



friendship force

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
Changing the Way You See the World

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEWSLETTER

November/December 2010

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

On Sunday night, October 17th, at the banquet during the 33rd World Conference of Friendship Force International in Washington, D.C., I walked over to a nearby table where a group of Indonesian club members were sitting. I was interested in talking to them for two reasons. First of all a Friendship Force club from Malang, Indonesia is scheduled to visit us in September, 2011, so I wanted to know if they knew any of the members of that club. When I mentioned Malang, they said that no members from Malang had come to the conference, but they knew about the club and assured me we would have a great time. I was also curious about Indonesian names. In 1989 Lois and I had an Indonesian exchange student by the name of Elfin live with us for a year. When Elfin moved into our home, he told me he only had one name, and the second name on his passport was really his uncle's name that he used to comply with passport requirements. The Indonesians that I spoke to confirmed that in some cases this was true. It still remains a mystery to me how you organize a telephone book using that system, but somehow they manage to do it.

This was my first FFI World Conference. I was not disappointed. Nearly 500 delegates attended from 27 countries. I attended all the general meetings and as many of the workshops as I could fit in. They were all very good to excellent. The keynote speaker at the first session was John M. Suddes, who is a recognized expert in helping non-profit organizations. His address was "A Call to Action," emphasizing the need to increase membership by casting "a wider net" by looking for partnerships with like-minded organizations and also looking for ways to use social networks like Facebook and taking advantage of YouTube to advertise what our clubs are doing.

Another interesting speaker was Sherry Mueller of the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV). She told the story of how as a young woman she set off to travel in Europe, and her mother warned her with these words, "Don't talk to strangers." That brought a big laugh. She said that for these many years, with wonderful results, she has been doing just the opposite, "talking to strangers" every chance she gets.

So, whenever I got a chance, I talked to the "strangers" attending the conference. I met some fascinating people, including three women from Sapporo, Japan. When I mentioned that our club had recently voted for an outgoing exchange in 2012 to Japan, they said enthusiastically, "Come visit us!" I ran into Celestine Okello from Nairobi, Kenya a couple of times. I

President's Column continued on Page 2

OUTGOING EXCHANGE FOR 2012

At the Annual Meeting on October 3 at the Basque Center, members voted to choose the country they would like to visit for our club's outgoing exchange in 2012. Japan was the overwhelming first choice followed by New Zealand, with Italy in third place. Chile ran a strong fourth. The first three countries were submitted to FFI. As soon as we know which country has been selected for our outgoing exchange in 2012, we will let you know.

—Steve Smallwood

WAITING LIST OPEN FOR BIARRITZ EXCHANGE IN MAY 2011

Yes, our long-term planning for France and Spain in the spring is down to five months.

Although sign ups are complete and all the ambassadors now have a roommate, we are still open to accepting names for the waiting list. We know from past exchanges that people can drop out at the last minute for unforeseen reasons, although we certainly hope not.

The highlight and centerpiece of the exchange will, of course, be our week in the homes of our hosts in Biarritz, France. We will depart a week earlier for a "Jewels of France" tour, traveling from Paris to the Normandy Coast, through the "chateau country," and then back to Paris. A high-speed train will take us to Biarritz. After the week's stay, we will travel by bus to Bilbao for two days and then on to Barcelona for four days by train.

We expect to return more proficient in three languages—French, Spanish, and Basque—and more knowledgeable of their cultures.

—Barry Rader and Karen McCready

BASKING IN THE BASQUE CULTURE

After our Sunday, October 3, luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco, 34 of us are now more knowledgeable about the Basque culture. We also had our hearing tested when the young barmaid belted out the unique, traditional, earsplitting call, sort of a cross between a yodel and a coyote yelp. Restaurant manager Francois Camou and his crew dished up a delightful banquet along with Francois' informal chat about growing up in the Basque culture. Although he was born and grew up in Los Angeles, he exemplifies how the culture has been sustained through social centers such

Basking continued on Page 2

was particularly interested in Kenya because I know from my tutoring refugees at Catholic Charities that many who come from Somalia and Ethiopia go to Kenya and sometimes live several years in refugee camps. She said that unfortunately that was all too true. A small upside for them is that many of them also learn English, which is widely spoken and taught in that part of Africa. On Monday morning while I was having breakfast I saw a familiar face, Svetlana Karandina from Moscow. Svetlana had been a vice-principal of a school in Moscow where Lois and I had taught English for a week in 2003 on our first Friendship Force trip. Wil Heiduk, Lois and I had participated in that program and had made some good friends while we were there.

