

Dear Members,

We still don't have a newsletter editor, (WHO will volunteer?) so in the meantime, I've emailing you the highlights of the club's happenings.

We're off to a great start this year, with lots of activity. There were 18 attendees at the 5th at 5 in early January. What a great turnout on a rainy day! Carol Easter is working on plans for the February 5th at 5, and will email us the location soon.

Let's Eat Out was held at the Newark Buffet in Newark on January 16. Thanks to Judy Walter for hosting. Nine members enjoyed the abundant and delicious food.

NOTE that a **Let's Eat Out** event is planned for the West Bay on **Saturday, January 27 at 5 p.m. at China Stix, 2110 El Camino Real, in Santa Clara.** Shirley Foreman is hosting this dinner. Please RSVP to Shirley by email by *tonight, January 24th:* foreman.shirley@gmail.com or phone her at 408-985-6715 if you have questions or want to form a carpool. I hope to see you there!

On **March 1, Let's Eat Out** will be lunch in the East Bay at 11:30 a.m. at **Ristorante II Porcino Cucina Italiano**, 3339 Walnut Ave., in Fremont. RoseMarie Everett will host.

Please **renew your membership SOON!** The dues are now \$50 per person, but if you renew by January 31, you can deduct \$5 from the dues. You can send your check, made out to FFSFBA, to Carol Easter, 7868 Hazelnut Drive, Newark, CA 94536.

The 2018 Board of Directors met at RoseMarie Everett's home on January 21. There was a lot to cover because we hadn't met for three months. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 3 at Louise Heiduk's home.

Please **SAVE March 10, 2-4 p.m. for our World Friendship Day at the Los Altos Youth Center**, #1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. (It's just behind the library.) We're really excited that Jeremi Snook, the President/CEO of Friendship Force in Atlanta will be the featured speaker. His topic: "**Journey Toward Peace.**" Saaku Sarr and his musical ensemble will entertain us, and there may be another surprise or two on the program as well. An enthusiastic committee has already begun planning the event! It's a larger venue, so there's plenty of space to accommodate members and visitors! Please attend yourself, and bring LOTS of friends. Offer them a ride, so you can come together. If you wish, come attired in international costume (even a hat, jewelry, or vest, from another country would be fun). This is a great time to learn about FFI's future plans! We hope to announce our incoming and outgoing Journeys for 2019. **Put March 10, 2-4 p.m. on your calendar now!**

Reminder: The **Super Western Regional Conference will be held in Sacramento May 3-6.**

All members are invited. They're offering workshops, and a couple of the FFI staff members will attend. Clubs from the western states have been invited. I hope that some of you will consider attending. If you register by January 31, the fee is \$125. (From February 1 on, it's \$150.) The Gala Dinner on May 5 is optional and costs an additional \$45. All conference

activities will take place at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites at 9175 W. Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove, CA Tel.: 916-478-9000. Rooms cost about \$150 per night there, but there may be less expensive ones nearby. Go with a friend and share a room. Let me know if you plan to attend. For more information, check this website: ffsacramento.org/Conference-Updates/

Fifty-three people enjoyed the buffet at the **Holiday Luncheon on December 9** at Michael's Restaurant in Mountain View. The A Cappella Choir from Mountain View High School entertained us and filled us with holiday spirit. Michael's Restaurant and the A Cappella choir have both been booked for **December 8, 2018**.

THANKS to Elaina Habel and Sara Rozzano for handling the Host Coordinator job for the visiting Nagasaki Club last November. Thanks also to all the hosts and day hosts who provided hospitality. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a successful week.

Inbound Journeys:

Following the Sacramento Conference (see above), our club will host up to **ten conference attendees** who request home-hosting in the San Francisco area. These dates are **May 6-9** (3 days and 3 nights.) Olga Pekelny has offered to be Host Coordinator for these visitors.

San Antonio, TX Club - Stopover Hospitality for 8-9 people for 2 or 3 days **after June 26**, following their week's stay with the Sacramento Club. We need someone to coordinate this.

The Medicine Hat Club, from Alberta, Canada will visit our club **September 9-16..** RoseMarie Everett has offered to be the Host Coordinator for this.

Long Island, New York will be our guests **November 8-14**. Of course we will need hosts for all of these Journeys. Contact me by email if you're interested in hosting. We also need a Host Coordinator for the Long Island group.

Two presentations about FF were given this month by Martha LeRoy and me. There was lots of interest and enthusiasm at both events. Ron and Gloria Greenwald have offered to host a potluck in their San Francisco home this spring, so we'll invite those who attended the San Francisco Village event to join us at the potluck. We hope that some of the guests at the Los Altos Newcomers Club event will be able to attend the March 10 event, due it being held in their neighborhood.

2018 Kenya Journey: Nineteen FF members will fly to Africa in early February to be hosted by FF members in Nairobi, Kenya for one week. Joining us will be a member from Los Angeles, and Bunny Sprunger's sister from Oregon. K.C. Sarr is capably handling all the details as Journey Coordinator, We all have our insect repellent, FF name tags, cameras, iPhones, and chargers ready to pack. We hope to get our hosts' names soon so we'll have a chance to communicate with them before we depart from California. Following the week of home-hosting, we're all eager to jump in the Land Cruisers to view African animals on a one-week safari in Kenya.

Our needs:

To keep the organization running smoothly, we need to fill the following positions SOON:

1. Newsletter Editor - two people can work together on this (one needs to be computer knowledgeable and the other can solicit articles and proofread). There are 4-5 issues per year, and you can use a different format than Dave and I used.
2. Publicity Person - two people could fill this (one on each side of the Bay)
3. Host Journey Coordinator for Long Island and San Antonio

Which of these positions can you help with? Please email me and tell me how you'd like to participate in our club this year. **Email or phone me at 650-961-3539** any time to share ideas/ thoughts/concerns you have. I welcome your input.

In harmony,

Dee Gustavson
FFSFBA President 2018