



# FRIENDSHIP FORCE NEWSLETTER

SANTA BARBARA MAY/JUNE 2016

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Fellow Travelers,

Happy springtime. I hope the hot weather we've had is not a harbinger of what's to come this summer. This is not a complaint, we are so fortunate compared to other parts of our country.

I had a wonderful time at the International potluck. It was a great idea to assign tables, and break bread with other members. Jan Inouye organized the theme related directions. The dancers were charming. Again, many thanks to Pat and Patricia for organizing and directing, and to the clean up squad led by the fearless Mary W.

As you are reading this, I am in Reno at the Western Regional Leadership Conference. I'm looking forward to meeting the movers and shakers of FFI.

In a "Leadership Communique" I received as



**RICKEY FARBMAN INTRODUCING THE WORLD DANCE TROUPE AT THE INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK**

part of a recent Board update, there was much discussion of the financial needs for the future. It was noted we are in a currently stable but tenuous position.

The FFI website update is in progress, several new positions and committees have been developed. I hope I'll have more specific information from the conference to share with all of you.

For next year, perhaps in May, FFI is planing a Wild West train "exchange," starting in Los Angeles and continuing to Santa Barbara, Napa, Sacramento, Portland, and Seattle. It's still in the exploratory stages.

Stay tuned.

In Friendship,  
Rickey Farbman

## Enjoy the Wonders of the Ochre City at the FFI World Conference



The amazing city of Marrakesh was recently named by Money magazine as the #2 travel destination in the world, calling it one of the safest cities in Africa and also one of the most affordable. Hotels, dining and other tourism costs are 30% less than last year.

Registration is open for the FFI World Conference, from September 16 to 19, which will take place at the Kenzi Farah Hotel, within walking distance of the city's UNESCO-listed medina. The hotel rate is approximately \$135 per night and includes a breakfast buffet.

The conference fee of \$375 includes the World Bazaar; three plenary sessions with speakers, entertainment and coffee breaks; two lunches; the gala banquet; and workshops on Friendship Force related topics. And you can enjoy workshops on topics of local cultural significance. Morocco has a predominantly Muslim population so we will have an opportunity to learn more about the people and the culture at a time when

greater understanding is critical to the world.

Extra options include a choice of seven different half-day tours; sunrise by hot air balloon; and pre- and post-conference tours around the country and/or homestays in Morocco, Egypt and South Africa. All options are available for an additional fee.



Some fun activities available to Marrakesh visitors include:

- Delicious orange juice from street vendors for \$1 a glass
- A visit to the Bahia Palace, an elaborate combination of Arab and Islamic styles
- Sipping a glass of sweet Moroccan mint tea at a rooftop cafe
- Sampling a variety of popular foods, including

### ***2016 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***

#### ***Inbound Exchange Directors:***

***Karolyn Hanna /Pat Burkard (Minneapolis)***

***Pam Vestal (North Bay, Canada)***

#### ***Outbound Exchange Directors:)***

***Karolyn Hanna (Minneapolis)***

***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: Mary Orr (editor)***

***Paula Gregoire-Jones (publisher)***

***Programs: Linda Williams***

***Refreshments: Dawn McGrew & Pat Wade***

***Social Events: Pat Burkard and Patricia Poil ***

***Sunshine: Claire Magee***

***Telephone: Sandy Hartley***

***UN Liaison: Gail Gillies***

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

- tagine, couscous, kebabs, and Harisa soup
- Exploring the wild array of "souk" vendors offering olives, pottery, spices

Register for the Conference at the FFI website:

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



## International Potluck & World Dance



A good time was had by all at the FFSB International Potluck at Mary Wolthausen's clubhouse on Saturday, April 9. Pat Burkard and Patricia Poilé out did themselves, planning one of the best potlucks we have had. I have never seen such a diverse and delicious combination of international food. Thanks to all of the members who put a lot of effort into the many wonderful dishes we



partook of at the event.

In order to get people to mix & get acquainted with other members, everyone drew a table to sit at, each table was represented by the flag of a country the FFSB has visited, and members drew a "flag picture" from the hat to find out what table they would sit at.

We were entertained by a dance group called "World Dance for Humanity", founded by dancer, anthropologist and aid worker Janet Reineck. Her group dances all over Santa Barbara raising money for Projects in Rwanda. The group danced to a number of songs from a



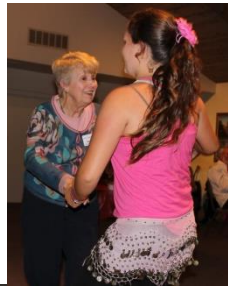
variety of countries and at the end the members were invited to join in. We were also invited to join the

many World Dance classes that are held in Santa Barbara. For more information on the dance group, the class schedule or to donate to the Rwanda projects see their website at <http://worlddanceforhumanity.org/>

Thank you to everyone who made the evening a success by helping with planning, setup, cleanup and to our new bartenders,



Pat Wade & Dawn McGrew.



