



# friendship force

## HOUSTON

June  
2009

A World Of Friends Is A World Of Peace.  
A Non-Profit Organization Promoting Peace through Citizen Exchanges

*Explore • Understand • Serve®*

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## President's Corner

Greetings to all members of FF Houston,

I am so happy the May FFH meeting went well and am so sorry to have missed it. I very much wanted to be with all of you. As most of you probably know, I broke my right leg on May 15th, had major surgery on the 19th, and then spent 2 weeks in HealthSouth Rehab Hospital in Humble. I arrived home on Friday, June 12th by ambulance in a wheelchair with my leg elevated in front of me! Home therapy should begin today, June 15, but my leg will be in a steel brace for 3 months. Needless to say, I will be unable to leave my house for 3 months. My cousin, John, from Phoenix, has permanently moved in with me in Humble and is serving as my caregiver. Hopefully, I'll get through this whole ordeal and will be able to return to Friendship Force once again. I have had to cancel my FFH trip to Japan. I am looking forward to holding the FFH Board Meetings at my home. Perhaps in September, I'll be able to start attending our meetings again and should be walking again by Christmas. I have a long and difficult road of therapy to travel.

I know our June FFH meeting will be a good one and hope all of you will attend. Shirley Hooks, Katie Payne, or Sidney Formanek will be calling you for your reservations. I certainly will miss being there.

Best wishes to all of you. Hopefully, I'll be back soon!

Looking forward to seeing all of you again!

In friendship,

*Priscilla Bruyere*

### 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.

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## June Event: “Don’t be the Ugly American – in Japan”

On Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at 11:00am at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3611 Westcenter Blvd. just off Richmond inside Beltway 8. Our guest speaker will be Rhonda Jackson who is a native Houstonian, currently living and working in Misawa, Japan. Ms. Jackson works for our Department of Defense as a teacher of special education students on an American military base and has been at that location for 11 years. She speaks the language and has assimilated into the culture. She was given some training before her assignment but has learned things the hard way, so is willing to share her knowledge of the etiquette and mores of the Japanese culture with us.

Please bring your favorite dish to our potluck luncheon, whether it is a casserole, salad, side dish, or dessert.

And our Telephone Committee comprised of Shirley Hooks (chairman), Katie Payne and Sidney Formanek will be contacting you soon to verify your attendance.

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## In Memory

Article submitted by Dolores Rieger

### Carlos K. Hayden



Former FFH member, World War II Veteran, and UH Professor passed away Friday, May 29, 2009 in Humble, Texas at the age of 92. Hayden’s five years of active military duty included three years in North Africa and Italy. He retired from The Army Reserve in 1976 as a Brigadier General with 35 years of service and was awarded the Legion of Merit. Carlos Hayden’s UH career began in 1950 and lasted three decades. He served as professor and Chairman of the Department of Business Education in the College of Technology.

Friendship Force Houston years: Carlos was supportive of wife, Ann Hayden, when she was Outbound Exchange Director October 1992 (Houston to Lubeck, Germany); FFH President 1993 & 1994; Outbound E. D. July 1993 (Houston to Newcastle Upon Tyne/Sussex, England). Carlos was very personable and always enjoyed hosting and traveling with Friendship Force of Houston.



New FFH member, **Jackie Zwayne**, passed away Friday, May 15, 2009 while vacationing in Greece at the age of 60. She was retired from Dow Chemical. Jackie was secretary for the Houston Area Dow Alumni and co-founded the Society for Humanitarian and Refugee Relief Efforts (SHARRE).

In August 2008, with the help of FFI President, George Brown, Jackie established a memorial fund in honor of her husband Masin Zwayne, killed in Baghdad, Iraq on March 27, 2008, a few days before he was due to return home. George Brown said, “The fact that he wanted to establish a Friendship Association makes this gift by his company to Friendship Force International particularly appropriate. We will use the funds to further develop our exchange programs in the Arab world”. Jackie’s passion for giving to others will be remembered by all she touched during her lifetime.

## Recap on May Visit by Chinese “Fellows”

Article submitted by Dolores Rieger and Ray Missman

### FFH Board Members Host Chinese Visitors – May 17, 18 & 19, 2009



FFH received an interesting request to host four Chinese visitors recently. The visit was sponsored by The Asia Foundation and organized by Julia Chen of the Foundation’s San Francisco office. Ms. Chen also served as their escort and translator – although their English was so good that they certainly didn’t need a translator!

The Asia Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open Asia-Pacific region. The Foundation supports programs in Asia that help improve governance, law, and civil society; women's empowerment; economic reform and development; and international relations. Drawing on more than 50 years of experience in Asia, the Foundation collaborates with private and public partners to support leadership and institutional development, exchanges, and policy research.

With offices throughout Asia, an office in Washington, D.C., and its headquarters in San Francisco, the Foundation addresses these issues on both a country and regional level. In 2008, the Foundation provided more than \$87 million in program support and distributed over one million books and educational materials valued at \$41 million throughout Asia.

Ms. Yu Yi Ha is the Deputy Chief, Foreign Affairs Editor of the Oriental Morning Post newspaper – and only 28 years old! The two gentlemen, Hua Ning and Wah Zhiquan, were both in the US taking some coursework, and as part of this they needed to visit various areas of the US. They are both with the Information Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beijing. Mr Zhiquan is the Director of the Spokespersons’ Office, and Mr. Wang is the Deputy Director of the Information Department. Despite their somewhat lofty titles, they were very personable, down to earth, and interested in learning about us and our way of life.

