

Finally, we have a special treat for our September Annual Meeting. Our members Patricia Snowden and Maylou Bartlett will present a program of their adventures in Myanmar last March. For a preview, see Patricia's article on page 4 of the April/May 2013 FFSFBA newsletter. It can be found at <http://ffsfba.org/newsletter/newsletter.html>

Also at the meeting we will hold our Executive Committee election and vote on where we would like to travel in 2015. That meeting will also be held in a first time venue, at the Community Activities Center in Redwood City. So all you peninsula people invite your friends.

See you soon. —Don Pelland, President

FINDING THE MILPITAS LIBRARY

(for August 10, see page 9)

Directions to Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main St., Milpitas

From East Bay:

Take 880 south to CA-237 E/Calaveras Blvd exit toward McCarthy Blvd.

Turn left onto W Calaveras Blvd.

Take the exit toward Main St.

Turn left onto N Main St.

Destination will be on the right.

From South Bay:

Go north on 880 and then follow the directions above.

From the Peninsula:

Take 237 east and follow the directions above.



Bergen, Norway



Sognefjord, Norway

Vice President: Nancy Menz

Nancy is a lady of many talents. One of our first experiences with her was during a performance of her dance group at the farewell party for the Indonesians. She also shared her organizational abilities by helping to organize the dinner at that party. She has participated in and helped to organize several activities and meetings in the ensuing years. She has served the past two years as Treasurer.

Treasurer: Pat Macholl

Pat retired as TV Research Director from Alameda. She 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. In addition to Friendship Force, she actively volunteers in senior help organizations.

Secretary: Julice Winter

Julice is a long time member of Friendship Force. She has been active in planning several exchanges. She enjoys meeting and entertaining people from many cultures, both through traveling and hosting in Friendship Force. She is active in the League of Women Voters and is a volunteer at Yosemite.

—Louise Heiduk

“DISCOVER NORWAY: FJORDS, FOLKWAYS, AND FRIENDSHIP”

Sunday, October 20, 2013, 1:30–3:30 pm

Come for the scenery, meet the Friendship Force world travelers, and share some social time together! Tasty snacks provided.

Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club

474 Embarcadero Road

Palo Alto, CA 94301

<http://tinyurl.com/FFLawnBowl>

From August 13-27, 2013, twenty adventurous Friendship Force members from around the world will tour spectacular Norway together. These twenty hail from Cape Town, South Africa; Hobart, Tasmania; Huntsville, Alabama; Cincinnati, OH; Olympia, WA; and eight from our San Francisco Bay Area club. The highlight will be the 6-night home stay with club members in Bergen, a picturesque World Heritage site. As always happens on FF exchanges, the hosts will show off what they treasure most about their stunning landscape and its fascinating history. An 8-day tour will take them to Oslo for the first three days and then continue across the Sognefjord and Lillehammer, ending with another day in Oslo.

Come experience Norway without the long flight!

—Karen L. McCready

- 10:00—11:00—Tour & talk at All Saints Church,
22824 2nd St., Hayward
- 11:30—Tour of Hayward Senior Center, next to theater
- 12:00—Tour Little Theater—David Morrisson
22311 N. Third St. Hayward
- 12:30—Tour Japanese Gardens next to senior center
- 1:30—Lunch at Kokyo Sushi Buffet—\$12, 1071 B Street Hay-
ward, to left of the movie theater, up the stairs/elevator.
- 3:00—5:00—A Mural Walk with artists present.
Stacey Bristow will be conducting the tour.
Dinner on your own, maps and suggestions available.
- 3. Saturday Sept. 28—San Francisco Experience**
Cable car—\$6, SF Museum—\$5, Duck Tour—\$28.
F Line—\$0.75. Bring snack from home. Dress in layers,
with a hat. Wear walking shoes. Need Golden Passes.
- 10:00—Meet at Powell & Market Streets
Cable car—Powell & Hyde to end of line
- 11:00—SF Maritime Museum National Park, Hyde St. Pier. En-
joy SF Golden Gate Bridge & SF Bay views & historical ships.
- 12:00—Lunch on your own
- 2:00—Ride the Ducks—Jefferson & Taylor—Ride
through historic streets and neighborhoods, visit splash-
down McCovey Cove
- 4:00—Return home—F Line—Historical Street Cars,
Jones & Beach, or continue sight seeing
- 4. Sunday, Monday Sept. 29 & 30—**
Free Days! Choose an area of special interest.
- 5. Monday Sept. 30—Hosted Potluck Dinners.**
- 6. Tuesday Oct. 1—9:30am—Meet at Hyatt Regency**
Bring snack or lunch.
Meet at Drumm & Market Streets, 3rd floor lobby.
F Line—Historical Street Car—\$1.50 RT,
Alcatraz tour—\$28
- 10:00—F Line—Drumm & Market Street
- 11:00—Alcatraz boat crossing & tour—Embarcadero &
Bay Streets—Dress in layers, something warm, hat,
good walking shoes—“The Rock” Alcatraz is steep and
hilly. Available S.E.A.T. electric shuttle (only 20 people,
first come first served) meets incoming boat.
- 1:30—Return-F Line to Ferry Building
Hosts are welcome to go on their own to one of the free
museums today: DeYoung, Legion of Honor, & Cartoon.
Public transportation information given on request.
- 7. Wednesday Oct. 2—10:30—Prusch Park San Jose**
Bring a snack. Manitoba tree dedication.
647 S. King Road, but more convenient to turn right on
Story Rd., and right on Knox, to approx 1076 Knox Ave.
- 11:30—Winchester Mystery House tour & Farewell lun-
cheon—\$40. 7.5 miles from Prusch Park.
Winchester House, 525 South Winchester Blvd., SJ
- 12:00—Tour, private guide & self-guided garden
- 1:30—Farewell Luncheon
- 3:00—Hosts are welcome to show their Ambassadors
Santana Row & gardens, a block away
- 8. Thursday Oct. 3—**
Farewell & departure at SFO or Oakland Airports.
Join us in saying goodbye to our new FF friends.

