



friendship force
MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES

Vietnam Exchange

Bridging the Great Divide



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Bring the World
to Your
Doorstep



Club member, Mike Shea is conversing with Le Hoang Minh. Pham Thu Linh served as the translator.



Barb Emer, Exchange Director for FF Minnesota is jointly cutting the welcome cake with Phan Thu Linh, Exchange Director and translator for Vietnamese USA-Society.



Left to Right: Pham Thu Linh, Tran Thi Lan Anh, and Phan Thi Sao Mai dressed in traditional Vietnamese dress.

Welcome in Vietnamese





Left to Right: Tran Thi Lan Anh, Cao Minh Huong, Vu Duc Hanh, President of Minneapolis City Council, Barbara Johnson, Le Hoang Minh, Pham Thu Linh, and Pham Thi Sao Mai

Visit from Vietnam-US Society

Six Vietnamese ambassadors arrived on June 8, tired after their long flights, but happy to be here. The following day we saw some of the highlights of Minneapolis including a visit to the Minneapolis City Hall with the Council President. Later that day, we had a potluck picnic at Minnehaha Falls with a nice turnout of club members to welcome them. Other touring events and site seeing continued into the following days. On Monday we said good-bye to our new friends as they headed to Washington D.C. for their next adventure.

A big thanks you to all who were involved in helping to make this exchange a success. An even bigger thank you to the home hosts: Willis and Martha Unke, Ken Scherber and Rosie Foreman, and Dagmar Runyon. You all went above and beyond.

Barb Emer, FF Minnesota Exchange Director



In Remembrance of
Ruby Van Horn

Ruby Van Horn, age 88, died on June 17, 2016. Ruby was a member of the Friendship Force Minnesota club and traveled to all seven continents. Ruby was a member of the Traveler's Century Club for those who have traveled to more than 100 countries. Her adventurous spirit resulted in her learning to swim and take Cessna 150 flying lessons at the age of fifty years. Her husband, Dean Van Horn died in 2010 and Ruby remained in the family home until moving to the Sunrise Assisted Living and Memory Care of Golden Valley in 2015.



Hamburgers at Lord Fletcher's

Join other club members on August 1 at 11:30 a.m.

for hamburgers on the deck of Lord Fletcher's

3746 Sunset Drive

Spring Park, MN 55384

Successful Recruitment Event

I want to extend my thanks to club members: Rita Mays, Blaine McCuthan, Greg McAndrews, Barbara Emer, Ken Scherber, Rosie Foreman, Anne Shea, Marge Runnako, Barbara and Don Wallace, Doreen Kloth who assisting in making our June 18 travel discussion recruitment event at the Ramsey County Library in Roseville a huge success. We welcome the following new members:

Gayle Mangan, Mike Tikkanen, Kristina Redini, Audrye Boyle, John Christensen, Max and Carole Harris

Please reach out and say hello to these new members at our next club events. Other new members in 2016 include: James Brown, Lois Langholz, Janice Lanyk, Mary Montagne, Charlane Strand, Mailyynn Reid, Vicki Palmer, Elise Davis, Patti Stuhlman, James Rafferty, and Charlotte Green. Recent renewals include: Donna Leak, Pat Helin, Peter Nord, and Janet Korteum.

In Friendship,

Louise Anderson, President

The Santa Barbarites Are Coming!



Yes, you read that correctly. When I was asked to write an article for the newsletter regarding the Santa Barbara exchange, I thought I would make the heading: The Santa Barbarians are coming! Something like I wrote earlier about the "Vietnamese are coming". Immediately I thought, surely that is not correct. So I googled, what do you call residents of Santa Barbara"? The only answer I could find was Barbarities; however, something tells me that is not correct either. My I extend my apologies to the citizens of Santa Barbara. Guess we will have to wait until they arrive to learn the truth.

Last January the Santa Barbara club graciously hosted our club and now we welcome their club on Wednesday, September 7. Our planning committee has met and is working hard at planning exciting events. At this point we do not have all the information in terms of the number coming or their arrival time, so **SAVE THESE DATES:**

Welcome event will be either Wednesday September 7 or Thursday, September 8

The Farewell party will be held on Monday, September 12

Club members are welcome to join us in events so watch our website for detailed information. Some events may require reservations. We especially welcome our new members. It is a great way to get involved and to meet other club members. Even coming along with the group for the day or part of day, when showing off our cities is always fun, and way to learn how exchanges work.

We will be calling for hosts so please seriously consider this. If you have the Ambassadors stay in your home, and you are unable to be with your guests all day, our day hosts will be available to fill in for you. I know some club members have been to the Mill City Museum or the Guthrie Theater about twenty times so do not hesitate to ask for help.

As you may recall, our club received a generous donation from a club member this past year, which is to be used to enhance our exchanges. As a result, home or day hosts will be compensated for lunches, the farewell event, and for admissions to museums. Additionally, home hosts do not need to contribute food to our potluck welcome party. So again, if called, please step up. If you participated in the outgoing exchange to Santa Barbara, it is expected you will host in your home.

For further information or questions, contact the Co-Exchange Directors:

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Many thanks to the planning committee members: Anne Shea, Cindy Cauble, Doreen Kloth, Jean Eagan, Joyce Sharp, Marge Runnakko, Nellie Hofmeister and Valerie Hessburg.

Submitted by Barb Emer