



# FRIENDSHIP FORCE NEWSLETTER

SANTA BARBARA SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy post solar eclipse.

I hope you had an opportunity to view the phenomenon. I was in Portland and saw 99.something percent of it. The air got cooler; there was a wind; the streetlights came on; it got darker. Unfortunately, I am not a changed woman as was promised.

Many thanks to Karolyn and her team for the wonderful opportunity for a different type of exchange. With their parents, the children from Tuxtla-Gutiérrez (Chiapas) certainly shared their warm culture with us for the true meaning of Friendship Force.

### **FFSB Online—check it out.**

Paula has been busy adding new features and upgrades. Take a look at the new "Members Only" page, where we will post information and documents for planning incoming journeys, member biographies and other club information. If you have not completed your account setup to access the page yet, e-mail Paula for help. Also please review

your biography and picture to see if you would like to update them.

*If you have not completed the survey sent by Dawn McGrew, please return to her as soon as possible. The information will be posted on the "Members Only" page for planning inbound journeys when it is completed.*

Several important items for us to consider: First of all, in a few weeks we will have the opportunity to vote for where we would like to go internationally in 2019. As usual, there is no guarantee either of our getting our choice or even getting an assignment at all. We have been lucky in receiving desirable assignments in the past. PLEASE, vote ONLY for destinations that you have strong intentions of traveling to with the club.

Now is the time to think about how you can be of help to our club for 2018. We have three Directors' positions open: Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. We also need a Social



Committee chair. Please give some thought to these needs so we can help Linda Williams with a smooth transition to the coming year. Let's discuss them at the September planning meeting. (I am going to Japan with our club in November so will not be at that meeting.)

We have an active domestic calendar for next year. Karolyn has been in contact with several clubs that want us to visit them or that would like to come here in 2019. Please keep looking for places to take our ambassadors. And, I'm already looking forward to our 2018 journeys, beginning with Australia in March!

In Friendship,  
Rickey Farbman



## What's a Chukker?

If you were one of the twenty or so FFSB folks at the August 13 social at the Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club in Carpinteria, you would know that a chukker is one of the six periods of a polo match; each chukker runs seven and one-half minutes. To the uninitiated, polo looks like a cross between hockey and croquet played on horseback. Two teams of four players each try to hit the ball through the goal posts on either end of the largest field in sports. Because of the intensity of the action, each of the eight players rides as many as

eight different horses during the match. The match featured locally-sponsored teams of highly-ranked players in the prestigious Gulfstream Pacific Coast Open tournament. After a casual lunch from the Polo Grill and an exciting first half, members joined other spectators in the half-time divot stomp, powered by free champagne, which gave the California chic ladies a chance to show off their big hats and fancy costumes. By the way, the favored Klentner Ranch four beat the Restoration Hardware team 14 to 7.

### **2017 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

**Domestic Journey Coordinator:**  
Karolyn Hanna

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

*Rickey Farbman & Roberta Lehtinen  
(Heisenborg, Sweden)*

**Outbound Ambassador Coordinators:**  
*Barbara Rose (Kumamoto and Ehime  
Japan)*

*Pam Vestal (Blue Mountains and  
Mount Baker, Australia)*

**Directory:** Sandy Grasso-Boyd

**E-mail Notifications:** Dawn McGrew

**Historian:** Barbara Gregoire

**Membership:** JoAnn Magistad and  
Joanie Sullivan

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

**Programs:** Linda Williams

**Refreshments:** Jan & Dave Gorbet

**Social Events:** Pat Burkard  
(coordinator) & social committee

**Sunshine:** Claire Magee

**Telephone:** Sandy Hartley

**Webmaster:** Paula Gregoire-Jones

**Welcome:** Agris and Elza Petersons

## FIESTAS WITH AMBASSADORS FROM CHIAPAS



FFSB hosted 17 members of the Tuxtla-Gutiérrez (Chiapas, Mexico) Friendship Force club, July 24-31, including families with children. Many thanks to Karolyn Hanna and the other FFSB members who planned and led this exhilarating journey. On the first day, ambassadors received an overview of Santa Barbara through an introduction at the Santa Barbara Historical Museum (led by Joyce Falk and Gus Pravia) followed by a tour on land and sea via the Land Shark. The day finished with our welcome dinner at the Rancho Santa Barbara Club House.