I also got a chance to attend a workshop headed by George Brown, the president of FFI. He pointed out that some overseas clubs are running into problems with getting visas from our government, which makes travel to the US difficult. To encourage younger people to join Friendship Force, he felt an avenue to explore would be cross cultural exchanges that might involve having our members go to other countries with their children or grandchildren. Later at the closing session George also introduced Lofti Lamrani from Morocco, who has started a club in that country teaching English and computer literacy to club members, and working in slum areas and rural places with the motto, "Friendship Force—Beyond All Barriers." Jack Cang from Nanjing China has been hugely successful in getting Friendship Force started in China. He and his fellow members have hosted over 1,000 visitors and sent out 200 Chinese ambassadors. The motto "Made in China" becomes "Make exchanges with China." Similar stories have been taking place in Albania with two individuals, Ali Lacej and Diana Maliqaj. Albania was shut off from travelers for many years, but these two remarkable people have made Albania an appealing place to visit. "Coffee is everything in Albania" and "A guest is a gift of God." What more can you ask for!

The 34th FFI World Conference will be held in Hamburg, Germany in August, 2011. If you have a chance to attend, sign up and go. You won't be disappointed. —*Steve Smallwood*

Basking, continued from Page 1

as theirs, which offer the traditional handball courts, cultural library, Euskara language lessons, and Basque-influenced food.

Francois led us on a tour of the facility, which is an oasis in the midst of the industrial area. A native touch in the parking lot is a sheep wagon tableau, representing the vocation that many Basques adopted in order to make a living in their new home. The mini Conestoga-style covered wagon, about the size of a small trailer, is set among desert sand and sagebrush, with an attentive plaster border collie close by.

This being our annual meeting, we elected the 2011 executive board by unanimous acclamation. As we departed after a few hours' escape to another world, Francois invited us to come back and join the Basque members in their special meeting room. This was our first taste of Basque hospitality before heading off for the Biarritz Exchange in May.

—*Karen McCready*

THE THEME APPROACH: A NEW MODEL FOR EXCHANGES

At the Friendship Force World Conference in Washington, D. C. from October 16-18 a group of attendees drew attention to themselves with their t-shirts that said, "Ask us about the Midwest." A group of 13 clubs from Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Missouri, etc., have banded together and are exploring "a new model for exchanges," the theme approach. This group has felt neglected at times because so many clubs from other countries think nothing interesting happens in the middle of the country. To counter this view these clubs have initiated a new type of exchange they call "The Mississippi River Exchange." It's a longer exchange—18 days—starting at the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Minnesota and moving south along the Mississippi, visiting state parks, museums, forts, the Guthrie Theatre, mills and wineries, the movie site of Field of Dreams, John Deere Historic Site, Mark Twain's boyhood home in Missouri, and much more. Visiting ambassadors would spend shorter time periods with their hosts as they moved down the river and met up with three or four clubs and new hosts from those clubs. This idea is still in the planning stages, but it's a novel idea and looks promising.

—*Steve Smallwood*

FFI CLUB AND EXCHANGE POLICIES

The Club Charter Renewal Form for 2011 must be sent to FFI not later than January 15, 2011 along with the club affiliation fee of \$10 per individual and \$17 per family member, based on membership numbers at the end of 2010.

Last year, the club affiliation fee was \$6 per individual and \$10 per family.

So the individual fee has increased from \$6 to \$10, and the family fee has increased from \$10 to \$17. Therefore our FFSFBA membership fees will go up \$5 for individual and \$5 for family memberships, as approved by the Board on November 14th.

