



# friendship force

## HOUSTON

April

2010

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

*Explore • Understand • Serve®*

### 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

*A new voice from "the corner" . . .*

Hello Friends,

Many of you have heard by now that Priscilla Bruyere has for personal reasons resigned as President of our club and from the club itself. The Board stepped in to fill the gap and I am now the club President. This is per the bylaws and was confirmed by a vote at the April 4th board meeting. I have accepted the job but I could sure use some help!

We need a new VP and several people for the phone committee. Soon.

The VP (which I'm still handling) is mostly involved with the annual program. The program has a lot in it already (just check the calendar at the back of the newsletter) but it needs some continuing follow-through. If you think it might be of interest, don't fear – I had lots of help from the club on ideas and help. You won't be alone. If you think this might sound interesting & want to know more, let me know.

The phone committee needs some help because (1) the phone committee chair stepped down, and (2) we have a major new activity, essentially doubling the job of the phone committee, that is, two events per month rather than one. The second event is the international dining program which is turning out to be quite successful with at least 20 people showing up each month – and head counts are needed for the restaurant reservations. The idea is to split the work and have two phone committees – one for International Dining and one for the regular club meetings. If you think you might be able to get in touch with 10-15 people once a month, that's all you'd be in for and it would really help. I already have one volunteer – my wife, PJ Missman. She's volunteered to be the phone committee chair. So please call PJ if you think you might be interested (home 713-529-4619).

I'd like this to be a fun, energetic club. If you have some ideas to make it better, ideas to spread the Friendship Force message or bring in new members, just let me know.

And now some of the fun stuff: Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela are celebrating their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of independence this year so our next few meetings are going to join in the festivities. Our April meeting will be delayed one week to May 1st so that we can have a presentation on Colombia in an art gallery, with catered Colombian light food/appetizers. And the regular May event will not be May 22nd as originally scheduled, but the day before – Friday evening at the Mexican Consulate here in Houston. But you'll hear more about that one next month. See more on this month's (i.e. the May 1) meeting later in the newsletter.

In friendship,

**Ray Missman**

Suddenly President

## Next meeting: Colombia Celebration

**Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Hans Payan Art Gallery from 11:00am-2pm**

As mentioned earlier, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela are celebrating their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of independence this year so our next few meetings are going to center around those festivities. Here's the first, focusing on Colombia.

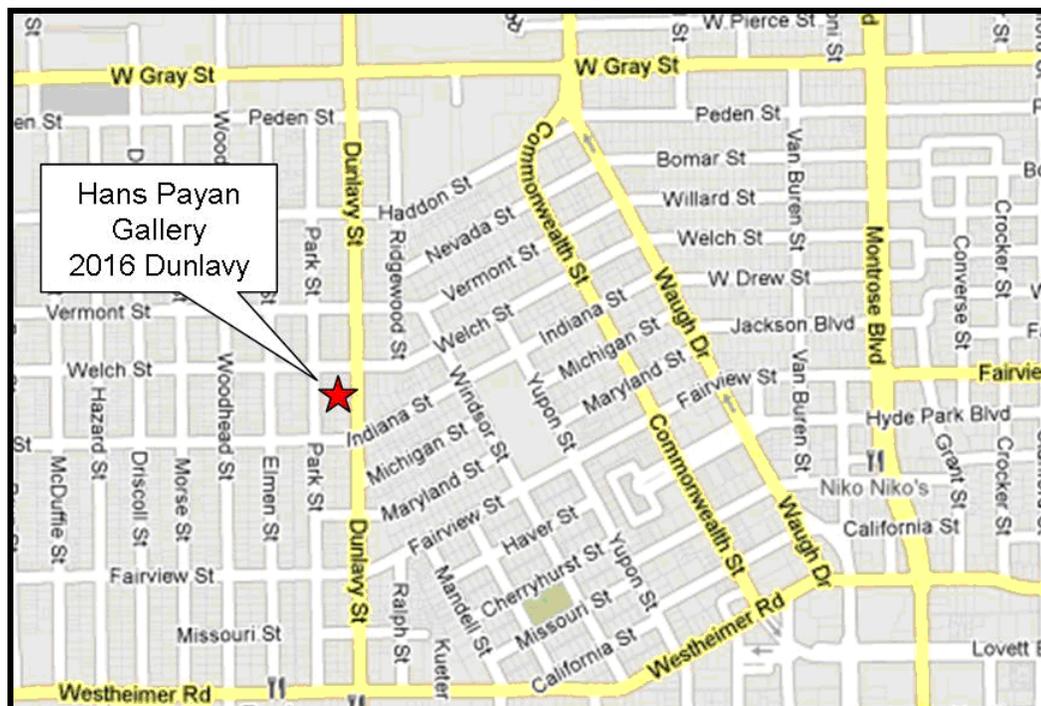
Join us for a presentation on Colombia, a little Colombian contemporary art, and some Colombian food at the Hans Payan Art Gallery, 2016 Dunlavy St. The cost is \$5 at the door – but we will need a head count so be sure to RSVP to the phone committee. (Our club is paying for most of the catering so I hope you realize what a deal this is!) And we are providing our own chairs!!! Some are bringing 'lots' of chairs, but you might bring one or two, if convenient.

