



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**FFSB President's Letter
April 2021**

Hello Faithful FFSB members.

This year -2021 we are 53 members strong with two long time members as associate members.

I hope that by now many of you have received your Covid-19 vaccination, especially if you plan to travel in the future.

FFI has established a new registration method for all members.

Please register in the new FFI Portal so that you will receive your ID number. You will need this ID number to travel in the future. We have sent out the instructions from FFI to all of you. Please note that each person needs to register individually. This is a new process for all of us.

Our club has had two

successful Zoom Planning meetings, and two Program meetings in 2021.

We have had one Zoom Social, with another social planned soon.

We miss everyone who did not join us on Zoom and look forward to the day when we are meeting in person again.

I have contacted Goleta Library and requested the room for our meeting in November. The library does not know when they will be allowed to have meetings again, and our room is being used to quarantine incoming books at this time. We are on the list to hold meetings there when it is allowed.

I hope we will be able to have an in-person Holiday Social in December.

FFSB has no incoming or outgoing Journeys planned for 2021.

Plans for 2022 Journeys include

Inbound Domestic:

Tucson Az. to FFSB in Late January, early Feb

Birmingham USA to FFSB

Inbound International:

Kumamoto Japan to

Santa Barbara USA

There was discussion about hosting a group from Australia in 2022 but nothing has been decided between the clubs yet.

Outbound Domestic

Santa Barbara USA to Quad Cities USA

We have no International outbound Journeys assigned to us in 2022 due to the high number of requests for travel to the destinations we requested.

Costa Rica and New Zealand are two destinations that our club wanted to visit.

To take an International Journey in 2022 you can go to the FFI website and check to see where other clubs are traveling. You can then contact another club to see if they have spaces available to travel with their club. This is often done between Friendship Force clubs.

We have established a Publicity committee to get us ready to publicize our club when we can become more active in person.

Jo Magistad and I are on the publicity committee and we would welcome a few

others to join with us. If you are interested, contact me – Bonnie Dutton
bdutton5@msn.com.

find ways to meet together in person soon.

Bonnie Dutton
Club President

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy,
 Stay Positive. Perhaps we will



Sign up with FFI to establish an individual FFI portal. The purpose is for each member to set up a portal in order to get an ID number for travel in the future. When you set this up, one preference is to be sure and check the box to receive mailings from FFI.

To sign up got to

https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in



Program Meeting

**2021 Governing Board of the
 Friendship Force of Santa Barbara**

OFFICERS

President: Bonnie Dutton

Vice President: Bill Boyd

Secretary: Terry Behrens

Co-Treasurers: Lori Lofstrom &
 David Jones

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Past President:

Linda Williams

Communications Coordinator:

Pam Vestel

Membership Coordinator:

Jo Magistad

Domestic Journey Coordinator:

Karolyn Hanna

Social Coordinators:

Terry Scrivner and Roberta Lehtiner

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Paula Gregoire-Jones

E-mail Notifications:

Dawn McGrew

Historians:

Dick and Joyce Falk

Membership:

JoAnn Magistad & Joanie Sullivan

Newsletter:

Dawn McGrew & Patrick Wade

Programs:

Bill Boyd

Setup:

Sherman and Julie Vincent

Sunshine:

Claire Magee

Telephone:

Sandy Hartley

Webmaster:

Paula Gregoire-Jones

Welcome:

Agris and Elza Petersons

Monday, January 25, 2021

Sarasota, FL Journey

Twenty-five people enjoyed the slide show presented on Zoom by George & Roberta Lehtinen. Roberta wrote the following summary of the program.

It has taken a long time to cross the vast wasteland of the COVID-19 desert, but our Sarasota journey a year ago still brings back pleasant memories. Twelve FFSB members made the cross-country trek and enjoyed the fun folks and busy city on the west coast of Florida from January 29 to February 5, 2020.

The Sarasota FFI club is unusual since only some of the members are year around Sarasota residents and they meet only from September to May. They also organize journeys differently than we do, with the Journey Coordinator role being split up into ten parts such as activities, welcome and farewell parties, day hosts, home hosts, tickets and more. People who do these roles specialize in them and they can do that role for each inbound journey since the workload on any individual is much smaller when the burden is widely shared.

Sarasota lives bigger than its population of 60,000 people with a symphony, theater, art, photography and history museums and other "high culture" attractions beyond the fun-in-the-sun activities Sarasota is otherwise known for.

