



friendship force

HOUSTON

November
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 sixty 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,

Don't you just love this time of year in Houston? Autumn, with its colors, aromas, weather, activities...just makes you want to smile!

Our November meeting will be on the 22nd (the Sat. before Thanksgiving) at the Tracy Gee Community Center and will be a presentation by one of our newer members, Rita Pfaffelhuber, about the Euro. She will give us a little background information on the history of the European Union, why it decided on a common currency, how the rollout of the new currency was executed and how it eased travel between the countries of the European Union. And also about why some European countries use the Euro and some don't, about its security features, its advantages and problems.

Did any of you check out this year's International Quilt Festival held at the George R. Brown Convention Center downtown? Spectacular as always. Sidney will start contacting Houston quilters to become pen pals for our quilting-themed exchange next year. If you know any quilters, she would like to talk to them. E-mail sidcaver@yahoo.com.

Linda and Joy are already working on our San Francisco inbound, and Art and Joy are working on our SW Regional – that is going to be amazing!

To help expedite the length of our meetings, the Board decided to encourage members to line up for the pot luck lunches at 11:15 so that the General Meeting can begin at 11:30 while members are eating. The speaker should be presented at noon as members finish their desserts, and the meeting concluded by 12:45 PM. Volunteers will be asked to help clean up the room under Sid's supervision as the Board Meeting begins at about 1:00 PM.

We will see you for our dining night, and as the month flies by and we pop with gratitude for our abundances we'll enjoy seeing you at our next meeting. Your friends are always welcome, too.

In Friendship,
Don & Sid Formanek

October Meeting

Ruby Reviere was our presenter for the October meeting telling about her 'round-the-world trip with her grandsons. They visited 38 cities in eleven countries in ten weeks with no planned itinerary and had no trouble at all with language barriers or transportation problems. They stayed in 18 different hotels plus two home stays. In fact, Ruby gave praises about the hospitality and helpfulness of everyone with whom they came in contact. And of course, the Eurail system is outstanding, as well as transportation in Asia. Overall, Ruby says it was quite a trip, very interesting and educational and they all had a fabulous experience.





October Int'l. Dining

Our International Dining night was at Andalucia Tapas Restaurant in downtown Houston. There were 9 members and 5 guests (who were friends of Marilyn Weavers') who attended.



L to R: Elsa Sinclair, Gen Pike, Joann Peschel, Marilyn Weaver, guest, Rita Pffalhuber (Matthias is taking the photo), Marjo & Hans AveLllemant, 3 guests, and Margaret Burgess.

Southwest Regional Conference in March 2015

Here is what was sent to all Southwest Regional Club Presidents to forward to all of their members:

**2015 Friendship Force
Southwest Regional Conference
hosted by**

FF HOUSTON, TEXAS

March 27 – 29, 2015

**Join us at the luxurious
South Shore Harbour Resort & Spa
on Clear Lake**



**Keynote Speaker: Joy DiBenedetto, FFI President
Leadership Training, Breakout Sessions, Dinner Cruise**

Close to Hobby Airport (Shuttle available)

