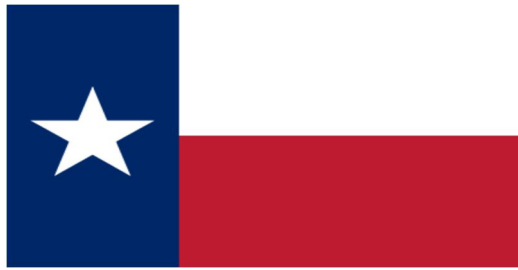




**friendship force**  
MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES

Minnesota Ambassador



## Texas Exchange was Fun

On September 14<sup>th</sup> fifteen Ambassadors from Austin and San Antonio arrived. Maybe they were trying to get out of the HOT weather in August and September in the Lone Star State. The weather cooperated here with bright and sunny days (well...maybe one day of rain showers). We had a great time hosting the Texas Ambassadors. Marilyn Scott was the Exchange Director from Texas and she had served as one of the hosts during the FF Minnesota exchange to Austin in February of 2015.

Our events started on Tuesday with a tour of the Mill City Museum. We learned about the flour milling industry making wheat of the Great Plains into flour and all the products of the General Mills and Pillsbury Companies. The highlight was a 19-minute movie of the history of Minnesota developed by

Kevin Kling. This was a fast and funny show. We progressed to the Guthrie Theater tour and then moved to the Minnehaha Falls for a lunch at the Sea Salt Restaurant. We heard a story of the famed Hiawatha, on the shores of Gitche Gumee and the laughing waters. The afternoon wound up with individual tours of the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Wednesday was a free day. Hosts were encouraged to showcase the suburban areas and small towns near their homes. Hosted dinner parties were held on Wednesday evening.

On Thursday the Ambassadors gathered at the Minnesota History Museum in Saint Paul. Exhibits featured the Hmong refugees and the Greatest Generation. We toured the Saint Paul Cathedral and learned about the largest home in Saint Paul, the James J. Hill mansion. Our day ended with a farewell dinner at Mai Village in Saint Paul.

The Ambassadors departed by bus for the next leg of their exchange on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> with the Friendship Force club in Des Moines, Iowa.

Submitted by:

Ken Scherber, Exchange Director

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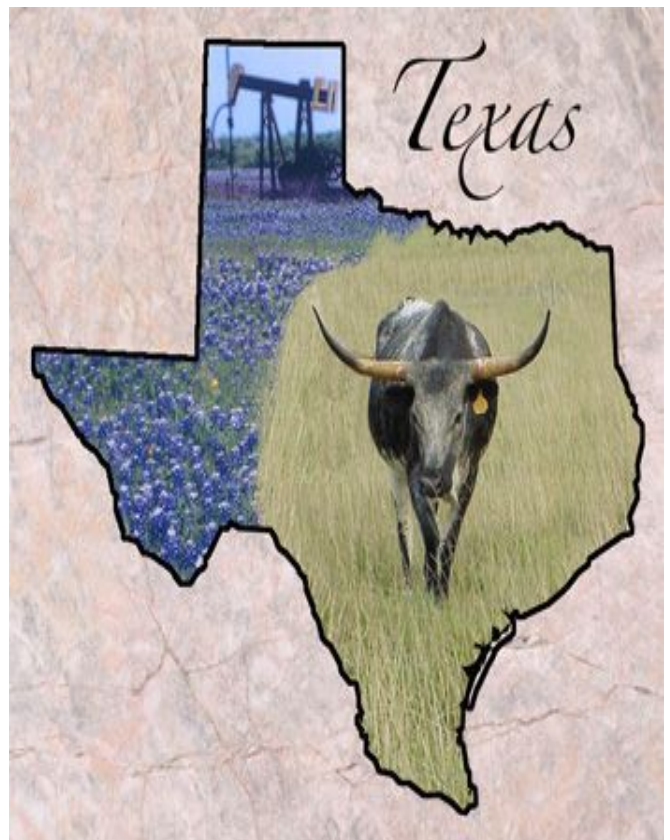
**Texas: It's like a whole other country!**