Sunday Evening, May 17, FFH Vice President, Ray Missman, and wife P. J. hosted a beautiful and delicious cocktail party in their home for our four Chinese guests. Monday, May 18, John Doolittle escorted the group to various functions, ending with a Texas Style Dinner in the home of Dolores Rieger, hosted by Betty Spooner Joy Huntington and John Doolittle. Tuesday, May 19, Ruby Reviere and Cynthia Simonson provided transportation for the “Fellows” to see the beauty of Bayou Bend, roam the Galleria and view the wonderful skyline of Houston. The Fellows were on an observation tour to examine economic recovery in the U.S. The tour was part of The Asia Foundation’s longstanding program aimed to foster U.S. – China understanding.

Julia Chen sent this thank-you email afterward: “We had such a nice time with the members of the Friendship Force. Dinner on Tuesday was very nice - John [Doolittle] had kindly led us to Dolores’ house. Hope she’s feeling better – she was unwell, and couldn’t join us for dinner, yet had graciously prepared a nice meal for us. On Wednesday, Ruby took us around Houston and we had the opportunity to see several sites of your fabulous city. The Fellows really enjoyed Houston, and want to come back. <JChen@asiafound.org>

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## Contact us

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## 2009 Outbound Exchange to Japan

by Outbound Exchange Director, Joy Huntington

Since we will be spending two days in the city of Kyoto, I wanted to share some information about one of the unique aspects of their city. Kyoto is the home of the “geisha” and their cultural education continues even today. Here is an article of interest written by Belinda Benjamin-Chen.



*The term geisha means “person of the arts” and, as the term implies, geisha are professional entertainers who have mastered classical dance, the shamisen (a musical instrument), or another of the traditional Japanese arts. Kyoto's proud geisha prefer to call themselves geiko, perhaps to avoid association with the so-called “onsen geisha” who work at hot spring resorts and whose skills are not exactly classical.*

*The “apprentice geisha” known as maiko are found only in Kyoto. Young women in their late-teens or early twenties, maiko wear their own*

*hair in a distinctive hair-do (geiko wear wigs) and a unique costume featuring a long, hanging obi (sash) and tall koppori clogs. When they become a geiko, they change their embroidered collar for a plain white one, a transition known as eri-kae (collar change). Kyoto's four geisha districts are, in order of size: Gion-kobu, Pontocho, Miyagawacho, and Kamishichiken.*

*In the spring and fall, each district puts on dance performances for the general public. For the tourist, Japanese as well as foreign, these may offer the only chance to appreciate the considerable talents of these professional entertainers. These performances generally begin with dances by maiko and finish with pieces from the classical repertoire danced by the older geiko. Although maiko are adorably doll-like, their dance skills are relatively undeveloped; the true connoisseur of Japanese classical dance waits for their seniors to appear.*

*Thanks to the disguising qualities of kimono, wig, and make-up, classical Japanese dancers, unlike their ballerina counterparts, are at their prime in their 60's and 70's. Provided their posture is unbowed, they can convey a spiritual quality that is breathtaking. For about 1,000 yen extra, you can usually purchase an ocha-ken, or “tea ticket” which entitles you to enjoy a bowl of ceremonial tea ... 30 minutes prior to the performance. The tea is made in front of you by a gorgeously costumed geiko or maiko.*



If you are interested in joining us on our visit of 20 days to four cities (or any portion), ***we still have space***. Just drop Joy a note via email at [jhuntington001@comcast.net](mailto:jhuntington001@comcast.net) or call 281-837-5151. This is quite an opportunity to see Japan for nearly three weeks and only have to stay in a hotel one night. The rest of the time, we will be living with our Japanese hosts and experiencing their everyday lives -- up close and personal. That's the Friendship Force way to see the world and to make wonderful friends ..... and to bring understanding and peace to the world.



## 2009 FF Houston Calendar

So you can see what we've done and what we'll be doing, the dates for all our 2009 meetings are noted below, including our Board Meetings, to which everyone is invited. Noted in **blue** is our Inbound Exchange and in **red** is our Outbound Exchange. Ray Missman, our VP, is in charge of programming and would be happy to have your suggestions for next year.

<b>Houston FFI 2009 Calendar</b>				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
January 31	Sat	Asian Art Exhibit and lunch	Museum of Fine Arts & Nippon restaurant	11:00am 1:00pm
<b>February 6 - 8</b>	<b>Fri - Sun</b>	<b>SW Regional Conf.</b>	<b>Dallas, TX</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>
February 28	Sat	World Friendship Day and international potluck	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	11:30am
<b>March 25-April 1</b>	<b>Wed - Wed</b>	<b>Inbound Exchange, PJ Missman, ED</b>	<b>from Kern County, Calif.</b>	
April 25	Sat	Japan-America Society guest speaker & lunch	Kubo's Restaurant	2:00pm
May 30	Sat	Meet the Houston "Greeters" with lunch catered by Ninfa's	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	11:00am
June 27	Sat	"Don't be the Ugly American in Japan" --- potluck lunch	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	11:00am
July 7	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	7:00pm
July 25	Sat	Speaker from Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	11:00am
August 4	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	7:00pm
August 29	Sat	"Packing for Int'l. Travel" by Continental Airlines	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	11:00am
September 1	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	7:00pm
September 26	Sat	Lunch	Chinese Dim Sum Palace	11:00am
October 6	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	7:00pm
October 24	Sat	Dale Hamilton of UH's international student program	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	11:00am
November 4	Wed	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	7:00pm
<b>Nov. 4-24</b>		<b>Outbound Exchange, Joy Huntington, ED</b>	<b>four cities in Japan</b>	
December 1	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	7:00pm
December 5 (tentative date)	Sat	Holiday Party @ Carolyn Lanier's son's ranch	TBD	TBD

TBD = to be determined