



# friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA  
Changing the Way You See the World

Vol. 31 No. 1

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

January/February 2014

## MARTHA'S MUSINGS

I am writing this on January 1<sup>st</sup>, typically a time to take stock and look forward to new beginnings. This year it will be my pleasure to lead our club as we explore many new adventures. I have come back deeply inspired by so many unique ideas presented at the international conference in New Orleans. Our traditional message of world peace and friendship is being expanded to accommodate our changing membership.

Friendship Force San Francisco Bay Area will be at the forefront, hosting one of the new "themed" exchanges, "How Gold and Silver Built the West." A mix of ambassadors from all over the world will be converging on San Francisco to learn about our unique place in history. We will be sharing the exchange with Napa, Sacramento and Reno. It is very exciting and a whole new direction for Friendship Force. RoseMarie Everett and Don Pelland will be Co-ED's for the San Francisco portion.

Of course we are not giving up our traditional exchanges, but this gives an additional twist. Check out the FFI World of Friends Catalog on the FFI website for themed exchanges which might tempt you. We can all be very proud that Friendship Force is also supporting humanitarian outreach programs. Patricia Snowden and Maylou Bartlett gave us a glimpse into their experiences in Myanmar. This was so popular that it is being repeated. While you are perusing the catalog, check out other exchanges. There are many to choose from, some of which are domestic.

Many ideas were floated about how to increase our membership in both age and ethnic diversity. One exciting idea was to break up exchanges to weekends. Ambassadors would be hosted on two consecutive long weekends with time to explore on their own during the week. This might make it easier for working members to host. Finding new young energy from the working population is an exciting challenge. We could increase our exposure and reach out to ethnic/cultural clubs which abound in the Bay Area. Do we have any good public speakers with PowerPoint presentations?

We are all looking forward to our exchange with Biarritz, France. Many of us had the "time of our lives" with this fun club two years ago. It is our pleasure to return the favor. They are arriving in September, coming to us from Denver, where our much loved Luree Miller will be the ED. Karen Rice has

Continued on page 2

## WORLD FRIENDSHIP FAIR ON JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> TO KICK OFF A DYNAMIC YEAR WITH FFSFBA!

As the introduction to a very busy FFSFBA year, the World Friendship Fair on January 25<sup>th</sup> will feature the three major events of our year—the two inbound exchanges that we will be hosting and the outbound exchange to Australia. The "fair" format will provide a brief overview of the activities for each of those exchanges, as well as social activities throughout the year for members. Attendees of the Fair will discover fun facts about Australia, destination of the February outbound exchange, through video and interactive activities.

Everyone will want to get involved when they learn about the five-day program on "How Gold and Silver Built the West" for visitors from around the globe arriving in June.

A lively video will show our fun loving, vivacious future guests coming from Biarritz, France in September and all the engaging activities we have planned for them.

Throughout the year, we will be learning more about the French culture through weekly language lessons. A few openings remain for French classes on Saturday mornings in Fremont. Petanque, the wildly popular French version of boules (similar to bocce ball), provides a wonderful opportunity to socialize and practice French conversation. We will offer petanque lessons and visits to Bay Area petanque clubs. Everyone is invited to sign up for these fun events.

We have much more in store at monthly gatherings for a rich array of activities—from dining out, to San Francisco field trips, and more.

Come, learn about what FFSFBA has planned for 2014, and be prepared to sign up for everything that you would like to experience:

Saturday, January 25, 2014

2 PM

First United Methodist Church

2950 Washington Blvd. at Olive Avenue, Fremont 94539

—Karen McCready

## A RUSH TO THE GOLD RUSH EXCHANGE

They're coming from all over the world and they arrive on June 10<sup>th</sup>. They're coming to participate in the Gold Rush exchange sponsored by the Friendship Force clubs of the San

Continued on page 2

agreed to be *our* Exchange Director and has plunged right in with so much enthusiasm that it is really contagious. She has already formed a committee, but I am sure that she would be open to more help. This is a great way for new members to get involved.

