



friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
Changing the Way You See the World

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

January/February 2014

MARTHA'S MUSINGS

I am writing this on January 1st, typically a time to take stock and look forward to new beginnings. This year it will be my pleasure to lead our club as we explore many new adventures. I have come back deeply inspired by so many unique ideas presented at the international conference in New Orleans. Our traditional message of world peace and friendship is being expanded to accommodate our changing membership.

Friendship Force San Francisco Bay Area will be at the forefront, hosting one of the new "themed" exchanges, "How Gold and Silver Built the West." A mix of ambassadors from all over the world will be converging on San Francisco to learn about our unique place in history. We will be sharing the exchange with Napa, Sacramento and Reno. It is very exciting and a whole new direction for Friendship Force. RoseMarie Everett and Don Pelland will be Co-ED's for the San Francisco portion.

Of course we are not giving up our traditional exchanges, but this gives an additional twist. Check out the FFI World of Friends Catalog on the FFI website for themed exchanges which might tempt you. We can all be very proud that Friendship Force is also supporting humanitarian outreach programs. Patricia Snowden and Maylou Bartlett gave us a glimpse into their experiences in Myanmar. This was so popular that it is being repeated. While you are perusing the catalog, check out other exchanges. There are many to choose from, some of which are domestic.

Many ideas were floated about how to increase our membership in both age and ethnic diversity. One exciting idea was to break up exchanges to weekends. Ambassadors would be hosted on two consecutive long weekends with time to explore on their own during the week. This might make it easier for working members to host. Finding new young energy from the working population is an exciting challenge. We could increase our exposure and reach out to ethnic/cultural clubs which abound in the Bay Area. Do we have any good public speakers with PowerPoint presentations?

We are all looking forward to our exchange with Biarritz, France. Many of us had the "time of our lives" with this fun club two years ago. It is our pleasure to return the favor. They are arriving in September, coming to us from Denver, where our much loved Luree Miller will be the ED. Karen Rice has

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WORLD FRIENDSHIP FAIR ON JANUARY 25TH TO KICK OFF A DYNAMIC YEAR WITH FFSFBA!

As the introduction to a very busy FFSFBA year, the World Friendship Fair on January 25th will feature the three major events of our year—the two inbound exchanges that we will be hosting and the outbound exchange to Australia. The "fair" format will provide a brief overview of the activities for each of those exchanges, as well as social activities throughout the year for members. Attendees of the Fair will discover fun facts about Australia, destination of the February outbound exchange, through video and interactive activities.

Everyone will want to get involved when they learn about the five-day program on "How Gold and Silver Built the West" for visitors from around the globe arriving in June.

A lively video will show our fun loving, vivacious future guests coming from Biarritz, France in September and all the engaging activities we have planned for them.

Throughout the year, we will be learning more about the French culture through weekly language lessons. A few openings remain for French classes on Saturday mornings in Fremont. Petanque, the wildly popular French version of boules (similar to bocce ball), provides a wonderful opportunity to socialize and practice French conversation. We will offer petanque lessons and visits to Bay Area petanque clubs. Everyone is invited to sign up for these fun events.

We have much more in store at monthly gatherings for a rich array of activities—from dining out, to San Francisco field trips, and more.

Come, learn about what FFSFBA has planned for 2014, and be prepared to sign up for everything that you would like to experience:

Saturday, January 25, 2014

2 PM

First United Methodist Church

2950 Washington Blvd. at Olive Avenue, Fremont 94539

—Karen McCready

A RUSH TO THE GOLD RUSH EXCHANGE

They're coming from all over the world and they arrive on June 10th. They're coming to participate in the Gold Rush exchange sponsored by the Friendship Force clubs of the San

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kerage houses, the Stock Exchange and software development firms. I retired from the Stock Exchange in 2000.

My list of interests is long enough to make it clear that I am a jack of all hobbies and a master of none.

- Reading has been a major part of my life from the time when I was very young.

- I love learning foreign languages and regret that I didn't have an opportunity to practice them more. At various times, I have studied Spanish, French, Greek, Italian and Mandarin (also basic Turkish, Bulgarian and Brazilian Portuguese for travel in those countries). However, I have lost almost all knowledge of all of them but Spanish and French.

- I have been a gardener of both vegetables and flowers since I was 12, but find in the last several years that working in the garden feels more like a chore than a pleasure. However, I still enjoy visiting other public and private gardens.

- I do love to travel. I haven't had the opportunity to travel to as many exotic places as I would have liked. But I have made it to at least 21 foreign countries. Most of that traveling has been done in the last 20 years and much of it with Friendship Force. I've been ED on 3 outbounds and have lost track of the inbounds.

- Cooking is one of life's great comforts for me.

- I am an enthusiastic but hardly an expert birder.

INTRODUCING PETE AND DEBBIE ANDERSON

Pete and Debbie Anderson currently live in downtown San Jose, in a 102 year old craftsman style house, that they have been restoring since 1979.

