



# FRIENDSHIP FORCE NEWSLETTER

SANTA BARBARA NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all,

Happy Fall to everyone. I'm hoping that by the time you read this it really will be fall – leaves falling and cooler temperatures. I'm sure the ambassadors to central Virginia experienced it and we're so happy that 17 of them had that pleasure.

It's amazing to me that this will be my last newsletter letter after three years as your president. It has been a rewarding experience and I am indeed proud of our club as we transition into a new board with an enthusiastic membership. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Santa Barbara chapter of Friendship Force so a celebration is in order. Our plans are to honor the 11 presidents of our club at our Holiday party in December and have each of them tell us about their proudest accomplishment and fondest memories of their time in office. Those of us who are newer in the club might not have the bigger view of the progress we have made and the contributions of so many. By looking at the past we can project into the future and

assure that our chapter is here long past our current membership. I am hopeful that we can change and grow so that a younger generation will want to become members and continue our tradition of helping to bring peace to this world one person at a time.



**BARBARA ROSE**

The six of us who participated in the worldwide Friendship Force conference in Vancouver came back with a broader picture of our organization. I have shared some highlights from the conference with you later in this newsletter. Please take the time to read our report for a better

understanding of the status of our organization and be proud of how well we here in Santa Barbara are doing. Thank you to all of you for your contribution to this success and your willingness to stretch to assume the many committee and board positions. We truly are a special group and move forward with pride, joy and friendship.

On October 24 three of us also attended the regional conference in San Diego and met with the presidents and president elect of our western region chapters.

You will read in this issue about the Halloween party, planning meeting, incoming exchange from Owensboro, Kentucky program meeting and Holiday party. In addition there is information about the exchanges coming in 2016. It promises to be a busy and exciting year.

Looking forward to spending these last two months as your president.

In Friendship,  
Barbara Rose

## Halloween Party 2015

The boys and ghouls of FFSB were out in full force on Halloween night and it was a challenge to figure out who was lurking beneath those costumes and masks. Diane Siegman won for best female costume with her outstanding clown outfit and makeup and Jack Orr copped the men's prize for his cross between a biker dude and a terrorist. Frank Bourbeau won the Frank Bourbeau look-alike contest for looking just like...himself! And how happy we were to welcome back Barbara Gregoire in her genuine Cleopatra outfit. Many



thanks to the organizers, Patricia Poilé and Bonnie Johnson, for the imaginative decorations, to the cooks for the delicious potluck, to Agris for his music and songs, and to Inna Cook for the use of her clubhouse.



### 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:**

Mary Orr/Mary Wolthausen  
(Owensboro)

Karolyn Hanna-(Minneapolis)

ED needed-(North Bay, Canada)

#### **Outbound Exchange Director:s**

Sandy Hartley (Charlottesville)

Pam Vestal-(Minneapolis)

Dick Falk/Sandy Hartley (Brazil)

ED needed- (Sarasota)

**Directory:** Sandy Grasso-Boyd

**E-mail Notifications:** Barbara Rose

**Historian:** Barbara Gregoire

**Membership:** JoAnn Magistad and  
Linda Billings

**Newsletter:** Mary Orr (editor)

Paula Gregoire-Jones (publisher)

**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

## Central Virginia (Charlottesville) Outbound Exchange October 3-12, 2015

We arrived in Charlottesville, Virginia welcomed by endless seas of green pastures framed by golden leafed trees with a hint of red just in time for the beginning of nature's fall color parade. It was quite a stunning sight compared to the dry brown California landscape we have endured for so many years in California. The welcome party was held at sundown at beautiful Lake Monticello, where calm glassy waters waited to sooth us from the trip, accompanied by wine and refreshments. We were treated to a boat ride around the lake, where well maintained homes lined the peaceful lake in a placid paradise.



**BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS**



**LAKE MONTICELLO**

The next day we stepped into the past at the Frontier Culture Museum, a community of villages authentically reproduced to represent traditional rural settlements from England, Germany, Ireland, West Africa and America, followed by a picnic in the Blue Ridge Mountain woods.

Friday followed, where we were treated to a guided tour of Thomas Jefferson's expansive architectural masterpiece, Monticello, atop a hill overlooking deep green valleys in every direction. Afterwards we traveled to the University of Virginia, designed by Jefferson in a neo classic roman style, and even sneaked a peek into

Edgar Allen Poe's dorm room, complete with a mounted raven.

On Saturday Luray Caverns awaited. It was like opening a treasure chest overflowing with glowing sunken treasures of stalactites and stalagmites of enormous size and grandeur. They simply cannot be adequately described. Sunday was a free day but some traveled to James Madison's estate, Montpelier, which had been painstakingly and expertly brought back its former American classical period glory after being owned by the DuPonts for a time. In the evening we were treated to wine tasting of ten wines at a local vineyard, accompanied by an authentic Blue Grass band, where a few brave travelers learned to dance the Virginia reel.

