



FRIENDSHIP FORCE NEWSLETTER

SANTA BARBARA JAN/FEB 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all,
It has been such a privilege working with you all during this past year and I look forward to one more year as your president. I am excited that two new members are joining me on the board – Jan Inouye as secretary and Rickey Farbman as vice-president. Equally impressive is that our treasurer, Bill Boyd, will continue. Thank you to all. We also have several new committee chairmen who promise to be energetic and inspiring. You can catch up with all of them in this newsletter and in the new directory to be released at our program meeting on January 21.

2015 promises to be an exciting and fun year and we love having all of you participating with us. It will be a challenge to continue the impressive new member list but I trust you all to invite your friends to join us.

Due to the popularity of our Goleta library we have needed to schedule our January program meeting on a Wednesday rather than the usual Monday. It will be at 7pm on Wednesday, January

21. All subsequent program meetings will be on Mondays. This meeting will feature Mark Gallo from Circa Terra Travel Outfitter who will share with us tips for packing and traveling. He suggests bringing your favorite suitcase and he will bring a scale and other helpful implements. We sure can use all the help we can get when packing for our various trips. Please plan to join us.

We have four exchanges arranged for 2015 as you will see listed in this newsletter. We're hopeful that some new members will join us as we travel and as we welcome ambassadors from other areas. Some of you have mentioned that you are not familiar with what is expected from hosts or ambassadors so we are planning an informal small group session at our program meeting in March. We will have several tables set up with experienced hosts and ambassadors leading each one and sharing with his/her group what they have experienced and



2015 OFFICERS - BILL BOYD, BARBARA ROSE, RICKEY FARBMAN AND JAN INOUE

what they know about what works well for both. We will have some guidelines from FFI (Friendship Force International) available as handouts. In this way we hope to encourage new people to participate and to give them some tools to be more comfortable in each role. So, onward and upward to a new year with all kinds of possibilities, adventures, friendships and generally good times. Thanks for being a part of all that. We are truly blessed by each one of you.

In Friendship,
Barbara Rose

January 1, 2015

The Connecticut "Plus" Exchange November 12-16, 2014

It was billed as the Connecticut Exchange, but in actuality was more like an inflated domestic exchange with a south of the border flavor. How so? One ambassador was from the Southern CT club, two were from Chicago (one originally from Russia), three from Fremont and three from Chiapis, Mexico. This presented a challenge for EDs Pam Vestal, Rickey Farbman, and Rose Austin (CT) with various arrival times, the latest being the Amtrak train station at 1:30 a.m.

But once everyone settled in on November 12, with first-time hosts Dave and Jan Inouye graciously sharing their home with all three of the ambassadors from Mexico, the exchange got off to a great start. The welcome party was sponsored by Mary Wolthausen at her clubhouse on Old Mill Road. A clever game created by Pam got the visitors introduced to our members. Thank you to Agris for his songfest and to Patsy Kline (aka Elza) for her wonderful rendition of "Crazy."



The ambassadors enjoyed tours of the courthouse, the Mission, Casa del Herrero and a ride on the Landshark, interspersed with more than the usual amount of free time. Lunch at Cold Spring Tavern was followed by time to explore the Santa Ynez Valley. A new feature was a Funk Zone trip, where everyone explored the Art Foundry and watched a glass blowing demonstration. Next up were the Guitar Bar and a chance to see lots of beautiful and unusual guitars, followed by a museum about Santa Barbara history and the Surf Museum.

The farewell dinner at the Jewesson's clubhouse featured a Santa Maria style barbeque, another serenade with Agris and a fond farewell before everyone departed for home.

