



friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Changing the Way You See the World

Vol. 32 No. 3

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

June/July 2015

MARTHA'S MUSINGS

Are we having fun yet? You bet! Our club is always up to something, but since we have added the meet-up group to the mix we've been doing more than ever. Every month we have a new venue. We are circling the Bay. This last month was one of the best. 16 members and guests met at The Lake Chalet in Oakland. It was a perfect evening, complete with full moon and little twinkling lights strung around the dock. The weather was great for a walk around Lake Merritt prior to Happy Hour. We were all seated at a lovely table right on the dock which extends out to the lake. Oakland, these days, is a "happening kinda place." Even Channel 2 News was out covering it. That weekend, many were celebrating the Warriors playoff game. It was also "First Friday" in downtown Oakland where a giant street fest is held once a month. We enjoyed seeing all of the various food trucks and a diversity of people celebrating in the streets, which they close for the event. Some of our members commented about how much fun this "5th at 5" has been. They have had an opportunity to go to parts of the Bay Area which they had never visited. Our travel club also expands your local world. Stay tuned for August. We are taking July off because obviously the 5th follows the 4th, but then you already knew that.

On July 25th we will celebrate America at Nancy Menz's clubhouse in Hayward for a real down-home barbecue. Expect hamburgers, hot dogs, rootbeer floats (yum!) and all the trimmings. We also plan to have a DJ to add to the festive spirit. We will be sending out an email notice with all of the details in the next week or so.

Of course we are busy planning exchanges, both inbound and outbound. This is truly the heart of our organization. We are preparing for the Brazilians from Recife in August. If you are not involved with hosting, we hope that you will still participate in the exchange. These are a people and culture well worth knowing. I am sure that you will find our itinerary interesting. The best way to see the Bay Area is through the eyes of our visiting ambassadors. I hope that you will be involved.

Our next outbound exchange is to Costa Rica, and 16 Ambassadors will participate. See other articles for details about the pre-trip and exchange.

At least four of us will be attending Friendship Force International's annual world conference in Vancouver, Canada at the end of August. We hope to see longtime friends from

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INGREDIENTS FOR A SATISFYING WEEK WITH OUR BRAZILIAN GUESTS, AUG. 12-19 AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

As you will see from the schedule in this edition, we are set for a feast of experiences when we host 13 club members from Recife, Brazil. Our committee believes that we have something for everyone, including casual social time, nature hikes, sightseeing, and a variety of good food. The four main group activities will be the Welcome Party at Giorgio's Ristorante in Milpitas on August 13, a picnic and hike through the redwoods at Butano State Park on August 14, a custom bus tour of San Francisco on August 15, and the Farewell Party at the Millbrae Library on August 18. Members will need to reserve for the two parties by turning in the order form at the bottom of the schedule before the August 1st deadline. By popular request, we have left two unscheduled days, Sunday and Monday, August 16 and 17, for guests and hosts to explore other areas and interests around the Bay Area.

Suggested activities for the unscheduled days: Tour a Livermore Valley winery, attend a hip-hop concert at Stern Grove, tour the Stanford Campus and the Cantor Art Museum, walk across the Golden Gate Bridge, hike from Sutro Baths to the Palace of the Legion of Honor (Land's End), visit Niles and take the train through Niles Canyon, or show them one of your favorite Bay Area neighborhoods or regional parks.

To volunteer for any of these activities, contact Karen McCready, Exchange Director:

Everyone is invited to attend the brunch/planning meeting on June 20. See that article for more details. —Karen McCready, ED

UPDATE ON KENT DEWELL

Good news! Kent was flown to the Bay Area on a private jet with a Japanese medical team in early June. Cards may be sent to their home:

SAVE THE DATE! (JULY 25)

Please plan to attend the Bar-B-Q at Nancy Menz's Clubhouse in Hayward in the early afternoon on July 25th. Watch your emails soon for the announcement of the time, address, cost, who to contact to make a reservation, etc. Hope to see you there!

around the world, make new friends, and get new ideas to energize our club.

On September 13th, we will host our Annual Meeting with an interesting speaker from the international visitor's bureau and have the election of officers. This is a "must do" event for all members of the Friendship Force of the Bay Area. This is the day when you have an opportunity to vote for a new slate of officers. We will be meeting at the Milpitas Library, always a popular venue for our club. We will plan a no-host group dinner in the Milpitas area following the meeting.