It went all too fast, but it must be said that all or our hosts were very gracious and accommodating, showing us the natural and architectural beauty of their region, overflowing with green pastures, golden leaves, and a splash of red where fall was just beginning to show its beauty. A big thank you to Sandy Hartley, our ED, for coordinating and planning the exchange with the Central Virginia ED, Paul Hokansen, to make this a memorable exchange.

By David Jones

**Pictures from the Charlottesville exchange**  
(See more exchange pictures on our website)



**BOAT RIDE ON MONTICELLO LAKE**



**FALL FOLIAGE**



**WELCOME DINNER**



**GROUP IN THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS**



**FRONTIER CULTURE MUSEUM**



**MONTICELLO**



**GROUP AT UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA**



**VIEW FROM THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS**



**FAREWELL DINNER AT COOPER'S VINEYARD**



**LEARNING THE VIRGINIA REEL**

## FRIENDSHIP FORCE WORLD CONFERENCE "BUILDING BRIDGES" – VANCOUVER 2015

Six Friendship Force of Santa Barbara members attended the world conference August 28-31, 2015. Vancouver has been described as "Manhattan with mountains" but I would describe it as a lovely seaside bustling city with a perfect combination of urban and rural traits. The Canadian folks are friendly and accommodating and welcomed 500 ambassadors from 26 countries with open arms. I have previously shared with you our opening welcome from the Vancouver 100 member Welsh Men's choir and our response to them.

At the plenary session a tribute was made to Jimmy Carter and Wayne Smith as founders of Friendship Force followed by a welcoming by the deputy mayor of Vancouver who shared with us her vision for a sustainable, green Vancouver. They are currently number four in the world in green cities and are aiming for number one. Reconciliation with the aboriginal people is a priority so our next speaker was a first nation member who is known as the mother of peace in her nation. We were then inspired by Michele Ray, an international motivational speaker. Her most memorable quotes were "no matter how high tech the world becomes, it will always be about people" and "many an open mind should be closed for repairs". She said that success becomes complacent and we must guard against becoming so and that we don't see things as they are but we see them as we are. She then led us through a challenge of change to identify why we are often reluctant to change and thus become complacent. She challenged us to take a risk. Obviously she is a powerful speaker.

The workshops focused on such topics as "How to keep Friendship Force financially sound and growing", "Changing strangers into friends", "Online tools for your club", "Invigorate

exchanges and attract all ages", "Away with words: How visuals can help convey your message", "How to lead effectively", "Make me a match", "Growing FFI in Europe", "Selecting new ambassadors and hosts for your exchanges", "The next gen initiative", "Social media Q and A" and "Creating a strategic plan for your club". Clearly choosing which of these workshops to attend was



**OUR DELEGATES - KEN & FRANCIE JEWESSON, RICKEY FARBMAN, CLARE MAGEE, BARBARA & JOHN ROSE**

a daunting task but our six ambassadors did a good job of covering the pertinent topics.

The leadership workshop taught me that there is a leadership tool kit at the FFI website which I wish I had known to take advantage of. They talked at length about retaining members (creating a group culture and sense of belonging) and attracting new members (word of mouth still seems to be the most effective method). Partnerships with like-minded organizations such as Rotarians, Open World etc. should be encouraged. Sex equality, succession planning

for leaders and revising bylaws every five years etc. were welcomed ideas.



**KEN JEWESSON & OTHER FFI MEMBERS**

I enjoyed meeting Kristen Harrison who does the exchange matching and learned that one half of the European countries in Friendship Force have only one club. Hence for 88 weeks available in Europe last year there were 390 requests. There are 363 clubs worldwide (97 in the US) and 15,000 members. However, only 5000 of those have participated in an exchange. There has been a shift from international to domestic exchanges and the loss of the cruise component

has cut fees to FFI by \$100,000. Attrition of membership due to age and less than the optimum number of ambassadors on exchanges had also affected income since exchange dues contribute 74% of FFI's income. A surprise to me was that membership fees contribute only 12% of income. The average size of USA clubs is 62. They are encouraging clubs to accept 24 ambassadors rather than the current 20 and to include non-member ambassadors to our exchanges.

E memberships were described and vetting techniques were discussed.

Overall my impressions were that we are a viable club and are doing well but overall FFI needs upgrading to survive and thrive. I was impressed with the youth and enthusiasm of the staff and the expertise of the board and caliber of the membership. These world conferences are valuable and impressive with next years to be in Morocco and 2017 in Manchester, England. I would encourage any interested members and our leaders to attend.

