



# friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA  
Changing the Way You See the World

Vol. 33 No. 1

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

February/March 2016

## 2016: THE FIRST "RETREAD" PRESIDENCY

Dear FFSFBA members,

Yes, I'm back as your president, after serving in 2008 and 2009 and continuing on the board in a variety of roles since then. I read some of my presidential columns from those years to try to get a handle on where the club was then and how it has changed in those seven years. The most obvious changes are a decrease in membership and fewer couples than we had back then. When you consider that our club started in 1984, probably composed mainly of recent retirees, 65+ in those days, it's not surprising that many of them have passed on or are no longer able to participate. Of course, we continue to add new members, but not at the rate that occurred within those first few years after Wayne Smith launched this amazing new adventure in 1977 with Jimmy Carter's announcement at the White House. Nevertheless, when I look through our current roster, I visualize lots of active, vibrant personalities who understand and support Friendship Force's programs and purposes. Please know that I appreciate each one of you for what you contribute to the club.

I am so pleased with the slate of officers for this year. Rose-Marie Everett, everyone's favorite Bay Area guide for the trips she plans and escorts for the City of Fremont, will serve as Vice President and oversee the Activities/Hospitality Committee. Barbara Ross, who was President of FF Cincinnati before moving here to be closer to her family, is our new Secretary. Judy Smith, our very capable Exchange Banker agreed to cover that position and serve as Treasurer, too. Judy agreed to do both as long as Carol Easter checks her accounting. The non-elective officers are Carol Easter, Membership Chair; Dave and Dee Gustavson, Newsletter Editors; Martha LeRoy, Past President, serving as Parliamentarian; and Exchange Directors—Barry Rader for the Brazilian Outbound in June and Louise Heiduk for the Sapporo, Japan Inbound in October. I'm so grateful to these ten for agreeing to serve the club in these roles. All of them have been on the board for at least two years. They must enjoy it, huh? We're always looking for new prospects, hint, hint!

As I always try to stress, there are so many ways to participate in Friendship Force, not all of them involving traveling with us or hosting. With our first general meeting, World Friendship Day, coming up on February 27<sup>th</sup>, I want you to

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## JOIN OUR JAPANESE BOOK GROUP!

Before our Japanese guests arrive from Sapporo, October 18-25, 2016, here's a chance to visit their culture as an "arm-chair traveler." Please join me by checking out one of these books at our World Friendship Day in Los Altos on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. I hope that anyone interested in discussing these books will be able to meet sometime in April to share your insights and possibly exchange books with others in the group.

I've collected copies of 7 different titles, all highly rated books, that will give us an authentic sampling of Japan's geography and culture. None of them are guide books because I wanted to get below the surface of the tourist experience. When our Sapporo friends arrive, what we have learned from these books surely will give us fodder for interesting conversations.

The first one I'm reading is *Confucius Lives Next Door: What Living in the East Teaches Us about Living in the West*. This one appealed to me because I was looking for an explanation of an offhand comment I heard when Barry and I were in Tokyo on New Year's Day, Japan's most important holiday, in 2002 and were visiting some of the Shinto shrines: "Most Japanese are born Shinto and die Buddhist." Only a few pages into the book, I discovered that the author is examining how Confu-

*Continued on page 2, column 1 bottom*

***President's Column, continued from page 1, column 1***

think about how you want to be involved with the club this year. Here are some possibilities:

- The ambassadors who visited Costa Rica in November will present a program about their fabulous home stay and tour. Their obvious delight may spark your interest in going on an exchange. If you're not signed up to visit two Brazilian clubs with us in June, you may even look through the World of Friends catalog on <http://thefriendshipforce.org> to find an exchange to a place you'd like to experience. You'll soon find that website easier to navigate as a result of a fundraiser to update and improve it.

- We will be hosting ambassadors from Sapporo, Japan from October 18–25, with an emphasis on English Immersion. Yes, we do need more hosts, and you can sign up for that as well as for day hosting, i.e., escorting one or more ambassadors to a group event or for part of a day to a place of special interest to them. You can attend one of the morning language sessions to help them practice their English.

- Louise Heiduk, Exchange Director for Sapporo, is forming a committee to plan the activities for the exchange. She will be taking signups for anyone interested in meeting to work on the itinerary and help to plan one specific event.

- The itinerary for the Japanese week will include parties and field trips that you can enjoy along with getting to know the visitors.

