



FRIENDSHIP FORCE NEWSLETTER

SANTA BARBARA MARCH/APRIL 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone,

Change is in the air,
hopefully bringing gentle
rains for our spring.

Change is also happening in
FFI. Since I am new in this
position, I have nothing to
unlearn, but much to absorb
and digest. At a meeting
last year I made the
following notes of interest to
me:

*Total FFI members, about
15,500, with 6,000 in the USA

*Worldwide clubs 366, with
94 in the USA

*In Europe 711 total weeks
are available, with 396
requested for exchanges, so
many clubs there don't get
an inbound exchange.

*18% of the international
exchanges are canceled.

These are gigantic numbers
to juggle; no wonder a
better and faster record-
keeping system is needed.



RICKEY FARBMAN WITH MN AMBASSADORS, JOYCE & BRIDGET

On a more local level, I am
sad to report that in spite of
all the hard work done by
Dick Falk and Sandy Hartley,
our exchange to Brazil had
to be canceled. There were
many factors that fed into
this decision, not the least of
which was the Zika virus, but
the energy and research
that Dick and Sandy shared
needs to be acknowledged.

I enjoyed getting to know
our ambassadors from
Minnesota and Iowa. They
were energetic and certainly

enjoyed our good weather
and outdoor activities.

Please remember the
Western Regional
Conference in Reno on May
2-4. If you are interested in
attending, just let me know.
Applications are due by
March 31.

In Friendship,
Rickey Farbman

“Paws to Read” Presentation



Talk about a meeting going to the dogs. We had not one but four very special guests at the January 25 FFSB Program Meeting at the Goleta Public Library. Tom Freeman the founder of Paws to Read discussed the Goleta Public Library's program for reluctant readers, which is sponsored by the Channel City Kennel Club. In addition to Tom and his dog, we were introduced to 3 other handlers and their dogs who regularly participate in the program. The program began as form of therapy for children with reading difficulties, but all children can benefit from the program. Children read for fifteen minutes at a time to one of the dogs with just the dog and the handler in the room. Reading to a dog is much less threatening than reading aloud to an adult and the dogs are non-

judgmental. Not only do the children advance their reading skills and learn to enjoy reading in the program but many children have overcome a fear of dogs. Reading from across the room to the dog might evolve to reading with the dog's head in their lap.



This program is in high demand for children in the local schools and more dogs are needed.

However, not just any nice dog can be in the program. The dog must be a certified therapy dog or have comparable qualifications and must pass a screening test by Tom Freeman to be included in the program. For more information on the program, contact Anne or Janey at the Goleta Public Library - 964-7878 or email them at acurtin@santabarbaraca.gov or jrthompson@santabarbaraca.gov. As you can see from the pictures below, the members of the FFSB thoroughly enjoyed visiting with the dogs after the presentation.

2016 Governing Board of the Friendship Force of Santa Barbara

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Pam Vestal (North Bay, Canada)

Outbound Exchange Directors:)
Karolyn Hanna (Minneapolis)

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Programs: Linda Williams

Refreshments: Dawn McGrew & Pat Wade

Social Events: Pat Burkard and Patricia Poil 

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Youkoso to the FFSB Exchange to Ehime and Kumamoto



“Youkoso” means welcome and will no doubt be heard often by the ambassadors going to Ehime and Kumamoto, Japan in November 2017. Or they may also hear “konnichiwa,” which is hello. These two very interesting areas are in the southwest of Japan and only 138 miles apart. (Ehime is on the violet island on the map, across from Hiroshima, and Kumamoto is on the gray island.) But they are on two different islands and a 20-minute flight gets you from one to the other. Kumamoto is a city of about 800,000 people, with about 100 members in their Friendship Force club. According to their club biography they are “very rugged, big-hearted and high-spirited.” They are very happy to take ambassadors to their two national parks: Mt. Aso which is famous for its live volcano and Amakusa with



KUMAMOTO CASTLE

its beautiful ocean. The city's most famous building is the Kumamoto Castle, originally built in 1607 and one of Japan's Three Lords Castles. Those in great shape may want to climb the 3,333 Stone Staircase (the view is wonderful) or explore the dinosaur museum or the zoo and biological gardens. Friendship Force of Ehime has about 60 members and is on the island of Kyushu. Most members live in the city of Matsuyama, population about 500,000. The area is basically a mountainous region, making it possible to enjoy both the sea and the mountain within a day. It also has a mild climate, like Santa Barbara. The people are open and friendly to strangers. They say that hospitality is

their culture. Ambassadors may be able to enjoy one of the oldest hot springs in Japan, the Matsuyama Castle and one or more of eight famous Buddhist temples (8th century). The area is famous for its haiku poets, tarts and dango (bean paste beads) and its longtime streetcar system. November temperatures range from 47-63. These and many other fascinating adventures await the ambassadors who sign up for this exchange. And of course the best part of an exchange is the friendships we make with our hosts and other club members. That is priceless.



