



...You can make a difference!

The Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area

...a force to promote peace

Vol. 21 No. 3

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

June/July 2004

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On May 16 we had a smaller than average attendance at our Birthday Meeting, but those who attended enjoyed a lively meeting, during which many people shared experiences on past exchanges.

At our last board meeting, the board voted to accept the two exchanges that have been assigned to us for 2005. The outgoing exchange is to Nairobi, Kenya, which has been proposed for October, and Osaka, Japan, is the incoming exchange, proposed for July. Several people have expressed interest in going to Kenya. I would like our club to send a full exchange, so think about it. You might also think about any friends or acquaintances who might be interested in this trip and might also be good potential members of Friendship Force. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will be able to read about the experience that one of our members had on an earlier exchange to Nairobi with another club.

I look forward to seeing you all at the July 11 picnic, which will also be our next meeting. It's a good one for inviting friends or family members who might be interested in Friendship Force. My first experience with the club was at a picnic and I was impressed by the friendliness of this group. Hope to see you all there. —*Louise Heiduk, President@ffsfba.org*

FFI FOUNDER WAYNE SMITH DIES

Rev. Wayne Smith died June 16 in his home in Big Canoe, Georgia, at age 69.

Rev. Smith, a Presbyterian minister born in Charleston, West Virginia, founded the Friendship Force in 1977, and led the organization until 2000, as it grew to 350 chapters in 50 countries.

His motto: "A World of Friends is a World of Peace."

Our club sent a remembrance to the family, and will send a donation to Friendship Force International in Atlanta in his memory. —*Dave Gustavson*

DEVON INCOMING EXCHANGE SEPTEMBER 12 TO 19, 2004

All members, mark your calendars for the following events to attend for the up and coming Devon exchange.

The welcoming and farewell parties have been planned for September 12 (Sunday) and September 16 (Thursday). The planning of the exchange is coming along very well. We have

received our ambassador list and have begun the matching process.

Attention interested members! We are in need of home hosts. Please contact Lynn Teifert or Gail Boyd.

Lynn will mail out applications to all interested members.

Thanks for your support in making this a successful exchange!
—*Gail Boyd, Exchange Director, & Joy Hillman, Asst. ED.*

AUSTRALIA EXCHANGES TO PERTH AND MELBOURNE

We have 11 ambassadors leaving on July 21st for Sydney, where we will be spending two nights, touring the city, harbor and Opera House. We will then go to Perth on the 25th for a seven-night homestay; then to Melbourne for a seven-night homestay. Leaving from Melbourne, one couple will be flying to the Outback; the seven women on the exchanges will fly to Adelaide, then take the train to Alice Springs and Uluru. They will end their Australian experience in Cairns visiting the Great Barrier Reef and an aboriginal village, returning home on the 16th of August. The countdown is on....

—*Colleen Scott, Exchange Director*

COMING SPECIAL EVENT: SUNSET SAIL

It is time to make plans for our Sunset Sail on the Hawaiian Chieftain.

When: September 29th, 6 PM to 9 PM

Hors d'Oeuvres and Beverages

\$40.00 per person – payment due by June 30th.

Space is limited. Reservations will be taken in the order payment is received.

Please make checks payable to Elizabeth Shumway and mail to her.

—*Elizabeth Shumway*

ANNUAL PICNIC AT PRUSCH PARK

The FFSFBA annual picnic and general meeting will be July 11 at Prusch Park in San Jose, from noon to 3pm. Please look for the reservation form that is inserted in this newsletter, as it requires your prompt RSVP.

—*Karen McCready, Activities Chair*

REGIONAL MEETINGS

FFSFBA COORDINATOR NEWS

Because our FFSFBA Club is so scattered geographically, we are attempting to keep united by having get acquainted gatherings in the various areas on the months when there are no regularly scheduled meetings.

Share your event with other members! Email an article and photos (if possible) to the newsletter editor, newsletter@ffsfba.org soon after your event.

—June Cademartori, Coordinator



MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 2004

The years 2003 and 2004 have been transition times. Last year the total membership was 144 paid and more or less active. This year we are reduced to 110 paid and active. The reasons are many and varied: age, death, illness, moved, “been there done that,” and those who have lost interest. I am sure those who have left us have other reasons, too.

