



friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Changing the Way You See the World

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

June/July 2009

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Goodbye, Central Coast! Hello, Chemnitz! The whirlwind of San Francisco Bay Area exchanges continues. As you will see in the "Highlights..." article, we enjoyed a wondrous assortment of activities with the twelve hearty Australians from May 28 to June 4. For our first home hosting experience, Barry and I were blessed with the most accommodating couple anyone could ask for. By the second day, they were fixing their own breakfast and helping with the dishes. We hosted a couple of meals so that we could share our guests with friends, both members and nonmembers. We just hope they had enough energy left to fully enjoy the two subsequent exchange weeks—in Oklahoma at the Red Earth Festival and then in Huntsville, Alabama. We got an email yesterday announcing their departure on the last leg before home.

I have so many to thank for their involvement in the planning of and participation in the exchange. I counted 42 of our 94 members who participated in some way—home hosting, day hosting, potluck hosting, attending a potluck, or going along on one of the group activities. From 30 to 42 people attended each of the group events. That's fantastic! We had an enthusiastic response to some of the new activities—San Jose Giants' Baseball and Barbecue, the Roaring Camp Railroad, and the member-directed van tour of San Francisco. Many thanks to those who helped brainstorm these ideas.

Our eight guests from Chemnitz, Germany will arrive shortly after you read this. Katharine Kleinke and her committee have organized a full week of Bay Area fun, starting with the Welcome Brunch at the Cloughs' in Atherton on July 8. I hope that many of you have replied to Natalie Heling so that you can enjoy that time with the ambassadors. The other all-club event for that week will be the Annual Picnic at Prusch Park on Saturday, July 11, with members bringing potluck items and the Texas Exchange group entertaining us with the Texas tunes they practiced in San Antonio and Dallas in April.

Here's hoping that we will be seeing lots of each other in July!

Stay well,
Karen McCready

FFSFBA CELEBRATES ITS 25TH BIRTHDAY

On Saturday, May 16, FFSFBA celebrated twenty-five years as a chapter of Friendship Force International. Approximately forty members and guests attended the annual event, held this year at the First United Methodist Church in Fremont.

President Karen McCready started the review of the club's history by reading an email from Gerry Earnest, our chapter's founder. After she volunteered at the Atlanta FFI headquarters in the early '80s, Gerry moved to the Bay Area with her husband Clyde. Believing in the Friendship Force program so strongly and missing it dearly, Gerry launched our chapter in 1984. Former past presidents Margaret and Pat Kingery, who served in the 1980s, told about the initial efforts to start the club, especially acknowledging George Anderson, who met Gerry at a meeting and, with his established connections in the Bay Area, helped to build the club membership and handle its databases in the early years. Dave Gustavson read a brief letter from his wife Dee, who gave her recollections as a former president. Karen also asked other former presidents to stand and be recognized. These included June Cademartori, Nina Davidson, and Barry Rader. There was also an excellent display that depicted the many and varied trips that our club has participated in over the years.

The speaker for this event was Rona Popal, the director of Fremont's Afghan Coalition. She briefly described the situation in Afghanistan today and the efforts of the Afghan community, particularly in the Fremont area, to adjust to life in the United States. Her talk included an excellent slide presentation that showcased many people from Afghanistan, now living in the Bay Area, who related some of the experiences they have had as immigrants to this country. Several members asked questions at the end of her talk. Part of Ms. Popal's presentation included a display of various types of jewelry made by individuals in the local Afghan community. This jewelry was available for purchase by our members at the end of the meeting.

An important feature of the afternoon was the Silent Auction. Many members had the chance to bid on a variety of items that included home cooked dinners, computer assistance, and small gifts. Scott and Luree Miller announced the winners. The money raised from this auction will be used to benefit a needy Cape Town school when we visit the Cape of Good Hope chapter. Our club will be traveling to Cape Town, South Africa from September 25 to October 13.