- Leading up to the exchange, we will have several activities that give us more insight into the Japanese culture. I'm personally promoting a Japanese Book Club, lending books to anyone who would like to delve into this "armchair traveler" experience and then share the book's ideas with the other readers. (See the separate article, "Join the Japanese Book Club.")

- The Activities/Hospitality Committee, chaired by our Vice President, RoseMarie Everett, is planning many ways for us to get together—cultural programs at general meetings; outings to places of interest around the Bay, such as Guide Dogs for the Blind in Marin County; dining out together at an ethnic restaurant, and much more. Join the committee and help with the planning!

- Dee Gustavson is busy planning the first "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," to take place soon. She'll explain this at the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Did I forget to mention that I'm glad to be back? I truly am, and I hope that it shows!

I hope that I will see you at World Friendship Day on Saturday, February 27, 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Los Altos Library. Please note the earlier time.

All the best, in friendship,

—Karen L. McCready, FFSFBA President

***Continued from page 1, column 2***

cianism as a philosophy of life more than as a religion has influenced many East Asian countries to have "the low crime rates, stable families, excellent education, and civil harmony

that remain so elusive in the West." Rather than a sociological text, the book is full of colorful, often funny anecdotes of the author's family's experiences living in Tokyo in the late '90s. (2 copies will be available.)

Other book choices:

*Hokkaido Highway Blues: Hitchhiking Japan* (2 copies)—Will Ferguson traveled the length of the country in this version published in 2002. *Hitching Rides with Buddha* (1 copy), is Ferguson's 2006 edited version.

*Getting Oriented: A Novel About Japan* (2 copies)—Wally Wood crafts his experience as a tour guide into a fictional account of leading a group of American tourists on a 12-day tour of Japan.

Kate T. Williamson's *A Year in Japan*: "This delicately crafted artist's journal offers colorful impressions of a young woman's extended visit in Kyoto, Japan." This beautifully illustrated book delves into some of the most interesting and exquisite features of the Japanese lifestyle, from sumo wrestling to cherry blossoms to karaoke. (1 copy)

Ian Buruma's *Inventing Japan: 1853-1964* (1 copy) is for those who want to trace Japan's history from the arrival of Commander Perry's fleet in 1853 to the turning point of the 1964 Olympics in a mere 208 well-written pages. (1 copy)

*At Home in Japan: A Foreign Woman's Journey of Discovery* is Rebecca Otowa's account of 30 years caring for a 350-year-old farmhouse in rural Japan and how it altered her perception and changed her inside and out. (1 copy)

Let's share some reading adventures!—Karen L. McCready

## **CELEBRATING EUROPE, CELEBRATING FFI**

Next year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Friendship Force. There's lots to celebrate and be thankful for, so come join us in England for our 2017 FFI world conference, with post-conference programs all around Europe. Conference events will be at the luxurious Midland Hotel in Manchester, August 25–27 (on-site registration on August 24). Further details will be announced this September. —Karen L. McCready

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

As I have recruited volunteers for past exchanges I have constantly been told that it is too early to plan that far ahead. This happens when we plan our lives and fit Friendship Force activities wherever they fit. This is realistic and the way I often look at my plans.

This year I'm asking you to plan with a different focus. I'm asking you to mark your calendars for October 18 to 25, since this is the time that we will be hosting an exchange from Sapporo Japan. In this exchange we are being asked to break new ground in our thinking and planning. This will be new in two ways.

The Japanese have asked that we focus on helping them improve their English language skills rather than sightseeing.

Our club is considering ways to entertain guests with interesting activities without spending quite so much time on transportation to these events.

As a result, the program that will be planned will change significantly. Thus we will have a need for volunteers who are willing to help in many ways including hosting, day hosting, helping with meals, planning activities, etc. The time commitment could include anything from the entire week or as little as one day or one meal during the week, as well as a few meetings during the months of planning.

In order to plan the exchange adequately, we need to have a good idea of the number of volunteers we have with which to work. If you can help us during the week mentioned, I'm asking for your help. If that week doesn't work for you, please consider helping with some of the planning that will be necessary during the months ahead.

I'll be contacting you during the coming weeks to ask for your help. I'd appreciate if you will check your calendars and think about ways you may be willing to help.

Thanks in advance for your help.