Our itinerary included historic sites, educational opportunities, fun places, an emotionally moving site and interesting people. Places visited spanned the spectrum from a primitive pre-European site to the amazing home of a wealthy man who chose the Florida coast over colder climates. Great features of our time in Sarasota were the several small dinner parties which always make the highlight list of any journey.

A Welcome Brunch got us coffee upped and started us on a tour of Historic Spanish Point where a seashell midden attests to hundreds of years of a sea food diet. A guided tour of the home and church of some of the earliest settlers reminded us of how short our California history is.

The next day showcased the fantastic plant life in this warm, humid tropical climate in the Marie Selby Botanical Garden. We learned about epiphytes and bromeliads, which we might call "air plants" since some require next to nothing to grow. The one-of-a-kind Whimsey Museum came next with its collection of offbeat, unusual and fun art brightening the dull weather. Even the owner and creator greeted us.

After a free day on Saturday, the spectacular Ringling Museum could not help but impress even the most jaded traveler. Historic artifacts from the circus's traveling days, an endless diorama with thousands of handmade pieces depicting people, animals, trains, tents and all the rest of what goes into a traveling circus. Near the museum in the large manicured grounds was the winter mansion of the Ringling's, the Ca d'Zan. It is amazing what money can buy. That evening was Super bowl and FFSB members were treated to a stuff yourself feast of whatever you could carry in front of the TV.

Monday brought another educational opportunity with the Eco Boat Tour of the waters off Sarasota and the Mote Marine Lab. The open boat leisurely trolled the bottom of the sea with a net while our expert guide described the passing flora and fauna. Captured by the net were dozens of different species that our guide later described. Some of us were put on "critter watch" to keep some of our more active captives in their containers until they were safely returned to Sarasota Bay. The Mote Museum might be called an aquarium since it specialized in the fantastic variety of creatures that swim or crawl along the bottom of the sea.

Our last day brought us to a newer national cemetery that still has row after row of white markers, one for each serviceman or woman who gave his or her life for our country and us. One can't help but be moved when one thinks of the selfless sacrifice of so many young people for the freedom we sometimes take for granted. Our farewell dinner was in a top floor of a tall building with a glass wall overlooking the water as the sun set. It was a nice finish to a nice journey.



This photo is of our host's "Florida Room" screened in patio typical of the housing developments and indoor/outdoor lifestyle. The pond acts as an attractive water feature plus acts a drainage reservoir.

Thanks to Roberta Lehinten for writing this article.

February Social

Sunday, February 21, 2021



Article Submitted By Roberta Lehtinen

Okay, so what is the third largest city in Slovakia? Don't worry, that wasn't a question submitted for the Travel Trivia social by the well-traveled folks who populate FFSB. Twenty-one FFSBers participated in the February 21 Zoom event. Prior to the event members were requested to submit three questions each. At the social each participant kept his or her own score. The winners were Barbara Rose and Claire Magee who tied with 32 correct of the 36 questions. Congrats to them. It is too bad that no one got a perfect score, so no one won the new car. Better luck next time.

Some sample questions:

Where was the fortune cookie invented?

- A. China
- B. Taiwan
- C. San Francisco
- D. Hong Kong

Answer: San Francisco

The first official Friendship Force Exchange (aka Journey) was between the USA and:

- A. Fukuoka, Japan
- B. Newcastle, England
- C. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- D. Toronto, Canada

Answer: Brazil

As a guest in Japan, what is the first thing you do when entering your host's home?

- A. Bow
- B. Take off your shoes
- C. Blow your nose
- D. Wash your hands

Answer: Take off your shoes (the popular choice was C)

Which city is the wrong capitol for these Canadian Provinces?

- A. Victoria, British Columbia
- B. Toronto, Ontario
- C. Quebec, Quebec
- D. Calgary, Alberta

Answer: Calgary (Edmonton is the provincial capital)

Kurfürstendamm is a major shopping street in which city?

- A. Frankfurt
- B. Berlin
- C. Amsterdam
- D. Copenhagen

Answer: Berlin

Which country does not use the Euro?

- A. Sweden
- B. Slovakia
- C. Ireland
- D. Greece

Answer: Sweden

When in doubt, the best strategy was to pick "C" but it didn't matter much since the basic theme of the social was to have fun with friends and at that we succeeded.

