



Friendship Force of Sacramento Inc.

www.thefriendshipforce.org

www.ffi-sacramento.org

December 2017

Special Points of Interest

President's Message:

Well, this is my final President's message. The year has gone fast and I still remember sitting at the computer trying to think of what to write for the January newsletter. Part of it included the following:



...So what makes ours so successful? I think it is people like you. We have a club where people are willing to pitch in and help. A group of people who understand that this is not a "travel club", but an organization working toward cultural understanding and through that, a more peaceful world.

My year as President has confirmed that sentiment. I've been so pleased with how everyone has worked hard this year to strengthen our club.

We've had a record number of inbound Journeys. There were great outbound Journeys to Iowa, Japan and the Conference in England. We had fun activities like the Golden 1 Tour, the Japanese Tea Ceremony and the Four Seasons Garden Tour, to name a few. Members are working on special projects like the 2018 Regional Conference, the Photo Cluster program and more. Membership is up and the treasury is strong.

None of these things could have happened without the wonderful volunteers we have. All of us have active lives with many things pulling at our attention, but you have taken the time to make Friendship Force a part of your life. I really appreciate it and want to sincerely say THANK YOU!

I'm looking forward to participating in our 2018 plans for the Sacramento Friendship Force. It will be our 30th Anniversary Year. We've grown from 12 members to 125. I know with your help, it's going to be a great year.

Chris Smith, President

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Calendar of Events	
Mon., Dec. 4	Registration deadline for Holiday Party
Sun., Dec 10	4:00 pm: Around the World Party at Monica O'Brien's, 4006 Canonero Ct., Fair Oaks Must register in advance for restricted parking passes/
Sun., Jan 7	2:00 pm Board Meeting at Sun River Church Family Life Center, 11223 Trinity River Dr., Rancho Cordova
Sun., Jan 7	4:00 - 5:30 pm: General Meeting at same location as board meeting above
Thurs., Feb. 1	4:00 - 5:30 General Meeting via conference call
Tues., Feb. 20 & Thurs., Feb. 22	Folsom Sake Tour & Tasting for a group of 30. Optional LEO (Let's eat out) lunch before tour. Details will be posted on website soon.
Mon., Apr. 12	9:30 - 10:45 am: Board Meeting at Fair Oaks Library, 11601 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oak
Mon., Apr. 12	11:00 - 12:30 pm: General Meeting at Fair Oaks Library, same as board meeting listed above). Topic: Travel for genealogical research by Helen Flach. Optional lunch afterward LEO
May 3-5, 2018	2018 Western Regional Conference at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Elk Grove
May 6-9, 2018	Mini Mystery Journey: Urgent: Hosts are needed to accommodate attendees after our Western Regional Conference, and we need to know in advance how many guests we can accommodate .

JOURNEYS

Updated 11-22--2017

Below are some of the details on the Sacramento club's upcoming Journeys. We try to keep this updated as much as possible but if you have any specific questions please contact the Coordinators listed below.

2018 Journeys

Mystery Mini-Journeys - May 4 to 9th After the Western States Conference you can plan your own mini-journey. See the details in this newsletter and on our [website](#).

End of May to Early June - Outbound to Big Canoe, Georgia and ??

Ambassador Coordinator Charlene Taylor charlenetaylor2@comcast.net

Charlene is looking for a 2nd week of home hosting to add to our week in Georgia

Mid to end of June - Inbound from San Antonio, Texas

Host Coordinator Jodi Vicario jodi.vicario@gmail.com

We'll be hosting some Texan friends the third or fourth week of June.

Early September - Outbound to Kiel, Germany and Leuven, Belgium

Ambassador Coordinator Marty McKnew martymcknew@comcast.net

The dates for Belgium are September 3 to 10. Kiel, Germany will be the following week.

Check the website for information on next meeting. Contact Marty for more details.

Late September or early October- Inbound from Montreal, Canada

Need Host Coordinator

Still in early planning stages but we're working with the Montreal Club to firm up dates.

November 5 - 12 Inbound from Gifu Japan

Host Coordinator Nancy Sinnwell nlsinnwell@gmail.com

Our club just returned from a great Journey there and we are looking forward to hosting

Holiday Party
4 pm, Sunday, Dec.10

You are invited to the Friendship Force of Sacramento Holiday Party in Monika O'Brien's home at 4006 Canonero Ct., Fair Oaks
The theme this year is Holidays Around the World, and you are encouraged (not required) to wear international holiday dress. Please wear your name tags.
IMPORTANT: Members/guests **NEED** to sign up online by Dec.4th so you will get a parking pass. Cars without passes may be ticketed!

The party is an appetizer and dessert potluck, and the club will provide beer, wine, coffee and tea.

If your last name begins with A-I please bring an appetizer

If your last name begins with J-P please bring veggie appetizers

If your last name begins with Q-Z please bring a sweet

Some of our very talented members will provide music and the craft table will be set up in case you have a few holiday gifts you need to purchase.

If you are interested in making a contribution to a good cause, World Relief has been selected as our charity because we have members working as a Good Neighbor Team.

Come and celebrate the holiday season! This is another great event to invite someone new to attend and meet some FF members. Let's share the joy that comes with hosting and traveling together around the world!

