



friendship force

HOUSTON

January
2013

A World Of Friends Is A World Of Peace.
A Non-Profit Organization Promoting Peace through Citizen Exchanges

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WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL?

The Friendship Force is a non-profit organization sponsoring **people-to-people** exchanges between people in over fifty nations of the world. It brings people together through home stay exchanges – creating unforgettable experiences that build lasting bonds of friendship.

As an Ambassador you share lifestyles in a private home in other countries for a week. In return, you may home host people from that nation or other nations to share your lifestyle. The ever-widening Friendship Force global network represents a powerful and growing force that can overcome differences between people and nations.

President's Corner

Happy 2013 to all my FFH friends,

Well, I'm baaaaaack! Looks like I will be your President again, so hang in there and we'll make it a very successful year. We already have some exciting programs and exchanges planned, with more in the works (see calendar on last page). And we always appreciate suggestions, especially if you've been somewhere wonderful and think it would fit in to our cultural education.

We finished out 2012 with a lovely evening at the Candlelight Tour of the Heritage Society (article on pg.3) and are starting out 2013 with an educational trip to the new Asia Society facility, including lunch and a movie. Our first exchange of the year is a 5-day inbound from Cedar Rapids, Iowa in March, with which we need everyone's help. See article. Then we've recently been invited to Des Moines in July for five days so are taking names of those interested in participating. And our final exchange will be in November from Bandung, Indonesia, for which we will again need everyone's assistance (home and day hosting, attending Welcome and Farewell Dinners, hosting small dinners or brunches, etc.)

Yours in Friendship, *Joy Huntington*

Jan. 26th Activity

Our January program will be at the Asia Society's new facility (<http://asiasociety.org/texas/visit/plan-your-visit>) located at 1370 Southmore Blvd, Houston, TX 77004, 713-496-9901. At 11:00 am there will be a movie called "11 Flowers" by Wang Xiaoshuai, which is reviewed below. The film runs a little over an hour and afterwards we plan to have lunch there, too. The movie is free and lunches are very reasonable (\$8.50 or so), and we will need a count so they can set up tables for us. We can visit the whole building after lunch.



Asia
Society



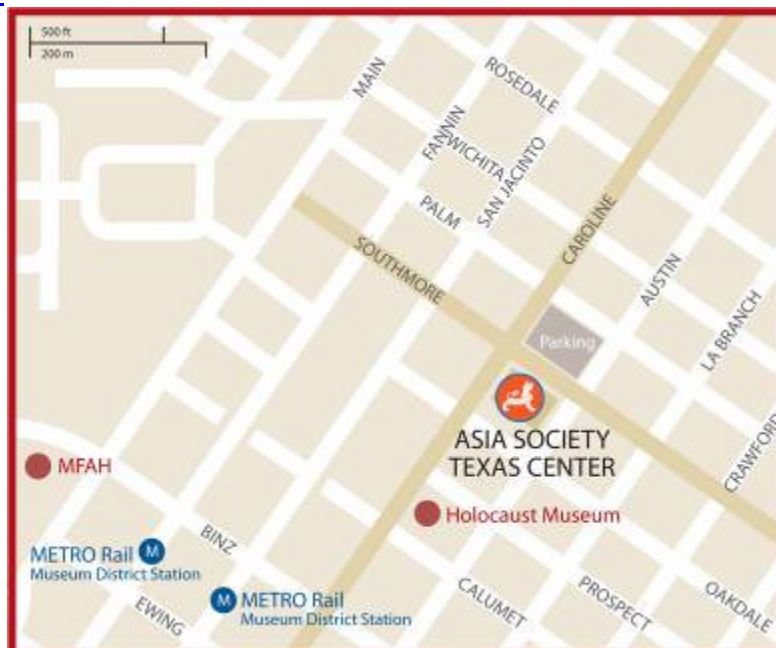
From **Wang Xiaoshuai**, the director of *Beijing Bicycle* and *Shanghai Dreams*, comes a poignant depiction of the Cultural Revolution through a child's eyes. The young Wang Han, not yet even a teenager, experiences the turmoil and challenges of living in 1970s southwestern China. As his relatives struggle with fighting between the Red Guards and conservatives, Han focuses on the simple joys of life, such as the new shirt he proudly dons during morning calisthenics. An air of comedy arises from the mundane tasks and daily routines in the final years of Mao's socio-political experiment.

A Variety film critic writes: "Set during the waning stage of China's Cultural Revolution, *11 Flowers* is by turns wistful, hopeful, and even funny, balancing a momentous historical context with a stirring evocation of childhood. Among Wang Xiaoshuai's finest films."

This portrayal of China's recent past was a selection at numerous international film festivals, including Busan, Hong Kong, and Toronto. Join us for the Texas premiere of this intimate family story within a politically charged historical framework.

Basic map below, along with link to more detailed map through Google Maps.

