



friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Changing the Way You See the World

Vol. 30 No. 3

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

August/September 2013

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Our Friendship Force club is alive and well. Over the last couple of years, several members have stepped up to volunteer to perform tasks new to them. I would like to thank a few of them.

First of all, we appreciate the efforts of the Nominating Committee (Louise Heiduk, Karen McCready, and Eddie Hernandez) for presenting a slate of volunteers to run for elective offices for 2014. Martha LeRoy, Nancy Menz, Julice Winter and Patricia Macholl have agreed to have their names placed on the ballot for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The election will take place at our General Meeting on September 14th. For Patricia and Julice it will be their first time on the Board of Directors. A big thank you to each of them.

I would also like to recognize Wendy Dewell, Carol Easter and RoseMarie Everett for taking on the responsibility of incoming Exchange Director during 2013. That is a major task, which they handled and are handling well. For each of them it was a first time effort. Martha LeRoy, also for the first time, led an outgoing exchange. Martha's ambassadors just returned recently and included many first-time FFSFBA travelers.

Our Exchanges for 2014 include an outgoing exchange to Tasmania and Australia led by Wendy Dewell, an incoming exchange featuring the California Gold Rush led by Don Pelland and an incoming exchange from Biarritz, France led by a member to be determined. Any Volunteers? The Australian exchange will occur in late February or early March. The Gold Rush exchange is a "Themed" exchange presented by FF clubs in San Francisco, Napa, Sacramento and Reno and is scheduled for mid-June. Biarritz is currently expected to happen in September.

We have a couple of events coming up soon that you do not want to miss. On August 10th Karen McCready is preparing a Canadian Cultural Event in anticipation of the approaching Manitoba, Canada Exchange on September 26th. The event will take place in the Milpitas Library, the first time our club has met there. Look for details about the event on page 9, and directions on pages 2-3. RoseMarie Everett is leading the Manitoba exchange and has some interesting activities planned.

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MYANMAR WITH PATRICIA SNOWDEN SEPTEMBER 14, 1:30PM

You can go home even after 60 years! Come hear a presentation by club member Patricia Snowden on the country of her birth. See a short DVD on mystical Myanmar, (formerly known as Burma), the land of golden pagodas, and get an insight into this unusual country, which has been closed to the outside world for more than 50 years.

FFI member Maylou Bartlett was also an ambassador on the February 2013 FF exchange and will add her thoughts to the presentation.

I



The photo is of Patricia's son-in-law and daughter, Mark & Alayne Stieglitz, granddaughter Kelly Stieglitz, and Patricia.

MEET THE NOMINEES FOR NEXT YEAR'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Martha LeRoy

Martha hit the ground running as soon as she retired from her nursing responsibilities at Kaiser. She started by participating in an exchange to China. Following that experience, she joined the board of Directors as an Exchange Director for an exchange from Indonesia. She has been a member of the Board of Directors since then. She has served the last two years as Vice President.

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Finally, we have a special treat for our September Annual Meeting. Our members Patricia Snowden and Maylou Bartlett will present a program of their adventures in Myanmar last March. For a preview, see Patricia's article on page 4 of the April/May 2013 FFSFBA newsletter. It can be found at <http://ffsfba.org/newsletter/newsletter.html>

Also at the meeting we will hold our Executive Committee election and vote on where we would like to travel in 2015. That meeting will also be held in a first time venue, at the Community Activities Center in Redwood City. So all you peninsula people invite your friends.

See you soon. —Don Pelland, President

FINDING THE MILPITAS LIBRARY

(for August 10, see page 9)

Directions to Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main St., Milpitas

From East Bay:

Take 880 south to CA-237 E/Calaveras Blvd exit toward McCarthy Blvd.

Turn left onto W Calaveras Blvd.

Take the exit toward Main St.

Turn left onto N Main St.

Destination will be on the right.

From South Bay:

Go north on 880 and then follow the directions above.

From the Peninsula:

Take 237 east and follow the directions above.



Bergen, Norway

Sognefjord,
Norway

Vice President: Nancy Menz

Nancy is a lady of many talents. One of our first experiences with her was during a performance of her dance group at the farewell party for the Indonesians. She also shared her organizational abilities by helping to organize the dinner at that party. She has participated in and helped to organize several activities and meetings in the ensuing years. She has served the past two years as Treasurer.

