



FRIENDSHIP FORCE NEWSLETTER

SANTA BARBARA JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi fellow travelers,

This has been an unusually busy travel year for many of us. In fact, a few members have been in SB for less than 50% of the year.

The world is ever changing, our club is evolving. The following is an overview of our past year.

In 2016 we hosted the clubs from Twin Cities, MN and North Bay, Canada. Our outbound exchange to Twin Cities and Madison, WI occurred in the fall. Unfortunately we had to cancel the outbound exchange to Brazil.



RICKEY IN JAPAN

I attended the regional meeting in Reno, NV. For our social events we enjoyed some musical entertainments as well as good feasts of many types.

Many thanks to Patricia Poilé and Pat Burkard for leading us in these. For 2017 a different approach is planned with some exciting outings not done before.

Our program meetings will still take place at the Goleta Library. Many thanks to Dawn McGrew and Pat Wade for organizing the refreshments and set-up. Jane and Dave Gorbet have graciously offered to take over that large job for this year

This is the last newsletter for Mary Orr as editor and Joyce Falk will step in to fill that position. Many thanks to both.

Not to be overlooked, thank you to the board officers for another year of service, but we



RICKEY IN JAPAN

will be looking for replacements for 2018.

I'm excited about our exchange to Japan this year. I just spent three weeks there and will go again. I wish you all a healthy and peaceful New Year

Happy travels.

Rickey Farberman

FFSB Gets in a Jolly Holiday Frame of Mind

By Mary Orr



The FFSB holiday dinner, held at the High Sierra Grill, saw the 40 well-dressed members attending have a very fun evening, especially with the white elephant gift exchange.

After the cocktail hour, which turned out to be “no host” instead of “hosted” everyone settled into their seats and was served a very generous dinner by the staff. Besides salad, we enjoyed tri-tip and chicken, smashed potatoes and mixed vegetables. To-go boxes were

much in evidence afterwards, although everyone seemed to have room for one of the delicious desserts. Strange how that works!

During the “business” portion of the event we elected the officers for 2017. They are all very experienced, as they held the same positions in 2016. Thank you, Rickey, Linda, Pam and Jan for continuing to keep our ship afloat and sailing straight.

But the most laughs were enjoyed during the gift exchange, starting with Barbara Rose and her yellow monkey, and continuing with Bonnie Dutton’s Santa hat, a real white china elephant, a very popular flashlight, and who could forget the bag marked Human Organ and what it contained? Much gift thievery went on, and everyone ended up with something, which they may never use but could donate to another white elephant exchange!

Thanks to Agris for leading us in Christmas carols and to Pat Burkard and Patricia Poilé for making all the arrangements for this very festive occasion.



2017 Governing Board of the Friendship Force of Santa Barbara

OFFICERS

President: Rickey Farbman

Vice President: Linda Williams

Secretary: Jan Inouye

Treasurer: Pam Vestal

DIRECTORS

Past President: Barbara Rose

Domestic Exchange Coordinator:
Karolyn Hanna

Inbound Exchange Directors:
Bonnie Dutton & Sandy Hartley
(Salt Lake City, Utah)

Karolyn Hanna (Tuxla-Guiterrez,
Mexico)

Outbound Exchange Directors:
Barbara Rose (Kumamoto and Ehime
Japan)

Directory: Sandy Grasso-Boyd

E-mail Notifications: Dawn McGrew

Historian: Barbara Gregoire

Membership: JoAnn Magistad and
Joanie Sullivan

Newsletter: Joyce Falk (editor)
Paula Gregoire-Jones (publisher)

Programs: Linda Williams

Refreshments: Jan & Dave Gorbet

Social Events: Pat Burkard
(coordinator) & social committee

Sunshine: Claire Magee

Telephone: Sandy Hartley

Webmaster: Paula Gregoire-Jones

Welcome: Agris and Elza Petersons



Where in the World is Bermuda? Closer Than You Think!



ST GEORGE ISLAND

by Mary Orr

Unless they have been there or are geography whizzes, many people think this island is in the Caribbean or near Cuba or Central America. Guess what? It is only 650 miles from North Carolina, due east.

Jack and I were fortunate enough to be part of a Discover Bermuda exchange in November and we came home eager to share the wonders of this place with others and also the experience of trying to start a new Friendship Force Club.

