



friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Changing the Way You See the World

Vol. 32 No. 2

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

April/May 2015

MARTHA'S MUSINGS

Spring has sprung and our Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area is blooming. We have new energy and new ideas. One of the new ideas has been to start a meet-up group. We hope to find new people interested in travel and culture, which is the foundation of Friendship Force. We are calling it The Fifth at Five. Carol Easter, who brings so much to this club, has been instrumental in creating an on-line presence for us. Carol posts the invitation to join us on our Meet-up Group home page. On the 5th of every month (May was rescheduled to the 6th at 5, for obvious reasons) we meet at a rotating venue for drinks, appetizers and to share our travel stories. Thanks to Carol and hats off to Karen McCready, a co-creator and so supportive of our new venture. We have met at Aloft in Newark for the first 2 meet-ups, but the goal is to rotate the venues just like we do with our regular meetings. This next one, on May 6th will be in Campbell at The Elephant Bar. Please come to have a good time, but also to let new attendees learn more about Friendship Force.

We have discovered that smaller venues held frequently can attract lots of interest. Our recent St. Patrick's Day luncheon at Jack's Brew Pub was a good example. We had quite a group show up for corned beef and cabbage. Thanks to Nancy Menz and June Harris for organizing this great holiday lunch. Jennifer Lam, a new member, joined us for this event and has also joined us for the Fifth at 5.

Another smaller venue event was The California Youth Symphony concert at Chabot College in Hayward on March 22. If you have never heard them, be ready to be super impressed. You just can't believe that these are teens. Such incredible talent! Dave and Dee Gustavson have been involved with them for years. Their children performed with the orchestra when they were young. Following the performance, the group met for an early dinner at the new Black Bear Diner across the street. We will let you know about other scheduled events.

Kudos to Karen McCready for once again chairing our wildly successful World Friendship Fair. What would we do without Karen? When she schedules anything, you know that it will be done perfectly. WWF was no exception. The theme was Friendship Force with an African Beat. We used the beautiful meeting room at the Milpitas Library. Tables were set up to display our organization and past exchanges. The program started off with Saaku Sarr playing African drums and regaling us with stories of his homeland of Senegal. KC, his wife, followed, sharing her many experiences all over East Africa.

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WENDY AND KENT DEWELL NEED YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT

A week ago, while on a cruise around Japan, Kent Dewell fell and suffered a head injury and also a spinal injury in the cervical area, which has left him paralyzed from the neck down. After successful surgeries, he was recovering in a Japanese neuro center when he contracted pneumonia. The best doctors in Japan are treating Kent, but he will have a long, slow road to regain feeling and to be able to breathe and move. Wendy has asked for your prayers to whomever you believe in and for pictures of your favorite flowers. Japanese customs do not allow real flowers in the hospital because they wilt and die, so Wendy asks only for pictures of posies for her and Kent as they go through this difficult time. Please e-mail your good thoughts and photos to them

Thank you,

—Karen Rice

YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO OUR 31ST BIRTHDAY PARTY MAY 30, 2015 1PM LOS ALTOS LIBRARY

Please come to hear our special speaker, journalist Christiane Gonzales. She is from Brazil and was a former Knight fellow at Stanford University. Her program will emphasize the three locations in Brazil featured in our 2015 inbound and our 2016 outbound exchanges. Learn about Brazilian culture and exciting places to visit. The Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area is about to be immersed in all things Brazilian. Come to see why we are all so excited about it.

—Martha LeRoy, President

THE FIFTH AT 5!

The Fifth at 5 is a new informal monthly get-together for our club held on the fifth of every month at 5:00 pm. In addition to providing a time and place for our own members to get together to socialize, we are using this event as an outreach with our new meetup.com group to get the word out about Friendship Force.

We intend to move it all around the Bay Area, so watch your email each month for the location.

—Carol Easter, Membership

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

The finale was a fabulous powerpoint presentation by Ron Ragon and Judy Pemberton, who along with Ron's wife, Joy, participated in a humanitarian exchange in Kenya, followed by a safari. The photos were sensational and the reportage was interesting and fast paced. We all gave Ron a hard time for confessing to be very nervous and then handing in a first class travelogue. Judy was charming and engaging.

