



friendship force

HOUSTON

August
2009

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

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President's Corner

Greetings to All Members of Friendship Force Houston!

August is a wonderful month, a time to celebrate the end of summer and to prepare to welcome the fall. The Friendship Force Houston is going to celebrate at its next general meeting which will be on Saturday, August 29th, at 11:00 am at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Blvd. Not only will we be able to enjoy another of our famous pot-luck luncheons (please bring a dish to share), but we will be hosting a representative or two from Continental Airlines who will teach us how to pack our luggage for our next memorable journey! It doesn't matter what your destination, whether it be domestic or international, we all need to know how to pack our cases! Some of us pack too much, some too little, and some of us just don't know how to get it all in! So, come to this meeting and get it straight from Continental! Their representative(s) will "tell it all" as far as how to travel with efficiency. And as usual, our Calling Committee, consisting of Katie Payne, Sid Formanek, and Shirley Hooks, will be contacting you to remind you of the meeting, to take your reservation, and to get a commitment as to the dish you will be bringing to our pot-luck luncheon. Remember, your friends are also welcome, so how about bringing them with you?

At the present time, we are looking for someone within our membership who would like to serve as our Exchange Director (ED) for our up-coming out-bound exchange which will be in February or March 2010 to California! We have been invited to visit not only Kern County (if you recall, they visited us this past March, and we loved and enjoyed them so much), but we have also been invited to visit Orange County and Santa Barbara! This exchange will last approximately three weeks, all with home-stays, and the most gracious hospitality. If you'd like to go, perhaps you'd like to be the ED. It's a very responsible and rewarding position. Not only will you develop a close working relationship with the ED in each of the three locations, you will more fully appreciate what The Friendship Force is all about. Please contact me or one of our board members if you think you would like to serve in this capacity.

And now! The October meeting is when we will be electing the officers of the Friendship Force Houston for the year 2010! If you, or someone you'd like to recommend, would like to serve as an officer, please contact our Nominating Committee Chairman, Ruby Reviere, with your suggestions. We have members who are well-qualified. We just need to have them step forward.

Aside from all of the FFH business, I would like to tell you that my x-rays turned out to be good and my bones have healed well enough for me to be, in my surgeon's language, "weight bearing as tolerable!" That means that I can now put my full weight on my right leg and begin walking once again, so I'll see you at our upcoming meeting! Thanks to all of you for your prayers, beautiful cards, visits, and telephone calls which have all seen me through this entire ordeal. It's been three months that I have not been able to walk or even put weight on my

right leg since breaking it on May 15th, and all of you have helped encourage me to persevere and let nature take its course. You have been so patient with me as far as taking over in my absence, thus enabling FFH to continue on its mission of developing a world of friends in order to help create a world of peace. Thank you so very much! Looking forward to seeing all of you again!

In friendship,

Priscilla Bruyere

August Event



Flight Attendants from Continental Airlines will be sharing their experience and expertise in packing and preparing for international travel. Ms. Latonia Jackson, head of Continental's In Flight Department, and two other associates will share tips and pointers, as well as clarifying the rules and regulations governing luggage security and safety.

Ray Missman has also shared with us a wonderful website for travel information:

<http://www.ricksteves.com/plan/tips/packlight.htm>

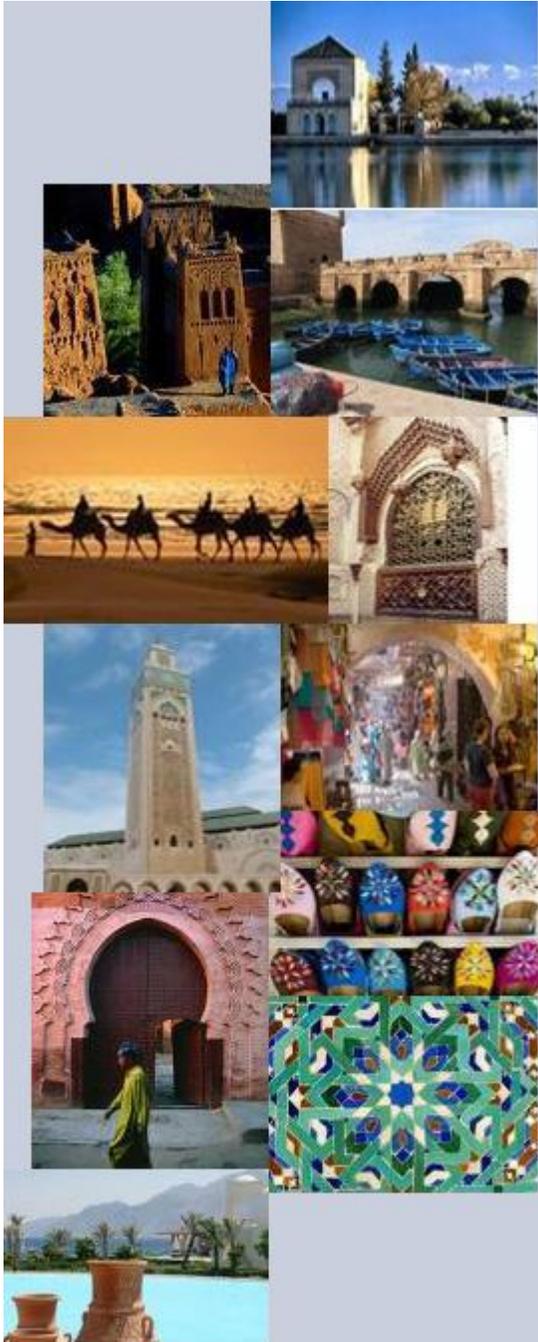
And from a previous exchange to Colombia as ED, Ruby Reviere has shared with us her list of important items to take along on a trip.

