I recently read a book raising my curiosity about psychics and numerology, so forgive me for sharing a bit of what I learned. The number 2020 is believed to have great significance as this number will lead us all to being more compassionate to the plight of others (I sure hope our government is listening). As I understand it, the number two represents, among other things, concepts of service and duty, adaptability and diplomacy, and the need to serve your life purpose, while the number zero represents continuing cycles, oneness/wholeness, and developing one’s spiritual side. That the numbers two and zero appear twice in 2020 amplifies each number’s influence.

Setting aside any judgment about psychics and numerology, who among us would oppose the belief that 2020 (or any year) is a year to display compassion, diplomacy, consideration and adaptability as you passionately serve others in your day-to-day life? And, who does not want to take a balanced, harmonious and peaceful stance in all areas of your life, yet stand strong in your personal convictions and act accordingly? http://sacredscribesangelsnumbers.blogspot.com

So, whether or not you believe angels are guiding you, or destiny is meting out your fate, or simply find yourself drawn to helping Friends fulfill its mission, I hope that 2020 will result in your greater engagement with our Friends community. There are service opportunities awaiting you to help steward the organization as a board member (please contact nominating chair Linda Ferri at fictreasurer@yahoo.com). There are service opportunities aplenty with our daily programs (icfriends@ucsd.edu), Resale Shop (shopFIC@mail.ucsd.edu), Visit an American Home (hostfic@mail.ucsd.edu), Newsletter (contact editorFIC@mail.ucsd.edu), or special events (PresFIC@ucsd.edu).

Additionally, Friends events offer abundant opportunities for you to exhibit your compassion and diplomacy while helping others. Upcoming events include Friends-sponsored International Café on Friday, January 17, 2020, noon, at the Great Hall at I-House; Friends Dinner Social: Thailand on Saturday, February 1, 2020, and Friends Ethnic Dinner: Indonesia, Saturday, February 29, 2020. And since I started with numeric symbolism, I shall end noting that holding an event on a leap year is particularly auspicious, as the numbers provide an extra opportunity for compassion, teaching, and building relationships.

May the numbers, or your enjoyment in all things Friends guide your calendar.

Wishing you a year filled with energy and compassion,

Katya
Katya Newmark
PresFIC@ucsd.edu

Mark These Dates

International Café
Friday, January 17

Friends Dinner Social
Saturday, February 1

Ethnic Dinner
Saturday, February 29
**Holiday Celebrations**

Barbara Fitzsimmons and Georgia Crowne check in Nori Faer at the December 2 Holiday lunch

Global Education staff members Debi Gianni and Victoria Gerginis-Mellos at Holiday lunch, a mixer for Global Education staff and Friends

Three of the many stuffed animas made by Lynn Jahn and Wednesday Coffee participants to be presented by Santa to the children at Mommy/Daddy and Me Wednesday Coffee itself celebrated the holidays by making Christmas ornaments

**Friday Chat**

Pleased to hear from one of the former participants of Friday Chat, program chair Cindy Tozer shares this Thanksgiving note that points to the feeling of belonging that our international visitors experience as they attend Friends activities.—Ed.

Dear Cindy,

How are you? I’m Junko from Japan. I’ve not seen (emailed) you for a long time. I hope you are doing well. And I suppose you are busy preparing Thanksgiving dishes today.

I’m doing well. The other day, I found apples which are not sweet, but good for cooking, at a supermarket. Apples reminded me of Thanksgiving holidays we don’t have in Japan. I wanted to cook something with apples, so I bought some of them. I baked an apple cake. I enjoyed the aroma of apples spreading in my kitchen and apple flavor.

I also hope Friday Chat group and tennis group are going well as they are wonderful communities for participants.

Have a nice holiday, Junko Takemasa

---

**January**

Jan.: Yoga class schedule to be determined

Jan. 27: Tai Chi, 2:00-3:00; please confirm

Jan. 7: Resale Shop reopens: Tues.-Friday, 10:00-1:30

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28: Gus’ Table, 10:00-Noon

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28: FIC Craft Circle, 1:00-3:00

Jan. 8, 15: Family Orientation, 9:15

Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29: Wednesday Coffee, 10:00-Noon

Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29: Mommy/Daddy & Me, 1:45-2:45

Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30: Everyday English, 10:00-11:30

Jan. 9: Cooking Class, 9:00-Noon

Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31: Friday Chat, 10:00-Noon

Jan. 14: Friends Board Meeting, 10:00

Jan. 17: Friday International Café, Noon-1:30

Jan. 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Turkish Treasures
—Text and photos by Katya Newmark

December’s Friends Dinner Social, Treasures of Turkey, had a definitive Turkish vibe, augmented by tabletop décor featuring red napkins with a hanging white crescent and star (representing the Turkish flag) and intricately-cut, illuminated paper lanterns.