Our ED was Joanne Schuetz from Knoxville, TN and our group of 13 included ambassadors from Canada, WA, TX, MN, MT, and Washington, DC. The Bermuda ED was a good friend of Joanne's and together they planned the events and logistics of the exchange.

Bermuda has an interesting history dating back to 1609 when a ship bound for Jamestown ran aground. After three months of ship repair they went to their original destination but after returning home spread the word about this warm tropical climate and soon the Brits had colonized Bermuda and the rest is history. Residents are approximately 50% black and 50% white or "other." The population is about 63,000 and the island is 21 square miles.

Bermuda ED Barbara really worked hard to find home hosts for all of us, since the concept of a Friendship Force exchange was completely new to the Bermudians. They were very gracious hosts, however, and we were privileged to have a private visit with the mayor of the city of Hamilton as well the head of the US Consulate.



GOMBAY DANCERS

On the fun side we had an awesome welcome buffet at a prestigious resort hotel, ferried to the Royal Naval Dockyard for a chance to learn about the history of Bermuda, saw a Scottish skirling ceremony and a Gombey dance demonstration. We were all impressed with their Remembrance Day service on 11/11 and another ceremony that Sunday at St. Mark's Anglican Church, where we introduced ourselves during the service and described how Friendship Force works. Their pastor is from Capetown and invited several ambassadors to his home for dinner. We walked to Cooper's Island

Nature Reserve and some (including Jack) were brave enough to swim in Turtle Bay. A full moon cocktail cruise on 11/14 brought us to a private island with a mansion and a trip to Bermuda would not be complete without a tour of the famous Gosling rum brewery where a drink called Dark and Stormy was sampled.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Some interesting facts about Bermuda:

- Each household can have only one car. Everyone else buys a motorcycle. No car rentals.
- Each house has a special roof that collects water and stores it under the house. If you run out you have to go buy some. We were VERY careful with the water!
- The Bermudians still wear Bermuda shorts and are a kind and friendly group!

Inbound North Bay, Canada Exchange, October 28-November 2, 2017



October 28th saw the arrival of 20 members of the North Bay Canada Club after a week traveling in the Bay area. Upon arrival we wined and dined them with a spaghetti feed that evening at Barbara G's home. Along with meeting their host families, welcome bags and information about their time in SB was given to the 10 couples.

This is the first time that the ambassadors were couples only with no singles. I must say that they were a fun group and seem to have many travels together under their belts.

Working with their ED Wynne Blair we put together a week of activities that they requested along with some new adventures for our club and guest. The two highlights of the trip (according to evaluations) were the Shark Tour and the tour of the Santa Barbara Hermitage. Special arrangements were made for the Hermitage Tour so we were very lucky to experience this special part of Santa Barbara.



Along with the Courthouse and Mission tours, many ambassadors took in the Thriller event at the Sunken Gardens, enjoyed hikes in the foothills, along Goleta mesa area, Carpinteria and the shoreline beach area. Dinner parties, concerts and other activities with host families filled their week.

It really was a successful exchange and many new friendships were formed.



Remembering Gladys Robinson – 1927-2016



Gladys Eva Robinson passed away on November 3, 2016 at the young age of 89 following a brief illness. She was born March 14, 1927 and raised on Cape Cod (Hyannis), Mass. Gladys graduated from Barnstable High School and attended the University of Cincinnati. After graduating from college, she worked in Boston and Cape Cod, married, and moved to Los Angeles, where her two daughters were born.

While in LA, she completed requirements for a California teaching credential and worked as an elementary school teacher. Other moves were to Menlo Park and Palo Alto. After her divorce Gladys worked as an ESL teacher in elementary schools; she also worked as a tennis teacher and was a Vista volunteer in the jail.



TAIWAN INBOUND EXCHANGE - 2015



TAIWAN EXCHANGE - 2012

When Gladys' daughters went off to college, her adventuresome spirit took her to Guatemala where she lived with a family and studied Spanish; and then traveled through Mexico. Later Gladys lived in Greece, Spain and Israel. In 1985, Gladys joined the Peace Corps and spent a year in Zaire where she taught English in grades 10, 11 and 12 in a private boys' school.

"Gladys personified the best of friendship force and will always remain a role model for us all as we age." - Barbara Rose

"Gladys lived life to the fullest and I was honored to call her a friend and role model." - Mary Orr

In 1987, Gladys moved back to Santa Barbara where her younger daughter was living. She lived in SB for the past 29 years. Here, she worked with the SBCC Adult Education Program as a registrar for more than 20 plus years; she also was a Vista volunteer for the Family Literacy program, an LAS tester in the Santa Barbara schools and a volunteer with the Library Literacy program. Other interests included tennis, swimming, bicycling, yoga and travel. She played tennis regularly right up to the end of her life.