—*Don Pelland*

INBOUND DALLAS, TEXAS EXCHANGE JULY 13-18, 2011

We will be welcoming the Dallas Friendship Force Club to the Bay Area earlier than previously expected. Please change your calendar to July 13-18, 2011. Plans are unfolding quickly and your assistance is needed to make this another successful FFSFBA exchange. Also, this will be FFSFBA's opportunity to reciprocate, hosting those who hosted us during April 2009's Dallas Exchange. All members who are interested in hosting, participating in the Exchange Committee, organizing Potlucks, Day Hosting, or just attending events, please contact either Gail Boyd or Luree Miller, Exchange Directors.

We are expecting 20 Ambassadors, some of whom were our hosts from the 2009 exchange. If you attended the Dallas exchange, this is your opportunity to return their hospitality. The Exchange Director from Dallas will survey her club at their Holiday Luncheon, to see who might wish to stay with

someone they met from our club. It is rather rare to return hosting, or see those we have stayed with again from past exchanges. Therefore, let us know early, if there is someone special you would like to host.

There will be a Dallas Exchange sign-up sheet at the Holiday Luncheon on December 4th, at Michael's Shoreline. The earlier you sign up, the earlier we can meet and start planning our exchange.

—*Gail Boyd & Luree Miller*, Co-Exchange Directors

INCOMING EXCHANGE FROM INDONESIA

We are so excited to announce that our ambassadors from the Malang Indonesia club will be arriving in September 2011. Twenty two ambassadors are looking forward to seeing the San Francisco Bay Area and meeting our famously friendly and generous club. They have had quite a year with volcano eruptions and tsunamis in the eastern part of their country. FFSFBA immediately sent them an email asking about their welfare and expressing condolences for the many lives lost. They have since confirmed that their members were not directly affected and thanked us for our concern. So many of their countrymen have lost lives and property.

It will be fascinating to meet them and to learn about this predominately Muslim country. They have timed their travel to coincide with the end of Ramadan, or Eid. We plan to have multiple cultural orientations and are inviting representatives from the Peace Corps who have served in Indonesia and also Indonesian natives living here in the Bay Area to present programs to orient our hosts. We have been given a most unique and interesting cultural opportunity. Many of our members have already signed up to host at our luncheon at The Basque Cultural Center. I will bring the sign-up sheets to the Holiday Luncheon and hope to add more names to host. We also have many other opportunities to participate and get to know our Indonesian ambassadors. I encourage you to sign up for the planning committee, the welcome and farewell parties, day hosting, and for friendly pot-lucks. We all have a chance to participate and learn about this interesting country and culture.

—*Martha LeRoy*, Exchange Director

ARE WE GOOD AMBASSADORS?

Scott and I have always thought a visit to country XX was in our future. We even checked out Wall Street Journal ads for property in XX. But during a recent family trip to Italy, we had the opportunity to share a tour bus ride to Pompeii with about 20 XX tourists. Each and every one of them was rude, pushy, loud, interruptive, and self-absorbed. Were they representative of XX? Or were they simply an anomaly? We don't know. What we do know is that, whether or not they were aware of it, they were ambassadors for their country. And they left every other tourist on that bus with the sense, fairly or unfairly, that all XXs are arrogant and poorly behaved. This experience is a gentle reminder of how important it is to be a good ambassador for our communities and our country, because we never know what conclusion someone will draw from

witnessing our behavior and listening to what we say. Friendship Force is all about friendship, not force. —*Luree Miller*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FFI WORLD CONFERENCE

I believe every member should attend at least one world conference during their time in the FFI club. I was very impressed with the 33rd World Conference in Washington, DC. From start to finish everything ran smoothly and efficiently. The workshops were excellent. The workshop on "Music: The Universal Language" captured the theme of FFI. Also the workshop on "Getting the World's Attention" by the Sacramento club presented many proven ideas about recruiting new members and fundraising projects that other clubs could copy. "Discover America" was another interesting workshop. After watching their intriguing presentation about the mid-west and their idea of several clubs joining together for an inbound exchange, it made me just want to go there.