Our members provided an abundance of food for this occasion. This included a variety of cheese, vegetables, and an assortment of dips, sandwiches, and fruit. The afternoon ended with the cutting of the birthday cake for our twenty-five years of furthering world friendship, and the singing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth."
—Steve Smallwood

SMALLWOODS HOST RUSSIAN FRIENDSHIP FORCE VISITORS

On April 27, Lois and Steve Smallwood hosted Albina and Sasha Maximov, who are members of the Friendship Force Club of Novgorod, Russia, also known as Velikiy or Great Novgorod. This was the second trip to the United States for Albina and Sasha.

Lois and Steve met their Russian friends in 2003 when they were part of a Friendship Force trip organized by Jim Tolbert of the Portland, Oregon club. Jim was instrumental in bringing a number of Friendship Force individuals to Moscow and Novgorod to help teach English in the schools there. Wil Heiduk, another member of our club, urged Lois and Steve to join Friendship Force, and the three of them participated in this special trip to teach English. The Smallwoods spent two wonderful weeks in Novgorod and stayed in the Maximovs' apartment during that time. Since 2003 they have maintained a steady exchange of emails, and when Albina and Sasha said they could visit California a second time, Lois and Steve were eager to have them stay with them at their home in Sunnyvale. Albina is a chemical engineer and works in the Akron fertilizer factory. Her husband Sasha is a driver and mechanic in the same company.

From April 20–27, the Maximovs visited with two other Friendship Force members from Santa Rosa, Darlys and Tom Perry. The Perrys had also visited Novgorod in years past and hosted them in Santa Rosa on their previous visit. Lois and Steve were eager to show Albina and Sasha as many sights as possible. These included the new California Academy of Science in San Francisco, the Tech Museum and Santana Row shopping center in San Jose, and the Santa Clara Mission. The four of them spent two days in Monterey staying at a bed and breakfast in Pacific Grove, visiting the Monterey Aquarium, and the historical places in Monterey, Point Lobos, and Carmel. On Saturday evening, the Smallwoods and Maximovs also attended a unique American event, the Women's Roller Derby at San Jose State in San Jose. Of course no visit to the United States would be complete without a couple of shopping trips, and Albina and Sasha managed to fill an extra suitcase for their trip back to Novgorod. The Smallwoods also had a chance to introduce their Russian friends to members of their family, and their own friends including Natalie and Ivan Heling, members of our club. Steve also got a chance to share his limited knowledge of the Russian language with them, and they had the opportunity to practice their English, which is already more than adequate.

Albina and Sasha left on Monday, May 4 for the long trip back to Moscow and Novgorod. They were eager to see their

two adult daughters and to share the experiences they had had in their latest trip to the United States. Both the Smallwoods and Perrys are confident that this friendship, made some years ago, will continue.
—Steve Smallwood

A DAY HOST'S EXPERIENCE

On Friday, May 29, Steve and Lois Smallwood were the day hosts for Faye and Ron Loom from Buff Point, Australia. The four of them spent the morning touring the campus of Stanford University. Since Ron is a retired Methodist minister, he was especially interested in the ornate and beautifully decorated Memorial Church. The time at Stanford included a visit to the Cantor Museum and a brief ride up the Hoover Tower (a first for the Smallwoods also), and a chance for Ron to browse through a quad vendor's collection of old CDs of folk singers. The temptation was too great, and Ron, after much deliberation, bought a CD featuring The Blind Boys of Alabama.

That afternoon the city of Campbell was the destination. This included lunch at the Sonoma Chicken Coop, where the two couples shared stories about their families and a stroll down Campbell Avenue with its various shops. The Celtic Shoppe and the large used book shop Recycle Book Store were of particular interest to Ron and Faye. The high point of the afternoon was a visit to the fifteen room Ainsley House, a restored home built originally in 1925 by J. C. Ainsley, a San Jose canning manufacturer, and his wife Alcinda. In 1990 the Campbell Historical Museum moved the entire house (except for the basement), keeping tile, hardwood floors, and wallpaper totally intact, from its original location in San Jose to its present location. The Smallwoods had miscalculated the time, but managed to rush in with the Looms to be part of the very last tour of the day. It was a great day for everyone and ended too quickly.
—Steve Smallwood

CHEMNITZ WELCOME PARTY

You are invited to welcome the Chemnitz ambassadors at a brunch at the Clough's home on Wednesday, July 8th at 10:30.

