

Dear Friendship Force Members and Friends,

Since we don't have a newsletter editor right now, I am sending you a brief letter with a few news items plus a membership form, and a member list (if you have paid dues).

Dues

As it is the end of the year, those of you who still owe dues for 2012 (check your label—if it does not say 2012, you owe 2012 dues) can use the enclosed form to pay. If you paid earlier, we thank you very much. We encourage you to find a friend who would like to become a member and get them to use this form to join.

Membership List

The membership list is available to those who paid dues in 2011 or have paid their 2012 dues. So if you have not received a list, you are not a member at this time (we have a number of people on our list who are "interested" in Friendship Force but have not yet joined) or the last time you paid dues was before 2011, but we hope you will join this year.

Please check the information on this list and let us know of any corrections that are needed. Also, if you change your email address at any time in the future, it is important for you to let us know, or you won't receive email from FFNCA. You can update your information on the FFNCA Yahoo site yourself, of course, if you set up a Yahoo ID, but we still would like to keep our database up to date.

Exchange to Chile

Barbara Williams recently sent an email announcing dates for the outbound exchange to La Serena, Chile. We will be arriving there on November 25, 2012, with a visit with the club there until December 1. She is planning an optional extension to Patagonia. The dates are based on the needs of the host club as well as the practicalities of travel during that time of year to South America. We would be able to leave the day after Thanksgiving, which generally is not a bad travel day. Those opting for the extension would be able to return about a week before Christmas. Other extension possibilities can be explored for those who are not interested in Patagonia or don't have the time to spend. Barbara would like to hear from those who are interested as soon as possible. You can reach her by email at barb@bikewine.com or by phone at 703-941-6115. More details will follow, but the information now is very preliminary.

Exchange from New Zealand

We are expecting a group from Taupo, New Zealand on July 5th. Barbara Macken is the Exchange Director and is recruiting home hosts now. Please let her know if you could host. Most of the people coming are couples, with a few single women. Contact Barbara at bmacken01@rcn.com or 202-686-4748 to help with hosting or other aspects of the exchange (activities planning, day hosting, etc.). Please mark the exchange dates (July 5-12) on your new 2012 calendar so you will be available that week!

Other plans for 2012

We encourage all members to initiate activities. There is no requirement that activities originate with the FFNCA board. If you know of something that might be of interest to other FFNCA members, go ahead and send a message to the club. If you need to know how many people would be coming, ask for RSVPs; if you have sent the message, any responses will come to you, so you don't need to specify your email address. If it does not matter, just tell people when and where to show up (e.g., "I will be going to the XYZ exhibition at the National Gallery of Art on January 15th at 2:00. If you would like to join me, meet me at Afterward, we can get coffee at the"). To send a message to the email group, the address is ffnca-members@yahoogroups.com. If you would like to consult on an activity before offering it, contact me or one of the other board members.

The activities that FFNCA normally holds during the year are a dinner in the winter, a picnic in the spring, a pool party in the summer, and the brunch/annual meeting in the fall. We need people to organize each of these. If you would like to take on one of these, please let me know.

The board meets every other month, starting in January. We encourage anyone to attend. We will send a message to the email group with the meeting information.

Board Members

The officers and board members for 2012 are:

President—Claire Gesalman

Vice President—Tom Williams

Secretary—Dorothy Wicker

Treasurer—Mary Tobin

Past President—Chuck Goldfarb

Members at large—

David Fishman

Ruth Burgos-Sasscer/Donald Sasscer

Barbara Macken

Facebook

FFNCA has a Facebook page. If you have not looked it up, and you are a Facebook user, please do so and “like” our page, so you will get any updates we post. If you have any photos of Friendship Force activities that you would like to post to the Facebook page, we’d love to have them.

Phone number

Our telephone number has changed. The new number is 202-600-9989. We are now using the Google phone system, which will automatically notify the designated person of messages, an improvement over the former system.

Recruiting members

We always need new members. The best source of members seems to be word of mouth. Please keep Friendship Force in mind when you are talking to your friends and acquaintances and let them know they are welcome to join our email group to learn more and get acquainted with us.

Volunteers Needed

- Newsletter editor
- Organizers for the winter dinner, spring picnic, pool party, fall brunch
- Hosts, day hosts, activity leaders, etc. for inbound exchange (see above)
- New member/interested person mentors

FFNCA general information

Website: ffnca.org

Phone: 202-600-9989

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friendship-Force-of-the-National-Capital-Area/132809046793252>

[Note: we will be requesting a shorter URL soon]

FFNCA email group: ffnca-members@yahogroups.com (messages are moderated, to reduce volume of email; responses go to sender only).

FFNCA email address for email sent to the club: ffnca@yahoo.com

In Friendship,

Claire Gesalman, President

The Friendship Force of the National Capital Area
2012 Membership Form

- I would like to renew or become a member of Friendship Force
 I would like someone to contact me with more information.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____ FAX _____

OTHER PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (NAME, RELATIONSHIP, ETC):

ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS

Active participation in FFNCA activities/committees is not only enjoyable and rewarding for those who volunteer, but also necessary to the success of our chapter. It is only through the efforts of members like you that FFNCA can provide the unique opportunities it does to spend time with people from other countries, to experience their cultures, and to enable them to experience ours first hand.

I would like to assist with the following committees:	<input type="checkbox"/> Activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality
	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Ways & Mean	<input type="checkbox"/> Club Historian
	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Tree	
I would like to help with the following activities:	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Picnic	<input type="checkbox"/> Pool Party	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall Brunch
	<input type="checkbox"/> Incoming Exchanges (July 2012)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other as needed	
I am interested in the following activities:	<input type="checkbox"/> FFI International Conference, (Hiroshima, 10/30-11/ 3/2012)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbound exchanges (La Serena, Chile, November 2012)		

FEES FOR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Fees run from January-December and are broken down as indicated below. You also may make an optional, tax-deductible contribution to augment available funds for incoming exchanges. Please indicate your choices. Our dues are set at \$15.00, plus the FFI chartering fee (currently \$10.00 for individuals and \$17.00 for families), which could change, so the amount staying with FFNCA stays constant.

	Individual	Couple or Family
FFNCA Membership dues (required):	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Optional Contribution (tax deductible) to assist with costs of inbound exchanges:	<input type="checkbox"/> ____	<input type="checkbox"/> ____
TOTAL:	____	____

Please send a completed membership form and check made out to FFNCA to:

Claire Gesalman, FFNCA
 7404 Walton Lane
 Annandale, VA 22003