Karen McCready has started a French conversational group in Fremont. She has not labeled it a Friendship Force group, but she is convinced that people who love to travel and learn foreign languages might happen to be interested in our club. At the very least, they can join our welcome party and try out their new language skills. Have you thought about trying this in your neighborhood? Give it a try. The response was very impressive.

One up-coming event which you won't want to miss is "World Friendship Fair," on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Clubs from all over the world will gather on World Friendship Day to spread our message. This year we will be focusing on all of our exchanges, both outbound and inbound. Karen McCready is the event planner, and she will have a full description in this newsletter.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will visit Pier 39 for Tulip Mania. One of the head gardeners from the Pier will guide us through this spectacular floral display. RoseMarie Everett, our own guide extraordinaire, will be our event planner. See her article on page 4. Last year, following the tour, we gathered at Neptune's Palace for lunch. If you haven't been there, it is not to miss. Rose will arrange for coupons entitling us to a free fresh crab cocktail for two. Menu prices are reasonable and it touts one of the best views of our beautiful bay.

So we are off to an exciting start. I look forward to working with you all, to make this a successful year.

—*Martha LeRoy*, President

Gold Rush, continued from page 1, column 2

Francisco Bay Area, Napa/Sonoma, Sacramento and Reno-Tahoe. The exchange is completely filled up with 21 ambassadors, including Marty McKnew, the exchange ED. Half of the ambassadors will be from the USA and the other half from Canada, Europe, South America, Australia and India. Ages range from 45 to 76.

Their first stop will be with our club. RoseMarie Everett and Don Pelland are leading the San Francisco portion of the exchange. RoseMarie and Don are working out the details of the activities and the schedule. It promises to be a very busy and active schedule. As soon as the itinerary is finalized, we will let you know the specifics.

Louise Heiduk will help with arranging the home hosts. The ambassadors will be home hosted for five nights only, June 10–June 14. Call Louise, RoseMarie

or Don if you would be willing to home host, day host or work on a committee to make our first Themed Exchange a big success.

—*Don Pelland*, co-ED

## THE FRENCH ARE COMING!

The FF Biarritz, France inbound exchange has 25 ambassadors who are looking forward to seeing some of us again and meeting others of us for the first time, from September 15–22, 2014. They treated us royally when we visited them in 2010, and we hope to show them the best of the San Francisco Bay Area as well. In order to accomplish that, we need help from all our FFSFBA members. Even if you cannot home host, there are many other ways to participate and get to know the energetic, fun-loving guests from Biarritz. We need day hosts, organizers and helpers for the activities. Of course, we would like a big turnout to greet them at the Welcome party September 15<sup>th</sup> and also at the traditional tree planting and Farewell party at Prusch Park in San Jose on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Come to the World Friendship Fair at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at the First United Methodist Church, 2950 Washington Blvd. in Fremont to find out about the activities we plan in preparation for the French Ambassadors' visit. There will be sign-up sheets where you can join other members of our club for cultural events. Karen McCready has already started a group to learn and practice conversational French on Saturdays in Fremont. We will try some hands-on learning of the game of petanque, a favorite French pastime. I also propose sessions to rehearse some songs to prepare for their visit. We welcome your ideas, enthusiasm and help. —*Karen Rice*, ED

## AUSTRALIA EXCHANGE TURNS INTERNATIONAL

Seven of our club members will be going to Sydney for 4 nights, Hobart, Tasmania for a week homestay, Melbourne for 3 nights, and Murray Bridge, South Australia for a second homestay. Joining our seven club members will be Friendship Force members from clubs in Atlanta, Honolulu, and Charleston, West Virginia, in the USA, and FF members in Canada, England, South Africa, and even Australia! It will be a truly international trip this February! —*Wendy Dewell*, ED

## NEW MEMBERS

### INTRODUCING CLAIRE LINDBERG

I moved from a retirement community in Ashland, Oregon to San Francisco at the beginning of 2013. I am loving living in the city!

I was born 77 years ago in a Long Island suburb of New York City and went to grammar school and high school there. My husband Arthur and I married in New York in 1960. Arthur died in 2007. We have two children. Our son Eric, a software engineer, lives in San Francisco. Our daughter Jennie lives in Vermont with her husband Bob and daughter, Anika.

