



...You can make a difference!

The Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area

...a force to promote peace

Vol. 21 No. 5

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

November/December 2004

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I just returned with thirteen members of our club from the Friendship Force International Conference in Woodland Hills, CA. The conference was well done and I'm sure that the other members of our group came back as enthusiastic as I am about the future. George Brown, our new FFI President, informed us that at this time we are financially in a better place than we have been in the recent past. We were told of his and the trustees plans for the future and they seem to be taking us in a solid direction. George outlined a bold plan for expanding the number of clubs and challenged the existing clubs to come on board and help. Come to the Holiday Luncheon where you will hear more from our new club president, Joy Hewett.

With regret, the board decided to cancel our club's outbound exchange to Nairobi, Kenya for next year, due to the U.S. State Department's warning that Americans not go there. We are currently working with FFI to find a replacement exchange.

At this time I want to add my own challenge to our club. As you can tell when you look at our roster, our club has been shrinking. I would like to challenge you all to do your part to recruit good Friendship Force members. If everyone or every family could bring in one member it would substantially benefit our club. I'd like you to refer anyone that you would consider a good ambassador for our club to Joy Hewett so we can issue an invitation to them to join us. Keep those referrals coming.

Because this is my last message as president, I would like to thank you all for your support during the past two years. I have enjoyed working in this capacity.

—Louise Heiduk, President@ffsfb.org

OUTGOING EXCHANGE TO ATLANTA, GEORGIA APRIL 15-20, 2005

We are invited to visit Atlanta in the spring. We recently hosted the club from Atlanta, so it will be a chance to for them to return the favor. The cost will be about \$100 for club fees, plus airfare. There will be no organized extensions, but members can arrange to visit other East Coast sites individually. Please sign up at the Dec. 5 luncheon or contact me directly.

—Katharine Kleinke

DEVON INBOUND EXCHANGE 2004

In July, the Devon club confirmed an arrival date to San Francisco of September 12th. A Welcome Party held at the



Jo Medleycott, ---, Ann Harding

Photo by Loretta Wales

Newark Presbyterian Church gave a chance to greet all sixteen ambassadors from Devon.

Approximately fifty guests and club members enjoyed an Afternoon Tea, visiting, and a well-organized photo session. The variety of food specialties and sweets were provided by club members, which guests enjoyed after their journey down from the Napa/Sonoma exchange. All plans for events of the week were confirmed with dates, times, and places.

Our first day out was a trip to San Francisco for a city tour provided by Tower Tours, guided by Bill Dolon. Bill had a captive audience, who enjoyed his informative and entertaining information on the history of San Francisco and how the Bay Area developed over the past 100 years. He gave the secret mystery of the Fog of the Bay—now you know the English had to enjoy that weather report!

In the late afternoon, we took a trip to Alcatraz for a hike up the hill to the infamous Federal Prison of California. For many, this was the first introduction to the confines of a prison. The self guided audio brought solemn thoughts to many and sadness from the sounds of the prisoners over the audio. This was an historical landmark that many would have rather seen from the shore.



Devon group at tree planting, Prusch Park

Photo by Dean and Bernice Batchelder

On Thursday, a great turnout of hosts and ambassadors attended the traditional tree planting at Prusch Park. Norm Crane, Don Dillon, and Howard Craven made all the arrangements with Prusch Park rangers for the plaque, setting and planting of the tree to be completed upon our arrival. The Devon club enjoyed the park and picking fresh fruit from neighboring trees. After weeks of searching by Don Dillon for the English Oak tree, it was found in the town of Colma. It seems this tree is a rare find in the Bay Area.

After the tree planting, all were off to Chef Chu's in Los Altos where we were joined by more club members. During the dinner, the Devon club provided great entertainment by staging a short script. We all discovered there is talent in Devon, England.