Exchange Director: RoseMarie Everett
Exchange Treasurer: Nancy Menz
Exchange Banker: Wendy Dewell

NEW ZEALAND CULTURE COMES TO FREMONT!

On April 27th, we had a wonderful cultural event to learn about New Zealand. Over 100 people turned out to hear Craig Stokes, Vice President of the New Zealand American Association of San Francisco, regale us with stories of the people, the culture, the food, and anything else we wanted to know. We were then entertained by members of Maori Mo Ake Tonu, who performed some traditional Maori songs & dance and introduced us to Maori culture and language. They even got us up on our feet to learn a few moves ourselves!

—Carol Easter





friendship force

INTERNATIONAL

To: Friendship Force members worldwide
From: Jack Mullen, Chair, FFI Board of Directors
Date: July 3, 2013
Re: Welcoming FFI's new president and CEO

As the chair of the board of directors of Friendship Force International, it gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment of Joy DiBenedetto as FFI's fifth president and CEO. Joy brings a great deal of experience to FFI from her years at Atlanta-based international news agency CNN and CARE Organization, the non-profit based in Atlanta that works to end poverty in the world. Those on the search committee who met her feel that she has the skill and vision to lead our organization through the next phase. Joy will begin her work here on July 15, 2013, and we will formally introduce Joy to the club members at the world conference in New Orleans.

Joy is the founder and former CEO of HUM: Human Unlimited Media, the world's first and only 'all-nation' content and information agency. An award-winning 20-year media veteran, she has covered every major global event in successively senior positions, from the television studio and in the field; domestically and internationally; as a producer and manager.

Until March of 2008, she was the global vice president of network booking and research for the CNN News Group, where she oversaw guest coverage for CNN's domestic and international news networks, managing a worldwide staff.

Throughout her career she has strived to promote the importance of global understanding and to unite the world's people. With Turner Broadcasting, CNN and HUM she made positive change towards "closing the Geographic Gap" in media coverage. She has also pursued various humanitarian efforts with CARE, the Fugee's Family and the United Nations.

DiBenedetto is a world trekker who often bicycles to work and who has survived Dengue Fever. I know you will welcome her and give her the support that the President will need as we strive to grow in our mission.

It is only fitting to give a big thanks to the CEO search committee who worked for the last 7 months to bring us to this day where I am able to make this announcement.

Again, I welcome Joy to the FFI family and I know you welcome her too!

Sincerely,

Jack Mullen, Chair of the FFI Board of Directors



Joy DiBenedetto will begin as FFI President and CEO on July 15, 2013.

stay with us. Horst, don't forget I'm coming back to Varel; Dave and Pat, you're close enough we might just pop in at anytime. Tsuguyo and Mr. Aichi, where should we travel together next? Cicek we WILL come to Turkey and maybe add a side trip to Yury in Rostov on the way. And to all our Aussie and Kiwi friends, as soon as Jill gets enough time off from work (or retires!) we're coming down under for a full month. That is just the beginning! I'm retiring from FFI but not from Friendship Force friends!

Just as I will continue my international friendships, I know you will do the same. And as you move through your life's journeys, I know you'll continue to value the connections that the Friendship Force has made possible. In the next week or two the FFI Board will be announcing the appointment of a new President. There are great opportunities ahead for the Friendship Force and I know that you will provide the same enthusiastic support to the new president that you provided me all these years.

The Friendship Force has been strong for 36 years because people like you have believed in its mission. Keep up that good work in the years ahead!

In friendship,

George



NEWS FROM THE MILLERS

Although Scott and Luree moved to Denver last April, they are staying connected with our club. On April 22nd, they reunited with FFSFBA members Kevin and Sara Rozzano of Fremont on the Amtrak platform in Denver on a cold, snowy day. Kevin and Sara had a 30-40 minute layover on their transcontinental train trip from SF to NYC.

