



friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
Changing the Way You See the World

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

August/September 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

SOUTH AFRICA EXCHANGE IN JUNE

In June, Mary and I homesteaded John and Ursula Adonis from the South Africa FF club. John owns a printing business and Ursula is a legal secretary for the high court in SA. We talked about family and life in South Africa. Rose Marie McInnes and Kent and Wendy Dewell assisted us as Day Hosts. Rose Marie on two occasions accompanied our ambassadors and others on trips to San Francisco. Kent took them to Stanford to a guided tour of the Rodin gardens led by Edith Sommer. Wendy drove them to the Jelly Belly factory to meet up with the Sacramento club.

The exchange started off with a western style BBQ at Pat and Margaret Kingery's retirement home. Yvonne Bretoi hosted a pot luck attended by several other ambassadors and hosts. Ron and Gloria Greenwald hosted a dinner for the group after the SF tour. That is 11 FFSFBA members who directly touched the Adonis' visit to our club. That is fantastic! Thank you everyone.

But we are not finished. The exchange was led by Exchange Directors Luree Miller and Karen McCready. They did a terrific job in putting it all together—arranging all of the details and financing. The Welcome Party at the Spaghetti Factory and the Farewell Party in Fremont were fun events that were both well attended by FFSFBA members. Special thanks to Karen and Luree and all the others who worked behind the scenes to make the exchange successful. I think this exchange had the greatest participation of our membership of any exchange I've been involved with. —Don Pelland, President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

This year the nominating committee, appointed by the FFSFBA Board, consisted of Steve Smallwood, Natalie Heling, and Gail Boyd. The nominating committee will submit the following individuals to the FFSFBA membership for the election to be held at the annual meeting on September 9th at the San Francisco Library.

For President, Don Pelland; for Vice-President, Martha LeRoy; for Secretary Ann Halligan; and for Treasurer, Nancy Menz. —Steve Smallwood, Nominating Committee

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Fooled you, didn't I? No, it's not January, but many of us think of September as the real New Year. After a lazy summer, kids are going back to school, and clubs are resuming their busy activities. We are certainly no exception. On September 9th at 1 pm, our annual meeting will be at the San Francisco Library. [Editor's note: This is not a Library Sponsored Program.] We will have the election for new officers for the coming year, and we will also announce some of our exciting future events, including our exchanges for 2013.

Our featured speaker, Francis Tapon, is a well-known author and has spoken frequently in the Bay Area. His featured book, *The Hidden Europe: What Europeans Can Teach Us* will also be available following his presentation.

Francis Tapon will deliver a fascinating 90-minute multimedia presentation about Europe's hidden side. We will discover the side of Europe that few know, see hundreds of photos covering 25 Eastern European countries. Francis will discuss the 20th anniversary of the fall of Yugoslavia and the USSR—and what we can learn from it. He will also discuss the current state of Eastern Europe, along with the future opportunities and challenges in the region. He will share personal travel anecdotes that will leave you wanting more.



Francis Tapon, author of "The Hidden Europe: What Europeans Can Teach Us" will be our speaker on September 9.

Continued from page 1, column 2

Sounds like it's right up our alley! Right? See you Sept. 9th at 1 pm at The San Francisco Library, in the Latin-Hispanic Room. It should be great and as you all already know, September is prime time weather in San Francisco. Don't miss our "New Year" event.

In October, we will be celebrating Japanese culture in honor of the world Conference, which is being held this year in Hiroshima, Japan. On October 27th, we will tour a Japanese Buddhist church, tour Japan Town, and dine at an interesting Japanese restaurant. The church, which is interesting architecturally, has been the heart of the Japanese community in San Jose for many years. It's one of the oldest Buddhist churches in California. In addition to religious services, the church passes on Japanese culture and language to members and families born in the United States.

Although it is not quite Hiroshima, in some respects we have "little Japan" right here in our own backyard.

