



friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Changing the Way You See the World

Vol. 31 No. 5

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

October/November 2014

MARTHA'S MUSINGS

Viva La France!

We had quite a busy week with 25 ambassadors from the Biarritz and Bordeaux clubs. I don't know about you, but "Je suis fatigued." I am pooped, but in a wonderful way. It is always a thrill to see our beautiful Bay Area through the eyes of our foreign guests. This week was no exception. Someone inquired what was the best part of this exchange. "The weather," I said, and it was. The Bay Area looked like a postcard. The sky and the ocean so blue, the temperatures warm and not a hint of our famous fog. The dinner at the Greenwalds was spectacular. So many of our ambassadors and our own members were able to claim seats on their beautiful deck which has, according to Gloria Greenwald, the best view in San Francisco. As I opened the door of their beautiful home on Ridley Street, I heard a chorus of "ooh la las." Each day was a new adventure. Karen Rice, our inbound exchange coordinator did a great job trying to balance the interests of both clubs. Congratulations, Karen, on a great job!

Bavaria

Yes, next up will be the wonderful members of the Bavarian (Nuremberg, Germany) club. They will be visiting in the spring, so start thinking about hosting. I can personally attest to what a great group they are. I led the outgoing group 2 years ago. We drank lots of "bier", ate lots of sausages, and were hosted in a really grand manner. You won't want to miss these Bavarians as the name of their club implies, but just ask them and they will explain that they are actually Franconians.

Samba, Rumba—Feel That Latin Beat

You will feel like you are "Dancing With The Stars" when we welcome the Friendship Force of Recife, Brazil.

I get their FaceBook posts and they are indeed a lively group. Brazil is one of our requests for an outbound exchange in 2016. Get to know them now in the fall of 2015. We might get lucky enough to visit them on their home turf in 2016.

Outbound FFSFBA

We are a club on the move. Some of the things to look forward to in 2015—Outbound to Huntsville and Houston, outbound exchange with Ciudad de las Flores in Costa Rica,

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THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Can you believe the holidays are almost upon us? This year for the first time, I've seen Christmas decorations mixed in with Halloween costumes. The holidays are a time for friends and family to gather together and celebrate. The last quarter of the year is full of reasons to celebrate: Dia de los Muertos, the Autumn Equinox, Harvest Festival, Winter Solstice and New Years are just a small example of holidays that are celebrated around the world. As members of Friendship Force, we celebrate the cultural similarities and more importantly, their differences. With that in mind, I'd like to call your attention to two upcoming celebrations.

The November 15th General Meeting will include a tea and a member-led discussion of how different cultures celebrate the traditional Harvest/Thanksgiving Festivals. The US, Canada, Grenada, Liberia, Netherlands, Norfolk Islands, Germany and Japan, all have a celebration of thanksgiving in November, but each is as different as the people who celebrate. Please bring a willingness to share your own experiences in this area.

You are also requested to bring a savory to share at tea.

The meeting will be held from 3:00–5:30pm on Saturday, November 15th, at the Sobrato Center, 600 Valley Blvd., Bldg. 5, Milpitas. **Map:** <https://goo.gl/maps/CCq9k>

To RSVP, email Donna Wilson:

This year's Holiday luncheon will be held at the ANZU Restaurant in the Hotel Nikko from 11:30–2pm on Saturday, December 6th, 2014. Diners will have soup and appetizer and a choice of:

Salad	Main Course
ANZU Caesar Salad or	Vegetarian Pasta or
Fall Vegetable Salad	Chicken

The price, including tax and tip, for this 5-course luncheon, is \$30. Alcoholic beverages, if desired, are separate.

Entertainment will be provided by Tom Ellison, a tenor from the West Bay Opera Chorus and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, who will lead us in carols from around the world.

The Hotel Nikko is located at 222 Mason Street in San Francisco. **Map:** <https://goo.gl/maps/5TJH8>

To RSVP: Email Donna Wilson:

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

an Alaskan cruise coupled with the International Convention which will be in Vancouver, Canada next fall. Of course there is more. Check out the World of Friends catalog for more travel ideas.

