



friendship force

HOUSTON

December
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,

We are very excited about our upcoming adventures with Friendship Force – the Southwest Conference and the Quilt-Themed exchange and the engaging monthly programs and the very fun International Dining Nights. And before that we will meet at Margie's house for a fabulous Holiday Brunch & White Elephant Gift Exchange on Sat., 12/13 at 10:30AM. Read the newsletter for details.

January is the time we'll learn about our outgoing exchange for 2016! I'm sure looking forward to that! Also, those of you who missed going to Australia will be excited to learn there is a trip there in April 2015. Ask us at the party.

We want to thank Joy for stepping up to take over the job of being conference chair. We also need someone to volunteer to be treasurer for the conference.

Please remember to talk to Sidney about quilters wanting 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.

Thank you all so very much for all you do to make this such a fun and lively organization!

In Friendship,
Don & Sid Formanek

Holiday Party



Because our brunch last year at Margaret Burgess' home was such a great success, we will be celebrating the holidays in the same manner this year at Margie Jefford's home in Friendswood on Sat., 12/13 at 10:30AM. Everyone is to bring their favorite dish to share, and it might be a good idea to coordinate with Margie so we don't duplicate or leave out something important! Call her and let her know what you are planning to bring. Her address is 607 Misty Lane and her number is 281-482-7955.

We are also going to duplicate last year's White Elephant Gift Exchange, so bring something you've received that you don't need or want, but that needs a good home. Wrap it gaily and put your name on it. We will draw numbers and play "the game". And a little trivia for you: The term "white elephant" refers to an extravagant but burdensome gift which cannot be easily disposed of, supposedly after the King of Siam gifted rare albino elephants to courtiers who had displeased him, that they might be ruined by the animals' upkeep costs.



November Meeting

Rita Pfaffelhuber gave an informative presentation about the Euro, the currency now being used by most of the nations in Europe, whose symbol is €. She gave background history of the debates surrounding the creation of a common currency, which countries are participating and what issues still exist even today. Authentic currency was passed around for viewing so everyone could see for themselves the huge amount of thought and work that went into creating both the bills and coins, particularly since every denomination is a different color and size, making it easy for the visually impaired to tell them apart – and making counterfeiting extremely difficult.





Rita and Matthias also prepared these ornate and delectable desserts. If you enlarge the photo, you can see the little chocolate Euro symbols on each piece. Wow, what wonderful EDIBLE props for her lecture!



November Int'l. Dining

Eight hardy souls braved the downtown traffic, parking and one-way streets to enjoy an evening of good Italian food at Mia Bella's Trattoria at the Houston Pavilions.



L to R: Don Formanek, Margie Jefford, Rita Pfaffelhuber



Ruby Reviere & Terry Marlin



Matthias Pfaffelhuber & Sid Formanek



L to R: Ruby Reviere, Terry & Linda Marlin

Southwest Regional Conference in March 2015

by Joy Huntington, Chairman

It is a sad day when the inspirational person behind this undertaking has to step down due to extenuating circumstances, but the "show must go on". Art Blevins has passed the baton to me and so I'm asking for everyone's help in putting on this conference. It will definitely take a team effort, so please be prepared to chip in. The original dates were Friday, March 27th – Sunday, March 29th, but we have added the Thursday night before in order to have a presentation on Leadership by FFI Atlanta all day Friday. We are currently working out the menus and costs so Registration information can be sent out as soon as possible to all Southwest clubs. Two key people that are needed right away are a **Treasurer** and a **Registration Chairperson**. Please let me know if you are willing to take on one of these roles.

We are needing guest speakers as well, and the topic doesn't have to be totally FF related, so if you know someone who might be an interesting speaker or who might be a good representative of the Houston area, please let me know. It might be good to highlight our city and its various specialties, the Texas Medical Center, the Museum District, the Theater District, the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, etc., etc. So if you have a connection with any of these, let me know that as well.

We hope everyone will participate in the conference in some way so we can have a Houston "presence" at the hotel. Does anyone have a T-shirt connection??? I'd like to have T-shirts made up with a conference "logo" or theme for us to wear and for participants to purchase.

Please share any and all ideas with me at jhuntington001@gmail.com or call me at 281-837-5151.

Membership News

by Jean Porter

Please help me welcome our newest member, Marilyn Weaver. She's a really interesting gal who has traveled *all* over the world.....if you want to know about a foreign locale, ask Marilyn! Be sure to say hello at our next get-togetherwe look forward to having Marilyn on board in 2015.

Speaking of 2015..... there are still a few of you who haven't sent in your Dues. Now, don't make me the Grinch this year.....The quicker you send in your check the fewer emails or reminders you'll get from me! (I NEED them by Dec. 31st.....) For those of you attending our Holiday Party on the 13th..... Bring your checkbook!

Recap of costs:

\$35 Single	\$5 "mailed" newsletters - only IF you don't have email
\$55 Family	\$10 Badge - if needed

Checks made out to: Friendship Force Houston

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

FFI's "Mission, Values, & Vision" statements highlight the true value of our membership.

Mission - To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people

Values - Mutual Respect • Cultural Diversity • Cultural Exploration • Service

Vision-Each individual will make a contribution to global goodwill.

The Friendship Force worldwide network of clubs and individuals will overcome differences among people and nations. By connecting the world, one friend at a time, we will create a world of friends that becomes a world of peace.

***** Wishing you Joy, Peace, and Friendship this Holiday Season*****

Contact Us

Friendship Force International
www.thefriendshipforce.org

Friendship Force Houston, TX
www.ffhoustontx.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
713-203-7466
acblevins1@comcast.net

Secretary
Linda Marlin
713-465-9466
marlinl@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 2015 Calendar

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Jan 10	Sat	International Dining Night	Mi Bella Honduras 1806 Wirt, 713-812-7124	6 PM
Jan 31	Sat	General Meeting & Presentation re: "Being Muslim in America" w/ guest speaker	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 26-29	Thu - Sun	Southwest Regional Conference in Houston (we will be needing volunteers to help)	South Shore Harbor Resort on Clear Lake	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 13 - 18	Wed - Mon	Inbound Exchange from San Francisco, CA	Linda Marlin, ED & Joy Huntington, Asst. ED	
May 23	Sat	Outing to be determined		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	To be determined	

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