



friendship force
HOUSTON

June
2014

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.

Presidents' Corner

Hello Friends,

Thank you for participating in all the events, presentations and opportunities that this exciting club offers! It is so much fun getting to know one another and sharing in a passion for exploring other cultures.

We have many such activities coming up: July 12 will be another international dining night and we would like to thank Marjo for the excellent choice that she made for June. We had great food, an unexpected lagniappe experience and a very enjoyable time. For our July meeting we will have a presentation about the New Zealand exchange and we will have more interesting presentations coming up in the future. In September we will be hosting an exchange from the Gold Coast Friendship Force Club of Australia. There will be evenings available for small dinner parties. If you do not get to host for the week, perhaps you will sign up to host a small dinner (6-8 people) for an evening. It is a great way to get to know the ambassadors. Immediately after our exchange, we have been invited to participate in a mini exchange to Dallas (see information in newsletter).

Art Blevins has started to make plans for the Southwest Regional Friendship Force Conference and could use some volunteers to help with the planning. The dates are set for March 27 - 29, 2015 at the beautiful South Shore Harbor Resort and Marina on Clear Lake.

Thank you, Joy, for another great job on the newsletter.

See you all Saturday,
Don & Sidney Formanek

September Inbound Exchange

by Linda Marlin, Exchange Director

SPECIAL APPEAL for this Exchange (September 13-20, 2014)

We're trying some new ideas for this exchange as follows and are counting on your support:

1) inclusion of a musical at the Hobby Center (*Victor/Victoria*) on Thursday PM (18th) which costs we estimate to be about \$50.



2) a guided **Segway** tour of downtown on Friday AM (19th) which costs \$60. Doesn't that sound like great fun?? The tour will continue with lunch and a walk through the tunnels to City Hall.



3) a **Bunco** game and potluck dinner at Tracy Gee on Tuesday at 4:30 pm September 16th. (Great mixer, I hear, and it doesn't matter AT ALL if you've never played before.)



4) the Farewell Dinner in a private home, maybe a barbeque. Friday PM, September 19th. Is anyone willing to host this?



5) and, if enough are interested, we'd like to rent a pontoon boat (\$400) and a guide (\$175) for an hour and half ride on Buffalo Bayou. The guide is reputed to be extraordinary and we'd learn much of the Bayou biology and history. The pontoon holds 21, which makes it \$27 each. Are enough of us (13) willing to commit to arrange this? The date we want, Tuesday, Sept. 16th, is available.



If you would like to participate in any (or all) of these, could you, **WOULD YOU**, please respond to Joy so the necessary reservations can be made. These are Aussies we're entertaining; they are known to be active, outdoorsy, fun loving (and beer drinking). **ARE YOU IN?????**

The detailed calendar of events (as it is now) is located on the last page in our regular calendar.

And after our exchange, the Aussies travel to Dallas and we've been invited to come to Dallas to join them. See next article.

Mini Exchange with Dallas



Dallas announces a combination Gold Coast Australia and domestic exchange Sept 23-30 2014. Yes! This year! This is your chance to go to the great State Fair of Texas, see the fantastic new arts district (museums, an over-freeway park, theaters), visit our world-renowned arboretum at pumpkin time AND meet some FF Aussies!!!



Only 8 Aussies are able to come and we can host 20, so we welcome your participation.

One week home stay \$150 (\$100 to Dallas \$50 to FFI). Send application to Mary Latham (ED) by July 15 with \$50 deposit check (refundable). Her address is 9918 Chimney Hill Lane, Dallas TX 75243 and her email is "MJMCL04@yahoo.com" (zero four 04 is a number).

Participants should be able to walk several blocks on pavement at a leisurely pace and be able to get into buses (climb stairs).

I am also available to answer questions,
Paula Rose, President FFDallas
paularose2000@hotmail.com

Join Us on MeetUp.com

by Linda Marlin

We have opened an account for our club on MeetUp.com and have been having some success in gaining visitors and some new members. We would like to ask that all of you try it and let us know your opinion as we think it is a good marketing tool. Linda Marlin has created our site and the directions below so if you have comments please let her know so we can improve the site. Her email is listed in the Contact Us section on the last page of this newsletter.

1. Go to www.meetup.com

all meetings	5 miles of Houston, TX

2. Click on the 5 in 5 miles and change it to 25.
3. Type over “all meetings” with Friendship Force and click.
4. A picture of Sid and Don will appear with Friendship Force of Houston type near the bottom and the number of ambassadors and the date of our next gathering.
5. Click on the picture of Sid and Don and you will go to the Friendship Force of Houston page with details for our events and a box for you to RSVP for the event.

DO NOT go directly to Meetup.comhouston. That takes you to an entirely different and complicated web page that I haven't figured out yet. First go to Meetup.com

But this will get you there about the same way.

