



# friendship force

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

### Changing the Way You See the World

Vol. 27 No. 4

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

September/October 2010

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently our club participated in two important events. First of all, our club can take great pride in a very successful exchange with the Alajuela, Costa Rica club in June. About half of our club members participated with home hosting, day hosting, helping with various tours of San Francisco, the winery tour and lunch in Livermore, potlucks and the Welcome Party and our Farewell Party at Prusch Park. Congratulations to Lois Smallwood and her committee for all the hard work that went into that exchange. From the positive responses I have heard from various members, I believe that we made many new friends from that delightful country in Central America.

Another noteworthy event was the orientation meeting at Karen McCready and Barry Rader's home on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many board members attended that function and shared the history and experiences they've had on various trips with several new and prospective members at the meeting.

A topic that came up at the orientation meeting was the language barrier that we sometimes experience on our exchanges. Martha LeRoy, who homesteaded for the first time during the Alajuela exchange, expressed her misgivings when she first thought about trying to communicate in her minimal Spanish. But this didn't turn out to be huge problem. She had delightful guests who were eager to share their experiences. Although there was somewhat of a language barrier, it didn't prevent them from creating strong friendships.

At the board meeting which followed, Karen McCready described her work in sorting and organizing the club's archives. She created several binders that summarize the club's exchanges, going back to the first incoming exchange from Seoul, Korea in 1984, and the first outbound exchange of 40 ambassadors, led by our club's founder Gerry Earnest to New Plymouth, New Zealand in 1985, and exchanges continuing up to the present. These collections of photographs, exchange booklets, and newspaper articles contain a wealth of information, which we hope to display at future meetings, in order to bring back fond memories for long-time members, and to share the history with new members.

I recently picked up a book at Leigh's Bookstore in Sunnyvale called *In the Land of Invented Languages* by Arika Okrent. According to Ms. Okrent, there have been attempts to create at least 500 invented languages going as far back as Hildegard von Bingen in 1150 and including the Star Trek language Klingon invented in 1984. The most prominent of these has been Esperanto, devised by L. L. Zamenhof back in the 1880s in what was then Russian Poland. Zamenhof had a worthy goal. He felt that the multiplicity of languages at that time was a hindrance to world peace and understanding, so he invented

a completely logical language that he and his followers hoped would become a second language for everyone throughout the world, not intending to replace the national languages. For several years after he published the language, there was a flurry of activity and several conferences centered around Esperanto. Oddly enough William Shatner in 1966 starred in the movie *Incubus* that was spoken entirely in Esperanto.

At one point I actually learned the language through a correspondence course and in the early 1990s wrote to a few people in my limited Esperanto, and made a few pen pal friends. But that was way before the Internet and email, so communications to places like Russia, for instance, took weeks. Another drawback, of course, was that there was no "Esperantoland" to visit. Although the "culture" of Esperanto includes novels, poetry, and even a translation of the Bible, it is a culture that is almost entirely invented.

Zamenhof's idealism is to be admired, but I think our Friendship Force programs are more productive. Languages are a barrier, but not an insurmountable one. Although a universal language might come in handy, with all the positive experiences many of us have had traveling, it is clearly not absolutely necessary for creating genuine friendships. —*Stephen Smallwood*, President

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2010 Nominating Committee comprised of Luree Miller, Dee Gustavson and Chair Don Pelland recommended a slate of candidates for 2011, and presented the following names to the Board on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Candidates for 2011 are:

President	Steve Smallwood
Vice-President	Darlene Boyanich
Secretary	Dee Gustavson
Treasurer	Scott Miller

Steve and Scott served on the FFSFBA Board for 2010 as President and Treasurer, respectively, and have agreed to continue for 2011. The FF club members will vote on this slate (and any nominations from the floor, with prior approval from the nominee) at the general meeting at the Basque Restaurant on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The elected officers will then be installed at the Holiday Luncheon on December 4<sup>th</sup>. —*Don Pelland*, Chair

