



friendship force

HOUSTON

May

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

Hello Friends,

Program change!! We didn't get approval for the May 21st event at the Mexican Consulate so **there will be no meeting for May**. Our June meeting will be on the 26th at our normal location (Tracy Gee Community Center) at our normal time (11am-2pm+/-) for a program on Argentina by our friend and fellow FFH member, Dr. Maria Rocha. We will have our usual potluck luncheon, so all you good cooks start thinking about what you want to share with everyone.

People news: Maria Rocha has agreed to serve as the coordinator for the International Dining program. PJ Missman has volunteered to be the phone committee chair (home 713-529-4619, new email address is pmissman@hotmail.com). Still looking for someone to be VP and a couple of volunteers for the phone committee. And Tom and Mary Evans are going to be traveling for the next few meetings so we need some help with setup.

If you have some ideas to make our club better, ideas to spread the Friendship Force message or ideas to bring in new members, just let me know.

In friendship,

Ray Missman

Recap of April meeting: Colombia Celebration

by Ray Missman

Eighteen FFH members and guests celebrated Colombia's 200th anniversary of independence with a very special program at Hans Payan Art Gallery. Lia Tusanotte, President of Promoting Art in the Americas, Inc. (<http://www.paa-usa.com/>), organized it all. Promoting Art in the Americas, Inc. brings Latino American artists to United States. As part of the events to celebrate the bicentennial year, Promoting Art in the Americas Inc. presented Colombian artist Chava Cure, established artist known for her abstract expressionism paintings. The video, slide show and photographic material about Colombia were courtesy of Alianzas Estrategicas Imagen Pais who sent this material specifically for our event.



Camilo Neira, an executive with a Houston marketing company, presented the slide show and photos of the landscape of Colombia. Some of the things were familiar to those of us who went on our 2007 Colombia exchange, but we saw many other aspects and parts of Colombia as well. Then we heard several very beautiful and poignant songs by guitarist Marcela Alvarez and accordion accompanist Greg Harvard performed "El Camino de la Vida", a famous Colombian song.

The food was catered by Fandango Catering. The menu:

- *Guacamole Mousse Tartlets*
- *Roasted Chicken, Fresh Spinach, and Jack Empanaditas*
- *Mango-Chipotle Shrimp Salad on Cucumber Bites*
- *Colombian Vichyssoise Shooters (Sopa de Aguacate y Papa)*
- *Coffee-Chocolate Tartlets*
- *Cinnamon-Chocolate Truffle Cakes with Lime Mousse Topping*

Sound delicious? It was!!! This program was a wonderful way to be part of the celebration of Colombia's Bicentennial and on behalf of FFH, I really want to thank Lia Tusanotte for putting on such an excellent program.

Contact Us

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www.thefriendshipforce.org

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(under construction)

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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.

Recap of May 8th International Dining Night

by Ray Missman

Seven members attended the May 8th International Dining night at Bonga Korean Restaurant. The comments I heard were 'good' and 'hot'. Excellent cooking but very spicy. Mine seemed fine at first but the burn kept growing! Mary sent hers back for a milder version.

We tried an experiment this time. We deliberately did not have the phone committee call everyone, and Maria Rocha simply gave the restaurant an estimated number of attendees based on our past attendance. This saved some administrative work but perhaps the attendance was down as a result (7 versus the normal 17-25). What do you think? Should the phone committee make reminder calls for International Dining Night?

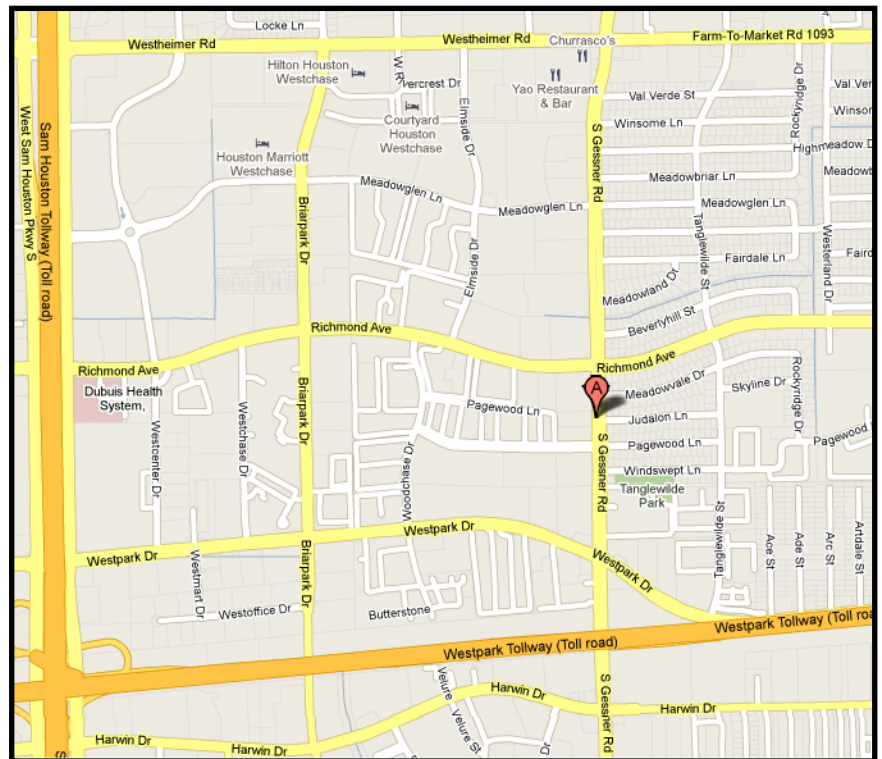
International Dining Night for June

Saturday, June 12th at 5:30pm

El Gaucho Café (Argentine steak house)

3820 S. Gessner Rd.

713-777-5050



<http://www.b4-u-eat.com/houston/restaurants/reviews/rsv6026.asp>

FFH Activity Calendar

	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Jun 1	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Jun 12	Sat	International Dining Night	El Gaucho Café, 3820 S. Gessner	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

YOU CAN HELP DESIGN THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF THE FUTURE!

Take this short survey and let us know the kinds of exchanges you're interested in:
([take the survey](#))



HUMANITARIAN MISSION TO THE WESTERN SAHARA!

November 14 - November 28, 2010

Friendship Force members are invited to join the Saharawan Aid Trust (SAT) in their convoy from Newcastle, England to Western Sahara. It is a humanitarian mission, similar to the 1998 convoy when 52 Friendship Force members joined in the effort. This year the SAT is looking for a smaller number of Friendship Force members to participate.

The trip will last 2 weeks, (14th November - 28th November) The cost will be £1600 and will include pick up from London, travel to Plymouth, overnight on the ferry to Santander and then 5 day travel through Spain staying in hotels en route. You'll then board the Algerian ferry from Alicante to Oran in Algeria. The convoy then proceeds over the Atlas mountains and down into the Sahara desert to the refugee camps where we will spend about 3 days before being flown back to London. Friendship Force ambassadors will be making a significant difference to the refugees. Betty Davis participated in an earlier convoy and will be the Friendship Force exchange director for the trip.

She can be contacted
danabe2@aol.com.. See the Saharawan Aid Trust website for details,
www.saharawanaidtrust.com!



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 this to a Friend" feature in the top right corner!



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