November 17th has been designated as Founders Day. We will gather at Prusch Park to recognize those individuals who established and maintained the Friendship Forest over the years. We will honor them following a lunch reception in the meeting hall at the park. Details will follow.

Ho, ho, ho!!!!—It's time for the annual Holiday Luncheon on Saturday December 1st. Once again, we will meet at Michaels Shoreline Restaurant in Mountain View. Dee Gustavson has arranged for The Madrigal Singers to serenade us with fabulous holiday music. If you remember, they brought down the house last year. It was such a treat to experience these very talented young men and women. Be sure to make your reservations early. Invitations with RSVP will be mailed.

One final note about the upcoming outbound exchanges—We will be setting up an informational meeting for anyone interested. Keep on the lookout for time and date.

—Martha LeRoy, VP & Activities

SOUTH AFRICA...AH, THE MEMORIES!

They came. They stayed. And then they left. But the memories remain. Together with a true majority of FFSFBA members, 16 ambassadors from the Cape of Good Hope Club came to renew friendships that started in 2009 when they hosted us, build new friendships, and explore the Bay Area from June 19th through June 26th. From a downhome airport welcome (with the South African flag and our club's banner flying high in greeting) to the Welcome Party at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Redwood City to a memorable 4-hour bus tour of San Francisco to a catered Mexican dinner at the "hilltop" home of Ron and Gloria Greenwald to a picnic at the Rodin Sculpture Gardens at Stanford (and an insightful docent-tour by Edith Sommer) to a Friendship Forest visit to dedicate a South African tree planted in honor of our guests to a barbecue Farewell Party at First United Methodist Church in Fremont (complete with South African voices raised in song—if you weren't there, you missed a lovely solo by one ambassador—and line dance lessons, no less!) to a mayoral proclamation letter exchange and reception at Fremont's city council chambers to a final farewell at the Jelly Belly Factory in Fairfield where we handed our ambassadors over to the hosts of the next stage in their California exchange—the Sacramento FF club.

And those were just the planned activities! There were potlucks from Tiburon to Pleasanton, from Fremont to San Carlos & Los Gatos. And walks among coastal redwoods and Filoli garden roses, ghost touring through alleys of Chinatown, overnighting in a Healdsburg cabin for some and dining in Pescadero for others, literally being taken out to a ballgame, meandering a myriad of shops in search of the perfect souvenir, leisurely evening talks sharing cultural differences and similarities over wine or Amara, South Africa's addictive cream liqueur. And so much more.

Trust us, you won't want to miss getting involved in the 2013 inbound and outbound exchanges! Exchanges are the heart and soul of Friendship Force. The time spent with our Cape of Good Hope friends was no exception to that philosophy.

—Lurie Miller, co-ED

THANK YOU SAN FRANCISCO FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY!

Dear Karen and Luree,

Well, we're back at home and still trying to adjust to life at home! Firstly, we were so used to your sunny weather... and when we got back home, we had to get used to the cold and rainy weather.

Also, somehow we suffered from severe jet-lag! Our flight from Los Angeles to Dubai was 15 hours and from Dubai to CT 9 hours. Of course we stayed in Dubai for 4 days and there we couldn't get used to the sweltering heat... So we would go out late afternoon to explore when it was much cooler.

Anyway, we started School on Monday and it feels good to be back in the swing of things. We just miss that Holiday feeling we had in your wonderful country.

This was really a holiday to remember. It was great to see and experience your wonderful city, the friendliness and warmth of the hosts and other club members and especially to experience the American way of life.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you both for all the arrangements, the assistance you gave Rhona beforehand and also the support you gave me as a "stand-in" exchange-director with our Cape of Good Hope Ambassadors.

We do appreciate all the effort you put in to make this such a fantastic experience for us. The Friendship Force of San Francisco will always have a special place in our hearts.

So, let's keep this wonderful friendship alive and continue to stay in touch!

