



friendship force

HOUSTON

AUGUST
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,

Did you see the good news in the Chronicle? So far, we haven't had any official 100-degree days this summer, unlike the last decade. So in a way, you could say we're in a 'cool' spell. But somehow my body doesn't think so! Hope you are having a cool summer so far.

This month's program is about a Friendship Force trip to China. Our speakers are Linda and Terry Marlin and Don Morgan who went on an exchange with the FF San Francisco club to China this year. This is especially interesting because there are very few Friendship Force clubs in China. And it's an interesting case-in-point that you can travel with Friendship Force – either with our own club or with another club (if they have room). The world is in your hands!

The meeting is on Saturday August 28th at our normal location & time (Tracy Gee Community Center, 11am). As usual, it's potluck so please bring something tasty – maybe Chinese cuisine?

You may have been contacted by someone from our Nominating Committee. One of the more difficult aspects of a small club such as ours is in finding and recruiting new volunteers. I was there a few years ago – a fairly new club member - and was asked to do something with the club. My thought was "what are they trying to get me into?" – All I can say is "try it!" – after you get into it, you'll find that there are definitely some rewards – a feeling of participation, comradeship, inspiration to try new things, and a sense of satisfaction when your ideas & effort produce some tangible results. So if asked, please think about it! The club could benefit from your interest and ideas, and you might actually like it!

In friendship,

Ray Missman

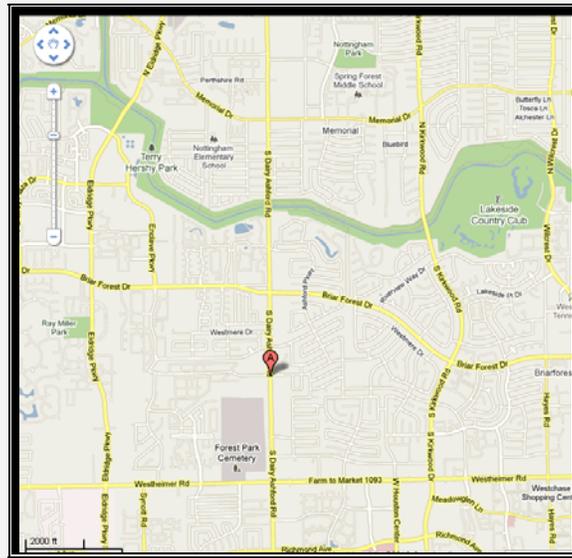
International Dining Night for September

NOTE: CHANGE OF LOCATION AND TIME

Please join us for our next evening of International Dining on Saturday, September 11th at **Hazzard's Bar & Grill** (Indonesian cuisine) at 1910 South Dairy Ashford (so. of I10 west), ph. 281-497-8783 at 6:00pm. Note that we had to change the restaurant as Malay Bistro has closed. See link below for information and reviews. *And please notice that we have moved the time back one half hour, from 5:30pm to 6:00pm.*

Here is a sample review: "One of my favorite places, the food is great and authentic as it can be. Plus I think it's the only Indonesian restaurant left in Houston if I'm not mistaken. Only downside is usually at lunchtime, there are no other customers, but at least you get the best service that way. I always take a group and order the "rice table", which is not on the menu, and is the traditional Indonesian meal of many small dishes of various spiced meats and vegetables. Perfect!"

<http://www.b4-u-eat.com/houston/restaurants/reviews/rsv3060.asp>



International Dining Night for August

Fourteen members attended our international dining night on August 14th at Chuy's. Everyone seemed to have a very good visit, judging from the level of conversation (and the fair number of margaritas on the tables). We tried meeting at 6:00pm this time rather than 5:30pm, and it seemed there was a noticeable difference in crowd size. So we may reconsider meeting time next month. And some questioned how 'international' a TexMex restaurant could be – but it was lots of fun anyway.

Update on Inbound Exchange from Australia

by Linda Doolittle, Exchange Director



Here is the tentative schedule for our Inbound Exchange from Newcastle, Australia in early October. Please join us in entertaining our guests for both the Welcome and Farewell Dinners and anything else you can or want to participate in while they are here. We will be publicizing all the details as they are available. And we are still needing day hosts to help drive and escort them while they are touring the area. Contact Linda if you might be able to help.