—*Patricia Snowden*

This conference was the best of the three I have attended. The FFI staff seemed to be "on their game" and ready for anything. I could go on about the Rep training, the welcome session, break out workshops, the dinner-dance and finally the closing plenary session. They were all great and "to the point."

Now for what they all meant to me and what was important to share with you. The following are not in order of importance, but seemed to make sense to me.

1. Google has a translating program: translate.google.com
2. Have meetings that are not meetings: discussions, meet the author, travelogue, meet and greet, and potlucks—all sponsored by your club.
3. Find a Sister City organization that has "bit the dust" and get hold of their mailing list and contact the members.
4. Get a booth at a local farmer's market and pass out fliers.
5. Have an "elevator" speech to share with people about FF. Twenty words that do not start with "Friendship Force is..."
6. Find other organizations that have similar goals that you can partner with.
7. Send your newsletter to ten people who are not members.
8. The fees to FFI from the local clubs have risen to \$10 for individuals and \$17 for families.
9. The exchange fee to FFI has gone up to \$150.
10. George Brown will include club presidents more and recognize them for their efforts through the year.
11. The websites of the local clubs will become a priority for FFI.
12. I won the silent auction to spend a week in San Diego.

—*Barry Rader*

This was the third International Conference that Wil and I have attended. Each time I attend I receive a large shot of enthusiasm. I attended four workshops: Creating Excellent Inbound Exchanges, Exchange Director Training, Recruiting Next Generation Hosts, and Music, the Universal Language. Even though each workshop highlighted and called to mind information and ideas that we have used in our own activities, they were presented from another point of view and raised the consciousness of things that can be achieved. I was especially interested in the one covering recruiting next generation hosts,

because I see that as an area where we can build a generational membership in our own club through recruiting hosts within PTA groups and other school organizations.



Karen McCready, Louise Heiduk, and Wil Heiduk

During the closing meeting, I was especially inspired by the representative from Morocco who shared his club's activities in which they shared their own culture through conversations with youth and other representatives of their communities.

—*Louise Heiduk*

The FFI World Conference was so dazzling that I have a hard time putting it into words. Part of it was the location, a redeveloped area within walking distance of the National Mall, Chinatown, and a major Metro center and stadium. As fantastic as the conference was, their scheduling free time on Sunday afternoon gave everyone a chance to explore our national treasures before heading off to a home stay or home on Monday. Barry and I revisited all the earlier memorials and then saw the inspiring and beautiful World War II Memorial for the first time. If you haven't registered any relatives who survived the war, be sure to go on the website to do that. Notably, the memorial is located between the Lincoln and Washington memorials, strategically placed within sight of the



Barry Rader, George Brown (FFI President), and Karen McCready

father of our country and the president who held the union together.

Location was secondary, though, to a carefully planned program that put us in touch with the extraordinarily gifted leaders from our headquarters and demonstrated how FFI is moving forward, utilizing all the social media innovations of our time (Facebook, You Tube, etc.) and continuing to develop new clubs. Most of the Atlanta staff was present, proving as always how accessible and knowledgeable they are. One of the many nuggets of information I gathered from other participants was that the Pennsylvania field rep posts Friendship Force videos on You Tube, introducing our organization to people all over the world. Try googling Friendship Force videos to see what comes up. The FFI website, by the way, has posted slide shows and videos of the World Conference. On their home page, scroll down the left column to the conference section and click on that. In the slide show, you might see a couple of shots of a familiar face in an orange galabaya and a weird matching headpiece. That gala could have gone on all night!

If you've never had the opportunity to be energized by an FFI World Conference, mark your calendar for next August in Hamburg, Germany.

—*Karen L. McCready*

AREA #1 GETS A HEAD START ON THE HOLIDAYS!