Much Love, Harriet Samson

PRO - Friendship Force of Cape of Good Hope

SPECIAL THANKS

FFSFBA wishes to thank Terry O'Donnell of Mountain View who recently assisted in the engraving of a new sign for the Friendship Forest. The sign will be installed at Prusch Park. Terry is a member of the Bay Area Woodworkers. Terry assisted Bruce Nakamoto of the Sawdust Shop, 452 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale. Using a computer generated program, Bruce engraved a new sign that says "Friendship Forest" which will be placed beneath our current sign at the park that says "Friendship Force." Bruce contributed his time free of charge to the club. Our thanks to both Terry and Bruce.

—Steve Smallwood

BARBERSHOP BBQ WAS FUN!

Did you miss our Barbershop Barbecue? If so, you missed a really good time. As billed, it was a traditional Good Old Fashioned American Barbecue, complete with hotdogs, hamburgers and all the trimmings. As a special treat, rootbeer floats, or “black cows” as the midwesterners called them, were served. I hadn’t had a root beer float in years, and it took me back to my childhood. The Town Square Harmonizers barbershop quartet was held up in traffic, so a sing-a-long was led by Louise Heiduk and Karen McCready. Now we should be ready for “prime time” not only with Friendship Force songs, but other traditional American patriotic numbers. Our barbershop quartet arrived with apologies for the traffic and were well worth waiting for. Wow! What a performance! Everyone loved it as they schmoozed with the audience. Nancy Menz, always the ham, played the perfect foil for their humor. The audience loved them and sent them off with a rousing applause.

RoseMarie McInnes and her set-up crew, new members Natalie Cheng and June Harris, did a great job of setting the “Americana” theme, with their tables of red, white and blue starbursts. Nancy Menz was the planner for this event and it came off flawlessly under her direction as usual. We had lots of members pitch in to help clean up, but Gail Boyd and Joy Hillman stayed to the bitter end. Many thanks to them.

I know that this event will be hard to top, but I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting on Sept. 9th in San Francisco. Our speaker, Francis Tapon, will focus on cultural interaction, which is the heart of the Friendship Force message. Get more information in the “Happy New Year” article. See you in September! —*Martha LeRoy, VP & Activities*

BIRTHDAY MEETING MAY 10

During our birthday gathering at the Los Altos Library a sizeable group consisting of FFSFBA members and visitors listened to a presentation by Scott and Luree Miller who spoke about insights gained regarding the Apartheid program during a visit to South Africa, followed by a presentation by Ambassador James D. Rosenthal who spoke about South Africa following the fall of Apartheid.

Ambassador Rosenthal talked about the reconciliation program that has become a model for all countries who have faced a change in government. Not only did we develop a greater understanding of this program, but in the question and answer session we became more aware of the way our foreign service and the diplomatic corps represent our country.

Following the presentation, a group of FFSFBA members and Ambassador and Mrs. Rosenthal enjoyed a delicious Chinese dinner at Chef Chu’s in Los Altos. —*Louise Heiduk*

CELEBRATING AMERICANA CULTURE WITH BBQ (DON’S REPORT)

On July 14th we were treated to an “Americana” style BBQ at the clubhouse of the New England Village Mobile Home Park in Hayward. Nancy Menz, our Treasurer, invited us as her special guests. Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, corn-on-the-cob and root beer floats were served. But no apple pie. Over 30 participants enjoyed the afternoon and perfect weather. It was nice to see some of our long-time members in attendance.

The Town Square Harmonizers Barbershop Quartet entertained us and Nancy was the hit of the show as the “red hot mama.” She played her role well. Nancy’s neighbors, Nicole Mardian and her mother Sharon, were a terrific help, doing the BBQing and helping in the kitchen. Special thanks to them. Martha LeRoy, Rose Marie McInnes and Nancy were the primary organizers of this gathering.