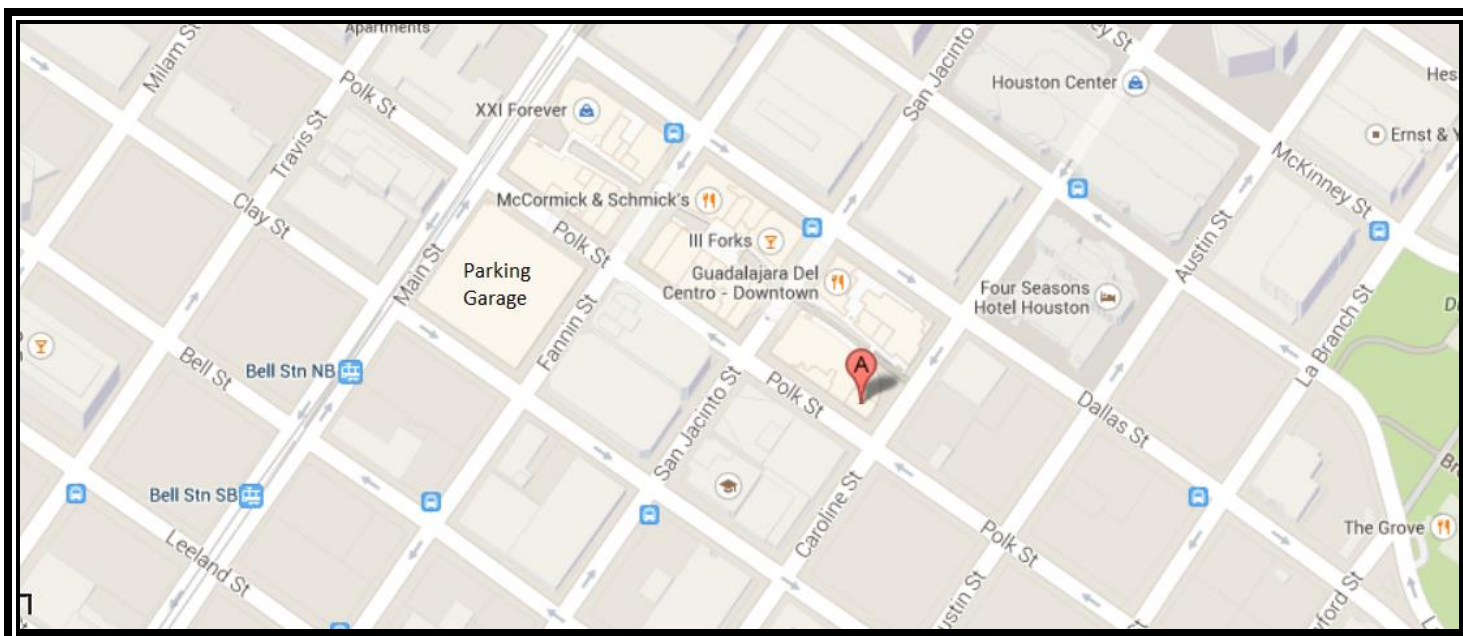
Room Rate \$99/nite

Optional Excursion to Galveston

Come Early and Stay Late and Enjoy the Space City

November International Dining Night

Our November Dining Night will be at Mia Bella Italian Restaurant (see "A" below), literally next door to the one from last month, at 6:00 PM, Sat., Nov. 8th, at 1204 Caroline downtown. Parking on the street is free after 6 PM but may be difficult to find. The restaurant has valet parking for \$10, and there is a garage two blocks away (noted on map) for \$9.



Membership News

by Jean Porter

Aren't we lucky to be part of such a great organization like Friendship Force! FFI is expanding and growing (see interesting facts below), and FFH is too. Our 2015 agenda includes exciting programs, area excursions, interesting speakers, and memorable exchanges. We need you!

2015 Membership Dues are \$35 Single, \$55 Family

Checks made out to: Friendship Force Houston

Mailed to: Jean Porter, 710 Oyster Creek Dr., Sugar Land, TX 77478

Contact Us

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FF Houston 2014 Calendar

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Nov 8	Sat	Mia Bella Tratoria (Italian)	1204 Caroline, downtown	6 PM
Nov 22	Sat	Potluck Luncheon & Presentation about the background behind the creation of the Euro and its effects on travelers, by Rita Pfaffelhuber	Tracy Gee CC*	11 AM
Dec 13	Sat	Holiday Brunch (potluck) and White Elephant gift exchange	Home of Margie Jefford 607 Misty Lane, Friendswood	11 AM

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

Here are the dates for our activities next year, so put them on your calendar or put this on your refrigerator door.

FF Houston 2015 Calendar

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Jan 10	Sat	International Dining Night	Mi Bella Honduras 1806 Wirt, 713-812-7124	6 PM
Jan 24	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC *	11 AM
Feb 14	Sat	International Dining Night	Shri Balaji Bhavan (Indian) 5655 Hillcroft, 713-783-1126	6 PM
Feb 28	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC *	11 AM
Mar 14	Sat	International Dining Night	Reggae Hut (Jamaican) 4814 Alameda, 713-520-7171	6 PM
Mar 27-29	Fri - Sun	Southwest Regional Conference in Houston (we will be needing volunteers to help)	South Shore Harbor Resort	All day
Apr 11	Sat	International Dining Night	Kata Robata (Japanese) 3600 Kirby Dr, 713-526-8858	6 PM
Apr 25	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC *	11 AM
May 1 - 5		Inbound Exchange from San Francisco, CA	Linda Marlin, ED & Joy Huntington, Asst. ED	
May 23	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC *	11 AM

June 13	Sat	International Dining Night	The Cock & Bull (English) 3659 NASA Rd 1, Seabrook, 832-282-8202	6 PM
June 27	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC *	11 AM
July 11	Sat	International Dining Night	Saldivia's South American Grill 10234 Westheimer, 713-782-9494	6 PM
July 25	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC *	11 AM
Aug 8	Sat	International Dining Night	Café Brussels (Belgian) 1718 Houston, 713-222-6996	6 PM
Aug 22	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC *	11 AM
Sep 12	Sat	International Dining Night	Ciao Bello (Italian) 5161 San Felipe, 713-960-0333	6 PM
Sep 26	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC *	11 AM
Oct 10	Sat	International Dining Night	Gloria's (El Salvador) 2616 Louisiana, 832-360-1710	6 PM
Oct 24	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC *	11 AM
Oct 28 - Nov 1		Houston's International Quilt Festival	George R. Brown Convention Center	
Nov 1 - 8		Inbound Global Exchange re: Quilting	Sid Formanek, Exchange Director	
Nov 21	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC *	6 PM
Dec 12	Sat	Holiday Party		

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