It's never too early to begin celebrating the holidays. Not even a sudden thunder and lightning storm could dampen spirits. So members of Area #1 got together on Saturday, November 20th, for a feast of friendship and food (potluck-style... from guacamole to honey-baked ham and the trimmings to cheesecake) at Scott and Luree Miller's condo in the Cow Hollow District of San Francisco. The raucous laughter, slurpings, crunchings, and munchings could probably be heard throughout the Bay Area. Loud singing for a belated birthday (Joy Hillman's) also rattled the rafters. Those in attendance were Joy Hillman, Elizabeth Shumway, Dean and Bernice Batchelder, Ron and Gloria Greenwald, Gail Boyd, and Scott and Luree Miller. All agree that this is the way to cement friendships—good food, good wine, and most importantly, good folks sharing a wild, stormy evening together. —*Lurie Miller*

AREA 2 OUTING TO THE TABARD THEATER

Thanks to Wendy Dewel's suggestion, and June Cademartori's perseverance, nine Area 2 members enjoyed an outing to see "Driving Miss Daisy" at the Tabard Theater in downtown San Jose on Sunday, November 14th. The play tells the sweet story of an unlikely friendship that develops between a southern lady and her driver. We enjoyed the acting, as well as the intimacy of this small theater. The afternoon ended with a pleasant dinner at the Sonoma Chicken Coop, across the street from the theater.

Attendees were Natalie Heling, June Cademartori, Joy Hewett, Wendy and Kent Dewel, Janis Maurry, Darlene Boyanich, Roger Riffenburgh, and Frances Reid.

—*Natalie Heling, Area 2 Coordinator*

Membership Application



friendship force
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

The Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area offers:

- Participation in exchange activities
- Frequent newsletters
- Regular planned activities
- Meeting wonderful and interesting people

Join now and help foster world peace through friendship!

Annual membership dues for 2011 are \$ 40.00 per individual or \$ 60.00 per couple or family.
Dues are payable by January 31. (A \$5.00 discount can be taken if submitted by the due date).

In answering the following questions, feel free to use the back of the page for additional information and comments.

Date of application: _____
month/day/year

Members: _____
Last Name First Middle Date of Birth

Last Name First Middle Date of Birth

Address: _____
Street Apt. No. City State Zip

Telephone: Home (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____

E-Mail address _____

Occupations (former if retired): _____

Please check activities in which you might like to participate:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Picnic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange Banker | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Luncheon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Forester | <input type="checkbox"/> Inbound Exchange |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> FF Merchandise | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Hosting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicist | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine | <input type="checkbox"/> Day/Dinner Hosting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Social Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Webmaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Outbound Exchange |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer User | <input type="checkbox"/> General Club Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Language _____ |

Are you willing to home host this year? _____

I have enclosed annual dues of \$ _____

I am adding a \$10 donation for the purpose of maintaining the Friendship Forest: _____ Yes _____ No

Make checks payable to "FFSFBA" and mail with this completed form to: **Membership Chairperson**
1339 Harrington Street
Fremont, CA 94539

I have contacts with the following organizations that might enjoy having a speaker talk about Friendship Force:

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON, DECEMBER 4

There's still time to reserve your place at the Holiday Luncheon, at 12 noon at Michaels Restaurant, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. The choices are: Pot Roast (\$21), Breast of Chicken (\$20), Broiled Salmon (\$20), and Wild Mushroom Crepes (\$18). Please mail your check (payable to FFSFBA) for the total amount, and mail to me. I need to receive your check by 11/29. Call me with questions.

Come at 12 noon to socialize (there's a no-host bar), and lunch will be served at 1 p.m. The program will feature Highlights of the Tuxtla-Gutierrez, Mexico Exchange, review of the International Conference in Washington, D.C., Installation of Officers, and Holiday Caroling. We hope to see you there!
—Dee Gustavson

DIRECTIONS TO MICHAELS RESTAURANT

Take Highway 101 to Mountain View. Exit on No. Shoreline, and go approximately 2 miles to the restaurant.

MEXICO WAS WONDERFUL

The Tuxtla Gutierrez exchange was terrific. The host club was lively and provided great hosts. They like to “party,” so we were busy and happy all the time. The first event was a welcome party in the large backyard of Ana, their ED and our host. It was decorated with lots of red, white and green, the Mexican national colors. The music was by 15 musicians, including three marimbas. The band had been supplied by the city. There was dancing, and the pot luck dinner was spectacular.

