



# FRIENDSHIP FORCE NEWSLETTER

SANTA BARBARA JULY/AUGUST 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

Summer has happily arrived, although our "June Gloom" days weren't so bad! As president of our Santa Barbara Friendship Force Club, I'm certainly not gloomy about the last half of this calendar year, as we'll be hosting both Sweden and Milwaukee clubs with our usual So Cal warm charm and sunny skies in the months ahead.

Even though we don't have any out-bound Journeys for the remainder of 2018, our club members are keeping busy with travel, both within Friendship Force and with other groups. Hopefully, all of you regularly receive emails from FFI advertising new and unique opportunities for adventurous Journeys. I have also passed along Journey "open spots," which our regional reps have sent to me. If you have not yet travelled with another club, you will find that doing so will expand your friendship circle very quickly.

Our dear friend, Pat Burkard, continues to recover nicely at Valle Verde. About two months ago, Pat

fell and broke her leg at the beginning of a "Cruise down the Danube." She is now able to put 25% pressure on her injured leg and is making progress toward maneuvering safely with a walker. She looks forward to returning to her home soon; in the meantime, she would appreciate phone calls and cards, which can be sent to her home. Those of you who have visited her found a smile on her face and a great attitude.

Handsome Maglite flashlights, embossed with "Friendship Force Santa Barbara," will be given to all of our Sweden and Milwaukee visitors, as was decided at our May planning meeting. The flashlights will also be available for purchase at our July program meeting for your own use or for gifts for your friends and home hosts as you travel with Friendship Force. Our goal is to give meaningful and useful items to our visitors; our FFSB Maglites are sure to be a big hit!

Such a lovely Solstice party we had on June 21! Dottie Iverson's patio and outdoor spaces, on the



longest day of the year, made for the perfect setting – great turnout, great food, and great sharing about past Journeys made for a fantastic evening.

I'll miss you at the July program meeting, as I myself will be traveling out of state, but I hope to see many of you at our August social, back to the Polo Fields of Carpinteria!

In Friendship,  
Linda Sadie Williams

## STUDENT NURSE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATE ROSA COJ BOCEL



Our May program meeting featured a video on the work of the Mayan Families NGO in Guatemala and a personal presentation by Rosa Coj Bocel, a young Mayan woman who has become a voice for women's rights and a force for community development.

As a workshop educator, she combats misconceptions about women's health and promotes health services such as cervical cancer screening. Although she had to drop out of school to support her family when she was in the sixth grade, Rosa persevered to overcome abject poverty and personal hardship to pursue her education—she is the first person in her community to attend university.

She is now in her third year of nursing school and hopes to open a clinic in her community when she finishes.

Rosa has starred in the documentary films *Living on One Dollar* and *Rosa—These Storms*, and has been profiled by NPR on its list of "Women Changing the World."

FFSB members at the program meeting added stories of their own work with Mayan Families on community improvement projects like installing stoves, water heaters, and, most recently, solar lights, and in assisting at schools, helping distribute food, and participating in construction projects.

### ***2018 Governing Board of the Friendship Force of Santa Barbara***

#### **OFFICERS**

***President:*** Linda Williams

***Vice President:*** Bonnie Dutton

***Secretary:*** Anne Gray

***Treasurer:*** Dave Jones

#### **DIRECTORS**

***Past President:*** Rickey Farbman

***Domestic Journey Coordinator:***  
Karolyn Hanna

#### ***Inbound Host Coordinators:***

*Rickey Farbman, Lehtinens & Terry  
Scriver (Heisenborg, Sweden)*

*Karolyn Hanna & Mary Wolthausen,  
Milwaukee, WI*

***Outbound Ambassador Coordinators:***  
*Sandy Hartley (AC), British Columbia,  
Metro Vancouver, and Victoria,  
Canada (with FFLA)*

