



friendship force

HOUSTON

January
2009

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.

President's Corner

Dear Members of FFI-Houston,

Happy New Year to all of you! We have a wonderful year ahead in FFI. Not only do we have an inbound exchange to look forward to, we have an outbound exchange which promises to be spectacular!

Between March 27th and April 1st, we will be hosting an inbound exchange from Kern County, CA. This club is very active. From what I hear, they go everywhere, so I think we'll all enjoy meeting them. If you will be available for either home-hosting, day-hosting, and/or dinner-hosting, please let our inbound exchange director, P.J. Missman, know as soon as possible so plans can be finalized.

In November, our outbound exchange will be to Japan! We will be spending a week with the FFI members in Tokyo, then attending The Friendship Force International Convention in Okinawa for a long weekend, followed by a week in the Okinawa area! At various times throughout this year, we will be learning about Japan as well as dining out in Japanese restaurants in the Houston area.

In preparation for our Japanese adventure, we are starting off 2009 with our January 31st meeting taking place at 11:00AM at Houston's Museum of Fine Arts where we will be viewing "Art Unfolded-The Gift of Conservation from Japan". This is a spectacular display and I'm sure you'll enjoy it. Lunch will follow at a Japanese restaurant in the area.

And by the way, the FFI Southwest Conference is coming up soon. It'll be held in Dallas, Feb. 6th through the 8th, and it's not too late to register, but if you would like to go, please register soon. The FFI Dallas Club has promised to show us a good time. If you need more information about this, feel free to contact Ruby Reviere. We already have 6 members who will be attending, and there is plenty of room for more.

So, we're off to a good start! Come to our meetings, join a committee, serve as a host for our inbound exchange, or travel to Japan with us! Let's all pitch in and have a good time as members of one of the finest organizations in the world, The Friendship Force International!

Priscilla Bruyere

January Event: Japanese screen prints at MFA

What: Join us as we explore Japanese culture – Japanese Screen Prints at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), followed by lunch together afterwards at Nippon Japanese Restaurant, nearby.

When: 11:00am, Saturday January 31, 2001 – Museum
1:00 pm: lunch at Nippon Japanese Restaurant

Where: MFAH @ 1001 Bissonnet St, Caroline Wiess Law Building – see map and directions below. We'll meet at the red sculpture in front of the main entrance on Bissonnet.

Cost: Museum general admission is \$7.00. If you are 65 or over, it is \$3.50, and if you are a member, it is free. For those that meet promptly at 11:00am, we can go in as a group and you'd pay a little less (\$6 or \$3, respectively). **CAUTION: DO NOT GO IN GIFT SHOP** unless you have good will power.

Restaurant is a-la-carte, prices reasonable, quality excellent. You can get an excellent meal and keep it under \$15.

What we'll see - - - **Art Unfolded: The Gift of Conservation from Japan**

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In the spring of 2007, the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, selected an exquisite pair of 17th century six-paneled screens from the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, to be restored by a team of conservators, scientists and scholars in Japan as part of 'The Cooperative Program for the Conservation of Japanese Art Objects.' The screens depict the Hie Sannō Matsuri, the annual festival celebrated each year since 1072 A.D. at the Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine on Hie Mountain near Kyoto.

The skillful draftsmanship, delicate coloring, and sumptuous use of gold with which the festival is portrayed on the screens exemplify the refined sensibility and exquisite artistry of Edo period Japan (1603-1868). These extraordinary treasures entered the museum's collection in 1996 as a gift from the family of Dudley C. Sharp, Sr., longtime benefactors of the museum and close friends with the museum's founding patrons, the Hogg and Cullinan families.

The screen print exhibit is fairly small – it might take only 30 minutes to see – so we may decide to look around at other exhibits in the museum.



Unknown, Japanese, *Hie Sannō Sairei-Zu*, c. 1716
Gift of the estate of Mrs. Dudley C. Sharp, Sr.

Directions:

(A) Museum –

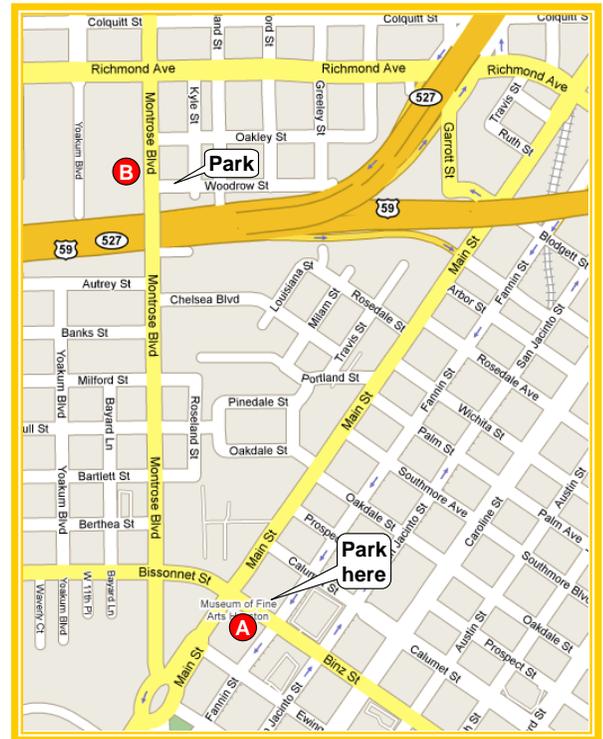
Freeway directions from the North: Exit SW Freeway (US-59 S) at Fannin St. exit, proceed south to Binz St and turn right onto Binz, which changes its name to Bissonnet right about there. The museum is at 1101 Bissonnet.