The evening began with a game of bingo that led people to discover fun facts about Turkey—e.g. that the Ottoman empire is responsible for popularizing tulips; Turkey has the highest per capita consumption of tea in the world at 10 cups/day; that our jelly beans originated from the confection lokum (Turkish delight). One of our young enterprising guests, Aksel de Callafon, filled in all 49 boxes, and of course was awarded a prize, as was the adult winner, Ilene Benkle, with an impressive 36 boxes.

We enjoyed a full, multi-course Turkish feast. Given Turks’ penchant for sweets, dessert featured a trio of pistachio baklava; house-made halva by Chef Gerardo; and cevizli kuru kayisi tatlisi (baked dried apricots with walnuts). With so many natives, I confess I was greatly relieved when the meal received a resounding seal of approval and praise. And, the non-alcoholic beverage ayran (a yogurt drink) gained some new converts.

Local folk dancers, Group Anatolia, performed traditional Turkish dances in beautiful regional costumes, providing the audience with information about the dances and an opportunity to play with kasik spoons and dance. A good time was had by everyone.

Our next Friends Dinner Social, featuring Thailand, takes place on Saturday, February 1, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., at Village 15 meeting rooms. Please make your reservations as soon as possible.

Josephine Chu, Jittra Jootar, and Bahrat Raghunathan

Arzu Karaer and Ulas Ozkurede. Wrote Arzu, our contact for Group Anatolia: “We had an amazing night and really enjoyed dancing at this wonderful event. I had a wonderful time talking to the guests. The food was very delicious. It was a very special evening for all of us. Thanks for inviting us.”

International Friday Café

On Friday, January 17, Friends of the International Center will sponsor the weekly International Café that, to quote its website, “brings people together from around the world in a relaxed, social environment with international culture, cuisine, music, and friendly conversation.”

Friday Cafés are held from noon until 1:30 p.m. at I-House’s Great Hall, with cost for the lunch remaining at a low $5 per person. Come enjoy the cuisine of Singapore, learn about the culture of this multi-ethnic city-state, and cheer on Friends Linda Ferri and husband Norbert Kubilus, Barbara Fitzsimmons, Elisabeth Marti, Katya Newmark, and Eileen Tozer, who have volunteered to help with food service.

Make Your Reservations:
Friends Dinner Social: Thailand
Saturday, February 1, 2020, 6:00 p.m., Village 15
https://fdsthailand2020@eventbrite.com
Reservations due by Friday, January 27
Another Scholarship Fundraising Success, with an Assist from Papua New Guinea!

—by Liz Fong Wills with photos by Katya Newmark

Impressions & Thanks

- The Papua New Guinea-themed event was truly exceptional. The intriguing motif was so well carried out in all aspects, beginning with the fascinating photos, which we enjoyed with our drinks, right down to the exotic masks decorating the centerpieces during dinner. The food surpassed our expectations; Katya, Liz, and the caterers captured the island flavors, giving diners a delightful overview of PNG cuisine. Plus, the Australian chardonnay was a perfect choice to accompany the food from that distant island.

- The presentations were both so well done. Beverly French’s talk about her research in the waters around Moorea set the tone for learning about the study of ocean environments. Her informative and thoroughly professional talk made us all happy to be part of the mission of the Friends of the International Center.

- Chris always gives fascinating travelogues, but he outdid himself this time. His title “Unexplored New Guinea” was well chosen. What a privilege to follow his photos and insights into such a remote part of the world. He and Liz truly are explorers!

