



friendship force

HOUSTON

January
2010

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

Greetings to Friendship Force Houston!

The holidays are over, and we certainly had great ones, but while our fun and celebrations have come to a close, we at Friendship Force Houston are beginning the New Year with much anticipation of the upcoming months' activities. On Saturday evening, January 16th, 21 members of our club met at One's A Meal Greek Restaurant in the Montrose and Westheimer area to kick-off our newest program called International Dining! We enjoyed delicious Greek dinners in this very nice restaurant, while enjoying an opportunity to become better acquainted with each other. We had a delightful evening! FF Houston will be meeting for dinner on the second Saturday of each month during 2010 at various ethnic restaurants throughout Houston, and we will have an opportunity to sample foods from around the world. Many thanks to our new member, Rita Campbell, for organizing the International Dining program. She is doing a great job in getting this program established, and has very good choices of restaurants for the year, all at affordable prices and in convenient locations. See our Calendar of Events further in this newsletter. We hope you will plan to attend them. Many thanks also to our telephone committee consisting of Katie Payne, Sidney Formanek, and Shirley Hooks for contacting everyone for reservations.

Our next general meeting will be on Saturday, January 30, at 11:00 am, at the Tracy Gee Community Center, and once again, this will be a potluck luncheon, so be sure to bring your favorite dish. Our speaker will be our club secretary, Linda Doolittle, who will give us an in-depth report on her recent trip with a group of teachers to Qatar and Saudi Arabia. She had a wonderful time while there and is very enthusiastic about sharing her experiences with us. I think you will find her presentation to be of great interest, so be sure to attend. Our calling committee will once again be contacting you to remind you of the date and time.

And by the way, don't forget that it's not too late to make a reservation to attend the FF Southwest Regional Conference in the Rio Grande Valley, the weekend of February 5th and 6th. The cost of the

conference is only \$100.00, and the hotel accommodations will be only \$50.00 per night. The hotel has recently been remodeled and is very nice, and the FF Rio Grande Valley Club has done a wonderful job of planning this conference. This is a good time to meet members from the clubs in Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas, as well as San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and the Rio Grande Valley, and to be updated on the activities of their clubs. It is also a good way to learn more about Friendship Force International and the great opportunities it has to offer us, as well as how we can enrich and expand our club here in Houston. If you would like to attend the conference, please contact me. While there we also have an opportunity to go to South Padre Island and Progreso, Mexico. It will be a great weekend get-away, and I'm sure it will be most enjoyable and educational. Six of us from Houston are planning on attending and all of you are welcome to join us.

FF Houston's outbound exchange for this year is a domestic one to California at the end of February to FF Kern County/Bakersfield (whom we hosted in Mar 2009) and the clubs in Santa Barbara, San Diego, and Orange County. We are looking forward to seeing our Kern County friends again, as well as meeting the FF club members in the other locations in California. See article following.

Once again, this month's general meeting will be most interesting with Linda Doolittle's presentation on the Middle East, so be sure to attend and bring a friend if you'd like, and don't forget to bring your favorite dish for the potluck! I am looking forward to seeing all of you!

In friendship,

Priscilla Bruyere

Membership News

by Elizabeth Spooner, Membership Chair

There will be a new 2010 membership list which will be distributed at the next luncheon on Jan. 30th. As of January 1, our Houston club has 53 total members which include 29 individual and 12 family memberships. (Please make note of the changes on the list which are marked with a single asterisk (*) for new members and ** for changes since the prior list.)

Several members did not renew this year. Three have relocated to other cities: Clarice Marshall and Lydia McMullen moved to be closer to family, and Divya Matai moved to Atlanta to accept a new job. Luella Strong has had some serious health problems and will shortly be selling her condo.

I know you will look forward to meeting our new members: Faye Garcia, Elizabeth Jackson, Tom Summers, and Maria Torres. (Elizabeth is planning to go with us to California!)