—Louise Heiduk, Exchange Director

## FFSFBA Special Project

### WHAT CAUSE SHOULD FFSFBA MEMBERS SUPPORT?

For some time now, we have been searching for a humanitarian project that our members can support in an active way. In other words, what can we do as a team, showing up and working together, beyond just raising money? Many, many charitable organizations are doing splendid work around the Bay Area. We could join one of those to help their cause, or we could create one of our own, perhaps in one of your communities. I tend to favor the latter. Let's put our own stamp on a need that hasn't been addressed yet.

Please send your suggestions to me,,

—Karen L. McCready, President

### GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER

Six members of our club have volunteered to host a brunch, luncheon, or dinner in February and March. Most people who asked to be guests have been matched and notified about the date and location of their meal. Remember to keep a secret. Don't tell your host you're coming, and don't ask others where they're going. Please keep it a secret, so it will be surprise for everyone! If you have questions about the event, or if you forgot to sign up to be a guest, give me a call and I'll add your name to the list of those who still need to be scheduled in April or later. I hope everything goes smoothly and that everyone will have a great time!

—Dee Gustavson, Coordinator



Holiday Party, Hotel Nikko





## COSTA RICA EXCHANGE

The best exchange ever! That was what most of the ambassadors to Costa Rica were saying. It was an extraordinary experience! Such a beautiful country with warm and welcoming people. The ambassadors visiting Ciudad de las Flores included Martha LeRoy, ED, Darlene Boyanich, Roger Riffenburgh, Barbara Day, Jennifer Lam, RoseMarie Everett, Katherine Kleinke, Vickie Lau, Karen Rice, Sara and Kevin Rozzano, Patricia Snowden, Lea Wells, and Pete and Debbie Anderson.

Our adventure started in San Jose, CA. Our flight was cancelled at the very last minute and it was a cliff hanger, just getting to San Jose, Costa Rica. We all made it! Hooray! We were ready for the next chapter. We met our guide, Ozzy and knew that he would provide us a trip of a lifetime and it was. The scenery was nothing less than spectacular. I have never seen such natural beauty. Even the weather cooperated. It was lovely during the day and rained at night. Perfect.

We had some excitement when one of our ambassadors had an allergic reaction to a bee sting. We took a speed boat ride to the clinic in Tortuguero, where emergency medical care was given for free! The next bit of excitement came when someone tried to steal my camera. The entire group jumped the thief

and we were given a glimpse into the Costa Rican justice system. It turns out it is much like ours.

The members of Ciudad de las Flores Club treated us like visiting royalty. Our every need was met. They were so warm and caring and also showed us another interesting glimpse of Costa Rica. When we arrived at my host's home, there was a large American flag flying from the flag pole. When Heriberto, my host, opened the garage door, a large banner flipped down, proclaiming—Welcome to Costa Rica! They even celebrated my birthday. Party, party! We have never danced so much! Pete and Debbie Anderson were the salsa stars. All of this hidden talent. Who would have guessed that this quiet couple turned into Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers once the Latin beat started? Way to go, Andersons! An unforgettable experience was shared by all. These are just a few of our unforgettable experiences. Ask the ambassadors. They would love to tell you more.

—Martha LeRoy, ED





### ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Our fellow Friendship Force Members are coming together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with yummy corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, and carrots. Won't you join us?

We are meeting at Jack's Brewing Company in Fremont Hub, 39176 Argonaut Way, Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:10pm.

We have a small private dining room waiting for us all decorated with St. Patrick's flair. Bring a little St. Patrick's favor to share (a joke, cartoon, shamrock, etc.). There will be about 18 of us.

Send a check made out to FFSFBA for \$25 per person. That will include dinner, tax and tip. If you care to indulge in a little green beer for the occasion, please bring cash to pay your bill. No-host bar.

RSVP to Rosemarie Everett

Send a check to Judy Smith,  
, to be received by March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Wear green so the little Leprechaun won't pinch you!

—Rosemarie Everett



### IN MEMORIAM: GEORGE ANDERSON, 1924–2015

We're so sad to hear of George's passing on November 1, 2015, at the age of 91. George and his wife Harriet were married 65 years, before she passed in 2014. As many of you know, they were charter members of our Friendship Force Club, which they help found in April of 1984.

George and Harriet were active club members for over 30 years, and served in many capacities. They hosted many times, and went on numerous exchanges. Harriet made letters for our banner, and George designed the banner's stand, which consisted of PVC pipe, including detailed instructions for setting it up and taking it down. George was also newsletter editor for several years, and created our first Web site. They will be greatly missed!

A gathering will be held at the Firehouse Arts and Gallery in Pleasanton on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5–7:30 to celebrate George's life. Light refreshments will be served.