So much to do! Make sure to mark your calendars for our annual holiday party at the Hotel Nikko near Union Square, downtown San Francisco. This was such a hit last year, that it is back by popular demand. The date is Saturday, December 5th. Nancy Menz will provide details as we get closer to the holidays.

It is a pleasure being part of this exciting, ever-evolving organization. I saw a billboard recently that said—"If you rest, you rust." We are not rusting—join us for the fun!

—*Martha LeRoy*, President

MAY MEETING FEATURED FFSFBA'S BIRTHDAY AND BRAZILIAN CULTURE

Charter member George Anderson kicked off our 31st birthday celebration with a fact-filled and animated account of his experiences on some of the earliest Friendship Force exchanges and memories of the founder, Wayne Smith, and his mission for the organization. Providing a fashion show touch, Julice Winter modeled a lovely Japanese gown, a memento from one of the Andersons' first exchanges. The cultural highlight of the meeting was Christianne Gonzalez Visvanathan's program about her native Brazil. Christianne, a journalist alumna of Stanford's Knight Fellowship Program, provided helpful information about Brazilian history, economy, and social life to prepare us for visitors from Recife in August. She also pumped up our enthusiasm about visiting two Brazilian cities—Sao Paulo, her favorite city, and Curitiba—in 2016. Along with her husband, she demonstrated the warmth and vitality of her exuberant culture. The audience, with their many questions, showed their curiosity about the culture and their admiration for the engaging speaker. As the meeting concluded, we enjoyed chocolate birthday cake and conversation. —*Karen L. McCready*

FAREWELL PARTY FOR RECIFE EXCHANGE TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015, 1 P.M.

Directions to Millbrae Library, 1 Library Ave., Millbrae:
From 101, take exit 421 for Millbrae Avenue, 0.4 mile
Turn left onto E. Millbrae Avenue, 0.6 mile
Turn right onto El Camino Real, 0.4 mile
Turn left onto Taylor Blvd., 0.1 mile
Turn right onto Magnolia Ave., 0.1 mile
Turn left onto Library Ave. —*Karen L. McCready*

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We currently have 75 members, including several new ones! Be on the lookout for some of our newest members at any of our upcoming events.

Lea Wells is a friend of Pat Snowden. She lives in San Carlos, and will be going on her first (but hopefully not her last) exchange to Costa Rica this fall.

Jennifer Lam resides in Fremont. She was introduced to the group by Barbara Day, and came to our very first meetup in March!

Sally & Bob La Mere met several of us at our meetup in May, and subsequently joined. They live in south San Jose.

Susan Olsen is our newest member. She lives in Hayward, and will be helping us out with hosting for the Brazilian exchange.

Please give them all a warm Friendship Force welcome when you see them. —*Carol Easter*, Membership

OUR MEETUPS ARE BECOMING VERY POPULAR!

We have been getting a good turnout for the Fifth at 5 happy hour get-togethers, combining a chance to socialize with each other and to introduce the group to potential new members.

Our May event was actually held on May 6th, to avoid the Cinco de Mayo crowds. We had a very nice turnout at the Elephant Bar in Campbell, with about 13 people attending.

Our June event was held at the wonderful Lake Chalet on the shore of Lake Merritt in Oakland. 10 of us got there early to walk around the lake, and another 6 joined us for happy hour. It was a beautiful sunny day, perfect for walking and sitting out on the dock for happy hour (although it did get a little chilly when the sun went down).

We will be skipping July, due to the Fourth of July holiday, as many people are out of town that weekend, or busy with family, friends and BBQ. Save the August 5th date, and stay tuned for the location! —*Carol Easter*, Membership

COSTA RICA EXCHANGE

On November 1st, sixteen members will fly to Costa Rica to start a tour of the rain forest in our own private bus with a dedicated naturalist and translator. There will be time set aside to just sit and enjoy the colors and sounds of the birds in this beautiful eco treasure. The tour will wrap up on the 9th, and we'll start our home-hosted visit with the Friendship Force in Ciudad de las Flores. We will be hosted and toasted by this warm and hospitable club until the 16th, when we depart for home and fly to San Jose, CA. We will, of course make time to tell you all about our adventures.