2015 Governing Board of the Friendship Force of Santa Barbara

OFFICERS

President: Barbara Rose

VicePresident: Rickey Farbman

Secretary: Jan Inouye

Treasurer: Bill Boyd

DIRECTORS

Past Co-Presidents: Mary & Jack Orr

Inbound Exchange Directors:

*Rickey Farbman and Patricia Poilé
(Sarasota)*

Barbara Gregoire (Taiwan)

Outbound Exchange Director:s

*Barbara Rose (Cape of Good Hope)
Sandy Hartley (Connecticut and
Virginia)*

Directory: Sandy Grasso-Boyd

E-mail Notifications: Barbara Rose

Historian: Barbara Gregoire

Membership: JoAnn Magistad and
Linda Billings

Newsletter: Paula Gregoire-Jones and
Mary Orr

Programs: Rickey Farbman

Refreshments: Dawn McGrew

Social Events: Patricia Poilé and
Bonnie Johnson

Sunshine: Claire Magee

Telephone: Sandy Hartley

UN Liaison: Gail Gillies

Webmaster: Paula Gregoire-Jones

Welcome: Agris and Elza Petersons

Many thanks to everyone who home hosted, day hosted, helped with the parties or contributed in any way to this exchange.

Pictures from the Connecticut Inbound Exchange



**BARRY RADER, JO
MAGISTAD AND KAREN
MC CREADY**



**FUNK ZONE TOUR
SANDY TRYING TO TURN A FROG INTO A
PRINCE**



DUTTONS AND HENNY



ROSES AND ROSEANN AUSTIN



**INOYES AND GUESTS FROM
CHIAPAS**



ROSE AUSTIN AND PAM VESTAL



**COLD SPRING TAVERN -
BORBEAUS AND GUEST**



FAREWELL DINNER DECORATIONS



FAREWELL BBQ DINNER

A Fond Farewell to Camille

Camille Seelenbinder, who passed away on November 8, 2014, wore many hats for our club, and each one was an original creation and looked great!

She was the editor of this newsletter for over 15 years and worked many hours each month to make sure everything was informative, thoughtfully illustrated and accurate. At first she used a PC, but at age 85 she learned to use a Mac and a few years ago she switched us from print to digital. What a difference--more pages, more pictures, more color--and no more paper and stamps! This also enabled her to include special articles like the Seven Wonders of the Modern World, which she carefully researched and illustrated.

Every January Camille produced the annual Directory, our "bible" listing everyone's vital information, the club history and by-laws, and all the events for the coming year. Truly, we could not operate without this vital document. And she always got us a "deal" at Bill's Copy Shop.

Each group of visiting ambassadors was treated to a colorful folder with beautiful pictures of Santa Barbara on the front and back, plus all the vital information about the exchange carefully tucked inside. Many groups were also fortunate to receive a handmade picture book or other memento of their visit, which Camille spent hours making.

And who could forget her "big books," which told our club's history in colorful photos and carefully thought out text? Until recently she also helped returning ambassadors prepare a book about their adventures abroad, a labor of love involving pasting hundreds of photos! We were fortunate to have Camille's talent and boundless energy and commitment to the Friendship Force of Santa Barbara.

She was one of a kind.



HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AND HONORING CAMILLE

A record number of FFSB club members and guests attended our event, arranged by Pam Vestal, on December 14 at the Mesa Cafe. Sixty people participated, including Camille's daughter Maxine and granddaughter Erin, plus other family and friends.

President Barbara Rose warmly welcomed everyone and invited us to admire and bid on the artwork and craft items donated by our talented members for the silent auction.

And what a great response! Over \$400 was raised and was given to Direct Relief, in addition to the \$300 from the club's treasury, all in honor of Camille.

December 14 was Camille's 95th birthday and we honored that event, and her passing, by sharing fond memories. Maxine recalled early family events in Camille's life before she joined FFSB. Each dinner guest also received a printed montage of photos from her life as well as Maxine's memories of her mother, some of them quite humorous. Various FFSB members shared their recollections, including Camille's passion for travel, opera, and computers and cooking.

After a delicious dinner, the officers for 2015 were introduced and installed during the shortest inauguration on record. No speeches were asked for or forthcoming!