Treasurer: Pat Macholl

Pat retired as TV Research Director from Alameda. She likes to read, entertain friends and drive her little red sports car fast (when she can get away with it) in addition to traveling as much as possible. Pat is a widow with one grown son. In addition to Friendship Force, she actively volunteers in senior help organizations.

Secretary: Julice Winter

Julice is a long time member of Friendship Force. She has been active in planning several exchanges. She enjoys meeting and entertaining people from many cultures, both through traveling and hosting in Friendship Force. She is active in the League of Women Voters and is a volunteer at Yosemite.

—Louise Heiduk

“DISCOVER NORWAY: FJORDS, FOLKWAYS, AND FRIENDSHIP”

Sunday, October 20, 2013, 1:30–3:30 pm

Come for the scenery, meet the Friendship Force world travelers, and share some social time together! Tasty snacks provided.

Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club

474 Embarcadero Road

Palo Alto, CA 94301

<http://tinyurl.com/FFLawnBowl>

From August 13-27, 2013, twenty adventurous Friendship Force members from around the world will tour spectacular Norway together. These twenty hail from Cape Town, South Africa; Hobart, Tasmania; Huntsville, Alabama; Cincinnati, OH; Olympia, WA; and eight from our San Francisco Bay Area club. The highlight will be the 6-night home stay with club members in Bergen, a picturesque World Heritage site. As always happens on FF exchanges, the hosts will show off what they treasure most about their stunning landscape and its fascinating history. An 8-day tour will take them to Oslo for the first three days and then continue across the Sognefjord and Lillehammer, ending with another day in Oslo.

Come experience Norway without the long flight!

—Karen L. McCready

FINDING DINNER

(for August 10, see page 9)

Driving directions to McCarthy Ranch Marketplace,
Ranch Drive, Milpitas, CA

Starting from Milpitas Library on N Main St

- 1 Head north on N Main St toward Weller Ln
- 2 Take the 1st left onto Weller Ln
- 3 Turn left onto N Abel St
- 4 Take the 1st right onto CA-237W / W Calaveras Blvd
Continue to follow CA-237W
- 5 Take the McCarthy Boulevard exit
- 6 Turn right onto N McCarthy Blvd
- 7 Take the 1st right onto Ranch Dr
Arriving at Ranch Dr

Total: 1.6 mi—about 5 mins

Macaroni Grill, 110 Ranch Drive, just beyond Applebee's

Stuart Anderson's Black Angus, 275 Ranch Drive: continue to the right along Ranch Drive and look for Black Angus on the left side.

DishDash Grill, 181 Ranch Drive: left side of Ranch Drive, across the parking lot to the left from Black Angus.

El Torito, 477 E Calaveras Blvd.

OUR HOROWHENUA, NEW ZEALAND EXCHANGE

All in all, a wonderful exchange was had this past May by 16
Ambassadors and lots of members of our Club.

The ambassadors arrived Friday afternoon, May 17th, at the San Francisco airport on a flight from Honolulu, Hawaii where they had just spent 3 days after an exchange with the Kauai FF Club. Our club's hosts met them, took them home, and started to get acquainted.

One group in Fremont even had a potluck that night.

The next day our first activity was at Prusch Park, where we dedicated the tree we had planted in honor of the exchange. Our very own Nancy Menz played the role of a "Water Fairy," so everyone got a chance to water the new "Manuka" tree, which we had planted in November to give it a better chance of survival! Thanks to Karen Rice, we had snacks and drinks and talked some more. We then visited the Tech Museum in San Jose, and viewed an IMAX film on the Monarch Butterfly, then wandered through the museum. We then had our "Welcome Party" at the Spaghetti factory in San Jose where we all ate heartily and Dave Gustavson took pictures of our ambassadors with their hosts.

On Sunday, we went to Livermore. Julie Winter ably led a hike, which turned out to be more of a stroll, through Sycamore Park. We saw some birds and wildlife while we built up our appetites! We then had a picnic at Wente winery, organized by Carol Easter, followed by a winery tour and tasting, hosted by June Harris. The tour was informative, and they served us quality wines!

Monday was San Francisco. We did the traditional bus tour, but this time starting at noon. Some people went to the city early, and some stayed late. All of the ambassadors commented on how much they liked this day.

After 3 days of planned activities, we had two "free days" for the hosts and ambassadors to plan together. People did a variety of things on the free days, from an overnight in Asilomar, to a tour of Filoli House & Gardens, to the Oakland Museum. Some organized potlucks in their areas.