—*Martha LeRoy*, Exchange Director



STEVE COOPER II
JUNE 22, 1916 - MAY 5, 2015

Steve Cooper died of natural causes at his home in the Brookdale Senior Apartments in Fremont, formerly Merrill Gardens, where he'd been a resident for over four years.

Steve was born in Cooperstown, New York, to George and Emma (Graves) Cooper. He attended and graduated from Cooperstown High School. He grew up in the great depression, but loved his life in Cooperstown, roaming the countryside, hunting and fishing with friends that he kept for the rest of his life.

Steve attended Eastern Illinois College for two years and belonged to Phi Sigma Capa fraternity, before enlisting in the US Army in October of 1941. He attended communications, and rifle & heavy weapons courses at Ft. Benning, GA. He achieved the rank of Captain and was the Infantry Unit Commander of the 114th Infantry, 44th Division, F Company. Steve was deployed to France in September 1944 and landed in Cherbourg, France. He campaigned through France capturing and liberating many towns. He was captured along with 60 troops of F Company in January 1945 after a pitched battle at the Brandelfingerhof Farm in Germany. After weeks of interrogation and solitary confinement he was transferred to Hammelburg, Germany where he was held as a POW for three months. He escaped and was recaptured before being liberated by allied forces. During his time as a POW, Steve kept a secret diary. One of the final entries read, "May I never forget the happiness and joy of this day. The fact that I am free and an American is just beginning to dawn on me. The knowledge that I am an American, a part of a country that is large and strong and generous enough to arm half of the world, fight the other half and feed both halves is enough to make this war worth fighting." Steve was a true American hero.

Steve returned to College after the war, attending Cornell University where he graduated with a degree in agriculture in 1948, specializing in poultry husbandry. He took a job with Safeway's poultry division and was working in Wichita, Kansas in 1949, when he met, fell in love with and married Katherine Louise Merrill. Together they raised four children; sons Steve III, Tom and Jim, and daughter Sue. Steve & Louise were a great couple and enjoyed many travels and adventures

as well as a wonderful circle of friends. They remained together until Louise's death in 1996.

In 2000, Steve met Mary Alice vanDoorn and fell in love again. They traveled the world with Friendship Force and enjoyed going to plays at Broadway West. Through Mary Alice, Steve became involved with several organizations, including Relay for Life and the Olive Hyde Art Guild. They were both active members in the Niles Discovery Church. They were constant companions until Mary Alice passed in 2014. Steve felt blessed to have had two incredibly beautiful women in his life.

The Coopers settled in Fremont, CA in 1963, where Steve lived for the remainder of his life. Steve became a Real Estate broker 1967. Later in his career Steve took up Real Estate Appraisal work. Steve and his good friend, Gary Arnold, formed Appraisals Unlimited where he enjoyed working until he finally retired in 1996 at age 80.

Steve loved to fish, was an avid golfer and played with both the Southern Alameda Realtors Golf Association and the Oakland Real Estate Golf Club, until hanging up his clubs at age 93. He also collected wooden-shaft golf clubs and belonged to the Golf Collectors' Society.

Steve was preceded in death by his wife Louise and his youngest son Jim. He is survived by three children, Steve, Tom and Sue, grandchildren, Alexi, Eric, Jason, and Anne Marie and great grandchildren Del, Pearl, Radovan, Julius and Summer. By marriage Steve inherited two more grandchildren, Linita and Garrett, and five more great-grandchildren, Tyler, Laycie, Chandler, Joshua and Garrison, and a great-great granddaughter, Jasmine. Steve is also survived by Merrill in-laws in Texas and Horan niece & nephew in New York. He knew, enjoyed and loved them all.

