



...You can make a difference!

The Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area

...a force to promote peace

Vol. 24 No. 4

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

September/October 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The life's blood of any organization is its new members, and, fortunately, FFSFBA has been attracting some. With the combined efforts of the members, new member receptions, and the speakers' bureau, we are starting to attract folks again. So that the new members feel wanted, the Board has set aside up to four slots on the next exchange for our new additions. The organization wants our newest additions to experience the glories of meeting exciting people and visiting new places. 2008's outbound exchange is to Eastern Canada.

The club has just gone through its once a year struggle to find new officers. Our bylaws have term limits to ensure new blood at the most important leadership levels—president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Unfortunately, our able committee had to endure too many negative replies before they were able to attract what I see as an outstanding set of prospective officers. Why is that? Why does an organization that lives up to goals, gives its members something to believe in, and is successful in trying to establish world peace have so much trouble finding leaders? Yes, I know that we have an aging population. Yes, I know that many have family obligations. Yes, I know that everyone has some health issues, but folks, what we do in this organization is important and beneficial. I can also say, satisfying.

By working with your fellow members in leadership roles you become aware of their complex attributes. You get to be creative, speak your mind, take responsibility for your actions, and give back to those who have helped you in the past. Being on the Board is challenging, fun, and fulfilling. A day of accomplishment, an event with your stamp on it, and a year of contributing your expertise is a great way to spend your time. So remember, next year when a person from the nominating committee calls, say YES.

See you in September at the San Francisco Main Library.
In friendship,

—Barry Rader, President

ELECTION

The election of officers will take place at the September 23^d General Meeting. The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of officers:

President	Karen McCready
Vice President	Dee Gustavson
Secretary	Steve Smallwood
Treasurer	Ivan Heling

Other nominations may be presented on the floor at the meeting; however, nominees must have agreed to serve in the office before the nomination is presented. We are grateful to Sara Turner, Bob Cowen, and Yvonne Bretoi for serving on the Nominating Committee.

VISIT TO GERMAN CONSULATE

Our visit to the German Consulate at 1960 Jackson Street in San Francisco has been rescheduled for September 10. Karsten Tietz has agreed to answer our questions about Germany.

I hope that all of you who originally signed up for the July date are still able to attend. Please RSVP to Sara Turner by Thursday, September 6 by email or phone.

Please indicate whether you plan to meet the group for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at "Left at Albuquerque," a Tex-Mex restaurant at 2140 Union St. Those who RSVP will be emailed directions to each site.

Hope to see you on September 10 in San Francisco, (and also on Sunday, September 23 at the F.F. General Meeting at the S.F. Public Library at 2 p.m. Come and meet the Ambassadors from the Madison, Wisconsin exchange that day!)

—Dee Gustavson, Exchange Director for Germany

A TASTE OF MONGOLIA: NO SUCH THING AS TOO MANY COOKS

Many cooks only improved the broth on June 14th when 22 members and 4 guests gathered at the Mongolian Hot Pot in Union City. We assembled from all over the Bay Area, from

 **Holiday Luncheon** 

Sunday, December 9, 2007, 12–3 p.m.

Location: Michael's at Shoreline in Mountain View
The reservation flyer will be mailed in November.

**Mark December 9th on your calendar
and plan to join us!**



Martha LeRoy, Rita Hammer, Ed Shannon, and Gerry Shannon at the Mongolian restaurant.

Photo courtesy of Barry Rader.

Marin to San Jose and Half Moon Bay to Livermore. Although the Inner Mongolia Little-Sheep Company has 700 restaurants in China, the Union City branch is the only one in America. Our enthusiastic group seemed to prove that Americans like this do-it-yourself-while-eating-out cooking, too. As our courtly waiters brought on platter after platter of fresh meats, seafood, vegetables, and noodles, we took turns ladling them into the herbal and spicy broths bubbling on our tables. After some brief instructions, all delved into the process like expert chefs, everyone now certified to cook Mongolian food anywhere in the world. Servings of succulent cantaloupe polished off the meal.

