

The Friendship Force San Francisco Bay Area November 2023 News

Don't Forget the Holiday Luncheon!!

The Holiday Luncheon will be held Thursday, December 14th 11:30 am – 2 pm. Host: Shirley Foreman Yes, indeed! Our annual Holiday Luncheon is fast approaching, and you don't want to miss it. The Thursday, December 14th event will be held at Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Boulevard, Mountain View (same as last year). We will have a delightful luncheon buffet with vegetarian option.

We have a big program this year. First, we will vote on possible international journey destinations for 2025. And we will install officers for 2024 as well as thank members for their service during 2023. This year the Madrigal Choir will be back to entertain us with their delightful holiday music. And Rose Marie Everett and Maylou Bartlett will update us on our upcoming April/May journey to Japan. We will also have an overview of our upcoming 2024 local events. We will conclude with a raffle for Christmas gifts and \$\$\$\$. Phew!

Not done yet!! There will also be a food drive for the needy. We will be collecting food items for Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS). These are the things that can be donated: Baby wipes & diapers (unopened boxes), canned fruit & vegetables, brown or white rice (1-2 lb. packages), dry cereal boxes & oatmeal (low sugar), dry beans (1-2 lb. packages), pop-top soup, Vienna sausages, Spam, and tuna/chicken; protein drinks: Boost, Ensure, Muscle Milk, travel size soap, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner; toothpaste, toothbrushes (unopened packages), grocery store Gift Cards, reusable canvas shopping bags. SCS cannot accept homegrown produce. Dollars and checks are also accepted and go far. SCS will provide us with a QR code that day, so

people can also donate via credit card. So, please bring a donation item that will warm your heart.

The price of the Holiday Luncheon is \$50. Please register on the FFSFBA.org website. You must be logged in. Once logged in select Local Events Calendar to register. For more information, please contact Shirley at foreman.shirley@gmail.com or 408 985-6715.

Our November 7th visit to the 9th District Court of Appeals Courthouse was simply great!

I am sure we have all heard about decisions taken by the 9th District Court of Appeals in the newspaper or on TV so it was fun to visit it in person. Our intrepid group (Mike Holmes, Zendra Zehner, Carol Skarda, Rose Marie Everett, Martha LeRoy, Myra Reybear, Stuart Yusem, and Shirley Foreman) took BART to San Francisco and walked a few short blocks to the Sales Force Tower Park where we enjoyed our take-away lunch. The Sales Force Tower Park is a multi-acre site with 9 botanical gardens to learn about and enjoy. After lunch we took a short bus ride to the courthouse for a docent-led tour. It was terrific enjoying the mosaics, tile work, luxurious carvings and marble everywhere... For pictures, see our FFSFBA Home Page and many thanks to Stuart Yusem, our webmaster and photographer, for taking and publishing these photos of our memorable trip to San Francisco.

Our club's 2024 Journeys

We have three journeys in 2024.

We have two Inbounds and one Outbound. They are:

Inbound: the Saskatoon, Canada club will visit us. They will also be visiting the FF Sacramento club. We already have confirmed dates for

2024: They will arrive Saturday, October 26 and depart November 2nd. Shirley Foreman is the Inbound Journey Coordinator.

Outbound: our club will visit two clubs in Japan: Greater Sendai and Hiroshima. The timing of this outbound journey is expected to be April 26th through May 15th. The Journey Co-coordinators are Rose Marie Everett and Maylou Bartlett.

Inbound: the Connecticut club will visit us. We need a Journey Coordinator. If you are interested, please contact Shirley.

Upcoming Club Events

Friday, January 19th, 11:30 am – 1 pm Host: Shirley Foreman

Come enjoy our first Let's Eat Out of the year by joining us at Holder's Mission City Grill, 2000 El Camino Real, Santa Clara. Holder's Mission City has many tasty menu choices including succulent burgers and healthy entrees. For more information, please contact Shirley at foreman.shirley@gmail.com or 408 985-6715.

Below are just some of the other events we will offer in 2024. More details on each will be coming.