On Thursday, the farewell luncheon, organized by Rose-Marie Everett, was held at the Papillon Restaurant in Fremont. Ambassadors and hosts received their pictures, mounted in beautiful cards made by Darlene Boyanich. After entertainment from both New Zealand and our club, it was time to say "farewell" to our newly made friends.

Behind the scenes thanks go to Louise Heiduk, who spent countless hours on the phone, talking to club members about volunteering to be "home hosts" and "day hosts," to Dan Eggerding who put our booklets together, to Nancy Menz for being our Exchange treasurer, and to Carol Easter for putting the Goodie Bags together.

Thanks to all of our club members who gave of their time and talents to make this a very successful exchange! I enjoyed working with you, and getting to know you better!

—Wendy Dewell, Exchange Director

HOST ORIENTATION FOR MANITOBA SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 10:30 A.M.

Day hosts and Home hosts are to meet at Karen McCready's home to discuss logistics for the exchange, ask questions, and share ideas.

Fremont. RSVP to RoseMarie (and tell her what brunch item you can bring.

MANITOBA, CANADA, EXCHANGE

We are excited to greet our 18 ambassadors coming to visit us on an Inbound Exchange from Manitoba, Canada, Sept. 26th–Oct. 3rd, 2013.

We are the second Friendship Force club they are visiting. They will visit the Southern Washington & Northern Oregon FF club the preceding week.

Here are the planned activities. If you're interested in joining us, please send your check made out to FFSFBA, including all the activities you would like to attend, to Nancy Menz,

1. **Thursday Sept. 26, 4:30–7:00pm**—Day of arrival
Welcome Reception—Wine and soft drinks—\$10.
Hearty appetizers and catered hors d'oeuvres.
Enjoy our new friends from the North. The art gallery will also be open for our enjoyment.
4:30–7pm—Olive Hyde Art Gallery,
123 Washington Blvd., Fremont
2. **Friday Sept. 27**—Culture Day in Hayward

10:00—11:00—Tour & talk at All Saints Church,
22824 2nd St., Hayward
11:30—Tour of Hayward Senior Center, next to theater
12:00—Tour Little Theater—David Morrisson
22311 N. Third St. Hayward
12:30—Tour Japanese Gardens next to senior center
1:30—Lunch at Kokyo Sushi Buffet—\$12, 1071 B Street Hay-
ward, to left of the movie theater, up the stairs/elevator.
3:00—5:00—A Mural Walk with artists present.
Stacey Bristow will be conducting the tour.
Dinner on your own, maps and suggestions available.

3. Saturday Sept. 28—San Francisco Experience
Cable car—\$6, SF Museum—\$5, Duck Tour—\$28.
F Line—\$0.75. Bring snack from home. Dress in layers,
with a hat. Wear walking shoes. Need Golden Passes.
10:00—Meet at Powell & Market Streets
Cable car—Powell & Hyde to end of line
11:00—SF Maritime Museum National Park, Hyde St. Pier. En-
joy SF Golden Gate Bridge & SF Bay views & historical ships.
12:00—Lunch on your own
2:00—Ride the Ducks—Jefferson & Taylor—Ride
through historic streets and neighborhoods, visit splash-
down McCovey Cove
4:00—Return home—F Line—Historical Street Cars,
Jones & Beach, or continue sight seeing

4. Sunday, Monday Sept. 29 & 30—
Free Days! Choose an area of special interest.

5. Monday Sept. 30—Hosted Potluck Dinners.

6. Tuesday Oct. 1—9:30am—Meet at Hyatt Regency
Bring snack or lunch.
Meet at Drumm & Market Streets, 3rd floor lobby.
F Line—Historical Street Car—\$1.50 RT,
Alcatraz tour—\$28
10:00—F Line—Drumm & Market Street
11:00—Alcatraz boat crossing & tour—Embarcadero &
Bay Streets—Dress in layers, something warm, hat,
good walking shoes—“The Rock” Alcatraz is steep and
hilly. Available S.E.A.T. electric shuttle (only 20 people,
first come first served) meets incoming boat.
1:30—Return-F Line to Ferry Building
Hosts are welcome to go on their own to one of the free
museums today: DeYoung, Legion of Honor, & Cartoon.
Public transportation information given on request.