Kudos To The Club

Merci and thanks to all of you who participated in our recent exchange. The breakfast/brunch at the Cloughs was so elegant as we dined next to the pool on another postcard perfect day. Thanks to them for hosting, and Geri Bechtle and her committee for doing a superb job.

So many members stepped up to the plate and filled in where we needed them. A great big hug and a kiss on each cheek, as we learned to do from our French ambassadors.

We Love to Party

Make sure to save Dec. 6th for our most spectacular holiday party ever. It will be at the elegant Hotel Nikko, near Union Square, in San Francisco. Come early and enjoy a latte as you check out the department store windows. Stay late and plan on cocktails at one of the many elegant venues in town. The hotel is accessible from BART. Donna Wilson, our event planner, has even arranged for a singer from The West Bay Opera! Invitations to go out soon. —*Martha LeRoy*, President

BIARRITZ EXCHANGE SEPT. 15–22, 2014

Many FFSFBA members pitched in to offer a fun-packed week of activities for our 25 French ambassadors from Biarritz. (See the List of Acknowledgements on this page.)

Tuesday started with a Welcome Brunch at Kumi and Herb Clough's house in Atherton. With lively conversation, we got acquainted, took pictures, and sang "Hello, Biarritz." We then headed south to Saratoga for wine tasting at the Savannah-Chanelle vineyards overlooking the valley on a sun filled afternoon. Finally, we drove to Henry Cowell State Park to wander through the giant redwood forest.

Wednesday and Thursday we got up early to transport our ambassadors to San Francisco on Caltrain and BART. Highlights included a Bay Cruise under the Golden Gate Bridge and a Mexican feast at the home of Ron and Gloria Greenwald. A 4-hour bus tour with French speaking guide Victoria took us through Golden Gate Park, to the top of Twin Peaks, across the Golden Gate Bridge, through Chinatown. We also stopped at Civic Center Plaza, and the Palace of Fine Arts. On walking tours, we visited the Japanese Tea Garden, the De Young Museum, the Maritime History Museum with several historic ships, Fisherman's Wharf, Coit Tower, and we took a ride on the Powell-Hyde Cable Car.

Many of our ambassadors returned to San Francisco on Friday, the unscheduled day. Saturday morning we toured Stanford University, visiting Hoover Tower, the quad, and Cantor

Arts Center. After a picnic lunch in the Rodin sculpture garden, we toured the Computer History Museum.

Saturday evening we enjoyed potlucks hosted at several members' homes. Sunday we met at Prusch Park, where we presented the French with an olive tree planted in their honor and watered by the forest fairy. We had a tasty BBQ while being entertained by the Golden Follies dancers. We ended the Farewell Party with songs.

Our French ambassadors departed early the next morning, with new memories of their visit to the San Francisco Bay Area. —*Karen Rice*, ED

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There is a saying. "It takes a village to raise a child." It could refer to our FF Biarritz exchange. "It takes the whole organization working together to host for a week." I wish to express my profound thanks to all who provided help and hospitality to make the 2014 FF Biarritz exchange a success. I apologize if I have forgotten anybody; it's because the list is long and my memory is short. —*Karen Rice*, ED

Exchange Coordinator and mentor: Karen McCready

Home Hosts:

Kumi & Herb Clough	Wendy & Kent Dewell
Ron & Gloria Greenwald	Katharine Kleinke
Janis Maurry	Edith Sommer
Karen & Dave Rice	Saaku & K.C.Sarr
Diane Cira	Janet Gordon
June Harris	Martha LeRoy
Karen McCready & Barry Rader	Donna & Ron Wilson
Don & Mary Pelland	

Day Hosts:

Carol Easter	Geri Bechtle
Vickie Lau	Dee & Dave Gustavson
Sara & Kevin Rozzano	Judy Smith
Natalie Cheng	Leila Van Dyke
Roger Riffenburgh	Carol & Noel Stevens
	RoseMarie Everett

Potluck hosts:

Janis Maurry
Roger Riffenburgh and Darlene Boyanich, Martha LeRoy
Karen McCready and Barry Rader, Carol & Noel Stevens
Linda & Denis Jasany, Dave & Dee Gustavson

