



friendship force

HOUSTON

September
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.

Does being a member matter?!!

Xvxn though my kxyboard is old and sticks, it works quitx wxll xxxcpt for onx or two kxys. I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd proprly or somxonx would buy mx a nxw onx. It is trux that thxrx arx forty four kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs a lot of diffxrxncx. Thxrx arx timxs whxn an organization is somxwhat likx my kxyboard - not all thx pxoplx all working proprly or voluntxxring to hxlp. You say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I am only onx mxmbxr. I won't makx or brxak this organization." BUT IT DOXS MAKX A DIFFXRXNCX BXCAUSX ANY ORGANIZATION TO BX XFFXCIXNT NXXDS THX SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION OF XVXRY MXMBXR. So, thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arx not nxxdxd, just rxmxmbxr my kxyboard and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson in thx Friendship Force of Houston, and I am nxxdxd!"

September Meeting

Since we are hosting the club from Newcastle, Australia in early October, we want to share with everyone the memories from Houston's trip to Newcastle in 2002. Ruby Reviere will lead the presentation, along with other Houston ambassadors who went. We hope to hear from the following members and former members: Bernice Beckerman, Blanca Balderas (who was the ED), Barbara Eaton and Erma Fennema. Here are Ruby's comments:

"Several of us from our Houston Club went to Australia and New Zealand from August 27 to September 20, 2002. It's hard to believe that it's already been 8 years ago. I kept a daily journal which has helped to bring back memories and I also have old fashioned slides of our exchange. This was my first experience with FF exchanges and I was very impressed. Seven ambassadors from Houston went on the exchange. Please come!! You can learn something about where our ambassadors come from. Australia is similar to the U.S., but also different."

We will also be presenting the slate of officers for 2011 that the Nominating Committee (headed by Elizabeth Spooner) is proposing. We will have the election at our October meeting.

NO International Dining Night for October

There will be NO international dining night due to the incoming exchange from Australia and the farewell dinner being on Saturday, Oct. 9th which we hope you can attend.

International Dining Night for September

Nine members attended our international dining night on September 11th at Hazzard Bar & Grill which serves Indonesian food. As it turns out this was the restaurant where we had lunch after our visit to the Indonesian Consulate several years ago (probably in 2006) which had a different name back then.

We enjoyed beef and chicken sate (on a skewer with peanut sauce), Rendang, and other fun dishes. The servings were large and we all were quite full when we left, with many of us taking home "to go" boxes. With this sized group, we were really able to visit, which is one of the plusses of these international dining nights.

Update on Inbound Exchange from Australia



Here is the latest 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 may still need day hosts to help drive and escort them while they are touring the area. Contact Linda Doolittle if you might be able to help.

Sunday, Oct. 3

- Arrive Intercontinental Airport at 10:16am
- Welcome lunch at Potatoe Patch at 12:30pm
- Remainder of day is hosts' choice

Monday, Oct. 4

- Galveston tour of Moody Mansion
- Lunch at Original Mexican Café
- Tour the historic district to see tree carvings
- Activities on your own, such as Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig & Museum, Elissa Clipper Ship, Texas Seaport Museum, Strand Street & shopping
- Optional visit to La King's candy factory & ice cream parlor on Strand Street
- Optional pizza dinner at Ruby Reviere's home in Friendswood

Tuesday, Oct 5

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

Wednesday, Oct 6

- Tour of the George Ranch
- Sack lunch needed (provided by host)
- Optional tour of Brazos Bend State Park
- Dinner with home hosts

Thursday, Oct 7

- Tour of our Museum District
- Museum of Fine Arts followed by lunch in their facility
- Museum of Natural Science
- Dinner with home hosts

Friday, Oct 8

- Tour of Minute Maid Park
- Walking tour of Downtown Houston
- Lunch in the "tunnels" or Treebeards
- Continue walking tour
- Dinner at The Old Spaghetti Warehouse or with home hosts

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, Bayou Bend, Orange Show, etc.
- Farewell Dinner at Monument Inn

Sunday, Oct. 10th

- Departure from Intercontinental at 8:05am (must be there by 6am)

Exciting Plans for Holiday Party in December

Just another “blurb” to let you know what we’ve been working on for our Holiday Party. Please put this on your calendar for Saturday, December 11th and be prepared to pay in November. 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 what “baba yega” means when you get there – or look it up!!)

<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!

<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 at 11:00am on Sat., Dec. 11th. Mark your calendar now.

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2010 FF Houston Calendar

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Time
Sep 25	Sat	Potluck luncheon, Presentation of FFH's 2002 exchange to Newcastle, Australia & Presentation of officer nominees	Tracy Gee CC	11:00 AM
Oct 3 - 10	Sun - Sun	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		
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.](#)