Plans for our Costa Rica exchange in November are well underway. 16 ambassadors will be taking part. RoseMarie Everett, who visited that club in February, is returning to Heredia with our own club. She is so enthusiastic about her stay with these warm and welcoming people. They were treated like royalty and experienced so many exciting things. We also plan to take part in a tour by Eco Horizontes, a tour company highly recommended by many Friendship Force clubs. A private bus with our own exclusive group, in addition to our own naturalist, is just part of the attraction of this fabulous company.

RoseMarie has recently posted a host of photos on Facebook and is dying to go zip-lining again. She describes it as one of the most exciting things that she has ever done. I hope that I can get up the nerve to join you, Rose. As many of you know, this has been a tough year for Rose so I have assumed the leadership, while RoseMarie comes along for all of the fun sans responsibility. We can't wait until November.

To conclude this lengthy column—doesn't this sound like fun? Wouldn't you like to be a leader in this organization? There are many of us here to mentor you. If you think that this is something that would fit your skill set and sounds like fun, call Dee, Barry or Karen Rice. They would love to hear from you and we would like to have you in a leadership role.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Wendy Dewel competes in national bridge tournaments and recently won a platinum chip?

Leila Van Dyke was recently sighted riding a camel in Morocco.

Ron and Gloria Greenwald, in addition to being wonderful Friendship Force members, volunteer for Habitat for Humanity all over the world.

Yvonne Bretoi was born in Brazil and is a Portuguese speaker. This might come in handy with our incoming exchange from Brazil.

RoseMarie Everett leads tours for the City of Fremont, teaching seniors how to go anywhere in the Bay Area using public transportation.

Barry Rader is an accomplished photographer and has won awards at the Fremont Art Association.

Dee Gustavson and Natalie Heling just returned from a two-week adventure in Turkey.

Roger Riffenburgh is a mover and shaker in California politics.

Sara Rozzano is a native New Yorker and spent her childhood summers in Cooperstown.

Vickie Lau is known to try ANYTHING. Just ask her about some of the items that she has ordered from foreign menus.

—*Martha LeRoy*, President

VISITORS FROM NUREMBURG, GERMANY

We were all very disappointed when the inbound exchange from the Bavaria Germany club did not work out. However, one couple, Mary and Gunter Nerz, kept their plans to visit some of our National Parks, and stopped by Fremont for a couple of days to see their nephew. A few of us that visited them in 2013 were pleased to be able to spend a little time with them. We welcomed them with a small potluck dinner, and Linda, Vickie and Carol accompanied them to Filoli Mansion and Gardens. We had beautiful weather, and after a nice lunch in the café, continued on to Half Moon Bay for a peek at the Pacific Ocean. The following day we showed them the diversity and history of Fremont, visiting Mission San Jose, Budhanusorn Thai Temple, and the Gurdwara Sahib Sikh temple. Our time with them ended that evening with some delicious Bronco Billy's Pizza. It was wonderful to see them!

—*Carol Easter*, Membership



Mary Nerz, Vickie, Linda and Gunter Nerz

Photo courtesy of Carol Easter

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTED

It's almost election time. No, not for President of the United States, but for a new executive board to lead us in 2016. Our current board has approved the selection of Dee Gustavson, Barry Rader and Karen Rice to search for potential candidates. They will be making calls and finally recommending a slate of officers to present to the membership for election at our September general meeting. The installation will take place at our annual Holiday Party in December. If you are interested, or feel that you have the qualifications to lead our club, please contact the committee. If you are called and asked about interest in serving, please give it serious consideration. We are interested in fresh new ideas. Won't you consider becoming an officer of this wonderful organization?

—*Martha LeRoy*, President

FFSFBA NOW HAS A MEETUP GROUP

You may be asking—what is a meetup group? Meetup.com was started to make it easy for anyone to organize a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting up face-to-face. There are meetups for hiking, social groups, dating groups, movies, dining out, dog owners, cat owners—about anything you can think of, including... travel!

