



friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
Changing the Way You See the World

Vol. 32 No. 1

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

January/February 2015

MARTHA'S MUSINGS

Can you believe it? 2015 is not just knocking on the door, but has arrived. Although this door has closed, another is opening wide and 2015 looks to be promising indeed!

Of course, it wouldn't be New Years without a reflection back on our memorable 2014. What a year it was!

In January we started the year off right with World Friendship Day at the United Methodist Church in Fremont. What a rousing success, thanks to Karen McCready, the organizer of this event. The buzz was positive among the large number of attendees; we gratefully picked up some new members.

Also in January, some of us started a small private French-language group in Fremont to gear up for the French exchange.

Preparations were underway for our first international exchange, "How Gold and Silver Won the West." Don Pelland and RoseMarie Everett were co-ED's for this new Friendship Force concept exchange, which involved four northern California clubs sharing the hosting duties.

In February we revisited Tulip Mania at Pier 39. It did not disappoint. The tulips were spectacular and we had lunch at various venues along the waterfront. The day was warm and sunny and thanks to RoseMarie Everett, a good time was had by all.

Our club participated in an outbound exchange to Tasmania and Murray Bridge, Australia. Wendy Dewell was the ED for this fascinating exchange.

In March we enjoyed a dining out adventure at the Mongolian Hot Pot, organized by Barry Rader. We dipped our meat and veggie dishes into large steaming pots of broth. Sharing this wonderful communal meal was the essence of the international spirit of Friendship Force.

Some of us were lucky enough to attend the concert by the California Youth Symphony. As promised by Dave and Dee Gustavson, they were as good as any professional adult symphony. Following the concert, the group dined at the Elephant Bar.

In April some of us previewed a walking tour of the San Francisco gold rush experience. Although the day was cold and dreary, the guide kept us enthralled by the vibrant history of the 49^{er} era. Of course, lunch followed.

May 3rd we celebrated the club's birthday with a party at Century 21 offices in Fremont. Kudos to Judy Smith, who planned and hosted this event. Carol Easter presented a user

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TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Yes, it's that time again... time to renew your membership for the coming year. We have some great exchanges planned.

Recife, Brazil will visit us in September—does anyone speak Portuguese? We also have two outbound exchanges, a domestic exchange to Huntsville, Alabama and Memphis, Tennessee in May, and to Costa Rica in November. We don't want you to miss a thing, so please send in your renewal form (enclosed). If you renew by January 31st, you save \$5.00.

—Carol Easter, Membership



MEMPHIS IS NOW HOUSTON

Our club is now going to Memphis, TN and Huntsville, AL in May of this year. This is a big change from the original destination of Houston. We will now be able to visit Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley, as well as many other important music sites in the Memphis area. The cost for transportation has dropped precipitously from \$600 to the low \$400's. The trip will include visits to civil rights sites, NASA museums, antebellum homes, gardens, blues museums, and lots of great southern food. The cost will be about \$475 for all fees.

Five openings exist for a very important trip into our nation's history, music, space race and Elvis. If you are interested call Barry Rader

—Barry Rader, Exchange Director

friendly approach to accessing our local and international chapters via the web.

In June our first international exchange took place. Don Pelland and RoseMarie Everett did a fabulous job of managing these logistics in such uncharted territory. Our club hosted the first and longest segment of this 4-club effort. Our members stepped up to the plate and provided a real feel for the history of our own Bay Area.

By August we were into the serious planning for our inbound exchange from Biarritz, France. As part of our cultural awareness, we experienced Basque food and culture at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. The food was fabulous and one of the managers gave a talk about the Basques and their culture. Many of us were interested in the large pelota court. This fast moving sport is one of the Basque national pastimes.

Ils sont arrivé! The French have arrived. Of course we are referring to the Friendship Force of Biarritz and Burgundy. What a busy exchange! Karen Rice was the ED for this one. We showed them the Bay Area in style. We visited towering redwoods, beaches, museums, cable cars and more. At our Mexican dinner hosted by the gracious Greenwald family, the comments were nothing short of ooh la la! The view wowed them all.