## **Domestic and International Inbound and Outbound Exchanges in 2016 & beyond**

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

**September 7-20, 2016** – Outbound to Twin Cities, MN & Madison, WI, 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, Barbara Rose, ED

**2017** – Outbound to Sarasota, FL, ED needed

### **International Conference Dates:**

**September 15-19, 2016**, Marrakesh, Morocco

**2017**, Manchester, England.

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

### **Social Events:**

**Saturday, June 25** - Celebrate Summer Solstice with a delicious BBQ at Manning Park in Montecito.

### **Planning Meeting:**

**Monday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.**

At the home of Erika Kahn,  
333 Old Mill Road #309

### **Program Meeting:**

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

### **Goleta Public Library**

Learn how SCORE volunteers help new businesses grow and thrive with Bob Vitamante.

## **Still Time to Sign Up for MN Exchange in September**

If you want to enjoy some beautiful fall weather there are a few spots left for the exchange to the Twin Cities in Minnesota. Who wants to miss an opportunity to shop at the Mall of America, which even includes an underwater aquarium? Or to the Minnesota Twins or the largest

ED Karolyn Hannah says there be from September 7 to 13. So to go. Most of these Madison, WI for seven days by



indoor amusement park and an check out some of the many lakes, urban sculpture garden in the US? is still time to join the fun, which will far 13 people have said they want ambassadors are also going on to rented van but the available WI spaces are already filled since our group will be joined by another FF club from Canada.

The MN club is a very active one, with well over 100 members and a history dating back to 1978. We enjoyed having them visit us in January and look forward to seeing them again in September.

**Karolyn will return to Santa Barbara on May 10 and will schedule a meeting soon after for those wanting to go on the exchange. Information about fees and activities will be available then. Check your e-mail for the location, date and time of the meeting.**

## New Member Biographies



### Introducing Marion Cozort

Thanks to Pat Burkard for bringing Marion to our club. We can never have too many nurses in our midst. Marion grew up in Lawton, OK where her father was stationed at the Army base. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Oklahoma and later she obtained her master's degree in Public Administration from Cal State Northridge.

Working for the Santa Barbara County Health Department this new member had a very busy time administering three clinics on the South Coast.

After her so-called "retirement" Marion became active with the Red Cross and has provided care for those dealing with earthquakes, fires, landslides, floods (New Orleans) and tornadoes. Once she was even a first responder in the midst of a hurricane. No wonder she received the Clara Barton award from the Red Cross, the highest honor given to a volunteer. Locally she has served in the medical reserve corps and participated in many flu vaccine clinics.

On the family side, Marion is the proud mother of three daughters--a teacher, a physical therapist and a nurse. Two live in the area. Her six grandchildren provide much joy in her life as she watches them grow up.

In her free time Marion is a member of a book club and P. E. O. and plays bridge. She is looking forward to sharing in some Friendship Force exchanges. Welcome, Marion!



### Welcome to Sidonia Slaff

Flight attendants never seem to tire of seeing the world even after they retire. That is true of Sidonia Slaff, our very newest member who takes advantage of stand-by flights whenever she can. Every year she goes to Paris for one to three weeks and has become an expert on the "hidden" treasures in the City of Light as well as its famous museums and attractions. Two years ago she spent St. Patrick's Day in Ireland.

Sid grew up in the beautiful college town of Oxford, OH where her father was head of the grounds department and received an honorary doctorate for his work for Miami University (Mary's alma mater).

Continental was her chosen airline and she was based in Los Angeles for her 23-year career. In addition to domestic flights Sid was involved with charter flights to Vietnam during the war. She married her late husband in Hong Kong and they made their home in Marina Del Rey where he had a retail store. They eventually moved to Arizona but Sid has called Santa Barbara home since 2009. Her three step-grandchildren live in New York, Washington D.C. and Berkeley.

Never one to be idle, Sid volunteers at the Dream Foundation, Direct Relief International and our local theaters. Tennis is her favorite sport and she helps organize the monthly match for Social Tennis on Sundays. She looks forward to checking out all the travel opportunities available to FFI members.



## Find an International Exchange for 2016

FFI recently posted these 2016 exchanges that are available to anyone wanting to make an international exchange this year. See the FFI website for more details or contact the ED at the e-mail address listed.

**BOGOTA, COLOMBIA, 7/15 - 7/22** - Join the FF Colonial Carolina club. Contact: [jhindsley@hotmail.com](mailto:jhindsley@hotmail.com)

**MOSCOW + ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, 9/3 - 9/17** - With the FF Western Colorado club. Contact: [sue.moyer51@gmail.com](mailto:sue.moyer51@gmail.com)

**SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE MEXICO, 7/11 - 7/19** - Organized by FF Oklahoma. Contact: [joyspath@cox.net](mailto:joyspath@cox.net)

**ORNITHOLOGY IN ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA, 10/15 - 10/24** - A themed exchange on birdwatching from the FF Adelaide club. Contact: [scroser@live.com.au](mailto:scroser@live.com.au)

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:

May 2	Jill Wilk
May 3	Dick Falk
May 7	Pat Wade
May 17	Jo Magistad
June 4	Rickey Farbman
June 5	Diane Siegman
June 9	Harv Turner