

Hi, Friendship Force members!

It's time to bring you up to date! We're gearing up for **next Saturday, March 10, for our WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY, 2-4 p.m. at the Los Altos Youth Center, #1 No. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.** We're expecting out-of-town visitors: Jeremi Snook, our speaker from FFI, Pat and Marty, the Western Regional Reps from Sacramento FF Club, up to 6 members from the Las Vegas FF Club, as well as prospective members from Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and San Francisco. Please move around the room to introduce yourself to the visitors and welcome them. It's easier to chat with friends, but it's important to make new people feel comfortable.

There's still time to invite friends and neighbors to hear our featured speaker, music from Saaku and his group, and travel experiences from our Journey in Kenya.

When you're on San Antonio Road, watch for the sign "Los Altos Youth Center" and "Police Station," and look for green balloons at that corner. Martha LeRoy and her program committee have been busy making arrangements for food and decorations. For those who want to eat out afterward, reservations were made for 5 p.m. for twenty people to have an early dinner at Estrellita's Mexican Bar and Grill, 971 N. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos. Final headcount will be taken at the beginning of the meeting, and the number will be phoned in to the restaurant. (No need to phone me to reserve.)

Although we haven't been charging an entrance fee for our meetings, we may need to consider this in the future, due to the fact that rental rates have greatly increased in the past few years. Additional ideas to consider for offsetting the rental costs include: asking members or businesses to underwrite part of the rental costs, and having a fundraiser once a year.

The news is out! **It's a Match!** Our club has been assigned to host **Kiel, Germany in April 2019** for our incoming Journey. Our outbound Journey will be to **Moscow, Russia in August 2019.** Months of travel are subject to change.

Our 2018 hosting schedule includes:

Post-Sacramento Conference Inbound, May 6-9: Louise Heiduk offered to coordinate this until Olga's health allows her to resume. So far, four people have applied to be homesteaded in our area. Our club agreed to host up to 10 people.

San Antonio, TX: a mini hospitality stay for 2-3 days (June 26-29 or so), following their outbound Journey in Sacramento. We need a host coordinator for this.

Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada: September 9-16; RoseMarie Everett is host coordinator for this Inbound Journey.

Long Island, New York: November 8-14; we need a host coordinator for this Inbound Domestic Journey.

Please let me know by email or phone (650-961-3539) if you'd like to be considered as a host coordinator for the San Antonio or Long Island Inbound Journeys.

Seventeen Ambassadors returned from their **Nairobi Journey** on February 23: We have interesting tales to tell about our homestays, as well as all the animals we viewed on the safari. Yes, we saw the Big 5! Travelers to Africa were: Pilar Alonso, Barbara Day, Dee and Dave Gustavson, Gina Hudson, Katharine Kleinke, Jennifer Lam, Martha LeRoy, Edith Miranda, Cal and Mary Morris, Jim Mulleague, Judy Pemberton, K.C. and Saaku Sarr, Bunny Sprunger, and her sister, Carol Higgins of Portland, Oregon. K.C. was our capable Journey Coordinator. Unfortunately, two members of our group had health issues, so were unable to finish the trip. Olga Pekelny suffered a stroke on the plane to Turkey. She was hospitalized in Istanbul for a couple of weeks, and is now recuperating in a convalescent home there. She hopes to fly home in three or four weeks. Marcia Jacobs, who joined our group from Los Angeles, fell and broke her leg during her home stay in Nairobi. Following a few days in the hospital for surgery to insert pins in her leg, she flew home, while the rest of the group was on safari. We wish these two women speedy recoveries!

An updated **Calendar** will be available at the March 10 meeting. Following that meeting, it will be emailed to all members.

Calling all members who are artists who wish to share their talents! Are you a painter, drawer, seamstress, jewelry maker, crafts person, gadget maker, crocheter, writer? You'll have a chance to display your work on Saturday, May 12 in the large community room at the Dominican Sisters in Fremont. That's the day our club will celebrate its 34th birthday. In addition to the art show, the FF Board will meet, and there will be a potluck luncheon, followed by a program of sharing Nairobi experiences and photos. The time is yet to be determined. Details will follow. Please contact me by email or phone (650-961-3539) if you'd like to assist me in coordinating the art show.

We're grateful to Carol Easter for offering her patio and backyard for our **Annual Bar-B-Q**. The date has been set for **Sunday, July 1**. Contact me if you'd like to help coordinate this event.

Membership stands at 66 now. We need more members! Please invite your family and friends to attend our events: general meetings, Let's Eat Out, 5th at 5's, Bar-B-Q, and potlucks.

5th at 5's: Carol Easter reports that 10 people attended the February 5th event at Strizzi's Restaurant in Fremont. None is planned for March, but stay tuned for Thursday, April 5th's location.

Let's Eat Out: RoseMarie Everett organized the January 27th dinner at China Stix in Santa Clara. Eighteen members attended the event, which was hosted by Shirley Foreman and Karen Rice. On March 1, fourteen members gathered for lunch at Ristorante Il Porcino in Fremont to enjoy Italian food. Watch your email for the April location.

Sad news to report: Elaine Hatfield of Palo Alto passed away in late August 2017. She was a charter member of our FF club, and was active until the past 10 years. Elaine helped organize the club and participated in the first outbound exchange to New Plymouth, New Zealand, as well as many other exchanges over the years. Hiking and birdwatching were two of her favorite hobbies.

A **reminder** that you can go online to FF International (www.friendshipforce.org) to learn when and where future Journeys of all clubs are scheduled. You may be able to apply for another club's outbound Journey, if there's space available.

Several of our members have done this and enjoyed making new friends. If you plan to link up with another club's Journey, contact me. I'll be a clearinghouse and will let you know if any of our members are going on the same Journey.

Suggestion: Listen to the video presentation by Pallie Savoie, sent in an email with a letter from Jeremi Snook on February 9 from FFI. Find out how to donate to FF International's 40th Anniversary Campaign. They have extensive plans to start new clubs, link up with other similar organizations, and translate planning materials into many other languages. They need everyone's help to meet their challenges. Every donation will help, big or small.

If you want to learn about our speaker before Saturday, look on FFI's website (www.friendshipforce.org) and read **Jeremi Snook's** 3 blogs. Click on "Who We Are," and under that, "News & Media". Scroll to the bottom, and look on the lower left for "What's New on our Blog," and you'll find Jeremi's series of 3 blogs: June 19, Sept.8, and Sept. 13. You'll learn more about FFI also.

Last but not least: the **Western Regional Conference** will be held **May 3-6, 2018 in Sacramento**. They're still accepting registrations. Plan to attend, in order to participate in workshops and meet club members from 10 other states, plus British Columbia, and Alberta, Canada. Over 100 people have registered so far. For more information, visit: <http://ffsacramento.org/Conference-Updates/> or call me if you have questions. Six members from our club plan to attend.

Please email or phone me with questions, comments, concerns about our club. Let me how things are going, and how you'd like to participate!

See you on Saturday, March 10 at Los Altos Youth Center for **World Friendship Day!**

Dee Gustavson,
President of FFSFBA