A memorial service was held at the Niles Discovery Church on Saturday May 23rd at 1:00 p.m., in Fremont. Contributions in his name should be sent to Niles Discovery Church or a charity of your choice. See and submit messages at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/insidebayarea/obituary.aspx?pid=174883930#sthash.pxy6eKza.dpuf>



RoseMarie Everett, and their Memphis host

NEW FRIENDS AND NEW CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING FROM HUNTSVILLE AND MEMPHIS

With so many exotic destinations among the 400+ Friendship Force chapters around the world, why visit some of the less traveled parts of our own country? While you truly had to have been there to understand fully, perhaps a few examples from our recent exchanges in Huntsville, AL and Memphis, TN, will provide some clues. Barry Rader, our ED, put together this exchange to provide an outbound experience, especially for new members, to fill the gap before the November departure to Costa Rica. FFI provided some suggestions of potential hosting clubs, and he was off on a marathon search for the right times and places. Eventually, the group included 6 of our members, including Barry and me, and 8 from other clubs. The other FFSFBA ambassadors were Katharine Kleinke, RoseMarie Everett, and Judy Pemberton. Our member Wendy Dewell had to drop out because of Kent's injury on a cruise. The other ambassadors were from Sarasota, FL, Des Moines, and Los Angeles. As roommates rotated between the two exchanges, we blended into one big happy family.

Barry helped set the themes for the exchanges by asking for special emphasis on the civil rights movement, the space program (in Huntsville), and, of course, the music of Memphis. The two clubs more than fulfilled the civil rights portion. Featured speaker at the Huntsville Welcome Party was Sonnie W. Hereford, IV, the first black student enrolled in Huntsville schools. With his father, Dr. Hereford, in attendance, he explained why he and his family, among all the many excluded from the white schools, were able to withstand the pressures against integration at that time.

The Huntsville Club rented a large bus to transport us to Birmingham, where we started at the 16th Street Baptist Church, site of four little girls being killed by bombing, and on to the Civil Rights Institute Museum across the street. On our first excursion with the Memphis Club, we heard a turbaned docent, her tiny baby on her hip, describe how her ancestors had found this "Slave Haven" along the Mississippi underneath the first magnolia tree in town. She taught us much about the strategies and codes of the Underground Railroad.

How can I describe the impact of rounding the corner toward Memphis's Civil Rights Museum and confronting the preserved section of The Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot? One stunning image after another in these museums brought back those 60's memories and showed how these southern communities have faced their past and are moving forward with increasing emphasis on universal tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

Of course, Huntsville and Memphis have distinct and unique qualities of their own. Huntsville, site of the first U. S. rocket program, under the direction of Werner von Braun, is still home to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center and Redstone Armory. Their impressive museum can hold its own in com-

parison with the Smithsonian's display. Huntsville has one of the largest sections of well-preserved antebellum homes in the South, thanks to the Northern troops making themselves comfortable in those elegant quarters. We had a glimpse of what Huntsville is contributing to scientific research at the Hudson-Alpha Institute, where they are experimenting with human, plant, and animal genomes to provide cures for humans, and other benefits.

What does Memphis have besides Elvis's Graceland? Our hosts saved it for the last day, but it was just one among the many bests for us. Our first stop was a member's condo right above the Mississippi, a short walk from the music haven of Beale Street. Can you imagine walking the entire length of the Mississippi in less than an hour? We did—a scale model of it, that is—on Mud Island, in exact detail from the headwaters to the Gulf. A special highlight for Barry was watching the Warriors beat Memphis in the fourth play off game from an 8th row seat in the FedEx Forum, just a short walk from the Beale Street nightclubs.

Ranking high among Memphis's institutions is the headquarters hospital and research center for St. Jude's, where we enjoyed an impressive tour and lunched in their cafeteria on an array of healthy choices, many of them grown in their garden. We learned that Danny Thomas purposely located St. Jude's in an area where it could serve some of the neediest patients in the country. Their success in curing childhood diseases is phenomenal. For leukemia, the success rate exceeds 90 per cent. Their average combined success rate is more than 80 per cent.

The farewell party was held in a beautifully restored historic home that houses a nonprofit dedicated to helping at-risk youth. To us, it exemplified the Memphis Club members' involvement in a variety of charities. Every day, their small club managed to arrange transport for us to all of our events, in spite of their commitments to many civic and nonprofit activities.

Of course, we had our share of delectable and indulgent Southern food—from barbecue in Birmingham and Memphis to sweet potato pancakes at Memphis's oldest restaurant. We appreciated that they found modest little diners with plenty of local color that kept the tab under \$20, and they were able to show off plenty of their home cooking at the potlucks.