**FF Minnesota's Director for the Texas Exchange, Ken Scherber, with Sally Scott of Austin. Sally was hosted by J.C. Bosse. The photo was taken at a dinner hosted by Evelyn and Chuck Pallas.**



**Sam and Marge Runnako at the farewell party for our Texas ambassadors at Mai Village. Sam and Marge served as hosts for the exchange.**





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## Travel Down Under is a Go March 2016 International Exchange

FF MN/TC is pleased to be offering a two-week international exchange in 2016 to New Zealand and Australia. From March 5 to March 12 the Horowhenua, New Zealand FF club will serve as our hosts and from March 12 to 19 we will be hosted by North Moreton Australia FF club. As of November 1, we have 15 Ambassadors signed up, including four from other Midwest FF clubs. We are pleased that three of our newest Minnesota club members have signed up for this trip. There is room for 20, so sign up now if you are interested. Many of the Ambassadors are also touring the South Island before we begin the exchange and some will take a post trip to Sydney. This promises to be the trip of a lifetime!

Co-Exchange Directors

Blaine McCutchan and Rita Mays

For more information contact [ritamnffi@yahoo.com](mailto:ritamnffi@yahoo.com)



### Report from Barb Emer, Exchange Coordinator

Exchange plans for 2016 include:

...Outgoing domestic exchange plans to Santa Barbara, January 20-February 1

...Outgoing International exchange to New Zealand and Australia in March

...Incoming International exchange with Vietnam in June or July





## In Memory of Roger K. “BUD” Leak

A long-time Friendship Force member, Roger K. “Bud” Leak, passed away on August 1, 2015. He is greatly missed by his wife, Donna, and family.

Bud served in the Marine Corp during World War II and graduated from Augsburg College. He became a teacher and also coached baseball and hockey. He spent most of his teaching career at the Minnetonka schools. He was greatly admired by his students. He and Donna were also involved in long blade skating for many years.

Bud was gracious, friendly, and a lot of fun. He will be missed by all of us in our Friendship Force club. His huge funeral was held in Minnetonka on August 6, 2015.



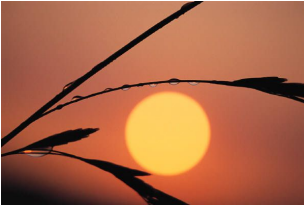
## In Memory of Roger Rydberg

Roger Rydberg, age 77 years, died on September 3, 2015. He is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Carole, and by 5 children and 4 stepchildren. Roger was an Eagle Scout, a gymnast, an Air Force Reservist, a graduate of North High School and University of Minnesota. He retired from General Mills and was a long time member of Minnesota Futurists, the YMCA, and the Friendship Force of Minnesota. His tremendous love of all children meant a ready supply of corny jokes and a life dedicated to peace, justice, a sustainable planet and progressive politics.

### **News from Friendship Force International**

Friendship Force International has announced the appointment of Jeremi Snook as the sixth President and CEO, effective November 9, 2015. Jeremi has a Master’s degree in Business Administration and has experience working as a senior executive in the non-profit sector as well as experience starting a small business that earned him and his partner the Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies award. His work experience includes the United Way and most recently as Chief Operating Officer with the Spaulding Youth Center in Northfield, New Hampshire.

The building in Atlanta, which currently houses the FFI office, is being converted into a hotel so the office is relocating. The Board of Directors is acquiring a new website/data management system, which will necessitate months of installation and data re-entry over the October-March 2016 period. The new data management costs \$40,000 and FFI has asked for donations. Our club sent a \$250 donation in October to help assist in updating their data management system.



## Outgoing Exchange to Santa Barbara

January 20-February 1, 2016

Joyce Sharp, Exchange Director

There are still some seats remaining for this exchange. I have reopened this exchange to the Des Moines club so if you are interested, please contact me NOW.

It was necessary that we make some changes in the itinerary of our optional add-on bus trip. We will now be flying to San Francisco, stay there for 3 nights, board a small bus and head south to Santa Barbara for 3 nights while stopping at San Simeon, Monterey, etc., and arriving in Santa Barbara on the 26th. Our exchange there will be for 6 nights. We will return home on February 1.