Sunday, Oct. 3

- Arrive Intercontinental Airport approx. noon
- Welcome lunch (barbeque) at home of PJ Missman's brother and sister-in-law in Woodlands

Monday, Oct. 4

- Galveston tour to include: Moody Mansion, Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig & Museum, Elissa Clipper Ship, Texas Seaport Museum, Strand Street & shopping
- Lunch at Original Mexican Café
- Dinner will be pizza at Ruby Reviere's home in Friendswood

Tuesday, Oct 5

- Tours of the Houston Ship Channel (on the M/V Sam Houston) and NASA Space Center
- Sack lunch needed (provided by host)
- Dinner with home hosts

Wednesday, Oct 6

- Tour of the George Ranch
- Sack lunch needed (provided by host)
- Dinner with home hosts

Thursday, Oct 7

- Tour of our Museum District
- Lunch at Museum of Fine Arts
- Dinner with home hosts

Friday, Oct 8

- Walking tour of Downtown Houston
- Lunch, possibly in the "tunnels"
- Dinner with home hosts or an option to eat downtown

Saturday, Oct 9

- Free day with home hosts
- Suggested activities: San Jacinto Monument and Battleship Texas; Art Car Museum; St. Arnold's Micro Brewery; Beer Can House
- Farewell Dinner (tentatively scheduled for Monument Inn with details later)

Introduction of FF Houston Website

At our last meeting, our newly published website for Friendship Force Houston was presented to the membership by Joy Huntington, webmaster. There is lots of useful information, past, present and future, about our local organization. It includes pictures of past exchanges back to 2005, pictures of past activities back to 2006, current and past annual activity calendars (which you can check for the latest plans), information on upcoming exchanges, links to Houston weather information and the Convention & Visitors Bureau website, as well as the FF International website. If there is anything you would like to see added, please let Joy know. Here is a portion of the home page:

friendship force
HOUSTON
Changing the Way You See the World

FFI Homepage Visit Houston Things to do in Houston search...

2006 World Friendship Day

Welcome to Houston!

MISSION
To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people

VALUES

Houston, Texas
Today: Chance Thunderstorms 95°F | 79°F 40%
Tomorrow: Chance Thunderstorms 96°F | 79°F 30%

Exciting Plans for Holiday Party in December

Your Board of Directors has been working to find an interesting activity as well as an unusual restaurant for our Holiday Party, which will be on Saturday, December 11th. We have planned a brunch buffet at a very eclectic restaurant in Montrose called Baba Yega, which has a private dining room overlooking a lovely garden courtyard. (You can find out about "baba yega" when you get there.)

<http://www.babayega.com>



Following a great brunch with good friends, plan to attend The Christmas Revels 2010 at 2:30 p.m. on the University of Houston campus. A Celtic Celebration of the Winter Solstice is this year's program. If you have never been to a Revels performance, you are in for a real treat! Tickets go on sale in mid-September and always go fast so we will be making reservations by the end of September. Let Linda Doolittle know at the September regular meeting if you plan to attend.

<http://www.revelshouston.org>



We will keep you apprised as details are finalized. We expect the price to be \$40 - \$50 per person and will work to get the best "deal" possible. And just to let you know now, we will be collecting money in advance in order to guarantee our attendance. We hope you will be able to join us on Sat., Dec. 11th. Mark your calendar now.

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2010 FF Houston Calendar

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Aug 28	Sat	Potluck luncheon & Presentation of trip to China by Linda Marlin & Don Morgan who joined FF San Francisco	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Sep 7	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Sep 11	Sat	International Dining Night	Hazzard's Bar & Grill (Indonesian cuisine) 1910 South Dairy Ashford	6:00 PM
Sep 25	Sat	Presentation of FFH's 2002 exchange to Newcastle, Australia & slate of officers	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Oct 3 - 9	Sun - Sat	Inbound Exchange, Linda Doolittle, ED	from Newcastle, Australia	NA
Oct 9	Sat	Farewell Dinner	Monument Inn,	6:00 PM
Oct 16-18	Sat- Mon	World Conference	Washington DC	NA
Oct 30	Sat	Octoberfest Election of officers Recap of World Conference	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	6:00 PM
Nov 20	Sat	No Meeting		11:00 AM
Dec 7	Tue	Board Meeting	Tracy Gee CC	7:00 PM
Dec 11	Sat	Holiday Brunch & Revels performance	Baba Yega Restaurant, 2607 Grant & U of H Mitchell Center for the Arts	11:00 AM & 2:30 PM

Tracy Gee Community Center is at 3599 Westcenter Drive, 77042, (713) 266-8193, located just south of Richmond inside Beltway 8 West.

World Conference



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. And you don't have to attend the conference to participate.

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