As if that were not enough, everyone adjourned to Karen and Barry's house in Niles, a mere mile and a half away, to extend our group visit and to enjoy some purely American desserts. Our experience of Mongolian culture may have been primarily through our taste buds, but it undoubtedly left a lasting impression.

A special thanks to Margaret Tracy for bringing three of her friends to share the Friendship Force experience. We hope that Martha LeRoy will also join us again soon.

—Karen L. McCready

BOCCE BALL OUTING IN FREMONT

On August 24th, Joy Hillman and Elizabeth Shumway joined East Bay area members Lori English, Steve Cooper, Pat and Margaret Kingery, Karen McCready and Barry Rader, Dick and Rita Hammer and their son, Steve and granddaughter, Claire for some rousing games of bocce ball at the City Beach Sports Club in Fremont. After 1 1/2 hours of enjoyable but intense competition, they retired to the club Cafe for lunch. Almost everyone began as novices, but are now ready to take on any and all competition. The East Bay area group thanks everyone who participated and look forward to some more members joining us for another round of bocce ball in the future.

—Rita Hammer

NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION

On July 29th, a group consisting of board members, experienced members, new members and prospective members met in Los Altos and enjoyed an afternoon of sociability, good eating, and sharing of information at the first annual new members' reception. We were able to hear the DVD from FFI



Prusch Park picnic—checking out our Friendship Forest are: Rita Hammer, Dick Hammer, Don Dillon, Howard Craven, Don Pellon, a guest of the Cravens from Senegal, another visitor, and Katharine Kleinke
Photo courtesy of Barry Rader

(although the light didn't allow us to see it very well) and hear the presentation that Karen McCready and Barry Rader have developed for use with the speakers' bureau. After the presentation there was a question & answer period in which experienced members shared experiences with new and prospective members. We all enjoyed the afternoon, and one result was two new members for our club.
—Louise Heiduk

ANNUAL PICNIC AT PRUSCH PARK

Our annual picnic at Prusch Park, this year on June 24th, brought out many members and several new faces. For the first time, we met inside the hall, and the indoor venue gave us the opportunity to hold a brief business meeting and to hear (actually!) a program. We love our Prusch Park, but the noise of all those intersecting freeways makes communication difficult in the outside picnic areas. After catching up on all the current business, we enjoyed Steve Smallwood's lively account of his and Lois's exchange to New Zealand with another chapter. Natalie and Ivan Heling accompanied them on that trip, also. Of course, most of us sauntered down to the Friendship Forest to check on the status of our trees and to

admire the recent efforts of our foresters to clear the annual weeds. The park has added some attractive new structures—a uniquely designed children's playground and a barn-shaped gazebo—that carry out the farm theme and make the park more user friendly. Our own club's memorial benches should be installed in or near the gazebo soon so that we can admire them at next year's picnic.
—Karen L. McCready

GERMANY IN OCTOBER

The departure time is approaching! The home-hosting lists have been sent and all twelve ambassadors from the FFSFBA Club have communicated with their hosts in Chemnitz and Hannover, Germany. We've been diligently studying our German phrasebook and ordering German Rail Passes. The Hannover train station will be the meeting place for us and the 13 ambassadors from the Rocky Mountain F.F. Club (from Estes Park, Colorado) who are sharing this exchange with us.

We leave on September 29, hopefully in time to experience an Oktoberfest while in Germany. The added bonus of attend-



FFSFBA'ers at the Presidio Officers' Club, viewing Robert Cameron's "Environmental Journey" exhibit. From left to right: Katharine Kleinke, ---, Elizabeth Shumway, Joy Hewett, Rita Hammer, Nancy Barnoski, Dick Hammer, and Joy Hillman.

Photo courtesy of Joy Hillman

ing the Berlin Friendship Force Club's meeting on October 6 is offered to those who wish to participate.

—*Dee Gustavson*, Exchange Director for Germany

PRESIDIO OUTING

The North Bay area group had a wonderful outing at the Presidio in San Francisco. We toured the Robert Cameron exhibit "Environmental Journey" at the Officers' Club. We had an excellent docent who explained the location and background of the beautiful huge pictures. This exhibit covered the Western United States. After the tour we had a lovely lunch at the Presidio Cafe. Attending were: Nancy Barnoski, Gail Boyd, Rita and Dick Hammer, Joy Hewett, Joy Hillman, Katharine Kleinke, and Elizabeth Shumway.