And the pace just kept up for the full week that we were there! We were honored at a meeting at the mayor’s office, we attended the anniversary parade, there was a special music and dance program for us at the new civic center, we visited the charming colonial city of San Cristobal de las Casas and the surrounding indigenous pueblos, and many more outings.



All of Mexico was celebrating the 200th anniversary of Independence from Spain, the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution, and in the State of Chiapas we also celebrated the 186th anniversary of the transfer of Chiapas from Guatemala to Mexico, which called for another parade, dance and music programs, etc.



When visiting the girls’ orphanage, we had the opportunity to meet many of the girls and the staff, tour the facility and make the contribution from our Club for both the girls and the boys. A check for \$856 was presented to the orphanage, as a result of our club’s recent silent auction. One of our hosts had been a founding member of the board, and we were the first inbound exchange that had made a contribution. That same day we went to the zoo, which is one of the best in Latin America. It was extensive and very impressive, including the black jaguar who paraded back and forth right in front of us.

The Host Club is smaller than our Club, but they involve their whole families. At the events, each family had many members of all ages, so the club appeared very large. The Club



hosts 3 or 4 inbound exchanges per year. Their Exchange Director was only 27 years old (a beautiful and charming girl!).

The farewell party was also spectacular. One of their club’s founding members has a large second home, so she hosted the party on the deck beside the river. Each host family brought the food for their guests. Of course there was dancing, live music and a lot of excitement.



Prior to the exchange we had a 4-day stay in Mexico City, where we ate well, visited museums, visited a hacienda with a beautiful collection of Diego Rivera’s paintings and his pre-Columbian collection, toured the home of Frida Kahlo, attended a Ballet Folklórico performance, and toured the historic district.

After the exchange we spent 4 days in Oaxaca, visited folk craft workshops, two world famous archeological sites, and of course we ate well.

We hope you’ll be at the December 4 holiday luncheon, so we can share with you our enthusiasm and excitement about our stay with the Tuxtla Club.



Ambassadors, back row, left to right: Elsa San Diego (from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada), Karen Rice, Louise Heiduk, Wil Heiduk, Emily Hopkins. Front row, left to right, Dave & Dee Gustavson, Gloria & Ron Greenwald.

—Ron and Gloria Greenwald, Exchange Directors

2010 FFSFBA COMMITTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President@ffsfba.org: Stephen Smallwood
VP@ffsfba.org: Barry Rader
Secretary@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready
Treasurer@ffsfba.org: Scott Miller

STANDING COMMITTEES

Activities@ffsfba.org: Lois Smallwood
Membership@ffsfba.org: Mary Pelland
Newsletter@ffsfba.org: Dave & Dee Gustavson
Parliamentarian@ffsfba.org: Karen McCready
Publicity@ffsfba.org: Arnold Becker

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Ron & Gloria Greenwald
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Lois Smallwood

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ExchangeBanker@ffsfba.org: Don Pelland
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Forester@ffsfba.org: Don Dillon
Karen Rice
Forest records: Mary Alice vanDoorn
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Area Group Coordinator
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2010 CALENDAR

December 4
12 noon

Holiday Luncheon at
Michael's Shoreline
Restaurant, Mountain View

2011 CALENDAR

January 23

Board Meeting at Pellands'
home, Fremont

February 26

World Friendship Day
First United Methodist
Church, 2950 Washington
Blvd., Fremont

March 20

Board Meeting

March 25-27

Leadership Conference,
Bakersfield

May 1

FF Birthday Party

May 12-June 2

Outbound Exchange to
Biarritz, France

June 11

Board Meeting

July 13-18

Incoming Domestic Exchange
from Dallas, TX

July 17

Annual Picnic, Prusch Park

August 14

Board Meeting

Late August

FFI International Conference,
Hamburg, Germany

September

Incoming Indonesia Exchange

October 2

Annual Meeting

December 3,
2011

Holiday Luncheon at
Michael's Shoreline
Restaurant, Mountain View