



The Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area

...You can make a difference!

...a force to promote peace

Vol. 26 No. 1

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

February/March 2009

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

"The New Colossus"

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
 With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
 Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
 A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
 Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
 Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
 Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
 The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
 "Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
 With silent lips.



"Give me your tired, your poor,
 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Emma Lazarus, 1883

Our featured speaker at World Friendship Day on February 21 will be a Hispanic journalist whose specialty is immigration issues. After our new vice president, Gail B., lined up Antonio Ruiz Camacho, current Knight Fellow from Stanford, to address us, I began to consider how the experiences of the immigrants among us relate to the principles of Friendship Force. We all know what a troublesome and controversial issue immigration has become, one that even the presidential candidates seemed reluctant to discuss. It certainly remains one of the unresolved problems of this administration and perhaps more to follow. Without getting involved in the controversy, perhaps we can learn and do something constructive about those who have arrived here in recent years. What does this have to do with FFSFBA members? I would like to approach the answer in three ways:

- First, let's make this the theme of World Friendship Day (February 21) and continue this theme through at least some of our other 2009 general meetings.
- In keeping with this theme, I urge you to invite immigrant neighbors and other immigrant friends who might not know about Friendship Force to accompany you to WFD and other FFSFBA events. Perhaps we can network with cultural clubs within our communities—foreign language groups, etc.

- Also, I would welcome your stories about your own immigrant experiences, perhaps to be published in the newsletter or shared at one of the meetings. I know of only a few FFSFBA members who have come from other countries, but there are bound to be more. Send them to me via my email address or to newsletter@ffsfba.org.

To follow up on the immigration theme, I want to invite an Afghan speaker to our May 16 Birthday meeting to describe the many programs for the thousands of Fremont residents from Afghanistan. A district of Fremont became known as "Little Kabul" during the war in Afghanistan because Fremont has the largest Afghan population outside of their home country. The City of Fremont recognized their special needs and created an umbrella agency to coordinate the programs.

Of course, the central focus of our organization is on incoming and outbound exchanges, which shall be featured as prominently as ever in 2009--more, in fact, because of two incoming exchanges. The Central Coast Australians will arrive after our May meeting, but we hope to involve as many members as possible in meeting and hosting them. Our friends and former hosts from Chemnitz, Germany will be the honored guests at our Annual Picnic in Prusch Park on July 11. For our September Annual Meeting (and election), we will schedule an appropriate "Bon Voyage" program for our ambassadors bound for Capetown, South Africa.

With your help, we can dedicate 2009 to learning more about the cultures that surround us in our daily lives.

Happy New Year! May you prosper in health, happiness, and secure mortgages!
 —Karen L. McCready

SAY "G'DAY!" TO CENTRAL COAST AUSTRALIANS, MAY 28-JUNE 4

We enjoyed the Australians so much last year that we offered to host another club this year—from a few miles north of Sydney. Twelve ambassadors—three couples and six single women—will make the Bay Area their first stop before proceeding on to Oklahoma City and Huntsville, Alabama. They have emailed their personal data and photos already and look like a vigorous bunch. To overcome jetlag, they have booked a hotel near Fisherman's Wharf to rest for two days before their hosts pick them up. In short, they couldn't be more accommodating. Check out their club website <http://www.friendshipforcecentralcoast.asn.au/> to see how vibrantly active their club is!

(Continued on page 2)

Don't miss out on the various opportunities to interact with these guests: attending the welcome and farewell parties, home hosting, day hosting, potluck hosting, and some of the week's group outings. Our organization was founded for the purposes of hosting and being hosted. All of our veteran members can vouch for the personal rewards of sharing our unique culture and lifestyle and making international lifelong friends.

Central Coast Australia Exchange Meeting

Sunday, February 8, 2:00 PM.

Contact Karen McCready
if you can help to entertain our
guests in any of the above-mentioned ways.

**SAN ANTONIO AND DALLAS
OUTBOUND EXCHANGE**

April 19-30, 2009

LAATEST REPORT FROM TEXAS: We will be attending two traditional events, The Battle of the Flowers Parade in San Antonio, and a Traditional Rodeo, held on Saturdays in Dallas. More information will be issued via e-mail as received from the Exchange Directors.

We are seeking more Ambassadors for the Texas Exchange. There are openings for 5 people who can be couples or singles who wish to room together or not. If you are considering going or know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Gail by phone or e-mail for more detailed information.

An added surprise is that Lorne and Angela Hill from Guelph, Ontario, Canada will be joining our exchange as Ambassadors, for the Dallas portion only. They read about our Texas Exchange in an FFSFBA newsletter sent to them by Dee and David Gustavson, who were their guests during the recent Hamilton/Burlington Canadian Exchange in 2008. Welcome Lorne and Angela!