My college degree is in economics and mathematics. My career was in Information Technology. I worked for banks, bro-

kerage houses, the Stock Exchange and software development firms. I retired from the Stock Exchange in 2000.

My list of interests is long enough to make it clear that I am a jack of all hobbies and a master of none.

- Reading has been a major part of my life from the time when I was very young.

- I love learning foreign languages and regret that I didn't have an opportunity to practice them more. At various times, I have studied Spanish, French, Greek, Italian and Mandarin (also basic Turkish, Bulgarian and Brazilian Portuguese for travel in those countries). However, I have lost almost all knowledge of all of them but Spanish and French.

- I have been a gardener of both vegetables and flowers since I was 12, but find in the last several years that working in the garden feels more like a chore than a pleasure. However, I still enjoy visiting other public and private gardens.

- I do love to travel. I haven't had the opportunity to travel to as many exotic places as I would have liked. But I have made it to at least 21 foreign countries. Most of that traveling has been done in the last 20 years and much of it with Friendship Force. I've been ED on 3 outbounds and have lost track of the inbounds.

- Cooking is one of life's great comforts for me.

- I am an enthusiastic but hardly an expert birder.

## INTRODUCING PETE AND DEBBIE ANDERSON

Pete and Debbie Anderson currently live in downtown San Jose, in a 102 year old craftsman style house, that they have been restoring since 1979.

Pete is originally from Corvallis, Oregon and Debbie was born in San Francisco, California. They have two grown daughters and two grandchildren.

Pete has owned and worked in his hardwood floor installation/refinishing business for over 30 years and plans to continue for as long as he is able. He recently refinished the downstairs herringbone patterned oak floors at the Gamble House in Pasadena, CA. Pete's website is: <http://petesfloors.wordpress.com/>

Debbie designs and makes jewelry using polymer clay. She has her own business and her website is: <http://athousandcanes.wordpress.com/>

Aside from selling her handmade creations, Debbie also teaches polymer clay workshops and writes "how to" project articles for craft and jewelry related magazines and does the scheduling for estimates and jobs for Pete's hardwood floor business. Pete and Debbie enjoy growing their own vegetables in their garden and look forward to traveling with Friendship Force.

## REPEATING THE SOUNDING JOY

It was a repeat of a wonderful holiday tradition. Michaels Shoreline was again the venue for our traditional holiday party and installation of officers. (The new officers are being



sworn in in the photo above). What can I say? The food was fabulous, the company was spirited and the Madrigal Singers outdid their previous performances. What a bunch of talented teens! They have been our entertainment for the last three years. They never disappoint and are always enthusiastically received. Thanks goes out to Dee Gustavson for recommending them and inviting them to perform.

Nancy Menz deserves applause for chairing this event. She worked with the staff at Michaels and handled all of the reservations and menu selections. It is not an easy task, but she is so organized, she makes it look like a snap, which of course, we know it isn't. Thanks, Nancy!

We were pleased that some new members attended the luncheon. We welcomed Debbie and Pete Anderson, Ron Ragon, Christine Farrell, and Claire and Eric Lindberg of San Francisco. Gee Gee Lenhart also attended and is a returning member. Welcome all!

—Martha LeRoy, President

## PETANQUE, ANYONE?

First of all, it's pronounced "pay-tonk." It's the French version of boules, similar to bocce ball, but playable on most any compacted terrain, such as decomposed granite, asphalt, or even on short grass. For the French, it's wildly popular, partly because the simplicity of the game allows them to socialize freely at the same time. One of the ways our members are immersing themselves in French culture this year is to get together for brief lessons and then to visit one or more of the Bay Area petanque clubs. The Lamorinda Club in Lafayette has extended a hearty invitation for us to visit them on a weekend afternoon for observation of their play, a picnic lunch, and then for lessons.

Join us soon for a lesson and sign up for future visits to Bay Area clubs. Call Karen at

Merci!

—Karen McCready



## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

We have lots of fun events planned, as well as two inbound exchanges in the coming year, so, if you haven't done so already, renew now so you don't miss a thing!