Beverages, baked goods, sliced meat, cheese and fruit salad will be provided. The cost (for FFSFBA members) is \$5.

Sign up by completing the form enclosed, and mailing it to Natalie Heling.

INCOMING CHEMNITZ, GERMANY EXCHANGE.

Our 8 Ambassadors are coming from July 7–14. Club members are invited to the Welcome Party on Wednesday July 8, 10:30 a.m. at the Cloughs'. Please send your \$5 to Natalie Heling. The Farewell Party will be at the annual picnic with the "virtual" tree planting. You all come!

—Katharine Kleinke, Exchange Director

ANNUAL PICNIC, AND FAREWELL PARTY

Our annual picnic and general meeting will be on Saturday, July 11, at 12:00 at Emma Prusch Park, 647 South King Road, San Jose. It will be held in the meeting room near the parking lot. It will also be the Farewell Party for the Chemnitz exchange. We hope you will join us on that date for a potluck.

Water and lemonade will be provided. Please bring a potluck dish according to the following:

Last names beginning with

A-E: salad or side dish

F-Q: main dish

R-Z: dessert

Come meet with old and new friends, say good-bye to our Chemnitz ambassadors, and enjoy good food at this annual, fun event.

—Lois Smallwood

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CENTRAL COAST AUSTRALIA EXCHANGE

I thought the 'ice breaker' for the ambassadors at Cloughs' was clever. It started giving them a feel for how widely spread our club is in the Bay Area and helped them learn about each of our towns.

We took Heiduks' 3 women guests to the San Jose Giants' game. Two of them enjoyed it quite a bit, but one found it really boring. She admitted that she was bored because she didn't understand the game. Had we known this (and we should have asked), we'd have spent more time explaining the rules. They all three (and we) really enjoyed the Bar-B-Q meal.

Sitting around a table at meal time is a great way to get better acquainted with the ambassadors. We hosted a potluck at our house, after being served appetizers at Demos' house, which provided the Aussies the opportunity to be in yet another home.

—Dee & Dave Gustavson

I got special pleasure from finding that I had been in their back yard on several occasions in the past! —Herb Clough

We day-hosted Chris and Cathie, who were staying with Emily and Eoin. I thought of taking them to the Academy of Sciences in GG Park, but since they had already spent a good amount of time in SF, they weren't too excited about that. Instead we decided on a hike in the Berkeley hills behind the Lawrence Hall of Science, which offers great views of the SF Bay. But what they really enjoyed was a car tour of the Berkeley Hills neighborhoods. Jim had a job delivering flowers there in college, and he knows all the twisty-turny one-lane streets. The architecture is so diverse, and the gardens are fantstic. They both snapped lots of photos of architectural details, stonework, gates, fairy tale houses...

The tour ended at a place called Greenwood Commons, six houses built by six different famous architects in the forties, located around a beautiful common area of trees and grass and flowers. At the end of the common is a perfect view of the GG

Bridge. The houses are modest and blend into their surroundings. The project was conceived by a man named Thurston, who was head of the Berkeley School of Architecture in the 1940's. You can read more about it on the web.

Then down to Fremont for a look at Mission San Jose. Simple, but fun.

—Mary Olsen

We had a great visit with Ron Loom, a retired minister, and Fay Loom, a retired nurse. We had a lovely evening of conversation and good food at the Demos' on Saturday night, where we were joined by the Spradlins. Then on Tuesday evening the Spradlins had all of us (including the Demos) over for dessert. I think that the double meeting of this small group helped to make the Looms feel especially welcome. I won't remember the details of Ron's many jokes, but I will always remember how many he knew! Other highlights include attending church with them on Sunday morning (where they met 2 other Australians), and accompanying them to visit relatives in Pacific Grove.