Recap on December's Holiday Party

FFH's 2009 annual Christmas party was a huge success as all of you who attended will agree. We met at Carolyn Lanier's home in Champions and enjoyed the delicious buffet lunch which, once again, was a potluck, with Carolyn providing the main course of turkey and ham. The eggnog and appetizers were delicious, and we all enjoyed Carolyn's lovely home. Before dessert, we all went to Carolyn's family farm and enjoyed the train ride through the exotic animal farm and then visited the old English village and church which are also on the farm property. The train ride was fun and the tour through the church was especially interesting. The artist, who has painted the beautiful frescos in the church, was present and gave us information about all of his work. Then we went back to Carolyn's home for dessert and fellowship. There were approximately 35 of our members who attended, and we all had a wonderful time. It was a great day, and a wonderful way to kick-off the Christmas season. Many thanks to Carolyn for her kindness, generosity, and hospitality for opening her home to us so graciously!



The ever popular chow line



Touring the Village Bakery



The church sanctuary



Our own personal train ride

Jan. 30th Presentation about Qatar and Saudi Arabia

by Linda Doolittle



Here's hoping that I can do justice to my recent experiences in Saudi Arabia and Qatar. This trip was the opportunity of a lifetime and I am anxious to tell you all about my all too quick trip to the Middle East. From the warmth and friendship extended by the wonderful people of Saudi Aramco, to the sunny sand dunes and the blue of the Arabian Gulf, it was a fun-packed and educational experience.

See you at lunch on the 30th!

Linda Doolittle

2010 Inbound Exchange from Newcastle, Australia

by Linda Doolittle, Inbound ED

The Aussies are coming! The Aussies are coming!

Have you ever had **tucker**, maybe even **bangers**, from the **barbie**? There's a **fair go** you have. Maybe we will have time to share some with our new **mates** from the Newcastle area. Soon I'll be giving you a **ring** on your **Al Copone**. We are expecting about twenty new **mates** in October from "the land down under." So don't try to "**go it Pat Malone**," save a **possie** in your home. Be seeing you soon, **mate**! (Were you able to decipher all the terms? Well, **good on ya** if you did? No? **No worries**.) Check out "Speaking Australian: An Aussie Glossary" and "Lee's Glossary of Australian Terms" two web sites I utilized. I have a feeling that we are in for a great time!!!

2010 Outbound Exchange to California

by Ruby Reviere, Outbound ED

If you are interested in joining us, we still have space so contact me at rubyreviere@earthlink.net or 281-482-2464. We will be meeting at my house on Thursday, Jan, 21st at 6:30 for dinner and to coordinate everything and learn and share what we can. Let me know if you need my address.

Bakersfield Exchange

Nancy Hazle, ED ourlakehouse2@sbcglobal.net

Feb 26 Fri - Arrival in Bakersfield, dinner with your host.

Feb 27 Sat - Welcome Breakfast with our club members, tour of highlights of Bakersfield, dinner with members.

Feb 28 Sun - Free day with host, neighborhood Potlucks for dinner.

Mar 1 Mon - Drive to Pacific coast, visit James Dean memorial, see almond trees blooming, sea lions, Hearst Castle.

Santa Barbara Exchange

Barbara Rose ----- JnBROSE@aol.com

Mar 3 Wed - Arrive at homes of hosts. Welcome dinner - Chuck's Waterfront Grill

Mar 4 Thu - Santa Barbara Trolley Tour, No host lunch, Longboards on the pier, Historic Courthouse tour led by FF member, Downtown shopping or rest at Host's home, Santa Barbara First Thursday event - art studios open, wine tasting, Famous Granada theatre open for tours, music on street corners, etc. *Ambassadors to host dinner*

Mar 5 Fri - Solvang Day - aebelskivers for breakfast?, Cachuma lake tour? Chumash casino? Wine tasting at noon with picnic lunch, Quicksilver miniature horse farm tour, Ostrich and Emu farm tour, Solvang shopping, small dinner parties

Mar 6 Sat - Downtown Farmer's market with music etc., Santa Barbara Mission tour led by FF member, Botanical Garden tour led by FF member, No host lunch, Carpenteria, baby Seals viewing? Tide pools? Host dinner

Mar 7 Sun - Church, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, No host lunch, Cabrillo Art Show and Harbor exploration, Farewell Dinner catered at FF member's club house

Mar 8 Mon - Leave Santa Barbara and go to San Diego

San Diego Exchange

Bonnie Andrews, ED

Mar 8 Mon - Arrive in Santa Barbara in afternoon.