Our next “event” will be an afternoon at the Japanese Buddhist Temple and Japantown in San Jose on October 27th (Note change of date!). Martha, Rose Marie and Mary Pelland are organizing this event. —*Don Pelland, President*



July
Bar-B-Q





Capetown South Africa incoming
exchange photos, courtesy of Barry Rader





Capetown South Africa incoming exchange photos, courtesy of Barry Rader



ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

Saturday, September 9, 2012—1:30 pm
San Francisco (Main) Public Library
100 Larkin Street (at Grove Street), in the Latino/Hispanic
Community Meeting Room A & B
(Enter at 30 Grove Street, proceed downstairs to the lower
level.) This is not a library sponsored program! Do not call
the library for information about this event!

DIRECTIONS

FROM THE NORTH

Take 101 south. Take the Lombard Street exit, turn right
onto Van Ness. Take Van Ness south, turn left onto McAl-
lister, right onto Larkin. The Main Library is at Larkin and
Grove.

Golden Gate Public Transit: 415-332-6600

FROM THE PENINSULA/SOUTH BAY

Take 101 north. Take the 9th Street exit and go up 9th Street,
stay in the right-hand lanes. 9th becomes Larkin at Market.
Go one block. The Main Library is on the right-hand side, at
Grove.

Caltrain Transport: 800-558-8661

FROM THE EAST BAY

Take 80 west. Take 101 north. Take 9th Street exit and go up
9th Street, stay in the right-hand lanes. 9th becomes Larkin at
Market. Go one block. The Main Library is on the right-hand
side, at Grove.

Bart Transport: 510-788-2278, TTY 510-839-2200

AC Transit: 510-839-2882, TTY 800-448-9790

PUBLIC PARKING

On Sunday, metered parking is free all day. The closest
parking lot is the Civic Center Garage, 355 McAllister Street,
between Polk and Larkin.



**Hiroshima for Peace
and Friendship**

Friendship Force

35th World Conference

Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 2012

Hiroshima, Japan



**Register
Today**

**friendship force
2012 World Conference**

Hiroshima

October 31 – November 3

Final reminder: Join friends from around
the world in Hiroshima for the Friendship
Force International World Conference

Over 300 people have registered to attend,
representing 16 countries. Will you join them?

See the conference itinerary and register today.

Japanese Culture and Friendship

Enjoy a performance of taiko drumming, lessons in origami and calligraphy, an optional tea ceremony, and more. Join friends old and new at a karaoke party, and make lasting memories at a traditional Japanese-style gala dinner with sake ceremony.



Get to know Hiroshima

The host club in Hiroshima is eager to share their city with you. Enjoy an afternoon at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Park. In the evening, participate in a beautiful paper lantern ceremony on the Motoyasu River.

The governor and mayor will give keynote addresses to welcome Friendship Force delegates. Read more about them and the other guest speakers on FFI's website.



Friendship Force Workshops

This year the Friendship Force is embarking on a major Global Expansion Plan. The conference will be a unique opportunity to discover what you and your club can do to help ensure the Friendship Force remains strong for decades to come. Attend up to four workshops on the topics that interest you most. Read about the workshops that will be offered.

Homestays and optional tours

Choose from six optional excursions designed to show you the unique sights in and around Hiroshima, including Miyajima, Iwakuni, the Ueda School of Tea and more. Then, extend and enrich your time in Japan by joining an optional four-night home stay with one of the Friendship Force clubs of Japan.

See the conference website for more details.



Miyajima



Iwakuni



Hiroshima Castle

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2012 FFSFBA COMMITTEES

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Luree Miller

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2012 CALENDAR

September 9	Annual Mtg., San Francisco Main Library, 1pm Election, Exchange plans, & speaker Francis Tapon
October 21	Board Meeting
October 27	Social—Japanese culture (note change of date)
October 30– November 3	FFI Conference, Hiroshima, Japan
November 17	Founders' Day at Prusch Park in San Jose, lunch, Friendship Forest
December 1	Holiday luncheon, Madrigals at Michaels Shoreline Restaurant, Mountain View

2013 CALENDAR

May	Incoming Exchange from Horowhenua, New Zealand
June/July	Outgoing Exchange to Cardiff, Wales and Nuremberg, Germany
September	Incoming Exchange from Manitoba, Canada

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