If anyone wishes to contribute short (1 page or less) memories and/or photos, you can bring them to the April 2<sup>nd</sup> event, and they will be collected in a Book of George scrapbook that his daughter, Gail, started for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you're unable to attend, but want to send a card or contribute a memory or photo, please send it to George's daughter, Gail Dressler at :



### ASIAN ART MUSEUM VISIT

On January 3, fourteen members traveled to San Francisco from all parts of the Bay Area to visit the Asian Art Museum's current exhibit, "Looking East: How Japan inspired Monet, Van Gogh and Other Western Artists."

Looking East explores the many movements and artists affected by Japanese art, including the great impressionist and post-impressionist painters Vincent van Gogh, Mary Cassatt, Edgar Degas, Paul Gauguin and Claude Monet. Juxtaposing masterpieces of Western art and design with rare works by prominent Japanese artists, the exhibition reveals the interplay of new styles and themes inspired by Japan. Looking East consists of more than 170 objects, including decorative arts, paintings, prints, drawings and textiles.

After viewing the exhibit, the group enjoyed lunch in the Patterson Room, a private, quiet room reserved by RoseMarie Everett, with their own server and separate checks.

—Dee Gustavson



## HOLIDAY PARTY

Another wonderful holiday party was celebrated on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at Hotel Nikko near Union Square in San Francisco. The holiday celebrants dined on a gourmet feast concluded by a selection of mixed petit fours for dessert.

The ambiance was indeed merry as we greeted both old and new friends and of course discussed travel. We shared experiences of great exchanges and exciting tourism.

The highlight of the celebration was the swearing in of new officers for 2016. The new officers are:

Karen McCready, president

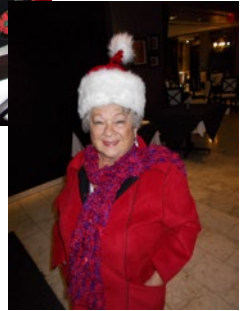
RoseMarie Everett, vice president

Barbara Ross, secretary

Judy Smith, treasurer.

Following the party many of us took in the lights and decorated windows in Union Square. A favorite was the window sponsored by the SPCA with adorable kittens and puppies.