Finance Committee:

Judy Smith, 2nd Exchange Banker
Carol Easter, Exchange Treasurer

Welcome Party:

Geri Bechtle, Coordinator
Darlene Boyanich
Gee-Gee Lenhart
Patricia Snowden

Kumi & Herb Clough, hosts

Farewell Party:

Nancy Menz, decorations and coordinator
Karen McCready, reservations for site
Carol Easter, reservations for people
Julice Winter, chef and Dave Rice, sous chef
Martha LeRoy, President and business meeting

Mexican Dinner: Katharine Kleinke, Martha LeRoy
Gloria & Ron Greenwald, Coordinators & hosts

Transportation and Tour Coordinators:

Don Pelland, Clipper Cards
Donna Wilson, East Bay BART guide
Karen Rice, Peninsula Caltrain guide
RoseMarie Everett, SF guide
Carol Easter, reservations

Entertainment:

Dee Gustavson, accordion
Nancy Menz, Golden Follies

Home Host and Day Host Coordinator: Louise Heiduk

Pot Luck Host Coordinator and Sommelier: June Harris

Henry Cowell Redwoods guides: Geri Bechtle
Katharine Kleinke

Stanford tour guides: Dave Rice
Edith Sommer

Friendship Forest: Karen McCready, Forester and Coordinator
Dave Gustavson, plaque

Karen McCready, Martha LeRoy, Saaku Sarr, Ceremony
Dave Rice, Karen Rice, Karen McCready, Weekly Watering

Photographer: Barry Rader



**FLEA MARKET FUNDRAISER AT
CHABOT COLLEGE**

**25555 HESPERIAN BLVD, HAYWARD, CA 94545
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18**

All of those improvements down at our Friendship Forest in San Jose are taking their toll on our budget. We expect we'll need about \$500 to replace two trees that died and to plant new ones for next year's visitors from Germany and Brazil. You can help by sorting out all those storage places and passing on salable items to our cause. We'll also accept cash donations!

If you have something to donate, contact Karen McCready, or call Nancy Menz. Also call if you can help staff the FF information table—this is an opportunity to recruit new members for FFSFBA!

If you have many items to donate, please drop them off at the college by 6:30am on October 18th. Meet Nancy Menz at our space, located in parking stalls 527–529.



**SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY, CIVIL RIGHTS
AND THE SPACE PROGRAM IN MAY, 2015**

FFSFBA is heading for Huntsville, Alabama and Houston, Texas during the first two weeks in May, 2015. Barry Rader, ED for the exchange, has put together an amazing opportunity to be home hosted in two southern cities with rich historic and space involved backgrounds. The exchange will begin on April 30 with flights to Huntsville and conclude, after two fantastic weeks, on May 14. Highlights will be visits to space centers in both cities, historic tours of the cities, tour of Galveston, Civil Rights Museum, San Jacinto Monument (Texas Independence), pre-Civil War homes, picnics, historic restaurants and lots of wonderful face time.

This exchange is especially looking for members who have not traveled with FFSFBA before.

The cost of the program is \$465 plus air fare. This includes all fees to both clubs, FFI, FFSFBA and ED costs. If you are interested, contact Barry Rader

