

FRIEND TO FRIEND

Volume XXIII
Issue 5

Friendship Force of
Kern County
PO Box 2552
Bakersfield, CA 93303
www.ffkern.org

President:

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**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

**10 TH OF EACH
MONTH**

*The
Friendship
Force*



Kern County, California
www.ffkern.org



MESSAGE from STEVE ...

We are clearly a Club that has a great history and a great future. Nevertheless, we are a Club in transition.

Many have done a great deal over the years to assure the success of the Club, yet as we age our ability to actively continue diminishes. This appears to be especially true as I have observed the challenge Exchange Director Ben Goossen has had over the last several months with the short (3 day) Sacramento Exchange. He was unable to recruit an exchange director, unable to gather the needed compliment of Home Hosts until the last minute, with several members hosting three ambassadors. Further, he has had limited interest in the Exchange Director positions for Inbound Mundo Maya, Mexico and Out-bound Curitiba/ Guaranja, Brazil. We all need to do a bit of soul searching and decide what we expect from Friendship Force and what we are prepared to do to bring this expectation about.

I believe, as does the Board, that a key element to our continued success is the recruitment and retention of new members, thorough training and assuring that they have an opportunity to engage fully in Club activities. To that end, the Board has decided to ask you to focus on membership this year.

Our May 25th meeting will focus on the future. Sandy Larson will be presenting on the Trailblazer Project. This is a new and creative opportunity for exchanges and Club growth. You must plan to attend this very informative presentation.

In July, our regular meeting will be a Potluck Open House at the McCalley Home, 906 Revere Way, Bakersfield. I would encourage each of you to consider who you might bring as a potential member.

We need to grow by encouraging active and committed membership. This begins with you.



MAY 25TH MEETING

STRAWBERRY EXTRAVAGANZA NIGHT



This sounds like a very interesting meeting.

*Sandy Larson will be speaking about the Trailblazer project.

*See a display of Polish folk clothing by Del , who will be donating the clothes to a Polish Society in LA after our meeting.

*****Everyone is asked to bring a dish made with strawberries for refreshments.**

CALENDAR 2010



General Meeting	May 25
Sacramento Inbound	May 13-16
General Meeting, need RSVP	June 22
Grandparent/ Grandchild Inbound exchange	August 8-15
Hay River, Canada Outbound exchange	August 28-September 9



THE JUNE MEETING IS A SPECIAL ONE!

JUNE 22, 2011

Our program will be given by **Emad Meerza, The President of the Islamic Shoura Council of Bakersfield**. He will tell us about the Muslim community here in our city. Our understanding of this segment of our neighborhoods will be greatly enhanced by learning about their history here in Bakersfield and their hopes for the future.

We will start the evening with a full meal catered by **Flame and Skewers Mediterranean Restaurant**. Cost will be \$10. **Reservations will be needed.** You may make your reservation and pay at the May meeting to save yourself a stamp.

Nedra Gilfillan, chairman of the June meeting.

Questions or reservations please call:
Nedra, at 661-619-4544

Thanks

I knew that Friendship Force of Kern County was a special group. I've watched and participated in the many special hostings and programs we've sponsored at the behest of the office in Atlanta. I've been part of the monthly programs during which we have been presented with amazing programs that have enriched all of us. I've been on the outside looking in when our members needed help, but never could I have imagined the care, the concern, the willingness to help, and the generosity of our members given to me during this current surgery and recovery process I'm undergoing.

I have received many get-well wishes, opened many get well cards, emails and Facebook messages. I have received flowers and plants. But no one could have prepared me for the "Food for Bob" program organized by Chuck Switzer which provided me with wonderful meals prepared by the members and delivered to my home for some two weeks. The meals ranged from home made soups (all of which were delicious) to dinners that often were divided into two ample dinners, to several dinners in which the provider stayed and ate with me. Who would have thought that someone would come through with a promised meal while his wife was in the hospital? Thanks Chuck for organizing this wonderful program for me. It was a wonderful experience. Thanks to all of you who brought me meals. You took good care of me.

Thanks to the "chauffeurs" who made it possible for me to make every doctor's appointment on time. You deserve special medals for helping me maneuver with a walker.

When my birthday came around during this time, many of you again expressed birthday wishes via cards, emails and phone calls. The biggest surprise came when I responded to a knock on the door only to be met by a birthday cake and gift from two of our members. What a surprise that was! I'll not forget all the attention and concern you all have expressed.

Yes, Friendship Force of Kern County is a special group. You have shown just how special you are once more. I am very grateful for all that you have done for me. For now, my recuperation continues, but know that I will be joining the group in their activities just as soon as I can. I wish each of you who thought of me, a special thanks to someone who is truly special.

Bob Laramee

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Hazle 5/2

Lyle Carter 5/10

Eileen Krauter 5/19

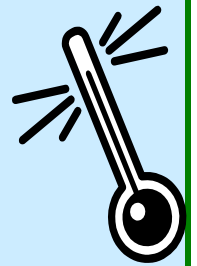
Hilde Elges 5/23



A SURPRISE ABOUT HAY RIVER!!!

by Nedra Gilfillan, ED

I went on my Weather Channel to check and see what Hay River weather is like these days. I was shocked to see it warmer than Bakersfield as I write this on May 15. It is 72 degrees, while it is 60 degrees here in Bakersfield. So you might enjoy setting your weather setting on your computer to Hay River just for fun. Who knows what other surprises we will have on this exciting exchange.



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WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP FORCE?

The Friendship Force is a non-profit organization sponsoring people to people exchanges of individuals and families to over fifty nations of the world. It brings people of the world together through home hospitality experiences that can build lasting bonds of friendship

OFFICERS 2011

President: Steve McCalley, 587-4840 Vice President, Ana Lucia Chiles, 324-2792
Secretary, Kate Himes, 599-2241 Treasurer, Marie Krause, 758-2537
Past Co-Presidents, Charles Switzer, 588-4553 and Caroline West, 325-6223

STANDING COMMITTEES

Director of Exchanges	Ben Goossen	746-4789
Membership	Susan Eagle	472-3191
Exchange Treasurer	Marie Krause	758-2537
Hospitality	Susan Eagle	472-3191
Publicity	Nancy Hazle	835-9434
Telephone	Julia Linfesty	831-0629
Newsletter	Joan Florence	808-5133
Raffle	Chuck Switzer	588-4553
Interclub	Judy Chase	854-3956
Supplies Inventory	Hildie Elges	871-3442

EXCHANGE DIRECTORS

2010 Inbound Houston, Texas, Nancy Hazle, 835-9434
2010 Inbound England, Pauline Larwood, 871-6090
2010 Outbound Cardiff UK (Global), Sandra Larson, 746-6056
2011 Outbound Hay River, Canada, Nedra Gilfillan, 871-5212