



# friendship force

## HOUSTON

July  
2013

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

*Explore • Understand • Serve®*

### 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.

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## President's Corner

I wanted to take this opportunity to ask everyone to be considering the future of our Houston club. We are members of a very unique organization that allows us not only to travel to wonderful destinations but also to stay with local members and to be hosted by their clubs, and to reciprocate by hosting other clubs here in Houston. We get to experience other cultures “up close and personal” while staying in their homes and having them stay in ours, having meals together and being led by (or leading) club members in our various cities. Quite a unique opportunity!

While traveling may be our primary goal, when at home we continue our cultural learning by dining at international restaurants, having guest speakers to enlighten us about their countries and other cultural organizations, as well as having social outings to get to know one another better. All of this takes planning and people. Each of us has the opportunity to invite friends, co-workers, and acquaintances to our meetings and on our exchanges so that they can learn what we are all about and in the hopes that they will join us. This should be our goal for the rest of the year – to inform others of our organization and its benefits so that they might visit and decide to become members. Mention FFH to anyone and everyone you meet and give them information about the next gathering so that they can come. Offer to pick them up, if at all possible; get their phone number and/or email address so we can add them to our contact list. Be a catalyst for the growth of our club!

Your board members meet every month to plan and organize all the activities which we enjoy. Most of the board is made up of members who have been holding various leadership positions in our club for many years and now is the time to get some new faces in that group, so that new people with new ideas can learn from the “old” officers and take the helm in the years to come. Election of new officers is coming up in the next few months, so be thinking about how you can help lead this club in the future. If you are interested in helping direct the path of our club, please let me know. I will be contacting you to determine your interest, so consider what you can do to move our club forward and to increase our membership. Expect my call fairly soon!

In Friendship,

*Joy Huntington*

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## July 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting – “More and More at Home in the World”

The guest speaker for our July 27<sup>th</sup> meeting (and potluck luncheon) at the Tracy Gee Community Center will be Dr. Ute Cezeaux, who is a cross-cultural/intracultural trainer. She was born and educated in Germany, has lived in Finland, France and the USA and has traveled extensively in Europe, Turkey, Morocco, China, Mexico and Brazil. She holds a Ph.D. in German and French and is currently the Director and President of the Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association, Inc. and she is very interested in speaking with us!

Ute Cezeaux has been a cross-cultural trainer and consultant for the past 15 years. She has worked with employees of Fortune 500 companies preparing Americans to work overseas and foreign nationals to work in the U.S. Dr. Cezeaux has worked with companies involved in multinational mergers and acquisitions and has facilitated country-specific business briefings. She has a business background in commercial real estate and adult training and has taught German and French at the university level. Dr. Cezeaux currently teaches Global Business Communication for graduating engineering students and contributes to the development of a pilot program for cross-cultural training of EWB-USA student members at Rice University.

Dr. Cezeaux is also a member of the Society of Intercultural Education, Training and Research, International Connections Houston, and the Houston World Affairs Council.

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## International Dining Nights

**July 13<sup>th</sup>** – was at the Thai Cottage Restaurant. Six members met that evening for good food and fellowship. They were joined by a special guest, Ms. Yi Zheng, who is an international student at Rice University who recently moved here from a stay in Cincinnati, where she got to know the Friendship Force members who showed her around town.



**August 10<sup>th</sup>** – will be at Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet at 8236 Kirby Dr. (713-526-5111). Link to map:

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=Dimassi's+Mediterranean+Buffet,+Kirby+Drive,+Houston,+TX&hl=en&sll=29.68877,-95.413153&sspn=0.007941,0.015278&oq=dimassi8236+Kirby+Drive,+Houston,+TX&hq=Dimassi's+Mediterranean+Buffet,&hnear=Kirby+Dr,+Houston,+Texas&t=m&z=13>

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## August Outing



On **Sunday, Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will meet for a late lunch/early dinner at 3:00 pm at Hungry's Café & Bistro, 2356 Rice Blvd. They serve a nice variety of sandwiches, salads and hot entrees. We will order from the menu and need to pay by credit card or cash (no checks). However, they will only accept six different credit cards for our group, so cash may be the best way to go. An 18% gratuity will be added to each check. Free parking is available at the Hungry's lot, and we may leave our cars there to walk down the block....

... to our next adventure at 5:00 pm to Ten Thousand Villages at 2424 Rice Blvd. The shop officially closes at 5:00, but will "re-open" only for our group from 5:00 – 6:30 pm. After a short presentation about the history and purpose of their stores worldwide and their mission/purpose (and perhaps a quick cup of tea!), we can browse and purchase items from all over the world with a small discount.

