

Dear Members and potential members,

BIG NEWS! Our club's Board of Directors voted to build and pay for a new website. It's called Wild Apricot, which the Sacramento Club has been happily using for three years. They presented a workshop on it last May at the Western Regional Conference in Sacramento, which Dave Gustavson attended and found impressive. (FFI in Atlanta also points to Sacramento's website as a model for other clubs.)

Watch your email this week for complete details from Dave about how to log into the new system. First, you'll need to choose a password; then you'll be able to renew your 2019 membership online, by using your credit card! This is just one of its many improvements. **Everything** will now be on the website: the newsletter (we're not sure what form it will take: it may be stories, photos, or a blog). All needed forms will now be available on the web, you'll be able to access FFI's website, and also our roster, which will be available only to our members when they log in by using their password. We can also send invitations to members and guests for all our events through the website, and members can RSVP and pay for events using their credit card. (You'll save postage!) The website will also keep track of the RSVP's. Dan Eggerding and Dave Gustavson have worked hard to set it up. K.C. Sarr, and Shirley Foreman have offered to help keep it running.

Membership dues are due by January 1, and late by January 31. We're keeping the dues the same: \$50, but no \$5 deduct for on-time payment this year. Try to pay dues online on the new system. I will personally offer a \$5 gift card to Starbuck's to the first five people who pay their membership dues by credit card through the new website system. If you have difficulties, email Dave Gustavson: dbg@gustavson.info

Our annual **Holiday Buffet Luncheon** is Saturday, December 8 at 12 noon. That's less than 3 weeks away. I hope you all received an invitation by email. 25 people have made their reservations already, including several guests. Be sure to invite a friend to attend with you. That's a great way to introduce them to FF. Send your check to:

Martha LeRoy
426 D Street
Fremont, CA 94536.

Make your check to FFSFBA for \$29 per person (includes tax and tip) for the buffet. Included in the buffet are salads, entrees, seasonal vegetables, french rolls, dessert, and drinks: coffee, decaf and hot tea (Iced tea costs \$1 extra per person.) NOTE: there will be a donation box on the reception table for those who wish to donate to the fire victims in the area of Paradise, CA. It will be sent to Butte County, for distribution as they see fit.

Thanks to those who attended the Brainstorming Sessions last week. There were 7 who shared ideas in the East Bay, and 12 who provided suggestions in the West Bay. The Board will discuss these ideas and incorporate some of them in our goals for 2019.

In September I received news from Ron Greenwald about Elizabeth Shumway's passing. Ron and Gloria were introduced to FF by Elizabeth. She and Ron worked together for 30 years. Ron asked me to share the following information with our club members:

"Elizabeth Shumway, a long time FFSFBA member of San Francisco, died recently at 92 years of age. She was born in Fulton, Kentucky, and met her husband Milt Shumway while she was working in Germany. They had one daughter, Martha

Shumway, who lives in San Francisco. Liz was an active member of FFSFBA, and was on many out-bound trips, and day and home hosted in San Francisco. Liz was a wonderful friend!

At Liz's request there was no public memorial service. Condolences may be sent to her daughter, Martha Shumway, 8300 Oceanview Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94132."

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Tentative Calendar for 2019 (Flyers will include more information at the December 8 Holiday Luncheon)

Saturday, January 5, 5th at 5 p.m. in West Bay, place to be announced.

January 12, Game Day at Dave and Dee Gustavson's, at 1946 Fallen Leaf Lane in Los Altos, 10-3 p.m. Drop in when you can, or stay the whole time.

February 5 - Fifth at 5 - East Bay, place to be announced.

February 8-10, Western Regional Presidents' Conference in SF Bay area, hosted by our club. Two nights of home hosting, workshop all day Saturday, which is tentatively scheduled in Sunnyvale. Two dinners will be organized for the guests and home hosts. There will be no cost for our club. We're in need of home hosts for about 20 people. Call Host Coordinator Dee at 650-961-3539 or her assistant, Louise at 408-243-4822 if you can host or help on a committee.

Early March - World Friendship Day, with a German theme.

Mid-April - Our club will host Kiel, Germany. Louise Heiduk will be Host Coordinator for this inbound Journey, and will be assisted by Carol Halbe. Please volunteer to help on a committee. If you can host, give Louise a call at 408-243-4822.

May or June - An Event with a Russian theme

June 24-July 1 - our club will be hosted by the Long Island FF Club. They can take 15 people. Contact K.C. Sarr, Journey Coordinator, if you're interested in going on this Journey.

July - Annual Bar-B-Q

July 23-27 - Friendship Force 2019 World Conference will be held at University of Colorado in Boulder. Cost for the conference is \$475, if you register by December 1. After that, the price goes up to \$500. There are optional tours for additional cost. I urge you to attend this conference to meet new people from all over the world, and to participate in the workshops to learn how other clubs operate.

August 8 (tentative date) for 10 days to 2 weeks, our club will be hosted by Moscow's club, and will possibly staying in St. Petersburg for a few days. Plans aren't finalized yet, and costs haven't been fixed. Contact Martha LeRoy, Journey Coordinator, at 510-793-3676 if you're interested in traveling to Russia and/or helping on a committee.

September - Annual Meeting

October 24-30 - Tentative dates and plans are to host Sarasota, FL on an incoming Journey.

December - Holiday Luncheon

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Contact me by email if you have questions, concerns, or ideas to share: dee@gustavson.info or phone 650-961-3539. Please check out our new website! Keep checking FFI's website to find new trips offered with other clubs: www.friendshipforce.org

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!

In harmony,

Dee Gustavson
President