1. [Meetups near Houston, Texas - Meetup - Find your people - Meetup](#)

www.meetup.com/cities/us/tx/houston [Cached](#)

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Highlight of New Members

Carol Kingshill joined us several months ago but hasn't been available to attend for the last month or more because she's been ill. It started out as a simple surgery and then complications arose, causing much more time in the hospital and then into rehab. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her soon.

Former Members

by Elizabeth Spooner

A former treasurer of FFH for at least ten years back in the 1990's, Donna Webster, has passed away. Details should be in the Chronicle on Thursday, June 26th (the day after this goes out).

And our dear, sweet Louella Strong is not doing well. Her memory and speech have deteriorated considerably.

June's International Dining Night

We had a good turnout at the Afghan Restaurant on June 12th. The owner gave Matthias and Rita Pfaffelhuber and Al Geffon the opportunity to "dress up" as you can see in the photos below. Good food and good conversation is the reason we love our casual nights of dining. These are the times we get to know each other better, so we hope you'll join us next time.





L to R: Joann Peschel, Doug Markham, Mary Evans, Sidney Formanek, Rita & Matthias Pfaffelhuber, Al & Josie Geffon, Vivian Pollack, Don Formanek, Tom Evans, Joyce Saylan and Andre Perez-Gomez

Contact Us

Friendship Force International
www.thefriendshipforce.org

Friendship Force Houston, TX
www.ffhouston.org

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

Meet Up.com
[Friendshipforce1981@gmail.com](https://www.meetup.com/Friendshipforce1981@gmail.com)

Co-Presidents
Don & Sidney Formanek
 281-821-9876
 Don – locogearred@gmail.com
 Sid – sidcaver@yahoo.com

Vice-President
Marjo Ave Lallemand
 713-669-1972
winmar39@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Art Blevins
 281-479-8097
acblevins1@comcast.net

Secretary
Linda Marlin
 713-465-9466
marlin@comcast.net

Membership Chairman
Jean Porter
 281-240-0352
jp@nporter.com

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster
Joy Huntington
 281-380-8684
jhuntington001@gmail.com

FF Houston 2014 Calendar

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Jun 28	Sat	Presentation of Australia exchange with potluck luncheon	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Jul 9	Wed	Board Meeting	The Last Concert, 1403 Nance St.	6 PM
Jul 12	Sat	Au Petit Paris French Restaurant	2048 Colquitt St, 77098 (713) 524-7070	6 PM
Jul 26	Sat	Presentation of New Zealand exchange with potluck luncheon	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Aug 6	Wed	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Aug 9	Sat	United Sisters Restaurant (African)	8731 W Bellfort, 713-995-5545	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
Sept 13	Sat	Arrival of Inbound Exchange from Gold Coast, Australia (Linda Marlin, ED) Evening free	Hobby Airport	
Sep 14	Sun	Welcome Brunch or Lunch San Jacinto Monument/Battleship Texas Evening Snacks	Joy Huntington's home in AM 208 Caldwell St., Baytown Art Blevins' home in PM 3449 Pine Ln., Deer Park	11 AM
Sep 15	Mon	NASA Lunch Dinner	Clear Lake, NASA Rd 1 Picnic lunch at Space Center Dinner at Ruby Reviere's 521 Fairdale St., Friendswood	9:30 AM 12N 5 PM
Sep 16	Tue	Free Day / Hosts' Choice: Shopping (Galleria/Harwin Bayou Bend & Renzi Funeral Museum George Ranch & Brazos Bend Others Bunco game and potluck dinner	Tracy Gee Community Ctr.	4:30 PM
Sep 17	Wed	Galveston Tour Lunch at Marios's Italian Restaurant Galveston Tour (cont.) Evening free for Hosted Dinners		10 AM
Sep 18	Thu	Museum of Fine Arts Lunch at Café Express Museum of Natural Science Evening free or option below Musical Comedy at TUTS (Victor/Victoria)	Hobby Center, Bagby St.	10 AM
Sep 19	Fri	Downtown Segway Tour Lunch at food court Downtown Tunnels & City Hall/Visitors' Ctr Farewell Dinner	Meet at "new" library Your choice (go light) The Last Concert Cafe	10AM-1PM 1-2 PM 5:30 PM
Sep 20	Sat	Ambassadors' Departure for Dallas	Hobby Airport	
Sep 27	Sat	Presentation by Marjo Ave Lallemand about recent trip to Europe with potluck luncheon	Tracy Gee CC	11 AM
Oct 1	Wed	Board Meeting	Luby's at 1414 Waugh Dr.	6 PM
Oct 11	Sat	Andalucia Tapas Restaurant (Spanish) Flamenco dancers perform	1204 Caroline, downtown	6 PM 8 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	Mia Bella Trattoria (Italian)	1204 Caroline, downtown	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