Thank you to Kathy Hart, Monika O'Brien, Nancy Sinnwell, & Glenn & Gwen Tilton for arranging this event.



Everyone Loves a Mystery!

Sign up now to **participate in the Super Regional Conference May 3-5, 2018**, and play the part of the **mysteriously-evasive host** during the conference, while the **detective ambassadors** try to sleuth out who you are with a series of clues.

The guessing game and big reveal occurs at the **Cinco De Mayo Gala Dinner** on Saturday night. Whisk your ambassador away on Saturday night after the dinner or after breakfast on May 6. Your mystery destination, and your mystery program for three days is unscheduled, with the exception of the Farewell Brunch on May 9, 2018. Plan your own unique program based on your destination and the matched interests of your ambassador(s).

UPDATES:

- **Reduced Conference Rate for Volunteer Mystery Hosts who are required to attend the conference to play the game. Hosts and mystery helpers, *would you like to get your conference registration for only \$50?* Sign up to work the conference either before or during the conference for a 4 hour shift to get this reduction. **Signing up to work the conference is different from participating as a mystery host or helper.** [Contact Marty McKnew](#) **Subject Line: Conference Volunteer****
- **Tentative Mystery Host Matching, Clue and Mysterious Character Development Meetings will be scheduled for January, February, and April.** Dates and Venues TBD. If you want to host one of these meetings at your home or clubhouse, you get to help set the date. Please email Roz Worrall rozworrall@gmail.com as soon as possible so we can these dates calendared. **Subject Line: Mystery Host Meetings.**
- **Yeah! As of November 24, 2017, nine host families have signed up as Mystery Hosts who can accommodate up to 19 Ambassadors.** We would love to have more hosts! Wouldn't you love to join us? **Join the mystery!**

[Click Here for Mystery Host Details](#) or <http://www.ffi-sacramento.org>, to members only section.

[Click Here to SIGN UP to be a Mystery Host or Day Host/Helper](#) or <http://www.ffi-sacramento.org> to members only section.

Calling All Crafters

There must be more members who could help us with our creations. Our club is large, but our crafts group is small, and we'd like to invite more of you to give us a helping hand. I call a work party from time to time to keep our inventory well stocked, especially prior to our holiday party and inbound and outbound journeys. Mostly we are sewing, but from time to time we dream up other projects, and even ironing things as we're making them is a big help. All proceeds go to our club. Please contact me if you can help. The small group setting is a good way to make friends. And we have a good time, too/ See the happy faces below!

Thank you,,
Judy Maas/crafts chair
jemaas@aol.com



Jodi

Audrey

Pat

Calling All Photographers

We've started a photography "cluster" in Sacramento. Club members interested in learning how to take better photographs, no matter which camera you use, should [sign up](#). We' have a core group started and are working on the design of our Photo Cluster.

- Go on Challenge Assignments
- Grow Your Skills
- Produce Fabulous Photos
- Have Fun and Nurture Friendships!

If you haven't signed up online for the Photography Club Cluster, you aren't really signed up yet. Please go to this site to sign up: <http://bit.ly/FFIphoto> (each person signs individually). If you have trouble signing up, call Roz and she'll walk you through it. [530 305-3739](tel:5303053739)

We are considering meeting twice per week, possibly the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month in various locations (wherever we can find suitable locations somewhat convenient to everyone) from 1:00 - 3:00 in the afternoon and/or 6:00-8:00 in the evening. It is not expected that every member will make every meeting. Field trips will be up to members to organize if they want to do a photo shoot.

Want to learn a little more about the Photo Clusters. Here is a [FAQ](#) for you to look through. Hope you can join us!

Sunshine Corner



A sympathy card was sent to Suzanne Latimer upon the death of her father. And a get well card went to Rose Phelan who was hospitalized in VA after being injured in an auto accident. We are all glad to learn that Joe & Rose Phelan are now home again.
Elaine Wilson, Sunshine Chair

Mission: To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

Vision: Each individual will make a contribution to global goodwill. • The Friendship Force worldwide network of clubs and individuals will overcome differences among people and nations. • By connecting the world, one friend at a time, we will create a world of friends that becomes a world of peace.



The scenic Shirakawa-go village (a UNESCO World Heritage site) is in the mountains of Japan. They get lots of snow, & their steep thatched roofs help shed the snow. Judy Maas

Board Members

President: Chris Smith president@ffsacramento.org	Membership: Kathy DeBlonk deblonk@comcast.net
Vice President: Kathy Hart vp@ffsacramento.org	Newsletter & Crafts: Judy Maas jemaas@aol.com
Secretary: Charlene Taylor jackandcharlene@frontier.com	Past President: Larry Friedman ljsjo@comcast.net
Treasurer: Ross Deter rdeter40@gmail.com	Activities: Nancy Sinnwell nisinnwell@gmail.com
Journey Treasurer: Karen Flemming kkflemming8@gmail.com	Webmaster: Marty McKnew webmaster@ffsacramento.org

Next Newsletter Deadline: December 24, 2017

Please submit your articles & photos to Ray Missman at ray@missman.org.