In October, five of us, Martha LeRoy, Dee Gustavson, Karen McCready, KC Sarr and Myra Rey Bear, were lucky enough to experience the culture of Mexico via an international Friendship Force exchange. Barbara Ross from Cincinnati, now a member of our club, was the ED for this one. We flew into Mexico City, where we spent 5 days seeing the famous sights. Barbara arranged for charming Adolfo, our intrepid guide, to present Mexico and Mexican culture on our way to Coatapec. In Jalapa, we were hosted by the university and lodged with local families. After 5 days of Spanish language lessons via the university, we were picked up by Friendship Force Coatepec. What a fun club! We experienced lots of parties, complete with free flowing tequila and Mexican dancing. We learned about Mexican culture and even traveled to the coast where Cortez made his first landing in Mexico. It was here that we started to learn about the significance of Dia de los Muertes or Day of the Dead. The importance of this tradition would be highlighted throughout the entire 3 weeks.

We left our friends in Jalapa, traveling by bus through the Mexican countryside, through beautiful mountains, in our quest for our final destination and quintessential experience in Oaxaca. It is in Oaxaca that one experiences the full significance of Dia de los Muertes. We walked through the cemeteries at night, where many families were visiting the graves of their loved ones. The graves were lighted and decorated with food, laid out for the one-day return of the departed. I was impressed by this tradition, and couldn't help but think how wonderful it would be if my loved ones could return for even 24 hours. All good things must end, and on Nov. 4th we flew

from Mexico City back to the reality of the Bay Area. It was a cultural experience that we will not forget.

In December we celebrated in San Francisco, with our annual holiday party held at the Hotel Nikko on Mason Street near Union Square. Donna Wilson was the planner for this extremely well received event. The meal was elegant. She arranged for musical entertainment by 3 members of the West Bay Opera. It was a great day and probably one of the most elegant holiday parties ever! Thanks, Donna for a great job.

Yes, the new door has opened and I am enthusiastic about plans for 2015. A domestic exchange to Huntsville, AL and Memphis, TN is scheduled for May, to be led by Barry Rader. We are excited about the International Conference in Vancouver and an inbound exchange from Recife, Brazil. Our outbound exchange in October to Ciudad de las Flores is in the planning stages. RoseMarie Everett has this one under control. Contact her about reserving a spot on the exchange. She anticipates that this will be a very popular exchange, so get your name on her list now.

World Friendship Day will be our first event in 2015. I hope to see you all at the Milpitas Library on March 1st, from 1-4 p.m.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH 2015 EXCHANGE VISITS AND TRAVELS?

Goodbye, Bavaria and Hello, Recife

We have some good and bad news about inbound exchanges for 2015. Although many of you graciously stepped forward to host the club from Bavaria-Nuernberg, Germany in April, they were not able to line up enough ambassadors for the week with us. We are disappointed that we will not be able to return the favor to this club who showed some of our members such a good time in 2013. We are excited, however, about the prospect of hosting members of the lively Recife, Brazil Club. To locate Recife, look for the bump on the east coast of Brazil. It's a popular cruise ship port and hosts a unique Mardi Gras celebration. They will be coming to us sometime in the late summer or early fall. We need to coordinate the dates with the International World Conference in Vancouver, B. C. and also with the San Diego Club, which they will be visiting either before or after their week with us.

Outbound 2015 Exchanges

Barry Rader has worked very hard to craft an enticing itinerary in Huntsville, Alabama and Memphis, Tennessee for April 30 to mid-May. See his article for more details.

The exchange to Costa Rica is in RoseMarie Everett's capable hands. We expect this exchange to be very popular. Don't delay in getting your application and \$100 deposit to RoseMarie. Be sure to attend the January 24th informational meeting. (Look for her article for all the details.)

—Karen L. McCready

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Did you know that—

Edith Sommer creates and sells jewelry in an art gallery.

Dave Gustavson builds robots in his spare time.

RoseMarie Everett is an expert on tours in the Bay Area using public transit.

Karen McCready is a multimedia artist and uses her profits to support young girls in the tech fields.

Dee Gustavson has a secret art studio.

Judy Heyman is a talented interior designer.

Roger Riffenburgh is an experienced political advisor.

Leila Van Dyke is an accomplished clothing designer and seamstress.

Julice Winter is a naturalist and docent at Yosemite National Park.

These are just a few of the talents in our membership. They are certainly people that you might want to know.

—*Martha LeRoy*, President

WORLD FRIENDSHIP FAIR

This year, the World Friendship Fair has a distinct African beat. We're talkin' drums! Our own Saaku Sarr, originally from Senegal, will be entertaining us with African drums. In addition to his drumbeat, he also plans to sing and regale us with tales of his homeland. His wife, KC, will be telling us about her years with the Peace Corps. We also hope that Ron and Joy Ragon will speak about their Friendship Force humanitarian exchange to Kenya.