Pete is originally from Corvallis, Oregon and Debbie was born in San Francisco, California. They have two grown daughters and two grandchildren.

Pete has owned and worked in his hardwood floor installation/refinishing business for over 30 years and plans to continue for as long as he is able. He recently refinished the downstairs herringbone patterned oak floors at the Gamble House in Pasadena, CA. Pete's website is: <http://petesfloors.wordpress.com/>

Debbie designs and makes jewelry using polymer clay. She has her own business and her website is: <http://athousandcanes.wordpress.com/>

Aside from selling her handmade creations, Debbie also teaches polymer clay workshops and writes "how to" project articles for craft and jewelry related magazines and does the scheduling for estimates and jobs for Pete's hardwood floor business. Pete and Debbie enjoy growing their own vegetables in their garden and look forward to traveling with Friendship Force.

REPEATING THE SOUNDING JOY

It was a repeat of a wonderful holiday tradition. Michaels Shoreline was again the venue for our traditional holiday party and installation of officers. (The new officers are being



sworn in in the photo above). What can I say? The food was fabulous, the company was spirited and the Madrigal Singers outdid their previous performances. What a bunch of talented teens! They have been our entertainment for the last three years. They never disappoint and are always enthusiastically received. Thanks goes out to Dee Gustavson for recommending them and inviting them to perform.

Nancy Menz deserves applause for chairing this event. She worked with the staff at Michaels and handled all of the reservations and menu selections. It is not an easy task, but she is so organized, she makes it look like a snap, which of course, we know it isn't. Thanks, Nancy!

We were pleased that some new members attended the luncheon. We welcomed Debbie and Pete Anderson, Ron Ragon, Christine Farrell, and Claire and Eric Lindberg of San Francisco. Gee Gee Lenhart also attended and is a returning member. Welcome all!
—Martha LeRoy, President

PETANQUE, ANYONE?

First of all, it's pronounced "pay-tonk." It's the French version of boules, similar to bocce ball, but playable on most any compacted terrain, such as decomposed granite, asphalt, or even on short grass. For the French, it's wildly popular, partly because the simplicity of the game allows them to socialize freely at the same time. One of the ways our members are immersing themselves in French culture this year is to get together for brief lessons and then to visit one or more of the Bay Area petanque clubs. The Lamorinda Club in Lafayette has extended a hearty invitation for us to visit them on a weekend afternoon for observation of their play, a picnic lunch, and then for lessons.

Join us soon for a lesson and sign up for future visits to Bay Area clubs. Call Karen at

Merci!

—Karen McCready

The public is invited to this FREE event!

***Curious about other cultures?**

***Interested in traveling off the tourist track?**

***Want to meet international visitors?**

Saturday, January 25, 2014

2:00 PM

World Friendship Fair

First United Methodist Church, 2950 Washington Blvd., Fremont 94539

Find out what Friendship Force is doing in 2014 with a preview of these events:



**Meet global visitors coming to learn
“How Gold and Silver Built the West” in June.**



**Discover fun facts about Australia—
destination of club members in February.**



**Learn French language and French culture
for arrival of French visitors in September.**

Drawing for a FREE new membership! (not a membership renewal)

Throughout the year, we will schedule game nights, dining out, playing pétanque, cultural programs, and more!

Questions? Call 510-794-6844.





Tales from the Forest

This is the second of periodic updates on what's happening at our Friendship Forest in Prusch Park in San Jose. For more information on the history of the Forest, check our website: <http://ffsfba.org/friendshipforest>

Excerpt from the exchange memories book by Don Greig of the Manitoba club, recalling their visit here:

“Wed., October 2, 2013

“The day started with a FF tree planting dedication. FF San Francisco has planted a tree for each FF club that has paid them a visit. There are some 28 trees planted. Some of them are quite large. A tree fairy came to start the tree watering. Each person present was encouraged to water the tree planted for FF Manitoba. All of the members of FF Manitoba were encouraged to return over the coming years to renew friendships and check on the progress of our tree. This was a very moving ceremony.”



FFSFBA's very own water sprite, Karen McCready



Stan Croall, Manitoba's ED



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN SAN JOSE

June Nielson-Cademartori and Dee Gustavson participated in the 30th Annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project in San Jose on October 8. They reported to Lake Cunningham Park in San Jose at 7 a.m. to help with hospitality for a Habitat for Humanity week in San Jose and Oakland.

As hospitality volunteers, June and Dee helped set up and serve breakfast to 300 workers, while listening to Jimmy and Rosalynn's speeches. They also prepared and served lunch to these same volunteers who worked on home renovations in the

Dorsa-TOCKNA neighborhood of San Jose and completed two community projects: new shade structures at Lake Cunningham Park in San Jose.

Because June and Dee were the shortest volunteers, they were privileged to stand in the front to have their photo taken with the Carters. June told Jimmy that they shared the same birth year (1924!) (I hope we're all still willing and able volunteers when we reach June's age!)
—Dee Gustavson