February 16 – Visit San Francisco's Queen Wilhemina Garden

March 9 – World Friendship Day – Learn about Japan

March 15 – East Bay Luncheon

April 10 – Day trip to Sacramento by train

May 25 – Google Visitor Center & Celebrate club's 40th

June 11 – South Bay Luncheon

July 14 – Club Bar-Be-Que

September 7 – Our club in Photos

December 12 – Holiday Luncheon

Please remember to wear your badge at FFSFBA events. By wearing our badges, we spread our message of cross-cultural friendship. Interested people nearby may enquire about Friendship Force and who knows – they may even become members helping to make a difference in our world today! We need 4 badge requests in order to make an order. If you are a new member and don't have a badge yet, there is no cost. Otherwise, the cost is \$10 per badge. For badge requests, please contact Shirley at foreman.shirley@gmail.com or 408 985-6715.

Other Club Journey Opportunities

There are journeys with other FF clubs that are available. The FFI member portal has a list of outbound journeys with openings, so if you want to travel with a Friendship Force club you can! To see the list of journeys:

- a. Log in to your account on the FFI Member Portal
<https://my.friendshipforce.org>
- b. Log in with the same email address that you use for our club's website ffsfba.org. If you haven't logged into the portal before you will need to set your password. The first time you may need to click Forgot Password.
- c. Once logged in, on the Home Page click on FFI Journey Catalog and follow the instructions to view Journeys with available spaces along with the contact information for each journey.

Individual-to-Individual Journeys - FFI is offering a new type of journey: Individual-to-Individual journeys. How these journeys work is a person in another club has offered to host a person from another club. Fill out an application form and send it in! You and your host mutually agree on the timing. And you as a member of our club can offer your own Individual-to-Individual journey. Check

them out!! To view the available journeys, log in to the FFI member portal and click on the FFI Journey Catalog.

Volunteer and be proud! Make your membership count by helping our club carry out its Mission

These are the most needed volunteer opportunities:

- a. become a website assistant – For this job you work with our webmaster, Stuart Yusem, to design and carry out small, easy updates to our website. For example, you might update the photos on the Home page. Training is included!
- b. help maintain our Facebook page – Do you use Facebook? Become a member of our Social Media team and help maintain our Facebook page.

Please contact Stuart Yusem or Shirley at (408) 985-6715 or foreman.shirley@gmail.com

We are a non-profit – Everything we do is financed by members through membership fees (\$25 of the \$55 fee goes to FFI), event fees, and donations. Your donation is tax deductible. To donate please donate online (press the Donate menu item) or send a check made out to FFSFBA to:

FFSFBA

c/o E. Miller, Treasurer

P. O. Box 620345

Woodside, CA 94062

In Other News

Friendship Forest Post Rejuvenation Project

This project is almost complete. The new plaques and posts have been completed and the only work remaining is to install them. Many thanks

to Eric Miller and Dave Gustavson for creating the new plaques/posts and to Karen McCready for coordinating the effort.

Check it out! The friendship force international member portal

All active members have accounts on the Friendship Force International member portal (my.friendshipforce.org). When you log in for the first time you will need to create a password. The member portal is the new way that we interact with FFI and there is a ton of great information on the website!! Check it out!! For example, journeys with other clubs are advertised here (that you can go on!).

Our Mission and Vision

These are posted on our ffsfba.org website, so check it out!!

Let's remind ourselves of who we are by reading our club's Mission and Vision:

Our Mission

The Mission of FFSFBA is to promote global peace, understanding, and friendship through homestays.

Our Values: Mutual Respect, Cultural Diversity, Cultural Exploration, Service

Our Vision

Our Vision: Each individual will make a contribution to global goodwill. The Friendship Force worldwide network of clubs and individuals will overcome differences among people and nations.

By connecting the world one friend at a time we will create a world of friends that becomes a world of peace.

The Friendship Force Pledge

Also, let's remind ourselves of the Friendship Force Pledge:

As a member of the Friendship Force
I recognize that I can make a difference,
I recognize that I have a mission.
That mission is to be a friend
To the people of the world.
As I embark on this adventure
I know that others are watching me.
I know that through my example to my own fellow citizens
And people of other nations,
The cause of Friendship, Love and Peace can be furthered.
I can make a difference!

That's the news.

All the best in friendship,

-Shirley