



friendship force

H O U S T O N

JULY
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

Hello Friends,

We have two speakers this month – the first is about our new website, and the second is a review of our club's trip to California this spring.

Joy Huntington will be giving a (fairly brief) overview of the new Friendship Force Houston website – lots of good info and pictures already there, and after Joy's talk, you'll be ready to go explore it.

We had quite a trip this spring to California. It was a domestic exchange to four sister clubs in California – Kern County, Santa Barbara, San Diego and Orange County. This will be somewhat informal with all participants covering the highlights (like the meeting we had to review our Russian exchange a few years ago). Ruby Reviere is coordinating.

So please mark it on your calendar: Saturday July 31st at our normal location & time (Tracy Gee Community Center, 11am). It's another pot-luck so please bring something tasty – seems we always have good food!

I'd like to thank Maria Rocha for the very interesting talk on Argentina last month. I'd also like to extend thanks to her colleague Prof. Gerdes who talked on the cultural history of Argentina. From the number of questions at the end, it seemed to me the combined presentation was very well received. What do you think?

We still don't have plans for our August meeting, so if you've got an idea please let me know.

In friendship,

Ray Missman

Membership News

by Elizabeth Spooner, Membership Chairman

If you are wanting or needing a new name tag, please let me know as there will be an order placed soon.

We are saddened to announce that Carolyn Lanier's mother recently passed away. Many of us met her at a meeting or two that she attended with Carolyn. The Club has sent Carolyn a note of sympathy.

International Dining Night for August

Please join us for our next evening of International Dining on Saturday, August 14th at Chuy's, 2706 Westheimer (west of Kirby), 713-524-1700, at 5:30pm. See link below for information and reviews.

<http://www.chuys.com/#/home>



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2010 FF Houston Calendar

	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Jul 31	Sat	Potluck luncheon and Presentations on CA Exchanges and FFH Website	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 (ideas welcome)	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	Dimassi Mediterranean Buffet, 5064 Richmond Ave., 77056 (713) 439-7481	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

World Conference



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FRIENDSHIP FORCE 2010 World Conference!
October 16th - 18th, 2010

With close to 400 people registered for the World Conference in Washington, DC (October 16-18, 2010) space is becoming limited. Act now to register for this event, which promises to be one of the best attended in almost a decade, in one of the most beautiful, not to mention politically and historically significant locations in the USA.

[Register online](#) or contact Debbie Powell at conf@thefriendshipforce.org to receive registration forms by email, fax or mail.

Plenary sessions and leadership workshops will feature new initiatives in membership growth, exchange planning, club management and publicity; along with tips on how to design new themed exchanges. Prominent speakers from a variety of Washington-based international organizations and government agencies will introduce Friendship Force leaders to the growing global movement known as citizen diplomacy. You'll learn how important our mission is in today's world and you'll be part of a global gathering with Friendship Force leaders from six continents.

Having fun is a requirement at any Friendship Force gathering, and Sunday's gala banquet will be an evening you'll long remember: entertainment, music, dancing, and camaraderie.

World Conference Feature New Photo Contest! **Since a picture is worth 1,000 words**

A new feature this year is an international photo contest. All Friendship Force members are invited to submit photos from their exchange experiences. The finalists will be featured at the conference along with the announcement of the winners. But you don't have to attend the conference to participate.

[Download the attachment for simple instructions on how to enter.](#)



World of Friends Catalog

EXPERIENCE THE PEOPLE, CULTURE, GLORIES, TASTES, SMELLS & SOUNDS OF SOUTHERN INDIA!

October 31 – November 20, 2010

Begin your journey with a one week homestay with the Friendship Force of Nashik to get to know the people and culture first hand. Then, explore the ancient rock-cut temples at Ajanta and Ellora, relax at the famous Keralan backwater canals and hike in the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Go back a millennium to the Chola empire in Madurai and Thanjavur and even earlier to the Pallava rock carvings in Mamallapuram. Enhance your experience by exploring markets and artist studios in Mumbai (Bombay) and Chennai (Madras) ([view exchange](#))



COME TO INDONESIA FOR WARM HOSPITALITY & THE CULTURAL FEAST OF A LIFETIME!

October 31 - November 16, 2010

Relax in the tropical paradise of Bali with white sandy beaches and crystal clear water where you'll sample the finest cuisine, experience hot springs and visit the amazing art and handicraft markets. Next stop Yogyakarta, Java: visit Borobudur Temple, the largest Buddhist monument in the world along with Sultan's Palace, the famous bird market. To culminate your cultural experience you'll enjoy a homestay in the Old Dutch Colonial Port City of Semarang. ([view exchange](#))



EXPLORE ANOTHER SIDE OF CHINESE CULTURE IN TAIWAN!

October 31 - November 21, 2010

Join our pre-exchange tour to Alishan Park visiting the highest mountain ranges in the country, exploring an Aboriginal Cultural village and relax on a 2 day boat excursion around Sun Moon Lake. During the tour and exchange you'll explore temples, museums and galleries; see the amazing terraced hillsides; enjoy hiking, hot springs and parks. Your warm home hospitality will be in Taiwan and Kaohsiung, an experience you'll not soon forget! ([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!

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

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