We are looking forward to this exchange to Texas and hope more members will consider joining and becoming Ambassadors. —*Lori English and Gail B.*, Texas Exchange Directors

INCOMING CHEMNITZ EXCHANGE JULY 7-14

Our first organizational meeting will be held on Friday February 6 at 11 AM at the home of Katharine Kleinke. Please bring your lunch if you wish. Snacks and beverage will be provided. Please RSVP to Katharine.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thanks to all who have already renewed their membership for 2009. If you haven't yet renewed, please send your fees and membership forms to Mary Pelland soon.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

On Sunday, December 14 our club held its annual Holiday Luncheon at Michaels at Shoreline in Mountain View. About seventy individuals enjoyed a splendid holiday lunch. The club members who went on the Canadian exchange gave



Our 2009 officers were installed at our December 14 Holiday Luncheon: Ivan Heling, Treasurer; Steve Smallwood, Secretary; Karen McCready, President; and Gail B., Vice President.

a report, and Barry Rader, the exchange director, presented a slide show of the exchange. Those in attendance enthusiastically sang carols, led by Mary Lynn Pelican and Dee Gustavson.

Barry Rader installed the 2009 officers. —*Lois Smallwood*

WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY

When: Saturday, February 21, 2-4 p.m.

Where: Los Altos Public Library Community Room,
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Questions? Call Dee Gustavson.

Guest speaker Antonio Ruiz-Camacho will share his journey of immigrating into the United States at the age of 28 and explain why his passion is to focus his continuing studies on immigration through the Knight Fellowship at Stanford University. Through his studies, journalistic articles, and experiences of living on both sides of the Mexican border, in California and in Texas, he will enlighten us on how these two states differ in addressing Immigration.



Antonio was born and raised in Toluca, Mexico. He earned his bachelor's degree from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, and has been involved with writing and reporting for newspapers in Madrid, Mexico City, and Texas for the past 10 years. In 1998, Antonio accepted a position with El Financiero Newspaper as a foreign correspondent in Madrid. Since 2004-2006, he has been managing editor for both the Daily and Weekly Rumbo de Austin, both Spanish language newspaper networks for first and second-generation Latinos in the San Antonio, Houston, and the Rio Grande Valley areas. He has also been overseeing an independent blog on the immigration of Mexican young professionals called "Periferico Sur (Northbound)," since 2007. Antonio received the Bronze Award in the Outstanding Daily category by the National Association of Hispanic Publications in 2006. —*Gail B.*, VP Programs

DIRECTIONS FOR WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY

From northern 880: Dumbarton Bridge, 101 south, San Antonio Rd west. 1 mile past 82 (El Camino Real), turn left into the Los Altos Library complex, shortly after the police station and intersection (traffic light) at Edith Ave. Park in any lot. Enter the library, go left to the Community Meeting Room, not into the library proper.

From 880 via Milpitas: take 237 toward Mt. View, exit onto 101 north, exit on San Antonio Road west and proceed as above.

From 280: exit at El Monte Ave. east toward Los Altos and the Bay. After 1/2 mile turn left on Foothill Expressway, take the next right onto San Antonio Road. Pass Hillview Ave., then turn right into the library complex and proceed as above.

EAST BAY GROUP BEATS HOLIDAY BLAHS

“It’s a good place for a diet; it’s a bad place for a diet.” Ten East Bay members wrestled with this dilemma as they studied the tantalizing menu at Max’s Diner on Crow Canyon Road in San Ramon on January 22. Together, Yvonne Bretoi, Julice Winter, Jan Gordon, Rita and Dick Hammer, Bill Crowe, Mary Pelland, Chris Vitalis, Barry Rader, and I concluded that it’s all good.

Other items on the agenda were plans for World Friendship Day on February 21, for the incoming Central Coast Australia Exchange, and ideas for our next area group outing. We pooled our collective suggestions for group field trips during the exchange, such as a “Museum Day” in San Francisco, the free SF City Hall tour, and the Mission District Murals walk. Closer to our East Bay homes, we can enjoy the vista from Mt. Diablo, lunch and/or bocce ball at one of the Livermore Valley wineries, a private tour of the Mission San Jose, or movies at the Silent Film Museum in Niles. For our next area group adventure, we expect to tour the new Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, probably in late April.

The fellowship and enthusiasm were contagious, giving us momentum to dive into the activities of our new FFSFBA year. Catch the spirit!
—Karen L. McCready

NORTH BAY AREA IMPROMPTU OPEN TABLE DINING

Thanks to Joy Hillman for organizing our first activity for the New Year. This impromptu Dine on The Town/Open Table Dining Luncheon at Angelio Restaurant in Sausalito on January 26 gave us all a chance to catch up with one another on 2008’s adventures. When this dining out is offered again in June or July, Joy, and hopefully Elizabeth, will choose a delicious restaurant in San Francisco for our next event. —Gail B., Area 1 Chairperson

PENINSULA AREA B.Y.O.F.T.

The Heiduks, Wilners, Smallwoods, Frances Reid, Geri Bechtle, June Cademartori, Patricia Snowden, Dottie Schaefer, Joy Hewett, Elaine Hatfield, Peggy Wester, and Darlene Boyanich enjoyed a Bring Your Own Fancy Teacup party at Darlene and Roger’s home on January 24. They sampled various teas while discussing World Friendship Day, which will be on February 21, as well as the club’s 2009 exchanges.