—*Elizabeth Shumway*

MARIACHI FESTIVAL 2007

A schedule of events for September's Mariachi Festival was emailed to our members by Karen McCready on August 31. Several activities will take place at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in San Jose. Janis Maurry has offered to organize a group to attend a Mariachi Festival event on Sunday, September 30 in the Arena Green, next to HP. Mass is given at 9 a.m. in the

park, and the music goes on all day. Admission is \$5 per day. Contact Janis if you're interested in Sunday's events, and she will organize a time and place to meet.

EVERYONE'S INPUT IS VALUABLE!

Dear members,
Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a survey regarding the programs and other features of our general meetings. In the interest of attracting more members to meetings and offering the most worthwhile possible programs, please give your feedback to guide future program directors.

Thank you,

—*Karen McCready*, Vice President (Program Director)

AREA COORDINATORS' MEETING

The August 14th meeting was postponed, and the new date has tentatively been set for Tuesday, October 30th.

June Cademartori will contact the coordinators about the new time and place.

FFSFBA General Meeting Survey

Directions: Please check one or more responses on each of the following and add any specific details and/or suggestions to help us.

1. Check any of the following that might have discouraged you from attending a general meeting in the past.

___ type of meeting place (e.g., not easily accessible)

Comments:

___ program

Comments:

___ distance of travel to meeting

Comments:

___ unfamiliar site or complicated driving directions

Comments:

___ health or family obligations

Comments:

___ lack of transportation

Comments:

___ day of the week (usually Sunday)

Comments:

___ time of day (generally 2-4 p. m.)

Comments:

___ admission cost

Comments:

___ Other:

2. Check all of the types of programs that would appeal to you. Indicate H for high interest or M for moderate interest.

___ cultural lectures about other countries and nationalities

___ senior issues, such as health

___ reports about recent outgoing exchanges or conferences

___ travel tips, such as packing, acquiring travel documents

___ entertainment, such as singing or dancing groups

___ cultural movies

___ world religions

Please list any other types of programs that you would enjoy. Also, if possible, name any organization or person we should contact to schedule such programs for our club.

Please note if you would like to present a program on any topic.

Please fold so that the mailing address shows, apply a stamp, and mail it. Thank you!

Tape or staple this edge.

Fold this flap first, then tuck the other flap
under this as you fold that one.

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THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE

Bringing the world together since 1977

The Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area

1422 Thunderbird Ct., Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Phone (408) 243-4822, <http://www.ffa.org>

info@ffa.org Fax by pre-arrangement



Place a
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stamp
here

Karen McCready

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then tape or staple that flap down

THANK YOU!

The FFSFBA Board presented our newsletter editors, Dave & Dee Gustavson, with a lovely orchid plant at the April general meeting. The editors wish to thank the Board for this recognition, which is being much appreciated and admired.

MADISON, WISCONSIN INCOMING EXCHANGE SEPTEMBER 18–24, 2007

Finally, we have the opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the Madison, Wisconsin club as a “Thank You” for their hospitality in 2006. Home hosts will be in Novato, San Rafael, Pacifica, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, San Jose, and Fremont, which will give the Ambassadors a wonderful opportunity to see many areas of the San Francisco Bay Area club’s communities.

All members are invited to attend all the events and outings that have been planned for the week. Please contact Gail Boyd, Exchange Director, for information if you have an interest in attending any activity.

Here is the calendar for the week:

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FROM 9/19–9/23

Tuesday 9/18: arrival

Wednesday, 9/19: San Francisco city tour 9:45am–4:30pm.

Meet at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Market Street side. Lunch in Golden Gate Park. Photo day. Return to Hyatt Regency.

Thursday, 9/20: Free day with hosts. Pot luck dinners.

Friday, 9/21: Filoli Gardens tour 9:30am. Lunch at Filoli Gardens. Stanford University tour. Photo day.

Saturday, 9/22: Free day with hosts. Pot luck dinners.