- Asoka and I send our thanks to you and all those who made the evening such a success! — Janine Mendi

- Thank you for the Papua New Guinea Ethnic Dinner. Most of the PNG-inspired dishes were new to me and they were all delicious. I would also like to thank Prof. Chris Wills and Beverly French for taking us to the spectacular natural wonders of PNG and French Polynesia. — Seyhan Karakulak

- Thank you Liz and Chris for your recent and prior travels to Papua New Guinea making you veritable experts above and beyond Chris’ scientific work on the island’s culture, geography, tribes, etc. Thank you for the articles written for the Newsletter prior to your departure, for your promotion efforts, for buying, chilling, and transporting the wine, and for cultivating such loyal fans that they continue to come out to hear your stories. — Katya Newmark

- Thanks to you all, and to everybody who provided feedback! I was delighted to have played a small part in a wonderful and beautifully coordinated evening! Katya, your ability to coordinate everybody’s contribution and to make everything work seamlessly is unparalleled! — Chris Wills

Welcoming the guests to the latest Friends fundraising Ethnic Dinner were Barbara Fitzsimmons and Elisabeth Marti with nametags prepared by Georgina Sham, who also did the seating assignments and designed the dinner program. Candace Kohl performed the impressive feat of turning the Great Hall into a micro tropical rainforest. Ruth Newmark arranged for us to hear the recipient of the 2018 Friends Carol & Stuart Smith Scholarship, Beverly French, a Ph.D. student at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, who spoke to us about her research, and showed underwater videos on the ecology of coral reefs in French Polynesia. Katya Newmark took care of everything else (coordination with venue, catering, bartender, reservations, new parking instructions, menu selection, goodie bags, table decorations, borrowing enough PNG artifacts from Candace Kohl, Christa McReynolds and us to make the place resemble a tiny museum—in other words, taking command in her usual amazing way. My husband, Chris [Prof. Christopher Wills], loves teaching, and he relished the opportunity to share his photos and tell the audience about New Guinea’s people, fish, insects, birds, and history.

The staple food in Papua New Guinea is sago, known as saksak in the Sepik River area and kaukau in
Indonesia is a vast archipelago of more than 17,500 islands, spread over an area as wide as the continental United States. It encompasses the most geologically active parts of the Pacific’s vast “ring of fire,” and is home to 127 active volcanoes. Its people are incredibly diverse, Muslim, Christian and animist, and some have lived there for at least 50,000 years. Indeed, the islands of Indonesia have been on the path of major migrations of close relatives of our species for almost two million years.

My wife, Liz, and I have taken seven trips to this complex country, the most recent just last year. In my talk I will tell you some of the amazing stories about the people and creatures that we have met there, and the places that we have seen. We will explore some little-known areas of the islands of Sulawesi, Borneo, Rinca, Flores, Ambon, Waigeo, and Batanta, along with the region known as West Papua, the Indonesian part of New Guinea.

We will meet some birds that have played a central role in the theory of evolution, and I will use...
My name is **Yvonne Lyu**, and I am from China. I moved to San Diego in September 2019 with my husband, who is a post-doc researcher in urban economics at UCSD. Prior to coming here, I had been living in London, while my husband was doing his Ph.D. there. Compared to my dependent life in London, my current life has become more colorful and joyful, ever since I was introduced to Friends of the International Center (FIC) at a J-2 Family Orientation in October.*

Three years ago, I quit my job in China as a program officer at a university in Shanghai to join my husband in London. My London life as a dependent didn’t go well, especially in the first year. I remember that I always felt nervous and was shy to communicate with others, as I was not confident with my English. I didn’t know much about British culture, and sometimes I did things stupidly, which made me feel embarrassed. For a long time, I just stayed at home, without any friends. Sometimes I felt so frustrated that I questioned whether quitting my job and leaving my home country had been a wise choice. But no one could help me. Not even my husband could completely understand my situation. It took me a very long time to get used to my dependent life in the UK.

Based on my experience in England, I felt a bit worried when I first arrived in San Diego. I thought it would not be that easy to adapt to the new environment, that is until I joined our FIC family. I call it family, as FIC is like a real family. Everyone is so welcoming and helpful, which makes me feel at home.

The volunteers always listen carefully to us internationals and encourage us to speak English. We make friends here, and share our experiences with those in similar situations. Every week, we have diverse-themed activities, providing us with an opportunity to learn about American culture and improve our English. I have not even mentioned the Friends Resale Shop and [Oceanids] Kitchen Exchange, which help to reduce our economic burden.

I have been happily surprised, because there was no organization offering such opportunities when I was in London. I am so grateful that my life here has gotten much easier due to our Friends of the International Center family.

*The J-2 Visa is a non-immigrant visa issued to spouses and dependents of J-1 exchange visitors who accompany or later join the J-1 visa holder in the United States.—Ed.*
Visit an American Home

Elisabeth Marti, chair of the Friends Visit an American Home, continues to match international newcomers with San Diego hosts, and from feedback from host and guest alike, the program is a success. People often share photos; seen here is one from an evening at the home of David and Claire Guggenheim with Marina Bañuls Mirete and Pablo Catalan from Spain.