Harder to explain is, as on every exchange, the priceless hours that we spent with our hosts—over breakfast or after dinner or en route to the day's activities—telling our stories and finding how much we have in common. Barry and I were privileged to have been hosted by a couple who live outside of Huntsville and a recently widowed man in Memphis whom we hope will continue as lifelong friends. In fact, we're scheduled to meet our Memphis host in Arkansas next spring to visit the Clinton Library and other Arkansas attractions.

Maybe we'll always have Paris—in our case, the memories of at least three visits each—but we always find much to learn and enjoy closer to home.

—Karen McCready



Barry Rader & Karen McCready at Graceland



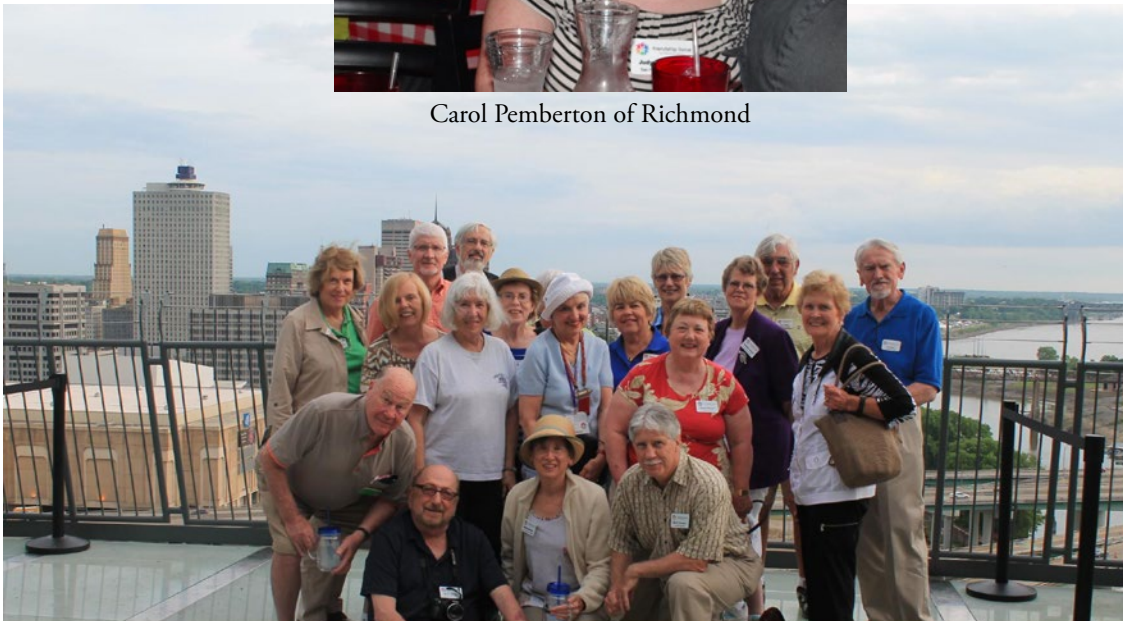
Memphis Zoo



Barry Rader in center, surrounded by two ladies from Los Angeles, at the US Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, AL
Photos courtesy of Barry Rader



Carol Pemberton of Richmond



Memphis, from atop a Bass Pro shop in the Pyramid.

6 Ambassadors from our club:

Front row: Barry Rader

Third row: Katharine Kleinke,
Judy Pemberton,
RoseMarie Everett

Back row:
& Karen McCready



Schedule for Inbound Exchange from Recife, Brazil

August 12-19, 2015

Wednesday, August 12, 2015 Ambassadors arrive at SFO from San Diego at 12:23, and hosts pick them up. Hosts may arrange informal open houses or potlucks.

Thursday, August 13

10:30 A. M. Tree dedication at Prusch Park in San Jose and social time

1:00 P. M. **Welcome Party lunch** at Giorgio's, 643 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas (**Reserve below.**)

Friday, August 14 [Parking fee provided for carpool drivers.]

11 A. M. Meet at Butano State Park in San Mateo County, near Pescadero. Bring a sack lunch. Optional 2 mile hike. Continue to Half Moon Bay, Pescadero, Pigeon Point, etc.