#### MEXICO EXCHANGE STOPPED BUT GOES!

When hearing last week that Mexicana Airlines had declared bankruptcy and had cancelled all flights, it was feared that the exchange to Mexico would have to be cancelled. But a travel agent managed to reschedule all our flights on other airlines, so 9 out of 11 ambassadors decided to buy new tickets for more money in order to experience Mexican hos-

pitality. We're very happy to say that the exchange to Tuxtla-Gutierrez is leaving next week. Ambassadors can look forward to celebrating Mexico's bicentennial, touring Mexico City and Oaxaca and making new friends in Tuxtla-Gutierrez.

—Ron and Gloria Greenwald, Exchange Directors

### NEW MEMBER PAT MACHOLL

Pat is a recently retired TV Research Director from Alameda. She spent nearly 30 years looking at reams of teeny tiny numbers, the Nielsen ratings, and telling potential advertisers how valuable the viewers of her TV station were. With luck, that convinced those advertisers to pay more for the time they bought on the station to air their commercials. The larger the ratings, the more money they could charge: viewers = income to the station. Any time anyone wants to cure his/her insomnia, Pat will tell them more about all those numbers! She also 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.

—Mary Pelland, Membership

### AREA #1 GOES TO HALF MOON BAY

July 17<sup>th</sup> was a great day to explore the abundant and friendly farmer's market, to browse antique store whimsy, to admire gallery offerings of art and sumptuous handcrafted wood furniture, and to indulge in lunch and baked goods' temptations at the Moonside Bakery Café (complete with a serenading country western singer perched on his tall stool next to our table). If you missed this outing sponsored by Area #1, you missed rediscovering the tantalizing appeal of this coastal town that is so much more than pumpkin patches and flower greenhouses! And the real beneficiaries of this outing? Joy Hillman, Elizabeth Shumway, Nina Davidson, June Cademartori, Eva Palma (June's friend who came all the way from Mexico for this adventure), Rhea Wolkowitz, Noel and Carol Stevens, Gail Boyd, Scott and Luree Miller—a fantastic mingling of old and new



June Cademartori and her friend, Eva Palma, at the farmers' market. Eva was visiting from Mexico.

—Photo by Luree Miller



Standing L to R: Elizabeth Shumway, Joy Hillman, Gail Boyd, Nina Davidson, June Cademartori, Carol Stevens, Noel Stevens, Rhea Wolkowitz. Kneeling L to R: Eva Palma, Scott Miller.

—Photo by Luree Miller

friends sharing a spectacular day in one of the Bay Area's own charming tucked-away communities!

—Luree Miller

### FF TRIP TO CHINA REPORTED

I was one of a small but very interested group attending Area #3's sponsored June 19<sup>th</sup> activity—a fascinating presentation by Barry Rader and Karen McCready of the Friendship Force trip to China this last April. Their enthusiasm and engrossing tales made me wish Luree and I could have gone on that trip as well. Those of you who were unable to attend missed a truly special and informative time. Thanks, Barry and Karen, for sharing that important exchange!

—Scott Miller

### SPRING 2011 IN FRANCE AND SPAIN

FSFBA's outgoing exchange next year is to Biarritz, France. We are very fortunate to have been given this plum choice, which was due in part to the diligence of our past president Karen McCready's supporting the national agenda of the Friendship Force. Twenty ambassadors will venture from San Francisco to Paris, visit western France, Biarritz, then to Spain to visit Bilbao, returning home from Barcelona.

This was the first time in many years that the Club's screening procedure was used to determine the participants in the exchange. The screening panel consisted of the president, the exchange director, and a member not signed on for the trip.

From May 13<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 the ambassadors will enjoy the culture of the Basque country of France and Spain and finish up with the Catalonia culture of northeastern Spain. I know we are all looking forward to going on the exchange or hearing about it when the group returns.