Summing up the event, David Guggenheim wrote: “We had a very nice visit and dinner last night with Marina and her husband Pablo. Each of us made an appetizer [which we enjoyed] along with sherry in the sun-room. Then we moved to the dining room for the rest of the meal, which included my famous cheese soufflé. We enjoyed meeting them (recently married and both Drs.) and showing them some of our art. All in all, a very satisfying evening.” In subsequent correspondence, David added that in the future he and Claire would gladly host another couple.

In a follow-up note to Elisabeth, Marina wrote: “We had a great time with David and Claire Guggenheim. They were super nice with us, and prepare such a good meal.” Responding to the question what brought them to UCSD, Marina clarified: “We are doctors, Pablo is doing research in the Physiology Department, and I am looking for a job now, maybe some research in the UCSD too. Let’s see!”

To learn more about Visit an American Home, contact Elisabeth Marti at hostFIC@ucsd.edu.

Cooking Program

Our three fall cooking classes experienced significant participant turnover and we observed that fewer and fewer attendees cook and those that do generally cook a limited number of their native dishes, which they make frequently. They do, however, like to eat and for the most part enjoy being introduced to new dishes.

The November class, with our traditional Thanksgiving holiday menu, was filled extremely quickly. Participants learned how to season a turkey by stuffing it with onions, lemons, rosemary and thyme; how to peel and use sweet potatoes; how to make a roux, the basis for many sauces; how to make and crimp piecrust, and more. The hands-on lessons are inspirational and fun.

Commented Hyejin Kim: “It was my first time cooking and having Thanksgiving dishes, and I liked it! All the foods were really good. I think I’ll try to cook some of these for Thanksgiving dinner. I appreciate having the opportunity to experience American tradition.”

The December cooking class will feature holiday appetizers and cookies. The January class will highlight pasta.

Craft Circle
—by Jennie Chin

Happily everything is going well at Tuesday’s Craft Circle and the students continue to enjoy the different sewing projects that Lynn Jahn has been able to provide.

What makes the sewing so worthwhile is how quickly the participants are able to complete a project with a minimum of learning. Once they have mastered the basics, moving forward is much easier. The great thing about sewing, like so many other crafts, is how our participants overcome whatever language barrier there might have been. And while there is a glitch here and there, the overall experience proves to be very positive. It is rewarding for both the participant and volunteer to see the sense of confidence build, to see participants begin to do more exploring outside the “box,” both craft-wise and beyond.
Mid-Year Study Abroad Scholarships
—by Ruth Newmark

After reading and evaluating study-abroad scholarship applications individually, the Friends Scholarship Committee met on October 22, 2019 to come to a decision as to which of the fall undergraduate applicants we wished to award with either a Friends or a General Scholarship. No matter the number of applicants (small at this round), the selection remains difficult, as demand continues to outweigh available funds. Of course, eligibility plays a significant factor, and while a number of students had a GPA greater than 3.3, wrote a persuasive essay, had a nice letter of support, many would not be returning to campus—one of the Friends crucial requirements.

After careful discussion, the Committee’s consensus was to offer $1,500 scholarships each to:

• Airi Gonzalez, a Muir College student majoring in Mathematics, who will enroll in a UC Education Abroad Program at the International Christian University, with the goal of taking courses that will count towards her minor in Japanese Studies.
  Responding to the offer, Airi (who grew up in a multicultural American, Mexican, and Japanese household) wrote: “I am honored to be a recipient of the Friends of the International Center Scholarship, which will allow me to pursue my education abroad in Japan. I am deeply appreciative of the support in my academics and will work hard toward my goals to serve in the profession.”

• Hannah Wangsa, a Thurgood Marshall College student majoring in Human Developmental Sciences, with a 3.9 GPA, planned to attend Psychology of Neurosciences courses offered through UCEAP at Maastricht University in the Netherlands.
  Hanna’s situation proved complicated, as explained in this sensitive note: “I cannot express enough gratitude to you and everyone else at the Friends of the International Center for your support on my journey to go abroad through this scholarship. Currently, I am trying to finalize my decision to take part in the program at Maastricht this spring quarter or find an alternative program during the fall of 2020, due to academic, personal, and financial reasons.”

  Further deliberation among Committee members led to the decision to keep the scholarship in reserve for Hannah, in the hope that she would be able to study abroad in fall 2020.