DOGO HOT SPRING

Domestic and International Inbound and Outbound Exchanges in 2016 & beyond

June 4-18, 2016 – Outbound to Brazil has been **canceled**

September 2016 – Outbound to Minneapolis – Twin Cities, MN,
Karolyn Hanna, ED

October 26-November 3, 2016 –Inbound from North Bay, Canada,
Pam Vestal, ED

July 2017 – Inbound from Tuxtla, Mexico, ED needed

November 2017 - Outbound to Kumamoto and Ehime Japan, ED
needed

2017 – Outbound to Sarasota, FL, ED needed

International Conference Dates:

September 15-19, 2016, Marrakesh, Morocco

2017, Manchester, England

Western Regional Leadership Conference:

May 2-4 2016, Reno Nevada – application due by March 31,
contact Rickey Farbman for an application or more information.

Social Events , Planning and Program Meetings:

Social Events:

Saturday, April 9

Sample an amazing array of international dishes prepared by our members at this potluck at Mary Wolthausen's clubhouse, 333 Old Mill Road

Planning Meeting:

Monday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

At the home of Dave and Jan Inouye, 124 North Salinas Street

Program Meeting:

Monday, March 21 7:00 p.m.

Goleta Public Library

Exploring China, presented by Eric Ryan.

FFSB Exchange and Travel Policy Revised

At the January 11 Planning Meeting members voted to amend the club's policy on the "earned seat" for Exchange Directors.

It now applies to EDs for outbound domestic exchanges as well as outbound international exchanges. For members who may not be familiar with the "earned seat" program it means that the ED can be reimbursed for part or all of the cost of the exchange. The ED is entitled, if he or she chooses, to a reward of 5% from each paid ambassador for some or all of the following--travel costs, included (not optional) tours, and host club program fees.

The ED shall determine in advance which of these "earned seat" costs he or she is including in the total cost of the exchange and make this information known to potential ambassadors. An ED who gets 20 other ambassadors for an international exchange can essentially go "free" except for personal expenses. The purpose of the "earned seat" program is to encourage people to become EDs and an acknowledgment of all the responsibility that is involved.

Lucky Ambassadors from MN and IA Enjoy a Winter Break

The last week of January saw 14 ambassadors from the Midwest get a chance to enjoy our club's hospitality and the warm weather of Santa Barbara. EDs Karolyn Hanna and Pat Burkard organized a great exchange that featured these highlights:



* A welcome dinner at the Gillies' clubhouse that included a local piano player.

* Lunch at the Benchmark Eatery after the trolley tour.

* A "Day in Carpinteria" following breakfast at the East Beach Grill. With the help of George and Roberta

Lehtinen the ambassadors explored Seaside Gardens, Westerlay Orchid Growers, the Salt Marsh Preserve and the Seal Sanctuary.

* "Focus on Goleta" found the group at Direct Relief Headquarters, Malavilla for lunch and a walk to the Monarch Butterfly Preserve.

* The Reagan Library in Simi Valley was the destination on Saturday, and thanks to those who volunteered to drive!

Unfortunately, Sunday brought some rain and wind but people found alternate activities until the Farewell Dinner at the Jewesson's clubhouse. High winds and downed trees created a challenge for members (and Pat's grandson Kolin who was bringing the tri-tip) but luckily we had electricity for the whole event. Karolyn and Pat want to thank everyone who contributed to this exchange, with special kudos to Ron Hartley and Jo Magistad for continuing to entertain the Iowa visitors whose flights were canceled, giving them an extra day with us!



