



# friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA  
Changing the Way You See the World

Vol. 29 No. 1

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

January/February 2012

## BRINGING SOUTH AFRICA TO THE BAY AREA!

Cape Town, South Africa... one of the world's most multicultural cities, one of three South African capital cities, two ocean fronts, Bafana Bafana football (soccer to us), The Big Five, yummy bobotie and waterblommetjebredie (say that fast), jackass penguins, Kirstenbosch gardens, post-apartheid hurdles. And so much more!

Do you want to know what these are all about? Or to know more about South Africa, about Cape Town, and most importantly, about the people who live there? If so, join us in this rare opportunity to host a wonderful group of ambassadors from the Cape of Good Hope club from Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. The exchange committee is busy planning an exciting itinerary for their stay, but there is always room for more ideas and more helping hands. We particularly encourage you to consider being a day or dinner host, as the chance to share days and meals with our guests is at the heart of what Friendship Force is all about.

Contact Luree Miller ()  
or Karen McCready ()

to volunteer to help, to be a host, or for more information. Or join us at our next planning meeting on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m. at the residence of Gayle Howell and Eddie Hernandez,

## OFF TO NEW ZEALAND

In the middle of February, in the heart of our winter, FFSFBA is off to New Zealand in the summer. A three week spectacular tour of the North Island, including Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington, Wanganui and New Plymouth. Two exciting home stays in New Plymouth and Wellington are the highlights of the exchange. There are still a few openings for the exchange starting on February fifteenth and returning on March sixth. The cost of the exchange will be about \$4000 for the air, tour and home stays. If you have air miles available, the cost will be reduced by about \$1500, depending on the airline. If you've never been on an exchange, this would be a good way to start. The folks speak our language, the terrain will be easy to handle, and the natives are friendly. If you want more details, call Barry

—Barry Rader, ED



The Madrigal Singers from Mountain View High School entertained us royally at our annual Holiday Party at Michaels.

## WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY

Celebrating 35 Years of Making Friends Around the World  
World Friendship Day

February 11, 2012, noon to 3 p.m.

Theme: The Heart of Friendship Force—Home Hospitality

To kick off the week in which you honor your sweethearts, let's salute this organization that has changed so many of our lives as we reach out to people around the world. When we gather at the First United Methodist Church in Fremont again, we will be recapturing some of the memorable moments of club exchanges in fun and active ways:

A mixer in which we find out where club members have traveled during our club's 28 year history

Interactive displays of five destinations where club members traveled in 2011 and two clubs we hosted in 2011.

Prizes for showing what you've learned about inbound and outbound exchanges

A chance for a door prize if you wear an international costume  
Stories from travelers and hosts about what it's like to stay in other people's homes and how they entertained visitors

Meeting our guests from Cape Town, South Africa during their week long stay, June 19-26 and spending some quality time with them

Snack on international finger foods as you enjoy the displays and the activities\*

Location: Cole Hall at First United Methodist Church  
2950 Washington Blvd., Fremont 94539

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Directions: Washington Blvd. exit off 680. Turn right and continue to where Olive Avenue intersects. Turn left into the parking lot and look for the hall behind the church. It's the second church on the left.

\*We're asking all members to please bring finger food ready to serve.

Questions: Call Karen

Also, let Karen know if you can help distribute posters and fliers in the Tri-City area.

—Karen L. McCready



Barry Rader, Western Regional Representative for FFI, in San Diego's Wild Animal Park

### WESTERN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR FFI

Two years ago I was asked to take on the responsibilities of Western Regional Representative by the leadership at FFI. At the time I was really unaware of the job duties of the position. Before I signed on, I learned what the job entails:

1. Be responsible for organizing a regional conference for the fourteen clubs in the Western Region (Kauai, Honolulu, Central Arizona, Southern Arizona, Reno-Tahoe, Las Vegas, Napa-Sonoma, Sacramento, San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Orange County and Kern County).
2. Be the conduit for information between the region's presidents and FFI.
3. Attend training once a year organized by FFI.
4. Be responsible for overseeing outgoing exchanges from the region.
5. Be a repository of information on FF for the region.
6. Attend a once a month conference on line, sponsored by FFI.
7. Visit all the clubs in the region at least once during my term.
8. Be available to answer questions for the region's presidents and help them work through problems they might have.
9. Be available for speaking engagements in the Bay Area and for other clubs.

I am now half way through my tenure as Regional Rep. and have enjoyed each minute.