Lia Tusanotte, President of Promoting Art in the Americas, Inc. (<http://www.paa-usa.com/>) will show a presentation and photos sent to us by the Department of Information in Colombia. The art exhibition is supported by the Consulate of Colombia, the Official Department of Information and other sponsors



The presentation provides a summary about the country, its people, facts and challenges. The photos show different landscapes and different cities of Colombia (35 minutes). Then maybe two minutes for a few brief comments about the relationship between the colors you saw in Colombia's landscape and the colors you'll see in the paintings all around you of Colombian artist Chava Cure.

We will follow by enjoying food and drinks while talking about this beautiful country. This is a wonderful way to be part of the celebration of Colombia's Bicentennial. Click on this link to see video about the gallery: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBtyJDpBh8k>



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## Membership News

by Elizabeth Spooner, Membership Chairman

Former member, Marie Nye, passed away recently due to a stroke. A sympathy card has been sent to her husband, Eric, who was one of our former newsletter editors.

We are delighted to see Luella Strong back with us looking chipper. She is now residing at Treemont Retirement Home on Westheimer.

We are looking for some of our newer members to tell us about themselves so that we can put articles in our upcoming newsletters and get to know each other better. Send a little bit about yourself (how long you've been in Houston, your profession or retirement status, and your previous travel experience) to Joy Huntington, our newsletter editor.

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## Nov. Inbound Exchange from Newcastle, Australia

by Linda Doolittle, Exchange Director

Countdown 'till October.....

I am in constant contact with Mark Bailey, the ED of the Newcastle club. He is a most delightful person and I am looking forward to our personal meeting this October. I know that all of you are looking forward to making new friends, learning about Newcastle, and showing our guests our great city. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to home host; our numbers are looking very good. I have information on each guest as to their hobbies and interests and, as the time nears, we will meet and match guests with home hosts. We will also need day hosts as well to help with various outings and transportation and some members have already volunteered to help in that position.

The more contact I have with Mark and the more information I receive, the more excited I get; I hope you have the same feelings!

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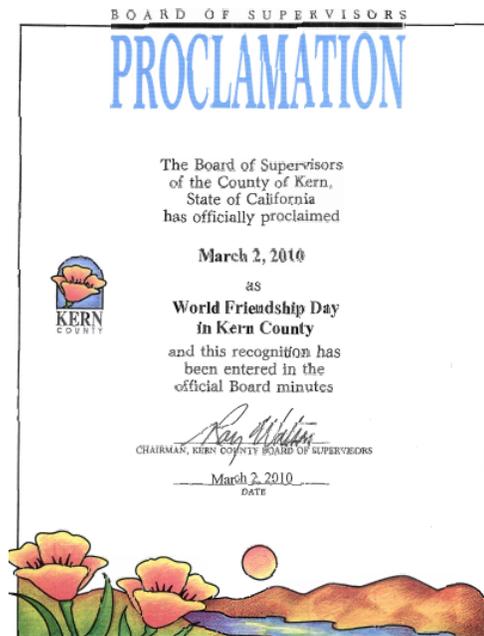
## International Conference



The 2010 International Conference for Friendship Force will be held in Washington, DC from October 16–18. Click on the “**register today**” link for more information and registration details. Let Elizabeth Spooner know if you would like to attend as she will be coordinating our club’s delegation. Those of you without internet access should contact Elizabeth for forms.

## Recent Outbound Exchange to California

by Ruby Reviere, Exchange Director



I think I can speak for all our ambassadors when I say that we were welcomed with open arms by all our hosts. The timing was great and we spent four days at each club beginning in Kern County and Bakersfield, with many of the friends who visited us a year or so ago. This is a prolific farming area with lots of orange orchards and thousands of almond trees, which were in bloom. We also toured the Hearst Castle which was about a two-hour drive from my hosts in Shafter. We had special recognition of the Friendship Force in Bakersfield at their City Supervisors' meeting, where we were given a special Proclamation Certificate declaring World Friendship Day.

From there we went to Santa Barbara and saw the local areas of interest. We always had a welcome event and a farewell event. In San Diego we toured the Air Force One that Nixon used and also went on the aircraft carrier located there. The entire coast has Naval and Marine bases. Another experience was to spend the day at the San Diego Zoo which is really a rain forest located in canyon.

Our final experience was in Orange County where PJ and I stayed with Walter and Josine Kummetz, who have a large beautiful house on the side of a mountain with a view of the Pacific Ocean. They live in San Clemente. While there we took a train to Los Angeles where we visited a church and then walked along Hollywood Blvd. in the afternoon. Some of us also went to President Reagan's library and President Nixon's library/museum.