Mar 9 Tue - Balboa Park Museums, Old Town State Park, evening Welcome Dinner in Old Town (Mexican)

Mar 10 Wed - San Diego Zoo with bus ride AM, PM Area dinners at member homes.

Mar 11 Thu - Guided tour of Midway Ship, lunch at places along Harbor Drive, tour of San Diego Harbor.

Mar 12 Fri - Heritage Museum (Native American) and Water Wise Gardens, Farewell dinner in Coronado or TBD

Mar 13 Sat - Leave San Diego and go to hosts in Orange County, arrive in afternoon.

Orange County Exchange

Richard Armijo, ED

Mar 13 Sat - Leave San Diego and go to hosts in Orange County, arrive in afternoon.

Mar 14 Sun - Welcome Party around 2pm for lunch, then to hosts' homes.

Mar 15 Mon - Nixon Library and then to lunch and a visit to the Crystal Cathedral.

Mar 16 Tue - Visit the Aquarium in Long Beach and tour the Queen Mary and have lunch on the Queen Mary.

Mar 17 Wed - We will take the Metrolink train to Los Angeles - about 1hour trip and visit the Catholic Cathedral, Lunch at the world famous Biltmore and visit Hollywood: Avenue of the Stars, Mann's famous theatre and the walk of fame.

Mar 18 Thu - Rest in the morning and a Farewell Party in Laguna Niguel around 4pm.

Friends Staying in Touch

By Dolores Rieger

FRIENDSHIP FORCE FRIENDS CELEBRATING CHARLENE CHATFIELD'S BIRTHDAY
Twenty four years of Friendship ♥ October 1985 - September 2009



Front Row: Dottie Melanson, Karen Shouse, Birthday Girl (Charlene Chatfield), Dolores Rieger
Back Row: Betty Spooner, Joe Melanson, Donna Webster, Don and Janet Davis and Dennis Dunn

CURRENT & FORMER FFH MEMBERS STAYING IN TOUCH.

Many of these friendships began October 1985, when FFH President, Charlene Chatfield organized an Inbound Exchange from Amhem, Holland to Houston (October 27-November 5, 1985). Thirteen quilters from the Netherlands came to Houston for the International Quilt Festival. FFH introduced the visiting group to "Potluck" dinners. The custom was taken back to the Netherlands and is still used within some of the quilter groups. Karen Shouse and Dolores Rieger stay in touch with Anneke ten Bokkel Huinink and her family. Anneke visited October 2008, and two of her sons visited Karen this past summer of 2009.

"A World of Friends is a World of Peace" quote is still all about FRIENDS!

FF Houston 2011 Outbound Exchange Vote

According to FFI procedures, we are asked to vote for our top three choices of Outbound Exchange Destinations every year for the second year out. So in the fall of 2009, we voted for travel in 2011 to Peru (1st choice), Brazil (2nd choice) and a tie between Germany and Canada (3rd choice). Since we hosted a group from both Lima and Terrapoto, Peru several years ago, we are anxious to visit them in return and have contacted their club presidents to request that they put in a good word with FFI for our ability to visit them. Priscilla has contacted the Atlanta headquarters of FFI to request the same. And those of us attending the Southwest Regional Conference in February will mention it to George Brown, our FFI President, who will be a guest speaker.