They recently dined with Jan Gordon and her sister as they passed through Denver. In November they'll get together with Dee Gustavson while she's visiting relatives in Denver.

The Millers have already joined a Colorado club and are actively participating in events. They plan to join their club on an exchange to Australia next year. Their club also plans to host the Biarritz Club either before or after our club hosts them in September 2014.



l. to r.: Sara, Kevin Rozzano, Scott & Luree Miller



Kevin & Sara Rozzano

WALES & GERMANY EXCHANGE

Seventeen members of our local club experienced two wonderful exchanges and a tour through Poland and Prague. Ambassadors on the exchange included: Martha LeRoy, ED, Wendy and Kent Dewell, Ann Halligan, Marie Bettencourt, June Harris, Natalie Heling, Gayle Howell and Eddie Hernandez, Linda Jasany, Vickie Lau, Janis Maurry, Maggie McDermott, Nancy Menz, Lee Wurlitzer, Rose Marie Everett-McInnes, and Carol Easter.

On June 26th we headed for Cardiff, Wales. We were greeted at the airport by host members of the local club. Just prior to departure we were to learn of the hospitalization of the exchange director and the femur fracture of another of the hosts. There were some shifts in hosting, but eventually everyone found a “home.” Nancy Menz and I were housed in a converted cow stall. Really, it was quite charming out in the countryside and five miles from the nearest town. The remodeling had been done about 20 years ago and the result, which had been designed by an interior decorator, included all of the amenities. The beautiful green rolling hills of Wales surrounded us and were “dotted” with lots of little white lambs.

The welcome party was a catered affair with Indian cuisine. We were entertained by a marvelous young singer who certainly could have attained a role on Broadway. Between bites of delicious food and the fine entertainment, we started to get to know our hosts’ club a little better. Most of the ambassadors returned to the hall a bit later to hear the famous Welsh tradition of male choirs.

Some of the interesting events were a visit to Cardiff and the castle right in the middle of the big city. We were greeted by The Lord Mayor and had a tour of an interesting castle that has had several additions over many centuries. We had a lovely canal boat ride in Brecon which was near where we were housed. The farewell party at the Hilton was lots of fun with a sing-along of many traditional favorites that both cultures share. Our club’s performance of “California Here I Come,” starring Nancy Menz and her “back-up” singers and dancers was a big hit. We even did an encore.

I will never forget the stunning green of Wales, the beautiful gardens, and of course tea and Welsh cakes. The biggest impression was made by the people, whose warmth and friendship we will never forget.

From Wales we did a complete 180, arriving in Nuremberg, Germany. What a contrast! We switched from tea and Welsh cakes to sausage and beer. Although much of the architecture was of the quaint and charming variety, most Nuremberg Friendship Force members lived in spacious and modern homes. The energy of this club was, from our first meeting at the airport, almost palpable. The club was founded by my host, who had started a local “English school.” As a result, all of the members were totally fluent in English.

We had a marvelous welcome party with fabulous dishes all made by members of the club. There was lots of time to get to know our new host club as we mingled with glasses of beer or

wine. The whole week was jam packed with really interesting and unique things to do. We had a tour of the beautiful ancient cities of Nuremberg and Regensburg on the Danube, with a fabulous old glockenspiel. We had a great al fresco lunch at a courtyard restaurant. Other days, we visited an organic farm run by a woman who could have been chosen right out of central casting to play Maria Trapp from *The Sound of Music*. She provided a delicious organic lunch, which was served under lovely shade trees. We visited an Aroma Garden, and toured Siemens’ main facility where high tech medical equipment (MRI) is manufactured and shipped throughout the world. I certainly can’t forget that we had not one, but two receptions by the local Burgermeisters, in Nuremberg and Markt Eckental. Many of us had the opportunity to take part in the cherry festival and visit the house where Levi Strauss was born. The farewell dinner was in the courtyard of a charming restaurant with wonderful food, wine and beer. The singers and dancers of the San Francisco Bay Area Friendship Force once again did our club proud, performing in a very limited space to enthusiastic applause.

It was time to bid our new German friends auf wiedersehen and head out to Warsaw, Poland. We spent two nights in Warsaw as part of a tour package by Brendan Tours. From Warsaw it was on to Krakow. What a charming city! We had a city tour and then some of our members went on two tours organized by our own Carol Easter. One of the tours was of the Salt Mine, which was filled with many sculptures that had been carved out of salt. It was quite magnificent! The afternoon tour was of the Auschwitz concentration camp and was very emotional for most of the group. Prior to heading back to San Francisco, we visited Prague. This was to be our last stop. Although we were tired, I think most of us felt that you can never get enough of this gorgeous jewel-like city. We were entranced, but alas, our Delta jet waited and once again we were in the air, exhausted, but filled with memories that will last a lifetime.

—Martha LeRoy, ED



Left to right: Linda Jasany, Vickie Lau, host Gerard Purnell, Nancy Menz, Martha LeRoy, and Carol Easter

