

Friendship Force Reporter



The Friendship Force of Los Angeles
A WORLD OF FRIENDS IS A WORLD OF PEACE

Editors: Zelda & Leo Arditte

Staff: Tanya Sisikin, Eva & Herb Hain & Carol Berke

December 2007



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I became President, I challenged you to renew all of the friendships you've made over your years in Friendship Force that may have been lost. I suggested that you write a letter a month to a Host or Ambassador with whom you've lost contact to remind them of their American friend. I don't know how many letters went out. Some of my letters were returned; some were not answered. That's discouraging, but there was some success. I've heard good news from several of you. Wonderful feelings have been generated. I believe that even where there was no response, the message did go out. That was a great thing you did!

As you are reading this message, the time for holiday greetings is upon us, and here I am reminding you again to write, e-mail or call your Friendship Force friends all over the world. It may be easier this time of year. Dig out your old workbooks and the wonderful memories they bring and reach out to those old friends. I'd love to hear how your effort is rewarded.

The November general meeting featured a great program on Ghana presented by **Gene** and **Barbara Haberman** and some members who participated in the three-homestay exchange experience. What a wonderful program. I wish I could have been there. Our new projector didn't work, but the experiences related by our Ambassadors were so vivid they could never be captured in a mere photo.

At that meeting, I reported that Ed and I bought a house in Tucson. It has a view Ed is happy with and a floor plan I like. Our new address is 62743 Flower Ridge Drive, Tucson, AZ 85739, phone 520-825-1601. I invited everyone to come and visit; however, we can't handle you all at once. I'm hoping the Friendship Force of Tucson will help me out. Stay tuned. In the meantime, if you can't wait, give us a call and tell us when you will arrive.

My thanks to each of you, to all of you, for the whole-hearted support you've given me in the last two years and the friendship you've extended to me and **Ed** in our many years in the Friendship Force of Los Angeles. I'm sorry to be leaving the presidency with web site and e-mail problems; however, they will be resolved. I am comfortable leaving the club in **Pat Gittleman's** very capable hands. I know that you will give **Pat** the friendship and support she needs to keep our club's good reputation intact.

See you at the Monterey Room of the Encino Glen Golf Course for our Gala Installation Luncheon on Sunday, January 13, my last day as your President.

In friendship,

Carolee Lawrence

.P.S. This just in! The Friendship Force of Kumasi, Ghana, wants to visit Los Angeles. FFI has approved such a hosting and the FFLA board approved it for a week at the beginning of May 2008. Now we need approved visas and an EXCHANGE DIRECTOR. Contact me, eclawrence@juno.com, or **Alyce Schultz-Rozsa**, Asrcreate1@aol.com, if you can serve as ED for this exchange. **Barbara Haberman** has offered to assist.

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS FF-LA.ORG

PAID YOUR DUES YET? CHECK YOUR LABEL

If the label with your name and address on this issue of the REPORTER is red, our records show that you have not yet gotten around to paying your FFLA membership dues. Dues for the calendar year are \$30 for a single person; \$40 for a couple or family, plus an extra \$10 for a subscription to the Friendship Force Magazine. Mail me your check now to be included in the new membership roster coming soon and a chance to win a year's dues.

There's a place for you to make a tax-deductible donation in any amount to FFLA when you pay your dues. If each household donated \$10, we could eliminate the need for one fundraising event in 2008. Get your check (payable to FFLA) in before December 31 to be part of a drawing for a free year's dues.

Mona Gifford, Membership Chair,
310-377-7711, monagee@cox.net

Welcome New Members

Imogene Chang	Susan Green
1108 Pearl Street	3450 Sawtelle, # 157
Santa Monica, CA	Los Angeles, CA 90066
310-396 9510	310-391-8029
cell: 310-699 6958	sgreen@earthlink.net
Imogenechang@gmail.com	

Welcome Returning Member:

Morton Goldberg
4305 Raintree Circle
Culver City, CA 90230
310-839 6184
TheKingFish@webtv.net

Mona Gifford, Membership Chair
monagee@cox.net, 310-377-7711

WANTED: PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Do a friend a favor; introduce them to the Friendship Force. Send the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of a friend who might be interested in joining FFLA to **Sandra Arai**, sandraarai@aol.com, 310-397-3805, or bring them to a meeting or new member orientation.