—Barry Rader, ED

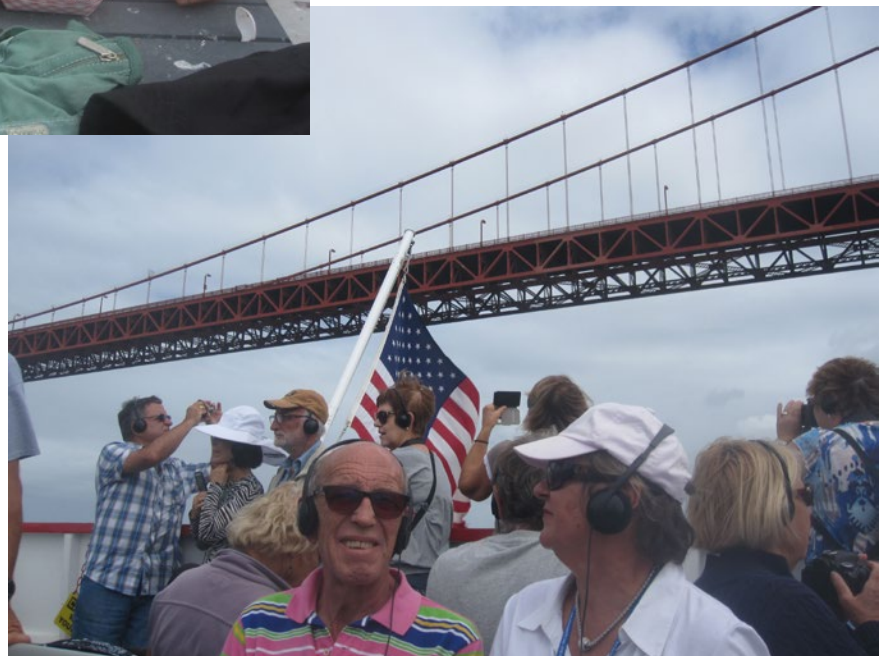
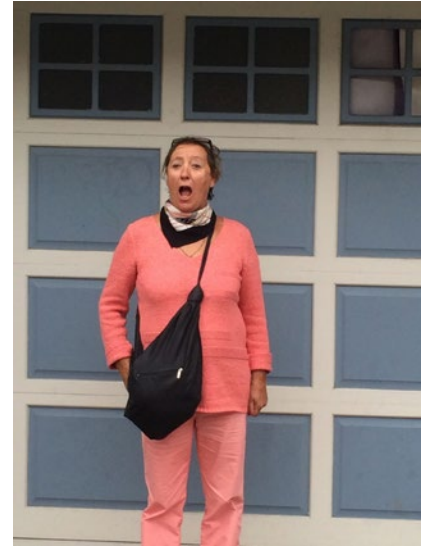
NEW OFFICERS FOR 2015

We elected new officers at the Farewell Party for Biarritz, at Prusch Park on September 21. Congratulations to the following, whose terms begin at the first of the year.

President:	Martha LeRoy
Vice President:	Nancy Menz
Secretary:	Julice Winter
Treasurer:	Jim Thomas



One of the French couples looked for (and found, with Google's help) this blue house, which was made famous in a 1970 song by Maxime Le Forestier. They had brought the words, and sang the song!





2014 FFSFBA COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org: Martha LeRoy

VP@ffsfba.org: Nancy Menz

Secretary@ffsfba.org: Julice Winter

Treasurer@ffsfba.org: Pat Macholl

STANDING COMMITTEES

EventPlanner@ffsfba.org: Donna Wilson

Membership@ffsfba.org: Carol Easter

Newsletter@ffsfba.org: Dave & Dee Gustavson

Publicity@ffsfba.org: open

Webmaster@ffsfba.org: Dan Eggerding

EXCHANGE DIRECTORS

Biarritz, France, InboundBF@ffsfba.org

Karen Rice

Nuremberg, Germany, OutboundNG@ffsfba.org

Huntsville & Houston, OutboundHH@ffsfba.org

Barry Rader

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ExchangeBanker@ffsfba.org: Judy Smith

Hospitality@ffsfba.org: open

Merchandise@ffsfba.org: Carol Easter

Sunshine: Darlene Boyanich

MemberRecruitment@ffsfba.org: open

MemberWelcome@ffsfba.org: Natalie Heling

Forester@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready

2014 CALENDAR

October 14–16 Friendship Force World Conference, Auckland, NZ

October 18 Flea Market, Chabot College, Hayward

November No Board meeting this month
November 15 Thanksgiving Around the World, Sobrato Center, 600 Valley Blvd., Bldg 5, Milpitas

December 6 Holiday Luncheon, Hotel Nikko, 222 Mason St., San Francisco, 11:30-2pm

December 13 Board meeting, 1pm at Barry & Karen's home, Fremont

2015 CALENDAR

April Inbound from Nuremberg
May Outbound to Huntsville, AL and Houston, TX

August 29–31 Friendship Force World Conference, Vancouver, BC

October Inbound from Recife, Brazil
November Outbound to Costa Rica

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

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