You may be able to use your mileage credit or a credit card for the airfare. Contact me for more information about that. Right now the estimated costs are:

Exchange only at Santa Barbara (not including air) --- \$ 270

Total estimated package including RT air, hotel in SFO, bus trip, and exchange in Santa Barbara--- \$1,630

Send application and \$700 down payment for total package (\$125 down payment for SB only) to Joyce Sharp, 2325 Wildwood Trail, Minnetonka, MN.

If you have any questions, please call Joyce at 952 544 9330 or email at [Sharp\\_330@msn.com](mailto:Sharp_330@msn.com)

## **Nominations in Process for Board and Committee Positions for 2016**

Nominations will also be taken at our Annual Meeting of December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**President: Open: Imagine Yourself in this Position**

**Vice President: Rita Mays**

**Secretary: Open: Imagine Yourself in this Position**

**Exchange Committee Chair: Barb Emer**

**Communications Committee Chair: Marge Runnakko, Webmaster**

**Newsletter Editor: Nellie Hofmeister**

**Historian: Patricia Robinette**

**Membership Committee: Ben (Carol) Szyplinski, Greg McAndrews**

**Social Activity Committee Members: Dagmar Runyon, Sheryl Grover**

**Vote on December 6<sup>th</sup>**

## Upcoming Club Activities



**Sunday, November 15, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.** Join the FF club for a Danish breakfast of Aebleskive pancakes and buy crafts at a Holiday Market, Danish American Center, 3030 West River Parkway South, Minneapolis 55406. The Holiday Market is open from 9:30-12:30 p.m. Call Dagmar Runyon to let her know you are attending at 651-698-7956 by November 13.



**Saturday, January 9, 2016, at 10:30 a.m.** We will tour the current exhibit at the American Swedish Institute: A Nordic Christmas: Myths, Legends, & Fairytales. Later we will have lunch at the Institute's Fika Restaurant, 2600 Park Avenue South, Minneapolis. If we have 10 individuals sign up by our Holiday Party of December 6 we will reserve a special room at Fika. Admission to museum is \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors. Call Dagmar Runyon for a reservation or for information at 651-698-7956.

**Our annual meeting and potluck holiday party will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 12:30 p.m. at Gordon and Mary Elscott's party room of the Apple Point Condominiums, 8100 Russell Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55431. We will be awarding the Don Wolter Service Award to the outstanding volunteer of the year, along with electing new Board of Director members and Committee Chairs.**

**Bring a covered dish to share. Coffee and water provided along with dishes and utensils. The club does not provide alcoholic beverages, but you are free to bring the beverage of your choice.**

## Potluck Holiday Party and Annual Meeting



### **Announcement from Friendship Force International**

The World Conference will be held in Marrakesh, Morocco from September 16-29, 2016.

# FRIENDSHIP FORCE MINNESOTA 2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Ptr Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Work/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Partner/Home/Work/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

New Member Dues: Single \$34; Family \$48\* **Renewal deadline is January 1, 2016. Membership badges may be ordered with this application at \$15 per badge.**

**Voluntary Additional Contributions - Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ THANK YOU!**

Name Badge Format \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Badges \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Friendship Force MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES; mail check and form to: Ken Scherber, 874 Parkview Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55117**

Please answer these questions (add additional sheet if necessary)

How did you learn about the Friendship Force? \_\_\_\_\_

What languages do you speak other than English? \_\_\_\_\_

What countries would you like to visit on an exchange? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate a club committee you would like to help with or learn about? Circle as many as you like:

**Leadership Publicity Programs Social Newsletter Archives Website Recruiting**

Do you have special skills, special training, or experience can you share with the club?

List other organizations you belong to that may have prospective members for the Friendship Force.

Feel free to contact any board member with comments and suggestions. See our website at [www.friendshipforcetwincities.org](http://www.friendshipforcetwincities.org). Use **Contact Us** to reach any board member by email.