MEMBER NEWS

Charlou Larronde is looking forward to the party at her home December 16. She spent Thanksgiving with her family in Mexico. This year all 30 members of her family will celebrate Christmas together at her Malibu beach house. Then in February they're off to New Zealand to visit with friends. Her balance has not been good since her recent stroke, but Charlou is working with a trainer three times a week to get ready for all the action.

Long-time members **Sharon** and **Larry Lavenberg** have been out of their beautiful home since January when it was severely damaged by an electrical fire and had to be completely rebuilt. The new house should be ready for move-in by mid-January 2008.

Cynthia Frumhoff and **Emil Lawton** are going on an eight-day cruise out of San Pedro down to Acapulco on the Norwegian Cruise Line and taking 18 family members with them. They return January 3, 2008. Bon Voyage!

Valerie and **Herbert Bernstein** had a delightful visit with Valerie's cousin in Peru in December.

Samantha Monheit is cold in New Jersey and misses Sunny California. It has been a joy for her to be with her two daughters and their families, but **Samantha** may find a way to get back here to avoid the cold weather.

Shirlee and **Larry Mirkes** have returned from Mercer, Wisconsin to their Woodland Hills home. They had the happy opportunity to visit **Ed** and **Carolee Lawrence** on their way to California.

Ed and **Carolee Lawrence** will be moving into their new home in Tucson to start the New Year. We'll miss them, but we do wish them the very best in this next chapter of their lives.

Carolee flew from Tucson to LAX for the December board meeting. Her hostess, Tanya Sisikin, was surprised when Carolee arrived at Tanya's home after 1:00 a.m., five hours later than expected, due to flight delays caused by bad weather. We were glad to see Carolee, even if it was a short business visit.

We will all miss **Julie** and **Dick Bate** when they leave on an around-the-world trip January 3 to April 27, 2008. They sail on Holland America's *Amsterdam* from Ft. Lauderdale west through the Panama Canal to the Society Islands, Samoa, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, India, Singapore, Egypt, Turkey, Russia, Greece, Portugal, New York and home again.

ROSTER UPDATES: KEEP IN TOUCH

If you've changed your email, phone, or address, please inform **Gene Haberman** at 310-821-2787, genehabe@yahoo.com, so he can keep the record straight and tell us all about it.

WORDS FROM OUR NEW WEBMASTER

Phil Tamboury has retired as FFLA Webmaster. He worked very hard for many years to make our web site elegant, accurate and responsive to the club's needs. As Phil's Associate Webmaster I've now been promoted to Webmaster. You can contact me by sending an email to webmaster@ffla-la.org.

Because there were problems with the friendshipforcelosangeles.com web host, **Phil** started friendshipforcelosangeles.org with another web host. That transition was very frustrating for both of us and never really worked. In spite of our best efforts, neither web address can be used at this time. Therefore, I have started ff-la.org and simplified it to make it more workable. I can update any of the web pages on this site, as required. The following are now updated: 1) summary FFLA calendars for 2007 and 2008; 2) past FFLA exchange pages; and 3) information page about our Club. Please bookmark this site.

We also have a new email communication system. The FFLA President is the Message Moderator. With her approval, you may send a message of general interest to everyone in the club who has email by addressing your email to ff-la@yahoogroups.com. In this way, only those messages likely to be relevant will reach all our mailboxes. Contact the FFLA President by sending an email to president@ff-la.org. To respond to a request for help, to volunteer, or to tell someone what you're bringing to a potluck or if you plan to attend a game night, send your email *only* to the specific individual involved and not to the entire membership.

John Boland has entered all of our email addresses in this system; he has volunteered to keep the FFLA Yahoo Groups' Email Address List current. If your email address changes, you need to contact him at boland7214@aol.com or unsubscribe yourself or subscribe with your new email address. **John** gets to approve your addition because we want the emails sent only to FFLA members.

There is also an Archive in ff-la@yahoogroups.com so that you can view past FFLA emails which were distributed to the membership. Tell John if you haven't been getting a few emails a month from ff-la@yahoogroups.com, and give him your current email address. The FFLA Yahoo Groups message distribution system is an important tool for communication among FFLA members. The website is important for members and others interested in FFLA, including those who wish to host us or visit us in the future.

PETER LANDECKER, WEBMASTER, webmaster@ffla-la.org

BETWEEN FLIGHTS

On November 10, six FFLA members played host to ten Ambassadors from Tucson who were enroute to Thailand for a Friendship Force exchange. Their flight itinerary left the Arizonans with eight hours in LAX between planes. President **Carolee Lawrence**, now a resident of Arizona and a member of the Tucson Friendship Force club, asked at the November meeting if any would day-host the travelers during their long stop.

