

The Friendship Force San Francisco Bay Area December 2022 News

Upcoming Events

It's Not Too Late!! – Join us Thursday, December 8th Annual Holiday Luncheon – Michaels at Shoreline, 2960 North Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, Thursday, December 8, 11:00 – 2:00 PM. The cost is \$40 per person. The absolute last day to register is Wednesday, December 7. Sign-up and pay online (preferred) when you register or mail your check payable to FFSFBA C/O E. Miller, Treasurer, P. O. Box 620345, Woodside, CA 94062. You must be vaccinated to attend; please bring your vaccination card.

This year's luncheon features a buffet with Rosemary Chicken, Sirloin Tips, and Vegetarian Lasagna along with two different salads, two side dishes and rolls/butter. Ice cream with mint sauce will be our dessert. Drinks include coffee, hot tea, iced tea or lemonade. This year's program includes 2023 officer installation, 2024 destination preference voting, and a White Elephant gift extravaganza. Look around your house for a white elephant you would like to give away, wrap it up, and bring it to the holiday luncheon! We will also talk about our recent Australia/New Zealand journey and our upcoming Chile Inbound. The program also features a 50/50 raffle which will have two prizes: the raffle's cash and a beautiful holiday-themed gift basket. We will also show photos from all our 2022 journeys. Contact: Shirley Foreman at 408 985-6715.

Let's Eat Out at Lei Garden, Wednesday, January 18, 11:30 AM Host: Megan George 650 862-7648. Enjoy a great Dim Sum lunch at Lei Garden, 10125 Bandle Drive, Cupertino. The restaurant is located just off Stevens Creek Blvd in Cupertino near the Target store. Lei Garden serves Chinese food Cantonese style. If possible, bring cash to make it easy to pay. The festivities begin at 11:30 AM. Contact Megan (650 862-7648) for more information. To attend register on the ffsfba.org website. Log-in and then select Local Events Calendar; you will see this event. Select it and register. If you visit the website and don't see the event yet, try again a few days later as the event may not be posted yet as of this news publication.

February 26, 2023 - Restarting Member Recruitment

Get this on your calendar now!!! You won't want to miss our new member recruitment All About Friendship Force Fried Chicken Lunch!! Now that the pandemic is waning, our club is restarting its member recruitment efforts. We will hold our member recruitment Fried Chicken Dinner lunch Sunday, February 26, Noon – 3 PM. Each member attending will bring a guest(s). The cost is \$10/member with a guest (\$20 without) and complimentary for guests. Marty McKnew and Pat Ghiglieri, our Western Region FFI representatives, will be present to inform us and answer all our questions about Friendship Force. And members from our club will share their experiences. This event will be held at the Shoup Park Garden House located in Shoup Park, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos. Please contact Shirley Foreman for more information at foreman.shirley@gmail.com or 408 985-6715.

2022 & 2023 Journey News

Fun in Sydney by Dave Rice

Lori Kay and I enjoyed Sydney in early November. Here are some of the things that we discovered.

It is very easy to take the subway (green T8) from the airport to downtown (Circular Quay). The fare is just over \$20.0. You can get an Opal Card at the airport Domestic Terminal station to use on transport throughout Sydney. The card can also be used for the harbor ferry. The Sydney Metro rivals the London tube in its efficiency.

We stayed in a Airbnb near Hyde Park (Museum Station). The park is lovely. The Australian Museum at the park is well worth seeing. Most interesting are the museum "treasures" that reveal Australian and South Pacific history and a large section about native peoples. It is free.

We took the regular ferry to Manly and its beach. Use your Opal card. The town of Manly is a (surfing) tourist destination and has great shops. It was warm

enough for me to swim – I realized that was on my bucket list. Don't bother with other harbor cruises, though the hop-on hop-off also has one.

We took both land routes of the hop-on-hop-off. The red route is best in the Sydney center. The blue route goes out to the eastern coast and Bondi Beach; you basically see a lot of homes with great views that you could not afford. You pass the docked Australian Navy. The two land routes intersect at the Australian Museum. Stop 3. Buy your ticket online with the app and get on anywhere.

We explored the "Rocks" and its history. The Discovery Museum is worth seeing for history and there are many restaurants and pubs. We were disappointed that we missed the Contemporary Art Museum at the Rocks. We thought it was open to 9:00 pm but it closes at 5:00 pm. We did get to the main NSW art museum in the Domain. It is nice with an Australian flavor but not particularly unique to Sydney. We did not see the nearby botanical gardens.

The Hyde Park Barracks is worth seeing for the history of convicts in Australia. It has a great interactive display!

Lori Kay highly recommends Australian Opal Cutters on Pitt Street near (Hyde) Park street. You go upstairs and they buzz you in and out. She got great rapid service to get a custom ring. The store is also their factory. I learned the difference between layered stones (cheap but pretty) boulder stones and "black" (any color) stones. These latter are the real thing, expensive and mined in Queensland. There are lots of other retail opal jewelry stores as well. The area around Park Street is a great shopping district with an Asian (Thai, Korean and Chinese) flavor.