Thank you Barbara, Rickey, Jan and Bill for all the leadership you will provide our club in 2015. Dessert was followed by Agris Petersons leading us in the Friendship Force song, "Let There Be Peace," a most appropriate sentiment for the holidays and the New Year.



Agris & Elza



Maxine & Karolyn



Marilyn, Jo, Pam, Gino & John



Maxine & Dottie



Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus (Terry & Stan)



Gus, Lou and Barbara G.



Don, Gail, Arne, Dottie & Dick



Camille's family & friends

Domestic and International Inbound and Outbound Exchanges in 2015

February 22 - March 9

Outbound Exchange to Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, with extensions to Kruger National Park and Victoria Falls, Barbara Rose, ED

April 14 - 21

Inbound Exchange from Sarasota, FL, Rickey Farbman and Patricia Poilé, EDs

August 10 - 17

Inbound Exchange from Taiwan, Barbara Gregoire, ED

August 27 - 31

Friendship Force International 2015 World Conference Vancouver, British Columbia (registration begins January 7)

October

Outbound Exchange to Connecticut and Virginia Sandy Hartley, ED

Social Events , Planning and Program Meetings:

Social Events:

Tuesday, February 10

Movie and Happy hour/dinner -- for more information see the last page of this issue.

Planning Meeting:

Tuesday, January 4, 7:00 p.m.

at the home Rickey Farbman, 8 W. Constance Avenue #2

Program Meeting:

Wednesday, January 21 7:00 p.m.

Goleta Public Library

The program will feature an interesting presentation by Mark Gallo of Circa Terra Travel Outfitters on how to make the most of your packing and travel time.

A NOTE FROM YOUR NEW EDITORS

Happy New Year from Paula and Mary.

Although it will be a big job to fill the void left by the passing of our long-time editor Camille Seelenbinder, we are accepting the challenge. We will do our best to keep you up to date on all the coming club activities so you can join in, enjoy the fun, and get to know other members even better.

As part of that effort we will be publishing brief biographies of our newer members. We had 17 people join in 2014, a record number except for the first few years of FFSB. We are always open to new ideas for topics to cover, so just let us know what would interest you. Mary will be focusing on the writing and editing and Paula will work her magic on the computer to format the copy and add artwork and photos.

Is there anything about the operations of our club or FFI that you would like to understand better? We are here to get the information to you. Just ask.



PAULA GREGOIRE-JONES & MARY ORR

New Member Biographies

PAT WADE

Pat is more used to moving to a new home than most people in our club. After he was born in Quincy, Illinois the family moved 12 times during his boyhood since his father was an executive with Kresges. He shared these adventures with his very handsome identical twin brother. To add to his childhood relocations, Pat was in the Army for 20 years in law enforcement, retiring as a Captain. He lived all over the U.S., as well as spending time in Vietnam and Germany.

He has both a bachelor's degree from Michigan State and a master's degree in urban studies from Old Dominion University in Virginia. After his military retirement, he moved to the Los Angeles area where he was the director of public safety and emergency management at three different hospitals. As he noted, all of his positions were 24/7. No wonder he was looking forward to retirement after 25 years!

But Pat did have some free time to develop his hobbies of cooking and model railroading. He is an officer of a railroad club in Simi Valley.

Pat and Dawn are looking forward to a trip to England next May as well as future adventures with FFSB.



PAT WADE



DAWN MCGREW

DAWN MCGREW

Dawn was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa but has called California home since she was ten years old. After receiving her degree in business administration from the University of Redlands she moved to Santa Barbara in 1964. She served the County of Santa Barbara for 28 years in accounting and financial management. Dawn's family includes her daughter, who is a CPA, and her son, a sergeant with the Santa Barbara Police Department. As the children grew up, they enjoyed many camping excursions in the Western U.S. and Canada. Completing the family are her seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

If Dawn wants to talk about her 15 minutes of fame it was the time when two 16-year-old burglars entered her home. She called 911 and held them at bay until the police arrived to arrest them. A number of TV stations covered the event. The burglars claimed they had forgotten to devise an exit plan.