7. Wednesday Oct. 2—10:30—Prusch Park San Jose
Bring a snack. Manitoba tree dedication.
647 S. King Road, but more convenient to turn right on
Story Rd., and right on Knox, to approx 1076 Knox Ave.
11:30—Winchester Mystery House tour & Farewell lun-
cheon—\$40. 7.5 miles from Prusch Park.
Winchester House, 525 South Winchester Blvd., SJ
12:00—Tour, private guide & self-guided garden
1:30—Farewell Luncheon
3:00—Hosts are welcome to show their Ambassadors
Santana Row & gardens, a block away

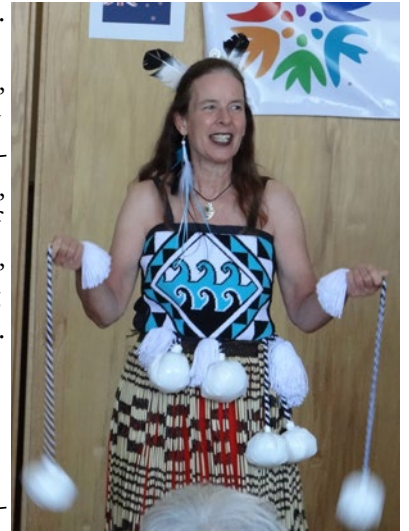
8. Thursday Oct. 3—
Farewell & departure at SFO or Oakland Airports.
Join us in saying goodbye to our new FF friends.

Exchange Director: RoseMarie Everett
Exchange Treasurer: Nancy Menz
Exchange Banker: Wendy Dewell

NEW ZEALAND CULTURE COMES TO FREMONT!

On April 27th, we had a wonderful cultural event to learn about New Zealand. Over 100 people turned out to hear Craig Stokes, Vice President of the New Zealand American Association of San Francisco, regale us with stories of the people, the culture, the food, and anything else we wanted to know. We were then entertained by members of Maori Mo Ake Tonu, who performed some traditional Maori songs & dance and introduced us to Maori culture and language. They even got us up on our feet to learn a few moves ourselves!

—Carol Easter





friendship force

INTERNATIONAL

To: Friendship Force members worldwide
From: Jack Mullen, Chair, FFI Board of Directors
Date: July 3, 2013
Re: Welcoming FFI's new president and CEO

As the chair of the board of directors of Friendship Force International, it gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment of Joy DiBenedetto as FFI's fifth president and CEO. Joy brings a great deal of experience to FFI from her years at Atlanta-based international news agency CNN and CARE Organization, the non-profit based in Atlanta that works to end poverty in the world. Those on the search committee who met her feel that she has the skill and vision to lead our organization through the next phase. Joy will begin her work here on July 15, 2013, and we will formally introduce Joy to the club members at the world conference in New Orleans.

Joy is the founder and former CEO of HUM: Human Unlimited Media, the world's first and only 'all-nation' content and information agency. An award-winning 20-year media veteran, she has covered every major global event in successively senior positions, from the television studio and in the field; domestically and internationally; as a producer and manager.

Until March of 2008, she was the global vice president of network booking and research for the CNN News Group, where she oversaw guest coverage for CNN's domestic and international news networks, managing a worldwide staff.

Throughout her career she has strived to promote the importance of global understanding and to unite the world's people. With Turner Broadcasting, CNN and HUM she made positive change towards "closing the Geographic Gap" in media coverage. She has also pursued various humanitarian efforts with CARE, the Fugee's Family and the United Nations.

DiBenedetto is a world trekker who often bicycles to work and who has survived Dengue Fever. I know you will welcome her and give her the support that the President will need as we strive to grow in our mission.

It is only fitting to give a big thanks to the CEO search committee who worked for the last 7 months to bring us to this day where I am able to make this announcement.

Again, I welcome Joy to the FFI family and I know you welcome her too!

Sincerely,

Jack Mullen, Chair of the FFI Board of Directors



Joy DiBenedetto will begin as FFI President and CEO on July 15, 2013.



friendship force

INTERNATIONAL

June 18, 2013

Dear Friends,

In July of 1983, I met a man named Wayne Smith. Our initial introduction took place in his office in what is now the CNN tower in Atlanta, where he invited me to join the staff of Friendship Force International. Since his offer was unexpected, Wayne said, "Give it a try for a month and see how it goes." Well, that month turned into 23 of the past 30 years, and what began as a job somewhere along the way became a fascinating and very rewarding career. But at the end of this month, my journey as a member of the FFI staff will come to an end when I retire.