*Anne Gray & Barbara Rose, Hartford,  
CT*

***Directory:*** Paula Gregoire-Jones

***E-mail Notifications:*** Dawn McGrew

***Historian:*** Barbara Gregoire

***Membership:*** JoAnn Magistad &  
Joanie Sullivan

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

***Programs:*** Bonnie Dutton

***Refreshments:*** Jane and Dave Gorbet

***Social Events:*** Pam Vestal  
(coordinator) & Social Committee

***Sunshine:*** Claire Magee

***Telephone:*** Sandy Hartley

***Webmaster:*** Paula Gregoire-Jones

***Welcome:*** Agris and Elza Petersons

## ***Domestic and International Inbound and Outbound Exchanges in 2018 & beyond***

**September 18-25, 2018** – Inbound from Heisenborg, Sweden ,  
Rickey Farbman, Lehtinens and Terry Scrivner (HCs)

**November 8-15, 2018** – Inbound from Milwaukee, WI, Karolyn Hanna  
and Mary Wolthausen, HCs

**March 2019** – Inbound from Moscow, Russia, HC needed

**May 2019** –Outbound with FFLA to British Columbia, Metro  
Vancouver, and Victoria, Canada, Sandy Hartley (AC)

**October 2019** – Outbound to Hartford, CT, Anne Gray and Barbara  
Rose (ACs)

**Late 2019** - Outbound to Tuxla-Gutierrez, Mexico, AC needed

**September 2020**, Outbound to Sarasota, FL, AC needed

**2020** – Outbound to Tucson, AZ, AC needed

### **2019 FFI World Conference**

July 23-27, 2019 , Boulder, CO

## **Planning and Program Meetings, Social Events:**

### **Planning Meeting:**

**Monday, July 9, 7:00 p.m.**

Join us at the home Don and Gail Gillies,  
331 Moreton Bay Lane, Unit #1, Goleta

### **Program Meeting:**

**Goleta Public Library**

**Monday, July 16, 7:00 p.m.**

Presentation on the Kindertransport  
program during World War II by Mike Wolf  
who was one of the children in the program.

### **Social Events:**

**Sunday, August 12** - Polo Match at the  
Carpinteria Polo Grounds,

more details coming to your e-mail soon



**friendship force**

INTERNATIONAL

## **WATCH FOR YOUR FFI EMAIL**

Club members are receiving more and more announcements and  
information from FFI with convenient links to more details.

1. For example, a recent innovation is the United States eFlyer, which  
features domestic US Journeys and undersubscribed Journeys open to all FF  
members. If you missed the link, just go to [www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org) and click on Journeys, then click  
on the journey you are interested in, and then click on the "View Details". A box pops up when you  
pause on the picture of the Journey.

2. The quarterly newsletter, ENEWSLETTER, reports on recent events such as the 2018 Festival at Sea,  
important upcoming events such as the 2019 World Conference in Boulder, Colorado (July 23-27), and  
clubs featured for their special achievements.

3. Highlights from the annual FFI Board of Directors meeting, held in March, include:

- Development of a global satisfaction survey to gauge the strengths and weaknesses of FFI  
from year to year.
- A report on the financial status of FFI showing that the organization finished the year ahead of  
budget.

*(continued on next page)*

- A report on the re-development of the website and database and approval of a member portal.
- Consideration of how remote members may be recruited and inspired to start a club in their community.
- Report and discussion on revisions to the financial fee structure for Journeys.
- Approval of the increase of the member affiliation fee to \$20.00 per member beginning in 2020.

#### 4. Privacy Policy & Data Update

You probably have received new privacy policies from various organizations with which you have email accounts. These new policies are in response to the upcoming EU data protection law, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). To conform to this new law, FFI has updated its Privacy Policy and processes for managing data. This will make organization of the policy clearer and will better explain FFI's relationship with members. The link to the Privacy Policy is found at the black footer at the bottom of every page of the FFI website.

## **Member Biographies**

### **Meet Nga Vuong**



Nga was born in Vietnam of Chinese ancestry and thus speaks Mandarin and Cantonese in addition to Vietnamese. She came to Santa Barbara in 1980 after spending some fifteen months in a refugee camp before her sponsorship to the United States was finalized. She chose Santa Barbara as her destination because she had family here: a sister in Santa Barbara and a brother in Solvang. Once settled in her new home city, she attended Santa Barbara City College for vocational training and became a dental assistant, a career from which she retired about ten years ago.

Nga has been a member of FFSB for about three years and has traveled with Friendship Force to Ireland and New Zealand. She loves to travel to see new places and enjoy good cuisine. She also enjoys art and music events and ushers at various venues.