And why do we need one?

For you, our members, emails through the yahoo group and the newsletter are still where you will find out what's going on with the club. Meetup.com will be used as one method to reach out to the SF Bay Area to find new members. People who look on meetup.com can search for travel groups, and find our Friendship Force Club!

We will post all our public events, such as the upcoming program on Brazil. We will also invite the meetup members to our Fifth-at-5 get-togethers.

How can you help?

For those of you who already use meetup, please search for Friendship Force SF Bay Area - within 5 miles of Fremont. Join us, and please RSVP any events you plan to attend. The best way to attract people to come to our events is to show that there are already people attending :)

Please remember, this is not changing the way you as a member will receive information or interact with the rest of the club. We are using this as a tool to find new members, and you do not need to sign up on meetup to continue participating.

If you would like to start using meetup, either to find other interest groups, or just help us advertise the group, setting up an account is free. Just go to www.meetup.com and click on "Sign me up." Then find our group and join us.

If you have any questions, contact Carol Easter or Karen McReady.

—Carol Easter, Membership

PARTY TIME!

Here are a few photos I took March 17th at Jack's Brew Pub. Nancy and committee members, thank you for organizing this fun day event. —Mary Lynn Pelican, Ambassador of Fun



REMEMBERING EDITH SOMMER

Edith Sommer, who died on February 4, was a dynamic member of FFSFBA, for several years, often as a host. She discovered Friendship Force after many years as a leader in the Bay Area Servas group. Many people she hosted for Servas recommended our club as another way to experience international home hosting. A lovely, informal celebration of her life was held at the Eichler Tennis and Swim Club near her home in Palo Alto, chaired by her two surviving sons. There I had the pleasure to hear about the family nurturing that led them to become citizens of the world and also to learn about Edith's many creative outlets and involvement in a wide range of artistic organizations. She was a gifted designer of jewelry and other wearable art. FFSFBA member Debbie Anderson spoke about getting to know Edith in an artists' guild. I was happy to be able to represent several other FFSFBA members there by stepping forward to describe her commitment to hosting several times for us, including her final service during the Biarritz Exchange. She led the Biarritz group through the sculpture garden at Stanford's Cantor Center, translated in her impeccable French. We were to find out after the exchange that she had been undergoing chemotherapy while the French guests were here. Another memorable time with Edith was when she and I went out to lunch with visiting Chinese dignitaries who wanted to know more about the hosting programs of Friendship Force and Servas.

We will miss Edith and her quiet, thoughtful, productive contributions to our club.

—Karen L. McCready



FAREWELL TO A FOREST FRIEND—DON DILLON, SR.

In February, FFSFBA lost another steadfast Friendship Forest supporter, Don Dillon, Sr. For many years, Don acquired the trees through his nursery connections, helped plant them, arranged for the delivery of mulch, and ordered new identification plaques for the trees.

As a resident of Fremont since 1965, I read about Don's involvement in the City of Fremont and Bay Area government, but came to know him personally because of the Forest. From the time that I began helping Mary Alice van Doorn, Steve Cooper, and Howard Craven to maintain the Forest, Don was my chief mentor and unfailing morale booster.

Because of him and these other three supporters, I came to understand the full value of the Friendship Forest and the cumulative value of those trees to our club, to the Prusch Park neighborhood, and to the central purpose of Friendship Force. Losing yet another Forest supporter makes it that much more important to sustain their legacy.

We will miss Don's dynamic, effervescent personality and the infectious energy that he brought to the club.

—Karen L. McCready, Friendship Forester

DON DILLON'S MEMORIAL SERVICE PHOTOS

My photos from the lovely memorial service and reception for Don Dillon at Centerville Presbyterian Church Saturday, March 14, 2015, can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/DillonPix>

—Mary Lynn Pelican, Niles Rotarian

TOUR OF LEVI'S STADIUM

Twenty-one curious people gathered in Santa Clara to tour the huge new 49ers stadium. What fascinating facts they learned. The stadium cost \$1.2 billion, has 1.85 million square feet, seats about 68,500, and features 165 luxury suites and 8,500 club suites. It features a 27,000 square foot green roof on the top. The three solar bridges include hundreds of solar panels to provide electricity. Recycled and reclaimed building products were used wherever possible.