—Natalie Heling

Something Pat and I really enjoyed was to go to the San Jose Giants game. We felt it was a great way to share our knowledge of baseball with the Australians. Dan Eggerding asked, "What are the seven ways to get on base?" We all thought about this. We could easily think of five ways but then as the game progressed we would say that was another way. By the time the game was over we had all seven ways. We had a wonderful barbeque and throughout the game there were many fun activities.

—Margaret and Pat Kingery



Western Regional Conference: We never give up, right?!



San Antonio Welcome Party Photo courtesy of Mary Alice vanDoorn



Aussie Neil Coggan climbed a rock to look over the Sierras.

—Don Pelland



The Western Regional Leadership Conference was in Reno in 2009.
Photo courtesy of Sandra Larson

Snapshots from the San Antonio/Dallas exchange (stories next issue)



A San Antonio day host, Joy Hillman, Luree Miller, Pedro Morales (San Antonio Club President), Janet Gordon, Mary Pelland.

Photo courtesy of Luree Miller



Gail B. and Lori English

Photo courtesy of Luree Miller



Traditional Floral Rings worn by the ladies. Katharine Kleinke and Lori English at the River Walk Festival after the Parade. The smiling ladies are cracking Cascaron Eggs filled with confetti.

Photo courtesy of Luree Miller



Sheldon & Renee Hermanson, Luree Miller (her first exchange!), Carol & Duane Johnson

Photo courtesy of Luree Miller

**A Welcome Brunch
For the Chemnitz Ambassadors**



**Wednesday, July 8th
10:30 to 12:00**

at the Clough's home

Beverages, baked goods, sliced meat, cheese and fruit salad will be provided. The cost will be \$5 per person for our members and their guests. There will be no charge for the Chemnitz ambassadors. Sign up by completing the form below, and mail to Natalie Heling.

Name(s) _____ email _____

Tel. # _____

Number of persons attending (not including Chemnitz ambassadors) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____made out to FFSFBA.

Reservation deadline is July 3rd

2009 FFSFBA COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready
 VP@ffsfba.org: Gail Boyd
 Secretary@ffsfba.org: Stephen Smallwood
 Treasurer@ffsfba.org: Ivan Heling

STANDING COMMITTEES

Activities@ffsfba.org: Lois Smallwood
 Natalie Heling
 Membership@ffsfba.org: Mary Pelland
 Newsletter@ffsfba.org: Dave & Dee Gustavson
 Parliamentarian@ffsfba.org: Barry Rader
 Publicity@ffsfba.org:

EXCHANGE DIRECTORS

Central Coast, Australia—May 28–June 4, *InboundA*@ffsfba.org
 Karen McCready
 Chemnitz, Germany—July 7–14,
InboundC@ffsfba.org Katharine Kleinke
 South Africa—May 28–June 4, *OutboundSA*@ffsfba.org
 Karen McCready

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ExchangeBanker@ffsfba.org: Don Pelland
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 Forester@ffsfba.org: Don Dillon
 Karen Rice
 Forest records: Mary Alice vanDoorn
 Program@ffsfba.org: Gail Boyd
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2009 CALENDAR

July 7–14

Sat., July 11

Sun., Aug. 16

Sat. Sept. 19

Sept. 25–
Oct. 13

Sun., Nov. 1

Sun., Dec. 13

Oct. 15–18,
2010

Incoming Exchange from
Chemnitz, Germany

Annual Picnic, Prusch Park
Farewell to Chemnitz

Board of Directors Meeting

Annual Meeting, Election

Outbound Exchange to
South Africa

Board of Directors Meeting

Holiday Luncheon, Michaels at
Shoreline, Mountain View

Friendship Force International
Conference in Wash., D.C.

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