In response, ten Tucson Ambassadors were met at the airport after their 11:30 a.m. arrival and driven to the home of **Barbara** and **Gene Haberman** for a potluck lunch and good conversation, most of it about their respective Friendship Force experiences. After lunch the group divided into walkers and talkers for the afternoon before the Californians returned the travelers to LAX for their 9:30 p.m. flight. The **Habermans**, **Zelda** and **Leo Arditte**, **David Grimm** and **Phyllis Goldstein** volunteered. New friendships were formed and day ended with promises to meet

again either here or in Arizona. Could this be the start of a domestic exchange between Los Angeles and Tucson?

After the Arizona group came home, their president sent this letter to our president.

Dear Carolee,

The Friendship Force of Tucson/Southern Arizona club members who recently returned from our Thailand exchange thank you for making arrangements for a luncheon with your club members during the long stopover at the Los Angeles Airport. All members reported that your club members were so friendly and hospitable. They all said it was a delightful experience. Please convey our thanks to your members and let them know their efforts were greatly appreciated. We hope the Los Angeles club will consider an exchange with our Club in the future.

In friendship,

Eileen Rakita, President, FF of Tucson/So. Az

BARBARA HABERMAN

VALLEY GAME NIGHT

The next meeting of Valley Games will be Jan. 8th at Esther Mueller's home. Games start at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome; but, you must call at least a day ahead.

ESTHER MUELLER (818-342-9003)

WESTSIDE LEI/GAME NIGHT

The next Westside LEI (Let's Eat In) and Game Night will be held Tuesday, January 15, at (the Hains'). Dinner is 6 pm; games start 7:30. As always, \$7 includes the dinner. A phone call at least a day ahead is required.

EVA and HERB HAIN, 310-664-9850, herbhain@verizon.net

NETANYA EXCHANGE COMES HOME

The 19 Ambassadors who left home on an exchange to Israel October 30, for a week of home hosting in Netanya and Caesarea, were blessed by sunny weather and warm and welcoming hosts. This club had not hosted in seven years, but their hearts and homes were ready for the experience. We were accepted with open arms and enjoyed the best of their hospitality, their city and nearby areas. We saw places of art and places of history. We lunched at a kibbutz, learned about a young martyr named Hannah Senesh, and visited a shopping mall. We traveled together to the Green Line and heard firsthand from Arabs and Jews how they are trying to maintain peace and goodwill and live together as good neighbors. Finally, we danced Israeli dances and sang together before we bid a fond farewell to the new members of our family who will always be in our hearts.

Armed with our new knowledge of place, culture and a smattering of Hebrew, we embarked on a whirlwind tour of the rest of Israel: Tiberius, the Golan, Tel Aviv, Caesarea, the Western Wall, Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Ben Gurion Street, the Chagall Windows, the Jordan River, the art of Sefad, the Israel Museum, Masada, and the Dead Sea. Some of us visited Eilat, Israel, and Petra, Jordan.

We ate kosher food, learned to do without after-dinner coffee, enjoyed wine parties and card parties and shopped, shopped, shopped.

Each of us has wonderful memories. We left home an assorted group of old-timers, first-timers, acquaintances and good friends; we returned as "*mishpucah*," family.

ARLENE LAWSON and ALYCE SCHULTZ-ROZSA, Eds

NIAGARA CLUB TO VISIT FEB 28

The Friendship Force of Niagara, Canada will visit us February 28 through March 5. Our first workshop is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2000, location to be announced. Let me know if you want to be part of the fun in this first-of-the-year hosting.. Mark your calendars and get ready to greet them with open arms and stay tuned for further details

SHARON LEVY, E. D. 818-623-7644

Sharonlevy@sbcglobal.net

EXCHANGE WITH KUMASI IN MAY

In our exchange to Ghana we had a great hosting experience with the Friendship Force of Kumasi. They discussed an exchange to FFLA and made a formal request to FFI for such an exchange in the Spring of 2008. FFI forwarded the request to us and our Board approved a one-week exchange for the beginning of May 2008.

We have made the initial contact with Kumasi. Now we need an Exchange Director. I have volunteered to assist the ED. Now we need a volunteer to serve as Exchange Director. Please contact either Carolee, eclawrence@juno.com, or **Alyce Schultz-Rozsa**, Asrcreate1@aol.com, to volunteer or to discuss this exciting opportunity.