On Tuesday, the introduction to Santa Barbara continued with a tour of the Santa Barbara Mission, a leisurely picnic by the creek on the steps of the Natural History Museum bowl, and members' choice of touring the Museum. Free time allowed people to try other activities such as the Reagan Ranch Center. The evening's activity was "Spud Night" at the Elks Club in Goleta—a new adventure for many of our Santa Barbara members as well as entertainment for the ambassadors. After the usual impressive tour of the historic—and still functioning—County Courthouse and free time in Santa Barbara, the group was treated to a delightful performance of the comic opera the Elixir of Love by students of the Music Academy of the West.



"Carpinteria Day" on Friday was quite a hit! At Westerlay Orchid Company we viewed the natural beauty of the flowers then strolled through a cactus and succulent paradise. A few miles along at The Sacred Space we enjoyed a mini retreat to the spiritual world of Buddha. After lunch at The Spot, an old-fashioned burger and hot dog stand, the group headed for the beach where whole families jumped into the waves and splashed about with great exuberance. That evening we split up for our traditional small dinner parties, although for those who stayed in Carpinteria the party was not so small!

Following the Maritime Museum on Saturday we again went our separate ways for shopping, more sightseeing, and ambassador-hosted dinners in the evening. On Sunday morning many of the ambassadors gathered for services at the Old Mission and then, again, we all went our separate ways for seeing and enjoying more of Santa Barbara County. FFSB members said farewell to our ambassadors at the sumptuous farewell dinner in Karolyn's comfy back yard and finally at the Amtrak station early Monday morning.

Lisa Kelly captured the feelings of us host families: We had an amazing



time with our family; they became members of our family and we of theirs. We were deeply touched by the young people in the group. The songs they sang for us at the welcome dinner were so sweet and Luis Felipe's farewell speech made us all cry. We will never forget our new family in Chiapas!



## ***Domestic and International Inbound and Outbound Exchanges in 2017 & beyond***

**October 29-November 16, 2017** - Outbound to Kumamoto and Ehime Japan, Barbara Rose, Ambassador Coordinator (AC)

**March 2018**- Outbound to Blue Mountains and Mount Baker, Australia, Pam Vestal, AC

**September 2018** – Inbound from Heisenborg, Sweden , Rickey Farbman and Roberta Lehtinen (HC)

### **International Conference Dates:**

**August 25-27, 2017** -40<sup>th</sup> World Conference, Manchester, England

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

### **Planning Meeting:**

**Monday, September 11, 7:00 p.m.**

Join us at the home of Sandy Grasso-Boyd and Bill Boyd., 2430 Calle Montilla, SB.

### **Program Meeting:**

**Goleta Public Library**

**Monday, September 18, 7:00 p.m.**

Global Friendship Force Exchange in France by Ron Hartley

### **Social Events:**

Thursday, October 12, Sadie Hawkins's Party and Country Dance –more details to follow soon



## **NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL**

**ON BOARD**

**WITH FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL**

Looking for an adventure at sea? And with the added bonus of Friendship Force companions? Registration is now open for FFI's Festival as Sea Cruise. This is an 18-day cruise, April 22-May 10, 2018, aboard Holland America's Zuiderdam, across the Atlantic to England, France, Belgium, Holland and Denmark. Highlights along the way will include stops in Bermuda and the Azores (Portugal). This FFI journey is not just a social and travel event but includes friend-building activities and workshops on FFI as an organization. For itinerary and program details see [www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org), click on journeys at the top, scroll to Festival at Sea Cruise, and click on details. More questions? Write to [laura@friendshipforce.org](mailto:laura@friendshipforce.org). Bon voyage!

### **NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR FFI**

In case you have occasion to write or send something to FFI by U.S. Postal Service, note the new mailing address: 400 West Peachtree St., NW, Suite #4-980, Atlanta, GA 30308. This is for mail only; it is not a new physical location.

## New Member Biographies

### Meet Judy Jessing



Judy moved to San Luis Obispo from Portland, Oregon, after retiring from the field of Healthcare Administration. In Portland she

belonged to the Portland/Vancouver Friendship Force. She served on the FF Board as a Member at Large and chaired a committee that organized a Global Gardening Journey.