Please call Betty Spooner (281-589-7901) by Tuesday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> if you are planning to attend as we must guarantee our numbers to both the restaurant and the store by Wednesday. Link to map: <https://maps.google.com/maps?q=2356+Rice+Blvd,+Houston,+TX&hl=en&sl=31.168934,-100.076842&sspn=8.005264,15.644531&oq=2356+rice+blv&hnear=2356+Rice+Blvd,+Houston,+Harris,+Texas+77005&t=m&z=16>

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## Inbound Exchange in November

We have the pleasure of hosting the club from Bandung, Indonesia from Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will be bringing 17 people and are planning to attend the World Conference in New Orleans immediately after leaving us. Marjo Ave Lallemand has graciously agreed to be our Exchange Director and is currently seeking home- and day-hosts for that week. Please contact Marjo at [winmar39@hotmail.com](mailto:winmar39@hotmail.com) if you can host. We will be taking them to see many of our area highlights, including a city tour, NASA, Kemah, Galveston, the San Jacinto Monument and Battleship Texas, the George Ranch and, at their request, a local rodeo, assuming we can find one at that time of year. If you know of any of the surrounding towns who have rodeos, please let Marjo know.

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## Outbound Exchange to Australia in 2014

G'Day Mates.....

Planning for our 2014 exchanges to the South Pacific is eagerly underway and updates will be forthcoming. If you've browsed the abundant Australian and New Zealand photo galleries on the Internet, your bag is packed!

Our host clubs' enthusiastic EDs are already developing exchange activities sure to please everyone. You won't be disappointed regardless of your interests! History – Architecture – Nature (grandeur in spades!) - etc. – etc. – this trip promises visual and learning experiences to be treasured by those who join us.

There are still spaces available so let's add your name to our list! Call me at 281-240-0352 (hm) or 713-825-3950 (cell) or email [jp@nporter.com](mailto:jp@nporter.com).

Looking forward to hearing from you, Jean Porter, ED

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## World Conference in November



Our annual World Conference will be held Nov. 22-25 in New Orleans at the Astor Crowne Hotel on Canal Street. See <http://www.eventbee.com/v/ffiworldconference2013>. Board members attending are Joy Huntington and Jean Porter; however, all members are welcome, so join us if you can. It should be a wonderful opportunity to meet members from all over the world and to learn more about our organization through the educational sessions offered.

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## Contact Us

**Friendship Force International**  
[www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)

**Friendship Force Houston, TX**  
[www.ffhouston.org](http://www.ffhouston.org)

**Facebook Account**  
[Friendship Force of Greater Houston](https://www.facebook.com/Friendship-Force-of-Greater-Houston)

**President,  
 Newsletter Editor,  
 Webmaster**  
**Joy Huntington**  
 281-380-8684  
[jhuntington001@gmail.com](mailto:jhuntington001@gmail.com)

**Vice-President**  
**Marjo Ave Lallemand**  
 713-669-1972  
[winmar39@hotmail.com](mailto:winmar39@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer**  
**Elizabeth Spooner**  
 281-589-7901  
 no email

**Secretary**  
**Mary Adams**  
 713-620-8048  
[adamsm5349@yahoo.com](mailto:adamsm5349@yahoo.com)

**Membership Chairman**  
**Jean Porter**  
 281-240-0352  
[jp@nporter.com](mailto:jp@nporter.com)

**FFI Procedures Chairman**  
**Ruby Reviere**  
 281-482-2464  
[rubyreviere@earthlink.net](mailto:rubyreviere@earthlink.net)

**Advisor/Past President**  
**Linda Marlin**  
 713-465-9466  
[marlin@comcast.net](mailto:marlin@comcast.net)

## FF Houston 2013 Calendar

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Jul 27	Sat	General Meeting w/ guest speaker (cross-cultural understanding) and potluck luncheon	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Aug 6	Tue	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Aug 10	Sat	International Dining Night Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet	8236 Kirby 713-526-5111	6 PM
Aug 25	Sun	Meal at Hungry's Bistro followed by Visit to 10,000 Villages store	2356 Rice Blvd. 2424 Rice Blvd	3 PM 5 PM
Sep 10	Tue	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Sep 14	Sat	International Dining Night Himalaya Restaurant	6652 SW Frwy (77074) 713-523-2837	6 PM
Sep 28	Sat	General Meeting & potluck; perhaps Chinese group that works w/ NASA	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Oct 8	Tue	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Oct 12	Sat	International Dining Night Rioja Tapas (Spanish)	11920 Westheimer (77072) 281-531-5569	6 PM
Oct 26	Sat	Bus trip to Funeral Museum followed by lunch in Old Town Spring at Wunsche Bros. Saloon, then shopping/site seeing on your own. Bus departs from Saloon at 4 PM	Meeting place TBD 415 Barren Springs Dr, 77090 then 103 Midway St., Spring	9:30 AM 1 – 4 PM
Nov 5	Tue	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Nov 9	Sat	International Dining Night	TBD	6 PM
Nov 14-22		Inbound Exchange from Bandung, Indonesia	Marjo Ave Lallemand, ED	
Nov 22-25		FFI International Conference in New Orleans		
Dec 3	Tue	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Dec 14	Sat	Suggested visit to The Steamboat House – dinner and guided tour	other suggestions welcome	6 PM

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