Of course we will also be showcasing our exchanges, past and future. If you have ever thought that you would like to introduce your friends to Friendship Force, this is the day to do it. It will be entertaining and exciting, and will make you proud to be a member of this dynamic and evolving international organization. Our traditional organization is expanding to offer a wide variety of multicultural experiences.

Friendship Force now offers many theme-based exchanges, which offer opportunities to learn in depth about a special topic. Some of the themes have featured the gold and silver rush, the civil rights movement with the underground railway, and life in the West on the plains. Humanitarian exchanges have been featured for the last few years. Our own Patricia Snowden related her experiences in Myanmar. You might have dreamed of learning another language. Join Friendship Force exchanges for language learning experiences. Dee Gustavson, KC Sarr, Karen McCready, Myra Rey Bear and I had this opportunity in Mexico. You can learn French in France or in the exotic Guadeloupe. Today's Friendship Force is expanding and exciting. Bring your friends to show them what it is all about.

Time: Sunday, March 1, 2015
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
Place: Milpitas Library
160 North Main Street
Milpitas, CA

—*Martha LeRoy*, President

DATE CHANGE FOR COSTA RICA MEETING

Interested in going to one of the friendliest countries in Central America? Start brushing up on your Spanish!

Our FFSFBA Club has been matched with Heredia, Costa Rica for fall of 2015. Join me for the first informational meeting at Karen McCready's lovely home on Saturday afternoon, January 24, at 1 p.m. sharp. Please note that January 24 is now the correct date, not the 17th.

This 14–16 day trip will include a one-week homestay in Heredia, which is known as the City of Flowers. The second week will include either a tour of other areas of Costa Rica, or possibly a neighboring country.

Bring your check book to write a check for your \$100 deposit for this exciting and beautiful trip to Costa Rica. Make out your check to FFSFBA and write "Costa Rica Exchange, fall of 2015" on the Memo line. This non-refundable deposit will secure your place on the list for this great trip.

Please save the date of January 24th, at 1 p.m. sharp, when we'll learn about the places we'll visit in Costa Rica, and also discuss possibilities for the second week of touring. I will prepare a packet for each of you who RSVP to me by Jan. 21st. If possible, please bring some ready-to-serve finger food to share. Please RSVP to me by email, or phone me.

—*RoseMarie Everett*, Exchange Director

TOUR OF LEVI'S STADIUM, JANUARY 17TH

There's still space for at least 9 more people to join the group tour of the new Levi's Stadium (home of the 49ers) on Saturday, January 17, at 11 a.m. in Santa Clara.

The tour lasts about 90 minutes (wear comfortable shoes). You can join us for lunch after the tour, if you wish; site to be determined.

I've paid for reservations for 20 people to tour the stadium. (We can add more, if necessary, a few days before the event.) Please send your check for \$20 per person real soon! Make out the check to me, Dee Gustavson, and mail it to my home:

We hope you can join us! Invite your friends, too!

Complete details about parking and dining will be emailed early next week to those who send their checks. Email me, or phone me if you have questions.

—*Dee Gustavson*

TERRY MCINNES

We are sad to report that Terry McInnes of Fremont passed away on November 19th. Memorial services were held at St. Anne's Church in Fremont on December 4th.

Terry and his wife, RoseMarie Everett, have been members of our club for several years.

After graduating with a BA in journalism from UC Berkeley, Terry began a life-long career as a writer. His passion for science fiction extended to his writing, and he became a published author. The title of his first book, the first of a science fiction trilogy, is "A Long Way Home."

Terry was an avid traveler, and he and RoseMarie visited many countries, including every country in Western Europe, many in Eastern Europe, Central and South America, and at least 15 states. They were in Berlin in 1989, when the Wall came down. Terry was their outstanding tour planner, and always managed to discover the most interesting cultural and historical aspects of each place.

Terry was always proud of his Scottish ancestry. At their wedding ceremony at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Fremont in 1992, Terry wore his Scottish plaid kilt and family crest, while Rose wore a sash with his family crest across her wedding dress. The sound of bagpipes could be heard as they walked down the aisle. Terry was buried in his kilt and beret as bagpipes played in the background.

We send our condolences to RoseMarie, Terry's son Badger, and Terry's sister Sharon.