On Friday, an optional tour of San Francisco's Hidden Treasures was attended by thirteen hosts and ambassadors. The hidden treasures were gardens atop various office buildings and shopping plazas. Our guide had us travel the streets of the Financial District, going in many offices and banks to see the beautiful art deco and architectural structures. When the two-hour tour was completed, it was a short walk to Chinatown for lunch.

Now did someone say they do not know what to do when company comes to the Bay Area? Well, here are just a few things that were visited on the Free Days and "Time on your hands" days: In the South Bay, adventures were found in Carmel, Rocky Point Restaurant in Big Sur, Winchester Mystery House, Filoli Gardens, Villa Montalvo in Saratoga, Santa Cruz and Capitola for shopping and dinner at the beach, Stanford University, and Mission Santa Clara.

Club members arranged trips to San Francisco taking in the sights of the newly remodeled Ferry Building, Justin Herman Plaza, Mission Dolores, Golden Gate Park, walks on San Francisco's Ocean Beach, Grace Cathedral, the Museum of Modern Art, Yerba Buena Center, Mosconi Center, Delancy Street for lunch, Coit Tower, Lombard Street, and Fisherman's Wharf for dinner at Louie's for live entertainment: Blues Music.

A beautiful sunset behind the Golden Gate Bridge was enjoyed by everyone. The night lights of The City and the view across the bay were not blocked by any fog. We all experienced the most favorable weather for the entire exchange.

In the North, in Marin, there were adventures up on Mt. Tamalpais, and then out to Point Reyes National Seashore to walk the infamous Earthquake Trail (the same day). There was a guided tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Marin Civic Center. While touring one of the courtrooms, the group was pleasantly surprised by an invitation from the Judge to join him in his Chambers. (This was a special delight for the magistrate from Devon!) Then a ride out to Muir Beach to enjoy a walk on the beach, and lunch in the English Pub "The Pelican Inn," and a special tour one morning of San Quentin State Prison.

The East Bay was not forgotten and a few ventured to the Mormon Temple and Jack London Square.

Somehow visits to the local malls, Big Lots, and Macy's were included in the day's outing for those who love to "Shop 'til

You Drop". Oh, I almost forgot: the Museum of Modern Innovation and Gamble Gardens were explored by a few members and guests.

Bountiful Regional Potlucks and Barbeques were arranged for evenings during the exchange, which gave more club members an opportunity to participate and get acquainted with Devon members.

On Sunday, September 19th, we gathered at San Francisco's Ocean Beach to meet the bus that would take our new friends from Devon off to their next exchange to Albany, Oregon. There were many good-byes, hugs, and a few teardrops as boarding took place. After the bus was out of sight, eight hosts went out to brunch at the Beach Chalet to exchange their experiences of the past week. This gave an opportune time to make suggestions and share ideas for future exchanges.

To all participants of this exchange, we extend our personal thanks for all your help in making this a successful exchange.

Happiness, from a Mother and Daughter Team:

—Gail A. Boyd, Exchange Director

—Joy A. Hillman, Co-Chair Director

2005 OFFICERS

President	Joy Hewett
Vice President	Bernice Batchelder
Secretary	Karen McCready
Treasurer	Joy Hillman
Activities	Gail Boyd
Membership	Barry Rader
Newsletter	Dave Gustavson
Domestic Exchanges	Elinor Wilner
Exchange Banker	Bernice Batchelder
Merchandise	Lois Smallwood
Forester	Norm Crane
Program	Lynn Teifert
Area Groups	June Cademartori
Special Events	Elizabeth Shumway
Sunshine	Darlene Boyanich
Webmaster	Geri Bechtle

—Joy Hewett

2005 PROGRAM DATES

Jan. 16	Board Meeting
Feb. 13	General Meeting
Mar. 1	World Friendship Day
Mar. 20	Board Meeting
May 15	General Meeting (F.F. birthday)
June 5	Board Meeting
July 10	Picnic
Aug. 7	Board Meeting
Sept. 11	General Meeting
Oct. 16	Board Meeting
Dec. 4	Holiday Party

—Joy Hewett

HAWAIIAN CHIEFTAIN HARVEST MOON CRUISE

Unfortunately there was no moon, but we had a great time anyway. The clouds were high enough that we could see the lights of the cities all around the bay—always a beautiful sight. The food was great as usual and it was windy enough to use the sails most of the time.