As I look back on my years with the Friendship Force, I am amazed at what this great organization has been able to accomplish. Year after year, tens of thousands of our members reach out in friendship to strangers, using home hospitality to break down the barriers that normally separate us. I've seen this happen so many times...and I've experienced it myself.

You have invited me into your homes in dozens of countries on six continents and Jill and I have enjoyed hosting you in our home. Like you, I've experienced the "Friendship Force magic" of discovering that lasting friendships can be established by spending a few days in the home together. So ordinary, and yet with such extraordinary results!

Since announcing my retirement, many of you have been asking "so, what are you going to do now?" My first answer is that I hope to be like so many of you with active and productive retirement years. I will remain active professionally on a limited basis in international cultural travel. I will also be doing a good deal of personal travel. Those of you who have said "come see us" better watch out. Jill and I have a growing list of friends and places we're looking forward to visiting. And our home will be open to you. But here are also all the activities that sometimes get left behind with a busy career – time with grandchildren (I've volunteered to help with the carpool), keeping the yard looking good, the kitchen renovation we've put off for years (maybe even some cooking!) and spending time at our mountain cabin that has been neglected all these years. So don't worry, I won't be bored.

I'm also hoping to do some writing, including but not limited to my Friendship Force experiences. I'm fascinated by the appeal that international travel and discovering the unknown has for so many people in the 21st century. I'd like to explore in writing various facets of this phenomenon. I'm particularly intrigued by the universality of "hospitality to strangers" across all the world's cultures. This is what I believe has made the Friendship Force possible, and remains a powerful force for good in the world. I'll begin this writing by trying my hand at writing a blog on the Internet (something new to me, too, so don't worry if you feel out of touch). The great thing about blogs is that they are short and they are interactive. I'll take the lead by sharing some travel experiences and ideas and invite whoever is reading to respond with their own experiences and journeys. It is easy to join.

We all like journeys, but we also know they have a downside...saying goodbye when they come to an end. I've seen this so many times with the Friendship Force, and experienced it myself; having to say goodbye just when we feel we're getting to know each other. Usually there is the hope that we'll see each other again and that makes the goodbyes not so painful. For the better part of 30 years, I've been on a journey with the Friendship Force as a member of the staff and for the past nine years as your president. Now it is time to say goodbye, which makes me sad.

The sadness in saying goodbye, however, is tempered by the knowledge that there are friendships that will continue over the years ahead. Too many to name here, but some plans are already in the works: Ann and Dave, we're expecting to see you at Thanksgiving...Robin and Bobbie too; Elza and Eduardo, next time you're in Atlanta you MUST

stay with us. Horst, don't forget I'm coming back to Varel; Dave and Pat, you're close enough we might just pop in at anytime. Tsuguyo and Mr. Aichi, where should we travel together next? Cicek we WILL come to Turkey and maybe add a side trip to Yuri in Rostov on the way. And to all our Aussie and Kiwi friends, as soon as Jill gets enough time off from work (or retires!) we're coming down under for a full month. That is just the beginning! I'm retiring from FFI but not from Friendship Force friends!

Just as I will continue my international friendships, I know you will do the same. And as you move through your life's journeys, I know you'll continue to value the connections that the Friendship Force has made possible. In the next week or two the FFI Board will be announcing the appointment of a new President. There are great opportunities ahead for the Friendship Force and I know that you will provide the same enthusiastic support to the new president that you provided me all these years.

The Friendship Force has been strong for 36 years because people like you have believed in its mission. Keep up that good work in the years ahead!

In friendship,

George



NEWS FROM THE MILLERS

Although Scott and Luree moved to Denver last April, they are staying connected with our club. On April 22nd, they reunited with FFSFBA members Kevin and Sara Rozzano of Fremont on the Amtrak platform in Denver on a cold, snowy day. Kevin and Sara had a 30-40 minute layover on their transcontinental train trip from SF to NYC.

They recently dined with Jan Gordon and her sister as they passed through Denver. In November they'll get together with Dee Gustavson while she's visiting relatives in Denver.