Gladys was a member of Friendship Force Santa Barbara (FFSB), an international organization that focuses on promoting peace and understanding through cultural exchanges with clubs from around the world. She made many friends by welcoming ambassadors to Santa Barbara and visiting them in their homes in other

countries. With FFSB, Gladys traveled numerous countries including: Japan, Peru, Central Mexico, New Zealand and Taiwan.

Those who knew Gladys knew that she lived life to the fullest. She is survived by her two daughters, Wendy Robinson of Nipomo, CA and Tandy Robinson of Claremont CA and their two sons, Isaiah Marlowe and Julian Robinson.



INTL' POTLUCK 2016



CAPETOWN INBOUND EXCHANGE - 2012

Domestic and International Inbound and Outbound Exchanges in 2017 & beyond

January 24-29, 2017 – Inbound from Salt Lake City, Utah, Bonnie Dutton and Sandy Hartley, EDs

May 2017 – Regional Meeting of Club Presidents

July 2017 – Inbound from Tuxtla-Gutiérrez, Mexico, Karolyn Hanna, ED

November 2017 - Outbound to Kumamoto and Ehime Japan, Barbara Rose, ED

Outbound Domestic Exchange – Stay tuned for details

International Conference Dates:

August 25-27, 2017 -40th World Conference, Manchester, England

Planning and Program Meetings Social Events:

Planning Meeting:

Monday, January 9, 7:00 p.m.

Join us at the home of Rickey Farbman, 8 W. Constance Ave #2, SB.

Program Meeting:

Goleta Public Library

Monday, January 23, 7:00 p.m.

A representative from the UNA will explain their program.

Social Events:

Thursday, February 9

Meal at Palms restaurant in Carpinteria.

More information to follow soon.



Inbound Exchange Salt Lake City, Utah FF club

Dates: January 24 (Tuesday) to January 29 (Sunday)

We are looking for the usual wonderful response from our members to participate in this exchange.

If you can home host, day host, small dinner party host or want to participate in any way please contact:

Bonnie Dutton (bdupton5@msn.com) or Sandy Hartley (hartleyrs@cox.net).

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New Member Biographies

Welcome to Our New Member Anne Gray



Anne is a true California girl, born in Los Angeles, graduating from UCLA, living in San Francisco and after 30 years in Lompoc, settling in Santa Barbara in 2000.

During that time she became the mother of three children with her first husband and then returned to teaching elementary school children. Anne and her second husband David Briggs are the proud grandparents of eight grandchildren and are lucky enough to have four of them living nearby.

Anne is very enthused about travel and is looking forward to joining FFSB on some exchanges, including our trip this year to Japan. Last year she spent a month in South Africa and this year her family enjoyed a fascinating trip to Cuba with Cruise Cuba.

Among Anne's many retirement activities are golfing, knitting, reading, playing the guitar and volunteering at the Assistance League. A condo they own on the Big Island of Hawaii enables the Gray-Briggs family to enjoy snorkeling.

Thanks to Barbara Rose, a golfing buddy, for introducing Anne to our club.

Visit the Friendship Force Santa Barbara website:

www.friendshipforcesantabarbara.org

Stay informed with the Friendship Force International website:

www.thefriendshipforce.org

Membership Changes

No longer FFSB members in 2017 – please remove from your mailing lists: Sarah Carr, Allison Daniels, Erika Kahn, Nancy Murdock, Gladys Robinson, Carol Stewart and Jill Wilk

e-mail Change: Nancy Pierson - nancyc35@gmail.com

Please send any e-mail/phone changes to Ricky Farbman as soon as possible



Happy Birthday to:

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|-------------|-----------------|
| January 1 | Don Gillies |
| January 3 | Linda Billings |
| January 7 | Jan Inouye |
| January 12 | George Lehtinen |
| January 14 | Karolyn Hanna |
| January 20 | Dawn McGrew |
| January 24 | David Jones |
| January 30 | Gail Gillies |
| February 2 | Bonnie Johnson |
| February 4 | Elza Petersons |
| February 8 | Bob Haas |
| February 11 | Jane Gorbet |
| February 23 | Patricia Poilé |
| February 24 | Liz Turner |