The three weeks flew by and, although some Ambassadors didn't go on all the exchanges, we had a great experience and look forward to hosting our friends from California some day.

## Contact Us

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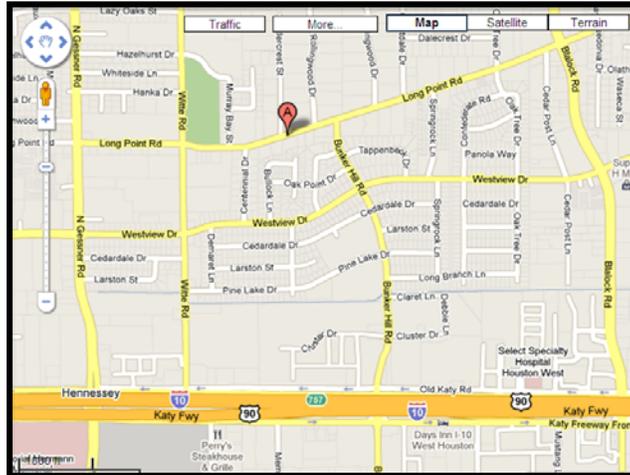
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## International Dining Night for May

Please join us for our next evening of International Dining on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at Bonga Korean Restaurant located at 9861 Long Point at 5:30pm. See link below for information and reviews. Please give your RSVP to the calling committee as space is limited.

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/bon-ga-korean-restaurant-houston>



## International Dining Night for April

We ate at Himalaya Indian Restaurant and enjoyed the authentic cuisine and helpful owner, who provided us many wonderful dishes that were served family style.



## World Friendship Day in March

Our annual celebration was held on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Tracy Gee Community Center. The meal was catered by Niko Niko's Greek Restaurant and a good time was had by all, as you can see.



## FFH Activity Calendar

|           | Day       | Activity  | Location   | Time     |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|----------|
| May 1     | Sat       | Colombia Celebration  | Hans Payan Art Gallery, 2016 Dunlavy St.                       | 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 21    | Fri       | Presentation on Mexico  | Mexican Consulate, San Jacinto, 713-                           | 6:30 PM  |
| Jun 1     | Tue       | Board Meeting   | Tracy Gee CC   | 7:00 PM  |
| Jun 12    | Sat       | International Dining Night  | El Gaucho, Argentine   | 5:30 PM  |
| Jun 26    | Sat       | Presentation on Argentina by Dr. Maria Rocha, FFH member                | 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 & Nominating Committee                                    | 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       | Presentation of FFH's Exchange to Australia in 2002 & slate of officers | Tracy Gee CC   | 11:00 AM |
| Oct 3 - 9 | Sun - Sat | Inbound Exchange, Linda Doolittle, ED                                   | from Newcastle, Australia                                      | NA       |
| Oct 8     | Fri       | Farewell Dinner   | TBD  | 5:30 PM  |
| Oct 16-18 | Sat-Mon   | International Conference  | Washington DC  | NA       |
| Oct 30    | Sat       | General Meeting & election of officers                                  | 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   | 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, under \$12            | 5:30 PM  |
| Dec 18    | Sat       | General Meeting   | Tracy Gee CC   | 11:00 AM |

## World of Friends Catalog



### FALL INTO SPRING IN LATIN AMERICA!

Late 2010

Three great adventures rounding off 2010!

### DISCOVER ARGENTINA AND THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD: NATURAL AND MAN-MADE!

October 31 - November 20, 2010

This Discover exchange is the perfect blend of spectacular South American sites and famous Latin hospitality. Highlights are: a trip to Iguacu Falls, two nights in Buenos Aires, a ride across the Pampas and home stays in Argentina and Chile. ([view exchange](#))



### ANCIENT MEXICO'S SACRED MYSTERIES!

October 23 – November 3, 2010

Destination: Filobobos, Mexico

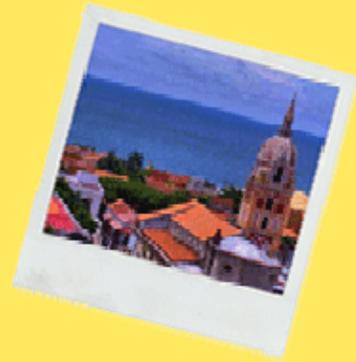
The Day of the Dead is when families are briefly reunited with their deceased ancestors and a great way to understand this ancient, passionate culture. Mix in the hospitality of your Filobobos hosts, a visit to a coffee plantation, plus the wonderful weather making this a Friendship Force favorite! ([view exchange](#))



## STUNNING LANDSCAPE AND NOBLE ARCHITECTURE IN COLOMBIA!

November 30 - December 10, 2010

Fine-tune your Spanish during seven-day home stay in the beautiful city of Bogota. Visit the Gold Museum; ride a cable car to Montserrate. Round out the experience with three sunny days on Caribbean beaches. ([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 the 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!

 [Click here to view the new WORLD OF FRIENDS catalog](#)

 [Click here to download a text only PDF of the catalog](#)