If you are coming up US-59 from Sugarland, you would take the Main St exit.

Park right across the street (Bissonnet) from the museum, in the First Presbyterian Church parking lot. Parking is free.

(B) Restaurant – (Nippon)

Go West on Bissonnet past Main, then turn right onto Montrose Blvd. Go ½ mile north on Montrose, across the bridge over US-59 Freeway. Restaurant is on your left. Turn in just before restaurant to park in back of the restaurant but space is limited, so backup parking location would be on Woodrow Street, right across Montrose from the restaurant (see map).



2009 Outbound Exchange to Tokyo, Japan

by Outbound Exchange Director, Joy Huntington

Our outbound exchange for 2009 is to Tokyo, Japan and we thought it would be a great opportunity to take advantage of the fact that FFI’s International Conference is in Okinawa this year in November. The Tokyo Club has graciously agreed to change our initial dates and host us the week before the Conference so we can have an extension in the Okinawa area. This will put us in Japan over Thanksgiving so our members who work will get an extra day or two without having to take vacation days.

Below is a list of anticipated costs per person as of this writing:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| International Airfare | \$1,070 |
| Domestic Airfare | 260 |
| FFI Admin fee | 140 |
| Tokyo Club fee | 100 |
| Optional Tour | 60 |
| Public Transportation | 40 (approx.) |
| Japanese Visa | no cost to US citizens |
| Int’l. Conf. | still to be determined |
| Hotel in Okinawa | still to be determined |

This does not include some meals in Tokyo (probably) and all meals and tours after the Conference in Okinawa.



We need to get an idea of those interested so it can be determined if we can invite another club to join us. Please let me know your interest by email, phone or at the next meeting. (My info is in the “contact” section.)

Member News

Bette Breaz is home now after seven weeks in the hospital and the rehabilitation facility following two hip surgeries. She would be happy to hear from you.

Charlene Chatfield has been released from the hospital and is in Brighton Gardens rehab facility in Bellaire. Please feel free to send her a note in care of that facility.

Former president of FFH (1998), Harvey McMullen, passed away recently. Our condolences were sent to his family. If you would like to write a note and need an address, please contact Dolores Rieger.

Other Travel Options with FFI

Let us change the way you see the world on one of our Featured Exchanges! If you haven't been on an exchange before, this is your chance to discover the Friendship Force *travel portfolio*!

As a membership privilege, this is the place to look for exchanges that give you the chance to meet and travel with a different club, join another group to discover parts of the world that you have never seen before,...and as always, to find friends in unexpected places! Explore the possibilities in our January edition of the E-flyer! [Click here to view](#). To download an Ambassador Application form, [click here](#).

February Meeting Info

Since Friendship Force International celebrates **World Friendship Day** on (or about) March 1st, the Houston Club will be celebrating on Sat., Feb. 28th at 11:00am at the Tracy Gee Community Center. Please come in your favorite country's traditional dress and bring a friend and a covered dish for lunch. Also feel free to bring souvenirs from some of your trips to share with the group, as we do a sort of "Show 'n Tell/Get-to-Know-You" session. Especially for our newer members, our program will be an overview and orientation of FFI and what it is all about, presented by Ruby Reviere, a past President of the Houston Club. We would welcome input from all members as well as ideas as to what you would like to know more about. Feel free to let Ruby know your questions by emailing her at rubyreviere@earthlink.net



Past December's Activity

THE CHRISTMAS REVELS

An Elizabethan Celebration of the Winter Solstice

Those of us who attended the Christmas Revels at the beautiful Lowe Music Theater on the campus of St. John's School enjoyed an entertaining story of a typical Christmas celebration in the time of Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth I. We witnessed townsfolk preparing to honor their Queen as she toured the countryside meeting her subjects and celebrating the holiday season with them. The pageant was filled with music, dance and song of the period and was performed by a



continues to improve and be enjoyed by all. We thank John Doolittle who makes our reservations and arrangements. And in keeping with the Elizabethan theme, we followed the play by dinner at the English Pub on Montrose Blvd. called The Black Labrador. The entire afternoon and evening were enjoyed by everyone.

volunteer cast except for several of the musicians and the Queen, who were professionals. It was obvious that many months of preparation were put into this performance, including the making of all costumes. We (the audience) joined in a number of the songs. We even danced – the performers led everyone in a massive line dance down the stairs and out into the foyer for intermission. This is our third Christmas Revels performance to attend as a group and it



Past November's Holiday Party

Our Holiday Party for 2008 was held at the home of Genevieve Pike and was attended by almost all members and a number of prospective members. The club provided the meat and members brought their favorite holiday side dishes. A slide presentation of various trips was shown later in the evening.