Renewal fees are \$60 per couple and \$40 per single membership, but if you renew before January 31<sup>st</sup>, you can save \$5! If you need a new renewal form they can be found online or you can contact me and I'll see that you get one.

—Carol Easter, Membership Chair

## THE BIG EASY

Wow, what a great time we had in New Orleans! Thirteen of our members attended the annual international conference hosted this year in New Orleans. This was the largest gathering ever! Over 700 members from all over the world took part in "All That Jazz", the aptly named theme of the conference. The many seminars focused this year on the future of Friendship Force. The "elephant in the room," our aging membership, was looked squarely in the eye and many constructive ideas were presented to attract new and younger members to our organization. Our new and younger CEO, Joy De Benedetto, with a background in media, will surely bring youth and energy to this fabulous organization.

One of the highlights, for me, was a performance by The Heritage Choir, a group dedicated to preserving African-American spirituals. They brought the house down. The rich blend of voices and the continuity of these wonderful traditions had me choking back tears and applauding wildly.

We were all so proud of Dave and Dee Gustavson, the recipients of the Wayne Smith Award, for outstanding service to our club and the furthering of the objectives of Friendship Force. They proudly wore their medals at the presentation ceremony and at the gala banquet dinner. I was honored to be at their table. Members like Dave and Dee make us all proud to belong to one of the most active Friendship Force clubs in the international community.

Following the gala banquet, we took part in a real New Orleans tradition. A jazz band led the way out of the ballroom for a parade down Bourbon Street in the French Quarter. Most of the revelers wore Mardi Gras masks and beads as they strutted and pranced to the beat of original New Orleans jazz.

Alas, the conference was over, but we will never forget the new domestic and international friends that we made and the energy and enthusiasm of those few days. We will be bringing that home to all of our members.

Since the conference, members of the board of our own FFSFBA gathered in Pajaro Dunes where we were hosted for an afternoon by the Gustavsons. New and energetic ideas were put forth. We are hoping that you will also feel renewed and energized as we head into 2014. Happy New Year everyone!

—Martha LeRoy, President



## FFSFBA TULIPMANIA PIER 39, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Come join us for our second jaunt to Pier 39 to see the vibrant colors of blooming tulips and seasonal garden favorites throughout both levels of Pier 39. We meet at the crab topiary at the entrance at 9:45 AM. Don't be late—there is only one tour, at 10 o'clock. Make sure you remember to bring your camera to capture what's blooming at Pier 39!



The tour is free. Following the tour, Pier 39 will treat us to complimentary refreshments. When I meet you, I will give you a free Fun Pack containing many discounts to shops, restaurants, attractions at Pier 39, and two hours of free parking in the Pier 39 garage. I'm making reservations at Neptune Palace for lunch, for those interested.

Give me a call if you would like to join us for the Tulip-Mania tour and/or lunch. You're welcome to bring a friend or two along to this, our February social event for the Friendship Force San Francisco Bay Area Club. We are going to have such a great time! Call RoseMarie Everett by Feb. 15 to reserve, . Leave a message if I'm not at home. For those parking, tell me early so I can send the Fun Pack to you so you can use the coupon as you enter the garage.—RoseMarie Everett



**The public is invited to this FREE event!**

**\*Curious about other cultures?**

**\*Interested in traveling off the tourist track?**

**\*Want to meet international visitors?**

**Saturday, January 25, 2014**

**2:00 PM**

# **World Friendship Fair**

**First United Methodist Church, 2950 Washington Blvd., Fremont 94539**

***Find out what Friendship Force is doing in 2014  
with a preview of these events:***



**Meet global visitors coming to learn  
“How Gold and Silver Built the West” in June.**



**Discover fun facts about Australia—  
destination of club members in February.**



**Learn French language and French culture  
for arrival of French visitors in September.**

**Drawing for a FREE new membership!** (not a membership renewal)

**Throughout the year, we will schedule game nights, dining out, playing pétanque,  
cultural programs, and more!**

**Questions? Call 510-794-6844.**



**friendship force**  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA







## Tales from the Forest

*This is the second of periodic updates on what's happening at our Friendship Forest in Prusch Park in San Jose. For more information on the history of the Forest, check our website: <http://ffsfba.org/friendshipforest>*

