



# FRIENDSHIP FORCE NEWSLETTER

SANTA BARBARA SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi all,

Fall is on the way. This is the time to put in our choices for an INTERNATIONAL outbound exchange for 2018. Linda Billings, Jan Inouye and I participated in a WebEx teleconference with Kristin Harrison of FFI recently. It is her responsibility to make the matches.

There are 63 countries that have clubs. Some have only one. In Europe they usually take 16 ambassadors, or fewer. There were 88 weeks available for 2017, with 390 requests for visits. UK, Germany, Norway and Vietnam have very limited availability. The US has 94 clubs, but only gets about 40 requests each year. Some clubs have received no

exchanges; many did not get any requests at all. The future exchanges will look towards sharing with clubs in the regional area if they can't be filled at the beginning.

So what does this means for us? If, and ONLY if you plan to travel with us in 2018, please have an idea of three or four places that we can reasonably expect to get. We know things get in the way of life and travel, but we need to be realistic. We will be voting in October. We will tally the same way as in prior years. We should be notified in February of 2017 if we get an international exchange.

In the meantime, enjoy our weather; come to the



**RICKEY WITH MN ED KAY MYERS  
AT THE FAREWELL DINNER**

meetings and the Oktober fest social with our North Bay, Canada ambassadors .

In Friendship,  
Rickey Farbman

# FFSB Celebrates Viva La Fiesta!!!



After five days of celebrating with Fiesta Pequena, shows at the courthouse, the horse parade, the children's parade and the various mercados our members took a mellow approach to close out the weekend.

A late afternoon party was celebrated at the clubhouse of Inna Cook with about 45 members enjoying the melodic guitar of Chris Judge as they sampled margaritas, guacamole and chips and conversation with each other. Especially colorful were



those who put on their Fiesta finery.



The classic Mexican dinner of beef or chicken tacos, beans and rice, with delicious sauces, was prepared by the staff of Taqueria El Pastorcito. More than a few people went back for seconds and there were no leftovers!

Thanks again to Pat Burkard and Patricia Poilé for making it all happen. Patricia had to find a new musician after the other one canceled at the last minute. And to bartenders Dawn McGrew and Dave Inouye muchas gracias.



## ***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)*
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*Karolyn Hanna (Minneapolis)*  
*Barbara Rose (Kumamoto and Ehime Japan)*

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- 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 Poilé
- Sunshine:*** Claire Magee
- Telephone:*** Sandy Hartley
- UN Liaison:*** Gail Gillies
- Webmaster:*** Paula Gregoire-Jones



## A Very GREEN Exchange in the Twin Cities



Most of us had the same reaction as we entered St. Paul or Minneapolis for the first day of our exchange. "Everything is SO green-the trees, the bushes, the lawns," we chorused. And continued to say for days, much to the amusement of our hosts. Amazing what water can do!

But luckily we got very little rain during our visit, which enabled us to enjoy the sun and beautiful blue sky during the outdoor activities, which included a glorious two-hour cruise on the Mississippi River, and the welcome picnic at Cherokee Heights Park. An outdoor visit to Fort Snelling with docents dressed in early 1800's costumes was followed by lunch at Urban Growler, the first woman-owned brewery in MN.

Focusing on the history of the state, we toured the MN History Center, the awesome St. Paul Cathedral (modeled after St. Peter's in Rome) and the Mill City Museum. There we rode the "flour tower" to experience what it was like to work in flour mills like Pillsbury or Gold Medal from 1880-1930.

During our guided tour of the St. Paul City Hall, built around 1930, we admired the beautiful marble; wood and glass work in this art deco building. Theater fans enjoyed the backstage tour of the Guthrie Theater, where we saw how they construct sets, create costumes and stage play rehearsals. Some ambassadors got to see "Sense and Sensibility" there.

Of course we were happy to see again the Twin City folks who visited us in January as well as meet the other club members. They all showed us a very warm welcome and provided us with very beautiful weather! Thanks to our ED Carolyn Hanna and their EDs Kay Myers and Barb Emer for a well-planned exchange. Barb even commented at the farewell dinner that we were "the best group ever."



