



friendship force

HOUSTON

June

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,

Just a short note.

This month's theme is 'Argentina'. Look forward to Dr. Maria Rocha's talk on Argentina on June 26th at our normal location & time (**Tracy Gee Community Center, 11am**).

15 members and 4 guests attended our June 12th International Dining night at El Gaucho Grill. We enjoyed some great Argentine dining, along with some excellent Argentine wine! The guests were my two daughters-in-law and two grandsons – they weren't sure what they were getting into – but really enjoyed the food after all! Maria explained that Argentine food is not hot – just very tasty, and beef is of course their specialty.

For the June 26th meeting, it's pot-luck so please bring something tasty – seems we always have good food! If it's South-American themed, even better!

People news: Tom and Mary Evans are going to be traveling for the next few meetings so we need some help for setup. PLEASE LET ME KNOW if you could help set up for the June 26th and/or the July 31st meetings!!!

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

In friendship,

Ray Missman

Member Highlight

We occasionally highlight a new member in our newsletter, but what better time to “introduce” Maria Rocha than now, as she will be presenting our program this month on her native country of Argentina. Maria is certainly not a “new” member, but since we were remiss in highlighting her in the past, we will do so now.

Maria has a double major in language and psychology (with an MA from Texas Tech, Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in Languages and Literary Criticism). She has worked as a director for international patients at Texas Orthopedic Hospital and taught Spanish at several Universities, including Centre College in Kentucky, Rice University, and HCC Southwest. She came to the U.S. with an American Field Services scholarship and received a United Nations Scholarship when she was an undergraduate, and she has also received the Good Neighbor Scholarship that paid for her graduate school. Maria has taken groups of students to several Latin American countries, including Guatemala, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, and Argentina. She is an active member of the Institute of Spanish Culture (currently the director of Cultural and Education Committees), a board member of Promoting Arts in the Americas, Casa Argentina de Houston, and of course, Friendship Force International.

June 26th Meeting features Argentina

We hope you are able to join us on Saturday, June 26th at 11:00am for a potluck lunch and two speakers who will present the many wonderful aspects of Argentina, one of the Latin American countries celebrating its bicentennial this year.

In addition to our own Maria Rocha, we will have Professor Christopher Gerdes, who is currently teaching history at Houston Community College Southwest. He is a native of Edna, Texas and received his BA from the University of Texas in Austin and his Masters Degree in history from the University of Houston. Professor Gerdes has traveled extensively throughout the world, particularly in Mexico, Europe, and the Middle East. He will give us interesting insights into the history of Argentina.