—Barry Rader

### SEARCHING FOR HOME STAYS ON THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE WEBSITE

Friendship Force International assigns most clubs only one outbound exchange a year. If we truly were limited to that one assignment, our opportunities to travel would be over after March 6, when members return from three weeks in New Zealand. However, intrepid FFSFBA members know that dozens of options await the skillful internet sleuth—on the FFI website, that is. On Friday, January 20, several members gathered at Suju's Coffee in Fremont to hone their online skills and to brainstorm places to go with other clubs in 2012. Barry Rader set up his laptop and projected the FFI website on a movie screen. The attentive audience watching the live search on the screen were Ann Halligan, Martha LeRoy, Diane Cira, Marty and Joe Fraga, Dee Gustavson, and Karen McCready.

Barry showed step-by-step how to work through FFI's listings of exchanges. Start by typing [www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org) into your browser, which takes you to the home page.

One of the two basic ways to search for exchanges is to click on "World of Friends Catalog," which brings up the multi-colored world continents. Click on a geographical area to access all the featured exchanges in that region. These exchanges do not require club membership and are likely to draw participants from all over the world. If they still are featured, they are likely to have openings.

The other search method is to click on the "Club Resources" tab from the home page. Scroll down and click the "Exchanges" heading. Then click on "Show All Upcoming Exchanges." The advantage of this approach is that it lists all exchanges chronologically, allowing you to locate a destination that fits your travel schedule. This comprehensive listing includes all the exchanges assigned to individual clubs, some of which may have openings.

Some even explored the wealth of special themed exchanges in our own country, such as "The Other Side of Las Vegas," which will explore the natural wonders surrounding the man-made adult playground. Another appealing domestic option is "Taste of New England," which, from October 9–17, is likely to be showing off fall colors.

Barry also shared tips on credit cards with the best rewards for travelers. Chase's Capital One card exacts no transaction fee for charges in foreign countries. United Plus Explorer, available at [united.com](http://united.com), charges no fee for the first year, offers 25,000 air miles to sign up, 10,000 additional miles after \$3,000 charged, and 5,000 miles if the spouse signs up, too. Besides, the first piece of luggage is free, members receive priority boarding and, after the first year, passes to the lounge.

The group also discussed websites that list all the best airfare prices, including [kayak.com](http://kayak.com) and [cheapofflights.com](http://cheapofflights.com).

These seasoned travelers went away a bit spicier than before!

Let Barry know if you missed this workshop and would like him to offer another:

—Karen L. McCready

35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## World Friendship Day

### Celebrating 35 years of Making Friends around the World

Theme: The Heart of Friendship Force—Home Hospitality

Saturday, February 11, 2012

12 noon to 3 p.m.

Cole Hall

First Methodist Church

2950 Washington Blvd.

Fremont, CA 94539

**All Members, please bring finger food ready to serve and share.**

**Directions:** Take the Washington Blvd. exit off 680. Turn right and continue to where Olive Avenue intersects. Turn left into the parking lot and look for the hall behind the church. It's the second church on the left.

**Questions? Call Karen**

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

There is lots of excitement happening with Friendship Force this year. Dave and Dee Gustavson kicked off the year with a fabulous program about Iceland. The Los Altos Library was packed. Following the presentation we walked over to a charming small restaurant for dinner and social time. There was much buzz about the fascinating sights and sounds of roaring waterfalls, volcanos and geysers.

Our next event will be in Fremont at the United Methodist Church, 2950 Washington Blvd., on Saturday Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 p.m. The annual World Friendship Day will focus on home hospitality. The event will, of course, have an international theme and many of our members will be sharing their experiences, both at home and abroad. Be sure to wear an international costume to be considered for a prize.

Mark your calendars for Saturday March, 10<sup>th</sup>! We will be meeting at Scott's Seafood in Jack London Square, Oakland. Not only is this a lovely venue with beautiful views of the Oakland Estuary and the San Francisco Bay, but Scott's is also known for wonderful food. Our very special guests will be James Shinn

and his wife, Patricia who have served in American embassies in various countries. How appropriate for Friendship Force "ambassadors" to get advice from the experts when we are representing our country abroad. We will gather at 12 noon in the Harbor View Room to enjoy a no-host social/cocktail hour. Lunch to follow at 1 p.m., followed by our program. The cost will be \$32, including tax and tip. Please RSVP to Martha by March 1 if you plan to attend this special event.

April is not just known for showers and flowers. In recent years we have all come to associate April with the celebration of Mother Earth and Earth Day. What a program we have for you! A tour of the Newark campus of Ohlone College on April 13<sup>th</sup> will highlight all of the incredible "green" planning that went into one of the most energy efficient buildings in the United States. They have even used blue jeans for insulation and the hands on "labs" are amazing. We will be limited to 20, so be sure to sign up early. (Details will be in the next newsletter.) It is also a perfect opportunity to see how our community colleges are creating jobs in the high-tech community where we live.