  And, as we hoped, by late November we heard from Hannah that she had decided to attend Utrecht University. “Thank you so much for your patience as I figured out which study abroad program would be the best fit for me. The Utrecht program appealed to me because of its wide range of fascinating and unique course offerings that satisfy my major and minor requirements, as well as the opportunity to be immersed in Dutch culture. I plan on taking two Psychology courses, one Linguistics course, and one Humanities/Fine Arts course, the latter to fulfill a Marshall College general education upper division disciplinary breadth requirement.”

  There being funds available for four more study abroad scholarships (with different eligibility requirements and funded through Study Abroad, UC San Diego), the Scholarship Committee recommended that Jasmin Hernandez Santa Cruz, Matthew Maga, Alex Morrow, and Airin Wu each be offered a General Scholarship.

  Members of the Friends Scholarship Committee were: Joan Adamo, Kim Burton, Candace Kohl, Kathleen Micheletti, Katya Newmark, with myself, Ruth Newmark, as chair.

  We regretted that the FedExed applications did not reach Jeri Abernathy in time to participate in the selection process. Despite having relocated to the state of Washington, Jeri has retained her interest in the Friends scholarship program and has continued to play a valuable role on the Committee. We also missed Louise Kauffman and Barbara Fitzsimmons, who were traveling.
Medical Study in Mumbai

This summer, I conducted research and gained clinical experience shadowing at Hinduja Hospital & Clinical Laboratories in Mumbai, India. The Hinduja Laboratory is a reference laboratory attached to a very large private hospital with a sizeable and diverse tuberculosis (TB) population. Although it is a private hospital, it also runs as a philanthropy and serves the city of Mumbai as well as the greater area. Despite India’s huge population, wealth inequalities, and the large proportion struggling in the face of poverty, over half of India’s TB patients seek care in the private sector.

This fact lends to the volume and diversity of both patients and clinical samples seen at Hinduja. I was amazed at what the microbiology lab receives each day. Not only do they receive samples from patients at Hinduja Hospital, but also all sorts of other health facilities around Mumbai, including MSF. The lab receives samples with an assortment of suspected infections—TB, H1N1, C. Diff, CMV—and has different workflows dependent on the sample type and what the doctor orders. The lab runs six days a week and phones in the lab are constantly ringing as people call in asking about results. More than just my research, I gained insight into laboratory research in a high disease burden setting.

My first week at the lab, I gained an understanding of the workflow and different diagnostic options when dealing with a clinical sample from a patient suspected of TB through shadowing different laboratory personnel. The workflow was dependent on the doctor’s orders, based on the individual needs and condition of their patient. In general, though, a sample would be subjected to acid fast bacilli (AFB) staining, preparation of a MGIT 960 culture, and a type of rapid diagnostic technology. Gene Xpert was the most commonly run rapid test, as it identifies TB as well as resistance to the first line drug rifampicin within a couple of hours. Generally, if rifampicin resistance was detected, then either pyrosequencing or line probe assays (LPAs) would be ordered to profile the mycobacterium’s resistance to more first line and second line drugs.

The subsequent weeks, I worked on my research project as well as shadowed in the hospital. In short, the objective of this study was to evaluate the performance of LPA platforms in determining first- and second-line drug-resistance of extrapulmonary clinical specimens through retrospective review of diagnostic records and to profile the epidemiology of the mutant bugs.

LPA assays involve three steps: DNA extraction from clinical specimens or cultured material, PCR amplification of predefined gene regions, and reverse hybridization of the PCR products with standard, immobilized probes for gene mutations associated with resistance. This diagnostic platform has been well-profiled for pulmonary samples and is endorsed by the WHO for them. However, research into LPAs performance on extrapulmonary samples lags behind. Culture and DST in liquid or solid media remain the gold standard for diagnosis of extrapulmonary TB. Culture-based methods, though, take weeks to months of incubation, during which the disease may progress and the bug mutate, and require more developed laboratory capacity to ensure proper biosafety conditions. As drug resistance continues to be a public

Nolan Bartnick
Aerospace Engineering major
health crisis, the use of rapid molecular tests to diagnose TB and detect drug resistance is increasing.

The number of new cases of TB reported to WHO has been increasing since 2013, largely due to increased reporting of detected cases by the private sector in India, which accounts for about a quarter of the TB case burden. It is estimated that 15-20% of all TB is extrapulmonary. Since clinical presentation of extrapulmonary TB is so diverse, it is often misdiagnosed, leading to improper and delayed treatment. Moreover, the emergence of severe forms of drug resistance has complicated the treatment of all types of TB.