—Barry Rader, Exchange Director



## A TASTE OF BASQUE AT THE OCTOBER 3 ANNUAL MEETING



The prelude to next year's exchange to Biarritz, France in the Basque Country will begin on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, when we will meet at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. Needing a new site in 1982, the San Francisco Basques built this facility to house their traditional handball games and other culturally oriented events. They added a restaurant to provide a steady income, and it has flourished as a meeting place for the general public ever since. On any given day, you can hear the blending of several languages in the dining room, insulated from the thumping of balls on the nearby indoor handball courts. The route from either 101 or 280 will take you through a portion of downtown South San Francisco and then into the industrial district. Suddenly, the wrought-iron fences and manicured landscaping of the Center looms on the left corner of Railroad Avenue and Magnolia, and you will find ample parking inside their gates. (See map on page 4.)

You have a choice of three luncheon entrees in the French-Basque style. [See separate reservation form.] Also, the Center's manager will provide a brief introduction to his native Basque culture, describing how their traditions have been sustained in the midst of our bustling metropolis.

Whether you're going to Biarritz next year or not, you can enjoy this brief glimpse and taste of a thriving micro-culture in our backyard. Be sure to get those reservations in by September 20<sup>th</sup>, as we can seat only 50. Hope to see you on October 3<sup>rd</sup>!

—Karen L. McCready



Basque Cultural Center

## NEW MEMBER MEETING: "HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF MEMBERSHIP IN FRIENDSHIP FORCE"



Sounds like an interesting way to travel. Maybe I can find other single people to travel with. I might think about hosting foreign visitors in my house. I missed the last meeting, so I'm not really sure what's going on. I glanced at the newsletter, but I don't remember where it is. How can I find out about exchanges with other clubs besides ours?

As a new or even veteran member, some of these thoughts may be going through your head. The Friendship Force concept may not be that easy to grasp. With that in mind, also

wanting to welcome our new members in a more official way, the board met with several of them on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the McCready-Rader home in Fremont. New members attending were Martha LeRoy, Randy Fewel, Ann Halligan, and Judy Smith, all from Fremont. By the end of the meeting, Wendy and Kent Dewell from San Jose, who came with members Karen and David Rice, had become our newest members!

President Steve Smallwood led the orientation/discussion, which included brief histories of Friendship Force International and our club; his and Lois's history in the club; descriptions of typical inbound and outbound exchanges; and leadership opportunities during exchanges, in area groups, and on the board. The new members received a booklet containing all the aforementioned material, the club Bylaws and Standing Rules, and FFI and FFSFBA brochures. Veteran members shared their anecdotes about getting over their qualms of staying in strangers' homes, about lasting friendships formed, and even humorous stories about minor mishaps along the way.

We hope to hold more new-member orientations in the future. If you missed out on this meeting and would like to receive an orientation packet, email [membership@ffsfba.org](mailto:membership@ffsfba.org). —Karen L. McCready

## INDONESIA INCOMING EXCHANGE

Heads up all! We have a fascinating exchange proposed for July 2011. Hopefully the Friendship Force Club of Malang, Indonesia will be visiting the Bay Area. We are very excited to meet them, to learn about their beautiful island, and to experience their unique and diverse cultural blend. We are still working on ironing out possible visa problems but are hoping that those are resolved quickly, so I can give you a positive report soon. Malang is the second largest city in East Java Province, Indonesia. It was often referred to as "Paris van East" during colonial times and was a popular destination for Europeans. It is also known for its cool air and beautiful surrounding regions. Javanese and Madura are the two primary languages. Like most of Indonesia, the majority of the people identify as Muslims. This should be a fascinating and rewarding experience. We wish them the best with the visa red tape and hopefully you will join us in welcoming them to our club and the San Francisco Bay Area on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