2009 FF Houston Calendar

The dates for our 2009 meetings are noted below, including our Board Meetings, to which everyone is invited. Noted in **green** is our Southwest Regional Conference, in **blue** is our Inbound Exchange and in **red** is our Outbound Exchange. Please note that we need a few remaining programming ideas (**tbd**), so your suggestions are welcomed. Ray Missman, our VP, is in charge of programming and would be happy to have your thoughts on this.

| Houston FFI 2009 Calendar | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| Date | Day | Activity | Location | Time |
| January 31 | Sat | Asian Art Exhibit and lunch | Museum of Fine Arts & Nippon restaurant | 11:00am 1:00pm |
| February 3 | Tue | Board Meeting | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 7:00pm |
| February 6 - 8 | Fri - Sun | SW Regional Conf. | Dallas, TX | 5:00pm |
| February 28 | Sat | World Friendship Day and international potluck | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 11:00am |
| March 3 | Tue | Board Meeting | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 7:00pm |
| March 27-31 | Fri-Tue | Inbound Exchange, PJ Missman, ED | from Kern County, Calif. | |
| April 7 | Tue | Board Meeting | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 7:00pm |
| April 25 | Sat | Japan-America Society guest speaker & lunch | Kubo's Restaurant | 11:00am |
| May 5 | Tue | Board Meeting | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 7:00pm |
| May 30 | Sat | Houston "Greeters" guest speaker and lunch TBD | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 11:00am |
| June 2 | Tue | Board Meeting | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 7:00pm |
| June 27 | Sat | Presentation on Japan, with guest speaker & lunch TBD | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 11:00am |
| July 7 | Tue | Board Meeting | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 7:00pm |
| July 25 | Sat | TBD | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 11:00am |
| August 4 | Tue | Board Meeting | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 7:00pm |
| August 29 | Sat | TBD | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 11:00am |
| September 1 | Tue | Board Meeting | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 7:00pm |
| September 26 | Sat | China presentation by Missmans & Doolittles | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 11:00am |
| October 6 | Tue | Board Meeting | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 7:00pm |
| October 24 | Sat | TBD | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 11:00am |
| November 4 | Wed | Board Meeting | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 7:00pm |
| Nov. 13 - 19 | Fri - Thu | Outbound Exchange, Joy Huntington, ED | to Tokyo, Japan | |
| Nov. 19 - 22 | Thu - Sun | International Conference | in Okinawa, Japan | |
| Nov. 23 - 27 | Mon - Fri | Extension | Okinawa area | |
| December 1 | Tue | Board Meeting | Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr. | 7:00pm |
| December 12 | Sat | Holiday Party and/or Activity | TBD | TBD |

TBD = to be determined (your ideas are appreciated)

Kern County, California is coming to visit!

by Inbound Exchange Director, PJ Missman

FFKern County will be visiting us this spring. Kern County is about 100 miles north of Los Angeles, just on the other side of the Grapevine, in the San Joaquin Valley. It is a desert area that, with much irrigation, is a very prosperous agricultural area. The surrounding areas include Sequoia National Park, San Simeon and the Hearst Castle, Tehachapi, Shafter, which is the largest bare root rose growing area in the US – many square miles of roses in bloom, Santa Barbara and the Wine Country of Paso Robles, where there are lots of vineyards and wine tasting, and even the small town where James Dean was killed in his Porsche.

They will be here March 27-April 1, 2009. Here is your opportunity to get involved with an exchange; we need you! This will be a short exchange, as domestic exchanges usually are. They will be visiting Dallas first and then coming to Houston and will be here for only 5 days. The Farewell Dinner will be at River Oaks Baptist School again, on March 31st and will include a BBQ dinner buffet. We are hoping to have the Rodeo Line Dancers again. We are planning a pizza party at Joy Huntington's after visiting the San Jacinto Monument and Battleship Texas that Saturday. The welcome dinner will again be at the Potatoe Patch – they can't get food like that in California!!

On a personal note, I know many of those who are coming, as I was a member of the Kern County Club. We will definitely have a wonderful time; I can guarantee it! Please join in on the fun!! And we are tentatively planning to visit them next year.

Let me know if you can help by being a home host or a day host by emailing me at psimms82@hotmail.com or calling me at 713-529-4619.

Contact us

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