The good news is that we have six new members: Agnes Ashmore (Oakland), Jan Diamond (Fremont), Susan Fera (San Jose), Alice Needham (Fremont), Helen Severietti (Novato), and Lynn Teifert (San Francisco). All the new members have come to us by knowing other members. We welcome all these new members and hope they stay with us for many years.

—Barry Rader, Membership Chair

OUTREACH AT STANFORD

The FFSFBA Club displayed artifacts to attract passers-by and explained about the Friendship Force at the International Festival at Stanford University’s Bechtel International Center on May 8.

Several interested people stopped by during the afternoon to inquire about Friendship Force and to discuss the artifacts

AREA 8

Fifteen members from the Mission San Jose Area (Area 8) celebrated Leap Year on Sunday, February 29th, with an Ice Cream Social at the home of Harry & Ruth Edwards. Guests were Wil and Louise Heiduk from Area 5. After the treats of ice cream and cookies, we had a fun time playing the fast-paced game of “Catch Phrase.”

On Sunday April 25th, fourteen club members met at the home of Steve Cooper for a lively afternoon of fun and games. Two of Steve’s guests were Barry Rader and Karen McCready of Area 9. Those members who had attended the Western Regional Leadership conference brought us up to date on the happenings of that weekend.

Our next get-together will be in the Fall at the home of Ed and Gerry Shannon. We’ll keep you posted!

—Loretta Wales, Area 8

Area 8 party at Steve Cooper’s.

Photos courtesy of Loretta Wales.



displayed, which were provided by Yvonne Bretoi and Dee Gustavson.

Thanks to club members Geri Bechtle, Yvonne Bretoi, Dave and Dee Gustavson who helped staff the table.

—Dee Gustavson

WE HAVE A NEW FORESTER

We are happy that Norm and Joanne Crane have taken on the co-forester position! Don Dillon will be continuing to help and advise. An automatic watering system is planned, but not yet operational. Our foresters care for the Friendship Forest in Prusch Park. Come to the July 11 picnic and walk through our forest!

—Dave Gustavson

IOWA INCOMING EXCHANGE JUNE 15 TO JUNE 20, 2004 CANCELED

This exchange was canceled due to having only the minimum ten signed up, which made an unacceptable risk to them, that if any one person canceled, the cost would have gone up unexpectedly for all.

—Elinor Wilner, Domestic Exchange Coordinator

A NAIROBI EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

I went on an exchange to Nairobi with the Denver area FF club in 2000 and had a fantastic time! In addition to several Denver FF club members, there were people from other states. It was an interesting cultural exchange in itself just to get to know people from areas other than the Bay Area.

The Nairobi club members were friendly, outgoing, giving of their time and themselves, and made efforts to find things about their lives to generously share with us. We spent a week in a homestay. On weekdays, while our home hosts were working, our American group visited tourist sites and other important cultural areas. We went in vans accompanied by delightfully outgoing, energetic Nairobi club day hosts and had a rollicking good time. Then, after the homestay, our American group spent a week on safari in the game parks.

Highlights of the van tours: Kenyan national museum (history, culture, natural history), city center open market, Karen Blixen Museum, Bomas of Kenya with a wonderful professional performance of traditional music and dance of different tribes of Kenya. We also visited a school for developmentally challenged (mentally retarded) kids and brought them gifts of school supplies and clothing.

Highlights of the homestay with my particular host family: visits to a couple of NGOs dealing with women and Kenyan and Sudanese welfare, a healing prayer group for an ill woman, a wedding with some traditional tribal music and dress, an unexpected visit to the medical center with an ill daughter and thus learning a bit about health care, different kinds of homes of some of her relatives, and numerous conversations about our respective cultures.

Highlights of the game parks safari: What can I say?! If you haven't... visited a Maasai village (set up as a demo for tourists) to learn about that culture, been in a pop-top minivan 50 feet away from a dust-bathing wild elephant, watched a herd of wildebeests gallop across the dirt track 100 feet in front of you, watched from the comforts of the lodge veranda a parade of zebras and various other animals in the misty dark at a watering hole, or learned about the human history, geography, and geology of the Kenyan plains from a naturalist driver who can answer just about any question....

My experience was truly a great one and I'm glad to learn that our club now has the opportunity to go. I hope many of you will plan to go.
—Geri Bechtle

FF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE NEARBY

Calling all members to attend the Friendship Force International Conference November 4–7, 2004 in Los Angeles. It's close by this year, so let's have a group attend to represent our club.