Excerpt from the exchange memories book by Don Greig of the Manitoba club, recalling their visit here:

"Wed., October 2, 2013

"The day started with a FF tree planting dedication. FF San Francisco has planted a tree for each FF club that has paid them a visit. There are some 28 trees planted. Some of them are quite large. A tree fairy came to start the tree watering. Each person present was encouraged to water the tree planted for FF Manitoba. All of the members of FF Manitoba were encouraged to return over the coming years to renew friendships and check on the progress of our tree. This was a very moving ceremony."



FFSFBA's very own water sprite,  
Karen McCready



Stan Croall,  
Manitoba's ED



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN SAN JOSE

June Nielson-Cademartori and Dee Gustavson participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project in San Jose on October 8. They reported to Lake Cunningham Park in San Jose at 7 a.m. to help with hospitality for a Habitat for Humanity week in San Jose and Oakland.

As hospitality volunteers, June and Dee helped set up and serve breakfast to 300 workers, while listening to Jimmy and Rosalynn's speeches. They also prepared and served lunch to these same volunteers who worked on home renovations in the

Dorsa-TOCKNA neighborhood of San Jose and completed two community projects: new shade structures at Lake Cunningham Park in San Jose.

Because June and Dee were the shortest volunteers, they were privileged to stand in the front to have their photo taken with the Carters. June told Jimmy that they shared the same birth year (1924!) (I hope we're all still willing and able volunteers when we reach June's age!)

—Dee Gustavson



## 2014 FFSFBA COMMITTEES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org: Martha LeRoy

VP@ffsfba.org: Nancy Menz

Secretary@ffsfba.org: Julice Winter

Treasurer@ffsfba.org: Pat Macholl

### STANDING COMMITTEES

EventPlanner@ffsfba.org: open

Membership@ffsfba.org: Carol Easter

Newsletter@ffsfba.org: Dave & Dee Gustavson

Publicity@ffsfba.org: open

Webmaster@ffsfba.org: Dan Eggerding

### EXCHANGE DIRECTORS

Australia, OutboundA@ffsfba.org

Wendy Dewell

Themed (Gold/Silver Rush), InboundTRX@ffsfba.org

RoseMarie Everett

Don Pelland

Barritz France, InboundBF@ffsfba.org

Karen Rice

### SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ExchangeBanker@ffsfba.org: Wendy Dewell

Hospitality@ffsfba.org: open

Merchandise@ffsfba.org: Carol Easter

Sunshine@ffsfba.org: Darlene Boyanich

MemberRecruitment@ffsfba.org: open

MemberWelcome@ffsfba.org: Natalie Heling

Forester@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready

## 2014 CALENDAR

**January 25**

**World Friendship Fair**

**1st United Methodist**

**Church, Fremont, 2 p.m.**

**February 2**

**Board of Directors meeting**

**1 p.m., home of Karen Rice,  
San Jose**

**February 20–  
March 15**

**Outbound Exchange to**

**Murray Bridge, Australia  
and Hobart, Tasmania**

**February 22**

**Tulip Mania, meet at the crab  
tapiary at Pier 39 in SF at  
9:45 a.m.**

**June 10–15**

**Joint Inbound Exchange,**

**Gold and Silver Rush,  
5 days in Bay Area**

**September  
15–22**

**Inbound Exchange, from**

**Biarritz, France**

**October 14–16**

**Friendship Force World**

**Conference,  
Auckland, New Zealand**

**December 6**

**Holiday Luncheon**

**Location TBD**

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

**Friendship Force International**

**127 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 501**

**Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

**Tel: 1-404-522-9490, 1-800-554-6715 Fax: 1-404-688-6148**

**Website: <http://thefriendshipforce.org>**

friendship force  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE  
**Changing the Way You See the World**  
The Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area  
35408 Terra Cotta Circle, Fremont, CA 94536  
Phone (510) 794-6844, Fax by pre-arrangement  
<http://www.ffffba.org>  
[info@ffffba.org](mailto:info@ffffba.org)