1. Passport
2. Friendship Force name tag
3. Your airline ticket or eTicket
4. Drivers license
5. Camera
6. Photos of your home, your family, etc. to share with your host and others
7. Gifts for your hosts
8. Hand sanitizer, wash cloth and toilet tissue
9. Maximum of 3 ounces each of liquids, creams, etc. in your carry on
10. No metals in your carry on, not even a finger nail file (curling iron is OK)
11. Small first aid kit including laxative and anti-diarrhea medication
12. Prescription meds, pain meds, sleeping pills, etc.
13. Journal to record your experiences
14. Emergency information (medical and family/friend contact)
15. Plastic (zip lock) bag for toiletries
16. Cash, credit card(s), ATM card, travelers checks (your choice)

As usual, we will be having lunch so 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. Location is Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Blvd., between Richmond and Westpark inside Beltway 8

Recap on July meeting

We enjoyed learning about the Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce and its purpose and programs from the outgoing Education Director, Tina Halcomb, and the new Project Manager, Karima Richardson.



We were invited to (and several of us did) attend two upcoming functions which their organization was sponsoring:

(1) the Sultans of Science global touring exhibition at the Islamic Da'Wah Center in downtown Houston, which celebrates the contribution of Muslim Scholars in Science and Technology during the Golden Age of the Islamic World (700-1700 BC) and the influence their inventions and contributions have had towards modern society (www.sultans-of-science.com), and

(2) a professional networking event entitled "Moroccan Mixer" held at the Museum of Natural Science highlighting the culture of Morocco. We were able to mix and mingle with Houston's distinguished business professionals during an incredible evening of sounds, sights and tastes from enchanting Morocco. Everyone enjoyed an exquisite atmosphere featuring the Museum's Islamic Art Collection, a mini-Moroccan bazaar and ambience from the Maghreb, including Moroccan delicacies, henna art, mint tea service and authentic Moroccan objets d'art.

On another note, our Vice-President, Ray Missman, brought to our attention that there has been an interesting pairing of two of our associated organizations: The Bilateral Chamber and ExxonMobil. FF Houston continues to receive \$500 quarterly grants from ExxonMobil through the volunteer hours served by Dolores Rieger as an Exxon spouse. The Bilateral Chamber awarded ExxonMobil with the 2009 Outstanding Commercial Diplomacy Award for the company's long-term support of business, education and cultural exchange programs in the Middle East during the Chamber's international reception at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston. ExxonMobil has a long-time tradition of supporting educational and cultural programs across the globe and in particular, in the Middle East, which help foster mutual respect and business relationships between various countries. Companies can operate successfully anywhere in the world when they learn the importance of respecting the culture and heritage of their host countries.

2009 Outbound Exchange to Japan

by Outbound Exchange Director, Joy Huntington



Looks like Hawaii or Tahiti????

No, it's Okinawa, which will be the fifth location we will visit on our trip to Japan in November.

Okinawa is the name for the island of Okinawa and the name of the 47th prefecture of Japan which includes not only the main island of Okinawa but also the southern islands of the Ryukyu archipelago. *See map on next page.* The kanji characters for Okinawa mean "offshore rope". The capital city is Naha (*photo below*). On a world map, Okinawa is just a small dot in the Pacific Ocean, but it used to be an independent kingdom -- the Kingdom of the Ryukyus. As a small kingdom, Okinawa prospered in the region, trading with Japan, China, Korea, and Southeast Asia. As the winds of world trade blew through, Okinawan people ventured out and brought back many foreign influences. Subsequently, Okinawa has developed its own unique history and culture. The heritage, the unique culture and history that the early travelers and traders started, has been passed on to descendents. Moreover, the idea of the pioneers, "islands open to the world", still lives on among Okinawans.



Okinawa Prefecture is located southwest of mainland Japan. The prefecture consists of 161 islands (44 inhabited and 117 uninhabited islands), and those islands span 621 miles from east to west and 249 miles from north to south. Okinawa can be found between mainland Japan and Taiwan in the Pacific Ocean and is considered an international resort destination. Okinawa is found in the same latitude zone as the other famous beach resort destinations such as Hawaii, Florida, and the Bahamas. Okinawa is in the subtropical climate zone and has comfortable weather for vacationers throughout the year. In Japan, Okinawa is the only prefecture that is located in the subtropical climate zone. The average annual temperature is 72.3 F. Even during the winter, the temperature averages 60.8 F and never dips below 50 F.

2009 FF Houston Calendar

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
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
<i>Nov. 4-28</i>		<i>Outbound Exchange, Joy Huntington, ED</i>	<i>five cities in Japan</i>	
December 1	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee Comm. Ctr.	7:00pm
December 5	Sat	Holiday Party @ Carolyn Lanier’s son’s ranch	Address & Directions later	12:00noon

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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.