—Martha LeRoy



# **The public is welcome to this FREE event--**

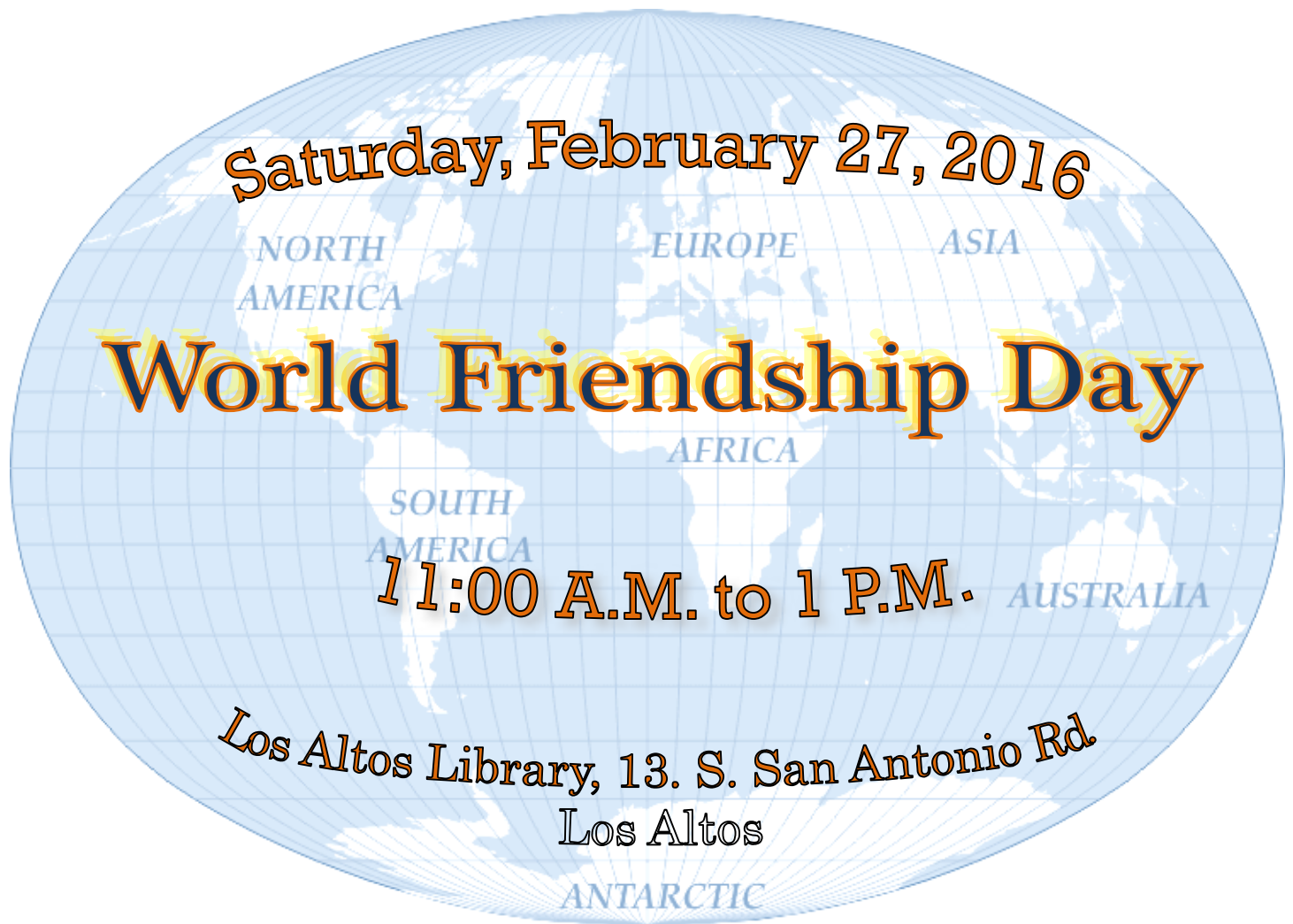
Tales from Costa Rica

Insights from the Civil Rights Era in the South

Off to São Paulo, Curitiba, and Rio in June

English Lessons for our Japanese Visitors in October

**How to travel with us to stay in homes around the world**



**Forming a Japanese Culture Book Group**

**Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?**

**The 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 Social Events**

**The Haiku Challenge**

**[ffsfba.org](http://ffsfba.org)**

**[thefriendshipforce.org](http://thefriendshipforce.org)**

**Questions?**



## 2016 FFSFBA COMMITTEES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready

VP@ffsfba.org: RoseMarie Everett

Secretary@ffsfba.org: Barbara Ross

Treasurer@ffsfba.org: Judy Smith

### STANDING COMMITTEES

EventPlanner@ffsfba.org: open

Membership@ffsfba.org: Carol Easter

Newsletter@ffsfba.org: Dave & Dee Gustavson

Publicity@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready

Webmaster@ffsfba.org: Dan Eggerding

### EXCHANGE DIRECTORS

Costa Rica, OutboundCR@ffsfba.org

Martha LeRoy,

Curitiba & Sao Paulo, Brazil, OutboundBr@ffsfba.org

Barry Rader,

Recife, Brazil, InboundRB@ffsfba.org

Karen McCready,

Sapporo, Japan, InboundSJ@ffsfba.org

Louise Heiduk,

### SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ExchangeBanker@ffsfba.org: Judy Smith

Merchandise@ffsfba.org: Carol Easter

Sunshine: Darlene Boyanich

MemberRecruitment@ffsfba.org: open

MemberWelcome@ffsfba.org: Natalie Heling

Forester@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready

## 2016 CALENDAR

**February 13**

FF Board Meeting 11–1 at the  
Heiduks' home

**February 27**

World Friendship Day  
11am–1pm, Los Altos  
Library, 13 So. San  
Antonio Rd., Los Altos

**March 5**

5<sup>th</sup> at 5. Travel and Adventure  
Show at Santa Clara  
Convention Center,  
followed by dinner.

**March 17**

St. Patrick's Dinner, 4:10pm,  
Jack's Brewing Company,  
Fremont Hub, 39176  
Argonaut Way, Fremont

**April 5**

5<sup>th</sup> at 5. Location TBD

**April 9**

FF Board Meeting 11–1  
Location TBD

**June 2–25**

Outbound Exchange to  
Curitiba & Sao Paulo,  
Brazil

**Sept. 15–18**

FF World Conference in  
Marrakech, Morocco

**October 18–25**

Inbound Exchange from  
Sapporo, Japan

**FFSFBA website: <http://ffsfba.org>**

**Friendship Force International**

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