May, June and July events will be posted in upcoming newsletters.  
—Martha LeRoy, Event Planner



## ICELAND TRAVELOG

On January 8, a group of around seventy five, which included our members and a large group of visitors, met at the Los Altos Library to experience a wonderful presentation by Dave and Dee Gustavson about their recent trip to Iceland. Not only did we become well informed about the history and geography of that lovely country, but about twenty-five of us went together to the Plates Bar and Grill in downtown Los Altos afterward for dinner, where conversations continued about the sights and sounds of Iceland. It was a fun evening for all. The Los Altos Town Crier devoted a full page to the event and two photos, and provided FF contact information, so we are hoping to get some new members as a result.

—Louise Heiduk



Karen McCready, Barry Rader, Martha LeRoy, and Ann Halligan



Diane Cirra, Herb Clough, Kumi Clough, and Lee Wurlitzer

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings everyone. I'm Don Pelland, your 2012 FFSFBA President. My wife, Mary, and I have been FFSFBA members for 20 plus years. Six years ago Roger Riffenburgh called me and asked if I would be willing to serve our organization as Treasurer. Because I had never served on the Board, I felt I owed it to the organization that has offered us so much over those many years. Over the last four years I have served as our Exchange Banker, working with the EDs on exchange finances.

Also, over the last four years Steve Smallwood has provided FFSFBA leadership—first as Secretary, and for the last two, as President. His wife, Lois, has also served on the Board alongside Steve as the Activities person. The Smallwoods have made a significant contribution to the success of our group. Thank you Steve and Lois.

Last year Darlene Boyanich served as our Vice-President. For many years Darlene has also worked as our Sunshine person, sending get well cards and sympathy cards—many of them hand made—to our members and their families. Thank you Darlene.

The FFSFBA Treasurer for the last two years has been Scott Miller. Scott has offered his experience in finance to guide us through some sticky IRS rules and regulations (aren't they all?). Specifically, we now have to annually file a 990 form with the IRS as a non-profit 503(c)(3) organization. Thanks Scott for helping us deal with the IRS forms.

Finally, in 2011 Dee Gustavson filled in as Secretary. Dee and her husband, Dave, have served FFSFBA almost since the very beginning of our chapter. The Gustavsons have been our Newsletter editors for many years. We can't thank them enough for all they have done. Dave also oversees our data base system.

Now for 2012. This year we plan on having more activities which we now call "Events." The first event of 2012 was a rousing success provided by none other than Dee and Dave Gustavson. Last year they participated in a FF Discovery Tour to Iceland. The program on January 8<sup>th</sup> was a travelog of their experiences. Dave did an absolutely terrific job doing the narrative. Dee reserved the room and helped Karen McCready with publicity. Los Altos Library's Community Room was packed with members, 22 personal guests of Dave & Dee's, plus 10 additional guests. After the presentation, many of our members went out to dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Next up is World Friendship Day on February 11. Karen McCready, Barry Rader and Martha LeRoy are handling those arrangements. See this newsletter for more details.

All of the above individuals deserve our sincere thanks for all they have done and continue to do. Won't you join us by participating in our 2012 events and exchanges? Let's continue to make FFSFBA a dynamic organization.

—Don Pelland, President

## THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA PRESENTS . . .

Saturday, March 10, 2012  
Scott's Seafood at Jack London Square  
2 Broadway  
Oakland 94607  
510-444-3456

- Noon Sign in and social time  
1 p.m. Lunch served (Cost is \$32, including tax and tip. RSVP to Martha by March 1.)  
2 p.m. Program: "Representing America Abroad" by Patricia and James Shinn

Our club is pleased and honored to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Shinn, who will be speaking about their years of diplomatic service overseas for the United States. Hearing about their experiences will surely inspire the many "ambassadors" of our club—past, present, and future—who aspire to provide the best model of American citizenship and to show sensitivity toward other cultures when they participate in home stays abroad.

James describes his background and training for diplomatic service:

"A fourth generation Californian, I graduated from UC Berkeley in Political Science and did some graduate work at the University of Maryland. After graduate school I served for two years as a Naval Officer at sea in the Mediterranean, homeported in France.

I then joined the U.S. Foreign Service for a full career, serving in embassies, consulates and international organizations in Pakistan, Japan, Okinawa, France, Italy and Switzerland. In France, I served in the International Energy Agency at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In Italy, I was in charge of the American Consulate in Trieste, serving all of northeast Italy. My last overseas tour was as Deputy U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland for four years at the U.S. Embassy in Bern.

My last assignment at State Department headquarters was as Director of the Office of United Nations Political Affairs.

I subsequently worked at the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C. on NATO affairs, and some years later as Director of International Affairs for the city of Dallas, Texas.