## **North Bay, Canada Exchange**

### **Still needs some small dinner party hosts**

Our upcoming inbound exchange from North Bay Canada is coming up soon from October 28th to November 4th. I would like to encourage all members to participate in the activities and meet new friends. We will celebrate Oktoberfest with the North Bay ambassadors on Saturday, October 29. Please plan on joining us for this event. More details to follow soon on all the activities planned.



At this time I'm looking for more small dinner party hosts. This is the time to spend one on one time with our ambassadors.

Please consider this opportunity and sign up to and host a dinner for four. If you aren't at the meeting this month send an email to Pam Vestal at [sbwoman@msn.com](mailto:sbwoman@msn.com)

## **FFI Regional Reps Meet in Atlanta for Training**

According to Pat Ghiglieri and Marty McKnew, our Western Region Area Representatives, their recent week at FFI headquarters was both inspiring and productive. CEO Jeremi Snook assured the ten attendees that our organization is definitely getting back to our roots with our PEOPLE MISSION and our CULTURAL EXPERIENCES. What sets us apart from other organizations is that we connect with friends around the world in fairly small groups.

The best advice on how to tell people what we are about succinctly (the elevator speech) is: ***"We are an international organization that promotes cultural sharing and home hosting in 63 countries."***

Some suggestions for how to make a more interesting exchange were: create a service project; have two days of free time; and connect with your neighbors and friends during the exchange to expose them to how we work. That it isn't necessary to constantly escort the ambassadors was emphasized.

The new website is expected to be available before the end of the year and club presidents will receive training in its use. New promotional videos will soon be available. FFI is hiring part-time staff in Europe who will help develop more clubs there.

Many clubs are struggling to remain viable and a group of experienced members have formed the US Mentors to work with individual clubs to inject new ideas and energy.

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

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

**October 28-November 4, 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

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

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

### **Social Events:**

#### **Saturday, October 29**

Join the ambassadors from North Bay, Canada for a potluck to celebrate Oktoberfest.

### **Planning Meeting:**

#### **Monday, September 5 (Labor Day), 7:00 p.m.**

Join us at the home of Rickey Farbman (not Pat Burkard as previously scheduled) at 7:00 p.m...

### **Program Meeting:**

#### **Goleta Public Library**

#### **Wednesday, September 21, 7:00 p.m.**

Reviewing fond memories of our exchange to Charlottesville, VA with the Hartleys.

## **Save the Date**

**Saturday, October 29**



**with the North Bay, Canada Ambassadors**

**Details to arrive in your inbox soon!**

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## ***New Member Biographies***

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### ***Getting to Know Bea Severson***



Bea Severson has spent a lot of time in the air, but not just because she grew up in the Windy City of Chicago. Thanks to her job with Pan American Airways, she traveled to Asia and the South Pacific from her base in San Francisco for nearly three years.

But as much as she loved flying, it was back to earth when she married her late husband, an ear, nose and throat specialist who set up his practice in Rockford, IL. Their three children kept Bea very busy during their early years, but later she became a travel agent who specialized in organizing archaeological tours, especially to Greece. Her granddaughter is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin who, with her husband, manages a dairy farm near Lone Rock, WI. They have gotten to know a lot of cows! Bea's sons live WI and IL.

In 2002 Bea decided to move to Santa Barbara to be closer to her daughter, who was a flight attendant for United Airlines for 40 years. She soon became involved in a number of bridge groups and she also enjoys attending the Metropolitan Opera broadcasts at Hahn Hall. She is lucky to live near the ocean, at El Escorial.

Thanks to Dottie Iverson for bringing this energetic lady to our club and to Bea for her willingness to host our exchange visitors, which she is looking forward to.

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### ***Meef Carol Lazar***



Thanks to Agris and Elza, we have a new member, a neighbor of theirs who hails from the City of Brotherly Love, otherwise known as Philadelphia.