BARBARA HABERMAN 310-821-2787

barbarahab@yahoo.com

TAUPO, NZ DUE HERE IN JUNE

There will be a sign-up sheet at the January 23rd Installation meeting for all members interested in being a part of the inbound exchange hosting Taupo, New Zealand, scheduled for June 16-23.

Let's make the North Island New Zealanders welcome here and send them off with good California vibrations to their exchange in Latvia.

MONA GIFFORD, ED, 310-377-7711

monagee@cox.net,



CALENDAR

2007

DECEMBER

14-17	Visit from Friendship Force of County Durham, England, Westside Games: No games this month Valley Game Night. No games this month	Bobbie Japka Eva/Herb Hain Esther Mueller
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2008

JANUARY

8	Valley Game Night at	Esther Mueller
13	11:30 a.m., Gala Installation Luncheon, Monterey Rm, Encino Glen Golf Course (see enclosed flyer)	Shirley Cohen
15:	Westside LEI/Game Night at Hains' home Dinner 6pm; games 7:30 pm. Phone reservation reqd	Eva/Herb Hain
17	Niagara, Canada inbnd workshop, location tba	Sharon Levy

FEBRUARY

2	10 am Board Meeting at Bates' condo	Pat Gittleman
5	Valley Game Night, location tba	Esther Mueller
12	Westside LEI/Game Night, location tba	Eva/Herb Hain

2008 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

Feb.	Inbound Niagara, Ontario (Canada),	Sharon Levy, E.D.
May	Inbound from Kumasi, Ghana	
June	Inbound Taupo, New Zealand,	Mona Gifford, E.D.
Aug/Sept	Outbound Isle of Wight/Cnty Cleveland	Sandra Brooks Arai, E.D.

2008 REGIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

March 10-12	Western Regional Conference	San Diego
October 2-5	Friendship Force International Conference,	Gold Coast, Australia

2008 WESTERN REGION OUTBOUNDS

MONTH	CLUB	DESTINATION
3/08	Sacramento to	Nepal
3/08	Tucson/So.AZ	Peru and West Alajuela, Costa Rica
5/08	Kauai	Hamburg, Germany and Brussels/Pajot, Belgium
6/08	Central AZ	Blumenau, Brazil
9/08	San Diego	Dunedin and Hamilton, New Zealand
9/08	San Francisco & Reno/Tahoe	Greater Hamilton, NZ Burlington, Canada
9/08	Santa Barbara	Wolfsburg, Germany

2009 FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL (Tentative)

January	Festival at Sea: Caribbean cruise plus home hosting in Florida
June 4-8	Asia-Pacific Festival: Oregon, followed by home hosting
August	Edmonton, Alberta (Canada) Festival
November	Friendship Force International Conference in Japan

WESTERN REGIONAL NEWS

1. Our 2009 Exchange assignments will be received by January 15. **Debbie Powell**, in Atlanta, has done a great job of organizing the worldwide exchanges.
 2. Registration forms are available online for our Regional Conference in San Diego, March 10-12. Homestays will be available. **George Brown**, FFI President, will attend.
 3. FFI is happy to report that in 2007 there were 5,767 ambassadors worldwide, the highest number in eight years. More than 6,000 ambassadors are anticipated by 2009.
 4. The International Conference in Australia will be October 2-5, followed by a four-night homestay.
- MIKE GITTLEMAN, West Coast Field Rep** 805-376-1072, mikegitt@yahoo.com

WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO MARCH 10-12

The first fifty (50) people who register to attend the Western Regional Friendship Force Conference in San Diego, to be held March 10-12, will enjoy a three-night homestay, a welcome dinner party and all meals on the conference day of March 11, for a registration fee of \$130 per person. Featured speakers include: **Laurie Ann Scott**, Friendship Force International; **Dr. George Brown**, President FFI, and **Father William Headley**, Dean of the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.

The program for the three-day event is as follows:

- March 10 Evening Welcome Dinner Party at the Coronado Cays
- March 11 Conference Day at the Handlery Hotel and Resort
- March 12 Optional events and time to spend with your host families

Don't delay. Plan now to be part of this interesting, stimulating and fun-filled event. Contact **Walter Butcher**, 619-465-8969, waltbutcher@cox.net or **Charles and Julie Bras**, 619.698.0833, chuckrb@cox.net to order your registration packet.

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE of LOS ANGELES

www.ff-la.org.

Zelda and Leo Arditte, Editors
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Culver City, CA 90232



PEACE THROUGH FRIENDSHIP
OUR MISSION: OUR GOAL