We all long for the day when we can have the joy of anticipating, planning, packing and saying good-bye at the airport but maybe not going through security (got your shot record?). In the healthier days that are surely coming, we are going to saddle up and head out on our adventures but, until we can do that, playing travel trivia gave us a chance to relive some past adventures and dream of others. Better days are coming!

Thank you to George and Roberta Lehtinen for preparing and hosting the event.

March 15, 2021
Program Meeting



Regardless of our thoughts and feelings about homeless people we were forced to rethink them at our bi-monthly Zoom program meeting. Showers of Blessings of Santa Barbara was introduced to us by the executive director, John Tamiuzzi. Who knew that of the 1,100 plus homeless folks in Santa Barbara less than half are housed at night. The others are sleeping in tents, open spaces by the freeway and in cars.

Showers of Blessings was started in the fall of 2014 by the Rev. Doug Miller and his wife to provide free showers for those folks in a dignified way. Ken Ralph soon joined them and has been a devoted member of the team and an impressive speaker to promote the program. A double shower van was procured and has now been replaced by a triple shower van. This van is moved to five different sites to accommodate areas in which the homeless congregate.



When Covid-19-19 invaded us several sites were lost and two new ones have since been initiated to replace them. The vision of this non-profit is that they will have 10 sites and two vans operating every day of the week. The beautiful thing about this is that these folks come to the sites and are treated as guests and are given much more than a hot shower. Donors have provided new socks and underwear with an unlimited supply promised as well as donated food and clothes. The three employees led by Wade Volk are formerly homeless men who know most of the guests personally and to watch these three lovely gentlemen interact with the guests is a heartwarming experience.

Four of our Friendship Force members have had the privilege of volunteering at the Unity Church site on Thursday afternoons. We were suspended during Covid-19-19 but have now been reinstated. This experience has totally changed my perception of homeless folks. They come to us with humility, treat us with respect and are very grateful to have a hot shower and be provided with essentials. As they select from the donated sundry personal care items, I have been impressed with their reluctance to accept more than their essential needs and are so thankful if we suggest that perhaps they would like something more. They leave refreshed and ready to face yet another day on the streets. Ken shared the story of a young man he followed who lost his job due to anger issues, found his wife being unfaithful, started drinking and using drugs and ended up on the streets. Ken was able to establish a trust with this gentleman and over a period of time was able to help him become sober and give up drugs. Ken mentioned that many of the folks he sees suffer from PTSD and if they don't have it initially being on the streets can easily cause it. Many of the guests are veterans.

Needless to say we were impressed with this presentation and I hope inspired to see homeless folks with new eyes and perhaps to donate our excess clothes and funds to this cause.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rose

Planning and Program Meetings

Planning Meetings:

Monday, May 10, 2021 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Program Meetings:

Monday, May 17, 2021 7:00
Anne Gray
“Hartford CT Journey” via Zoom

Social Programs

Sunday April 11 5:00– A libation tasting with a beverage of your choice. You should create an idiomatic phrase or expression to describe your drink, as if you are a food and beverage critic.

June 2021 TBD

**Domestic and International
Inbound and Outbound Journeys**

AC = Ambassador Coordinator Outbound
HC = Host Coordinator Inbound

2022

Jan –Feb 2022 -Inbound. Tucson, Arizona plans to come.

May 2022 Inbound Adelaide, Australia wants to come.. The Australian club is already approved to travel

October 2022 - Kumamoto, Japan will be coming to Santa Barbara HC TBD.

Date TBD -Inbound. Birmingham Alabama

Anne Gray is still exploring possibilities for Santa Barbara International Outbound for South Island, New Zealand.

In the future Friendship Force Santa Barbara is looking forward to rescheduling its visit to Milwaukee/Quad Cities



Happy Birthday to:

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| April 24 | Carol Nichols |
| April 29 | Ron Hartley |
| May 4 | Dee Wilkerson |
| May 3 | Dick Falk |
| May 7 | Pat Wade |
| May 17 | Jo Magistad |
| May 27 | Julie Nguyen |
| June 27 | Anne Gray |

Visit the Friendship Force Santa Barbara website:

www.friendshipforcesantabarbara.org

Friendship Force Santa Barbara email:

friendshipforceSB@gmail.com

Stay informed with the Friendship Force International website:

www.thefriendshipforce.org