The Millers have already joined a Colorado club and are actively participating in events. They plan to join their club on an exchange to Australia next year. Their club also plans to host the Biarritz Club either before or after our club hosts them in September 2014.



l. to r.: Sara, Kevin Rozzano, Scott & Luree Miller



Kevin & Sara Rozzano

WALES & GERMANY EXCHANGE

Seventeen members of our local club experienced two wonderful exchanges and a tour through Poland and Prague. Ambassadors on the exchange included: Martha LeRoy, ED, Wendy and Kent Dewell, Ann Halligan, Marie Bettencourt, June Harris, Natalie Heling, Gayle Howell and Eddie Hernandez, Linda Jasany, Vickie Lau, Janis Maurry, Maggie McDermott, Nancy Menz, Lee Wurlitzer, Rose Marie Everett-McInnes, and Carol Easter.

On June 26th we headed for Cardiff, Wales. We were greeted at the airport by host members of the local club. Just prior to departure we were to learn of the hospitalization of the exchange director and the femur fracture of another of the hosts. There were some shifts in hosting, but eventually everyone found a "home." Nancy Menz and I were housed in a converted cow stall. Really, it was quite charming out in the countryside and five miles from the nearest town. The remodeling had been done about 20 years ago and the result, which had been designed by an interior decorator, included all of the amenities. The beautiful green rolling hills of Wales surrounded us and were "dotted" with lots of little white lambs.

The welcome party was a catered affair with Indian cuisine. We were entertained by a marvelous young singer who certainly could have attained a role on Broadway. Between bites of delicious food and the fine entertainment, we started to get to know our hosts' club a little better. Most of the ambassadors returned to the hall a bit later to hear the famous Welsh tradition of male choirs.

Some of the interesting events were a visit to Cardiff and the castle right in the middle of the big city. We were greeted by The Lord Mayor and had a tour of an interesting castle that has had several additions over many centuries. We had a lovely canal boat ride in Brecon which was near where we were housed. The farewell party at the Hilton was lots of fun with a sing-along of many traditional favorites that both cultures share. Our club's performance of "California Here I Come," starring Nancy Menz and her "back-up" singers and dancers was a big hit. We even did an encore.

I will never forget the stunning green of Wales, the beautiful gardens, and of course tea and Welsh cakes. The biggest impression was made by the people, whose warmth and friendship we will never forget.

From Wales we did a complete 180, arriving in Nuremberg, Germany. What a contrast! We switched from tea and Welsh cakes to sausage and beer. Although much of the architecture was of the quaint and charming variety, most Nuremberg Friendship Force members lived in spacious and modern homes. The energy of this club was, from our first meeting at the airport, almost palpable. The club was founded by my host, who had started a local "English school." As a result, all of the members were totally fluent in English.

We had a marvelous welcome party with fabulous dishes all made by members of the club. There was lots of time to get to know our new host club as we mingled with glasses of beer or

wine. The whole week was jam packed with really interesting and unique things to do. We had a tour of the beautiful ancient cities of Nuremberg and Regensburg on the Danube, with a fabulous old glockenspiel. We had a great al fresco lunch at a courtyard restaurant. Other days, we visited an organic farm run by a woman who could have been chosen right out of central casting to play Maria Trapp from *The Sound of Music*. She provided a delicious organic lunch, which was served under lovely shade trees. We visited an Aroma Garden, and toured Siemens' main facility where high tech medical equipment (MRI) is manufactured and shipped throughout the world. I certainly can't forget that we had not one, but two receptions by the local Burgermeisters, in Nuremberg and Markt Eckental. Many of us had the opportunity to take part in the cherry festival and visit the house where Levi Strauss was born. The farewell dinner was in the courtyard of a charming restaurant with wonderful food, wine and beer. The singers and dancers of the San Francisco Bay Area Friendship Force once again did our club proud, performing in a very limited space to enthusiastic applause.

It was time to bid our new German friends auf wiedersehen and head out to Warsaw, Poland. We spent two nights in Warsaw as part of a tour package by Brendan Tours. From Warsaw it was on to Krakow. What a charming city! We had a city tour and then some of our members went on two tours organized by our own Carol Easter. One of the tours was of the Salt Mine, which was filled with many sculptures that had been carved out of salt. It was quite magnificent! The afternoon tour was of the Auschwitz concentration camp and was very emotional for most of the group. Prior to heading back to San Francisco, we visited Prague. This was to be our last stop. Although we were tired, I think most of us felt that you can never get enough of this gorgeous jewel-like city. We were entranced, but alas, our Delta jet waited and once again we were in the air, exhausted, but filled with memories that will last a lifetime.

