his thanks to the Club, to Patsy and Walt O'Connell (JAG Sponsors). He emphasized that it was interesting to see snow. He shared pictures of his family and mentioned the Indonesia motto, "United in Diversity." There are 300 distinct ethnic groups, 250 languages, five religions/86% muslim. His presentation mentioned the 18,000 islands, 1,919,400 population, two seasons, Jakarta is Capitol with 8 million people. They have a republic govt. with presidential system (33 providences).

Minutes from the January, 2009 meeting as printed in the Ambassador were approved.

Betsy Edgecomb reported a balance of \$6,990.14. She had checked on new badges; the cost would be \$7.00 per badge.

Walt O'Connell, Fundraising Committee Chair, discussed and requested volunteers for Fridays after Five (fund raiser) which will run from April 17 through Sept. 11. Extra copies of membership roster and newsletter were distributed.

Jane Dorrier (as requested by Marilyn Posten) gave a Koriyama, Japan outbound exchange report and a printed handout. A date was set for the first meeting of interested participants at the Posten home.

Babs Fickes, Inbound Exchange Director, for the 2009 New Zealand Exchange gave a report and requested home hosts—Walden, Kasper, and Dryers indicated interest. Unfortunately, NZ only had six signed to come to date.

The Burlilington-Hamilton Club continues to encourage a mini-exchange. It was emphasized that all exchanges are to be sanctioned through the Atlanta office.

Regarding the 2011 match with South Africa, 14 members indicated an interest in participating. The President made a request for an Exchange Director.

Dick Bandy won the 50-50.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Bandy, Substitute Secretary

Koriyama Friendship Club Exchange**October 20** (Tues.): Depart for Japan!

Washington/Dulles to Tokyo/Narita/ ANA #1 Air (rd trip). October 21 (Wednesday): Arrive in Japan, transfer by coach to Koriyama. Welcomed by Club Exchange Members, with check-into home- stays.

October 22 (Thursday): Free day with your host family.**October 23** (Friday): Official visit to Koriyama City Hall & City Tour.**October 24** (Saturday): Welcome Party (evening).**October 25** (Sunday): Free day with host family.**October 26** (Monday): Bus trip to Nikko World Heritage Site (all day).**October 27** (Tuesday): Free day with host family.**October 28** (Wednesday): Depart Koriyama & fly to Osaka. To be enjoyed in Koriyama: ...and more!

Chrysanthemum festival; participate in formal tea ceremony, enjoy Sake & cuisine demonstrations; see Kimono fashions; Shogun history & local legends shared; Visit National Architectural Treasures.

Kyoto/Tokyo Post Tour**October 28**---Arrive at Osaka Airport and transfer with English speaking guide to Kyoto. In Osaka, tour Osaka Castle, Shrine etc. Check into Kyoto Hotel Via Inn or similar. Enjoy your first traditional Kyoto Dinner!**October 29**---Breakfast. One-day excursion to Nara by coach with an English speaking guide. Visit to Kofukuji Temple, Nara park, Kasuga Taisha Shrine, Todaiji Temple and Yakushiji Temple. Lunch is included at local Japanese restaurant. Dinner on own.**October 30**---Breakfast. Full-Day sightseeing in Kyoto by coach with English speaking guide. Visit includes Sanjusangendo Hall, Kiyomizu Temple, Entoku-in Temple and Yasaka Shrine. Experience a tea ceremony at the Kodaiji Temple. Dinner on own.**October 31**---Breakfast. Half-Day sightseeing in Kyoto by coach with an English speaking guide. Visits will include Nijo Castle, Golden Pavilion, Nishi Hongwanji Temple and Nishijin textile area. Lunch is included at Kyoto Handicraft Center. Hands-on Experience of making a woodblock print or cloisonné. Free shuttle service to hotel at 3pm. Dinner on own.**November 1**---Breakfast. Take a quaint Sagano railine and visit Sagano Bamboo Grove. Lunch at local restaurant. Visit Arashiyama, a rural mountain town. Dinner on your own.**November 2**--Breakfast. Meet English-speaking guide to experience a culinary walking tour and savor the unique foods of Kyoto. Visit the Kyoto Botanical Gardens, and later have the opportunity to shop in Gion. Return to the hotel at your leisure with dinner on your own.**November 3**--Breakfast. An English speaking guide will escort you to visit and enjoy special Japanese gardens of Kyoto. Visit Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan and view the beauty of the landscape. Enjoy a Geisha and Maiko dance performance at the Gion Kaikan Theater with optional dinner.**November 4**--Breakfast. Transfer by bus to Osaka airport for a domestic flight to Tokyo. After exiting customs, you will be met and transferred to your Tokyo hotel. Upon arrival, leisure time and dinner on own. Hotel Monterey Ginza or similar.**November 5**—Breakfast. Half-Day sightseeing in Tokyo by coach with an English speaking guide. Visits include Imperial Palace, Asakusa Kannon Temple and Nakamise Shopping Arcade, Meiji-Jingu Shrine. The tour finishes at Kabuki-za (Japanese Theater). Theater performance and dinner is optional. (Cirque Du Soleil Theater is also an option at Tokyo Disneyland.)**November 6**—Breakfast. Meet an English speaking assistant at the lobby of hotel and take a waterbus river tour and then proceed to the Edo Tokyo Museum . Celebrate with a Finale Gala Dinner at a traditional Japanese Restaurant. Then transfer to Narita International Airport by coach. Check into Hotel-Marroad International Hotel Narita or similar.**November 7**—Breakfast. Take hotel airport shuttle bus to Narita airport for flight home.**Total Air & Land based on double occupancy per person:****\$3199.00 (based on 25); \$3299.00 (15-25); \$3379.00 (10-15)****Included in the tour fare:**