There were 19 in our group—Loretta & Dick Wales, Mary Ann & Don Dillon, Colleen Scott, Jan Diamond, Faye Butler, Elizabeth Shumway, Mary Wolfe, John Randall, Darlene Boyanich, Roger Riffenburgh, Nina Davidson & her daughter & grandson, and Gerda Westendorf with three family members.

The ship is up for sale if anyone is interested. We hope we will be able to go again next year—it is always a lot of fun.

—Elizabeth Shumway



Jan Diamond, Nina Davidson, Faye Butler, Don Dillon on the Hawaiian Chieftain

Photo by Loretta Wales

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 in 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

EAST BAY GROUPS EXPLORE SAN FRANCISCO'S CITY HALL

On October 7, Area Groups 9 and 10 launched their maiden odyssey together to San Francisco's City Hall. Carolyn Linnard, Alice Needham, Bob Cowen, Rita and Dick Hammer, Barry Rader, and Karen McCreedy BARTed together to the Civic Center, embarking from four different stations. Thanks to the synchronized BART schedule, we all managed to get on the same car.



Liz Shumway, Dick Wales toasting with their wine, on the Hawaiian Chieftain

Photo by Loretta Wales

At City Hall, we signed up for the regular 12:00 tour. Renovated and retrofitted just a few years ago, City Hall has been restored to more than its original 1916 splendor. Our knowledgeable, enthusiastic guide provided every conceivable detail about the construction, renovation, and maintenance of this Beaux Arts gem, all within the context of the unique, colorful history and politics of San Francisco.

A highlight was being allowed to sit in the majestic Supervisorial Chambers, having time to absorb the exquisite detailing and perfect acoustics. (Second best was getting a glimpse of Mayor Gavin Newsom, who even waved at us.)

Our remarkable guide spent two hours with us, regaling us with many stories. More than ready for lunch, most of us strolled up to Max's Opera Café. We were on BART before rush hour and rode swiftly home.

We look forward to many more enlightening, fun outings with our combined groups—perhaps a tour of the Sheraton Palace Hotel and/or the Ferry Building next time. Come join us!

—Karen McCreedy



FF regional meeting at the home of Karen McCreedy and Barry Rader, Fremont, August 21, 2004. Faye Butler, Pat Fortmeier, Alice Needham, Barry Rader, Harriet Anderson, Bob Cowen.

Photo by George Anderson

INTERVIEWS OF NEW MEMBERS

Karen Mitchell: I grew up in Ann Arbor, MI and attended the University of Michigan with a major in French. After graduation, I joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Guayaquil, Ecuador, teaching swimming, diving and English. On my return I came to California and got a Master's Degree in Spanish at Stanford University. I taught Spanish at Mission San Jose High School in Fremont where I met Karen McCready and Alice Needham, who are Friendship Force members. Two days after my retirement last year, Dave Rice and I were married. We have three dogs: a toy poodle and two bichons frises.

Dave Rice: I grew up in Buffalo, NY and in the Midwest near Chicago. I attended Grinnell College and the University of Illinois with a major in chemistry. I now work for a company that sells chemical instruments internationally, and I get a chance to travel to Europe and Asia. Karen and I enjoy traveling together to Europe, mostly Spain, and nice places in the US and North America and occasionally where my work sends me. We look forward to meeting other members of Friendship Force and visiting exciting new places together.

Bob Worcester: I was born in Long Beach, and grew up in Torrance and Pasadena, where I graduated from high school, then entered Stanford University. I enlisted in the Army Air Force in September 1942 and was called to active duty in 1943, serving as a 1st Lt., training bomber crews for missions in the Pacific until 1946. After graduating from Stanford in June 1946, I married and began raising a family. We moved to Los Altos Hills where I still live. My lovely wife of 55 years passed away in May 2002. I have 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

My interest in the "Friendly" Force was initiated by Sara Turner, a current member. I do look forward to rewarding experiences and making new friends in Friendship Force.