‘Endometrium.’ ‘Cystic lesions from cerebellum.’ ‘Gluteal abscess.’ ‘Fluid from knee.’ ‘Placenta.’ ‘Collection around heel.’ As I sifted through diagnostic registers, I learned about the extent of variability of site of infection and how diverse TB’s course can be. Moreover, I saw just how prevalent drug resistance is in Mumbai.

To supplement my research, I shadowed a pulmonologist with a special interest in extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis and rounded with the infectious disease team in the hospital. I saw how differently the differential diagnosis unfolds here. Infertility? Think TB of the fallopian tubes. Pleural effusion? Again, think TB. Not sure what could be causing the clinical manifestations? Probably TB.

Through my research and time in the hospital, I saw many of the intricacies, differences, and some of the challenges that come with being a healthcare provider and being a researcher here. Serving the greater population of Mumbai, people’s financial constraints play a major role since most patients are paying out-of-pocket. I see doctors working to get patients on studies to help decrease the patient’s financial burden. Here, patients carry their own medical records (they carry huge bags with all notes, X-rays, CT-scans, etc.), so physicians must sift through all the records and decipher other doctor’s handwritten notes from other health institutions. Moreover, I have seen cases where patients have lost their records, and thus the doctor must treat the patient blind to history of prior infections, drug regimens, etc.

I have also gotten to experience some of the joys and excitement of working here. To name a few—the diagnostics technologies are incredible, and the lab handles such a large volume of samples. Doctors treat such a diversity of infections that always keep you on your toes. I have learned that a huge part of infectious disease is also learning when not to treat. The support from and focus on family is very evident and heartwarming, as rarely does just the patient come into the room. Chai breaks are frequent between monsoon showers.

I am so grateful for this immersive experience and insight into TB diagnostics and treatment, and to all the people who have taught me and inspired me during my time at Hinduja. I gained insight into how I can see my career as a physician-scientist in global health that I would not have gotten otherwise. Thank you, FIC, for making this experience possible.

Aislinn McMillan
School of Medicine student with concentration in Global Health

Friends of the International Center Scholarship Report
To say that I am grateful would be a complete understatement. The Friends of the International Center Scholarship has enabled me to have the best experiences of my life and provided me with a piece of the sublime. I have to say that because of these experiences my outlook on life has broadened and has given me assurance on what I would like to continue to do as I move forward in my career. I am confident that every decision I make will be guided by these experiences.

I hope that like me, you continue to influence the life of many more people who aspire to study abroad.

Ruben Hernandez
Human biology major

The picture on the right is in Calton Hill, Edinburgh. From there you can capture most of the beautiful city of Edinburgh.
With Gratitude

It is with sincere gratitude that we acknowledge Katya Newmark & Matthew Costello’s very generous contribution to the Friends Ruth Newmark Scholarship. We thank former International Faculty and Scholars Advisor, Horst Hoffmann, who now divides his time between San Diego and his native Germany, for making a donation to our general scholarship fund, as well as Priscilla Moxley, who did similarly, while Jean Fort made a contribution to be divided equally between the Ruth Newmark Scholarship and Friends non-restricted funds. Our thanks also go to Zoltán Füssy, a visiting scholar from the Czech Republic, and Christa McReynolds, who added a contribution when making reservations for the Friends Dinner Social featuring Turkey.

Even though the sum is small, we are grateful to AmazonSmile for its contribution of $7.73—please support the Friends of the International Center by using this website when ordering things from Amazon; we receive 0.5% of the cost of your eligible purchase.

At the December Global Education Holiday Lunch, we learned once again how meaningful Friends scholarships are to the recipients. Said Sebastian Clark, a 2019 recipient for a study abroad: “So, thank you, FIC, for providing me the ability to flourish, for enabling me to attain a bona-fide credential in the theatre profession (I can now say I’ve been to where Western theatre began—Mecca for serious theatre artists), and for reigniting my passion for all things international.”

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Editor: Ruth Newmark (editorFIC@ucsd.edu)

Contributors: Joan Adamo, Jennie Chin, Nori Faer, Linda Ferri, Elisabeth Marti, Yukina Nakazawa, Katya Newmark, Georgina Sham, Cindy Tozer, Eileen Tozer, Liz Fong Wills

Contributing Photographers: Lou Adamo, Justin Costello, Katya Newmark, Chris Wills

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