SEE THE NY MET OPERA IN A MOVIE THEATER

Did you know that you can view a simulcast production of the NY Metropolitan Opera at a movie theater near you? These shows are almost secret, with hardly any promotion. If anyone is interested in meeting me to see one together, give me a call. If enough FF'ers enjoy them, they could become one of our social activities.

The simulcast version is on Saturday mornings, usually at 9:55 a.m., but sometimes at 9:30 a.m. Each opera is repeated the following Wednesday night, always at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$24 for adults, \$22 for seniors. If you get a ticket online, it costs \$1.25 extra for the service fee.

The opera's playing in various movie theaters around the Bay, including one in Mountain View, 2 in San Jose, 1 in Palo Alto, 1 in Redwood City, 2 in Fremont, etc.

I haven't been a big fan of opera, but I'm really enjoying it now that they always have subtitles, and because you get to see all the action up close, as if you were sitting next to the stage. During intermission they interview the players and show the stage crew hard at work behind the scenes, preparing the stage for the next set.

Here are dates for the last five NY Met operas at local theaters this season:

Lehar's *The Merry Widow*, a new production

January 17, 2015, 9:55 a.m. PST

Repeated Wednesday, January 21, 2015, 6:30 p.m. PST. (I plan to attend this one at Century 16 Theater on Shoreline in Mountain View.)

Approximate running time is 3 hours.

Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Tales of Hoffman)

January 31, 2015, 9:55 a.m. PST (I plan to attend this one)

Repeated Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. PST

Approximate running time is 3 hours, 45 minutes.

Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*/Bartok's *Bluebeard's Castle*, a new production

February 14, 2015, 9:30 a.m. PST

Repeated Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. PST (I may attend this one.)

Approximate running time is 3 hours, 40 minutes.

Rossini's *La Donna del Lago*, a Met Premiere

March 14, 2015, 9:55 pm PST

Repeated on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. PST

Approximate running time is 3 hours, 30 minutes.

Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*/Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, a new production

April 25, 2015, 9:30 a.m. PST

Repeated Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. PST

Approximate running time is 3 hours, 30 minutes.

Would anyone care to join me at the Century Theater in Fremont at Pacific Commons, 43917 Pacific Commons Blvd. on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 9:55 a.m. for Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffman*? For more information, check the website: <http://MetOpera.org> and click on "Live in HD." Email me or phone me

if you have questions, or are interested in meeting before or after the show, so we can find a place to discuss the opera over coffee or lunch.

—Dee Gustavson

CHABOT FLEA MARKET

June Harris and I had a very successful fundraiser late last year at the Chabot College Flea Market. This raised \$115 for our club, and was a lot of fun as well.

We would like to do the same this year. We hope to schedule it in April. However, we need your help in supplying the "goods." We can also use 2 or 3 helpers during the day. If you have "anything" you would like to donate, or you would like to assist the day of the sale, please contact Nancy Menz at:

—Nancy Menz



Celebrating the Day of the Dead in Mexico.



Day of the Dead exhibits included marigolds, food, and candles.



Dee Gustavson, Martha LeRoy, and Francine Silberman, a fellow Ambassador from Florida.



The Sanchez family, hosts for Karen McCready and KC Sarr, dressed in colorful costumes at the FF Farewell Party, in Jalapa, Mexico.

Photos courtesy of Karen McCready.

2014 FFSFBA COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org: Martha LeRoy

VP@ffsfba.org: Nancy Menz

Secretary@ffsfba.org: Julice Winter

Treasurer@ffsfba.org: Jim Thomas

STANDING COMMITTEES

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Membership@ffsfba.org: Carol Easter

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Merchandise@ffsfba.org: Carol Easter

Sunshine: Darlene Boyanich

MemberRecruitment@ffsfba.org: open

MemberWelcome@ffsfba.org: Natalie Heling

Forester@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready

2015 CALENDAR

January 17

Tour of Levi's Stadium,
11 a.m., Santa Clara

January 24

Costa Rica meeting at Karen
McCready's home, Fremont,
1p.m.

February 9

Board meeting at Martha
LeRoy's, 1p.m.

March 1

World Friendship Fair at
Milpitas Library, 1-4 p.m.

April 12

Board Meeting 1 p.m., place
TBD

May

Outbound to Huntsville, AL
and Memphis, TN

August 28-31

Friendship Force World
Conference, Vancouver, BC

October

Inbound from Recife, Brazil

November

Outbound to Costa Rica

2016 CALENDAR

October 2-5

FF World Conference in
Marrakech, Morocco

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

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