International Conference



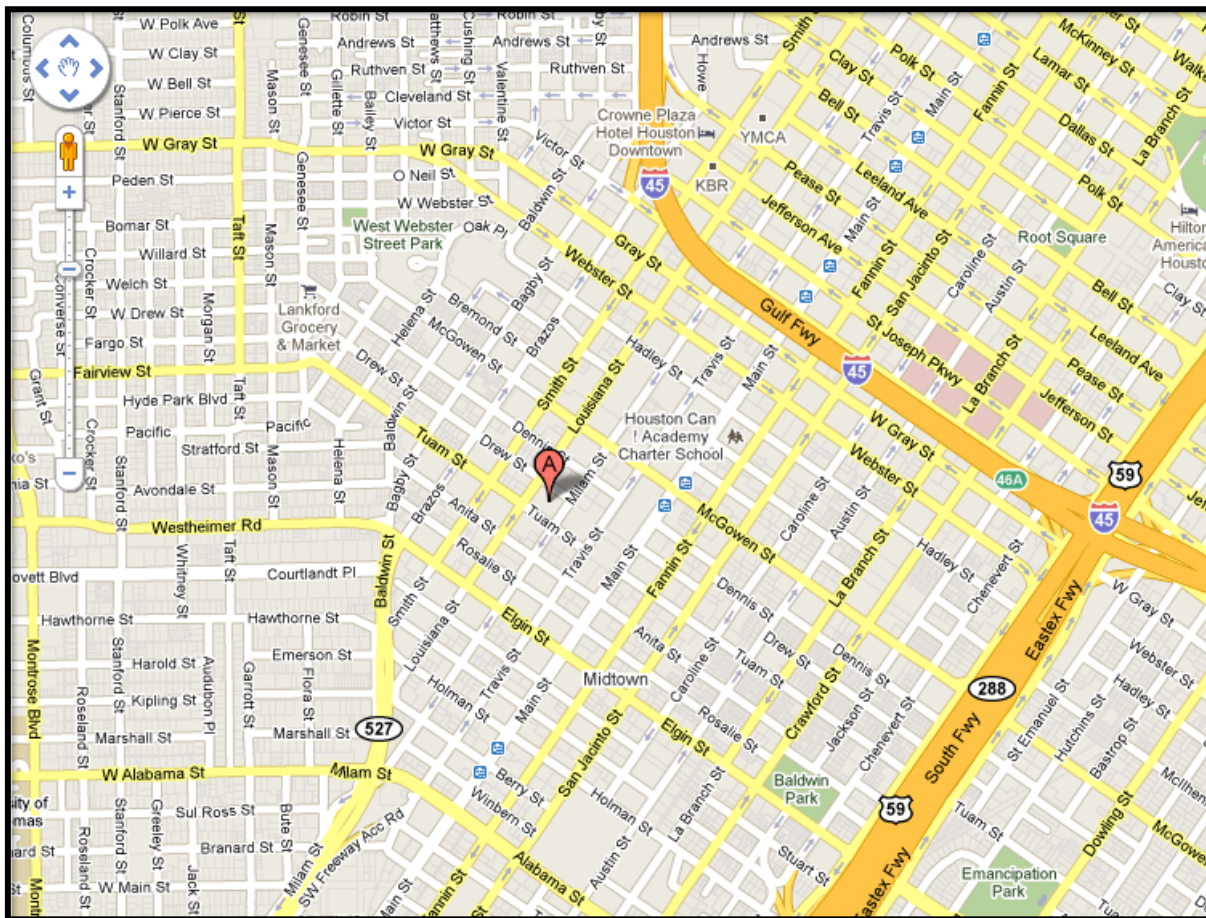
The 2010 International Conference for Friendship Force will be held in Washington, DC from October 16–18. Click on the “**register today**” link for more information and registration details. Let Elizabeth Spooner know if you would like to attend as she will be coordinating our club’s delegation. Those of you without internet access should contact Elizabeth for forms. Her number is 281-589-7901.

International Dining Night for July



Saturday, July 10th at 5:30pm
2808 Milam St. (near downtown)
(713) 524-3734

<http://www.phosaigonoodlehouse.com/>



FFH Activity Calendar

	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Jun 26	Sat	Presentation on Argentina by Dr. Maria Rocha with potluck luncheon	Tracy Gee Community Center 3599 Westcenter Blvd. (713-266-8193) south of Richmond just inside Beltway 8 West	11:00 AM
Jul 6	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Jul 10	Sat	International Dining Night	Pho Saigon, 2808 Milam (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



Check out our new website!

We have improved its look as well as added many functions and sources of information like our new publication of the online magazine, an updated news section and many more exciting features! Have a look and let us know what you think! ([view site](#))

DISCOVER TURKEY BY LAND, SEA AND AIR!

September 20 to October 3, 2010

This Discover Exchange is your perfect introduction into everything Turkey has to offer! Highlights include: a boat tour in the crisp blue water of the Bosphorus, an optional hot air balloon ride over the unique landscape of Cappadocia, and a farewell party with Mesopotamian music hosted by local families. ([view exchange](#))



FEEL THE MYSTERIOUS MIX OF AFRICAN, EUROPEAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURES IN MOROCCO!

September 13 to 27, 2010

Join our Canadian FFI Board Member on this discovery of Morocco, exploring Casablanca, Marrakech and to the edge of the Sahara. Get into the spirit of the country through overnight home stays and daytime get-togethers with local people in the Berber heartland. ([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 "Share this" feature in the top right corner!



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