—Martha LeRoy, Exchange Director

## ALAJUELA WAS HERE!

Our incoming Alajuela, Costa Rica exchange was lots of fun and a great success, particularly because so many of our members participated. Many were active in planning events and were home hosts. Others were day hosts or performed other jobs, including creating the booklet, offering their home for the welcome party, acting as interpreter, and as the Exchange Treasurer. Other members simply joined us for some of the events, which began with the Welcome Party, a lunch at Herb and Kumi Clough's home at which we were entertained by members from Darlene and Roger's square dance group. Activities followed in rapid succession from the San Francisco tour, either on a Hop-On, Hop-Off bus or by private van or car, an excellent walking tour of San Francisco led by Gloria Green-



wald, a winery tour and lunch in Livermore, and a tour of Stanford led by Carol Stevens. The week flew by and on Saturday we combined our annual picnic at Prusch Park with our farewell party. On Sunday we drove our ambassadors to the Greyhound station in Oakland to see them off for the final leg of their journey to the Reno-Tahoe Friendship Force Club. Prior to visiting us they were hosted by the Seattle-Tacoma club in Washington and that was preceded by a cruise to Alaska. These Ticos surely knew how to travel! —Lois Smallwood, Exchange Director

## AREA #2 HOSTS OUTING TO THE ROSICRUCIAN MUSEUM

On Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, seven of our members and a guest enjoyed a lovely day in San Jose. We visited the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum in the morning and then headed to lunch at Antonella's Italian Ristorante nearby. The afternoon found some of us taking time to smell the roses at the Municipal Rose Garden and some back at the museum for the planetarium show, hieroglyphics workshop, and/or tomb tour. What a pleasant way to spend a summer day!

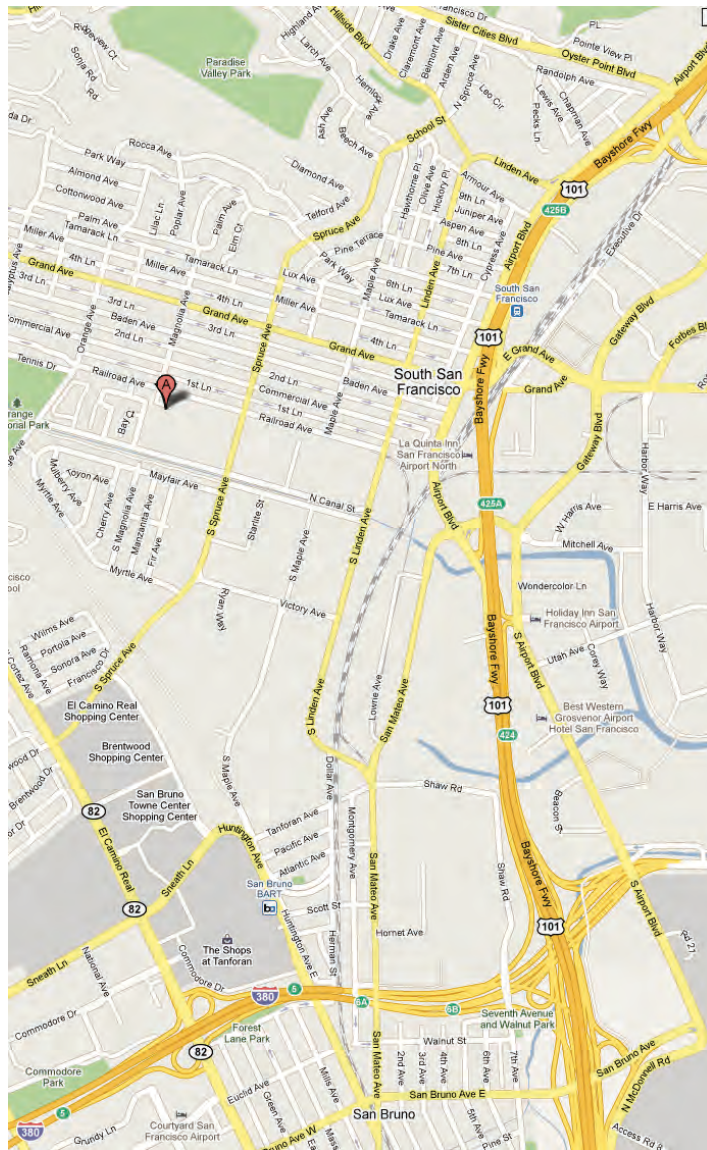
—Natalie Heling



Area #2 at Antonella's Italian Ristorante: From left to right are Joy, Janis, Steve, Rhea, Alice (Rhea's guest), June, Natalie and Gail.