Carol Lazar finished her undergraduate education at Westchester State University in PA and lost little time heading west to sunny California to start her elementary school teaching career of 42 years. School districts in Philadelphia, San Francisco and Oxnard benefitted from her talents and even now she still substitutes here in town.

An intrepid traveler, Carol has visited Thailand, China, Bali and various destinations in Europe. Hopefully she can join one of our outbound exchanges in the near future.

She is also an accomplished water color painter and a Chinese brush painter. You may have seen some of her work at Gallery 113, the Faulkner Gallery or Gallery 333.

Another interest is spiritual studies, and Carol has participated in various training sessions and retreats. She is teaching a free class on healing and brain issues at the clubhouse where she lives, 333 Old Mill Road, twice a month. All are invited. For more information contact her at [maeflowers@cox.net](mailto:maeflowers@cox.net).

## Global Exchange to Fantastic Finland

by Dave Jones and Paula Gregoire-Jones

Our recent global exchange to Finland included a nice mix of Friendship Force members from all over the U.S., Canada and Australia. Our very efficient ED was Aila Erman from Finland who has been living in the US for the over 30 years and is a member of the Florida Suncoast FF club. Aila was assisted by her Finnish friends, Ritva Huttunen and Harry Haltimo from Helsinki.

When arriving in Helsinki, the first thing you notice is the calm nature of the capitol city. Unlike most busy ports alive with cruise and cargo ships, Helsinki is a welcome retreat from the anxious and hurried pace of urban areas today. Yet, it is alive with commuters, shopkeepers, business professionals, and students on



their way around town on a very well-run transit system. There was never a sense of urgency in the air, because if you miss a boat, train or tram, there will be another one along shortly. Museums, waterfront marketplaces, and historical sites coexist harmoniously with walkable streets, festivals, and parks without overshadowing each other.

Heading north by bus we visited Tampere, the most populous inland city in any of

the Nordic countries with over 350,000 people, though you'd never notice due to the quiet demeanor of the population here as well. One resident advised us to not play poker with Finns, because they will never give away their hand. We were lavishly entertained by local hosts with a variety of Finnish foods. Salmon and Reindeer are country favorites and are said to be second to none.



The highlight of the trip for many came with a short airplane trip north above the Arctic circle to Lapland, land of the midnight sun, famous for reindeer herds and northern lights. We visited a reindeer farm where even the weather was polite and held off except for a slight drizzle. All got a chance to pet reindeer, feel their fuzzy horns and



feed them from our hands. Afterwards, we were treated to tea and biscuits, accompanied by folk singing in a "warming hut." It was an experience that will live in our memories forever. A few motivated travelers got up to see the northern lights at 3am that night, where splashes of vibrant blue and green filled the night sky like sweeping strokes from an impressionist's bold brush.

Afterwards we returned to Helsinki for a ferry ride across the sea to Estonia to visit an historic section of town before returning to Helsinki for our departure the next day.

The real highlight, unspoken but not unseen, still remains the warmth and unpretentious natural good will of the Finnish people, where you could honestly say, "I never met a Finn I didn't like".



# Join a Global Exchange and Meet Lots of New People!

*These exchanges still had a few openings as of press time.*

## DISCOVER ISRAEL October 26 - November 6, 2016



Enjoy home hosting as well as visits to Tel Aviv, Halfa, Nazareth, Galilee and Jerusalem.

ED is Ed Ekis (FF Chicago) edwardekis@gmail.com

## DISCOVER COSTA RICA November 9 - 19

You will be home hosted by the FF of San Jose to explore the area and there is an optional trip to Tortuguero. ED is Laurie Ann Scott (FF Lincoln NE) lalpscott@gmail.com



## BIKING HOLLAND AND BELGIUM April 15 - 26, 2017



Spend eight days and seven nights on a barge that will take you to Haarlem, Leiden, Delft, Rotterdam, Gouda and Amsterdam and give you the chance to explore each port by bicycle.

Followed by a four-day home stay with the FF of Brussels-Pajot. ED Shawn Decareaux (FF Western Montana-Missoula) shawn@biketerernity.com

**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:**

- September 17 Silvio Di Loreto
- 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