Alice Needham: I am a native born Californian. I grew up in San Francisco and Burlingame. I graduated from UC Berkeley (Go Bears!) with a French major. I got my teaching credential there and after two years teaching in Alamo, California, I moved to Paris, France where I worked for the Department of Defense for three years.

Upon my return to the US, I did graduate work at UC Berkeley and then worked for the Fremont Unified School District teaching French until my retirement in June 2002.

Throughout my life I have enjoyed traveling, having visited over forty-five countries. Friendship Force has been a welcome extension of my own philosophy about world travel. People everywhere want to live in a decent environment and be treated with respect. Putting emphasis on "faces not places" rather than "shop 'til you drop" is a small but important contribution toward world peace.

I have already gone to Peru and Brazil on one exchange with the Sacramento Friendship Force and I am looking forward to participating more in our San Francisco Club activities in the

coming years. It is a real pleasure to meet so many people who wish to spread a better image of Americans abroad.

Jan Diamond: I'm a native Californian, born and raised in the East Bay. My family consists of two cats and a very spoiled Chow-Chow dog, Ginger, who is a devoted pet. Interests are: traveling, seeing things I have read about, and making new friends.

Agnes Ashmore: I was born in a rural area on Lookout Mountain, Alabama, and lived on a small farm for most of my early years until my family moved to California during the depression. I have lived here ever since. I now live in Oakland.

I am married with two sons. After raising my sons I returned to College and received three Masters: Psychology, Education and Gerontology. I worked with older adults, setting up various programs, teaching and therapy sessions. I am now retired.

I have done extensive traveling during the last fifteen years with a group from Holy Names College, and through that group I met Colleen Scott. She is a great traveling companion, who introduced me to Friendship Force. I joined the SFBA FF exchange to Australia this year.

I found all FF members both in Australia and USA to be kind, caring, friendly people. The Australians opened their homes and hearts to all of us.

The name Friendship Force says it all, for without friends there is no force in our lives.

I am looking forward to getting better acquainted with other members, and to the next trip.

—*Diane Demo*, Interviewer

WHERE HAVE ALL THE MEMBERS GONE?

Just a few years ago the membership of the San Francisco Bay Area Friendship Force was over 250. Today it is 111. Yes, only 44% are still trying to turn friendship into peace. The numbers get even worse when you consider that ten new members have joined in the last year. Where did the people go? Use your imagination: moved away, illness, no longer interested, "been there, seen that," personality conflicts, lack of money for traveling, and, of course, death. What can be done? Nothing if we just sit by and wring our hands and keep saying "let the other guy or gal do it."

I propose that we change our mode of sitting by and doing nothing. Each one of us was brought into this organization by a friend, relative, church member, club or work associate. In other words, someone talked to you about Friendship Force, brought you into the fold. I am requesting—no, imploring—for the health of the organization that each family or single member **bring at least one person to the Holiday Party, to our next meeting or to an area gathering.** If everyone participates, our membership will climb to numbers even greater than in the 90's. This organization has many things to offer: friendship, travel, camaraderie, and a chance to see the world on a personal level. O.K., everybody, get out there, bring us new members, and transform us from hanging on by our fingernails to a club that soars.

—*Barry Rader*, Membership Chair

MALTA—WHERE ON THIS PLANET IS MALTA??

Jan Diamond and I left on September 12th to attend the FF Festival in Malta. I did have to consult the map to determine where in the Mediterranean this island was located.

