



# friendship force

## HOUSTON

March  
2014

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.

---

## Presidents' Corner

Hi Friends,

We have had enough of winter but count our blessing that we don't live up North!

We just returned from our FFH March board meeting. We have such a great board. Each officer is committed to doing whatever it takes to assure we have lots of fun and adventures with our chapter. Even with four of your officers participating in exchanges with Newcastle, Australia and Wellington, New Zealand the others will be available for our March program and luncheon and our April international dinner. Those details are included in this newsletter.

We are very excited to welcome our newest members, Nina Martin and Vivian Pollock. We also have several others who have expressed an interest in attending our international dinner at Shiva and/or participating in our March program, so be sure to say hello to them. Linda Marlin has started a Meetup Group for FFH and there is a lot of interest in our group. Take a look at [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com). Be sure to "join" so we can let Houston know about FFH.

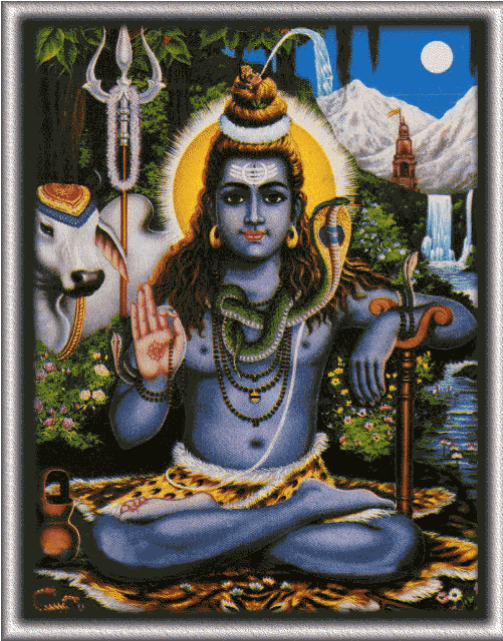
We'll miss you – but we'll be back.

In Friendship,

Don & Sidney Formanek

---

## March International Dining Night



Have you ever eaten “murgh akbari” or “naan”? Come and join us at Shiva Indian Restaurant on Sat., Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Address is 2514 Times Blvd. in Rice Village (713-523-4753). Link to their website for map, menu, etc. is [www.shivarestaurant.com](http://www.shivarestaurant.com). Read some of the reviews on [www.yelp.com/biz/shiva-indian-restaurant-houston](http://www.yelp.com/biz/shiva-indian-restaurant-houston). The second one is a story unto itself. I think we're in for a treat.



---

## February Meeting Highlights

Reporting back to us about their experiences from the FFI World Conference held last November in New Orleans, Jean Porter and Joy Huntington presented a slide show and comments about all the activities that were offered, as well as the workshops they each attended. It was the largest conference in FFI history with over 700 delegates from 33 countries. The activities were enjoyable, the entertainment excellent, and the seminars worthwhile. Overall, it was a huge success.





---

## Australia/New Zealand Exchange

Several of your officers are participating in the upcoming exchange "down under" so will not be available for a while. In the meantime, if you have issues, please contact Art Blevins, our Treasurer, whose information is in the "Contact Us" section. Our Ambassadors will be bringing back lots of photos and details of all the wonderful things they get to see and experience which will be presented to the club in an upcoming meeting, date to be determined.



---

## Southwest Regional Conference

As one of the 10 clubs that make up the FFI Southwest Region (Texas [6], Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas and New Mexico), FFH will be sending three members to attend this year's annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM. Our club will be represented by Art Blevins, Betty Spooner and Ruby Reviere. We hope they will give us a presentation about the conference during one of our upcoming meetings. If you would like to attend as well, please contact **Ruth O'Keefe** at [ruthintheq@gmail.com](mailto:ruthintheq@gmail.com).