2010 FF Houston Calendar

Houston FFI 2010 Calendar				
Date	Day	Activity	Location	Start Time
Jan 30	Sat	Pot Luck Lunch & Linda Doolittle's Trip to Qatar followed by (optional) 2010 Program Planning meeting	Tracy Gee CC 3599 Westcenter Dr. Houston 77042	11:00 AM
Feb 2	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Feb 5 - 7	Fri - Sat	SW Regional Conf.	McAllen, TX	5:00 PM
Feb 13	Sat	International Dining Night	Blue Nile Restaurant, 9400 Richmond (btwn Fondren & Gessner), Ethiopian, approx. \$12	5:30 PM
Feb 26 - Mar 18		Outbound Exchange Ruby Reviere, ED	5 clubs in California: Kern County, Santa Barbara, Bakersfield, San Diego, Orange County	NA
Feb		NO General Meeting		
Mar 2	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Mar 13	Sat	International Dining Night	Goode Co. Barbeque, 5109 Kirby (btwn Bissonnet & Westpark), approx. \$12	5:30 PM
Mar 27	Sat	World Friendship Day (Pot Luck) & Japan Exchange Presentation	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Apr 6	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Apr 10	Sat	International Dining Night	Himalaya, 6652 SW Frwy (Hillcroft area), Pakistani	5:30 PM
Apr 24	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
May 4	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
May 8	Sat	International Dining Night	Bonga, 9861 Long Point, Korean, under \$20	5:30 PM
May 22	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Jun 1	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Jun 12	Sat	International Dining Night	Dimassi's, 5160 Richmond (near Sage), Middle Eastern, under \$15	5:30 PM
Jun 26	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Jul 6	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Jul 10	Sat	International Dining Night	Pho Saigon, 2808 Milan (btwn McGowan & Tuam), Vietnamese	5:30 PM
Jul 31	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Aug 3	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM

Aug 14	Sat	International Dining Night	Chuy's, 2706 Westheimer (west of Kirby), Tex-Mex under \$15	5:30 PM
Aug 28	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Sep 7	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Sep 11	Sat	International Dining Night	Maylay Bistro, 8282 Bellaire, Malaysian, under \$15	5:30 PM
Sep 25	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Oct 5	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Oct	?	Inbound Exchange Linda Doolittle, ED	Newcastle, Australia to Houston	NA
Oct 9	Sat	International Dining Night	Rudi Lechner's, 2503 Gessner, German, under \$30	5:30 PM
Oct 16-18	Sat-Mon	International Conference	Washington DC	NA
Oct 30	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Nov 2	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Nov 13	Sat	International Dining Night	Cadillac Bar, 1802 Shepherd (so. of I-10), Mexican, under \$25	5:30 PM
Nov 20	Sat	Holiday Party	To be determined (suggestions welcome)	11:00 AM
Dec 7	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Dec 11	Sat	International Dining Night	Kenneally's Irish Pub, 2111 S. Shepherd, hamburgers & pizza, under \$12	5:30 PM
Dec 18	Sat	General Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM

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 (under construction)

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January "World of Friends" Catalog



JOIN FRIENDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD AT THE FFI WORLD CONFERENCE

Find out what's happening with Friendship Force International and your Friendship Force colleagues from around the world during our three-day conference in one of the world's most exciting cities! Washington, D.C., the U.S. capital, is a great town to explore with world-class museums, restaurants and historic sites. The conference dates are October 16 - 18th. ([click here to register](#))

ENJOY NATURE AT ITS BEST ON ENGLAND'S SPECTACULAR ISLE OF WIGHT!

June 2010

Enjoy outdoor picnics, pub lunches, outstanding photographic opportunities and daily walks along some of England's most spectacular coastline. ([view exchange](#))



DID YOU KNOW?

... that the exchanges in this monthly catalog are designed specifically to introduce brand new travelers to the Friendship Force way of seeing the world? Check out all 32 exchanges in this month's issue by [clicking here](#): --- And

be sure to share the catalog with a friend by using the "Send to a Friend" feature in the top right corner!

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