Sunday, 9/23: Farewell Party at 1:00pm, San Francisco Public Library. FFSFBA Annual Meeting at 2pm. Election of officers for 2008.

Monday, 9/24: Departure

Please note:

Since this is not a Library Sponsored Program, ***do not call the library***. The location of the San Francisco Public Library is 100 Larkin St. Use the entrance at Grove Street. Enter 30 Grove St., proceed down stairs to the Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, located on the Library’s lower level. Street parking is available on Sundays, with no meter fees. For information, please contact Gail Boyd.

At this time may I extend my thanks to club members who have opened their homes to Host, as well as Day Hosts and Pot Luck coordinators. A special thanks to the exchange committee, who helped plan the week’s activities, spent hours preparing our exchange booklet, and to hosts for all their great ideas planning for this exchange.

During this exchange, the Madison Ambassadors and I are looking forward to seeing many of our members.

—Gail Boyd, Exchange Director

DIRECTIONS

to the FFSFBA Annual Meeting and Madison Exchange Farewell Party at the San Francisco Public Library

FROM THE NORTH

Take 101 south. Take the Lombard Street exit, turn right onto Van Ness. Take Van Ness south, turn left onto McAllister, 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.

EXCHANGES HAVE MANY ECHOES

Dave & Dee Gustavson enjoyed hosting a Friendship Force family from Mexico in late August. Dee met them in 1999 at a Tuxtla-Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Festival.

Mavi, Enrique, and daughter Silvana Ramirez arrived by Amtrak from a week in Reno and another in Whidby Island, where they were participating in Friendship Force exchanges.

Silvana is starting an exchange program that puts her at Santa Clara University for one quarter, studying industrial engineering as a Junior. We all kept busy with helping her find a room and furniture and choosing a laptop computer, and then moving her into her room.

It was amazing how many people were so helpful, and how many lucky events conspired to make things work out well!. For example, the room she chose is very nice, and very close to campus—and it was the result of a contact through a neighbor of a host in Reno! And someone at a garage sale in Sunnyvale drove to Redwood City to get some things Silvana could use.

It has been a great example of how Friendship Force not only *starts* friendships around the world, but *maintains* them.

2007 FFSFBA COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org: Barry Rader
 VP@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready
 Secretary@ffsfba.org: Mary Pelland
 Treasurer@ffsfba.org: Donald Pelland

STANDING COMMITTEES

Activities@ffsfba.org: Darlene Boyanich
 Membership@ffsfba.org: Louise Heiduk
 Newsletter@ffsfba.org: Dave & Dee Gustavson
 Parliamentarian@ffsfba.org: Joy Hewett
 Publicity@ffsfba.org: Roger Riffenburgh

EXCHANGE DIRECTORS

New Zealand: Katharine Kleinke *InboundNZ@ffsfba.org*
 Germany: Dee Gustavson *OutboundG@ffsfba.org*
 Wisconsin: Gail Boyd *InboundWI@ffsfba.org*

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ExchangeBanker@ffsfba.org: Herb Clough
 Merchandise@ffsfba.org: Lois Smallwood
 Forester@ffsfba.org: Don Dillon
 Karen Mitchell

Forest records: Mary Alice vanDoorn
 Program@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready
 Area Group Coordinator,
 Regional@ffsfba.org: June Cademartori
 Sunshine@ffsfba.org: Darlene Boyanich
 Webmaster@ffsfba.org: Geri Bechtle

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

Friendship Force International
 233 Peachtree Street, Suite 2250
 Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Tel: 1-404-522-9490, 1-800-554-6715 Fax: 1-404-688-6148
 Website: <http://www.thefriendshipforce.org>

2007 CALENDAR

- September 18–24 Incoming exchange,
Madison, Wisconsin
- September 23 Annual Meeting and Farewell
Party for Wisconsin, San
Francisco Public Library, 2 pm
- September 29–
October 16 Outbound exchange to
Chemnitz and Hannover,
Germany
- October 30 Area Coordinators Meeting,
time and place to be
announced
- November 4 FFSFBA Board Meeting, noon
at Louise Heiduk's home
- December 9 Holiday Luncheon, Michael's
Shoreline in Mountain View



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