A computer whiz who has taken many adult ed classes on the subject, Dawn created a website for her high school class (Cleveland61.com). She has enjoyed other classes focused on art, current events, and bridge.

Dawn and her husband of six years, Pat Wade, had a long distance relationship (106 miles to be exact) for 12 years before Pat moved to Santa Barbara. And did you guess that they met on an internet dating site?

Wanting to get more involved with FFSB, Dawn is the new hospitality chair for program meetings.

Welcome to FFSB, Dawn and Pat!

JILL WILK

One of our new members is the very energetic Jill Wilk, who plays tennis anywhere from three to five times a week and ushers at nearly every theater in town. In addition she volunteers at



Direct Relief, the recipient of donations from our club last month.

After growing up in Bridgeton, New Jersey, Jill graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and received a master's degree from Stanford. After teaching French at the elementary and junior high levels she stayed home to raise her three children. She is now the proud grandmother of three, with an eight-year-old granddaughter living here in Santa Barbara. After teaching, Jill's next career move was to Hewlett Packard, where she was active in documentation and course development in the early days of Silicon Valley. She also pursued technical writing there, with manuals for hardware and software development.

A real career change occurred at age 56 when Jill became a flight attendant for United Airlines. For five years she was at home in the friendly skies and now holds a free pass to travel wherever! Her recent destinations, with the group Elder Trek, have included Oman, New Guinea and Madagascar.

Jill has been active with our club as a day host and she hopes to travel with us in 2016 to either Japan or Brazil. We hope to keep up with her!

PATRICIA POILÉ

Patricia Poilé joined FFSB just a year ago this month and has become a very active member already.



She grew up in Stockton and graduated from the University of the Pacific. Patricia moved here from the Sacramento area, where she first heard of Friendship Force, and before that she lived and worked in the Carmel/Monterey area.

Among her positions were sales for a title company, importing and selling antiques from Europe, and staging homes for the real estate market.

Her travels have taken her to Morocco, Italy and Wales, plus various other destinations. In her leisure time she enjoys gardening and theater events. She also appreciates time with her eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, although none of them live in Santa Barbara.

"I am so happy I joined Friendship Force," says Patricia. And we are even happier that she has agreed to co-chair the Social Events committee (with Bonnie Johnson) and be an ED (with Rickey Farbman) for the inbound exchange this year from Sarasota, FL.

Way to go, Patricia!



February 10 --Save the Date for A Great Movie, Dinner and a Fun Discussion

We will kick off our 2015 social schedule by getting together after the SB International Film Festival to have our own mini festival. Depending on what is showing at the downtown theaters that week, we will attend a matinee, and then meet for happy hour/dinner to share our thoughts about the film.

As soon as the schedule becomes available, social chairs Patricia Poilé and Bonnie Johnson will e-mail everyone with the time and place for the movie, and where we will meet afterwards for dinner and discussion.

Stay tuned!

Would You Like a New FFI Badge?

A few of our long-time members have indicated an interest in having one of the new badges, with its bright and colorful FFI logo.

To place an order for one, just call Jo Magistad at 967-0837 or e-mail her at jomagistad@yahoo.com.

Please indicate exactly how you would like your name to appear on the badge.

The cost is \$10 per badge. **Please order by January 20.**

Visit the Friendship Force Santa Barbara website:

www.friendshipforcesantabarbara.org

We need past exchange pictures for the website.

Please send your pictures to Paula Gregoire-Jones at pgregoire-jones@verizon.net.

Stay informed with the Friendship Force International website: www.thefriendshipforce.org



Happy Birthday to:

January 1	Don Gillies
January 3	Linda Billings
January 7	Jan Inouye
January 9	Joanie Sullivan
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 8	Nina Scarcello
February 11	Jane Gorbet
February 23	Patricia Poilé
February 24	Liz Turner

See the FFI 2014 Survey results on our website at

<http://www.friendshipforcesantabarbara.org/newsletter.html>