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=Asia+society+1370+Southmore+Blvd.,+Houston,+TX+77004&hl=en&ll=29.726565,-95.384231&ssp=0.00696,0.010064&hq=Asia+society&hnear=1370+Southmore+Blvd,+Houston,+Texas+77004&t=m&z=16>



Holiday Activity

Several of our group met at Sam Houston Park for the Houston Heritage Society's 46th Annual Candlelight Tour. Food was available from several vendors and each building had docents to explain the history. If you've never been there, it is a recreated village of early Houston buildings (homes, a church, and a log cabin) that have been donated and moved to a downtown park area on Buffalo Bayou near I-45 and Allen Parkway. Here is their website: <http://www.heritagesociety.org/index.html>





L to R: Alex Hansen, Ruby Reviere, Marjie Jefford, Jean Calhoun, friend?? & photographer Betty Spooner

Former Members

Two of our former members passed away recently. We send condolences to their families.



Barbara Eaton, age 78, passed away December 13, 2012. Barbara will be greatly missed by her 3 children, their spouses, her grandchildren; her siblings and a large extended family & friends. Born in San Francisco, CA, Barbara raised her children in Southern California and Dallas, TX. Barbara worked as a secretary for the Airline Pilots Assoc. (Dallas) and Chapman & Cole (Houston). In retirement, Barbara hosted several international guests with the Houston Friendship Force and traveled globally. Barbara loved her grandchildren, traveling, and meeting new people. But above all, she loved to laugh. It is her ever-present sense of humor that will be missed the most. Join her children to celebrate Barbara's life and laughter on Saturday, January 19 at 2:30 PM at Tarrytowne Estates, 1815 Enclave Parkway in Houston.

Belatedly, we are letting you know about another friend and former member, Ruth Herring, who died in November. During WWII she was a Navy WAVE. Later she worked for David McDavid car dealership for several decades. In 2000, she retired and was Secretary for FFH before moving to San Antonio to be close to her daughter. She remarried six years ago and led a busy and contented life with her husband, Roger Theobald. She was 90.



Inbound Exchange in March

We are expecting 16 members of the FF club of Cedar Rapids, Iowa to visit us in early March (rough schedule below). We are hoping that many of you will be able to join us for any and all of our activities. We still need people to Day Host, so please contact Gen Pike, our Exchange Director, at genevievepike@sbcglobal.net or at 281-970-6751.

One of the most critical factors in any club's ability to host a successful exchange is finding home hosts who are gracious and willing to go the extra mile for the incoming Ambassadors. Our home hosts for the 16 Ambassadors are the Formaneks, the Evans, the Marlins, the Ave Lallaments, Gen Pike, Mary Adams, Margaret Burgess & Betty Spooner. Even before the exchange begins, we thank you folks so very much!

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Mar 7	Thu	Morning arrival from cruise; day spent in Galveston		
Mar 8	Fri	Free Day (Museums or San Jacinto)		
Mar 9	Sat	Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo	Reliant Center & Stadium	11 AM
Mar 10	Sun	NASA & Kemah bus tour	Meyerland	
Mar 11	Mon	Houston bus tour & Farewell Dinner	tbd	
Mar 12	Tue	departures		

Membership

by Jean Porter, Membership Chairman

Friendship Force Houston will start 2013 with 41 members strong (21-singles, 10-family). Thanks everyone for sending your dues in a timely manner. The Renewal Certification has been sent to FF International office in Atlanta. We're official! FFH now looks forward to making new friends and enjoying exchanges in 2013.

Contact Us

Friendship Force International
www.thefriendshipforce.org

Friendship Force Houston, TX
www.ffhoustontx.org

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FF Houston 2013 Calendar

FRIENDSHIP FORCE HOUSTON 2013				
Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Jan 12	Sat	International Dining Night Hobbit Cafe	2243 Richmond at Greenbriar	6 PM
Jan 26	Sat	Asia Society of Texas Lunch (\$8.50pp), movie & tour	1370 Southmore Blvd.	10:45 AM
Feb 9	Sat	International Dining Night Blue Nile (Ethiopian)	9400 Richmond	6 PM
Feb 23	Sat	General Meeting & potluck luncheon	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Mar 7 - 12		Inbound Exchange from Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Gen Pike, ED	
Apr 13	Sat	International Dining Night Hunan's (Chinese)	3835 Bellaire 713-666-2000	6 PM
Apr 27	Sat	Visit Adickes SculpturWorx Studio & Art Car Museum	proposed	11 AM
May 11	Sat	International Dining Night Fadi's Mediterranean Grill	4738 Beechnut 713-666-4644	6 PM
May 18	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Jun 8	Sat	International Dining Night	2347 University Blvd.	6 PM

		Bistro des Amis	713-349-8441	
Jun 29	Sat	Islamic American Society or Da' Wa Center	proposed	11 AM
Jul 13	Sat	International Dining Night Thai Cottage	3995 Richmond 713-623-0707	6 PM
Jul 27	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Aug 10	Sat	International Dining Night	tbd	6 PM
Aug 24	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Sep 14	Sat	International Dining Night	tbd	6 PM
Sep 28	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Oct 12	Sat	International Dining Night	tbd	6 PM
Oct 26	Sat	General Meeting followed by meeting w/ hosts for next exchange	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Nov 9	Sat	International Dining Night		6 PM
Nov 14 - 21		Inbound Exchange from Bandung, Indonesia	Marjo Ave Lallemand, ED	
Nov 22-25		FFI International Conference in New Orleans		
Dec 14	Sat	Holiday Party		6 PM

* Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Blvd., one block inside Beltway 8 off Richmond