The FFSFBA Annual Picnic and Farewell Party for the Alajuela, Costa Rica, incoming exchange. —Photos by Barry Rader



"A" marks the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080



FFSFBA members and Alajuela ambassadors at Prusch Park



Ron Greenwald introducing Alajuela guests Jorge and Gladys Castro

Annual Meeting /Election Luncheon  
Sunday, October 3, 2010 12:30 to 3:00 p. m.



Basque Cultural Center  
599 Railroad Avenue  
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Directions: Take 280 or 101 north toward San Francisco.  
From 280, take 380 east and then Exit 5 for El Camino Real. Turn left at El Camino, right at S. Spruce Avenue (past Tanforan Shopping center), left at Railroad Ave.

From 101, go north to Grand Avenue. West on Grand Avenue, left on Spruce, right on Railroad Avenue.

**The center is at the corner of Magnolia and Railroad Avenue.**

**Send reservation by September 20<sup>th</sup>. Maximum number is 50, so reserve early!!**

All meals include house salad, bread and butter, coffee or tea, and cake.

Breast of Chicken Chasseur—mushrooms and tomatoes in a light sherry sauce— with rice and vegetables	\$21
Roast Leg of Lamb Au Jus—with vegetables and potatoes	\$23
Vegetarian Pasta	\$15

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Chasseur @ \$21= \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Leg of Lamb au Jus @ \$23= \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Pasta @ \$15= \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to Martha LeRoy and mail to Martha LeRoy.

**Reserve by September 20<sup>th</sup>. Space limited to 50.**



## 2010 FFSFBA COMMITTEES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org: Stephen Smallwood

VP@ffsfba.org: Barry Rader

Secretary@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready

Treasurer@ffsfba.org: Scott Miller

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Activities@ffsfba.org: Lois Smallwood

Membership@ffsfba.org: Mary Pelland

Newsletter@ffsfba.org: Dave & Dee Gustavson

Parliamentarian@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready

Publicity@ffsfba.org: Arnold Becker

### EXCHANGE DIRECTORS

Tuxtla-Gutierrez, Mexico, OutboundM@ffsfba.org  
Ron & Gloria Greenwald

Alajuela, Costa Rica, InboundCR@ffsfba.org  
Lois Smallwood

### SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ExchangeBanker@ffsfba.org: Don Pelland

Merchandise@ffsfba.org: Barry Rader

Forester@ffsfba.org: Don Dillon  
Karen Rice

Forest records: Mary Alice vanDoorn

Program@ffsfba.org: Barry Rader

Area Group Coordinator

Regional@ffsfba.org: Louise Heiduk

Sunshine@ffsfba.org: Darlene Boyanich

Webmaster@ffsfba.org: Eoin O'Donoghue

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

**Friendship Force International**

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## 2010 CALENDAR

**September 9–24** Outbound Exchange to  
Tuxtla-Gutierrez, Mexico

**October 3** Annual Meeting,  
Lunch at Basque Cultural  
Center, So. San Francisco

**October 15–18** Friendship Force  
International Conference  
in Wash., D.C. (with  
optional homestay)

**November 14** FF Board meeting, 1 p.m. at  
the Smallwood home

**December 4** Holiday Luncheon at  
Michael's Shoreline  
Restaurant, Mountain View

## 2011 CALENDAR

**February 4–6** Friendship Force  
International Conference  
in Auckland, New Zealand  
(with optional homestay)

**May** Outbound Exchange to  
Biarritz France

**July** Incoming Indonesia Exchange

**October** Incoming Domestic Exchange  
from Dallas, TX