If you've never attended one of these conferences before, I highly recommend them. They are so much fun, providing many opportunities to get acquainted with friendly people from around the world. In addition, there are workshops which provide information for committee members. "Reach for the Stars" is the theme this year.

To quote FFI in Atlanta, "this year's conference inaugurates a new period of Friendship Force history as we move ahead with innovative concepts and renewed leadership. All club leaders and members are invited to join us as we meet at the Warner Center Marriott Hotel in Woodland Hills, CA to welcome this fresh vision and collectively reach for the stars."

The early registration deadline is August 6. The conference cost is \$550 per person (double occupancy) prior to August 6 and \$575 after August 6. The final registration deadline is September 3. Space is limited, so register now. Downloadable registration materials and information on the conference program can be found on FFI's website, <http://www.friendshipforce.org>, as well as details about the post-conference homestays for November 7–11 with the Friendship Force clubs of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Orange County and Kern County. The cost of homestay is \$150 per person.

If you prefer a printed registration packet, email FFI at conf@friendshipforce.org with your complete mailing address.

—Dee Gustavson

FFSFBA IN FREMONT PARADE JULY 4

The 2004 Fourth of July Parade in Fremont will have a FFSFBA entrant. Steve Cooper's White VW "Thing" will have green crepe paper around the rollbars, a circle of Flags of the World on the back deck, green & white balloons flying, led by our FFSFBA banner carried by some grandchildren involved, on the one mile parade route in No. Fremont. We'll be handing out FFI green flyers and singing "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

We invite 20 or more participants to join us to advertise our wonderful club that spreads Peace in the World!

—Mary Alice vanDoorn & Steve Cooper

P.S.: Does anyone know the whereabouts of the set of international flags that mount in a styrofoam ball? If so, please contact Karen McCready, Activities Chair.

DIRECTIONS FOR FFSFBA BOARD MEETING.

The August 22 board meeting will be at the Batchelders home, at 2 p.m.

—Bernice Batchelder

THANK YOU NOTE

Steve Cooper would like to thank all the FFSFBA club members who called or sent get-well cards during his recent illness. It helped build his morale and speed his recovery. He reports that he's now better than ever!

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE
 Bringing the world together since 1977
 The Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area
 P.O. Box 143, Belmont, California 94002
 Phone (408) 243-4822, <http://www.ffi.org>
info@ffi.org Fax by pre-arrangement
 1422 Thunderbird Ct., Sunnyvale, CA 94087



Have you renewed your membership yet???

2004 FFSFBA BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org Louise Heiduk
 Vice President: Joy Hewett
 Secretary: Colleen Scott
 Treasurer: Joy Hillman

STANDING COMMITTEES

Activities: Karen McCready
 MembershipChair@ffsfba.org
 Barry Rader
 Newsletter@ffsfba.org
 Dave & Dee Gustavson
 Parliamentarian: Norm Crane

EXCHANGE DIRECTORS

Inbound

Devon, England: Gail Boyd and
 Joy Hillman
 Iowa: Katharine Kleinke, kleinke@comcast.net

Outbound

Australia: Colleen Scott

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Domestic Exchange Coordinator:
 Elinor Wilner
 Exchange Banker: Bernice Batchelder
 FF Merchandise: Betsy Steinaecker
 Co-foresters: Don Dillon
 Norm & Joanne Crane
 Program: Gail Boyd
 Regional Coffee Chair: June Cademartori
 Special Events: Elizabeth Shumway
 Sunshine: Darlene Boyanich
 Webmaster@ffsfba.org Geri Bechtle

2004 CALENDAR

July 11	Annual Picnic & General Meeting, noon Prusch Park, San Jose
July 21- August 16	Australia outgoing exchange
August 22	Board Meeting, 2pm Bernice Batchelder's
September 12-19	Devon, England incoming exchange
September 12	General Meeting, 2pm Newark Presbyterian Church
October 24	Board Meeting
December 5	Holiday Luncheon, 12-3 Michael's at Shoreline, Mountain View

FFSFBA website: <http://www.ffi.org>

Friendship Force International
 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 900
 Atlanta, Georgia 30303
 Phone: 1-404-522-9490 Fax: 1-404-688-6148
 Website: <http://www.friendshipforce.org>
 (includes some back issues of FFI Magazine)