—June Nielson Cademartori, Area 2 Chairperson

AREA REPS MEETING FEBRUARY 11

The area reps will meet for lunch at Delancey Street Restaurant in San Francisco on February 11 at 11:30 a.m. They will brainstorm to discover new ideas for future activities for area groups. This meeting is especially for the area reps; however, any club member is welcome to attend, but please RSVP to Louise Heiduk.

—Louise Heiduk, Area Group Coordinator

PLANNING MEETING FOR THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE EXCHANGE

At our planning meeting on January 17 at the McCready-Rader home in Fremont, 17 of the 22 prospective ambassadors brainstormed and came to tentative conclusions on a host of issues. We covered flight and itinerary options, a humanitarian project, the exchange booklet, a host-entertainment program, travel insurance, health issues and still headed home before dark! Are these good people to work with or what?

A key issue was the sequence of travel, possibly including a two-night lay over on the Cape to recover from jetlag before the home stay, with the safari tour following the home stay. Undoubtedly, no trip to Southern Africa would be complete without a visit to at least one of the game parks—probably Kruger National Park and Chobe—and to Victoria Falls. ED Karen McCready will explore all options with at least two travel agents.

Good news came the day after our meeting: host ED Rhona Howard emailed that we should “bring all 20” whose applications had been cleared by the club. One couple has since dropped out, making space for the couple on the waiting list.

The full list of ambassadors now includes Yvonne Bretoi, Joy Hewett, Katharine Kleinke, Karen Rice, Alyce Zahorsky, Jan Gordon, Karen McCready and Barry Rader, Luree and Scott Miller, Dee and Dave Gustavson, Louise and Wil Heiduk, Natalie and Ivan Heling, Darlene Boyanich and Roger Riffenburgh, and Mary and Don Pelland.

All club members will be hearing more about the exchange as we determine our exact humanitarian project and schedule fundraising activities. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 to benefit a charity in Cape Town, based on the advice and preference of the host club.

We are grateful for the rare opportunity to be hosted in South Africa and plan to make the most of it, seeing as much of the country as we can afford to traverse in a couple of weeks, and representing our club and our nation admirably and sincerely.
—Karen L. McCready, Exchange Director

FRIENDSHIP FORCE WESTERN REGION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Western Region Leadership Conference will be held May 4, 5, and 6 at the Siena Hotel and Casino in Reno, hosted by the Reno-Tahoe Friendship Force. The theme is “Celebrating Cultures Of The World—Observe, Explore, Understand.” FFI President George Brown will be a featured speaker. For more information, contact Karen McCready before March 31.

2009 FFSFBA COMMITTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready
VP@ffsfba.org: Gail B.
Secretary@ffsfba.org: Stephen Smallwood
Treasurer@ffsfba.org: Ivan Heling

STANDING COMMITTEES

Activities@ffsfba.org: Lois Smallwood
Natalie Heling
Membership@ffsfba.org: Mary Pelland
Newsletter@ffsfba.org: Dave & Dee Gustavson
Parliamentarian@ffsfba.org: Barry Rader
Publicity@ffsfba.org:

EXCHANGE DIRECTORS

Central Coast, Australia—May 28–June 4, *InboundA*@ffsfba.org
Karen McCready

Chemnitz, Germany—July 7–14,
InboundC@ffsfba.org Katharine Kleinke

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ExchangeBanker@ffsfba.org: Don Pelland
Merchandise@ffsfba.org: Barry Rader
Forester@ffsfba.org: Don Dillon
Karen Rice

Forest records: Mary Alice vanDoorn
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Area Group Coordinator

Regional@ffsfba.org: Louise Heiduk
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2009 CALENDAR

Fri., Feb. 6
11 AM

Sun., Feb. 8
2 PM

Sat., Feb. 21
2–4 PM

Sat., April 4
April 19–30

May 4–6

Sat., May 16

May 28–June 4

Sat., June 20
July 7–14

Sat., July 11

Sun., Aug. 16
Sept. 12 or 13
Early October

Sun., Nov 1
Nov. 19–22

Sun., Dec. 13

Incoming Chemnitz Exchange
meeting, Katharine Kleinke's

Incoming Australia Exchange
Meeting, Karen McCready's

World Friendship Day,
Los Altos Library

Board of Directors Meeting

Outbound Exchanges to
San Antonio & Dallas, Texas

Western Region Leadership
Conference, Reno

Birthday Meeting, First United
Methodist Church, Fremont

Incoming Exchange from
Australia's Central Coast

Board of Directors Meeting

Incoming Exchange from
Chemnitz, Germany

Annual Picnic, Prusch Park
Farewell to Chemnitz

Board of Directors Meeting

Annual Meeting, Election

Outbound Exchange to
South Africa

Board of Directors Meeting

Friendship Force International
Conference in Okinawa

Holiday Luncheon, Michaels at
Shoreline, Mountain View