It is a tiny nation comprised of three islands: Malta, Gozo and Comino, located in the Mediterranean approximately 62 miles south of Sicily. As is true of most real estate, its value is determined by location, location, location. Steeped in a long British tradition, Malta is an independent republic within the British Commonwealth, and the Maltese speak both Maltese and English. Students from Asia and Europe come to the island to study English. Sixty-five per cent of the university students in Malta are female. It is a predominantly Catholic nation with 365 churches located on these tiny islands that have a total population of approximately 400,000. Christianity was introduced in 60 AD when the galleon on which the Apostle Paul was being taken to Rome as a prisoner to stand trial ran aground in Malta. Luke describes the people as warm and friendly, which is just as true today. To walk through the well preserved catacombs where Paul walked was a sobering experience for me.

As early as 4000 BC, settlers from Sicily were drawn to the island, building their temples and cultivating the land. Then the saga of the Knights of St. John started in 1048 in Jerusalem, where a number of monks founded a “hospital” to care for pilgrims. The history of this group is fascinating—they eventually were given the Maltese Islands by Charles V in 1530 for the symbolic price of one falcon per year! During our stay we were each knighted by the Grandmaster of the Knights of St. John. Are we called Knights?—no, the term is Dame. Valetta, the first capital of the country, is designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

During our stay we visited ancient sites over the islands, including Gozo. Temples date back to circa 3200 BC. We each had a two night homestay; Jan & I stayed in a beautiful home in Rabat, where we were able to make a return visit to Mdina. After a week on the island of Malta, we were off to Sicily for more incredible sights. We flew into Catania, toured the historical sites, then were off to Taormina for our four-night hotel stay on the shores of the blue, blue sea. I suppose that the most surreal experience was climbing Mt. Etna. There was smoke from the recent eruption, and as we climbed higher and higher, the clouds and misting rain and fog surrounded us. We had reached 9000 ft elevation via the Funivia at this point. We trudged along over the lava dunes for what seemed like miles to reach the gas vent emitting the sulphur fumes from the crater. We were a quieter group on the return after seeing this totally awesome sight. This was an incredible experience, and I find it difficult to find words that adequately describe such a totally awesome journey to this little dot in the Mediterrean Sea.

—Colleen Scott

Holiday Luncheon

Sunday, December 5, 2004, 12–3 p.m.

Location: Michaels at Shoreline in Mountain View
The reservation flyer was mailed in early November.

Reservation deadline is November 28.

Contact: Gail Boyd

Mark December 5th on your calendar and plan to join us!

YOU CAN GO TO INDIA TOO!

Dee Gustavson reports having a terrific experience on a Friendship Force Exchange to Nashik, India (east of Bombay) in October. She says “If you haven’t been to India yet, you should go!” She highly recommends going there. In fact, she points out a great opportunity listed on the back of the recent F.F. magazine, 3rd quarter, 2004: “An Indian Festival...A Journey to India” takes place in New Delhi, January 15-29, 2005. The tour following the festival includes cities such as Agra (the Taj Mahal), Jaipur, Udaipur, Ranakpur, and Bombay. The Festival and tour fee is \$2,595 (land only) for a 14-night program. To register or to get more information, call Debbie Powell at FFI, (404) 522-9490, Ext. 350, or visit FFI’s website: www.friendshipforce.org/India.html

You’ll have to wait for our January newsletter for a more detailed report of the Nashik trip.

—Dave Gustavson



Dee Gustavson, host Madhukar Brahmankar and his wife Malti, Mary Lou Hudson (St. Louis FF Club) in Nashik, September 2004.

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE

Bringing the world together since 1977

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Treasurer: Joy Hillman

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Dave & Dee Gustavson

Parliamentarian: Norm Crane

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Joy Hillman

Outbound

Australia: Colleen Scott

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FF Merchandise: Lois Smallwood

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

2004–2005 CALENDAR

December 5	Holiday Luncheon, 12–3 Michael's at Shoreline, Mountain View
January 16, 2005	Board Meeting
January 18	Area Coordinator's Meeting Pot Luck 11:00 a.m. at Janis Maurry's
February 13	General Meeting
March 1	World Friendship Day
March 20	Board Meeting

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(includes some back issues of FFI Magazine)