My wife and I live in Kensington. We have two children and three grandchildren."

Those who recognize the name may know that Mr. Shinn is a descendant of a prominent and distinguished family who settled in what is now Fremont in the mid-1800's. James Shinn is the great-grandson of James Washburn Shinn and Lucy Ellen Shinn. They settled in Niles on what is now Shinn Park in 1856 and raised five children there. James's grandfather was a well-known horticulturalist and fruit rancher in the early days. Two of their children, Charles Howard and Milicent Washburn, became nationally-known figures, both in the literary world and, in the case of Charles, also in forest and land conservation. The Shinn family gave the remaining ranchland and its dwellings to the City of Fremont in 1962, to be held in trust as

a municipal and cultural asset. Mr. Shinn's mother's side of the family, the Mayhews, were featured in Geraldine Brooks' *Caleb's Crossing*, which covered their years on Martha's Vineyard before migrating west. We will hear how the family tradition of public service continued in James's and Patricia's generation.

Directions to Scott's Seafood: Off of I-880, take the Broadway exit and turn left on Broadway. Proceed four blocks to Jack London Square and Scott's at the end of the street. Valet parking is available.

## HOLIDAY PARTY

It was the best holiday party ever! At least that is what the partygoers kept repeating. Lois Smallwood did such a great job securing our favorite holiday restaurant, Michael's Shoreline. The food and service were excellent and the ambiance was festive. The best part was the surprise at the conclusion of our feast. Dee Gustavson had arranged for The Madrigal Singers from Mountain View High School to entertain us with Christmas music (see photo on page 1). They were spectacular and were rewarded with thunderous applause. We appreciate their enthusiasm in sharing the holiday spirit. I don't know if we will ever be able to top that one! —*Martha LeRoy*

## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Just a friendly reminder: We have a dynamite year planned, with social events, exchanges, dinners and more. We started this month with a great program about Iceland and a fun dinner afterward. Those of us who attended had a great time.

At this time, I have received 60 renewals, which is just over half the membership that we had at the end of last year.

If you haven't sent yours in, don't forget that before Jan. 31 the renewal fee is \$55 per couple and \$35 per single membership. After January 31, the renewal fees are \$60 per couple and \$40 per single membership.

If you need a new renewal form they can be found online or you can contact me and I'll see that you get one. I'm hoping that I hear from many of you in the next couple of weeks.

—*Louise Heiduk*, Membership Chair



Gerry and Ed Shannon, and Nina Davidson

## 2012 FFSFBA COMMITTEES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org: Don Pelland

VP@ffsfba.org:

Secretary@ffsfba.org: Ann Halligan

Treasurer@ffsfba.org: Nancy Menz

### STANDING COMMITTEES

EventPlanner@ffsfba.org: Martha LeRoy

Membership@ffsfba.org:

Newsletter@ffsfba.org: Dave & Dee Gustavson

Publicity@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready

Webmaster@ffsfba.org: Dan Eggerding

### EXCHANGE DIRECTORS

New Zealand, OutboundNZ@ffsfba.org

Barry Rader

South Africa, InboundSA@ffsfba.org

Karen McCready

Luree Miller

### SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ExchangeBanker@ffsfba.org: Don Pelland

Hospitality@ffsfba.org: RoseMarie McInnes

Merchandise@ffsfba.org: Wendy Dewell

Sunshine@ffsfba.org: Darlene Boyanich

MemberRecruitment@ffsfba.org: Diane Cira

MemberWelcome@ffsfba.org: Natalie Heling

Forester@ffsfba.org: Taija Aquirre

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

**Friendship Force International**

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Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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Website: <http://thefriendshipforce.org>

## 2012 CALENDAR

**January 29**

Board Meeting, Barry & Karen's

**February 11**

World Friendship Day, noon to 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 2950 Washington Blvd., Fremont

**February 15–  
March 6**

Outbound Exchange to New Zealand (New Plymouth and Wellington)

**March 10**

Social, noon to 3 p.m., Jack London Square, 2 Broadway, Oakland

**March 25**

Board Meeting

**April 13**

Social, Earth Day at Ohlone Coll.

**April 20–22**

West Coast Presidents' Conf.

**May 12**

FFSFBA Birthday Meeting

**May 20**

Board Meeting

**June 19–26**

Incoming Exchange from Cape Town, South Africa

**July 15**

Social—American culture

**August 26**

Board Meeting

**September 15**

Annual Meeting

**October 14**

Social—Japanese culture

**October 21**

Board Meeting

**October 30–  
November 3**

FFI Conference, Hiroshima, Japan

**November 10**

Social

**December 1**

Holiday luncheon at Michaels Shoreline Rest., Mtn. View

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