Celebrating the Year of the Monkey at the Chinese New Year Party

Many beautiful Asian outfits were worn by the ladies of Friendship Force at the February 20 party at Jill Wilks' clubhouse in Encina Royale. And the gentlemen--well, I guess they didn't get the memo! Social Events organizers Pat Burkard and Patricia Poilé created a very festive atmosphere with red tablecloths, gold table decorations, and bamboo plants. Shrimp and eggroll appetizers were followed by a catered

dinner with a choice of five different entrees. Dessert was the ever-popular fortune cookies and almond cookies. A special highlight of the occasion was the appearance of the Sino West dance

ensemble. We were treated to examples of Mongolian, Kung Fu and Chinese dances by a very lively and enthusiastic group of young performers. We were glad to enjoy the company of a number of our new members and to welcome back Paul and Roberta Coyne.



New Member Biographies

Please Meet Terry Behrens



Terry comes from a family of educators and was fortunate enough to spend two years of her childhood living in France and Germany with her teacher parents and her sister. So she understood the principles of "changing the way you see the world" even as a youngster. However the rest of her life has been spent right here in sunny California. She was born in Long Beach and lived in many of the South Bay beach towns and Rancho Palos Verdes. After graduating from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo she taught English as a Second Language to grades kindergarten through ninth grade in Long Beach for 33 years. Besides spending her summers traveling she helped her mother, who was a children's author, with editing and photography for a few of her books. Lately she has been improving her skills with shooting videos and creating DVDs from travel trips. Hopefully she will join us on an exchange soon to help record us having a great time! She has already explored places like Indonesia, Cuba and Austria. Retirement brought Terry to Santa Barbara about ten years ago, where she took care of her mother and got to live near her sister and her family. She has been busy with classes in computers, glass fusing and other crafts. Terry also found time to be president of the Museum of Natural History's Museum League, where she is still active. How did Terry discover FFSB? When Linda Williams was helping her update her parents' house in Mission Canyon Linda told her about our great organization and Terry decided joining was a "delightful" idea. As she commented, "I look forward to getting to know many new friends." Welcome, Terry!

Welcome to Julie Campbell



We could have filled the entire newsletter with Travels with Julie but she asked us to keep it short so here are the very interesting details! Julie was born in London, grew up in Essex and became a flight attendant for East African Airways, living in Nairobi. She married her first husband, who was from New York, in Malawi, and they became the parents of two daughters. One now lives in Malibu and the other in London. While married to her second husband, Julie spent 18 years as a cultural anthropologist for oil and mining companies, working with the people of Papua, New Guinea and Indonesia. She is also a published writer and a guide and interpreter for National Geographic. Julie was initially attracted to Santa Barbara when her daughter was studying at UCSB. She loves to be here from October to May, living in Toro Canyon, and then she enjoys the summer in British Columbia. Travel is always on Julie's agenda and she has visited over 150 countries in the world, living in at least 10 different areas. Club members Marilyn Conrad, Jo Magistad and Joan Sullivan share their walking group with her and Julie says that she also enjoys finding time to pursue photography, writing and cooking.

ATTENTION MEMBERS!



Now available - Custom made Bottle Corks with the Santa Barbara Friendship Force Logo

These are perfect as gifts for incoming Ambassadors as a reminder of their visit with you, or to take as a small thank you to Hosts, or simply to grace your own table or counters. Use for wine bottles, or for olive oil, etc.

Available from Sandy Hartley for \$5 each
Each comes in a nice cardboard box with excelsior.
The one dollar profit will go into the FFSB treasury.
Identical items at the Sunday Beach Show with different pictures sell for \$7 each.

Visit the Friendship Force Santa Barbara website:

www.friendshipforcesantabarbara.org

Stay informed with the Friendship Force International

website: www.thefriendshipforce.org



Happy Birthday to:

- | | |
|----------|------------------|
| March 1 | Barbara Gregoire |
| March 3 | Mary Wolthausen |
| March 13 | Pam Vestal |
| March 14 | Gladys Robinson |
| March 27 | David Gorbet |
| March 29 | William Boyd |
| March 30 | Sherman Vincent |
| April 12 | Erika Kahn |
| April 14 | Marilyn Conrad |
| April 28 | Gus Pravia |
| April 29 | Ron Hartley |

Welcome to New Members

Julie Campbell

Marion Cozort

Sidonia Slaff

Welcome Back to:

Paul and Roberta Coyne

**Thank you to everyone who contributed pictures and articles for this newsletter:
Inna Cook, Roberta Coyne, Rickey Farbman, Sandy Grasso-Boyd, Karolyn Hanna,
the Hartleys, Mary Orr, Pam Vestal and Linda Williams**