Following the tour, a few opted to visit the 49ers Museum, and the rest enjoyed lunch together at the Fish Market in Sunnyvale.

—Dee Gustavson

BRAZIL 2015! IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .

Does anyone else remember Brazil '66? Can that have been almost 50 years ago? I hope you're prepared to hum along and dance as we bring back some of those old, bouncy Brazilian songs and some newer ones when we entertain a lively group of 16 from the coastal city of Recife. After their week with the San Diego Club, we will pick them up at SFO on August 12. Our itinerary for their week here will start with a Welcome Lunch on August 13 in Milpitas and conclude with a Farewell Party on the Peninsula on August 18. In between, we will be showing them the redwoods in Butano State Park (near Pescadero), doing a custom bus tour of San Francisco, and collaborating among home hosts and day hosts to show them a variety of sites during two unscheduled days on Sunday and Monday, August 16 and 17.

It does "take a village" to provide a full FFSFBA-style hospitality experience for these guests. We have arranged most of the home hosting for them. In addition, the hosting households will need day hosts to escort their guests on some of those days and to share the experience of making these new friends. We hope to arrange some small potlucks in the areas where the guests will be staying.

Barry and I would like to invite everyone to a "Hosting Huddle" Brunch at our house from 11:00–2:00 on Saturday, June 20. We will go over the itinerary and ensure that all the exchange tasks are covered. Hosts and day hosts will be able to arrange activities for the two unscheduled days.

With their coming during the high summer season, we are especially challenged to find enough members at home to fulfill all the needs for this exchange. Please contact me at if you can help in any way.

—Karen L. McCready



Levi's Stadium

Photo by David Gustavson



August 2015 to June 2016—

**A year of building new friendships between Friendship Force
of the San Francisco Bay Area and three clubs in Brazil:**

Recife—Our guests, August 12-19, 2015

**Sao Paulo and Curitiba clubs—
Our hosts, June 2016**

A SPECIAL PROGRAM ON BRAZIL

**Saturday, May 30, 1-3 PM
Los Altos Library 13 S. San Antonio Rd,
Los Altos, CA 94022**

Journalist Christianne González will speak about Brazilian culture, with special emphasis on the locations featured in this year of Brazilian exchanges. After her Knight fellowship at Stanford, she founded Brasil NewsCom, an online media consulting company with operations in São Paulo and in the Silicon Valley. She received the Banco do Brasil prize in 1997 for the best journalistic contribution to culture.

Also, our club will be celebrating our st Birthday!

**Come meet this group of world travelers and learn how
Friendship Force is “changing the way you see the world.”**

2015 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

EventPlanner@ffsfba.org: open

Membership@ffsfba.org: Carol Easter

Newsletter@ffsfba.org: Dave & Dee Gustavson

Publicity@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready

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Karen McCready,

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

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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

**Apr 30–
mid May
May 6**

Outbound to Huntsville, AL
and Memphis, TN

Fifth at 5, Elephant Bar,
499 E. Hamilton Ave.,
Campbell

May 30

Brazil program, Los Altos
Library, 13 S San Antonio
Rd., Los Altos, 1–3pm

June 7

FF Board meeting, 1pm
Karen & Barry's home,
Fremont

July 25

Bar-B-Q, Nancy Menz'
Clubhouse, Hayward

August 12–19

Inbound from Recife, Brazil

August 28–31

Friendship Force World
Conference, Vancouver, BC

Nov 9–16

Outbound to Costa Rica

December 5

Holiday Luncheon, Nikko
Hotel, San Francisco

2016 CALENDAR

October 2–5

FF World Conference in
Marrakech, Morocco

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

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