A panoramic view of the city of Albuquerque

---

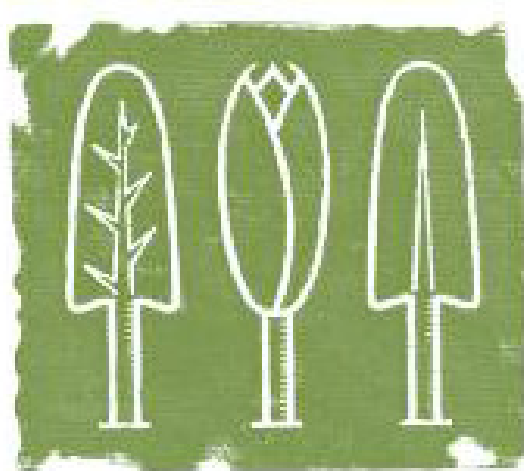
## Activity for Saturday, Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>

Instead of a meeting this month, we have decided to get out and enjoy nature. (Let's just hope it cooperates for us!) We will be touring the Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Gardens in north Houston (on the north side of FM 1960, just east of the Hardy Toll Road. We will meet at 11:00 AM for a tour and then go to Bay Seafood Grill and Steakhouse, just north of the Arboretum, for lunch afterward.

# MERCER

Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

*Connecting people with plants*



Mercer's address is 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble, TX 77338, 281-443-8731. And here's a link to their website and map: <http://www.hcp4.net/mercer/> The restaurant's address is 23201 Aldine-Westfield, and link to website and map is: <http://www.allmenus.com/tx/northwest-harris/131331-bay-seafood-grill--steakhouse/menu/>

## Contact Us

### Friendship Force International

[www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)

### Friendship Force Houston, TX

[www.ffhouston.tx.org](http://www.ffhouston.tx.org)

### Facebook Account

[Friendship Force of Greater Houston](#)

### Co-Presidents

#### Don & Sidney Formanek

281-821-9876

Don – [locogearred@gmail.com](mailto:locogearred@gmail.com)

Sid – [sidcaver@yahoo.com](mailto:sidcaver@yahoo.com)

### Vice-President

#### Marjo Ave Lallemand

713-669-1972

[winmar39@hotmail.com](mailto:winmar39@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer

#### Art Blevins

713-203-7466

[acblevins1@comcast.net](mailto:acblevins1@comcast.net)

### Secretary

#### Linda Marlin

713-465-9466

[marlin@comcast.net](mailto:marlin@comcast.net)

### Membership Chairman

#### Jean Porter

281-240-0352

[jp@nporter.com](mailto:jp@nporter.com)

### Newsletter Editor &

### Webmaster

#### Joy Huntington

281-380-8684

[jhuntington001@gmail.com](mailto:jhuntington001@gmail.com)

## FF Houston 2014 Calendar

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Mar 8	Sat	Shiva Indian Restaurant	2514 Times Blvd (Rice Village), 713-523-4753	6 PM
Mar 22 – Apr 16		Australia / New Zealand Exchange	Jean Porter, Exchange Dir.	
Mar 29	Sat	Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Garden, followed by lunch at Bay Seafood Grill & Steakhouse	22306 Aldine Westfield Rd  23201 Aldine-Westfield Rd,	11 AM
Apr 12	Sat	Café Pita (Bosnian/Herzegovinian)	5506 Richmond 832-530-4935	6 PM
Apr 26	Sat	General Meeting (Indonesian Consulate is tentative)	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
May 7	Wed	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
May 10	Sat	Yia Yia Mary's Greek Restaurant	4747 San Felipe, just west of Loop 610, 713-840-8665	6 PM
May 31	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Jun 4	Wed	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Jun 14	Sat	Afghan Village	6413 Hillcroft, 713-808-9005	6 PM
Jun 28	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Jul 2	Wed	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Jul 12	Sat	Au Petit Paris	2048 Colquitt, 713-524-7070	6 PM
Jul 26	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Aug 6	Wed	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Aug 9	Sat	International Dining Night	TBD	6 PM
Aug 23	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Sep 3	Wed	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Sep 13	Sat	International Dining Night	TBD	6 PM
Sep 27	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Oct 1	Wed	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Oct 11	Sat	International Dining Night	TBD	6 PM
Oct 25	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Nov 5	Wed	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Nov 8	Sat	International Dining Night	TBD	6 PM
Nov 22	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM

Dec 3	Wed	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Dec 13	Sat	Holiday Party (possibly brunch at Margaret Burgess' in Cy Fair)		11 AM

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