Judy's FF travels included visiting Brazil with her home FF, joining the Dallas FF for a trip to Haliburton, Canada, and a Global Journey to Edmonton, Canada, which included a week in the Canadian Rockies. Some of her favorite international trips include India, Cuba, Vietnam, Iceland, Morocco and Peru. Judy was hooked on traveling many years back when she spent five months in Zimbabwe volunteering on a project working with collective cooperatives.

Judy keeps busy in SLO chairing the Newcomers Mahjong Group, volunteering with Literacy for Life as an ESL tutor and strumming along with the Rockin' Ukes group in Morro Bay. She loves all things art and music and is an avid opera fan.

Judy is so looking forward to being a member of FF again and wants to thank the Santa Barbara FF group for letting her be a "long-distance" member.



### Welcome to Suzy Pelovsky

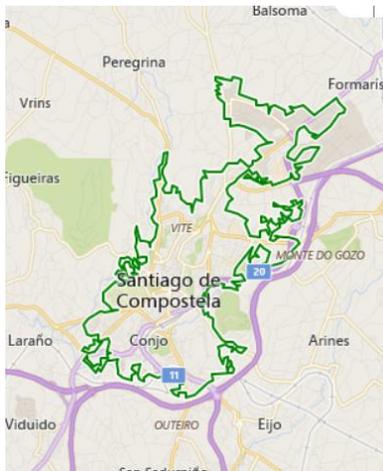
Suzy Pelovsky, a native Californian, moved here from Exeter about ten years ago to be near her two

daughters and their families. She obtained a Home Economics degree from BYU and a library degree from Utah State University. She retired after 38 years of teaching and librarianship, having taught levels from kindergarten to junior college and working as a high-school librarian.

While visiting her daughters when they were at UCSB, she fell in love with Lotusland, and now she volunteers there as a docent and a tour facilitator. She also enjoys being a docent at the Courthouse; participating in the SB Woman's Club, a book discussion group, Coastal Quilters Guild, the Cactus and Succulent Society, and her church; and ushering at the Granada.

Along with all of that she also enjoys cooking and flower arranging. Suzy is quite a travel bug, having visited Europe, Morocco, Tahiti, New Zealand, Panama, China, Vali, India, Thailand, and most recently, Cuba. Her philosophy is "I want to be used up and worn out when I die" and "Life is short, so try new things." Welcome, Suzy, to Friendship Force.

## RENEW YOUR SPIRIT ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO



Walk or cycle the 1,000-year-old pilgrimage road from France across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela, invited Rich Scholl, our program speaker on July 17. He treated us to a picture tour of the landscapes and architectural highlights of his bicycle trip. Dave Inouye, sporting his Santiago pilgrim's shell, added a few words about his participation in the early part of the Camino from France to Pamplona.

Travelers undertake the trek for a variety of reasons. In addition to the pious Christian pilgrims seeking forgiveness, solace, or spiritual renewal, others seek adventure, communing with nature, or relief from the stress of daily life.

Although most pilgrims walk or bicycle and stay in simple albergues or hostels each night, some travel on horses. In 1982, the Falks met a party of French pilgrims on horseback staying at the Parador of Villafranca del Bierzo. Highways run close to parts of the route so auto travelers can also enjoy the scenery and some of the cultural sites such as the ancient village of O Cebreiro with its famous pre-Romanesque church and unusual "paloza" dwellings. A varied and moving vicarious Camino experience is offered in the full-length movie, *The Way*, starring Martin Sheen, who undertook the pilgrimage after the death of his son.

**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)

### **New "Members Only" page**

**Have you checked out the information on the new "Members Only" page on the FFSB website?**

**If you haven't setup your account to access the page yet and need help, please contact Paula Gregoire-Jones.**



### **Happy Birthday to:**

- September 18 Bonnie Dutton
- September 19 Paula Gregoire-Jones
- September 23 Sandra Grasso-Boyd
- October 3 Pat Burkard
- October 3 Jackie Van Spanckeren
- October 8 Agris Petersons
- October 16 Bill Dutton
- October 31 Sandy Hartley