Respectively submitted,  
Barbara Rose

## **Will 2020 Be a Year Without War?**

### **Find out on November 16.**

Our last Program Meeting of 2015 will feature Professor Joseph White, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at SB City College. His intriguing topic will be 2020: A Year Without War. Please join us at the Goleta Library at 7:00 p.m. on November 16. Professor White will be explaining how this social movement, started at SBCC in 2012, is now in over 120 countries with over 30,000 followers. AYWW is a growing, global, unique social media, social movement. His talk will pose this question: "Would you be willing to push a button, for free, with no adverse consequences to you or your loved ones, to stop war on our planet for one year? It turns out there is such a button." Those attending will find out how it works. The program was arranged by Gail Gillies, who feels that a desire for world peace is what the Friendship Force and this non-profit, non-partisan organization have in common. As always, guests are welcome and refreshments will be served.



## **Domestic and International Inbound and Outbound Exchanges in 2015 & beyond**

### **November 7-12**

Inbound Exchange from Owensboro, KY, Mary Orr and Mary Wolthausen, EDs.

**January 2016** – Inbound from Minneapolis, MN and Des Moines, IA, Karolyn Hanna, ED

**June 2016** – Outbound to Brazil (Belem and Fortaleza), Dick Falk and Sandy Hartley EDs

**September 2016** – Outbound to Minneapolis, MN, Pam Vestal, ED

**October? 2016** –Inbound from North Bay, Canada, ED needed  
**2017** – Outbound to Sarasota, FL, ED needed

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

#### **Social Events:**

**Saturday, December 12, 5:00 pm**

Our annual Holiday Dinner Party and a time to celebrate FFSB's 20th anniversary. Join us at Mulligans Cafe on McCaw Avenue. More details and reservation info on page 8

#### **Planning Meeting:**

**Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 p.m.**

At the home of Karolyn Hanna, 5235 Toluca Court. We will be discussing ideas for club activities for next year and other important matters. All are welcome.

***This is a new venue.***

#### **Program Meeting:**

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

**Goleta Public Library**

Dr. Joe White, from the SBCC Philosophy Department, presents an interesting discussion on "A Year without War." Be there to cast your vote for next year's officers too!

### **A timely reminder by the Treasurer**

#### **Dues are due!**



Please send your check payable to Friendship Force SB to Bill Boyd, 2430 Calle Montilla, Santa Barbara, CA 93109. We'd love to get your check by **December 1**, but no later than **December 15**.

**Luckily, dues have not increased!**

**Still a bargain at singles \$38 and couples \$50.**



### **Top Choices for 2017: Kimonos, Koalas or Crumpets?**

The votes are in! Members who indicated an interest in traveling on a 2017 international outbound exchange with FFSB chose the following countries as

their top three choices:

- Japan
- Australia
- England



Our requests have been sent to FFI and hopefully by January of 2016 we will find out our destination. Other areas that garnered a significant number of votes were the Netherlands, Sweden and Costa Rica.



***Please join us for the Annual Holiday Dinner Party  
Saturday, December 12***

***This marks our 20th anniversary as a Friendship Force  
club and we will be honoring our past presidents.***

***WHERE:*** Mulligan's Cafe 3500 McCaw Avenue

***TIME:*** 5:00 p.m.

***COST: \$34 per person (includes tax and tip) The buffet dinner will  
include appetizers, salad, two entrees (peppered roast beef/oven  
baked turkey) side dishes, dessert and coffee. No host bar.***

---

## ***Holiday Dinner Reservation Form***

Please send your check made out to FFSB for \$34 per person to:  
Patricia Poile, 1306 Morrison Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA 93103

**DEADLINE: December 3**

**We are looking Forward to a Very Special Celebration!!!**

Names of Attendee(s)	Cost
	\$34
Total Cost	

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

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

We need exchange pictures for the website.

Please send your pictures to Paula Gregoire-Jones at [pgregoire-jones@verizon.net](mailto:pgregoire-jones@verizon.net).

Stay informed with the **Friendship Force**

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



**Happy Birthday to:**

November 18 John Rose  
November 23 Ken Jewesson  
November 27 Candace White  
December 16 Claire Magee  
December 24 Marilyn Torrey  
December 27 Lou Smitheram de Pravia

### **FFI Board Appoints New CEO**



**JEREMI SNOOK**

Board chairperson Cecile Latour recently announced that Jeremi Snook will be FFI's sixth President and CEO as of November 9. Jeremi has been a senior executive in the nonprofit sector (United Way and Spaulding Youth Center in Northfield, New Hampshire). He also started a small business that quickly earned him and his partner an award from the Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies. Those on the Search Committee who have met him believe that he has the vision and management skills to lead FFI to the stability and sustainability that FFI wants for the organization. Colleagues describe him as a caring, can-do person who connects well with people from all walks of life, someone who values diversity and works collaboratively to achieve consensus. Jeremi was chosen from over 180 applicants.