Saturday, August 15 (Ambassadors' fare provided for CalTrain or BART)

11:00 A.M. Arrive at Ferry Building. Lunch on your own.

1:00 P. M. Meet bus for custom tour with Portuguese translation (4 hrs.).

5:00 P. M. Drop off at Fisherman's Wharf for free time. Dinner on your own.

Sunday and Monday, August 16 and 17—Unscheduled Days

(See list of recommended activities. Hosts and day hosts may collaborate for car pools.)

Tuesday, August 18

1:00 P. M. **Farewell Party, "Thanksgiving in August,"** at the Millbrae Library, 1 Library Ave. (off Millbrae Ave.) 94030. (**Reserve below.**)

Wednesday, August 19 Ambassadors fly from SFO to **SEATTLE** at 9:00 A.M.

(cut) -----

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

8/13/15 Welcome Party Lunch: Indicate how many of each entrée. Bread, ice cream, coffee, tax and tip included.

___ Chicken Salad with cup of soup @ \$22 each = \$ _____

___ Penne Pasta with Chicken Breast and a green salad @ \$22 each= _____

___ Eggplant Parmesan with green salad @ \$22 each= _____

8/18/15 Farewell Party : "Thanksgiving in August"

A traditional turkey dinner _____ (number) x \$22= _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make your check payable to "FFSFBA" with "Recife Exchange" in the memo line.

Send with this completed form to Claire Lindberg,

Questions: Call Claire **DEADLINE AUGUST 1ST.**

Brunch, Anyone?

(Well, it's a planning meeting, too, for the group coming from Recife, Brazil in August.)

When: Saturday, June 20, 11:00 A. M. to 2:00 P. M.

The menu: Orange juice, fresh fruit, Blueberry French Toast, egg casseroles, breakfast breads, coffee and tea, assorted cold beverages.

Who: Anyone interested in helping to show our Brazilian guests a good time during their week with us—August 12-19, 2015

How you can get involved, besides those of you already signed up to host in your homes:

1. On Friday, August 14, escort two guests to meet the group at Butano State Park in San Mateo County near Pescadero. Take a sack lunch and possibly join the guests for a two mile hike through the redwoods. You will find many other attractions to explore within a few miles radius, such as Año Nuevo State Beach, Half Moon Bay, homemade pie at Duarte's in Pescadero.
2. Help escort the guests to San Francisco on BART or CalTrain on Saturday, August 15. Plan to arrive in the city by late morning, possibly to ride a cable car, tour the Ferry Building, etc. If you can't stay around until the tour is over, arrange for someone else to meet them at Pier 39 at 5:00.
3. On one of the unscheduled days—Sunday or Monday, August 16 or 17—escort two guests for part of the day to a destination that you arrange with them. We will discuss many options during the meeting. For example, those who have memberships at museums or parks might offer to use complimentary passes for some of the guests. Two of our members plan to use their passes at Filoli.
4. Help to decorate with the Thanksgiving theme for the Farewell Party on Tuesday, August 18, at the Millbrae Library.



Bring: Juice, fruit, bread, or a special beverage (coffee and tea provided) and your ideas for the two unscheduled days—Sunday and Monday.

RSVP by June 13: Call or email Karen --

[See the complete itinerary for the Recife Exchange.]

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

Webmaster@ffsfba.org: Dan Eggerding

EXCHANGE DIRECTORS

Huntsville & Memphis,

Barry Rader

Costa Rica,

Martha LeRoy,

Recife, Brazil,

Karen McCready,

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ExchangeBanker@ffsfba.org: Judy Smith

Merchandise@ffsfba.org: Carol Easter

Sunshine: Darlene Boyanich

MemberRecruitment@ffsfba.org: open

MemberWelcome@ffsfba.org: Natalie Heling

Forester@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready

2015 CALENDAR

July 25

Bar-B-Q, Nancy Menz'
Clubhouse, Hayward
Board Meeting, 1p.m.,
Gustavsons' home,
Los Altos

August 2

August 5

Fifth at 5, TBD

August 12-19

Inbound from Recife, Brazil

August 28-31

Friendship Force World
Conference, Vancouver, BC

September 13

Annual Meeting, Milpitas
Library,

October 5

Fifth at 5, TBD

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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