Miscellaneous: We did not eat out much – restaurants are up to you. You need to go to a bottle store to buy wine. As with NZ meat pies are everywhere. You cannot get over the impressive architecture of Sydney. My view – the Opera House is impressive but is better seen from a distance. We did not bother with the Opera tour or theater, though these may be of interest to others. Our four days were too short. That's my input – have fun!

Chile Inbound Journey – The Chile club is planning to visit us in 2023 arriving June 17 and departing June 23. Rose Marie Everett is the Journey Coordinator. If you

would like to help please contact Rose Marie (rosiebear@earthlink.com or 510.363.0531) or Shirley Foreman (foreman.shirley@gmail.com 408.985.6715).

2023 Domestic Journeys

Rose Marie Everett and Martha LeRoy are contacting clubs in the United States to see if they are interested in hosting us. If you have suggestions for a journey, please contact Rose Marie Everett (rosiebear@earthlink.net or 510.363.0531) or Martha LeRoy (see member directory for contact info).

Pre-Thanksgiving Get Together Was Fun!

14 club members and guests met at Rose Marie Everett's home to celebrate the Thanksgiving season.



They shared stories from past years, favorite Fall poems, and blessings of the season. A great Thanksgiving buffet was enjoyed by all.

November 11 LEO at Pacific Catch

Twelve people attended and enjoyed the great food at Pacific Catch in Campbell. Helga Campbell hosted. And two guests subsequently joined our club! Welcome to these new members.

2023 Events

Please mark your calendar now! These are just some of the events planned for our membership during 2023:

January 18 – Let’s Eat Out at Lei Garden, Cupertino
February 11 – Mission San Jose Tour/Coffee House Lunch
February 26 – All About Friendship Force Member Lunch
March 17 – Let’s Eat Out at BJ’s, Cupertino
March 19 – Celebrate World Friendship Day
April 21 – Let’s Eat Out at Market Broiler, Fremont
May 18 – Shinn/CA Nursery Tours & Picnic Lunch
May 21 – Celebrate FFSFBA’s 39th Birthday
June 2 – Wunderlich Park Hike with Lunch at Buck’s
June 17 – 23 – We host ambassadors from Chile
June 21 – Hike at Shoreline Park w/lunch at Michaels
July 19 – FFSFBA BBQ
September 10 – Annual Meeting & Club in Photos
December 14 – Holiday Luncheon

Volunteer and be proud!

For an organization like ours, if there are no volunteers there is no club!

So, make a difference by volunteering. These are most needed:

a. become an event poster – this job is exactly as described. You log on to the ffsfba.org website and post provided text on the Local Events Calendar. It’s easy and training is included!

b. help maintain our Facebook page – Do you use Facebook? Become a member of our Social Media team and help maintain our Facebook page.

Please contact Stuart Yusem or Shirley at (408) 985-6715 or

foreman.shirley@gmail.com

In Other News

Friendship Forest Post Rejuvenation Project

Over the years some of the posts marking the trees in the Friendship Forest have gone missing or been damaged. A new project proposed by Friendship Forest lead forester Karen McCready and approved by the FFSFBA.org board will employ the

efforts of a local boy scout troop to plant new posts being created by members Eric Miller and Dave Gustavson.

Please join the friendship force international member portal

Most members have been added to the Friendship Force Internation member portal (my.friendshipforce.org). However, when you log in for the first time you will need to create a password. The member portal is the new way that we interact with FFI so please check it out.

Please designate our club in your Amazon Smile account

This is something each of us can do now!! Steps:

- a. Enter smile.amazon.com in your browser and Log in
- b. To set FFSFBA as the charity, select the menu item “AmazonSmile”
- c. From the drop-down, select “Change” to change the charity.
- d. Enter “Friendship Force of the Bay Area” and press Search.
- e. When the name is found (Sunnyvale, CA) press Select and the charity is set.

Thank You for doing this because for everything you buy on smile.amazon.com FFSFBA will get .05% and this will help our club stay financially solvent.

Our Mission and Vision

These are now posted on our ffsfba.org website, so check it out!!

Let’s remind ourselves of our club’s Mission and Vision:

Our Mission

The Mission of FFSFBA is to promote global peace, understanding, and friendship through homestays.

Our Values: Mutual Respect, Cultural Diversity, Cultural Exploration, Service

Our Vision

Our Vision: Each individual will make a contribution to global goodwill.

The Friendship Force worldwide network of clubs and individuals will overcome differences among people and nations.

By connecting the world one friend at a time we will create a world of friends that becomes a world of peace.

The Friendship Force Pledge

Also, let's remind ourselves of the Friendship Force Pledge:

As a member of the Friendship Force
I recognize that I can make a difference,
I recognize that I have a mission.
That mission is to be a friend
To the people of the world.
As I embark on this adventure
I know that others are watching me.
I know that through my example to my own fellow citizens
And people of other nations,
The cause of Friendship, Love and Peace can be furthered.
I can make a difference!

That's the news.

All the best in friendship,

-Shirley