## Summer Solstice June Social

by Barbara Rose



What a great way to celebrate summer solstice. Forty Friendship Force Santa Barbara members joined in a potluck party at the lovely home of Dottie Iverson. Dottie greeted us in a colorful outfit that set off her glowing countenance. We should all agree to age so beautifully! The weather was perfect and the scenery of wooded areas against the mountains, the ocean, and beautiful Tucker's grove was stunning.

Hors d'oeuvres were plentiful while we toasted on margaritas, wine, beer, and lemonade. Karolyn Hanna introduced a question game that got us interacting with each other. The questions pertained to Friendship Force outings and included such questions as "What was the most unusual transportation experience you have had?"; "What experience most changed your preconceived notions about another culture?" and "What was the most unusual entertainment you experienced while on a Friendship Force Journey?" We then shared the answers as we feasted on an abundance of main dishes provided by our members.



A special thank-you to Anne Gray and Barbara Gregoire who provided trays of delicious chicken enchiladas. And, of course, coffee and dessert were enjoyed all. Our special thanks to Dottie Iverson for welcoming us to her incredible "party house" and to all the helpers who made light work of the party. Happy Solstice everyone.



**Friendship Force Western Super-Regional  
Conference:  
Citizens of a Global Community**

*by Anne Gray*



Last May, I attended the Western Super Regional conference in Sacramento, themed "Citizens of a Global Community," and have been asked to report on some of the information I learned. One of the keynote presentations was Joy Justus, director of World Relief of Sacramento, and a panel of refugees who have been helped through that organization. The goal of World Relief is to help refugees and immigrants obtain employment and become self-sufficient. Since 1989 they have welcomed more than 30,000 refugees and immigrants, and in 2017 resettled 1,800 people, a 61% increase since 2005.

Since World War II, 65 million men, women, and children have been forcibly displaced because of persecution or war in their home countries. Out of 22 million, only 75,000 received U.S. visas. By 2019 the United States will have granted only 20,000 visas of the 120,000 that were supposed to be available! Even those refugees who worked for the U.S. Armed Forces in their struggles against the regimes in Iraq and Afghanistan and obtained "Special Immigrant Visas" have not been allowed to enter the U.S. as they had been promised.

Sacramento, because of the work by World Relief and other organizations, is now the largest refugee center in the U.S. World Relief has partnered with churches and volunteers to provide housing, basic necessities, language assistance, health screenings, school registration, and other needs.

Sacramento World Relief believes that "A garden is not a garden with just one flower; a true garden has a myriad of flowers and other plants growing and flourishing in it." In the same manner, our country can grow and flourish with many types of people and religions. One final thought to remember: Out of 3 million refugees, not one life has ever been taken by a refugee!

For more information go to: [worldreliefsacramento.org](http://worldreliefsacramento.org)

### Fascinating new Journeys for Kenya and China

The Coordinator for the **Discover Kenya Journey** (Nov. 2-15, 2018) offers FFI members a homestay in Nairobi, a train ride through Kenya, a beach hotel stay on the Indian Ocean, and a wildlife safari – wow! In Mombasa there will be a tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Fort Jesus and Old Town, which reflect the Arabian, Portuguese, and tribal characteristics that have shaped the region since the Middle Ages.



If you have not yet visited China, now is your chance—a **Journey to Discover China** is planned for Nov. 1-16, 2018. For details on this and the Kenya Journey, go to [www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org), Journeys. Don't forget to click on "Itinerary and Details" underneath the main photo listing of the Journey.

**Visit the Friendship Force Santa Barbara website:**

[www.friendshipforcesantabarbara.org](http://www.friendshipforcesantabarbara.org)

**Stay informed with the Friendship Force International website:**

[www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)



#### **Happy Birthday to:**

- July 3 Dave Inouye
- July 5 Jack Orr
- July 7 Inna Cook
- July 12 Terry Behrens
- July 17 Julie Campbell
- July 19 Nancy Pierson
- July 21 Roberta Lehtinen
- July 25 Francie Jewesson
- July 26 Joyce Falk
- August 13 Mary Orr
- August 21 Barbara Rose
- August 22 Jane Haas
- August 26 Lori Lofstrom
- August 31 Lisa Kelly