—Martha LeRoy, ED



Left to right: Linda Jasany, Vickie Lau, host Gerard Purnell, Nancy Menz, Martha LeRoy, and Carol Easter

A Cultural Program about *Canada*? Why?

by Karen L. McCready

On August 10, our club will present a cultural orientation about Canada at the Milpitas Library. People may ask, what more is there to learn about those people so close to the northern border? Canada isn't really a foreign country, is it? Do we need a passport to travel there? Its determination to answer these questions and more says a lot about Friendship Force, an organization that has been promoting a deeper understanding of other cultures since 1977. Our parent organization, Friendship Force International, encourages its charter clubs to learn more about the history, customs, language, and lifestyle of an international group before they host them for a one week stay or travel to stay in their homes. The Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area (FFSFBA), established in 1984, has hosted at least one group every year and traveled abroad at least once a year. We call these visits "exchanges," not because we are trading houses but because we are exchanging cultural knowledge and gaining a more global outlook. The second group FFSFBA is hosting this year, the Manitoba Club from Winnipeg, will visit the Bay Area from September 26 to October 3.

Earlier exchanges may have come from such exotic locales as Indonesia and South Africa. Certainly, these cultures may require some study in advance. Nevertheless, FFSFBA members do not want to assume that our neighbors just over the northern border are our cultural twins. We know that Canadians may be offended by this assumption, even though they may feel very friendly toward Americans. In fact, this stereotypical view inspired the topic for August 10, "Canadians Are NOT just like US!" This program aims to show how Canadians' history, geography, ethnic diversity, and political system have created a culture uniquely theirs. In fact, some of the provinces sought union with Canada to avoid becoming part of the United States.

Although Friendship Force clubs do not always have the opportunity to host a club that they have visited, this hosting week will be a reunion for many members of both clubs. Several FFSFBA members traveled to Winnipeg to spend a week with them in September 2008. In those seven days, their members managed to show a cross section of their major religious groups, their First Nations tribes, their government, their daily lifestyle, and to convey their love of those windy prairies. FFSFBA members are especially eager to offer their members as good a time and to show them the best of the Bay Area, in a down home style.

The public is invited to attend this free program, deepen their understanding of Canada, perhaps even contribute their own knowledge from first hand experience in Canada, and learn more about Friendship Force's many opportunities to travel and learn about other cultures. We want to show prospective members that right here in the Bay Area, FFSFBA offers a full calendar of social and cultural events for meeting new friends and discussing global concerns.

"Canadians Are NOT Just Like US!"

Saturday, August 10

2:00-4:00 pm

Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main St., Milpitas 95035

See directions on pages 2 & 3.

Join us at a nearby restaurant after the meeting!

At McCarthy Ranch: DishDash (Middle Eastern), Black Angus, Macaroni Grill

On Calaveras Blvd.: El Torito

Email Karen—to reserve a place.

Indicate your restaurant preference and how many will be with you. We will reserve for tables of 4 to 6.

2013 FFSFBA COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org: Don Pelland
VP@ffsfba.org: Martha LeRoy
Secretary@ffsfba.org: Ann Halligan
Treasurer@ffsfba.org: Nancy Menz

STANDING COMMITTEES

EventPlanner@ffsfba.org: open
Membership@ffsfba.org: Carol Easter
Newsletter@ffsfba.org: Dave & Dee Gustavson
Publicity@ffsfba.org: open
Webmaster@ffsfba.org: Dan Eggerding

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Wales, Germany, OutboundWG@ffsfba.org
Martha LeRoy
Canada, InboundC@ffsfba.org
RoseMarie Everett

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ExchangeBanker@ffsfba.org: Wendy Dewell
Hospitality@ffsfba.org: open
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2013 CALENDAR

August 10	Cultural Program on Canada, 2–4pm, Milpitas Library
September 14	Annual Meeting, Burma, 1:30pm, Community Activities Bldg., Redwd City
September 26– October 3	Incoming Exchange from Manitoba, Canada
October 20	Discover Norway 1:30–3:30pm, Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club
November 3	FF Board Meeting, at the Pellands' home
November 22–25	FF 2013 World Conference in New Orleans
December 7	Holiday Luncheon, 12 noon, at Michaels Shoreline Restaurant, Mountain View

2014

March	Outbound Exchange to Murray Bridge, Australia and Hobart, Tasmania
June	Joint Inbound Exchange, Gold and Silver Rush, 4 days in Bay Area
September	Inbound Exchange, from Biarritz, France

friendship force
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE
Changing the Way You See the World
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