Transportation: Air (4 flights), and Coach as specified;

Accommodation: Based on 3 star hotels;

Meals: Daily Breakfasts, 2 lunches; 2 dinners;

Entrance Fees, Tours, and English speaking guides: Specified in the itinerary.

Travel Insurance is available at an additional cost.

Koriyama, by the Shinkansen bullet train is about one hour from Tokyo, or three hours by the Tohoku Expressway. Near beautiful Lake Inawashiro, and the magnificent mountain range of Abukumaili, the natural environment alone is alluring. There are notable architectural sights of interest to visit, likely be on the tour provided by the Koriyama Friendship Chapter:“ **The Gojunoto**” is an 1818 reconstruction of the original five-storied pagoda, which was erected in 1650(fire in 1815). This amazing temple holds a center pillar suspended on the fourth story and held 10 cm. above the ground (not on a foundation stone).“**Futarasan-jinja Shrine**” has been worshiped since ancient times as the

center of beliefs connected with the mountain worship. Large numbers of the shrine

buildings were erected especially during the medieval period. At the beginning of the Edo Period, the main shrine and other buildings were erected by the Tokugawa Shogunate. Of these, 23 buildings, including the “honden” or main shrine, and “shinkyo”(sacred bridge) have been designated as important cultural properties.

“**Rinnoji Temple**” (the central temple) can be traced back to the Shihonryuji Temple, which was erected by Priest Shodo, the founder of the temple complex at Nikko, toward the end of the 8th Century. Since 1653, the Taiyuln was built at the mausoleum of the third shogun, Tokugawa Iemitsu, as used as a religious base. Designated as National Treasures, the main shrine, the Ai-no-ma room and worship hall (haiden), and all 37 buildings with impressive gold statues enjoy this distinction. November 6 (Friday): Visit Tokyo Metropolitan Edo-Tokyo Museum, Historic shopping district of Ginza; Overnight at Narita Airport Hotel.

Useful Web Links

- The Friendship Force Home Page <http://thefriendshipforce.org/>
- Friendship Force Clubs in Japan Web Site <http://www.friendshipforce.jp/ffclubs-eng.html>
- Koriyama, Japan Travel Guide, Photos, Map, Blogs <http://www.travelpost.com/AS/Japan/Fukushima/Koriyama/7046999>
- Koriyama, Japan Hotels, Vacations, Tourism http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-486514-koriyama_japan_vacations-l
- Koriyama Club Web Page <http://www8.ocn.ne.jp/~ffkoriya/FFK/english/engpage.html>
- Web pages for Kyoto, Japan <http://www.kyoto.travel/> ; <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2158.html>.
- Nikko World Heritage Site <http://www.worldheritagesite.org/sites/nikko.html>

Building global good will through personal friendships

The Ambassador

The Friendship Force of Charlottesville

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We're on the web!

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<http://avenue.org/ffc/>

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